HOLY CROSS MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT 2013

“I have no family in the U.S., so I count on Holy Cross Ministries as a system of support”

“For the first time, my son has been able to speak up in class”

“Everybody here is very friendly and they know how to help you”

A TRADITION OF CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY’S FUTURE

“I know I will get the help I need without being judged”
Dear Friends,

We would like to share with you our 2013 Annual Report that describes the broad range of work we do with our partners that benefits the diverse community in which we live in in Utah.

We embrace and live our mission “to respond to the underserved for needs for health and well-being, to share God-given resources, to connect people to community services...”

To achieve our purpose, Holy Cross Ministries has developed an array of initiatives in collaboration with healthcare professionals, educators, and other civic partners directly serving thousands of individuals, children and their families annually.

These efforts could not be possible without your help.

The stories we share in the 2013 Annual Report tell of how Holy Cross makes a difference in the lives of those we serve: the vulnerable, the forgotten, the immigrant, and those marginalized by poverty. It’s true more than ever that we are one community and that only together can we touch lives in meaningful ways.

Sincerely,

Morris Jensby
Board of Trustees Chair

Suzanne Brennan, CSC
Executive Director
Our educational programs serve 340 children ages three through eleven in Park City, Utah. We help children like Stacie, a first grader who, when she first came to Holy Cross, had missed over sixty days of school, who rarely spoke with classmates, and who was far behind academically.

Many children fall behind in this way, especially those from low-income, Latino families whose parents may not have the resources to help them succeed in school. To support these families, we’ve developed targeted education, including early childhood, afterschool, and summer programming.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, an inability to read in third grade is a strong predictor for academic failure later on. More specifically,

“...millions of American children get to 4th grade without learning to read proficiently. And that puts them on the dropout track."

The study goes on to state that “Every student who does not complete high school costs our society $260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity.”

After starting with Holy Cross, Stacie was much more talkative. Her social skills began to improve and she started to sit with friends during the Afterschool Program.

Her leadership skills began to shine when she began to help others after she was finished with her own work.

**Stacie’s parents are thrilled with the positive impact that Holy Cross Ministries is having on their daughter’s life.**

They are so happy to see Stacie begin to come out of her shell and make friends. Stacie’s academics are beginning to improve, and Stacie is starting to enjoy going to school.

**By supporting its most at-risk children, we are building the foundation for Park City’s strong, diverse, and inclusive future.**

We are proud to help Stacie and children like her succeed in school, and to help their families meet basic needs and become integrated into our shared community.
We are deeply involved in the health and wellness of low-income families throughout Northern Utah. We provide culturally sensitive, bilingual counseling for hundreds of children and victims of violence, and have created a program that uses a network of Promotoras, or bilingual, bi-cultural health support workers, to link clients with doctors, counselors, shelters, and other community resources.

Our mental health and support services provide access to healthcare for thousands of women who may otherwise be left in the shadows.

**In Utah, 51.5% of Latino households led by women are in poverty.**

We work to empower these women by giving them the connections they require to meet their families’ basic needs.

Our broad spectrum of services has never lost sight of our responsibility to respect the dignity of those we serve. In the words of Julia, one of our clients,

**When I come to Holy Cross Ministries with any problems or questions, I feel comfortable because I can speak in Spanish, and I know I will get the help I need without being judged.**

We provide a “no wrong door” approach, through which women who come to us receive the services they require to meet their basic needs for health, safety, shelter, food, or other resources, whether those services are provided by our organization or by someone else. And these services are critical. A Health Disparities Study conducted by the Utah Dept. of Health states that

**“Higher percentages of [Latinos] have no usual place of health care and lack adequate prenatal care compared to all Utahns. Nearly 1 in 3 lack health insurance.”**

Whether for counseling, prenatal education, or access to community resources, Holy Cross staff is there to help provide a long-term, stable, and caring network of support for low-income families.
Our Legal Immigration program is dedicated to helping immigrant families, especially victims of violence, come out of the shadows and become empowered.

“While the lifetime prevalence of domestic violence in the general U.S. population is estimated at 22-25%, one survey of Latina immigrants found a lifetime prevalence for intimate partner violence more than twice that high.”

The immigrant and legal status of our clients increases their vulnerability for abuse, and can create barriers to seeking help. Our highly trained bilingual staff helps overcome these barriers to break the cycle of violence.

The women that receive legal residency through our programs can become economically independent from their abusers and are able to more substantially support their children.

With life skills education and access to resources such as insurance and healthcare, those families are healthier, better prepared for school and work, and therefore more able to achieve economic success. We’ve created opportunities for women like Marcela, who now

works to provide for her three daughters and is very grateful to finally become a Legal Permanent Resident. She is so grateful to not be living in fear anymore.

By providing an opportunity for women to attain legal residency we are creating an economic opportunity for women who otherwise may depend on abusers for financial resources.

We connect women with the resources in the community that will help them address their basic needs, further reducing the barriers they face to economic stability.
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Total Expenses: $1,920,041

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