# 2021 Annual

# Building Strong Families



















U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. 10824 S. Halsted Street Chicago, IL 60628 O: 773.941.4691 F: 773.941.4265





# A Word From The **Board President**

I greet all our supporters, staff, clients, and Board Presidents everywhere with gratitude and a thankful heart as I share my experiences as Board President here at Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. (AOGRC).



Arlene Burton **Board President** 

2020-2021 fiscal-year ended with such uncertainty and challenges. I cannot thank all of you enough for your perseverance during this difficult time. A special thanks to the essential staff and first responders who are protecting the well-being of the people we serve. AOGRC kept the doors open, and we are continuing our important work in the community. I know the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted each person's life differently, but I pray that your families are well and that the COVID-19 vaccinations will be as successful as promised.

### Year in review

My challenge as the leader of AOGRC is asking our employees to make the ultimate sacrifice as front-line workers for the State of Illinois. AOGRC staff was expected to report to work each day to serve the less fortunate in the community during the COVID-19 Pandemic while still trying to ensure the staff's safety. Unfortunately, we had a few staff members that were affected despite all the precautions taken. We thank God for his healing power and that their lives were spared. However, despite these setbacks, AOGRC has risen to the occasion to serve in the communities.

### **Accomplishments**

AOGRC had some significant accomplishments last FY 2020-2021. We purchased two new buildings, expanded services and relocated the main headquarters, which is now located at 10824 S. Halsted Street and 10810 S. Halsted Street, Chicago IL 60628. These buildings house the Executive Officer, the Director of Fiscal Services/HR, the Marketing Department and all the agency's administrative staff. Angel of God Resource Center was accredited by CARF for three more years. Due to our growth, even during these challenging times, we have expanded our services, hired more staff and service more clients.

Impact These accomplishments will aid in AOGRC's long-term success and prosperity.

### To review our progress from last year, FY 2020-2021, AOGRC was able to:

Recognized the challenges and worked to create a performance plan to enhance the agency; Reviewed our strategic plan and made changes as needed; Instituted professional development activities; Conducted outreach through social media, and worked with other non-profits to leverage the agency's presence in the community.

As the Board President, my goals are to expand to TV and Radio and Partner with corporate America to support AOGRC initiatives, fund raiser, add new board members. Target Corp partners to improve AOGRC technology. We will strive to take the agency to new heights. On behalf of the Board of Directors of AOGRC and myself as Board President, we thank you for all of your hard work and look forward to another year of exponential growth.

Arlene Burton-Fleming **AOGRC Board President** 

# Greetings

To our staff, clients, employees, and partners, thank you for reviewing our FY2021 Annual Report that highlights our accomplishments and challenges.

The world is dealing with unprecedented health economic and lifestyle challenges coming from the COVID-19 Global pandemic. The entire market impact has seen severe, slowing and eliminating the Human toll are most important.

Angel of God Resource Center, Inc., (AOGRC) and agencies across territory challenges have tripled as we seek ways of adding Center for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Health quidelines and unexpected protocols by leading health authorities.



Annie Smith Executive Officer

Angel of God has activated a pandemic response plan which includes social-distancing, escalated cleaning of our facilities, check-in temperature and, incorporated procedures and educating our staff.

I cannot express my appreciation enough for all the work, sacrifice you have given this agency and during this season of uncertain, pandemic and feeling of tiredness. As we approach the end of this year and the coming into year 2022, it's a time to reflect to be thankful and begin our celebration that we made if through another challenging year.

Here are some of the keys to our progress this year:

- We found ways to stay safe and helping our clients and community.
- We worked together as a team completing our tasks and staying focus on AOGRC vision of education and empowerment.
- Incorporating new ideas through the virtual process, connecting through social media.
- We served as an Essential Agency for the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois.
- To assist our community from the impact of looting and avoiding recession, AOGRC participates with the State of Illinois implementing, The CURES, Youth Employment and Education Program (YEEP), Community Builders Program, Healing of Illinois (Healing of Rose), Food and PPE supplies throughout the state.

AOGRC service numbers for FY2020 were 834 and FY 2021 increased to 1724.

The audit revenue for FY2020 was 1,352,340.00 over FY2021 was 2,900,086.00 shows and increase of 214.4% increase percentage.

As an Essential Agency, AOGRC history is consistent in providing quality services across communities. We are confident that we will continue moving forward during our current challenges to improve our communities. We will continue seeking ways to empower our participants by enhancing their talents, strengths and skills to gain meaningful employment and credentials.

Again Thank You and Be Safe!

Gunie Smith

Mrs. Annie Smith, Executive Officer

# Mission

The mission of Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. is to provide human services via, educational programs, training and placement and grant writing assistance to empower through education. Providing support services designed to enhance the physical, mental, spiritual, nutritional, social and educational well-being of the community resident, families and agencies.

# Vision

Our vision is to provide support for the well-being of the community. Our approach is a holistic one which improves the lives of low income families through quality services in the Chicago Inner City and its west and south suburbs.

# **Values**

AOGRC Center's exercise the highest ethical standard and professionalism in the daily behavior of our staff. This is displayed through honesty, integrity, ethical and legal behavior from every staff member in all interactions with each other, consumers, the community and the general public. Accordingly, this policy is established to provide guidance regarding conduct and practices.

# History

History of Angel of God Resource Center, Inc.

Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. (AOGRC) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization was founded in 2007 and incorporated on March 11, 2009. We have been providing job training and placement services since 2007. With a strong focus on providing Life & Health, Property & Casualty Insurance program, ASE Certification (Automotive Technician). AOGRC is a vocational school approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, an approved Workforce Development and Veteran training site and Department of Human Services/Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS/DRS) approved training site for person with disabilities.

The mission of Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. is to provide support services designed to enhance the lives of our participants and business community. This is accomplished through our after school programs which provides a safe environment and STEM programing for youth ages 6-18. We also provide opportunities for job training and placement through our Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP), Training Observation Practice Program (TOPP) in Automotive Services, Financial Services Program (FSP), apprenticeship programs and other training programs which serves Veterans, persons with disabilities and low income families. AOGRC also serves as a City Assist Agency to assist businesses in obtaining MBE/WBE/DBE certifications.

AOGRC was organized and birth in 2007, out of the home of the prior Board President, 115th S. Watkins. In 2008 the organization moved to 117th S. Vincennes, Chicago IL 60643 and later we expanded and moved to 7421 S. King Drive lower level which became the main office with 2 part-time employees and volunteers. In 2009 AOGRC moved to 14527 S. Halsted Street, Riverdale IL 60827 which became the main office until we move to 10824 S. Halsted in Chicago. During that time, our staff has increased from 2 to 5 part-time employees along with many volunteers. Today, we currently employ 30 people and work with many volunteers through National Able and National Caucus and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), CCRC and CURES program. We continue to seek ways to fill the service gap and collaboration to empower families.

# History Cont.

AOGRC participated in many community events, Women Against Violence, Mentoring and Grant Writing Assistance. In 2010 the agency implemented a Violent Prevention program for 50 students through the Illinois Department of Violent Prevention Authority. We also served as a fiscal agent for Better Life for Youth and provided mentorship, training and tutoring for 50 youth ages 6 to 17.

AOGRC Chief Operating Officer, Annie Smith, executes the automotive & insurance job training and placement. The program has been in existence since 2009 and continues to thrive. Three Participants have started their own automotive service program and over 200 individuals were placed in jobs from FY2013-FY2016. Two of our clients started providing homemaker services for seniors and one with a transportation company. Twenty (20) participants were military affiliated.

The automotive and insurance service components are inclusive of assessment, curriculum and practice training, servicing 12 to 50 persons. Servicing those with disabilities, veterans, small business owner's year around. We continue partnering with organizations such as the Illinois Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) at Far South, Greater Southwest Development Corp. and Veterans Education & Training Section (VETS). AOGRC, S & E Towing Automotive Services and David's Auto (David Acosta, Owner, ASE Master Mechanic) has been in operations for over 12 years providing hands on automotive training for participants to become ASE-certified technicians.

Our Automotive (Training Observation Practice Program-TOPP) and Financial Services Program (FSP) are our signature programs and are approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and WIOA approved. Check out their website.

(https://www.illinoisworknet.com/WIOA/TrainingPartners/Pages/WIOATrainingPrograms.aspx)

AOGRC owns three locations providing programs and support services. Site 1: 10824 S. Halsted Street, Chicago IL 60628; Site 2: 10810 S. Halsted Street, Chicago IL 60628; Site 3: 14527 S. Halsted Street, Riverdale IL 60827. We have 7 satellite sites, 4 on the Westside of Chicago: JLM- 2622 W. Jackson Blvd., 60612; David's Auto- 2924 W Van Buren St, Chicago, IL 60612 (Hands-on automotive training site); John Marshall Metropolitan High School- 3250 W Adams St, Chicago, IL 60624 (Teen REACH Program); Life Changing Community Outreach Inc. 5956 W North Ave, Chicago, IL 60639 (Teen REACH Program); South side 3 satellite sites, AOGRC: 14527 S. Halsted Street, Riverdale IL 60827; S&E Towing and Automotive Service- 14525 S. Halsted Street, Riverdale IL 60827 (Automotive hands-on training); Wendell Phillips Academy High School- 244 E Pershing Rd, Chicago, IL 60653 (Teen REACH Program).

In addition to the automotive and insurance programs, the Agency has served & placed adults with disabilities for the past 6 years through the Department of Human Services/Division of Rehabilitation. AOGRC offers several programs sponsored by the Department of Human Services (CYEP/CSYEP and Teen REACH).

AOGRC is one of the City of Chicago support/assist agencies. We assist businesses owners to become MBE/WBE certified by the City of Chicago.

The Agency has been accredited since March 29, 2019 by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). CARF's mission is to provide accreditation standards and surveyors for organizations working in the human-services field worldwide with a base in traditional facilities and institutional settings.

# **Board of Directors**

Arlene Burton
Eddie Conner
Lenora Ringo
Dr. Betty Coleman
Annie Smith

Board President Secretary Treasurer Member & Co-Secretary Executive Officer, Non Voting Member

# **Directors Emeritus**

Jessica Chambers Annie Smith Paulette Stark William Johnson

# Administrative Staff

Annie Smith-Executive Officer
Carla Griffin-Director of Fiscal Services/HR
Anthony Walker-Division Director
Jessica Harper-Billing/Fiscal Administrator
Deborah Atkins-Denmark-Accounts Payable/Receivable
Kiti Perry-Maintenance/Janitor
Dr. Marsha Noble-Marketing Manager
Davida Kay-Compliance/Statistical Analysis Manager
Angel DeJesus-MIS



Charles Bell-Project Director
Gregory Austin-Project Director
Anthony Walker-Project Director
Jessica Chambers-Case Manager
Hakeem Ward-Case Manager
Sherri Cherry-Instructor/Social Media Specialist
Luela Williams-Enrollment/Outreach Specialist
Candis Jackson-Project Director
Larry Stokes-Instructor/Coach
Keith Sanders-Instructor/Coach
Kemberly Addison-Instructor
Jerome Martin-Security/Recruiter

LD Cooper-Maintenance/Security

Lenora Smith-Data Coordinator

Katesean Brown-Buckner-Data Coordinator/Job Coach Meldemetrius Johnson-Job Developer/Placement Coordinator



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

AOGRC has opportunities for YOU! Please consider volunteering your time and expertise to our programs. We are always looking for both short and long term volunteers who are committed to doing community work in the following areas:

- Mentoring
- Marketing
- Board Members
- Committee Members
- Seniors
- Holiday and Special Event Planning
- Sponsorships
- Facility Maintenance Help

# **Financial Statements**

As of June 30, 2021

FY2021 Audited Financial Completed by: Caldwell, Coren & Sceggel, Inc. 7900 South Cass Avenue Suite 170, Darien, IL 60561 Phone: 630-960-2135, Fax: 630-960-0167 www.ccscpas.com

	FY2020 7/1/2019-6/30/2020	FY2021 7/1/2020-6/30/2021
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	9,636.00	336,193.00
Grants receivable	345,441.00	<u>215,574.00</u>
Total Current Assets	355,077.00	551,767.00
Non-current Assets		
Land, buildings, vehicles and equipment - net	<u>331,417.00</u>	<u>570,788.00</u>
Total Non-current Assets	331,417.00	570,788.00
TOTAL ASSETS	686,494.00	1,122,555.00
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Liabilities		
Current portion of Mortgage payable	17,983.00	7,204.00
Security Deposit Escrow	4,350.00	4,350.00
Accounts payable	4,550.00	4,000.00
Accrued Real Estate Taxes	8,180.00	8,180.00
Payroll liabilities	5,151151	2,
Short Term Liabilities	<u>40,000.00</u>	<u>64,900.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	70,513.00	84,634.00
Non-current Liabilities	172,317.00	
Mortgage Payable		232,284.00
Current Portion of Mortgage Payable	<u>(17,983.00)</u>	<u>(7,204.00)</u>
Sub-Total Non-current Liabilities	154,334.00	225,080.00
PPP Loan	77,400.00	77,400.00
Director Loan	<u>86,986.00</u>	96,240.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	318,720.00	398,720.00
Total Liabilities	389,233.00	483,354.00
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	297,261.00	639,201.00
Total Net Assets	297,261.00	639,201.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	686,494.00	1,122,555.00

# Financial Statements cont.

Income/Expense Revenues, gains, and other support:	FY2020 7/1/2019-6/30/2020	FY2021 7/1/2020-6/30/2021
Contributions:		
Individuals (includes in-kind services &		
donations of \$17,351 in 2020)	33,418.00	206,788.00
Grants:		
DHS:		
- Community Youth Employment Program	816,184.00	476,576.00
- Illinois Youth Investment Program	<del>-</del>	763,278.00
- Teen Reach	283,968.00	689,690.00
- Community Partnership Outreach Initiative	146,997.00	-
- SNAP Job Placement	57,376.00	723,465.00
- DHS Training & Placement	-	4,112.00
Rental income	-	36,136.00
Interest income	17.00	41.00
Other revenues INCREASES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>14,380.00</u>	2,900,086.00
INCREASES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	1,352,340.00	2,900,000.00
PROGRAM SERVICES		
Personnel (Payroll)	788,236.00	1,163,236.00
Payroll Expense In-kind	<del>-</del>	-
Fringe Benefits	86,805.00	143,262.00
Travel	4,540.00	5 212.00
Supplies	73,293.00	166,266.00
Contractual	55,700.00	81,600.00
Occupancy	120,645.00	178,986.00
Telecommunications	7,187.00	13,764.00
Training and Education	12,000.00	12,750.00
Administrative Costs	-	26,160.0
Miscellaneous	10,995.00	-
Grant Exclusive	284,800.00	726,837.00
Printing	<del>-</del>	1,512.00
Un-remitted State Fees	77.00	-
Bank charges	493.00	-
Insurance	8,679.00	6,565.00
Interest	13,630.00	19,128.00
Depreciation	10,733.00	12,868.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,176,420.00	2,558,146.00
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	175,920.00	341,940.00
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	121,341.00	297,261.00
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR (Surplus Unrestricted	•	639,201.00

# **Programs**

The AOGRC Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP) is a year round grant opportunity that requires a holistic approach to unsubsidised employment for transition-age youth (16-24). This approach will account for the youth's physical, emotional, social, and mental health needs while helping them to secure and sustain employment and/or achieve higher education ensuring a greater likelihood of success and self-sufficiency. In an effort to foster healthy, safe, well-educated, and self-sufficient transition-age youth in Illinois, to provide eligible youth with educational enhancement opportunities, full and part-time job placements, and case management services to include life skills, counselling and work readiness for both in-school and out-of-school youth.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E & T):** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E & T) Program is a self-support program to help customers acquire work skills and find employment. Through the AOGRC Project NOW (Need Of Work) Program, we help customers with work-related expenses for the first 30 days of a job, for ages 18 through 49. Participation in the program enables AOGRC participants gain work skills and experience, meet the federal work requirement and become self-sufficient.

**Milestone Program**: is a state-wide program under the direction of the Department of Human Services - Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS DRS) Job Training and Placement Vocational Rehabilitation Program. The program assists individuals with various disabilities in obtaining and maintaining community based competitive employment and measures success at 15, 45 and 90 days of competitive employment.

Competitive employment is integrated employment within the community which pays the Customer (employee) at least minimum wage or a wage commensurate to the prevailing wage and applicable fringe benefits. AOGRC uses job matching techniques to assists individuals in identifying specific jobs or potential employers that are available and accessible in the community. It is also an opportunity for AOGRC customers to gain a college level credential.

**WIOA:** The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. WIOA brings together, in strategic coordination, the core programs of Federal investment in skill development:

Employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth and Wagner-Peyser employment services administered by the US Department of Labor (DOL) through formula grants to States; and Adult education and family literacy programs as well as State Vocational Rehabilitation Services programs that assist eligible individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment; both core programs are administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

**Automotive Training Program:** An approved WIOA program, the Training Observation Practice (TOP) program geared for students who are interested in gaining an Automotive Service Excellence Certificate (ASE), which is recognized by the Automotive industry. The TOP program has three categories a student will learn about. "Under the Hood" (A1-A9) or The "Auto Maintenance and Light Repair" (G1), this training provides a condensed workload of the courses provided and then "Collision" (B1-B5).

**Financial Services Program:** An approved WIOA program. The Financial Service Program (FSP) has two categories a student will learn about "Life and Health" then "Property and Casualty". Students completing our program will be eligible to sit for the Illinois State License exam, which allows individuals to sell insurance in Illinois, be employed in a 9 to 5 high wage position as an underwriter, adjuster and many other positions.

# Programs Cont.

Teen REACH Program: The goal of the Teen REACH program is to expand the range of choices and opportunities that enable, empower and encourage youth to achieve positive growth and development, improve expectations and capacities for future success, and avoid and/or reduce risk-taking behavior. Specifically, this means providing youth with safe environments and caring adults, and guiding them toward educational success, marketable skills and opportunities to serve their communities.

The AOGRC Teen REACH program provides the following prevention-focused core services; additional services appropriate for the youth families and community are also provided such as Trauma Informed, Yoga and Science, Technology, Engineer, Arts and Math (STEAM):

Improving academic performance
Life skills education
Parental involvement
Recreation, sports, and cultural and artistic activities
Positive adult mentors
Service learning
STEM

Seniors Services: AOGRC partners with National Able, National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc. and CAPS to provide hands-on training and work experience. Our Seniors Service program enhances the quality of life and empowers the ability for Senior to work and to participate in the community. Our services are designed to help aging citizens return to work while motivating them to remain active in their communities.



EJC (Emma Johnson Conner) Scholarship: The EJC (Emma Johnson Conner) Scholarship was formed in 2014/2015 out of the love, caring and commitment of the late Emma Johnson Conner. We have awarded five scholarships to this date.

The Emma Johnson Conner (EJC) scholarships are awarded to students in recognition of both academic excellence and community service. This memorial scholarship honors high school seniors who value public higher education and is offered through the generosity of Emma Johnson Conner and Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. (AOGRC).

# **AOGRC Locations**

### **MAIN OFFICE 1**

10824 S. Halsted Ave. Chicago, IL 60628 Office: 773-941-4691 Fax: 773-941-4265

**Executive Officer: Annie Smith** 





MAIN OFFICE 2 10810 S. Halsted Ave. Chicago, IL 60628 Office: 773-840-4761 Fax: 773-941-4265 Director of Fiscal Services/HR: Carla Griffin

### RIVERDALE OFFICE

14527 Halsted Ave. Riverdale, IL 60827 Office: (708) 392-9323 Fax: (708) 880-0121

Site Director: Charles Bell



WEST SIDE OFFICE
JLM Abumdant Life Center
2622 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60612
Office: 773-969-9523 Fax: 773-941-4265
Project Director: Anthony Walker

Hands-On Location and Satellite Sites S & E TOWING AND AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES 14525 S. Halsted, Riverdale IL 60827

DAVID'S AUTO - David Acosta (Owner) 2924 W Van Buren St, Chicago, IL 60612

Satellite Sites for our Teen REACH Program Wendell Phillip H.S.
Life Changing Community Outreach





# Supporters

AOGRC respects the donors' wishes by not selling or sharing their names to other businesses, agencies or outside organizations. The names of private donors who requested to remain anonymous are not listed in accordance with their wishes.

Please send your donations or make inquiries to:

Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. 10824 S. Halsted Street Chicago, IL 60628 773-941-4691

Visit us on the web www.AngelofGodResourceCenter.org Follow us on Facebook (Facebook.com/AOGRC)

We understand that without your generosity many of AOGRC's services would not be possible and we are grateful for your support. Thank You!

AOGRC Contributors FY2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)

Alderwoman Carrie Austin S&E Towing & Automotive Services **Edwin Smith** Anthony Brown Mattie Brooks

Eddie Conner, Jr. Arlene Burton Annie Smith

Jessica Chambers Lenora Ringo Mary Thompson Angel DeJesus

JLM Abundant Life Center

Rev. Johnny Miller Cube Install

Latoya Allen Latonya Allen Alberta Allen

Vicory Lap Logistics

Brenda Ingram-Ivory Towers David Acosta-David's Auto **Dolores Gilmore** 

**Target Stores Ross Stores** 

Rev. Anthony Walker

3 E's Photography

OliveTree Creative Services

Margie P. Hollins Deonte Smith Commun ity Trust Leta & Cardell Smith



















# Teen REACH





















# Success Stories

### **DONOVYN HARPER**

Client came to AOGRC in the summer and expressed an interest in Automotive Repair. Client was registered for The TOP AUTOMOTIVE COURSE. Client had never worked on cars before enrolling into the Program; Now Donavyn is now able to complete Brake Jobs, Caliber Replacements, Oil Changes, and other Light Repair Maintenance.

Donavyn Harper is scheduled to take his ASE - G1 Auto Maintenance Exam on March 12, 2022 @ 3pm to 6pm at the Chicago MegaCenter located at One North LaSalle St. Suite 2300 Chicago, IL. 60602 Donavyn Harper is excited and really looking forward to taking the ASE Certification Test.

GREAT JOB Donavyn and GOOD LUCK - you got this ...

### DAVID RODRIGUEZ

Client was enrolled in our Summer Employment Program where he excelled in Automotive Studies.

Toward the end of the Summer Program David purchased a vehicle for a class project, in which David and the class completed a complete restoration of a 1983 Buick Park Avenue. David's Instructor has stated that David is at the Top of his class.

David has received a certificate in Cooling and Air. And is looking forward to obtaining more certifications. He is always looking to learn more about Automotive Repairs.

David Rodriguez has also just enrolled into college to further his opportunities to be successful and more marketable. This young man has a great future ahead of him and we are looking to hear even greater things about this young man.

GREAT JOB ... Keep up the Good Work!

### **ASHLEY HERNANDEZ**

Client was a part of our Summer Employment Program where she received a Cooling and Air Certificate. Ashley was one of two females that was enrolled in our Top Automotive Program, yet from the start Ashley has always been consistent. She knew coming in that she wanted to be a Logistic Specialist, with a strong background in the Automotive Industry.

Ashley is also enrolled in college classes -looking to graduate with a Business Management Degree. She wants to be an Automotive Logistic Specialist. Ashley is on track to becoming the first person in her family to graduate from college and we are so proud of the hard work she has put into building a bright future for herself.

GREAT JOB Ashley ...

# Success Stories cont

### **ROSA MENDEZ**

Client was enrolled in a College Internship and was Introduced to AOGRC through one of our Partnering Sites. Rosa completed her Internship working with youth at Life Changing Community Outreach. She graduated in Dec. 2021 with a Degree in Criminal Justice and is looking to advocate for children. Rosa has submitted her resume to AOGRC where she is looking to becoming a member of our Teen REACH Program. Because of her passion for children I believe she will make a GREAT Child Advocate. We are very excited about the future of this young lady.

She has proven that the Programs work if you work it. From Teen Reach Program, to College Graduate, back to volunteering where she started out helping other young youth, to possibly becoming employed with Angel of God Resource Center as a member of the Teen REACH Program.

Rosa has not forgotten where she started from and we are excited about the future of this young lady, and we are looking to see her do GREAT THINGS in the near future.

GREAT JOB Rosa. Continue to follow your DREAMS!

### **NICHOLAS ROJAS**

Nicholas Rojas joined A.O.G.R.C. in the Summer of 2019. Nicholas came through our Community Builders and Cures program. He expressed an interest in wanting to work but also wanted to give back to the community.

Nicholas worked at different sites while in the program, he even worked at a site where he actually got to give back. He was able to assist with the Greater Food Depository by helping distribute food boxes to those in need.

Since then, with help from those at the JLM location Nicholas has gone on to find permanent work at Walgreens. Still helping others and proud of it.

GREAT JOB NICHOLAS THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO OTHERS!!! GO FOR IT!!!

### **ARYIAN SAWYER**

Aryian was referred to the Summer Employment Program by a friend. Aryian came into the JLM location looking for just a job. She was looking for a way to make ends meet. Previously Aryian was attending Illinois Media School and for personal reasons had to stop attending. At this point she was just starting to create her own Blog.

Aryian worked in various positions not only to gain work experience but also life experience. She found a sense of what she liked to do, things she wanted to talk about. She completed various job services that gave her strength and courage for obtain a permanent position.

Ariyan has now gained unsubsidized employment at Walgreens.

# Success Stories cont

### NAPOLEON THOMAS SR.

"People just don't know who I used to be. So glad I'm not that anymore" Napoleon jokes. He stated he has spent years of his life in and out of jail. And that was it. No more bars. Looking at Napoleon it's hard to believe he was in prison. Talking to him shows the growth from the lessons life has taught him. The grandfather of 13 said it was time to stand up and fight for his FAMILY. The most important thing to him. His most prized possessions.

When Napoleon joined A.O.G.R. C. in December of 2021, he was a certified forklift operator looking for work but just didn't have the resources. Napoleon signed up and went right to work obtaining a certificate of Employment Services, completing job searches and finally he obtained a position at Walgreens as Customer Service Representative. Napoleon was grateful for the assistance. He loves his job and has been praised by even the managers for his drive and willingness to work.

Congratulations Napoleon Way to Go!!!!

### **VIOLA HILL**

Viola Hill is definitely determined. Viola saw a post on Facebook on a friend's page about where she worked and what was going on there and responded. Viola came the very next day and signed up with AOGRC. Viola has been no stranger to change or even life disappointments. Having to move from place to place and not even having a solid place of employment Viola needed more and needed it fast. Viola came in with a sense of urgency and an attitude of gratitude. She has completed Job Readiness training and activities at JLM, proving she was ready for the next step.

Viola has now become employed at Walgreens. This opportunity will help change those things that she feels has kept her down.

### YADIRA ADAN

Yadira came to AOGRC, this pat summer, as a college student seeking to complete an internship through the Illinois Youth Investment Program. She was placed at Life Changing Community Outreach, where she excelled at helping youth. Since then Yadira has completed her courses and has graduated from National Lewis University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, all while working a now full time job. Yadira is now seeking to find employment within the justice system where she can make her mark.

Great Job Yadira ... We look forward to you making your mark in the justice system

### **ALEXIA SMITH**

Alexia participates in the Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP). She worked here at JLM for the summer. Since then she has started college courses at SIU. She has taken on the challenge of studying for a degree in Social Services. She has maintained good grades and a 3.0 GPA. She is in her second year and well on her way to becoming a great asset to the social service world.

Great job Alexia. Keep up the good work ... we can't wait to see what can accomplish.

Awards and Community Events
Summer Closeout



# Winter Food Pantry



# Thank you!



Angel of God Resource Center, Inc. Staff