

St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church Service Ministry Report 2020



*Prepared by A. Korologos , A. Sasich & K. Shand
December 2020*

Service Ministry Overview

"We are a worshipping community that wants to do good in the world." Fr. Anthony Savas

Being of service is a sacred duty in the lives of Orthodox Christians. Based on the premise that service is for everyone, the fundamental role of the Service Ministry is to foster a parish-wide culture of service to deepen spiritual growth and promote engagement in parish and community life. We practice our faith through service.

Key to our vision is to serve as a civic partner in the Sandy City area, and to eventually expand the use of our facility to encompass and serve both church and community needs.



Saint Anna, our Matron Saint, gave one-third of her livelihood to the poor

Proceeding developmentally, we will continue to coordinate with public, private and nonprofit entities to strategically and jointly address needs in alignment with our parish's mission and priorities.

Building on our parish tradition of dedicating volunteer hours and financial assistance to charitable organizations, the Service Ministry was established in 2019 as an infrastructure to address parish, community and humanitarian needs; the three goal areas of the Service Ministry. Working collaboratively with and through the parish ministries to originate and coordinate service efforts is the primary approach. This strategy has broadened the

circle of involvement, creating expanded and varied opportunities for parishioners to participate in purposeful and rewarding service.

Service is a core function of all St. Anna ministries, and a tangible and impactful way to practice our faith. From Youth to Forever Young, the ministries implement needs-based service projects and/or participate in parish-wide initiatives. The Service Ministry provides guidance, facilitation and support to the service process. To promote quality and consistency, we offer mechanisms for coordination, communication and assessment of all projects, evaluating the impact on those served as well as those who serve.

Although we've been physically separated due to COVID-19, our ministries have been actively and generously serving parish, community, and humanitarian needs both before and throughout the pandemic. Most service efforts have been virtual, although St. Anna hosted its first Annual Blood Drive with the American Red Cross in our Fellowship Hall last August. In addition, we have also reached out to Sandy City leaders and community organizations to coordinate local service efforts and establish a positive and collaborative presence in the community.

Faith in Action

2020 St. Anna Service Projects

Celebrating the generosity and love of our St. Anna Community to help those in need

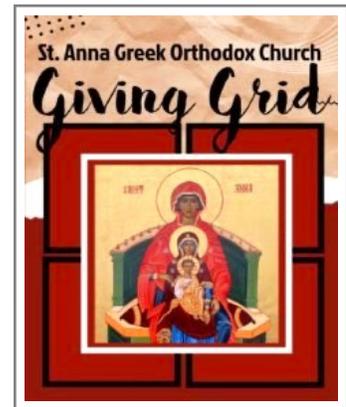
With the prayerful guidance of our clergy and ministry leaders, St. Anna provides purposeful acts of service to make a positive impact on those within and outside our direct purview. Listed below are the 2020 service projects by goal area.

Goal I: Provide programs and services responsive to parish and parishioner needs

"We need to serve each other in order to serve the community." Fr. Anthony Savas

Assisting and uplifting our precious parish community strengthens our individual and collective capacity to serve others.

- **Parish Outreach Program.** This vital communication network has helped keep our parishioners connected while physically apart. Five ministries and forty volunteers participated in the coordinated effort to periodically call every family to check-in, address needs/requests for assistance and provide church updates.
- **Building/Grounds Support.** As caring stewards of our sacred space, the Men's Ministry Team (MMT) has overseen the move, setup, and remodeling of our new church. The MMT also coordinates the landscaping, building and grounds maintenance, and COVID-19—compliant modifications.
- **Medical Advisory Ministry Team.** This group of medical professionals created and monitors safety protocols and social distancing measures in alignment with church, county and CDC's COVID-19 regulations. GOYA youth participated in the instructional video.
- **Gifts for College Students.** The Women's Ministry Team (WMT) sent personalized notes and gift cards to nineteen St. Anna parishioners attending college this fall.
- **St. Anna's Giving Grid.** Adapting to pandemic restrictions and the inability to hold our annual fundraising events, the Giving Grid was established as an alternative fundraising vehicle. Serving over 200 families, this virtual campaign raised monies to support the work of our church.



St. Anna's Giving Grid was a virtual fundraising campaign to support our church.

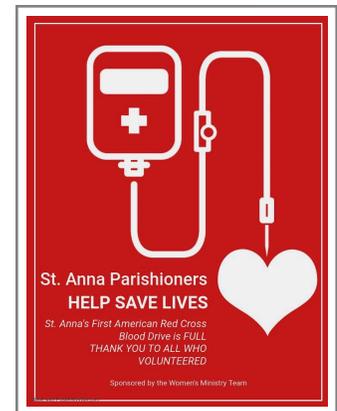
Goal 2: Provide/support programs addressing needs in the local and greater community in partnership with service organizations

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39

St. Anna collaborates with public, private and nonprofit service agencies to address community needs and leverage our collective efforts to maximize impact.

Community service efforts addressing food insecurity, clothing assistance, as well as health, safety and crisis issues

- Virtual Food Drive with the Utah Food Bank. Parishioners and friends donated a total of \$8107, equating to \$62,100 in goods and services or 31,348 meals for families facing hunger.
- "Fill the Fridge" Campaign. In response to the violent windstorm causing power outages leading to spoiled food, the WMT donated \$1,000 to the Food Bank.
- First Annual St. Anna Blood Drive with the American Red Cross. Parishioners and community members donated 25 pints of blood, which helped save up to 75 lives.
- Head Start Empowerment Fund with Utah Community Action. St. Anna is the founding sponsor - with initial contributions from the WMT and the Benevolence Fund - to serve Head Start families needing one-time financial assistance for an emergency, which if left unpaid could derail their progress toward self-sufficiency.
- St. Vincent de Paul Lunch Support. The WMT donated needed lunch food items to serve the homeless.
- Utah Foster Care - Support for Teens. The WMT donated fifty travel bags and totes for teens transitioning from foster care.
- Tennis & Tutoring - Support for Youth. The WMT provided funding and snacks to support this youth empowerment program for low-income students.



St. Anna's 1st Annual Blood Drive helped save up to 75 lives.

Services provided for children and families in the Sandy City and greater community

- Operation School Bell with Assistance League. Parishioners assembled individual bags with new winter coats, jeans, shirts, underwear, and hygiene items for 60 children in need at Sandy Elementary, a Title I school.
- Annual Sub-for-Santa Project with Head Start and Sandy Senior Center. St. Anna's annual Sub-for-Santa project served 60 Head Start children and their siblings,

along with 20 seniors, in the Sandy City community. Through the generosity of our parish, surplus contributions are being donated to food pantries and food banks.

- **New: Drop-Off Site with Utah Community Action.** St. Anna will become a drop-off site for donations of non-perishable food and hygiene items to support the Copperview Food Pantry, which serves families of Head Start and other low-income families in 18 zip codes throughout the valley.

Monetary donations made by the WMT to charitable organizations serving homeless, low-income and at-risk populations

- **Annual Donations to Service Agencies.** This year the WMT provided financial assistance to: The Midvale Road Home, The Inn Between, Fisher House, Volunteers of America, Family Promise, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, Utah Community Action, Tennis & Tutoring, Project Mexico, and U-SA Cares.

Goal 3: Provide needs-based support to humanitarian, pan-Orthodox and interfaith initiatives

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..." Mark 10:45

St. Anna supports and actively participates in humanitarian, pan-Orthodox and interfaith initiatives serving at-risk populations in the United States and internationally.

- **Project Mexico/St. Innocent Orphanage Support**
 - St. Anna participates bi-annually in Project Mexico's home building project and fundraisers.
 - The WMT and the Benevolence Fund provided donations for food, a freezer and car repairs for St. Innocent Orphanage.
- **U-SA Cares Support.** The WMT provides donations, soft goods and household items to address needs of destitute children and families in South Africa.
- **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) Newsletters.** OCPM provides support for prisoners and their families. St. Anna prints and mails 25 newsletters weekly to inmates across the country.
- **Family Promise Support.** The WMT provides donations for meals, haircuts and school supplies for this interfaith program, sponsored by the Lutheran Church, for families in crisis.

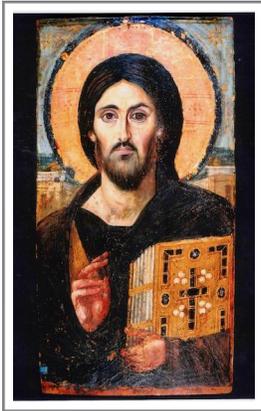


"The Theotokos and her mother Saint Anna are truly taking care of us through the people of Saint Anna's!" - Presbytera M. Andruchow, St. Innocent Orphanage of

Moving Forward

*Inspire * Inform * Engage*

The Service Ministry will continue to work with ministry leaders to inspire, inform and engage parishioners in meaningful and rewarding service experiences. We will coordinate efforts to identify best practices and jointly define more unified and comprehensive approaches to address parishioner, community and humanitarian needs.



"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..." Mark 10:45

Furthermore, we intend that the use of our facility will be extended beyond church hours — in partnership with community agencies — to encompass and serve both Church and community needs. Examples include offering space for community meetings, trainings, mobile health screenings, and serving as a satellite site for needs-based programs. We will continue to collaborate with Sandy City and service organizations to strategically address community needs and leverage our collective efforts to maximize impacts. With Father Anthony's guidance, we will proceed developmentally by engaging parish leaders and community partners throughout the process, and aligning joint efforts with our parish's mission and priorities.