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Welcome to City Ministry Network’s (CMN) 2020-2021 end of year report.

On the following pages you will see some highlights of an inspirational group of men and women adapting to meet the challenges of a pandemic world. Taking the role of sacrificial servants, each CMN board member and staff stepped up and took the initiative to alleviate suffering wherever they found it, making our county a good place to grow up in and grow old in.

Last year, CMN’s word was “adapt.” 2021-2022 has been a year of “innovation”...exploring new methods and partnering with like minded people to better care for the citizens of Stanislaus County.

Thank you for journeying with us through the past difficult twelve months. I’m confident the following pages will encourage and inspire you.

God bless you,

Marvin Jacobo
Executive Director
VISION & MISSION

**Vision:** To see our city become a good, safe place for all in which to grow up and to grow old. (Zechariah 8:4-5)

**Mission:** Motivated by God’s love, CMN exists to listen to and advocate for our most vulnerable communities, connecting community and sector leaders to work collaboratively for maximum effect, so that all families can thrive.
VALUES

Be a Listener: We seek out thoughtful input and listen intently, culturally competent and respectful, honoring the perspective and experience of the communities we serve, believing wisdom and solutions are “in the room.”

Be in Prayer: We prioritize prayer, “following the Wild Goose,” not walking ahead of God.

Be a Humble Leader: We are servant leaders who support the success of others, putting the people we serve and their needs above our own, not holding tightly to our position.

Be a Multiplier: We seek out the “person of peace” in each sector and community, raising leaders from the neighborhood for the neighborhood and investing in them to multiply efforts.

Build Kinship: We encourage each other, build unity and camaraderie, working through disagreements efficiently.

Be Courageous: We foster ownership in CMN staff, empowering them to use their gifts and calling in innovative ways, and make decisions in their role that further the ministry.
Strategy

Advocate (Amplify) on behalf of others
Listen Intentionally – to the community, to those on the margins, to the small voice, to the Spirit. Pray/Be Discerning – regarding which issues to amplify or advocate for. Act Intentionally – thoughtfully engage key sectors around issues of inequity.

Connect (Partner) in order to reduce duplication of efforts
Bring together leaders to build relationships for the purpose of potentially working together. Confirm who is already seeking to address an issue of inequity & connect them to resources from other sectors. If there is more than one group seeking to address and issue, we encourage partnership to align their efforts.

Convene – create new focus groups to address issues
Assemble community leaders, stakeholders, and key sectors to focus on an issue that hasn’t yet been addressed or addressed effectively. Stay engaged until the group can carry the project forward on its own.

Develop – provide support for leaders within our community
Proving support for generationally vulnerable areas - so they can “have a seat at the decision-making table” to address issues and collaborate with sector leaders directly. Supporting different sectors - government, business, faith, non-profits, education, etc. - so that all are receiving the support needed in order to better collaborate with others.

Steward – handle our resources responsibly
Tell the bigger “story” of CMN often so that we engage even more sectors to participate in what we are seeking to achieve. Right-size the number of projects, staff and funding so that we can optimize what we are able to achieve.
Community Impact

- Formed the Stanislaus Community Outreach Network (SCON) to provide important resources & info to under-resourced neighborhoods.

- Worked with County Office of Emergency Services to educate over 35,000 community members and non-profits on vital available resources.

- Graduated a cohort of 28 emerging Latino Leaders strengthening our community by increasing the number of skillful Latino Leaders that serve our communities.

- Partnered with the Latino Emergency Council (LEC) and 30 key Latino community leaders to get Spanish translated crisis materials to the Latino community.

- Convened with Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services on planned preventative work and mental health training to support families in crisis.

- Completed South and West Modesto and Airport District-centric program designed to equip faith-based neighborhood workers with community capacity-building skill set.
Non-Profit & Business Support

Stanislaus County representatives and the faith-based community developed the Stanislaus County COVID-19 Safe Worship Guidance to provide the community with the most current information and guidance to help make decisions on how to provide for the safety of congregations when worship services were allowed to begin again. At the time the guidance was developed, worship services were still not allowed under the state order and there was no state guidance available.

“Carlos is very good, he helped me fill out the paperwork to have my business during COVID-19. I really appreciate everything he did to help my business. Once again, thank you for the service - very good service.”

Hoa & Mary Nguyen
Saigon Sandwich
Modesto, CA

Counseled over 360 non-profits and small minority represented businesses on emergency relief, financial and technical assistance.
Non-Profit & Business Support

Provided navigation services to invest over $3 million to over 150 at-risk businesses with critical business grant relief.

"Mi nombre es Aregelia Rodriguez, el nombre de mi negocio MUNDO FIT; Debido a la pandemias mi negocio se vio muy afectado, y por falta de no entender idioma Ingles a la perfección no sabia a donde ir para pedir ayuda gracias a la asociación CITY MINISTRY NETWORK me ayudó, dedicando su tiempo, paciencia recolectando todos los documentos que necesitábamos para poder calificar al grand y los préstamos para que mi negocio pudiera seguir adelante muchas gracias."

Aregelia Rodriguez
Mundo Fit
Modesto, CA

Helped direct over $5,000,000 in federal funding and micro-grants for local non-profits and businesses.
COVID-19 Non-Profit Financial & Technical Assistance Program

Counseled over 360+ Local Non-Profit Organizations

Provided Navigation Services to invest over $3 million to 150+ at-risk business with critical business relief

Helped direct over $5 million in Federal Funding and Micro-Grants for Local Non-Profits and Businesses

Created Strategic Partnerships with Local & National Banking Institutions

Offered Relief Funding Bilingual Translation Services

"CMN knows non-profit employers are often overlooked in the financial services sector. CMN helped close the gap between the lender and us, the non-profit employer acting as a liaison helping to reduce the possibility of confusion, mistakes, and accidental intrusions."

- Tamarine Beristean

"CMN was an amazing resource to us by connecting us with a local bank for the PPP Loan and helping us understand the process and requirements. Their help and support during this time was invaluable."

- Crown Enterprises - Modesto, CA

"It was like a miracle how City Ministry Network was able to help us. We had called numerous banks including our own and the answer was no, no, no. After so many telling us no it seemed as though we would no be able to apply for the loan. Thanks to CMN and the support they were able to provide we were able to qualify for the loan. We really appreciate CMN for helping us through this process during these very difficult times."

- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Community Development Corporation
CMN fiscally sponsored and incubated a new Community Development Corporation, Stanislaus Equity Partners, Inc., the only CDC in Stanislaus County. Its mission is to tackle the greatest needs of Stanislaus County - affordable housing and economic development for disproportionately impacted communities.

Creating pathways to homeownership for greater access
Creating Partnerships & Connecting Agencies to leverage resources
Financial Literacy for long-term sustainability

Pastor Connect
Pastor Connect is a space for leaders of congregations to enjoy a time of fellowship, mutual support and collaborative relationships. This is a place where Pastors share a meal, laugh together, support one another, encourage growth, and explore ways of engaging the community together for the sake of the Kingdom of God.
Catalyst

Catalyst is a monthly gathering of leaders and influencers in our Modesto area who believe we can make the biggest difference in our community by building trusting relationships and working together. We welcome all who are willing to come and contribute to the health and well being of the community. Catalyst provides a relational connecting point for our diverse leadership.

We meet at The Pavilion located at 1301 12th Street, Modesto the first Thursday of every month, and Catalyst provides tools and resources for those in leadership positions to strengthen themselves and their circles of influence. Come to a Catalyst gathering and you will be sharpened by people from the various sectors of our community: Government, Business, Non-Profit, Education, Faith, Neighborhoods, and the Arts.

Dave Bushnell was phenomenal during the Catalyst meeting. I hung on his every word and I wrote pages of notes that I have read again a couple of times.

He changed my perspective and I am grateful for having heard him. It is not often that someone is able to hit me where I am at. I am making some changes as a result of things Dave shared.

Thank you for bringing him to Catalyst.

I am forever grateful.

Doris Foster
Director, Stanislaus Workforce Development
The Leadership Academy is dedicated to strengthening our community by building practical, critical leadership skills. The small youth cohort program covers Community Capacity Building (CCB), Community Health Education (CHE) and Community Collaborative Leadership. Each of these training elements is based on established practices that foster significant impact in system impacted neighborhoods.

CMN is the fiscal sponsor for the first-of-its-kind Youth Empowerment Program for African-American youth, specifically focusing on Black adolescents ages 14-18. The Program consists of a 1-year curriculum which gives students a unique educational experience not currently offered in Stanislaus County or traditional education settings, including multi-sector mentorship of Black community leaders, career pathways and opportunities, internships and scholarship opportunities, and Black cultural education through Historical Black University Touring. CMN offers full administrative and operational support, operational budget counseling, mentorship and training collaboration, and legal compliance counseling.
Latinos are a significant represented community in the Central Valley. As such, the LLI seeks to increase the core competencies of emerging Latino civic servants in the areas of growth, change, collaboration, and deep community engagement. The LLI takes a small cohort through a community capacity program that brings in training from experienced practitioners in subjects like business, non-profit management, financial literacy, board commission and advocacy, and more, and then directly applying these concepts within our community. Upon completion, participants will be well equipped with the necessary resources, insights, and skills for properly engaging with those serving our community.

“For our LLI workshop on Effective Board Membership, some of my takeaways included: finding and using your inner power, trusting your intuition, speaking your truth, be of cause - you are the cause, and no one belongs in the room more than you do.”

Monica Hernandez, LLI Alumni

“Being a part of the LLI cohort this past weekend has shown me how some ‘weaknesses’ are actually ‘strengths’ when you understand them. I am excited for whatever else is to come.”

Nico Solorio, LLI Alumni
Youth Empowerment Alliance

Stanislaus Community Foundation and Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership engaged City Ministry Network, alongside Youth Leadership Institute, to join as anchor organizations in February 2021. CMN will continue to support the implementation of regional strategies to build the capacity of youth serving organizations across Stanislaus County.

We will continue to support efforts made to elevate youth voices in leadership.

“This is a critical time in Stanislaus County where our ability to truly advance equitable change requires a look at how decisions are made and the complex systems that prevent us from collaborating to create sustainable change and innovation. This is not possible without a space to engage the talent, courage, and creativity of our youth.”

Marvin Jacobo
CMN - Executive Director
Emergency Rental Assistance Program

In partnership with Stanislaus County, the City of Modesto, Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority and 4 local credit unions (Self-Help Federal Credit Union, Rolling F Credit Union, Modesto's First Federal Credit Union, Organized Labor Credit Union) collaborated together to provide financial support to those impacted by the pandemic. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program was designed to provide back rent and utility assistance for people below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) with priority given to people within 50% of AMI or those who have been unemployed for 90 days.

Three members of City Ministry Networks Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI) along with two other team members joined the efforts providing mobile outreach support to those most vulnerable within our community. CMN hopes serving on the mobile outreach team is step in the right direction, striving toward its mission of strengthening our community by increasing the number of Latino Leaders that serve our communities through civic leadership.

The primary goal of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program is to keep families in their homes. In addition to partnering with local credit unions, we have mobilized our Outreach Team in order to reach families not easily served by our partner credit unions.

- Over 20,000 conversations explaining ERAP to potential applicants
- More than 16,000 calls/meetings with applicants to help complete applications or gather documents
- Provided remote Mobile Team assistance at over 28 various locations throughout the County
- Provided support at every high-impact U.S. Census Track location throughout the County
- Established meeting sites with 4 partnering Credit Unions at 5 branch locations throughout the County

“So far my experience in this position has taught me that my service can go beyond making ends meet for the people I am serving. In one situation, a woman shared the amount of discrimination that she had experienced due to her legal status. She was grateful that our program could serve her and appreciated the space I provided at the same time. She left with the impression that even if she didn’t qualify, the experience she had with me made her feel heard and that she matters. That is what it means for me to serve my community.”

Gabriela Diaz
ERAP Mobile Outreach Team Member
(City Ministry Nework Latino Leadership Initiative Alumni)
Thank You!

“We will come out of this time stronger.” Those words, spoken by City Ministry Network’s CEO, Marvin Jacobo, have echoed for me throughout the past year. While the year has presented unexpected challenges, it’s also been a surprising space of learning how we move through crisis, and how discomfort, struggle, and deep grief teach us important lessons.

This year, CMN has learned many things: we have learned how to facilitate Catalyst via Zoom, we have found ways to facilitate teamwork while socially distanced, we have found beautiful examples of community coming together to support their neighbors, we have seen collaboration born out of creative necessity, and we have seen new partnerships that we would never have imagined without the struggles of the past year.

None of these learning experiences would have happened without you - our donors, our partners, our friends, and neighbors. You have given your wisdom, your time, your money, your resources. You are the reason we can continue to join what God is already doing in our community.

Thank you for continuing to learn with us, give, and journey with us. You have done great things this year.

Gratefully,

Kourtney Kauffman,
CMN Board President