

RECONNECTING AND REVIVING RELATIONSHIPS **TO THRIVE**



Meet the
JOHNSON FAMILY

Saint 

ANNUAL
REPORT
2020

Dear SaintA Supporter,

For 170 years, SaintA has served children and families in Wisconsin. We were founded during Milwaukee's cholera pandemic as an orphanage for children who lost their parents to the disease. In 2020, we found ourselves called again to help families, as a devastating pandemic swept our community. Like we did in 1850, SaintA stepped up to meet the needs of the community.

In 2020, SaintA celebrated its 170th anniversary of serving children and families in Wisconsin. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, we transformed the way we worked, innovated our services and continued to meet the needs of the community.

COMMUNITY-FOCUSED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

When the pandemic hit the Milwaukee area, our immediate call to action was to prioritize helping the most vulnerable families, including people of color and low-income families and individuals. Many people in our care were the essential workers who had to operate in-person, while others had to balance work with care for children and family members. Prior to the pandemic, they were already struggling with housing instability or food insecurity, and those struggles were only heightened through the pandemic.

Our Five Pillars of Stability (Housing, Health, Caring Connections, Education, Employment) continues to be a guiding framework in understanding that we can only thrive, despite adversity, when our basic needs are met.

SaintA CARES was a staff-founded and -funded initiative, which focused on food insecurity with a goal to be an example of how we are an outwardly-focused, community-engaged organization. SaintA Votes was another staff initiative to rally the community to vote.

DEEPENING OUR CONNECTIONS

In 2020, SaintA was quick to adjust to the abrupt need to change how we serve those who need us most. We quickly pivoted to telehealth services and virtual family visits when safer-at-home orders were issued. Thanks to an ongoing relationship with the Oprah Winfrey Foundation, we were gifted a grant that allowed us to deliver tablets and internet services to 158 Milwaukeeans who needed assistance bridging the digital gap.

Although racial equity is always a focus at SaintA, this year we made it more important than ever before. As an organization, we pledged to speak out on racial injustice everywhere. We believe "the healing starts with us," and held an all-agency gathering to strengthen our anti-racist stance within the organization. We declared Juneteenth Day an agency holiday, and are committed to standing as one organization against all forms of hate.

Each year, we are reaching new training milestones and are proud that close to 60,000 individuals have been trained in our Seven Essential Ingredients (7ei) of Trauma Informed Care Model.

LOOKING FORWARD



Although our 170th anniversary in 2020 was put on pause, we are grateful to have been able to celebrate in May of 2021. We wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of our donors. Over the past year, we have received more gifts from individuals and foundations than ever before. We are thankful for our staff, who have worked tirelessly to make sure the people in our care have their needs met through the changes and challenges of the year. Together, we can continue to move forward to create healing and hope for the people in our care.

Thank you for your support and dedication in helping us provide so many resources and opportunities to the community.

Ann Leinfelder Grove, President and CEO
and Mary McCormick, Board Chair



ANN LEINFELDER GROVE
SaintA President and CEO



MARY McCORMICK
Board Chair

“
THROUGH
THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC, WE
TRANSFORMED
THE WAY WE
WORKED.
”

5 PILLARS OF STABILITY



EMPLOYMENT: job skills development, resume and interview help, access to a wide variety of potential employers.



EDUCATION: finishing high school, obtaining a GED, pursuing post-secondary education or job training.



HOUSING: a safe and stable home.



HEALTH: access to physical, mental and behavioral health care providers and health insurance.



CARING CONNECTIONS: relationships are key to life success.

5,000 }

More than 5,000 clients are served daily in our care.

What It Takes to Thrive

HOUSING | HEALTH | CARING CONNECTIONS | EDUCATION | EMPLOYMENT

Often, we are asked how we help people achieve stability after significant adversity. In 2020, family stability was threatened more than ever due to COVID-19, and communities everywhere experienced a collective trauma that may forever change our perceptions, our relationships and our connections.

2020 was a year of hardship for so many. It was a struggle to adjust to the various and immediate changes to our regular lives that we may have taken for granted until they were no longer an option: visiting with family and friends, going to events and gatherings, and even the basics of attending school and work were compromised. Life was turned upside down, and the impact on the family structure was significant.

Experience and research have taught us that in order to thrive, children and families need to have their needs met within five pillars of stability: housing, health, caring connections, education and employment. These are the social determinants of health and underlie many of the individual and community-wide challenges Milwaukee residents experience. SaintA helps people navigate life within these areas to assist in meeting those challenges.

Families like the Johnsons, whose story is featured, are a great example of how, no matter what comes our way throughout the year, we are always better together.



ERICA JOHNSON WITH FOUR OF HER CHILDREN.

Meet the **JOHNSON FAMILY**



MICHAEL JOHNSON OUTSIDE AT HIS HOME, READY TO PLAY SOME FOOTBALL.



ERICA JOHNSON, MILWAUKEE MOM.

ONE HOME, ONE FAMILY

The Johnsons are a big family. There are 10 children total, and while the majority are now adults, there are still four children in the household living with their mom, Erica Johnson. Michael (9) is the youngest, and his older brothers are 10, 11 and 12-years-old. They're all very active children who love basketball, football and making pizza for family TV night.

About two years ago, Michael experienced abuse while in care of another adult, which led to him being removed from his home and placed in out-of-home foster care. The family was left incomplete. "I was willing to do anything to get him back, but it was out of my hands," Ms. Johnson says.

While Michael was out of the home, Wraparound Milwaukee – a program that provides care to children with serious emotional, mental and behavioral needs – along with supportive SaintA case managers and therapists, were integrated into the family's life to create a safe environment for him to return home. A year later, he was reunified. "I was so grateful ... all I wanted was to be a family again," Ms. Johnson says.

SaintA in 2020



COMMUNITY SERVICES

SaintA offers programs that prioritize keeping families together, connecting them with supportive services and promoting overall family well-being, which leads individuals and families to stability.

{91%

In 2020, Treatment Foster Care (TFC) served 123 children, who were exposed to significant trauma and needed more support to address their physical, behavioral and emotional needs in out-of-home placement. Of those children, 91% experienced stable foster home placements, which lays a foundation for future stability and well-being.

“I was willing to do anything to get him back.”

– ERICA JOHNSON

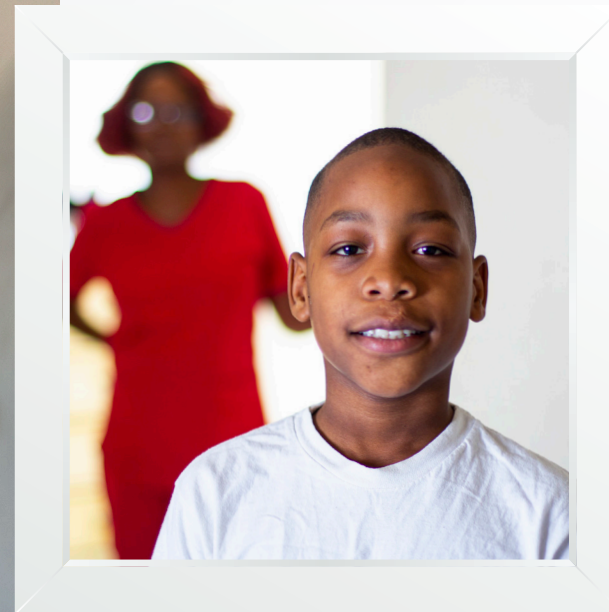


MICHAEL (FAR LEFT) AND HIS THREE BROTHERS AT HOME.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ARE KEYS FOR SUCCESS

Therapy was the first step in helping Michael. Family therapy and crisis stabilization was introduced to help all family members manage their emotions and create a plan to prevent unsafe conditions from occurring again.

Medication management was also a key component in the process. Ultimately, what Michael needed most was being moved to relatives to restore family connections. Since being reunified with family, he has learned to self-regulate and communicate his emotions effectively to avoid severe behavior.



ONE OF THE JOHNSON BROTHERS
WITH HIS MOTHER, ERICA.



Michael's biggest support was being moved to relatives and restoring family connections.

– ERICA JOHNSON



SaintA in 2020

MEETING FAMILIES WHERE THEY ARE AT

In 2020, SaintA met families where they were by introducing telehealth options, so people in our care could meet therapists online. Due to Safer-at-Home orders, we couldn't meet families in person, which called for us to shift to a virtual model to make sure the mental health needs of families were still met in the safest and most accessible ways possible.

{ **1,900**

Child and Family Well-being at SaintA: We work with close to 1,900 children annually to provide child welfare case management services that ensure child safety, permanence and well-being.

{ **700**

Over 700 children, youth and adults will receive mental health services through the SaintA Clinic this year. Our clinic accepts BadgerCare and most major insurances to ensure that no one is turned away from our services.



THE JOHNSON BROTHERS ON THEIR FRONT PORCH IN MILWAUKEE.

CARING CONNECTIONS OF COMFORT

Michael's grandfather and oldest sister always played critical roles in the younger childrens' lives, especially his sister, who stepped in to care for Michael when he needed a new placement. "She's my rock," Ms. Johnson says. With Michael in a "kinship placement," which is when a relative or caregiver who has a pre-existing relationship with a child steps up to care for them when they are removed from the home, his behavior improved significantly.

Now back with his mother, he hasn't had any severe crisis behaviors, which require specialized treatment and safety planning, and has been taken off of the high-risk list with Wraparound Milwaukee. He is still quiet, but is making great strides towards sharing his thoughts with those wanting and willing to help.

Ms. Johnson also has hopes of moving to the South one day to be closer to other family members who can help support her. "Family is all I need."



THE JOHNSON BROTHERS PLAYING TOGETHER IN THE FRONT YARD.

“

Family is
all I need.

– ERICA JOHNSON

”

SaintA in 2020

SaintA Votes

SaintA Votes is a coordinated campaign led by SaintA staff and sponsored by the SaintA Equity Council that promoted voter participation in the 2020 elections among staff and community. Voting in 2020 was as important as ever, and staff prioritized educating others on the power of the polls by rallying groups of staff, family and friends to register to vote, reminding them of voting deadlines, helping them with absentee voting and encouraging them to head to the polls on election day. Through our mobilization efforts, we engaged over 500 people in the 2020 elections.

{ 150

150 youth aging out of foster care are served annually through our Youth Transitioning to Adulthood (YTA) Program, supporting young adults who have aged out of the foster care system with job placement, education support and housing services.



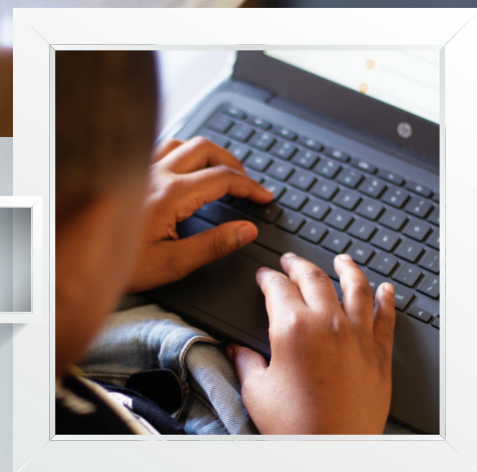
MICHAEL (ABOVE) AND HIS BROTHER (RIGHT) WORKING ON SCHOOLWORK FROM HOME DURING THE PANDEMIC.

LEARNING IN A LOVING HOME

In 2020, students, with a lot of help from their parents, had to abruptly transition to virtual learning. “We’re homebodies, so it wasn’t that big of a deal to me,” Ms. Johnson says. This made it easy at first for her four children to learn at home. A year later, it was not as easy, as the boys were getting antsy. “But, we’re still trying our best.”

We’re still trying our best.

– ERICA JOHNSON

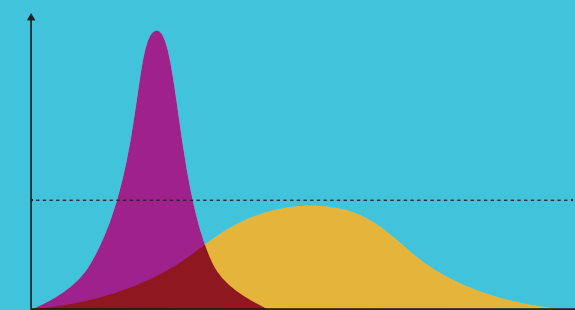


SaintA in 2020



THE POWER OF GIVING

In March of 2020, the Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation awarded SaintA a grant to provide telehealth mental health services to some of the Milwaukeeans hit hardest by COVID-19. The grant enabled us to outfit 158 of our clients, who would not otherwise be able to access quality mental health care, with devices and internet access for one year. Students were able to participate in virtual learning, families could access telehealth and educators could attend virtual training made just for them.



FLATTENING THE CURVE

At the beginning of the pandemic, we committed to the global mission to flatten the pandemic curve, as well as establish our own goal of accelerating what we call “The Compassion Curve,” a groundbreaking framework that inspires hope and promotes caregiver capacity for caregivers at SaintA and organizations across the city.

PREVENTION THROUGH EARLY LEARNING

Scientific evidence is clear – brain development is most significant during the ages of 0-3. For this reason, in 2020, we launched new training for early childhood educators to learn how to better support and nurture this development. Throughout 2020, SaintA created virtual gatherings and trainings to support educators, principals and caregivers to present trauma-informed strategies for supporting early learners and their families while navigating the pandemic.

Close to 60,000 people have been trained in Trauma Informed Care (TIC) by SaintA.

MENTAL HEALTH

Our outpatient mental health clinic provides therapy to children and families to the Milwaukee area and beyond. We operate satellite clinics in 11 school districts in southeastern Wisconsin.



PIZZA NIGHT IS A FAMILY FAVORITE IN THE JOHNSON FAMILY.

STAYING POSITIVE THROUGH INSTABILITY

Ms. Johnson has had various jobs throughout her lifetime, and is always eager to work. Two months ago, she started a new job as a Personal Care Worker. She loves to care for people, but most importantly, she wants to be able to care for her family. She tries to stay positive despite the instability of the pandemic, and says if they’ve made it this far, she knows they’ll be okay. “I’m not worried. I’d do anything for my kids.”

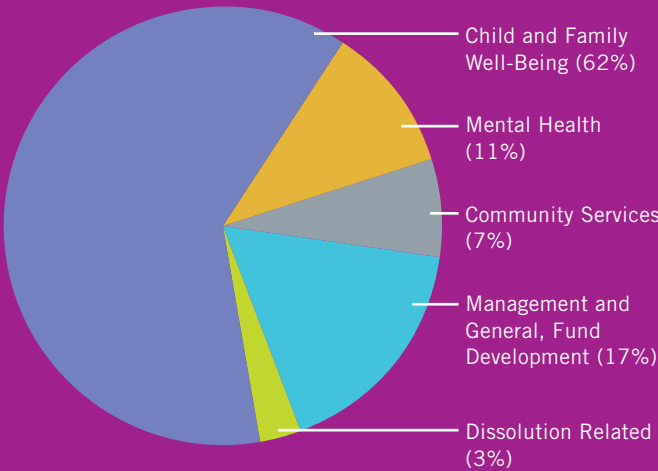
SaintA is Reconnecting and Reviving Our Community

Since 1850, SaintA has served the community by facilitating equity, learning, healing and wellness by restoring the connections that help children and families thrive. We champion individuals and families because we recognize and address the impact of trauma. We offer an array of services, including comprehensive prevention, early intervention and crisis support.

All SaintA services are provided through a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) perspective, a therapeutic approach that applies the study of neuroscience to understand how the brain develops, functions and recovers from trauma. Our Five Pillars of Stability promote access to health, education, housing, employment and caring connections, as we believe success in these social determinants of health are key to healing and overcoming trauma.

Always embedded within SaintA’s work is the commitment to prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion. The trauma of discrimination, racism and systemic inequities impact many of the families we serve. When this commitment is emphasized, healing and hope are created.

2020 Financials



Total Revenue: \$25,602,462
 Total Expense: \$28,804,767
 Net Loss: \$(3,202,305)

Financially and programmatically, 2020 was a historic year. The pandemic impacted SaintA operations when the March 2020 Wisconsin Stay-At-Home order required agency operations to shift overnight to virtual home visits and telehealth for mental health services. The impact of the pandemic caused an 11% decline in program revenues. One-time occurrences of a \$1.9M retroactive contract adjustment and \$0.7M of expenses related to the closing of Capitol West Academy further impacted SaintA’s operating position in 2020. On a positive note, fundraising revenue increased by 107%.

The financial information presented in this report represents the operating results of SaintA, Inc. and does not include any consolidated subsidiary entities. Through June 2020, SaintA operated Capitol West Academy, an independent 501(c)3 public charter school. SaintA also operates the Saint Aemilian-Lakeside Foundation, an independent 501(c)3 corporation of which SaintA is the sole member.

A month into the pandemic, SaintA realized its bigger calling to help the community. SaintA CARES is an initiative founded and funded by SaintA employees. CARES stands for Community Allies Responding for Essential Services. With such high unemployment rates in many communities throughout the pandemic, our first focus was on food insecurity. We provided grocery gift cards to families in our care who needed food, served catered meals to staff who work in five of Milwaukee’s youth group homes and assessment centers, and made monetary donations to two local food pantries to help them meet community demand.



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THE JOHNSON BROTHERS IN MILWAUKEE.