

Second Annual 2023-24 Impact Report



Stories of Impact

Healing is not linear and Journey to Bethany's growth is purposeful, keeping the needs of survivors and their closest supporters at the forefront. The best assessment of our impact is through individual stories. We are grateful to the community members who volunteered to share their stories with you and those who responded to our community survey.



Dr. Mike Kirse
Survivor Gathering Participant
Survivor Advisory Committee Member

My name is Dr Mike Kirse. I'm a 60-year-old man who is still recovering from the emotional and spiritual damage done to me in my middle teenage years from sexual abuse by two priests. I am, and have always considered myself, a victim. That changed a little over a year ago when I started attending a support group called Journey to Bethany. Because of them I now look at myself as a survivor which has a much more positive connotation to me than victim.

This is one small step closer to finding healing, which I have struggled to find since the sexual abuse happened to me. In my experience Journey to Bethany has been a source of group therapy which has aided me in the healing process through sharing my story, my sufferings, and my thoughts. I feel comfortable sharing them with other people with similar life experiences. The healing process is a journey, and it may well be a journey that I am on until the day I die. I'm thankful Journey to Bethany found me and that I was open to giving it a try.

Things I like about Journey to Bethany - number one is the support group that welcomes to its monthly meetings all survivors, family members of the survivor, and other people who support the survivor. Secondly, as a group we were invited to help set up rules and create boundaries for our meetings to create a safe environment so that everyone can participate as they feel ready to do so. Thirdly meetings are led by people who have experience in matters of sexual abuse. And fourth, it's an ongoing means to help heal our brokenness.

These are just a few of the many things that I like about and continue to benefit from through Journey to Bethany. If you would like to speak to me more about Journey to Bethany, then you can get my phone number from Jennifer Prusa or Whitney True-Francis. I will be more than happy to help meet your needs in any way I can. Thank you.

**Watch Mike's Video at
journeytobethany.org/impact.**

Community Survey

A recent survey of Journey to Bethany community members* helped us further understand the impact that Journey to Bethany is having by answering the question, **“Why is Journey to Bethany important to our diocese?”**

“Journey to Bethany is a way to find hope.”

“It means that there are people in the church who take seriously the harm done by clergy sexual abuse ...to the victims/survivors and their families, and ... to the Church community.”

“It can help to educate all those within the diocese about the issue of clergy sexual abuse.”

“...[Survivors can] share their thoughts and needs in a confidential, safe, and supportive environment ... a Catholic environment in which they will feel loved.”

“...with everything that has become public in the last 20+ years...the Church lost our moral authority. By taking this pastoral approach I think we are returning to the Church Jesus wants us to be.”

“A bridge to hopeful restoration and an extension of Christ and His Church.”

**Community members include all those who have shown interest in participating with Journey to Bethany as a survivor, family of a survivor, volunteer, or interested person.*

Impact Report



Highlights of the Past Year

Actions of Healing and Justice

- Established a plan to become a BeFriender site and increase our capacity for one-on-one survivor accompaniment.
- Piloted online survivor group and revised the structure for in-person survivor gatherings.

Community Building

- Increased community members to 225.
- Trained 60 individuals in trauma-informed response at workshops.
- Collaborated with the Mental Health Ministry committee in parishes to present our workshops.
- Established regular communication plan with referral groups including: mental health care providers, deacons and pastors and Protecting God’s Children facilitators.
- Developed an ordering system for Journey to Bethany materials for parishes and offices.
- Established a monthly email newsletter.

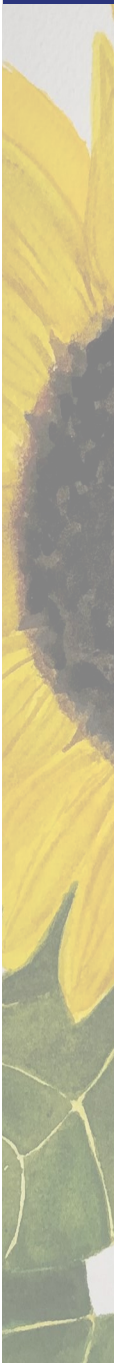
Fundraising

- Held our first fundraising small-group gathering.
- Developed a grant application template and applied to 5 foundations to date.
- Piloted an email donor campaign.
- Received support from community members for 25% of the 2023-24 operating budget.

Building the Organization

- Established Journey to Bethany as a tax-exempt corporation.
- Acquired related insurance and organizational requirements.
- Listed in the Official Catholic Directory.

More Stories of Impact



“...Journey to Bethany team members and the workshops have provided me with an understanding of trauma and tools for walking with individuals who disclose trauma which has effected or continues to affect their lives. As a survivor of child sexual abuse, not by member of the clergy but by an individual trusted and welcomed into our family...working with the Journey to Bethany team has helped in dealing with my personal trauma and healing, even though the events occurred many years ago...”

**Journey to Bethany
Volunteer & Training Participant**

“...When I was ordained a priest almost 33 years ago, I did not know how much of my ministry would involve serving survivors of sexual abuse, including clergy sexual abuse, on so many different levels...Journey to Bethany serves a resource to help bring healing into the lives of survivors...”

**Father Joseph Cisetti
Board Member & Pastor**

“...For me, key to the mission of Journey to Bethany is the notion of the Body of Christ i.e. we are all part of the Body of Christ, and when one is hurt or suffering from clergy sexual abuse, all members of the Body of Christ are hurt and suffer. Journey to Bethany has worked to invite members of the Body of Christ to use their unique talents to assist abuse survivors and accompany them on their journeys. ...”

**Dave Malanowski
Board Vice-Chairperson**

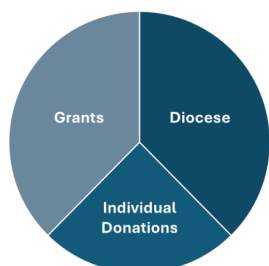
Read their full stories at journeytobethany.org/impact.

Financial Update

Our fiscal year begins on July 1. This update reflects the 2023-24 fiscal year as of March 31, 2024 (3 quarters).

Income Sources

- 38% - Diocesan Support
- 25% - Individual Donations
- 38% - Grants



Total Income

Goal: \$53,000
\$39,800 received



Expense Categories

- Community Building 27%
- Direct Survivor Support 27%
- Trauma Workshop 19%
- Administrative 19%
- Business Services 7%

Board of Directors

Christina Dunn Carpenter, PhD (Chairperson) | Vince Cascone | Father Joseph Cisetti | Dave Malanowski | Paula Moss | Craig Watz

Executive Director | Jennifer Prusa

Survivor Community Manager | Whitney True-Francis

Founding Steering Committee

Jim Caccamo, Ph.D. | Father Joseph Cisetti | Maura Nulton | Carnie Nulton, MD | Gina Staves, Ph.D.

816-683-8999

www.journeytobethany.org