

OUR PRESENCE

FSM Philanthropy Summer 2019 Quarterly Report

In this Summer Quarter, we are excited to share the many ways we have experienced growth and meaning. We especially want to highlight the blossoming of new relationships and the accomplishments of our wonderful partners. Thank you for your continued prayers for these collaborators and their incredible work!

Convening our collaborators



On June 6 and 7, several collaborators from around the Midwest visited the FSM offices for both working and celebratory time together. Our guests included **Kimberly Wasserman**, Executive Director of Little Village Environmental Justice Organization in Chicago; **Jumana Vasi**, leader of the Midwest Environmental Justice Network based in Detroit; **Dr. Cecilia Martinez**, Executive Director of Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy based in Minneapolis; and **Dr. Antonio Lopez**, Environmental Justice Consultant to FSM based in Chicago. Kim, Jumana, and Cecilia together lead the **Midwest Environmental Justice Network**, a regional network and fund that supports grassroots environmental organizations in the region. The time together was meaningful as we collaborated on environmental justice work and grew relationships.

Our out-of-town guests had the opportunity to meet members of the current and incoming Leadership Teams during lunch on Thursday, June 6. Our Midwest partners also shared stories with some of the FSM team and St. Louis partners over dinner at Old North Provisions (top picture). Finally, their visit wrapped up with a lovely afternoon celebrating alongside the congregation and our local collaborators at the appreciation event hosted by the FIG team (bottom picture). A very special thanks to the event organizers and helpers!

United People pop-up markets begin



The United People Market has begun serving North St. Louis through pop-up markets. They held the Grand Opening of their Healthy Community Market (pictured) at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church on May 25. The team continues to expand outreach efforts, host farming camps, hold cooking demonstrations and explore new ways to expand community-driven change in the food system!

FSM philanthropy focus areas:



INSPIRING CATHOLIC ACTION ON CLIMATE GLOBALLY

BUILDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT IN THE MIDWEST



GROWING A JUST, EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEM LOCALLY

GROWING CATHOLIC IMPACT INVESTING



The Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative, under the leadership of Jake Barnett, our own John O'Shaughnessy and a small steering committee, is officially hiring its first employee. This employee will help to advance CIIC's goal to accelerate and expand the use of wealth in service of people and planet.

Collaborator Spotlight:



Tosha Phonix

Tosha Phonix joined Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) as their Food Justice Organizer in September 2018. In December, Tosha launched the Food Equity Advisory Board (FEAB), a body of community leaders who work alongside Tosha to support community food markets, work with grocery stores to address community concerns, increase food production in North St. Louis and promote knowledge of healthy food options.

Tosha answered a few questions for our newsletter...

What is your favorite thing to grow in your garden? "I'd say my favorite thing to grow is any vine plants. I like to see the vines grab a hold of things and wrap around it."

What is your favorite place to visit in St. Louis? "O'Fallon Park Rec Center. I used to work out there and I enjoyed it because it was always a community feel."

What is one hope you have for the St. Louis food community? "That there will be real change in Food Equity."

An equitable solar program for Illinois



The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) worked with other grassroots groups to represent marginalized communities in the launch of the Solar for All Program. As part of Illinois' Future Energy Jobs Act, Solar for All provides renewable energy and job training for low-income and environmental justice communities. **Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy (CEED)** supported this effort by helping to inform and equip the community to advocate on its own behalf; for example, holding an eight-hour webinar for Illinois residents to learn about energy policy. As part of both the mayor's and governor's transition teams, LVEJO will continue to play a critical role in advancing environmental justice goals.

Sister Rose Visits Vita



Sister Rose Dowling made a visit to our collaborators in Dublin at **Vita**. Following its founding by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Father Kevin Doheny and Father Norman Fitzgerald in 1989, Vita has continued their mission to alleviate poverty in Ethiopia and Eritrea and currently works to also address the impacts of climate change there.

A note from Ryan

I wanted to take the opportunity to share more about my family and me. My wife Tiffany and I are high school sweethearts from Northwest Indiana and have been married for 13 years. Our recent move to St. Louis is the first time we've left the Hoosier state, and we are having fun exploring our new community in Kirkwood. Our daughters, Autumn (9) and Addison (7) love their new school and jumped right in, joining softball teams, gardening club, Girl Scouts, chess club, and orchestra. They are also spending their summer in musical and theatre camp, and love to perform for others. Tiffany and I are blessed to watch the girls grow and thrive in their new environment.

We couldn't be happier to join the FSM family and the St. Louis community. Personally, I am most grateful to have the opportunity to learn from the sisters and to do work that is challenging and meaningful. Going forward, I am eager to help bring the message of Laudato Si to the St. Louis community, as together we build a future that is more just and equitable for everyone.



FSM Sponsors Climate Justice Alliance Event



FSM was a sponsor to the **Climate Justice Alliance (CJA)** biennial member convening, held March 28 to 30. This important event brings climate justice organizations from all over the country to come together, share hope, align goals, and build relationships. The convening was a meaningful and successful event, especially in honoring leaders of color and native roots.



The **St. Louis Food Policy Coalition** officially launched their regional food brand "Known and Grown STL" on June 3rd. The program identifies and promotes farmers who use environmentally-responsible practices. Look for the new logo in stores soon and check out recognized farms at knownandgrownstl.org.

Global Climate Strikes

On May 24th, youth around the world took part in another Global Climate Strike to demand action on the climate crisis and the Catholic community celebrated the fourth anniversary of Laudato Si'. FSM answered the Global Catholic Climate Movement's call for prayers to support the young activists.



Upcoming Events

Community Clothing Swap

August 4 at 1 p.m.

*hosted by Perennial, a sustainable workshop
3762 S. Broadway*

Summer Farmers' Markets

*each Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon
one located in Tower Grove Park
one located at 501 S. Florissant Rd*

Great Forest Park Balloon Glow & Race

*September 20 from 5 to 9 p.m.
September 21 from noon to 6 p.m.
Forest Park*

Season of Creation

*September 1 to October 4
recognize this global, ecumenical
celebration in your own way
see more at seasonofcreation.org*

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