

Jubilee Ministries
2020 Annual Report
Vicky Partin, Diocesan Jubilee Officer

In 1982, Jubilee Ministries was authorized by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to “attack the systemic causes of domestic poverty and injustice through works of charity and justice.”

That was almost 40 years ago. During these years, Jubilee has designated over 600 Episcopal parishes and community ministries that respond through acts of charity, advocate for people through local and state agencies, and empower people toward self-sufficiency. Center Directors have benefited by networking and sharing their programs and strategies.

The Diocese of Atlanta has twelve ministries designated Jubilee, and they all continue to grow and do the work of Jubilee. But our Diocese has many more ministries doing charity and empowerment work. In fact, most parishes are Jubilee sites!

Last year I was hopeful that the Episcopal Church was reawakening its efforts to celebrate Jubilee as a program and provide leadership. That has not happened, even though we do have access to webinars on anti-racism training. I now understand that Jubilee may have run its course as a program.

We must look for new ways to support and encourage all the charity and justice work in our Diocese. In a conversation with the Rev. Donna Mote, our Missioner for Engagement and Innovation, we discussed ways to celebrate Jubilee and network with commissions. We hope to have a zoom meeting with Center Directors to seek their input and needs for Diocesan support. Perhaps the Diocese needs a Community Engagement Commission.

Updates and Highlights

In 2020 we were planning a Young Adult retreat on social justice issues, and the pandemic has delayed those plans. Young Adult Director Easton Davis had begun recruiting some folks for input, so maybe in 2021.

In July I sent a letter to Centers asking for updates for the diocesan website as well as asking how the ministries are challenged during the pandemic. The responses were very creative and inspiring.

Rainbow Village - Staff began rotating returns in mid-July to check on families and assist with food. On-site volunteers returned to make food bags. Summer Kids camped in pods and received kits for home play. Family goals continue to flourish!

Path to Shine – First response to COVID was handing out grocery store gift cards and other supplies – over \$25,000 worth. Mentors send note cards and texts, chat and deliver books to mentees. These relationships will continue remotely through 2020. Monthly deliveries of school supplies will keep the children connected. Path to Shine celebrates 10 years in October!

Emmaus House – Annual summer Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools program was canceled, so they went virtual with a six-week reading program. Forty rising second and third graders read 901 books, completed weekly art projects, learned new songs, and worked daily with tutors. Parishes donated countless books for starting home libraries.

Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry - Even though the Ministry house is closed, volunteers and staff have been busy. Received \$65,000 in grants from the Community Foundation Coronavirus Response Funds to assist with rent, mortgage, and utilities, with 85% in housing assistance. FEMA funds through the Cares Act have paid mortgages, rents, and utilities. The TAP children camp creatively became home delivery of 120 personalized activity boxes to 2018 and 2019 Tappers and Teen Advisers.