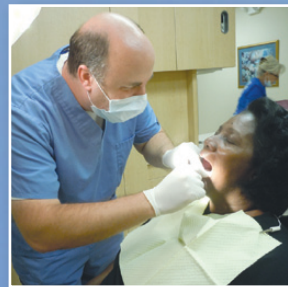


Because *you* care

2014 - 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



SETON CENTER

Photo credits:

Photos by John Caulfield
Mel Watson Photography
Jon Michael Johnson

Because *you* cared

Dabbie has a new smile, thanks to dentures she received at Seton Center. For many years, she was ashamed to smile. She loves to smile now and says that she knows **that** her children are proud of her since she has new teeth.

Patricia never asked for help. She worked all of her life, paid her bills, and got along just fine. An unexpected hospitalization strained her finances and she found herself on notice for disconnection of her gas and electric services. With help from Seton Center, she was able to avoid disconnect, get back on her feet, and stay current with her bills.

Joseph came to the food pantry regularly, and staff noticed that he hadn't been in for a while. One day he stopped for a clothing voucher because he needed some pants. When asked if he wanted food from the pantry he replied, "No, I got a part-time job and I'm doing better. Someone else needs that food much more than I do right now."

Because you care, Dabbie got her smile back, Patricia was able to keep her utilities on, and Joseph found some pants to wear to work.

Caring is what happens when our hearts take action. We are moved by a story we hear, a need, a challenging situation...and we respond. Perhaps we remember how we loved new school supplies when we were children, so we purchase school supplies for a child who can't afford them. Or, maybe someone shared Christmas gifts or food with us when we were going through a tough time...and we remember how wonderful it felt to receive them. Maybe we're so grateful for the blessings in our own lives – good health, a steady job, sound finances – that we feel compelled to give back through volunteer service. Whatever the motivation, the human connection we share calls us to care for one another in need.

Seton Center's commitment to caring for vulnerable populations runs deep within the organization. The Daughters of Charity (an order of Catholic Sisters), and the Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City, founders of the organization, are all rooted in service to those most in need. As a result, compassionate care for the dignity and integrity of each person, without judgment, has become Seton Center's trademark. The organization's strategic plan affirms its commitment of service to those most in need in our community. All persons are worthy of care. All are treated with fairness and respect.

Because you care, Seton Center is able to provide critical services – food, clothing, rent and utility assistance, socialization services for older adults, and dental services – for neighbors in need. We are grateful for your generous and compassionate hearts which have sustained this organization for 46 years.





Our Mission

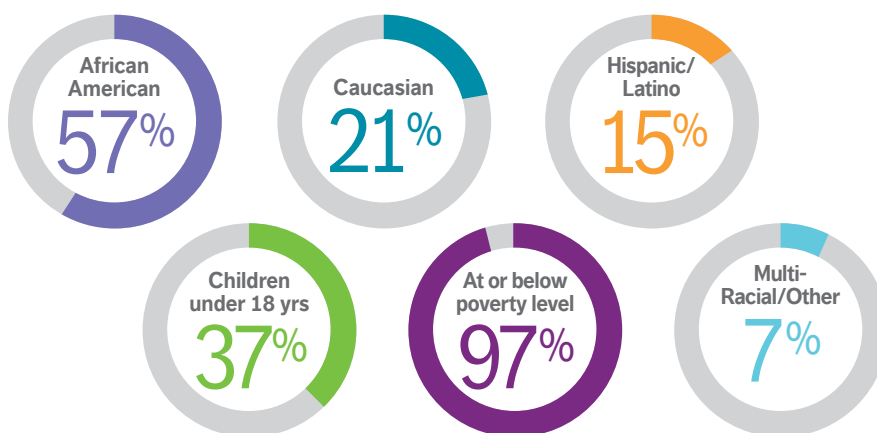
Seton Center is a Catholic-sponsored human service agency that helps people break cycles of poverty. Seton Center provides health, social, and educational programs to address current community needs, and tools to help support people in transforming their lives.

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 is dedicated to serving neighbors in need in Kansas City's urban core, without religious requirements or restriction.

Who We Serve

Seton Center recognizes, appreciates, values, and utilizes the unique talents and contributions of all individuals regardless of age, race, ethnicity, culture, disability, educational level or background, employee status, family status, gender, language, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.



Seton Center embraces the different attributes and perspectives of our clients, staff, and outside stakeholders to best serve our diverse neighborhood and all those who turn to us for assistance.

Seton Center's service area encompasses the poorest zip codes in the Kansas City area: 64127, 64128, and portions of 64109, 64129, and 64130.

Dental patients come from a 10-county area in Missouri and Kansas. Costs for dental services are assessed on a sliding scale, based on income and number of dependents.

Leadership

Seton Center's Board of Trustees and Community Support Board are working boards comprised of business and community representatives who are deeply committed to the mission of the organization. Board members are actively engaged in the life, sustainability, and growth of Seton Center through volunteer, financial, and professional support.

Board of Trustees

Robert Frazier, *Chairperson*
 Phillip Hanson, *Vice Chair*
 Patrick (P.J.) Reardon
Secretary/Treasurer
 Sister Loretto Marie Colwell, SCL
 Barbara Ferrell
 Eric Floyd
 Damian Garcia
 Thomas Grever
 Marlon Hammons
 Randall Herr
 Sister Bonnie Hoffman, DC
 Dr. Michael McCunniff
 Ruth Noel
 Michael O'Flaherty
 Sister Beth Marie Ruder, SC
 Robert (Butch) Wagner

Community Support Board

Tom Grever, *Chairperson*
 Pat Coppinger, *Vice Chair*
 Virginia Coppinger
 Bennie Daugherty
 Catherine Daugherty*
 James Fern
 Thomas Grever
 Eloise Kipp
 Tom Klpp
 Jonathan Klem
 Albe McGurk
 Jerry Meiners
 Anemarie Mura
 John Mura
 Steve Pierce
 Robert (Bob) Reiter
 Joan Ward
 Rita Zahner

**deceased*



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Robert Frazier

Seton Center was founded in 1969 to address the needs of the elderly in Kansas City's urban core. Since that time, the Center has evolved, responding to the changing needs of the neighbors it serves. Last year, we provided 7,155 patient visits to individuals from a 10-county area through our Dental Services Program.

We have affirmed our commitment to the neighborhood through a \$5 million investment for renovation and expansion of our current building completed in 2013 and the purchase of adjacent land where Holy Name Catholic Church once stood. Neighbors have thanked us for this steady presence and the hope that has come with knowing that Seton Center will continue to be an anchor in this community. As we enter our 46th year of service, we are grateful for all those who have helped grow and sustain this mission through volunteer, financial, or prayer support.

Seton Center is one of the sponsored ministries of Ascension Health, the largest Catholic –sponsored health system in the United States. Ascension's mission is to build stronger communities, including providing care for those most in need. We are blessed to be a part of this network of compassionate care.

Seton Center's Board of Trustees, Associates and volunteers had the opportunity to provide 40,510 services to neighbors in need in 2014 *because you cared*. These services made a difference in the lives of over 6,600 individuals. We thank you for caring.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sister Loretto Marie Colwell, SCL

Miracles happen every day at Seton Center. Some may call these occurrences coincidence, but we know differently. We believe that God has a hand in these events. These miracles happen *because you care*.

Consider this: A man drops off bags of donated clothing as he drives to his office...and one of the bags contains a coat just the right size for a man in desperate need of a warm coat on that same cold day. Or, a single father, down to his last half jar of peanut butter, receives bags full of food to last nearly three weeks. A 68-year-old grandmother, behind on her bills after being hospitalized, learns that Seton Center will provide rent assistance to ensure that she can stay in her apartment. These are the kinds of miracles we witness each day – the events that help us understand hope and faith and compassion. We know that these miracles happen *because you care*.

Each day, many people lift up the mission of Seton Center through prayer, service, and financial support. These efforts sustain and strengthen this organization, as they have throughout our 46-year history.

Faithful volunteers work in the thrift store and food pantry almost daily, as well as in many other areas of the Center. Three ladies were working in the thrift store one day when a young man came in seeking clothing. He had just been released from prison and was told that Seton Center could help him by providing some free resources. He needed clothing for an interview and the women set out, like doting mothers, to assist him. By the time they were through, he had a suit, shirt, and shoes – and was ready to confidently step out for his interview the next day. There was nothing random about that interaction. Those three women were supposed to be there that day to provide loving care, advice, and encouragement. *Because they cared*, a young ex-convict could face the world with hope and confidence.

I could share countless stories of blessings that come our way. Almost out of the blue, we've received hundreds of pounds of premium beef from a restaurant owner, soups and spices from a dear friend, fresh bread and pastries from local bakeries, and organic fruits and vegetables from friends who remembered our neighbors and felt they'd appreciate these special items with the food pantry provisions. What generous gifts for our pantry clients. We are always in need of warm coats and clothing for big and tall men, as those items aren't often donated.

Our volunteers often thank us for the opportunity to come to Seton Center to assist our neighbors. They tell us how they were moved by the experience...how a neighbor's story or gesture made them appreciate their blessings even more. These volunteers then engage others, sharing the story of their experiences and inviting others to visit or learn more about Seton Center. *Because you care*, more people have become involved as volunteers, donors, and friends.

We rely on the generosity of individuals, faith communities, companies, foundations, and others to help support and sustain the work of Seton Center. Thank you for partnering with us in our mission.



2014

Year in Review

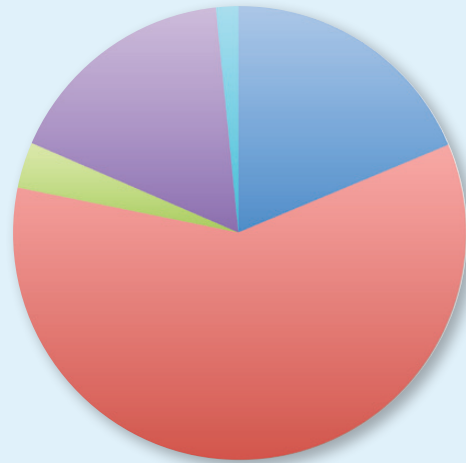


Highlights

- Twenty-five neighbors attended an **8-week nutrition class** and workshops at Seton Center presented by Harvesters.
- A **health fair** held in March featured 37 organizations offering health screenings, exhibits, and activities.
- Seton Center volunteers attended an **Appreciation Brunch** held in April at St. Monica's Catholic Church Community Center.
- The annual **Swingin' at the Stack**, a benefit for Seton Center provided by Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue, raised over \$22,000 for Seton Center.
- A **United for Hope/United to Help grant** from United Way of Greater Kansas City provided an opportunity to partner with reStart, a transitional housing organization, to provide dental care for homeless individuals.
- Over **300 sturdy carts were donated** by Seton Center friends for distribution to pantry clients to help them transport heavy food bags home.
- **Rent and utility assistance** enabled 595 individuals in 223 households to maintain utility service or stay in their homes.
- Seton Center's new website, **www.setonkc.org**, was launched in May and featured an overview of services, events, testimonials, and opportunities to get involved, donate, and volunteer.
- Thanks to a generous grant from the Catherin V. Merrill Foundation, **three seminarians provided support** to Seton Center neighbors during the summer months, assisting in the food pantry, thrift store, and with a variety of other tasks.
- Seton Center partnered with Cultivate KC and The Giving Grove to **plant a garden and 12 apple and Asian pear trees**.
- **Backpacks, school supplies, socks and underwear** were distributed in July to 311 children from 127 families.
- The **Senior Buddies continued to meet twice each week** for socialization activities. The Senior Companions served 80 older adults in 2014.
- Seton Center's storage building across the street from the main building received a facelift in the form of fresh paint, gutters, and an awning and was named the **Seton Support Center**. A special couple donated funds to help make the building look as nice as the renovated main building.
- **Dental Services** provided 7,155 patient visits in 2014.
- Seton Center **provided food and personal hygiene items** to individuals and families 17,769 times in 2014.
- A **Disc Golf Tournament** held in September at Thornfield Disc Golf Course raised \$12,000 for Seton Center programming.
- The **Christmas Sharing Program** served 1,333 individuals in 2014 with food, clothing, blankets, coats, toys, and gift items.

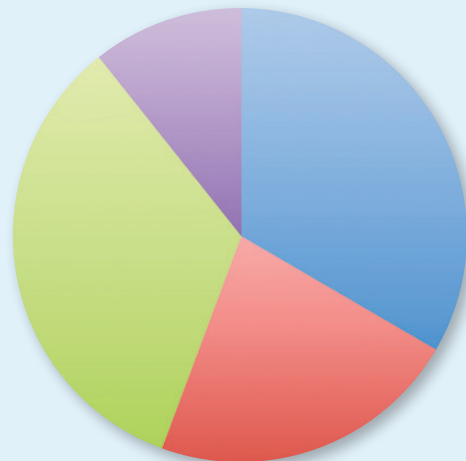


FY14 Financial Overview



Income

Fees.....	18.7%
Foundations	59.5%
Corporations	3.3%
Individuals.....	16.9%
Other	1.6%



Expenses

Dental Services.....	33.4%
Social Services	22.3%
Management and	33.6%
General Operation*	
Fundraising	10.7%

* Management and General Operations was higher in FY14 due to higher depreciation, interest, and insurance on the new building.



SERVICES

Social Services

Food Pantry

Seton Center provides food for over 700 families each month. Last year, staff and volunteers distributed food and personal hygiene supplies from the food pantry 17,769 times at a value of \$366,242. Seton Center purchases food weekly at the lowest cost possible to supplement contributions of non-perishable foods, including a large monthly food drive conducted by parishioners of St. Thomas More Parish. Each eligible individual or family receives a 21-day supply of food once each month. Families with children may receive food twice each month during the summer when school is not in session and the school lunch program is not available. Pantry provisions typically 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, crackers, dessert, 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 – toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and soap. Volunteers help bag food, restock pantry shelves, and unload food deliveries each day.



Thrift Store

The thrift store is stocked and staffed by the Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City. Each Monday, volunteers sort through donated items and restock the thrift store racks and shelves. Ladies of Charity and some spouses volunteer to work in the store, which is open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday each week. Individuals may receive a voucher good for four free items of clothing for each eligible family member. Many turn to the thrift store for special clothing for a new job, clothes for growing children, or warm coats and gloves in the winter months. Customers from throughout the neighborhood also visit regularly for bargains. Costs range between 25 cents and \$1 for most items.

Rent and Utility Assistance

Seton Center assists approximately 20 households with rent or utility payments for disconnections or past due accounts each month. Individuals receiving assistance must provide proof of residence, a copy of the delinquent bill, and additional documentation. Payments are made directly to landlords or utility companies. Many of those seeking assistance were behind on more than one utility or rent payment; others lived without gas or electricity because they were unable to pay the fees and services were disconnected. Rent and utility assistance enabled 595 individuals in 223 households to maintain utility service or stay in their homes last year. Neighbors may seek assistance with rent or utilities one time in a 12-month period.



Medication and Eyeglass Assistance

Neighbors needing prescription medications or eyeglasses request financial assistance from Seton Center. Staff members work with pharmacies or optical shops, when funding is available, to help secure these items for eligible neighbors. Twenty neighbors were assisted with medication or eyeglasses in 2014.

Legal Services

Pro bono legal services are provided by appointment one Saturday each month. Local attorney Bob Cotter and his wife, Laura, founded a Legal Services Program at Seton Center in 2003 and continue to volunteer. Neighbors receive assistance with a broad range of issues ranging from child support to wills.

Dental Services

A broad range of dental services including screenings, fillings, root canals, crowns, extractions, and full and partial dentures are provided for both children and adults. Dental Services patients come from throughout the 10-county Kansas City metropolitan area. Last year, \$449,331 in free and discounted dental services was provided to uninsured and underinsured individuals. Seton Center serves many patients, including those with mental illness, severe physical disabilities, or county prisoners. The Dental Services staff provided 7,155 patient visits in 2014.

Older Adult Services

Senior Buddies

Older adults gather twice each week for socialization including prayer, bingo, exercise, health screenings, outings, and shopping in the thrift store. Individuals are transported by van to Seton Center where they share lunch with friends, enjoy conversation, and maintain connections with others, including Seton Center staff and volunteers.

Senior Companions

A collaborative effort between Seton Center and Westport Cooperative Services, Inc. matches caregivers with older adults in need in the neighborhood. Older adults needing assistance with light housekeeping, shopping, or getting to physician appointments benefit from the Senior Companions Program.



VOLUNTEERS

Because *you* care



Seton Center is sustained by dedicated and compassionate volunteers and donors who support staff with daily operations. In 2014, 383 volunteers provided 8,953 volunteer hours over 1,987 shifts. This volunteer support was equivalent to \$139,745.

Volunteers of all ages are actively engaged in:

- sorting food and packing bags in the pantry,
- assisting with Back-to-School interviews or distribution,

- doing interviews and preparing toy bags, food boxes, gifts, blanket, and clothing distributions for the Christmas Sharing Program,
- stuffing envelopes for mailings,
- planning and staging special events, and
- assisting with other special projects throughout the year.

Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City

The Ladies of Charity of Metropolitan Kansas City, co-founders of Seton Center, provide significant volunteer, financial, and prayer support to this organization. Ladies of Charity manage the thrift store, providing a valuable service for our neighbors. Each Monday, approximately 15 volunteers arrive to sort and stock bags of clothing and other small household items that have been donated throughout the week. The thrift store is open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Ladies of Charity assist neighbors in picking out correct sizes, fold and hang clothing, and accept vouchers and cash for purchases. Some Ladies of Charity also work in the food pantry, coordinate special events, handle pantry interviews, and assist with the Christmas Sharing Program.



Ways to show *you* care



Donate

- Gifts of cash (currency, personal check, money order, bank draft, or credit card) are an immediate way to provide direct financial assistance to Seton Center. [Donations may be mailed to 2816 East 23rd Street, Kansas City, MO, 64127, made through the website at \[www.setonkc.org\]\(http://www.setonkc.org\), or called in to 816-581-4722 with a credit card.](#)
- Gifts of stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares that have appreciated in value can help donors reduce capital gains and create an immediate income tax deduction based on current market value.
- Planned gifts may be structured through bequests, charitable annuities, and charitable remainder trusts. Naming Seton Center in a will or trust is one way to ensure that this good work continues in the future.
- In-kind donations including food, clothing, household items, and supplies enable staff to serve those in need.

Volunteer

- Sign up to assist with a variety of activities ranging from packing food pantry bags to tending the pantry garden. Volunteers are needed for one-time activities as well as on-going needs and can be matched to your interest and availability. [Call 816-581-4758 to learn more about specific opportunities or sign up through the website at \[www.setonkc.org\]\(http://www.setonkc.org\).](#)

Tell Others About Us

- Spread the word! Mention Seton Center to your friends, family members, church members, business associates, and others, and encourage their involvement and support. [Direct others to the website at \[www.setonkc.org\]\(http://www.setonkc.org\) or view our video \(<http://tinyurl.com/kv3gfju>\) and forward it to others.](#)

Pray for Us

- Seton Center relies on the prayers and good wishes of many to sustain this work. [Please remember Seton Center and all those who turn to us for assistance in your prayers each day.](#)

We understand that we are the conduit for your kindness and generosity and are able to assist neighbors in need *only* through your volunteer, financial, and prayer support.

Because *we* care



SETON CENTER

2816 East 23rd Street
Kansas City, MO 64127

816-231-3955

www.setonkc.org