



ECS NJ

EPISCOPAL
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

THE DIOCESE
of NEW JERSEY

IMPACT REPORT

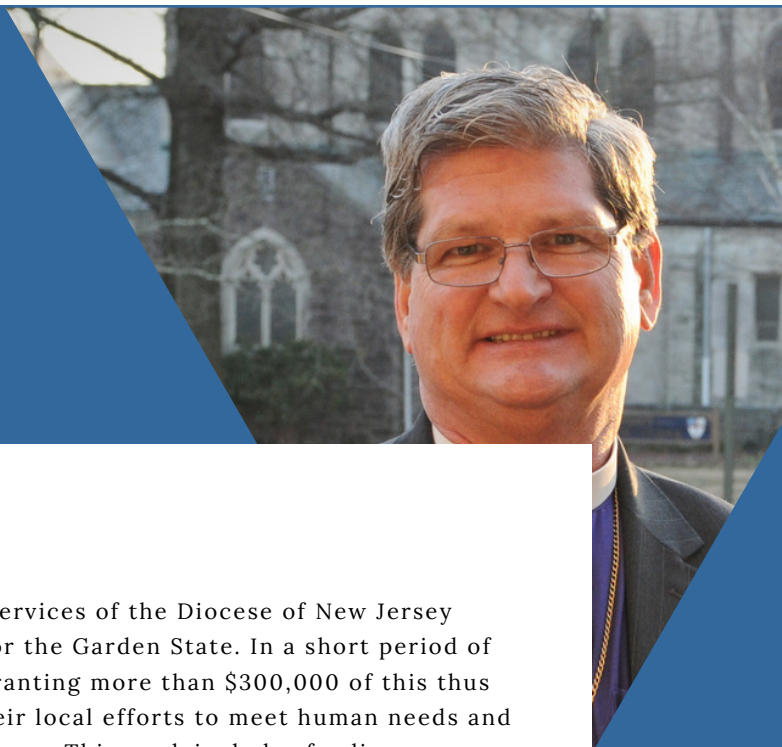
2022



**Working for Gospel justice
in the Garden State**

a message from

BISHOP CHIP STOKES



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey (ECS-NJ) is two-years-old. This is great news for the Garden State. In a short period of time, ECS-NJ has raised more than \$650,000, granting more than \$300,000 of this thus far to 25 ministries and projects, supporting their local efforts to meet human needs and foster Gospel justice in the communities they serve. This work includes feeding ministries, stable housing, support for victims of domestic violence, educational initiatives in under-served communities, and more. In addition, ECS-NJ is becoming a clearinghouse of best practices in human needs and justice ministries, offering educational summits and advocacy opportunities on topics that have included housing, food-insecurity, the rights of the homeless, and urban revitalization.

Twenty-four of our churches have led the way as "Founding Congregations," making commitments of at least \$10,000 each. We have also been blessed by donations of time and treasure from dedicated individuals across the Diocese. Every gift matters, and ongoing support is necessary for this work to continue to flourish.

I am deeply thankful to The Reverend Joan Pettit-Mason and Ms. Sharisma Ubiera who served as Co-Chairs of the Advisory Council during the launch of ECS-NJ. I am equally thankful for the dedicated leadership of Dr. Rosina Dixon, current Chair of the Advisory Council. We are blessed by the intrepid leadership of Executive Director, The Reverend Deacon Trisha Thorne, and Development Officer, The Reverend Dr. David Snyder, and I express my gratitude to them.

I pray you will all read through this 2022 Impact Report. You will see that ECS-NJ is a primary means by which we as a diocesan community join together to carry out Christ's mission and ministry of love and service. It is, indeed, great news for the Garden State. Thank you for your prayers and generous support of this vital ministry.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "William H. Stokes". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a cross symbol at the beginning.

The Right Reverend William H. Stokes, 12th Bishop of New Jersey

a message from

OUR LEADERSHIP



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to offer this 2022 Impact Report for your review. ECS-NJ has been in existence for two full years and is just past its startup stage.

In 2022 we streamlined and enhanced our operations while keeping our focus on enacting our Baptismal vows to seek and serve Christ in all persons and working for justice and peace among all people. **Showing love for our neighbor, as well as the stranger, guides everything we do.** There are no programs we are advocating or supporting that cannot be found in Jesus' commands to his disciples.

Our plans for 2023 include the Spring Gospel Justice Summit on Thursday, April 20; ECS-NJ Sunday on May 7; the Farewell Gala on Sunday, May 21; and a Fall Summit in October. In addition we will continue to:

- **Convene conversations** on Gospel justice to connect congregations,
- **Share Diocesan resources** through issuing grants and connecting practitioners and ministries throughout the Diocese, and
- **Expand our network** of donors and volunteers.

We are grateful to our many current donors and volunteers, especially the two new members of the ECS-NJ Advisory Council, Marisa Henry of St. Paul's Camden, and Father Marshall Shelly of St. Peter's Spotswood. Let us all keep striving for Gospel justice together.

In a spirit of love, partnership, and gratitude,

The Rev. Trisha Thorme, Deacon
Executive Director

Rosina (Nina) Dixon
Chair, ECS-NJ Advisory Council

OUR STORY GROWS



Since 2020, ECS-NJ has raised \$650,000 and committed over \$310,000 to twenty-five projects across our diocese.

our mission:

Episcopal Community Services (ECS-NJ) is a Diocesan initiative that focuses on proactively addressing human needs, such as food and shelter, and relentlessly working against both social and racial injustice.

We accomplish these goals by:

- providing grants to our ministries and projects,
- offering educational and training opportunities,
- opening crucial connections and networks,
- advocating for meaningful systemic change.



Promoting the ECS-funded immigration clinic at St. John/San José in Elizabeth.

ways to join ECS:

- as a leader, on our ECS-NJ Advisory Council
- as a coach, in assisting parishes with their grant applications
- as a reader, helping evaluate grant applications
- as an advocate, speaking up about crucial Gospel justice issues

within your congregation:

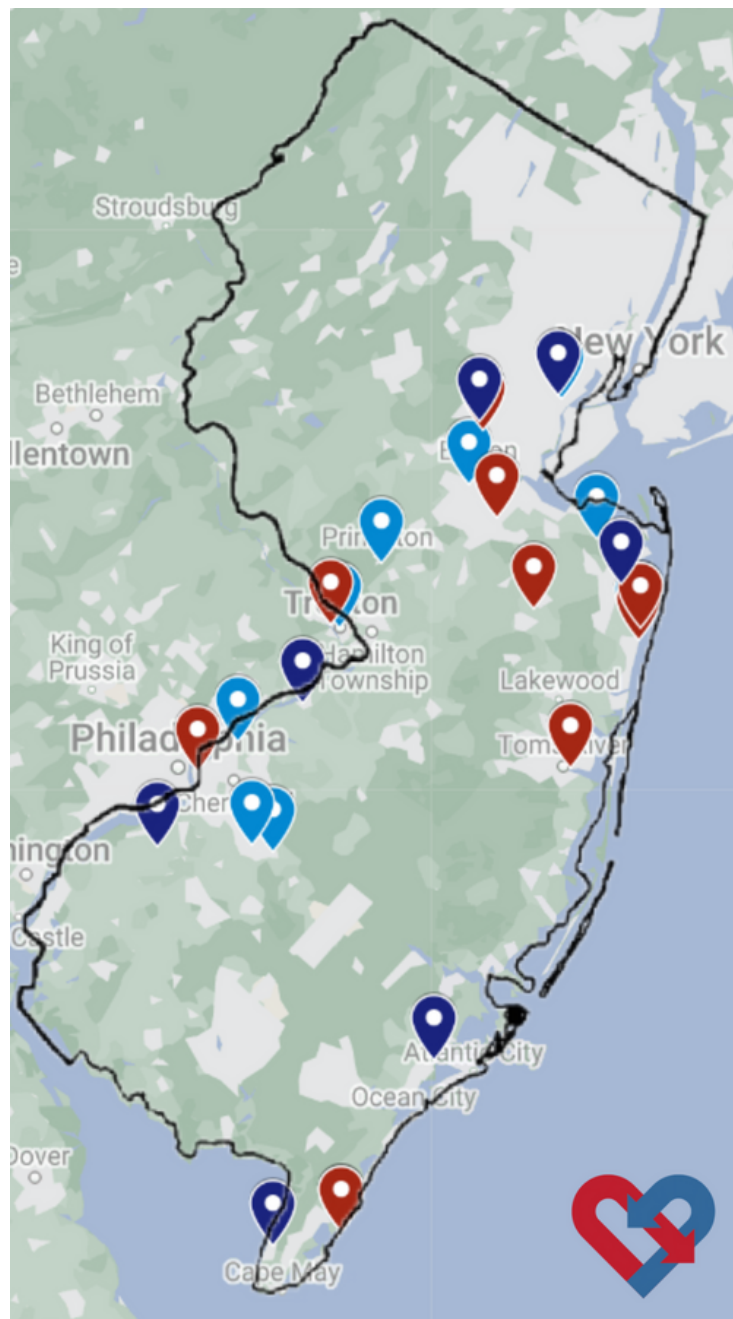
- convene conversations on Gospel justice and connect your congregation to others
- share Diocesan resources by letting people know about grants that address community-identified needs or support new Gospel justice ministries
- help expand our network of Sustaining Donors to lift-up our existing ministries that are proactively addressing human needs

GRANTMAKING

The ECS–NJ Grants are designed to expand existing Compassion and Justice Ministries of congregations or make new ones possible.

Projects address one or more of the following:

- To meet human need in underserved and marginalized communities, especially communities of color
- To engage, collaborate, and partner with other organizations – including faith-based, secular, and community groups, as well as government agencies
- To encourage advocacy for issues relating to social justice, including spearheading new advocacy efforts



Since 2020, ECS-NJ has committed over \$310,000 to 25 projects across 11 counties

SPRING 2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

This past spring, ECS-NJ awarded \$111,000 to nine projects representing seven counties in the Diocese in the areas of housing, education, food insecurity, and job training.

CHURCH/COUNTY

PROJECT

Christ Church, Toms River, Ocean Co.
 St. Mark's, Plainfield, Union Co.
 St. Peter's, Freehold, Monmouth Co.
 St. Paul's, Camden, Camden Co.
 St. Mary's, Stone Harbor, Cape May Co.
 St. James, Bradley Beach, Monmouth Co.
 Holy Trinity, South River, Middlesex Co.
 Trinity, Asbury Park, Monmouth Co.
 Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, Mercer Co.

Community Outreach to the Homeless
 The Out of the Box Club
 Community Housing Clearinghouse
 Feed My Sheep
 Branches After School Instruction and
 Inspirational Care (aka 'BASIICS')
 Fresh is Best
 Casa Amistad (Friendship House)
 Trinity Radical Well-being Program
 ServSafe and Life Skills for Ex-Offenders

FALL 2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

In Fall 2022 ECS-NJ awarded \$83,330 to seven projects representing seven counties in the Diocese in the areas of education, food insecurity, community-building, job training and healthcare.

CHURCH/COUNTY

PROJECT

St. James, Eatontown, Monmouth Co.
 St. Barnabas-by-the-Bay, Cape May Co.
 St. Mary's, Pleasantville, Atlantic Co.
 St. Elizabeth, Elizabeth, Union Co.
 St. Mary's, Burlington, Burlington Co.
 Grace Church, Plainfield, Union Co.
 St. Peter's, Clarksboro, Gloucester Co.

SJE Medical Equipment Ministry
 St. Barnabas Cares
 Community Outreach and Development
 ServSafe Food Handler Program
 Ladle of Love
 Plainfield Community Outreach Language
 Learning Center
 Community Food Pantry

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

“Our Spring 2022 ECS-NJ grant allowed us to make a variety of fresh produce available to those who come to our food pantry. The 'produce table' is always jam-packed with luscious fresh produce – always at least 4 products and often 10 or more products. As inflation has dramatically increased the price of food – and specifically the price of fresh produce – clients visiting our food pantry gain considerably from the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables on our tables, ready for them to choose what works for their families.

Sometimes the selection leads to a conversation and recipe-sharing. How many of us know what to do with kohlrabi, for example. When these conversations happen we are slowly building relationships with our clients in a way that just isn't possible when the choice is canned soup and ravioli. This program provides an opportunity for relationship.”

St. James, Bradley Beach



"ECS-NJ is a primary means by which we as a diocesan community join together to carry out Christ's mission and ministry of love and service."

Bishop Stokes

FOUNDING CONGREGATIONS

Part of our initial success as a program has certainly been the support of the twenty-four Founding Congregations that have stepped-up with initial pledges totaling \$300,000. Thank you to the following churches for their terrific vote of confidence by the end of 2022:

Trinity Church, Asbury Park

St. Mark's, Basking Ridge

All Saints, Bay Head

St. Bernard's, Bernardsville

St. Peter's, Clarksboro

Trinity Church, Cranford

St. Francis, Dunellen

St. Peter's, Freehold

St. Luke's, Gladstone

St. Thomas, Glassboro

Grace, Haddonfield

Holy Spirit, Lebanon

St. John's, Little Silver

Grace-St.Paul's, Mercerville

Trinity Church, Moorestown

Christ Church, New Brunswick

St. Matthew's, Pennington

Trinity Church, Princeton

St. George's-by-the-River, Rumson

St. John's, Salem

St. Peter's, Spotswood

Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

St. Paul's, Westfield

Holy Apostles', Yardville



Rob Wasilewski
St. Peters, Spotswood

EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Gospel Justice Summits 2022

Advocacy Ministry: Faith in Action, April 2022

The Rev. Sara Lilja discussed the theology of civic engagement and accompaniment, delving into the practical skills needed to be effective in the public arena.

Housing in New Jersey: A Gospel Justice Issue, October 2022

The Reverend Eric Dobson explored the Gospel imperative for fair and decent housing for all and inspired participants to take action at the local level.

Connecting faith, information, and action: Summer meals for kids

Families whose children who receive free or reduced lunch during the school year often struggle to feed their children during the summer months when schools are closed. ECS-NJ's Advocacy team kept abreast of legislation that would expand the availability of grab and go meals as part of the state's Summer Meals Program for children. Once that was authorized in July 2022 ECS-NJ hosted a special online briefing for churches about the opportunity to provide meals for children even if the church was not running a Vacation Bible School or other organized summer program.

Staff from the NJ Department of Agriculture shared technical information on how churches could become a feeding site for summer meals, and afterwards an ECS-NJ volunteer worked with Christ the King Episcopal Church in Willingboro, New Jersey so the church could become a summer meals program site. By the end of the summer of 2022 this church was providing meals to 20 children per week.



The Summer Meals Program team at Christ the King Willingboro are providing meals to children in the community while school is out. In the back, (l-r), Martha Johnson, Marcelle Arthur, Helen Baylock. In the front, (l-r), Janet Webster, Hyacinth Saunders, Josephine White, Judy Jackson

ECS Sunday

We invite all congregations within the Diocese to celebrate our work together as a part of annual worship on the first Sunday in May. “ECS Sunday” is a chance to lift up this important ministry of Gospel justice and continue to build Diocesan unity.

Join us this year as we pray together on Sunday, May 7, 2023!

Compassionate God, you called us to establish Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey: endow us with the vision to balance charitable giving with advocating justice, so that both the source and symptoms of oppression will be overcome; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The ECS Sunday Collect – by the Reverend Andrew D. Kruger



Ribbon-cutting for the ECS-funded Unity Square Choice Food and Resource Center in New Brunswick

Who is Your CHAMPION?

Our work together is stronger when we have someone in each congregation who knows ECS-NJ and can:

- Be the “human face” of ECS-NJ in your congregation
- Serve as a liaison to the vestry
- Advocate for support of mission outreach efforts and needs
- Highlight ECS-NJ news and events

Email info@ecs-nj.org if you are interested in becoming your congregation’s ECS champion.

ECS-NJ Advisory Council

Nina Dixon, Chair, St. John on the Mountain, Bernardsville
Catherine Ambos, Christ Church, New Brunswick
Deacon Tom Bartlett, Grace-St. Paul, Mercerville
Neva Rae Fox, St. John's, Somerville
John Gallup, St. Luke's, Gladstone
Canon Clara Gregory, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
Marisa Henry, St. Paul's, Camden
Father Robin Pierre, St. Elizabeth's, Elizabeth
Angelin Pozo, Cristo Rey, Trenton
Father Marshall Shelly, St. Peter's, Spotswood

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?*

I will, with God's help.

Contact

The Reverend Trisha Thorme, Deacon
Executive Director
tthorme@ecs-nj.org

Support ECS-NJ at [donate.ecs-nj.org](https://www.donate.ecs-nj.org)
Learn more at www.ecs-nj.org

Watch our [Summits on YouTube](#)
Follow us on [Facebook](#)
Reach out at info@ecs-nj.org