



IMPACT REPORT 2025

Partnering to Address
Community Identified Needs

MEDIA CREDIT

*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Clarksboro
St. Peter's Community Pantry, 2025 Funded Ministry*

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY

ecs-nj.org



Our Mission

Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey (ECS-NJ) is an 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 up crucial connections and networks
- Advocating for meaningful systemic change

“Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.” -Ephesians 5:2 / The Book of Common Prayer, page 376



Dear Friends,

Most Sundays during services, when I am asked to share an offertory sentence, I choose the option from Ephesians, chapter 5, “walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.” I love that what brings us together is not doctrine or obligation, but faithful relationship, expressed in compassion and care for all God’s people. In our diocese we do this work of walking in love by offering acts of service, by a commitment to Gospel justice, and by ongoing education, networking, and advocacy. We do this work in partnership Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey.

Over the past year, we have seen needs change and expand across New Jersey. Food insecurity and economic distress have increased, there are fewer public resources available for those in need, and many of our state’s poorest residents live with fear, hunger, and vulnerability on a daily basis. Throughout it all, Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey has been there, walking with congregations and leaders, offering support and encouraging connection, compassion, and care.

When I reflect on the work of ECS-NJ over the past year, I remember:

- A compassionate and speedy response to vulnerable congregations and people through the Sacred Spaces, Safe Access grants. This process got funds into the hands of congregations seeking to ensure support for vulnerable persons and ministries. This is only one of the many examples of the ways that ECS empowers congregations and ministries and equips us to continue to walk with those in our communities who are afraid and in need.
- Our September Gala celebration, a joyful gathering of supporters from across the diocese. The fundraising was important (and successful!), as were the connections, the lifting up of ministries and those who serve, and the love shared in service of Gospel justice.
- The hard and faithful work done by board and advisory council members, staff, and volunteers. This has been meaningful – and effective. We welcomed a new Administrative Director and a new Co-Chair of the Advisory Council, explored strategy and mission, and offered time, talent, and treasure to strengthen and bless congregations, ministries, and people.

Walking in love, through the ministries and support of Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey, we can continue to God’s work. I give thanks for what has already been accomplished and I look forward to what is to come. Thank you for your support of ECS-NJ.

The Right Reverend Sally French
Bishop of New Jersey, Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey



Messages from Leadership

Dear Friends:

In 2025 ECS-NJ continued to evolve, and grow to meet new challenges as reflected in this Impact Report.

Rev. Tammy Young, half-time rector of St. John's Church in Little Silver, joined us as half-time Administrative Director in May. She is an inspiration who brings energy, creativity and organization to our management. Rev. Dave Snyder went from serving as Interim Executive Director to co-chairing the Advisory Committee and then was called to be an interim rector. We are fortunate that he continues to serve ECS-NJ on the Development Committee and on the Gala Committee. We are so grateful for his past and present service. Rev. Dcn. Carolyn Bradley became co-chair of the Advisory Council in August to strengthen the leadership of our team.

Our Assistant Director of Communications and Development, Melanie McLaurin, continues her outstanding work maintaining our new website, running spring, fall, and year-end fund-raising campaigns, plus running a fantastic Gala in September that grossed over \$80,000

During 2025 we responded to the stress induced in our parishes by attacks on vulnerable people by working with Bishop Sally French and the Diocesan Council to provide 10 Sacred Space Safe Access Grants that allowed churches to hire extra guards, install cameras among other actions.

During the year we raised a net of \$128,186 to further the mission of supporting Gospel Justice. We provided \$59,216 in grants to fund community-identified parish outreach projects and 10 Sacred Space Safe Access grants. Rev. Tammy Young conducted a workshop in November, ECS-NJ: We're more than just grants to provide more information on our mission and ministries. and in December we held a Summit, Faith for Climate Justice: The Time is Now with Tracey Stephens, NJ Organizer for GreenFaith. On September 24, 2025 we held a fund-raising Gala honoring Catherine Ambos and Clara Gregory for their advocacy work with immigrants and St. George's Church, a founding congregation for its work supporting Gospel Justice.

All these accomplishments happened thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our outstanding Advisory Board and board committees whose names can be found later in this report.

In 2026 we are continuing to work for Gospel Justice through prayer, education, advocacy, grant support and fund raising. In particular we are focusing on feeding the hungry.

Faithfully,

Rev. Dcn. Carolyn Bradley, Dcn.
Dcn. Carolyn Bradley
Co-Chair Advisory Council

Nina Dixon
Rosina (Nina) Dixon, MD
Co-Chair Advisory Council

*Christ has no body but yours
-St. Teresa of Avila*



Dear ECS Community,

If asked as the new Administrative Director what drew me to this role, I would point to ECS-NJ's deep-rooted belief that our greatest impact in the battle for Gospel Justice is achieved through unity and solidarity—a value perfectly captured by the signature phrase, we are stronger together. To me, nothing speaks more directly to the crucial role collective action plays in the advancement of God's Kingdom than these four atomic words. Alone we can only dream of a better tomorrow; together we can, with God's help, make Gospel Justice a lived experience for everyone.

When we align with the oneness of the Godhead, we unlock an unstoppable force for good.

By prioritizing mutual support and shared resources, the early church effectively embodied God's transformative vision of a just world, both revolutionizing community life and serving the Gospel through dedicated service to the vulnerable together.

Just as collaboration fueled the mission of the apostolic church, it remains the foundation of the work ECS-NJ shares with you, our vital partners in ministry, today. This year's Impact Report highlights some of the many ways we have followed in the footsteps of Christ's first disciples by helping to heal the wounds of systemic injustice together.

As you scroll through the pages, I invite you to see beyond the year-end metrics and witness these vignettes as living testimonies to a shared faith in action—"mission in motion" from across the Diocese, that is, where grace facilitated transformations that none of us could achieve alone. Through a combination of policy advocacy, educational outreach, and communal prayer—as well as grants to ensure our sacred spaces are both safe and inclusive—we have together breathed life into the epiphanic words of St. Teresa of Avila

Yours are the feet with which [Christ] walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body

But this year's report is just the start of our story, our impact as the Body of Christ just beginning to unfold. My prayer is that together we will amplify ECS-NJ's impact in 2026 as we cultivate transformative ways to reclaim God's justice in a profoundly unequal world. Because as the saying goes, together we are stronger. It is your faithful presence and unwavering support that strengthens our hands as we labor together for God's Kingdom; for this, both ECS-NJ and I are deeply grateful.

Rev. Tammy Young

Soli Deo Gloria,
The Reverend Tammy Young +
Administrative Director, ECS-NJ

EDUCATION

ECS-NJ 2025 Educational Webinars

As part of our mission, we offer educational presentations designed to serve, uplift and educate. Through these educational webinars, ECS-NJ strives to strengthened its commitment to equipping faith leaders and congregations with knowledge, resources, and meaningful opportunities for engagement fostering collaboration and empowering communities to respond to human need with clarity and purpose.

Faith for Climate Justice: The Time Is Now

ECS-NJ partnered with GreenFaith to host a virtual educational webinar focused on climate justice and the growing impact of climate change across New Jersey. The presentation explored how environmental challenges are affecting vulnerable communities and outlined tangible steps faith communities can take to respond faithfully and effectively. Participants were equipped with practical strategies to advocate, organize, and integrate climate action into parish life as an expression of Gospel justice.



We're More Than Just Grants

ECS-NJ also offered a virtual information session designed to deepen understanding of the organization's mission and ministries. While many participants were familiar with ECS-NJ's grantmaking efforts, the webinar highlighted the broader scope of its work, including advocacy initiatives, partnerships, and volunteer opportunities. Members of the leadership team shared how congregations could collaborate more intentionally with ECS-NJ to strengthen outreach efforts and expand their impact in local communities.



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ADVOCACY

Our Work In the Community

We are grateful to leaders on the ECS-NJ Advisory Council Catherine Ambos of Christ Church, New Brunswick, and Canon Clara Gregory of Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, for their work in helping to equip migrants with a small but powerful tool: the Red Card.



Created by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Red Cards—also known as “Know Your Rights” cards—are pocket-sized resources that outline an individual's constitutional rights during encounters with immigration or law enforcement officers. Available in multiple languages,

these cards serve as quiet but profound acts of empowerment, reminding individuals that they are not alone and that they are protected by law.

By early 2025, the The Right Rev. Sally French, Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, witnessed the tangible impact of this initiative as Red Cards were distributed after worship services in Hispanic congregations throughout the Diocese. To ensure broader awareness and consistent messaging, it was requested that the Rev. Marshall Shelley familiarize the Deans of all Conventions with the purpose and use of the cards, expanding diocesan understanding and engagement.

New Jersey Poor People's Campaign (NJPPC)

In 2025, the Diocese deepened its engagement with the New Jersey Poor People's Campaign (NJPPC), standing alongside advocates calling for systemic change on behalf of poor and low-wage workers.

Through participation in NJPPC's coordinated phone campaign to federal legislators, diocesan leaders urged the adoption of a “moral budget”—one that prioritizes the needs of vulnerable families and reflects the shared responsibility to protect human dignity. This effort underscored the Diocese's conviction that public policy should reflect moral clarity and a commitment to the common good.



BE SMART COMPUTER TRAINING FOR SENIORS:

Photo credit: Christ the King Episcopal Church

Empowering Seniors at Christ the King Episcopal Church

The Be Smart Senior Computer Classes, hosted at Christ the King Episcopal Church and sponsored by Episcopal Church Services (ECS), were established to address the digital divide affecting older adults in the community. The program's mission is to empower seniors by providing essential computer and technology skills, fostering independence, and enhancing quality of life through digital literacy.

Launched as a collaborative initiative between ECS and Christ the King Episcopal Church, the program was designed to create a welcoming, faith-based environment where seniors could learn at their own pace. The twenty-week course featured hands-on instruction, individualized support, and a curriculum tailored to the diverse skill levels of senior participants. Topics included basic computer operations, effective email communication, internet safety, accessing online healthcare and community resources, and using smartphones and tablets. The program's structure emphasized practical skills that seniors could immediately apply in their daily lives.

Approximately 40 senior adults participated in the Be Smart Senior Computer Classes. The program's reach extended beyond technical instruction, as it also fostered social connection and community engagement. Volunteers and staff—including William S. Brown (instructor and curriculum developer), Rev. Vernal Savage (Priest in Charge), and a dedicated team of volunteers—provided classroom assistance and ensured every participant received the support needed to succeed.

The program had a profound impact on its participants. Seniors reported increased confidence in using computers and digital devices, improved communication with family and friends, and greater independence in accessing essential online services. The supportive environment also strengthened social bonds and promoted lifelong learning. By bridging the digital divide, the Be Smart Senior Computer Classes helped seniors become more self-reliant and engaged members of their community. This would not have been possible without the ECS grant.

"The computer class currently being held at Christ the King Church has been a wonderful opportunity for individuals in the community, especially seniors to receive computer training. I have not had any formal computer training and my background experience was very limited. This class has helped me immensely and has increased my knowledge and ability into the workings of the computer as well as a deeper understanding of how to better use the technology it provides." Marcus Gales

2025 Awarded Grants

2025 ECS-NJ Grants

1. St. John on the Mountain & St. Bernards, Bernardsville
Project: Angel's Closet
A free annual "shopping event" that provides essential items to underserved residents.
2. St. Stephen's, Whiting
Project: "Freedom from Human Trafficking"
An educational program expanding awareness of benefits and labor trafficking to adult populations, particularly senior citizens.
3. Cristo Rey, Trenton
Project: Summer Camp/VBS
A week-long summer program providing safe space, fellowship, and Christian formation for underserved families
4. Christ the King, Willingboro
Project: Be Smart-Computer Training for Seniors
An "internet café" style training program helping to make 21st technology more accessible to seniors

5. Christ Church, New Brunswick
Project: Homeless Outreach Ministry of Christ Church (carried out through participation with the Interfaith Rotating Center)
Helping to expand shelter services for unhoused men.

6. St. James, Bradley Beach
Project: Luggage for Love
A ministry that supports children in foster care by providing them with new luggage, restoring their dignity and offering comfort during difficult transitions.

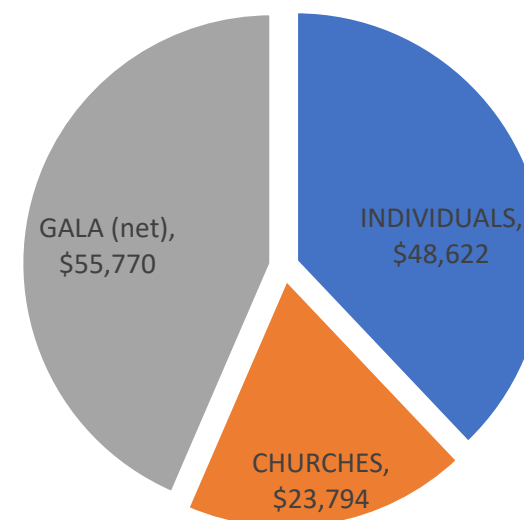
Safe Space, Safe Access Grantees

1. All Saints, Lakewood
2. St. Peter's, Perth Amboy
3. Christ Church, Toms River
4. Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
5. St. Mark's, Plainfield
6. St. John's, Somerville
7. St. Paul's, Camden
8. Trinity, Asbury Park
9. Christ Church Parish, Bordentown
10. St. Stephen's, Mullica Hill

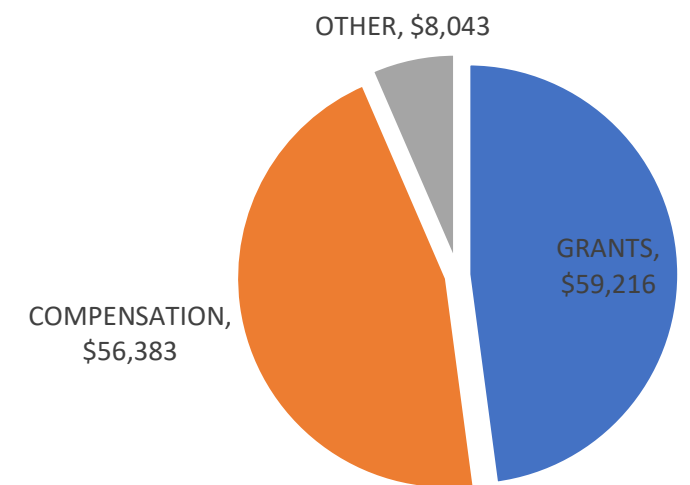
2025 Financials

ECS-NJ is primarily supported through individual contributions, recurring gifts, and fundraising initiatives. This consistent base of support reflects the confidence our donors place in our mission and the measurable impact of our programs.

ECS-NJ 2025 REVENUES



ECS-NJ 2025 EXPENSES



Celebrating Generosity. Strengthening Justice. Expanding Service.

ECS Sunday 2025

ECS Sunday was observed on May 4, 2025, as congregations across the Diocese came together under the theme “Building on a Firm Foundation.” The day focused on raising awareness of social justice issues and mobilizing faith communities to take meaningful action through financial support, volunteerism, and the sharing of expertise in service to ECS-NJ’s mission. Participating churches were recognized as “Champions for Justice” and were acknowledged across ECS-NJ’s communications platforms, reflecting their visible commitment to strengthening communities and advancing compassionate, faith-driven service.



2025 ECS-NJ Gala



Smiles around the table, joy in the room, and hearts united for a greater purpose.

The 2025 ECS-NJ Gala was held on September 18 at The Pines Manor under the theme, “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me.” More than 150 guests gathered to celebrate the remarkable ministries of St. George’s by the River Episcopal Church, Canon Clara Gregory, and Catherine Ambos, whose faithful service continues to inspire communities across the Diocese. The evening was made especially meaningful by the presence of Sally French, who presented the Gospel Justice Award to the honorees. A heartfelt video greeting from Sean W. Rowe and a moving photo montage highlighting congregations throughout the Diocese enriched the celebration and underscored the shared commitment to advancing Gospel justice.

Looking ahead, ECS-NJ launched a renewed focus on volunteer engagement as a strategic initiative to deepen community involvement beyond financial contributions. Recognizing that time and talent are powerful expressions of stewardship, plans were developed to expand meaningful service opportunities that align with our mission. This next step reflects our commitment to building not only financial sustainability, but also a strong and active network of people dedicated to advancing Gospel justice together.

A Donor’s Voice:

GRASSROOTS IMPACT, LASTING COMMITMENT



Since our inception, Dawn McDonald has faithfully supported our mission, demonstrating what it means to turn belief into action. Her consistent generosity since 2021 reflects a deep commitment to ensuring that grassroots ministries across the Diocese have the resources they need to make a lasting difference.

Dawn’s connection to ECS-NJ began through her home parish, St. Mark’s in Plainfield, which received an ECS grant to provide computer coding classes for elementary and middle school students. Seeing firsthand how ECS-NJ invests in innovative, community-based initiatives left a lasting impression on her. She was struck not only by the impact of that particular program, but by the wide range of causes ECS-NJ supports throughout the Diocese.

Though Dawn no longer resides in New Jersey, her heart remains connected to its ministries. She has continued her support as a monthly donor, choosing to stand behind the mission because she believes in both the vision and the follow-through. As she shared, it is easy to point out what is lacking in the world, but “doing something about it is a different matter.” She values that ECS-NJ does more than talk, it steps forward, partners with local congregations, and helps turn ideas into meaningful action.

In a conversation with Dr. Rosina Dixon, Co-Chair of the Advisory Council, Dawn reflected on how early in ECS-NJ’s history she felt called to support the organization because its mission aligned so clearly with her faith. She appreciates that ECS-NJ’s projects grow from the grassroots level, emerging from real needs identified within local communities. For Dawn, this approach embodies faithful stewardship and active discipleship, meeting needs not just with words, but with tangible support.

Her loyal, ongoing generosity is a powerful reminder that distance does not diminish commitment. Dawn McDonald’s steadfast support continues to help ECS-NJ strengthen ministries, expand opportunities, and live into God’s call to serve with compassion and courage.

“It is easy to complain about what’s needed and is not getting done”

-Dawn McDonald
Home Parish: St. Mark’s,
Plainfield

Be the Reason *HOPE* Moves Forward Give. Serve. Connect.

“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” — James 2:17

Media credit: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Clarksboro

At ECS-NJ, impact does not happen by accident. It happens because people of faith choose to act. You've just seen what is possible when compassion meets commitment. Lives stabilized. Communities strengthened. New pathways created where none existed before.

We invite you to step into the story.

Your Next Step Matters

Give with Purpose

Every dollar entrusted to ECS-NJ becomes a tool for transformation, addressing food insecurity, housing instability, educational inequities, racial injustice, and environmental challenges across the Diocese of New Jersey.

Your gift does more than fund programs.
It restores dignity.
It creates opportunity.
It multiplies hope.

You can:

- Make a one-time gift
- Become a sustaining monthly partner
- Establish a tribute or memorial gift
- Sponsor initiatives or events
- Include ECS-NJ in your legacy planning
- Donate appreciated stock

Serve with Intention

There is room at this table for your time and talent.

We welcome individuals who feel called to:

- Serve on the Advisory Council Committee
- Support fundraising efforts
- Assist with special events
- Offer professional expertise
- Act as ambassadors within their parishes and communities

Connect with Purpose

Not everyone is called to give the same way, but everyone can stay connected.

- Stay informed.
- Engage in advocacy
- Attend educational webinars.
- Share our work.
- Pray with us and for us.

*When you give, you are not just supporting a mission,
you are strengthening it.*

Take the First Step Today

Complete the interest form below or visit www.ecs-nj.org to get started.

If you're not sure where you fit, please let us know.

Together, we can continue building communities where justice, compassion, and opportunity thrive.

ECS-NJ Engagement Form

Full Name: _____

Organization/Parish (if applicable): _____

Are you receiving our emails?

Please **confirm or provide** your email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

(Check all that apply) I would like to:

- Make a financial contribution
- Become a monthly sustaining partner
- Learn about legacy or planned giving
- Explore sponsorship opportunities
- Volunteer my time
- Serve on a committee
- Support fundraising efforts
- Assist with events
- Offer professional skills (please specify below)
- Receive advocacy alerts
- Attend educational programs
- Receive the ECS-NJ newsletter

I am especially interested in supporting:

- Food security initiatives
- Housing & homelessness response
- Education & youth programs
- Racial justice initiatives
- Community health
- Environmental justice
- General mission support

Skills / Areas of Expertise (if applicable):

Comments / Questions:

To make a contribution and/or submit our form, please mail to:

Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese
of New Jersey
P.O. Box# 86
Bedminster, NJ 07921



With heartfelt thanks to you, our generous donors, for helping to advance the mission of ECS-NJ throughout 2025. Your generosity strengthened ministries across the Diocese, supported neighbors facing hardship, and empowered congregations to respond to urgent needs with courage and faith.

\$2,501+

Tom Bartlett
 Dr. Rosina Dixon
 Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
 The Rt. Rev. Sally and The Rev. Clarke French
 John Gallup
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 Rev. David Snyder *
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 St. John's, Salem
 St. Mark's, BaskingRidge
 St. Peter's, Clarksboro
 St. Peter's, Spotswood
 Trinity, Asbury Park
 Trinity, Moorestown

\$1,001-\$2,500

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 Susan and The Rev. William Stokes *
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An asterisk () marks recurring donors whose faithful, ongoing gifts sustain this work month after month. ECS-NJ is deeply grateful for their monthly commitment.*

2026 Dates to Remember



SAVE THE DATE: ECS SUNDAY 2026
 Sunday, May 3, 2026

Holy Week: March 29-April 4, 2026

Easter Sunday: April 5, 2026

ECS Sunday: May 3, 2026

Mother's Day: Sun, May 10, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

**2026
 Annual
 ECS-NJ**

Gala

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Board of Directors

- The Rt. Rev. Sally French, President
- Cn. Paul Ambos, Esq., Secretary
- Mr. Kirk Bonamici, Treasurer
- Dr. Nina Dixon
- The Very Rev. Marshall Shelly
- The Reverend Dave Snyder, Interim Executive Director

Advisory Council

- Dr. Nina Dixon, Chair, St. John on the Mountain, Bernardsville
- Ms. Catherine Ambos, Christ Church, New Brunswick
- The Rev. Carolyn Bradley, Dcn., Christ Church, Toms River
- The Rev. Paul Chalakani, St. James, Bradley Beach/St. Michael's, Wall
- Ms. Neva Rae Fox, St. John's, Somerville
- Mr. John Gallup, St. Luke's, Gladstone

Staff

- The Reverend Tammy Young, Administrative Director (a/o July 2025)
- The Reverend Dave Snyder, Interim Executive Director (ended July 2025)
- Ms. Melanie McLaurin, Assistant Director of Communications and Development

We are grateful to all who donate their time, talent and resources to ECS-NJ. We regret any omissions or errors and do not intend them to be a reflection of the value of your contribution to the success of our work. Our donor list reflects individuals, congregations and organizations that made a contribution between January 1-December 31, 2025.



**Episcopal Community Services
of the Diocese of New Jersey**
P.O. Box# 86
Bedminster, NJ 07921

www.ecs-nj.org

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YouTube: @ECS-NJ