



St, Innocent Wellness Resource Center

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Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Subject: Diocesan Report for 2017

The St. Innocent Wellness Resource Center (SIWRC), founded in 2015 as a non-profit outreach of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska Orthodox Church.

This year, the Center continued to support one chronic homeless person by walking her through the processes of getting the help from the federal and state government that she is qualified to receive. Transportation was provided on several occasions. Another person was helped with the same assistance and has become successfully employed. Transportation assistance was provided to a parishioner from Kodiak while she was Anchorage. Emotional support was also provided by being with her as she passed from this life to the next. Life coaching has been provided through phone support for one person.

This summer the Center sponsored two students for the YES Program of FOCUS North America. The YES Program of FOCUS North America is YOUTH EQUIPPED TO SERVE. YES provides opportunities for junior high students, high school students, college students, and families to participate in formative weekends of service that aim to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor and bring participants to an awareness of Christ in themselves and others. Through this experience, we aim to identify and cultivate leadership gifts in trip participants, with the ultimate purpose being to raise up service leaders who will lead others in loving and serving our most needy neighbors in their own parishes and communities, and on future YES trips.

As growth happens, the center will look at organizing supports groups and services such as the ones listed below:

Organize the facilitation of support groups to be held around addictions, mental health, terminal illness, and caregiver support.

Provide classes for grief and loss, disabilities and guardianship, relationship: Marriage, couples, parenting, and self.

Organize and provide volunteer medical, dental, and vision services in the building as professionals can make themselves available to provide these services.

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Use of the space to hold prayer services addressing issues of illness, addiction, cancer, and grief for all who desire to attend.

We are still looking for an appropriate building for the center.

We are looking for new board members as Father Christopher Stanton has moved. Two other members have dramatically reduced their commitment to the project due to life changes.

The Center's vision includes Anchorage as the hub, as we expand throughout the state. We see offices in most of the cities and village in Alaska. This will happen as we develop our resources.

Earlier this year we looked into applying for non-profit status from the IRS. At the time, it was too expensive to accomplish. We are looking into LegalZoom for help. It seems to be considerably less expensive.

The center sponsored two students for YES, provided information and transportation assistance to four people, for six people in 2017 with two months left in the year. This is double what the Center accomplished in 2016. It may not seem too important at this time; however, those six people were blessed through the Center's efforts and today are very grateful for our time.

God Bless you,

Lois Sholl
Director

Board Members

Lois Sholl, Director

Pamela DiLullo, Secretary

Matushka Mary Erika Madsen, Treasurer

Lena Delgado, Member

The Right Reverend David Bishop of Sitka and Alaska

People were not created merely to live here on earth like animals that disappear after their death, but to live with God and in God, and to live not for a hundred years or a thousand years, but to live eternally. But only Christians can live with God; that is to say, those who rightly believe in Jesus Christ. Everyone, whoever he may be, desires and seeks prosperity and happiness. To desire what is good for oneself and to seek prosperity or happiness is a part of man's nature, and therefore it is not a sin or vice. But we need to know that here on earth there has not been, and is not, and never will be true and perfect happiness and prosperity; for all our prosperity and happiness is only in God. No one will ever find true happiness and perfect prosperity without God or outside God.

- St. Innocent, Apostle and Enlightener of America