

# The Justice Project

Volume 1 | Edition 2



As 2014 comes to a close, the Justice Project wants to extend a big “thank you” to everyone who has supported our work. Thanks to our community partners, dedicated volunteers, and especially our grantors and donors, we have been able to help our constituents improve their lives. Because of our involvement, more chronically homeless constituents have housing, more have sought drug and mental health treatment, more HIV positive women are now on life-saving medication, and fewer constituents are being arrested.

Many who have never received services now have disability benefits, foodstamps, Medicaid and case management, all obtained in partnership with the Justice Project. Court cases are being resolved as women become more accountable and address old warrants they previously ignored. They have also been reporting crimes against themselves and others with our help. As their lives stabilize and they begin to recover from the traumas of the streets, women have been reunited with children and other family members from whom they were estranged.

The best part is that fewer of our constituents died this year from being out in the streets. So to all of you who have cheered us on and been supportive, we thank you. Without you this important work could not go on. Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year!



*Sr. Donna Ryan RSM,*

*Kris Wade, Director*

## HOLIDAYS AT THE WILLOW TREE

The Justice Project hosts a weekly outreach for women in our Willow Tree room at St. James Place. The Friends of the Willow Tree are dedicated volunteers who help make these nights special. Holiday parties planned for our guests by the Friends of the Willow Tree are so much fun for everyone! Tuesday, December 23, 4:30-6pm, Christmas carols will be sung, and the Friends will pass out packages from Santa. For many of the women this is the ONLY Christmas they will have. This year warm gloves, socks (all sizes) are welcomed for these gifts. If you can donate, please drop off at St. James Place, 3936 Troost, Mon-Fri, between 9am and 4pm. Please mark them “FOR THE JUSTICE PROJECT.” If you would like to join the Friends as a volunteer call Kay 913-710-0308.



Donna Ryan, Mary Jolly and some of our Willow Tree guests



### 3rd Annual Jazz for Justice

Save the Date: Fat Tuesday, Feb 17, 2015, 6:00-8:30 pm. Location TBA. Bring your beads, feathers and check books as you join us for this Mardi Gras celebration and fundraiser benefiting The Justice Project.

### DID YOU KNOW? The Justice Project:

Helped secure safe housing for 4 homeless women this fall? Meets regularly with Troost Alliance, the Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and other community partners? Provided training on human trafficking to law enforcement and service providers in central Kansas? Gave the keynote address at Missouri Probation and Parole’s annual Re-entry conference in November?



**DOUBLE THE EFFORT, DOUBLE THE SUCCESS**



The success of many not-for-profit service organizations along the Troost corridor is due to partnership among agencies. The Justice Project works closely with JOURNEY TO NEW LIFE. Their mission is to serve men and women returning to the community from prison or other involvement with the local, state or federal justice system; helping them become successful, productive citizens. Many of the Justice Project guests have received housing and furniture from this valuable partnership. Thank you, JOURNEY TO NEW LIFE.

**IS SELLING SEX A CHOICE ?**

The September issue of The Economist Magazine posed the question of whether the Internet is a safe alternative for prostituting women as opposed to having a pimp on the street. The article implies the web gives women more independence and control. Nothing could be further from the truth!

At the Justice Project we know the internet is fertile ground for sexual slavery! Pimps have found this to be an easy way to recruit and exploit women in prostitution, often through fraud and coercion.

Most alarming is the fact that the internet is a tool for traffickers to prostitute children, some as young as 12 or 13. Hotel rooms and private homes can be just as dangerous as the streets. Women and girls on the internet can be robbed, raped, kidnapped and murdered there just as easily as on the streets.

Wherever sex is sold, prostitution contributes to the degradation, sadness, illness, addiction, homelessness, and sometimes death for exploited women. There is NO safe place when women are used and treated as objects and “product.” The Justice Project has helped a number of women who have prostituted online begin the process of leaving that life, and we continue to reach out to others still engaged in Internet prostitution.

*“We’re going to harness technology to stop advertising and selling of sex by encouraging tech companies, advocates and law enforcement to develop tools that our young people can use to stay safe on line and on their smart phones to avoid abuse of traffic allurement”.*

*(President Barack Obama, Sept. 25, 2014)*



Board members Madeline Johnson, Una Nowling and guests at Dining for Justice



Peer Advocate Mary Jolly, director Kris Wade and guest at Dining for Justice 2014



**Image: Thanksgiving art project with artist, Amanda Jolley.**

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