

OUR PRESENCE

FSM Philanthropy Spring 2019 Quarterly Report

With the Spring quarter, FSM's philanthropy has made many exciting strides. We are grateful for this opportunity to share these updates with you, from the growth of the team and expansion of our partnerships to the discernment of our strategy areas and the accomplishments of our incredible partners.

Entering a new season

With the addition of Katie and Ryan to the staff team, we've officially brought the philanthropy program "inhouse," which will allow FSM to grow its presence in the communities we support. Together, Ryan and Katie are working to ensure that the FSM grant-making process is truly relational, providing not only dollars but also our time, energy, prayers, and presence.

While all issues related to Care for Creation are deeply interrelated, we've focused our strategy into three areas where we believe FSM is most uniquely positioned to be present and make an impact in communities. These are:



INSPIRING CATHOLIC ACTION ON
CLIMATE GLOBALLY

BUILDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE MOVEMENT IN THE MIDWEST



GROWING A JUST, EQUITABLE FOOD
SYSTEM LOCALLY

INSPIRING CATHOLIC ACTION



The **Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM)** held several events at World Youth Day in Panama in January, including the launch of its **Generation Laudato Si'** initiative, which mobilizes Catholic youth around the world to call for climate justice.



Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Stability in Africa (CYNESA) organizes youth to bring **Laudato Si'** to life via activities like tree-planting, outreach to universities and dioceses, leader workshops (pictured), and international advocacy. A new CYNESA chapter in Uganda held an outreach and formation workshop for 80 youth leaders in 2018, and CYNESA plans to expand activities into several West African countries in 2019.

A NOTE FROM KATIE

Hello! I am so blessed to have this chance to write to all of you and to work alongside you toward the FSM Mission and Focus. I am a native St. Louisan, and I completed my undergraduate studies in Environmental Earth Science at Washington University in December 2018. During my time there, I was deeply involved with a campus ministry and spent time each summer working for a nonprofit on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. I took opportunities to intern with Missouri Coalition for the Environment, study Renewable Energy Systems in Denmark, and travel to the International Climate Negotiations in Poland. All of these experiences solidified my desire to pursue a career in promoting justice in the face of climate change and the environmental dilemmas of our time. I never could have predicted that my “dream job” would show up in my own backyard and right at the time I was ready to begin it, but God always works in those mysterious and uncoincidental ways, doesn’t He? I am grateful to be here, learning so much from our partners and from all of you as we care for Creation together.



Community Impact Spotlight: Shamiso Mupara

Global Greengrants provides small grants to grassroots leaders worldwide to work toward more equitable, sustainable systems in their immediate communities.

Shamiso Mupara, a young woman from Marange, Zimbabwe, received a small grant and founded an organization called “Environmental Buddies” that works with schools and community members to plant, learn about and utilize indigenous tree species. The program also intervenes in social issues, for instance, creating opportunities for young women to become educated, generate income, and avoid child marriage, an otherwise common institution in Zimbabwe.





A growing local food system

Within the St. Louis food community, we feel especially hopeful as we witness how our partners are both sustaining and building momentum toward the vision of an equitable, local food system.

City Greens Market and **United People Market** continue to serve the Forest Park Southeast and Ferguson neighborhoods, respectively, with fresh, affordable, local produce. **Gateway Greening's** 2018 educational and community programs touched the lives of 668 gardeners and 3,570 students.

The St. Louis Food Policy Coalition, anchored by **Missouri Coalition for the Environment**, recently sent representatives to the state capitol for Good Food Policy Lobby Day (pictured), where they advocated for fairer processes for SNAP beneficiaries and for local, rather than foreign, ownership of Missouri farmland. Ryan represented FSM at these meetings, speaking with state legislators about the importance of supporting a healthy, sustainable, and equitable local food system.



BUILDING A MIDWEST MOVEMENT



Two of our newest partners, the **Little Village Environmental Justice Organization** (LVEJO) located in the Chicago area and the **Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy** (CEED) in Minneapolis, support grassroots leadership toward equity and environmental justice in the Midwest.

LVEJO is currently advocating for new clean energy policies to invest in vulnerable communities across the state, ensuring those who suffer most from pollution benefit from new clean-energy jobs. LVEJO held a mayoral forum (pictured) to raise the profile



of equity and environmental issues in the election. CEED supports grassroots leaders with the information and tools they need to participate and promote justice in environmental and energy policy-making. FSM leadership approved the beginning of an exciting partnership with a Jewish family philanthropy to support environmental justice in Chicago. Together we have hired a local consultant and Chicago leader, Antonio Lopez, who brings his expertise in Environmental Justice, anti-violence, and grassroots organizing together to help us discern how FSM can support local leaders— particularly women of color—in Chicago and across Illinois. Over time, he will help us bring this work to St. Louis as well.

St. Louis Youth Join Global Climate Strike

Young people from around St. Louis gathered at the Old Courthouse on March 15th as part of a worldwide movement of students raising climate awareness and inspiring action. Ryan and his family (pictured), and Katie and her father represented FSM at the strike.



Upcoming Events

Gateway Greening's Spring Plant Sale

April 6th from 9 a.m. to noon

The Demonstration Garden

3841 Bell Ave., 63108

Tower Grove Farmers' Markets Begin

April 13th and following Saturdays

from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tower Grove Park

St. Louis Earth Day Festival

April 27th and 28th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Forest Park on the Muny Grounds

Community Conversations: Climate Change and the Food Connection

May 1st from 7 to 8 p.m.

Kirkwood Public Library

Looking for more ways to get involved?

Write a comment or sign MCE's public petition to **Protect Small Streams and Wetlands** by April 15 at <https://www.moenvironment.org/about-us/509-take-action-to-protect-small-streams-and-wetlands-today>

Sign up for MCE's e-alert email list. This can be found under "Get Involved" on their website moenvironment.org

Join GCCM in "Eating Simply" during Lent, and anytime. Reducing our meat consumption is a simple, soulful way we can care for Creation in our daily lives. Read more at catholicclimatemovement.global/lent-2019/

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