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# Annual Report 2020

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## Mobile Area Interfaith Conference

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901-A Butler Drive, Mobile AL 36693

[maic.quest@mobileareainterfaith.org](mailto:maic.quest@mobileareainterfaith.org)

[www.mobileareainterfaith.org](http://www.mobileareainterfaith.org)

251-308-8725

**maic**

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## ***From the MAIC Board President***

In 2020 Mobile Area Interfaith Conference, Inc. (MAIC) experienced a **TAXING** year. Our staff acted with courage as they worked. While the COVID-19 pandemic closed most agencies in the city, The Neighbor Center, the Metro Jail Chaplaincy Program, and our new program, the Academy for Career Development, addressed unmet needs of inmates and formerly incarcerated neighbors who returned to our community.

MAIC staff continued to serve inmates at Metro Jail. As all programs in the chapel were suspended due to COVID-19, staff found unique ways to assist individuals. Most notable was the Day of Ministry. Several volunteers helped staff to create activities around the wedges to affirm to inmates that the community cared and lifted them up in prayer. Staff also constructed COVID-19 kits that were delivered to the inmates. Circuit and District court trials were conducted in the chapel, staff were present to assist inmates and provided an area for them to talk to their attorneys after court. Furthermore, the Chaplaincy Program provided 1400 hygiene kits to the inmates for Christmas, which included socks and tee-shirts.

The Neighbor Center caseload expanded in 2020 as returning citizens learned about the success other neighbors experienced as our case managers assisted them. Over 3261 telephone calls were received and addressed. Staff provided housing assistance and direct services, such as food vouchers, gas cards, clothing vouchers, bus passes and IDs, to our returning neighbors.

The Academy for Career Development opened in 2020. A major grant from Mission and Ministry Inc. (MMI) provided by the Daughters of Charities allowed MAIC to hire staff for the Academy. This program assists individuals to receive education, job training and employment.

Additionally, MAIC experienced success in 2020 in the form of major grants and funding. Two housing grants, which totaled in the amount of \$252,000, were awarded. The agency also received a three-year Department of Justice grant for \$897,260 from the Correctional Adult Reentry Education, Employment and Recidivism Reduction Strategies (CAREERRS) Program. Further, MAIC was given a second-year contract from Mobile County and funding from the City of Mobile for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to assist the Academy.

***MAIC achieved a lot in 2020. Our efforts helped many returning neighbors to overcome obstacles and make successful transitions back to community.***

MAIC depends on relationships and collaboration with community partners. The spiritual and financial support of congregations, corporations, and individuals provided in 2020 sustained our work.

2021 promises to be a successful year as well.

With Kind Appreciation,



Troy Ephriam  
President, Board of Directors

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## *Mission and Vision*

***The Mission of MAIC Is to Empower the Marginalized and Build Bridges in Our Community Through Advocacy, Education, and Service.***

***The Vision of MAIC Is a Just Community Which Recognizes the Inherent Worth and Dignity of All Persons and Collaborates to Offer Hope and Opportunity.***

## *History- Celebrating 41 years*

**1979 CONFERENCE OF DOWNTOWN CHURCHES**

**BAY AREA FOOD BANK / FEEDING THE GULF COAST, INC.  
HOMELESS COALITION / HOUSING FIRST, INC.**

**2002 METRO JAIL MINISTRY**

**2005 MOBILE AREA INTERFAITH CONFERENCE, INC.  
(MAIC)**

**2016 THE NEIGHBOR CENTER**

**2020 THE ACADEMY FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

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## *MAIC 2020 Board of Directors*

**President**, J. McM. (Jim) Backes, Jr., Retired Engineering Executive, Hargrove Engineers  
**Vice President**, James E. (Jamey) Sandifer, Investment Counselor, Sandifer & Associates  
**Secretary**, Troy Ephriam, Owner and Managing Partner, Ephriam Environmental, LLC  
**Treasurer**, Sandy Delchamps, Pastor and Executive Director, City of Refuge for Men  
Kenyen R. Brown, Attorney, Maynard Cooper & Gayle  
Chief Eddie Burrow, Chief Deputy, Mobile County Sheriff's Office  
Rev. Trey Doyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Mobile  
Dr. Richard Duffey, Ophthalmologist, Premier Medical  
Rev. Rebekah Lamar, Pastor, Government Street Presbyterian Church  
Patricia Rotella Silverman, Administrative Services, Community Volunteer  
Lt. Marcus Westry, Corrections Officer, Mobile County Metro Jail  
Sherman C. Williams, Sr., President, Palmer Williams Group

## *MAIC 2021 Board of Directors*

**President**, Troy Ephriam, Owner and Managing Partner, Ephriam Environmental, LLC  
**Vice President**, Sandy Delchamps, Pastor and Executive Director, City of Refuge for Men  
**Secretary**, Rev. Rebekah Lamar, Pastor, Government Street Presbyterian Church  
**Treasurer**, Danita Washington, Center for Fair Housing  
Kenyen R. Brown, Attorney, Maynard Cooper & Gayle  
Chief Eddie Burrow, Chief Deputy, Mobile County Sheriff's Office  
Rev. Trey Doyle, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Mobile  
Dr. Richard Duffey, Ophthalmologist, Premier Medical  
John R. Lockett, Retired, Mobile County Circuit Judge  
Champ Napier, Author, Community Advocate  
Patricia Rotella Silverman, Administrative Services, Community Volunteer  
Donald Stewart, Attorney, Cabaniss, Johnston, Gardner, Dumas & O'Neal  
Lt. Marcus Westry, Corrections Officer, Mobile County Metro Jail  
Louise Wilbur, Volunteer Educator, Mobile County Metro Jail

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## *MAIC Advisory Council*

Patrick Bolton M Div., BCC Clinical Chaplain Mercy LIFE of Alabama

Matt Armbruster, Executive Director Ransom Ministries

Mary L. Gautier, Ph.D., Retired Georgetown University

Curtis Graves, Director of Strategic Initiatives at City of Mobile, AL

Linda Hurm, TNC volunteer

Carolyn Larkin, Retired, Community Corrections Center

Captain Felecia Prince, B.A Mobile Co. Metro Jail

Dan A. Williams, M.S.W., Executive Director Emeritus TNC

## *Staff & Volunteers*

MAIC:

**Gwendolyn W. Darty, Executive Director**

**Mickey Spann**, Office & Financial Manager

**Rachel Whiteley**, Grants Manager

MCP:

**Rev. Alan Singleton**, Lead Chaplain

**Trinitius Jackson**, Chapel Administrator

**Joe Kolb**, Chaplain (We Care Volunteer)

**Louise Wilber**, Education Coordinator (Volunteer)

**Cyndi Thompson**, Goodwill Easterseals/GED, Certified Tester

**Derek Hyder**, Goodwill Easterseals Instructor

TNC:

**Leah Washington**, Case Manager

**Maurice Houston**, Housing Manager

**Linda Hurm**, Volunteer for Development

**Viola Brown**, Receptionist

**Cynthia McClain**, Senior Aide

ACD:

**Demetrius Semien**, Academy Director/Career Coach

**Gilbert Spann**, Case Manager

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# *Metro Chaplaincy Program*

Established in 2002.

Contract with Mobile County Sheriff's Office.

Chaplaincy complex in Metro Jail includes a chapel & classroom for inmates.

MAIC Chaplain and Staff Administrator responsible for coordinating pastoral, religious and educational services.

Pre-release services include: GED classes by Goodwill Easterseals, Celebrate Recovery and Fatherhood Initiative.



*27 congregations provide support*

*290 trained volunteers*

*2700 volunteer hours*

*308 religious services held*

*1576 inmates attended religious services*

*35 GED graduates*

*338 GED packets received by inmates*

*20 Work Key certificates obtained*

*102 completed Celebrate Recovery*

*9 persons were baptized*

*3271 court services provided during pandemic*

*5733 hygiene and Covid-19 kits provided to inmates*

*7479 bibles, books, religious papers, pencils, whites, eyeglasses and postcards provided to inmates*

**Metro Jail data & the MAIC database indicates:  
54.3% of inmates expected to be rearrested within 3 years  
MAIC/Goodwill GED graduates: Rate drops to 40%**



## the neighbor center

Available to "returning neighbors" upon release since 2016.

Reentry services offered to former inmates from local, state and federal facilities.

Service goal is to prevent reincarceration /reduce recidivism.

Case management helps access or secure housing, employment, education, job training, transportation, health care, treatment for mental health and addictions, legal services, meet special needs such as disabilities.



*11 Inmates interviewed at Metro Jail  
prior to release*

*3261 individuals reached out through phone  
and/or email*

*358 new clients were interviewed*

*24 families placed in transitional or  
permanent housing*

*38 received ID/birth certificates*

*75 were referred for healthcare/mental health  
assistance*

*32 families received food assistance*

*14 placed in education classes*

*39 received clothing assistance*

*53 received transportation assistance*

*95 referred for job assistance*

**Served 781 individuals since inception**

**301 have returned to jail or prison**

**38.5% recidivism**



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# *The Academy for Career Development*

Started April, 2020.

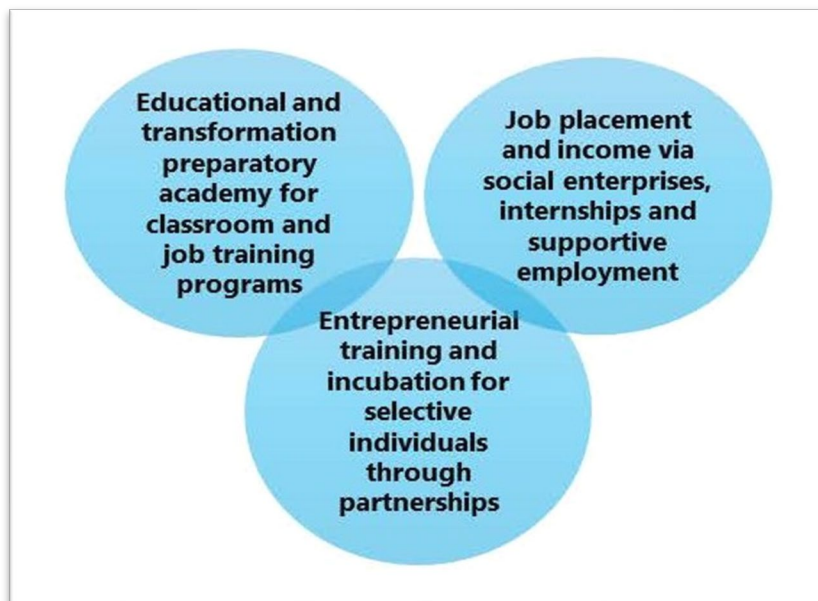
The core purposes are establishing a sense of status and esteem through enrollment, a sense of belonging and connection to others, experiencing acceptance through a group process and goal-setting as well as achievement. The entire process is rooted in cognitive behavioral techniques.

Job readiness curriculum that involves assessment, education, personal development, supportive employment, financial stability.

Done in a faith-based, supportive environment.

Classes to start inside Metro Jail and continued at The Neighbor Center.

Mentorship Opportunities Available.



*49 returning neighbors participated*  
*14 obtained permanent employment*

*3 interns graduated Ransom ReProgram*

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**Served 49 neighbors**

**2 returned to jail**

**4% recidivist rate**



## Reentry Seminars and Workshops



### 2021 Seminar Topic

*"Single women who have been incarcerated and the barriers they face as they return to the community."*



## Community Outreach

150 persons reached

## 2020 Goals Met

- ✓ We have hired a new director and case manager for the Academy for Career Development (ACD) with the funds provided by Mission and Ministry Impact.
- ✓ The agency received a three-year Department of Justice grant for \$897,260 from the Correctional Adult Reentry Education, Employment and Recidivism Reduction Strategies (CARREERS) Program which will solidify the ACD in the community for the next three years.
- ✓ Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of our goals were unattainable in 2020.
- ✓ We were able to house 24 families in spite of the pandemic.
- ✓ We continued to minister and assist Metro Jail inmates even during lockdown due to Covid-19 and added Circuit and District Court trials in the chapel.
- ✓ We were unable to host any seminars, workshops or galas this year but our staff did attend many Zoom conferences and discussions to help make a difference in the lives of our returning neighbors.

## 2021 Goals

- Host a seminar to discuss Single women who have been incarcerated and the barriers they face as they return to the community.
- Continue to work on our strategic plan to be the best for our returning citizens and our community.
- Continue to implement the Academy for Career Development by starting classes at The Neighbor Center and inside Metro Jail.

# Financials

*The MAIC Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers would like to thank all our Grantors, Donors and Partners who helped make this year such a success.*

Mobile Area Interfaith Conference					
2020 Profit & Loss, Unaudited					
	Academy	MCP	TNC	ADMIN	2020 TOTALS
<b>Revenue</b>					
Administration Fees	-8,432.54	-13,255.42	-22,283.90	43,971.86	0.00
Contracts	County 0.00	0.00	50,400.00	0.00	50,400.00
	Sheriff 0.00	62,600.00	0.00	0.00	62,600.00
Direct Assistance	0.00	5,000.00	18,263.00	0.00	23,263.00
Donations	Board 0.00	950.00	30,800.00	1,000.00	32,750.00
	Business/Industry 0.00	2,700.00	750.00	0.00	3,450.00
	Congregations 0.00	21,089.18	713.00	0.00	21,802.18
	General/Individual 0.00	4,460.00	1,879.00	0.00	6,339.00
Fundraising	Luncheon 0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
	Christmas Gala 0.00	1,168.05	1,168.05	0.00	2,336.10
	Network for Good - Facebook 0.00	435.00	560.00	0.00	995.00
Grants	Foundations 80,000.00	34,151.81	25,500.00	0.00	139,651.81
	Government - City 4,325.39	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	6,325.39
	Government - Federal 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Government - PPP & SBA 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Government - State 0.00	0.00	80,971.75	20,000.00	100,971.75
2020 Subtotal Revenue	75,892.85	119,298.62	191,120.90	64,971.86	451,284.23
2019 Carryover	-	12,818.00	31,726.00	2,329.00	46,873.00
PPP Loan	3,939.00	5,132.00	10,375.50	3,061.00	22,507.50
EIDL Loan	-	-	-	28,000.00	28,000.00
2020 Total Revenue	79,831.85	137,248.62	233,222.40	98,361.86	548,664.73
<b>Expense</b>					
Accounting/Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Bank and Finance Charges	0.00	4.70	117.86	20.22	142.78
Consultation	11,250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	11,750.00
Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	275.00	275.00
Direct Assistance	350.00	600.00	15,792.06	300.00	17,042.06
Dues and Subscriptions	271.30	605.16	3,735.74	2,150.24	6,762.44
ESG ADECA	Prevention 0.00	0.00	20,260.81	0.00	20,260.81
	Rapid Rehousing 0.00	0.00	45,364.98	0.00	45,364.98
Fundraising	Luncheon 0.00	94.51	94.52	0.00	189.03
	Christmas Gala 0.00	83.32	83.32	0.00	166.64
	Other 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hospitality	0.00	760.41	302.79	1,202.64	2,265.84
Insurance	Vehicle 1,085.58	0.00	733.50	0.00	1,819.08
	Directors & Officers 0.00	0.00	0.00	1,746.00	1,746.00
	Liability 0.00	0.00	400.00	65.00	465.00
	Worker Comp 0.00	0.00	0.00	1,164.00	1,164.00
Internet/Phone	2,005.28	3,045.01	4,081.37	288.36	9,420.02
IT/Data Management	1,720.21	1,768.75	2,365.50	37.50	5,891.96
Lease	6,750.00	0.00	11,250.00	0.00	18,000.00
Payroll	Contract 0.00	3,700.00	40,415.00	4,428.00	48,543.00
	Employees 42,232.53	74,300.00	48,809.98	41,220.00	206,562.51
	Taxes 3,230.79	5,683.95	3,795.41	4,161.56	16,871.71
	Other 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Postage	0.00	33.00	475.05	254.00	762.05
Supplies	Office 2,546.38	1,778.34	4,850.22	275.49	9,450.43
	Program-DEX 0.00	613.22	0.00	0.00	613.22
	Program - General 5,897.07	9,847.82	1,891.17	220.00	17,856.06
Transportation	Options 0.00	0.00	329.35	0.00	329.35
	Mileage 336.55	417.94	1,285.66	0.00	2,040.15
Utilities	1,458.92	0.00	2,705.57	0.00	4,164.49
2020 Total Expense	79,134.61	103,586.13	209,389.86	61,808.01	453,918.61
Net Income (unaudited)	697.24	33,662.49	23,832.54	36,553.85	94,746.12
	Academy	MCP	TNC	ADMIN	2020 TOTALS

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## Farewell to Sr. Meg



**Sr. Meg Kymes, D.C. came to The Neighbor Center in 2016. She not only was well prepared for her job as a case manager, but she was also very concerned about the neighbors. She went home to St Louis, MO in December 2020, to begin a new chapter in her life. We will miss her; however, we are happy for her desire to work in her hometown. One of her last duties was to write the below message for us.**

### **Courage to Change**

*One of my favorite quotes from St. Vincent DePaul, the founder of the Daughters of Charity, says, "The poor have much to teach us." In my three years here in Mobile, I have learned many different things from the returning neighbors I meet at The Neighbor Center. Our returning neighbors face many obstacles when they come to see us. Some challenges can be as simple as needing an ID or as complex as finding a place to live. The courage each neighbor has in order to let go of whatever led them to incarceration and start over never ceases to impress me.*

*Each neighbor has his/her own unique story to tell and an especially inspiring story to me was Jane Doe\*. Jane and her fiancée John came to The Neighbor Center in June. Both were in recovery from drug/alcohol abuse and were on probation and were excited to begin a new life together. Suddenly in July, John died in his sleep. Jane was distraught but knew she needed to keep moving forward. She took time to mourn but continued to stay on the track of staying sober, connected to good friends and rebuilding her life.*

*Scripture tells us, "Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing." (Psalm 126:5) After a month of searching Jane found her own apartment and connected with mental health and other resources to help her remain stable in her new home. Her courage and faith to continue moving forward in her life despite unimaginable grief moved me.*

*Jane's courage was truly a gift of the Holy Spirit. She was able to endure her loss and avoid being pulled back into the darkness of her addiction. I do not know if I would have her courage. Sudden loss and trauma would be enough to drive me into dark spots and depression. I praise God for the example of Jane and so many other returning neighbors that remind me of Scripture's promise, "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." (Psalm 30:5)*

*\*The story is real but the names have been changed for anonymity.*