



St. Joseph Missions takes lead in winter contingency program

We're thrilled to announce that St. Joseph Missions and Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network have teamed up to run Fort Wayne's winter contingency program. We're operating an overnight shelter for single homeless women and a warming center for homeless women, families, and men.

Overnight shelter services for single homeless women began on Dec. 21 at 301 W. Superior St., the former home of The Rescue Mission and now owned by the City of Fort Wayne, the fiscal agent for the program. The daytime warming center offering three meals daily opened on Dec. 22.

St. Joseph Missions is staffing the program and partnering with Just Neighbors to provide meals and case management for our guests during their stay. Both the overnight and daytime shelters will operate through April 30, 2021. Our role in the winter contingency program is especially timely in that we plan to open our permanent shelter in spring 2021.

Thank you to Sharon Kacprowicz, a Founding Board Member and Advisor of St. Joseph Missions, for leading this effort in managing the winter contingency program, as well as to the City of Fort Wayne for their continued support. Our heartfelt appreciation is also extended to the churches delivering hot meals and the community members donating breakfast bars, fruit, bottled water, and other supplies.

For more information, visit: [City of Fort Wayne News Release](#)

Visit our Website

Donate by Dec. 31 to claim special tax deduction

If you haven't heard, there's a special provision this year that allows you to deduct up to \$300 in donations to non-profits, like St. Joseph Missions. Cash donations of up to \$300 made before Dec. 31 are deductible when you file your taxes in 2021. To make a donation, go to <https://www.stjosephmissions.org/donate.html>. Thank you for all you do to support us!



Our new brand takes flight!

Following months of research, planning, and design, in November we unveiled our new logo, comprised of elements that embody the essence of our mission while staying true to our Catholic roots. We'd love for you to learn more about our journey to our new look.



Why we're grateful in 2020

In looking back on 2020, we do so with an immensely grateful heart. A list of *everything* we're appreciate of would be too long for the newsletter. So we would like to share with you a handful of the many things we are thankful for over the past year.

Strength in numbers: The addition of new board and committee members has enabled us to accomplish more projects faster, create new partnerships, and amplify the passionate drive to move us forward.

Going home: In late summer, we acquired the building and property that is currently under renovation to become a living space for transforming our guest's lives starting in spring of 2021.

Got your back: Due to broader community connections, improved communications, and fundraising events, we've rallied wide and diverse support from individuals, organizations, and businesses.

A fresh face: We reimagined and reengineered our brand identity to better capture the essence of who we are and how we want to serve the community.

We appreciate everyone who supported us in 2020. As always, stay in touch with St. Joseph Missions by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Profile in Gratitude: Olivia Snyder

When Olivia Snyder's father, James C. Snyder, died in 1974, her mother, Mary Ruth, did everything she had to do to care for her four children, including working full-time, volunteering, and balancing the rest of life's many obstacles as a single parent. Observing her mother's love, resilience, and grit in the face of adversity fueled Olivia's passion for helping others at an early age, including at church and the Girl Scouts.

Throughout her life, Olivia has served her profession and community, volunteering in a variety of capacities.



Olivia was Interior Design and Program Chair at the Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University and a highly respected interior designer when she was diagnosed with a heart condition – the same that took her father’s life. After a few years of regaining her strength, Olivia returned to her volunteering ways.

In early 2020, after hearing about our mission, Olivia jumped at the opportunity to help out. In addition to making two quilts for future shelter guests, Olivia rallied support from other quilters to do the same. Named Volunteer Coordinator in February, Olivia has also found time to contribute to our Communications Committee and coordinate fundraisers, including Road Rally BINGO in October.

Olivia’s design, communication and organizational skills combined, with her love of service and a willingness to lend a hand wherever possible, have been a huge help to St. Joseph Missions.

It all goes back to how her parents helped shaped her daughter’s life – and how Olivia wants to help shape the lives of single homeless women.

“I understand that circumstances out of your control can make homelessness an instant possibility in a woman’s life,” says Olivia. “So, I want to do everything that I can to support women as they figure out that they are worth it and can make it – with a little unconditional support.”

If you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to have you join us. [Volunteer here](#)