

Crossroads Chronicles

April 2018

2916-18 No 6th St. Philadelphia, PA 19133

Looking back on 2017 at 6th & Indiana...

From the Director's Desk, Rev. Juan Marrero, M.Div.

Looking back on last year, I truly thank God for you, our Crossroads partners, for how He worked in you and through you in your prayers and giving. A lot happened!

Mennonite Central Committee has supported Pastor Ron Muse for 10 years of ministry in the Philly prisons, but we always wondered if this support would continue or not. So, we are delighted to report that MCC East Coast has made Ron a permanent staff person! Praise God!

Our damp moldy basement is now a place for ministry. I used to have strong allergic reactions to the mold, and we knew that the City could shut down the whole building because of it. So we launched a campaign which some of you contributed to. Two Mennonite-related foundations also made grants towards this project, and Kingdom Builders Construction's crew did the work. The back part of the basement is ready for a new ministry and we are looking for funds to purchase (or get donated) equipment to create a music recording space as well as a space for games.



We are also rehabbing first floor into a chapel.

In January our **next-door neighbor's water pipes burst** from the cold, and she needed emergency help. KB Construction and Crossroads immediately helped to make her home livable again. She said,

"I thought Crossroads was just a youth program! I am amazed that you helped me so quickly and in such a practical ways!

The Vietnamese Mennonite Church in Philadelphia has become a special blessing! I preached there for their spiritual renewal services. A Puerto Rican from Fairhill connecting with immigrants from Vietnam is a testimony to the work of the Spirit! As people of color in a white society we do have some common perspectives though our cultural realities are very different. It is a blessing: they like me and I like them! My wife and I have learned to enjoy Pho (noodle soup) and other dishes, too!. They are generous in supporting Crossroads.



Our **youth leader, James Muldor**, has a full-time job at The City School as facilities manager. This blesses him and Crossroads since he can open the school gym to our youth.

Re-reading the by-laws was encouraging! After 53 years we are following the 1965 vision in ways that are indigenous.

Crossroads' Board is growing stronger and more active. Marty Kineen from East Swamp just joined us. He grew up and went to college in Philly and brings new ideas and energy as well as a wealth of computer knowledge!

We have developed a positive with **Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church**. Lay leader Jim McKowan has encouraged the church as well as workplace colleagues to support Crossroads.



Executive Director Juan Marrero

West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship is another new supporter. I preached there, and they put us in their 2018 budget. Also WPMFer **Rebecca Yugga**, whose family is from the Sudan, will work at Crossroads this summer, an MCC Summer Service Worker.

And I cannot complete my reflections without thanking God for the way that returning citizens continue to find a home at **Christ Centered Church**. This church grew out of Crossroads prison ministry and is a place where ex-offenders can feel at home and receive both support and accountability.

We look forward in 2018 to all that God will have us accomplish in this year.

In Christ,
Rev. Juan Marrero

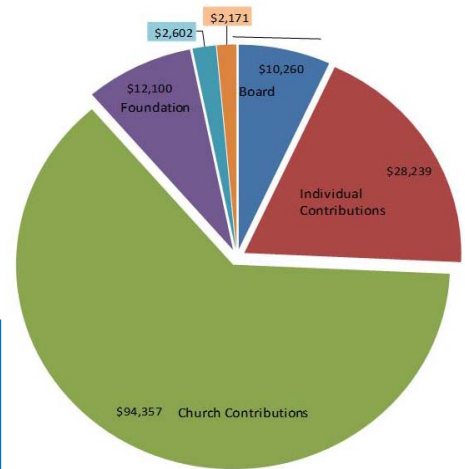


Guest speaker at Teen Club

2017 Report: sources of support

Total support for Crossroads ministries in Fairhill came to \$149,729 last year. Faithful church partners are our core supporters! “We thank God every time we think of you.” Philippians 1:3&5

	Amount	% age
Congregations	\$94,357	63.0
Individuals	28,239	18.9
Board members	10,260	6.9
Foundations	12,100	8.1
Organizations	2,602	1.7
Other	2,171	1.4



From Ken Yoder, a Crossroads monthly donor:

“Rod Rush from West Swamp is an ardent supporter of Crossroads and invited some of us to visit. I was sold on the vision and wanted to contribute on a regular basis, but it is hard to remember to write out that check every month. Everence FCU offers Electronic Bill Payment Service, and I set it up so the check goes out monthly.

“I see two advantages - Crossroads gets my donation on a regular basis. And for charitable giving, there is no EBPS fee for the service. This is a win-win situation and in my opinion a no-brainer option for regular giving.” (Thanks, Ken!)

Below, one of Miss Darlene’s faithful helpers, Sechita Elliott, gets hugs from middle school club girls.

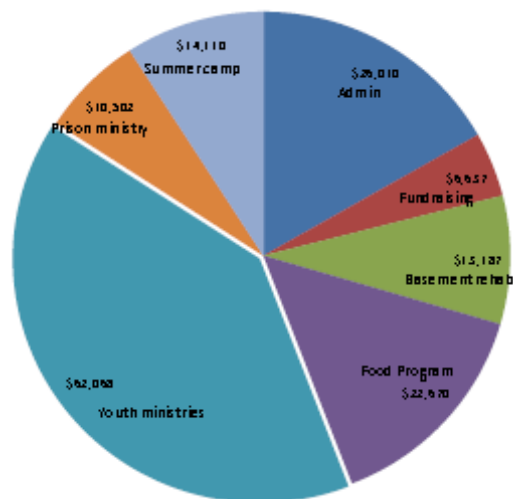


Above, Alex Kuilan, after pumping 10” of water out of our next door neighbor’s basement when her pipes froze and burst in January. Alex is a “Crossroads Kid” who is now the Assistant Director of Kingdom Builders Construction .

Below, youth leader, James Muldor, AKA “Mr. T” leads in prayer before a summer basketball league game.



2017 Report: Expenditures



	Amount	% age
Administration	\$26,010	16.8
Fundraising	6,637	4.3
Basement rehab	13,187	8.5
Food ministry	22,670	14.6
Youth ministry	62,068	40.0
Prison ministry	10,502	6.8
Summer camp	14,110	9.1

70.4% of our total expenditures of \$155,185 was for core programs, and that does not include ~\$50,000 for Pastor Ron’s chaplain ministry supported by MCC. 21.1% was for administrative costs, and we invested 8.5% to rehab the basement into a space for ministry.