

# ANNUAL REVIEW





# OUR BRAND WAS REFRESHED!

In early 2024, Christ in the City introduced a refreshed brand, **aligning our visual identity with the heart of our mission**. The updated look and feel **capture the energy and compassion of our work**, helping us **connect more deeply with our community** and those who support our mission. You will notice we are using new colors, image styles, textures and fonts among other elements!



## LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

We had our annual Leadership Weekend, where we welcomed street ministry programs from across the country who seek to know, love, and serve the poor in their own communities. **We had groups from 5 cities attend** who received formation and were encouraged to better serve the poor and lead their volunteers.



The "Homeless But Human" documentary won two awards at film festivals while on tour! It also was added to the Augustine Institute's renowned Catholic Streaming Platform:





# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

”

Dear friends,

We're excited to share with you some highlights of an extraordinary year for Christ in the City. God has shown His loving presence in countless ways, leaving us in awe of His providence.

This year, about 50 brave young missionaries grew in their faith, **built genuine communities** in Denver and Philadelphia, and brought Christ's love to the most lonely and abandoned on the streets.

Our Summer program expanded to **seven additional cities**—Boston, Dayton, Gary, Detroit, Lincoln, Wichita, and Dallas—where young people from across the country joined us in serving the poor. Among them were **twenty seminarians**, gaining a hands-on experience that will bless the Church for years to come.

Above all, we rejoice in the transformation in the lives of our homeless friends, touched by God's grace and the unwavering joy of our missionaries. When the light of Christ breaks through the darkness with a simple smile or a friend's presence, it becomes a path to healing.

In addition, we've been blessed by the steadfast support of our volunteers, who help the missionaries and make possible our weekly "Lunch in the Park," a highlight for many of our street friends.

My heartfelt thanks also go to our donors, whose generosity made it possible for us to meet our fundraising goals, ensuring the continued impact of our mission.



On behalf of our missionaries, team, and Board of Directors, **thank you from the bottom of my heart**. Your prayers, time, dedication, and financial support are vital to this mission. While you may not always witness the life-changing moments happening on the streets or in the hearts of our missionaries, I assure you—your contributions make a profound difference. With God's grace, you are changing the world!

*Eduardo Regal*

**Executive Director**



# WHY BRING YOUR FAMILY TO Lunch IN THE Park ?

## "HEAR IT FIRST HAND!"

Christ in the City's "Lunch in the Park" started as a simple way for our family to serve God's people and give back to those in need. Over time, this routine has become so much more—it's a shared experience that has **transformed our family and strengthened our faith.**

Serving lunch each week has become a beloved tradition for us, not just because of the impact we make, but because of the connections we've built. One touching moment was receiving a handwritten Christmas card from a friend in the park, complete with small gifts for our children. It was a powerful reminder of the deep appreciation and sacrifice such gestures can hold.

**Our children, once shy and unsure, have grown in empathy, gratitude, and confidence.** They've built relationships with the missionaries and the people we serve, gaining a broader perspective outside their usual bubble. It's been incredible to watch them develop a deeper sense of purpose through these interactions.

These gatherings have not only strengthened our family bond but have also shown our friends on the street the importance of family. One friend even asked our kids to call him "Uncle," reflecting his deep desire for connection and belonging.

What started as a simple routine has now become **a cherished time where our family bonds** over a meal and reflects on the many blessings God has bestowed upon us.

With faith and love,

*Brian & Brittany*

OUR FRIEND FRANK GAVE THE  
KIDS THIS FOR CHRISTMAS!





# NIGHT MINISTRY GROWTH



Christ in the City seeks out the most lonely and isolated in society to meet them with friendship. The number of partnering organizations that invite us into their programs is growing. To meet the growing need, alumni, volunteers, and staff will work alongside missionaries this year to encounter Christ in our jails, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and hospitals.



## NURSING HOME MINISTRY

Would you take an hour out of your week to play board games and reminisce on old pictures with your grandparents? What about with the forgotten residents of a nursing home? Christ in the City Missionaries looked forward to this night ministry every week this year.



## JAIL MINISTRY

What kind of person looks forward to a weekly trip to the jail? Christ in the City began visiting inmates in Denver on Friday nights. This sacred time consists of small group discussions, sharing stories, and praying with the incarcerated, and it has become a highlight of the week.

## ENCOUNTERING GOD'S CHILDREN



Missionaries looked after children of single mothers while they worked to improve their families' circumstances. The accompaniment and mentorship to these youth is a growing need.



## CHRIST IN THE HOSPITAL

We look to family and friends when we are in a health crisis. But what if you have no one to call? Four determined missionaries this year strive to be that friend for those who desire it.



# IMPACT SNAPSHOT

2023-2024



35,014

Encounters with the poor



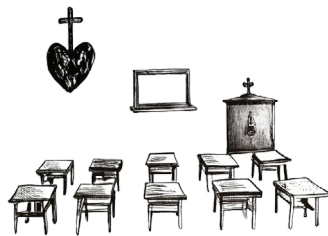
275

People prayed with on the street



99

Friends who took steps to pursue housing



622

Hours of formation each missionary receives per year

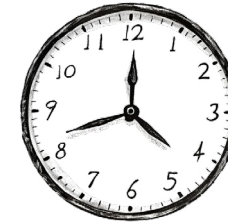
(Includes classes in Theology, workshops, retreats, spiritual accompaniment)



19,350

Meals served in Denver + Philadelphia at **128 Lunch in the Parks:**

an opportunity for local parishes, schools, and organizations to serve the poor with us.



36,456

Hours missionaries engaged in direct service to the poor

(Including street ministry, Lunch in the Park, night ministry and accompaniments)



11,776

Street ministry walks across 10 different routes encountering the homeless



49

Full-time missionaries



12,240

Number of people Christ in the City encountered.



# SPOTLIGHT ON SEMINARIANS

67 Seminarians from around the country experienced mission trips this past year!

"I appreciate many things Christ in the City does for my seminarians. It brings them face to face with the many complications and realities of people struggling on the street. While maintaining an awareness of safety, the seminarians meet people on their terms: in the streets, along the river, out in the open. **This requires of the seminarians a greater vulnerability and humility** since they are not acting from the safety of a known environment. **It teaches them HOW to go out.** But most of all, **it teaches them to look at the person, not just the problem; to seek to love, not just to fix.**"

Fr. Chad Arnold



7 SEMINARIANS PARTICIPATED IN THIS  
YEAR'S SUMMER OF SERVICE FROM WICHITA

LOVE UNTIL IT HURTS

THIS YEAR TWO OF OUR  
PHILLY MISSIONARIES  
APPLIED FOR SEMINARY!!



Seminarian Missionary  
Jessie

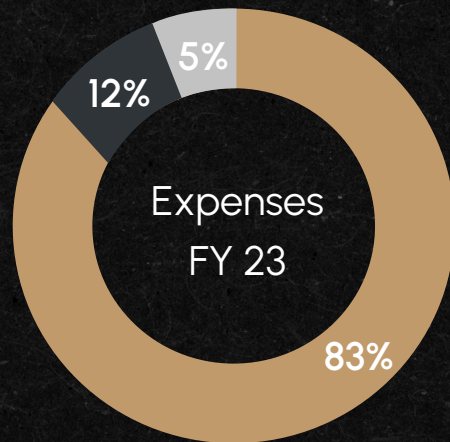
Seminarian Missionary  
Christian



# FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 2023 - JULY 2024

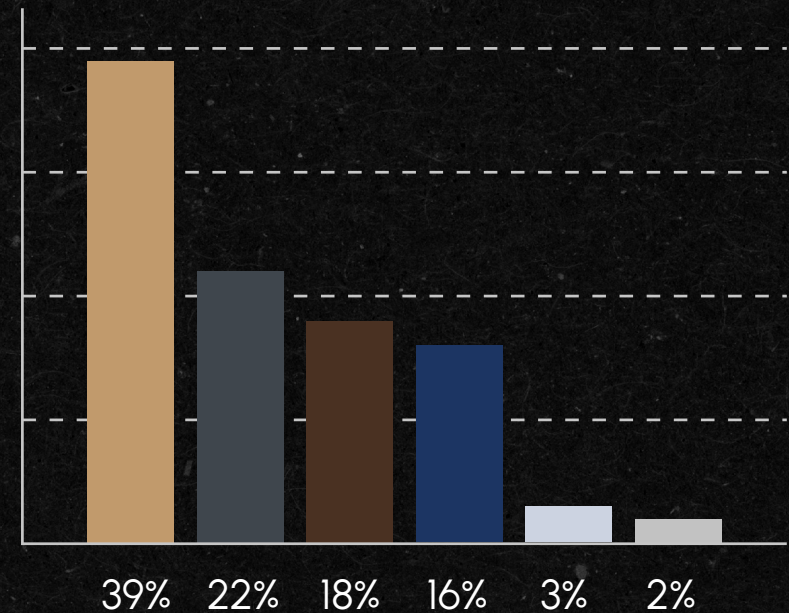
Expenses:  
**\$3,225,756**



Donations  
Program Income  
Fundraising Events  
In Kind Donations  
Grants  
Other

Ministry  
Fundraising  
Administrative

Income:  
**\$3,500,544**





# PHILADELPHIA MISSIONARY QUOTES ⚡



"My street route is located in an area with expensive retail shops and restaurants, banks and exquisite apartments. However, if you lower your eyes from the neon marquees and historic architecture, you'll see cobblestone occasionally littered with signs of life: a dirty, tattered blanket, empty water and soda bottles, flattened cardboard, graffiti-ed names. I spent the first few weeks fighting the urge to window shop, and taking in first the faces of people on the street before trendy cafes and even trendier outfits. I am learning to live in the reality that the most precious thing I will encounter every day is the eternal human soul— the time we spend with our friends on the street is often mundane, but it is always blessed. I encounter the likeness and image of God." - **America, Missionary 2023-2025**

"Living in community at Christ in the City contributed so much to the healing of my heart. The love the Lord has for me was revealed through each member in my community and showed me the importance of allowing myself to be received by others." - **Noah, Missionary 2023-2025**



TONY & ANDREA



"Tony is our team's closest friend on our street route. Although he comes from a difficult past, Tony is warm, kind, attentive, and a loyal friend. He has been there for us on days when it got hard, always ready with a smile. I am constantly edified by his perseverance and strength, and his patience while he waits for many things on the end of the system to click into place. We were able to go get dinner at "Chickies and Pete's", a classic Philly spot, and watch a Phillies game with him there at the end of our year. It truly felt like a bunch of friends hanging out, enjoying each others company, and the beautiful summer weather. As a Philly native, Tony has a lot of pride in his city, and loves to teach us about it. After dinner, he kept the Philly theme going by taking us to his favorite water ice spot! I'm very grateful for his continued presence, and am very excited to introduce him to my team next year."

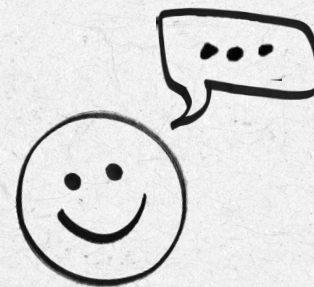
- **Andrea, Missionary 2023-2025**





# A GRANDFATHER'S SMILE

## *Friendship Beyond Words*



"During my first year, I was assigned to the Parks route, known for its Hispanic community, particularly a corner where older Latino men often gathered. One man, Oscar, stood out to me. Originally from Mexico and in his 60s, Oscar barely spoke English, and I barely knew any Spanish beyond the basics. **At first, I saw this language barrier as an obstacle to building a relationship.** Fortunately, the other missionaries on the route spoke Spanish and helped me understand.

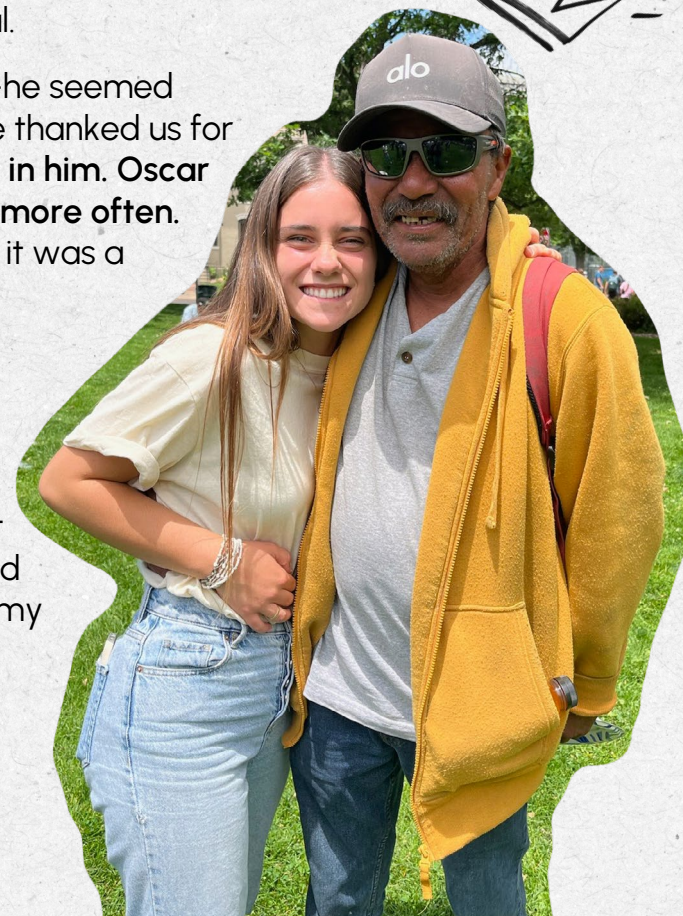
Despite our limited ability to converse, Oscar and I formed a meaningful bond. Over time, he became less of a friend and more like a grandfather to me, even giving me the nickname 'Gabby,' something that felt endearing and special.



Oscar's reaction to our visits changed throughout the year—he seemed happier to see us as time passed. A mutual friend, Julio, once thanked us for befriending Oscar, saying **he had noticed a positive change in him. Oscar was taking better care of himself and avoiding bad habits more often.** While my team and I can't take credit for his transformation, it was a blessing to hear that our friendship played a small role in it.

One moment that revealed the depth of our connection happened at a 'Lunch in the Park'. Oscar spotted me from across the park, called out 'Gabby!' with a big smile. **In that moment, I realized how much our love and care for one another had grown, even without many words.** He may not have had a home, but he loved me like a granddaughter, and seeing his heart soften was one of the greatest blessings of my first year."

- Gabrielle, Missionary 2023-2025







# Annual Celebration

October 26<sup>th</sup> 2024



## Buy Tickets Today!

<https://aesbid.org/ELP/CITC24>

Join Us!





23 - 24

# CHRIST IN THE CITY



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