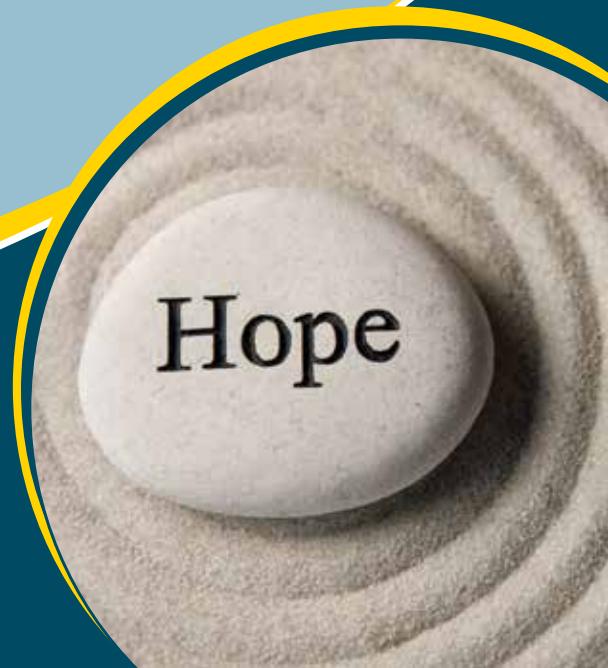




# SETON CENTER

2016-2017 Annual Report

*Hope is the anchor of the soul.*



**HELPING TO BREAK THE CYCLES OF POVERTY** by providing dental, social, and educational programs to address current community needs and tools to help support people in transforming their lives.

# Success Stories

- 2 Success Stories
- 2 Our Mission
- 3 Who We Serve
- 3 Our History
- 4 Our Leadership
- 4 Letter from the Board Chairman
- 5 Executive Director's Report
- 6 Volunteers
- 7 Our Programs and Highlights
- 11 Financial Overview
- 11 Ways to Help



**Sherri is a mother of six young children.** She came to Seton Center because she wanted to give her children toys for Christmas, but knew she couldn't afford any herself. Once she signed up for toys, she mentioned that one of her four children wasn't eating much, complained that his teeth hurt, and she was worried about him. Sherri brought him to our Dental Services and for a small fee, she had fillings put in his teeth, which had significant tooth decay. Later in the year, she needed and received assistance with one of her utility bills because her gas was going to be turned off in the spring. She said, "I didn't think I would get help because my husband works, but it is hard feeding and clothing a family of eight." Now she is working part-time and gives back to Seton Center with prayers and gratitude.

**Charles was homeless and hungry** when he first entered our doors with a neighbor who encouraged him to visit. He asked for food, but avoided eye contact and didn't want to talk with anyone. On his first visit, he could take food with him because of our Pantry and he selected some shoes and a decent shirt from our Thrift Store. Each visit thereafter, he started sharing just enough for the volunteers to understand he was ashamed of his situation. He had lost his job and did not want to ask for anything. Once he agreed to talk with the Social Worker, a whole new set of options opened up for him. Yes, he could drive a cab; yes, he wanted to get off the streets; yes, he needed a rent deposit, but he would pay it back. Today, Charles walks in with a smile. He doesn't want any hand-outs; he just wants to thank everyone for giving him hope and his life. He said, "I was at the end of my rope and needed a way out, or I would be dead." Seton Center gave him the support he needed to get back on his feet.



## Our Mission

Seton Center is a Catholic-sponsored human service agency that helps break cycles of poverty. Seton Center provides dental, social and educational programs to address current community needs, and tools to help support people in transforming their lives.

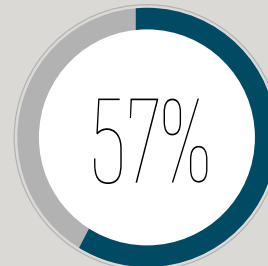
# Who We Serve



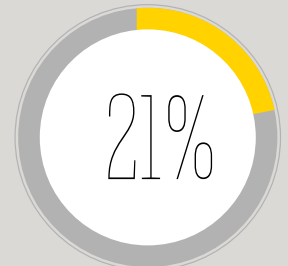
Seton Center embraces and respects the different attributes and perspectives of our neighbors, staff, volunteers and outside stakeholders to best serve our diverse neighborhood and those who seek our assistance. Seton Center's service area for our food/hygiene distribution and rent/utility assistance encompasses the lowest-income zip codes in the Kansas City area: 64126, 64127, 64128 and portions of 64109, 64129 and 64130. Over 25,000 individuals living at or below the federal poverty level reside in our service area. Dental Services are offered to those residing in an expanded area encompassing a 10-county area in Missouri and Kansas. Costs for Dental Services are assessed on a sliding fee scale, based on income and the number of dependents. No one is turned away due to inability to pay for Dental Services.

The breakdown of those we serve is: 57% African-American, 21% Caucasian, 15% Hispanic/Latino, and 7% Multi-Racial, 97% live at or below the poverty level and 37% are children. Many of our neighbors use Seton Center because they feel comfortable with our staff and volunteers who understand how to build trust by treating others with dignity and respect.

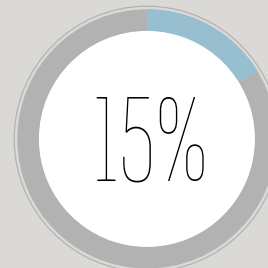
## THE BREAKDOWN OF THOSE WE SERVE



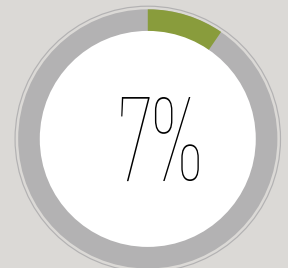
■ AFRICAN-AMERICAN



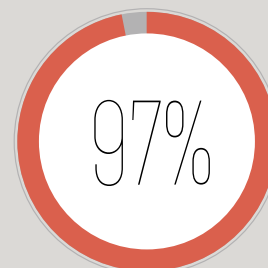
■ CAUCASIAN



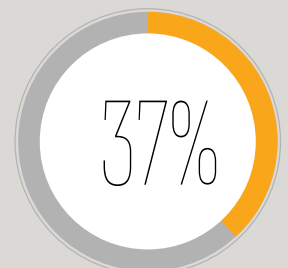
■ HISPANIC/LATINO



■ MULTI-RACIAL



■ LIVE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL



■ CHILDREN

## Our History

Founded in 1969 by the Daughters of Charity (an order of Catholic Sisters) and the Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City, Seton Center dedicates itself to improving access to services (providing user-friendly assistance from staff and volunteers, building trust without judgment and using words such as “neighbor” rather than “client”), by identifying and meeting unmet needs and thus breaks the cycles of poverty by increasing the likelihood of success in school, job placement and homelessness prevention.

# OUR LEADERSHIP

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Frazier (Chair)  
Eric Floyd (Vice Chair)  
Gary Pettus  
(Secretary/Treasurer)  
Bonnie Branson  
Patrick Coppinger  
Damian Garcia  
Rev. Kenneth Greene  
Tom Grever  
Marlon Hammons  
Michael Haverty, Jr.  
Karen Leimer  
Sister Beth Marie Ruder, DC  
Rev. Gerald Waris  
Sr. Loretto Marie Colwell,  
SCL (Executive Director)

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT BOARD

Patrick Coppinger (Chair)  
Sharon Brown  
Laura Caulfield  
Virginia Coppinger  
Ryan Curtis  
James Fern  
Patricia McCallop  
Albe McGurk  
Anemarie Mura  
John Mura  
Terry Noel  
Steve Pierce  
Dolly Powers  
Robert Reiter  
Joan Ward  
Bonnie Welsh  
Kourtney Woodbury  
Rita Zahner  
Sr. Loretto Marie Colwell,  
SCL (Executive Director)

Our mission at Seton Center is to break the cycles of poverty. I witness neighbors coping with seemingly insurmountable obstacles. We work hard to develop programs that fill the gaps in services to prevent homelessness, improve oral health care and meet essential needs like food and clothing. Just as important is offering services in a manner that is accessible.

To accomplish this is not as simple as it sounds. To be accessible, our services must be available on a consistent basis and located within walking distance either from home or bus stop. It also means that we must treat each other with dignity and respect, as good neighbors, sensitive to the cultural norms of those we serve and to the role God plays in our lives.

Noted throughout this report, we offer a wide range of services that continue to expand as needs are identified. Our role in creating hope, in offering neighbors options and financial assistance is possible because of your generosity and willingness to give of yourself in prayer, time and donations to help our neighbors in need.

As a volunteer, I get as much or more out of working with Seton Center as those we serve. I would encourage each of you to consider joining our volunteer program – as I am sure you will find an experience similar to mine.

God works through us and blesses all that we do,

Robert Frazier  
Board Chair

**\$154,112**

THE AMOUNT IN FY 2016/2017  
THAT VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED  
IN SERVICES

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

---

Dear Friend of Seton Center,

I am pleased to share with you that we have had another year graced with volunteers, donors and prayerful support. The Center was able to accommodate thousands of visits to our food pantry, and hundreds of neighbors were given assistance with utility and rent bills.

The visits to Dental Services were over 8,000 this past year and, of course, our older adults program continues to create socialization and health education for our neighbors.

We were privileged to have over 20 health related agencies join us for our annual health fair, as well as the local police officers that shared safety tips for everyone.

Through the support of the parishioners at St. Thomas More Parish and Blair's Foster Socks, the Back to School program gave 411 children all of the needed supplies, a backpack, socks, and underwear to begin the new school year. The smiles and joy they expressed upon receiving these gifts were beyond measure.

So many of the parishes assist the Center at Christmastime and we are most grateful for these modern Magi. The blessings never cease to amaze us, yet at the same time, we know that God does inspire those who can share to do so. We are good stewards of your generosity.

The Seton Center staff joins me in thanking you for allowing us to be the conduits for your never ending goodness.

Blessings to you and your family,

Sister Loretto Marie Colwell, SCL  
Executive Director

OVER  
**8,000**

VISITS TO DENTAL SERVICES  
WERE MADE THIS PAST YEAR

**411**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN HELPED  
THROUGH THE BACK TO SCHOOL  
PROGRAM THIS YEAR

OVER **20** HEALTH  
RELATED AGENCIES JOINED US  
FOR OUR ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR



# Volunteers



*To honor our dedicated volunteers, we hold an annual Volunteer Brunch.*

*Volunteers are a significant asset to Seton Center and have a crucial affect on our programs. In FY 2016/2017, volunteers provided \$154,112 in services, which is equivalent to four fulltime employees.*

Volunteers assist us in the following ways:

- Sorting and packing bags in the Food Pantry
- Donating and sorting clothes in preparation for the Thrift Store
- Preparing Back to School distributions
- Creating toy bags, food boxes, gifts, clothing and blankets for the Christmas Sharing program
- Stuffing envelopes and other office functions
- Planning and staging special events
- Volunteering with other special projects
- Providing compassionate services to our neighbors in need

Seton Center also benefited from seminarians who worked as volunteers. They worked with Seton Center's neighbors in need in a wide array of services to combat the cycles of poverty so prevalent in our community.

## LADIES OF CHARITY OF METROPOLITAN KANSAS CITY

The Ladies of Charity are co-founders of Seton Center. They provide significant volunteer, financial and prayer support. They manage the Thrift Store, allowing us to offer a valuable community service that benefits our neighbors. Because of their efforts, we are able to open our Thrift Store from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Each Monday, over 15 volunteers sort and stock clothing and other household items donated throughout the week. The Ladies of Charity assist neighbors in picking out correct sizes and offer emotional support. Some of the Ladies of Charity also donate time in the Pantry, coordinate special events and make our Christmas Sharing program a success. The Ladies of Charity are crucial to our efforts to break the cycles of poverty. We thank them for their work efforts, funding and prayers.



*In 2017, the National Ladies of Charities moved their office to Seton Center. We welcome them and are honored to have them here.*

700

FAMILIES RECEIVED  
A 21-DAY SUPPLY OF  
FOOD EVERY THREE  
WEEKS

15,336

ITEMS OF CLOTHING  
DISTRIBUTED THROUGH  
OUR VOUCHER  
PROGRAM

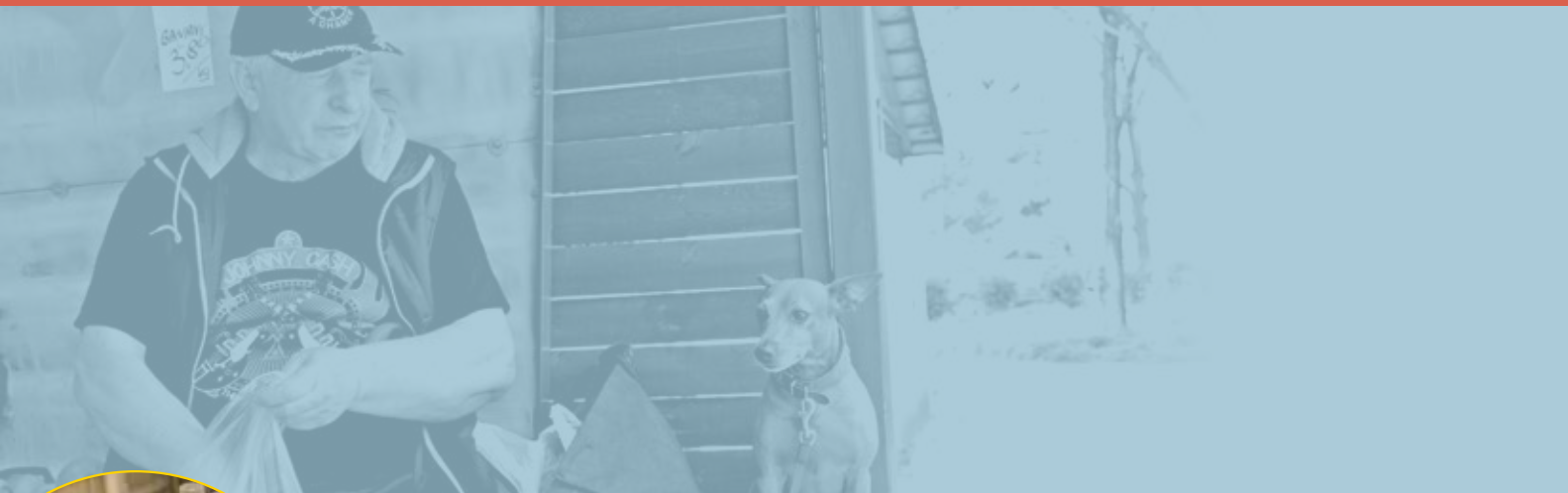
900+

SCHOOL AGED  
CHILDREN RECEIVED  
ORAL SCREENINGS

8,300

VISITS TO  
DENTAL SERVICES

# Our Programs and Highlights



## FOOD PANTRY

The program directly serves families with children in a 767-square-block area in zip codes with extremely low median household incomes. The Food Pantry is open Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Staff interview individuals to determine eligibility through proof of residency and income level. Volunteers help sack food, restock pantry shelves and unload food deliveries. Food is purchased from Harvesters and Aldi at the lowest cost possible after receiving contributions of non-perishable foods, and a large monthly food drive conducted by parishioners of St. Thomas More Parish.

*Seton Center provides a 21-day supply of food to 700 families every three weeks.*

Typical provisions for families with children include: beans, rice, cereal, pasta, meat, tuna, canned fruits and vegetables, pancake mix and syrup, cooking oil, mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese, soup, peanut butter, bread, salt, flour, sugar, powdered milk, and laundry soap. Fresh fruits and vegetables are shared when they are available. Each family also receives a hygiene kit, including toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and soap.



*Seton Center grows fruit trees and vegetables in our community garden to share with our neighbors.*

## THRIFT STORE

*Seton Center distributed 15,336 gently used items of clothing through our voucher program. Neighbors new to Seton Center receive a voucher for four free items of clothing for each eligible family member.*



Seton Center offers an in-house Thrift Store so that our neighbors can develop their confidence without worrying about how they look. Our Thrift Store is offered without financial cost to the community as it is entirely staffed with volunteers (The Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City) and offers gently used donated clothes. The Thrift Store hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Most items cost less than one dollar.

## DENTAL SERVICES

*Over 900 school aged children received oral screenings and were taught essential oral hygiene, preventing potential tooth decay and gum disease.*

*Last year, Seton Center provided free and discounted dental services through 8,300 client visits.*

Seton Center's Adopt-a-School program collaborates with area grade schools and one high school to address prevention of poor oral health (brushing and flossing are taught with assistance from Doggone Dog – a large plaster cast Basset Hound) and screens youth on-site to determine any tooth decay or problem teeth. Those with tooth decay or other oral health problems are transported to Seton Center for necessary follow up and dental care. By providing needed dental services, children can focus on their school performance instead of dental pain.

Our dental program has a broad range of services, including screenings, fillings, root canals, crowns, extractions and dentures for both children and adults in a 10-county Kansas City metropolitan area. Seton Center is known for having the lowest sliding fee scale in the area, as well as providing services to the mentally challenged and the incarcerated population. This past year, Seton Center provided over \$1.2 million in free or supplemental services.

New in 2017 was our oral screening equipment for early detection of oral cancer. Prior to the new equipment, Dental Services depended on screening by sight to detect suspicious areas of the mouth. Using screening equipment allows us to detect abnormalities in its early stages so that treatment can begin and lives can be saved. Seton Center detected abnormalities in three patients who were referred for testing and treatment.



## RENT/UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

*In the past year, 240 families remained in their homes through assistance from our rent and utilities program.*

Many of those seeking assistance were behind on one or more utility or rent payments; others were living without gas or electricity because they were unable to pay the fees, therefore, services were disconnected. Neighbors may seek assistance with rent or utilities one time in a 12-month period for up to \$300 in assistance.



1,800 

NEIGHBORS IN OUR CHRISTMAS SHARING PROGRAM.

240 

FAMILIES THAT REMAINED IN THEIR HOMES THANKS TO OUR RENT AND UTILITIES PROGRAM.

30 

SENIORS IN OUR SENIOR BUDDIES PROGRAM





## OLDER ADULTS

---

*Seton Center offers a Senior Buddies program for over 30 seniors in our neighborhood.*

Older adults gather twice each week to connect with others through prayer, bingo, exercise, health screenings, outings and Thrift Store shopping. Seniors are transported by van to Seton Center, sharing lunch and conversation with each other and Seton Center staff and volunteers. Monthly trips to department stores and biannual outings are also enjoyed by our senior friends.

## CHRISTMAS SHARING

---

*Seton Center brightened Christmas for 1,800 neighbors through our Christmas Sharing program.*

Eligible families received full-size commodities for holiday cooking and baking; one-month supply of food, including food for their Christmas meal; a family-size hygiene kit; select toys for the children; clothes and coats; winter hats, gloves and scarves; undergarments; and a shopping trip through our Christmas Store. In addition, they received a \$15 grocery gift card. Our homebound neighbors received a bountiful Christmas basket delivered to their homes. Our Christmas Sharing program for 2016 was valued at \$110,000.

---

*Volunteers assisting a neighbor with her Christmas goods.*



## HEALTH FAIR

We collaborated with over 20 agencies that freely offered everything from information on nutrition and safety to medical and oral health screenings.

For the majority of the participants, it was a day for health screenings, gathering information on preventive health care and learning about community resources. For others, it was a life-changing experience. One participant presented with dangerously high blood pressure and was referred for immediate care. One dental screening uncovered a suspicious tumor in a participant's mouth; he too was referred for immediate follow up and treatment. Additionally, diabetic participants were fitted for Medicaid eligible orthopedic shoe inserts.



## BACK TO SCHOOL

*Led by St. Thomas More Parish, we created a positive Back to School experience for over 400 school children.*



According to the National Education Association, starting school off on the right foot can make all the difference. Coming from poverty-stricken homes, the children we serve already start school at a disadvantage, so we do our best to foster their success in school by offering backpacks filled with essential school supplies, socks and underwear.

*Myron is all smiles after receiving a backpack full of school supplies.*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*With the help of our community and volunteers, we had three special events to raise funds for Seton Center programs.*

- Swingin' at the Stack provided by Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbeque.
- Third Annual Disc Golf Tournament held at Thornfield Disc Golf Course, course use courtesy of Suburban Lawn.
- Dinner at St. Thomas More Parish hosted by friends of Seton Center.



Hope starts here

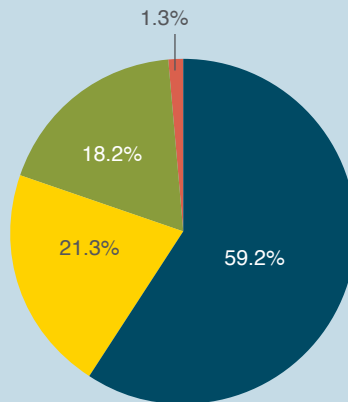
816-231-3955

TO VOLUNTEER

# F Y 2016/2017 Financial Overview

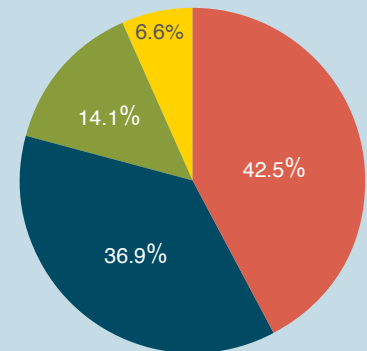
## Summary of Operations

Contributed Support .....	\$1,770,602
Net Dental Revenues.....	\$479,446
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$2,250,048</b>
Dental Services Expenses.....	\$956,322
Social Services Expenses .....	\$830,101
<b>Total Program Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$1,786,423</b>
Management & General Expenses.....	\$317,274
Fundraising Expenses .....	\$148,504
<b>Total Support Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$465,778</b>
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$2,252,201</b>
Operating Surplus (Deficit) .....	-\$2,153
Interest Income and Misc Income.....	\$47,443
<b>Net Operating Surplus (Deficit) .....</b>	<b>\$45,290</b>



### Income

Foundations .....	59.2%
Fees .....	21.3%
Corporations/ Individuals.....	18.2%
Other.....	1.3%
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>100%</b>



### Expenses

Dental Services .....	42.5%
Social Services.....	36.9%
Management & General .....	14.1%
Fundraising .....	6.6%
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Ways to Help Us Serve Our Neighbors in Need

Seton Center can use your **cash donations** to increase the number of neighbors we serve. Donations can either be mailed or made through our website at [www.setonkc.org](http://www.setonkc.org).

Gifts of **stocks, bonds** or **mutual funds** that have appreciated in value can reduce your capital gains and create an income tax deduction based on the current market value.

Naming Seton Center in your **will or trust** will offer financial assistance to ensure that our efforts to reduce the cycles of poverty continue into the future. **Planned gifts** can include bequests, charitable annuities or remainder trusts.

**Participate** in our annual Swingin' at the Stack event provided by Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbeque or at our Annual Disc Golf Tournament held in September at Thornfield Disc Golf Course.

**In-kind Donations** of food, clothing, household items, toys and items for gifts. School supplies and personal hygiene products assist neighbors in need of such items.

**Volunteer** to assist with activities such as packing food pantry bags, assisting with our Christmas Sharing program or tending the community garden. You can volunteer for one-time activities or to fill on-going needs based on your interest and availability. Call us at 816-231-3955 to talk about what would be best for you or sign up through the website at [www.setonkc.org](http://www.setonkc.org).

**Word-of-mouth** is a great way to spread the word. Tell others about what we do and encourage their participation and support or direct them to our website.





2816 E. 23rd Street  
Kansas City, MO 64127  
816.231.3955  
[www.setonkc.org](http://www.setonkc.org)