



# 2018 Annual Report



## Executive Director's Corner

By Joan Carey

*What a year it has been! The blessing of Firstfruits' new "home" has opened up a world of programming possibilities. With our new space we are able to provide on-going, in-depth workshops in addition to one-time events. We can serve both large and small groups, and provide private "break out" rooms for confidential conversation, spiritual direction, and quiet reflection. We now offer programs that serve couples, parents, and families. In addition, with a centralized location, we are finding that we have more consistency of participation. New relationships among participants are being built and deepened, and women are encouraging each other in their journey of faith. I can't wait to see what God has in store for this year!*

## FIRSTFRUITS DEVELOPED CORE PROGRAMMING IN 2018

*In total, Firstfruits provided 127 events in 2018, with 699 participants. We are thrilled to have had such high attendance during the first year in our new space!*

Some examples of our offerings include:

- *Called and Gifted Workshop* - God is calling each of us to a unique purpose in life, a work of love that only you can do. He has gifted you with charisms or spiritual gifts to carry out that work. Discover your charisms with this six-week series, offered once or twice per year.
- *Clutter Busters* - A monthly event for women to collect ideas to take action in clearing their path (physical, mental/emotional, and spiritual) and clarifying their vision for the spaces and places they call home.
- *Spiritual Scholars* - Challenging ourselves intellectually is just as important for our personal growth and self-care as anything we do physically. This interactive book club is offered on a quarterly basis.
- *Love and Logic for Couples* - A program offered semi-annually to provide inspiration and suggestions to help strengthen the parent/child relationship and keep the joy in parenting.
- *Couple's Events* - The focus of these programs is on faith-based readings and materials to help couples understand and appreciate their spouses or the significant others in their lives. Events hosted semi-annually.
- *Power Beads* - Praying the rosary as a group as we walk through Legion Park in Elm Grove. Come for prayer and nature, stay for fellowship after. Offered weekly, Fall and Spring.
- *Mini-Retreats* - Opportunities are offered to attend up to three break-out sessions - evening, morning and/or afternoon. Flexible registration allows for women to come for one or all three sessions, as available. Mini-Retreats are offered quarterly.
- *Weekly Word* - A weekly gathering where we read and reflect on the Sunday readings prior to Mass, to help understand and more prayerfully experience the liturgy.

*Find more information on all of our current and upcoming events online.*

[www.firstfruits.info](http://www.firstfruits.info)

### **Who Does Firstfruits Serve?**

Firstfruits welcomes and encourages women of all ages and faiths to attend. We are Catholic in tradition and ecumenical in outreach.

### **Firstfruits' Mission**

Our mission is to assist women in their spiritual growth by deepening their personal relationship with God and by helping them awaken to their giftedness and purpose - all done in community with other women.

### **Board of Directors**

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### **FIRSTFRUITS**

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Firstfruits

# First Anniversary FUNraiser!

Celebrating Our First Year in Our New Space

On a cool October evening, Firstfruits members, friends and spouses gathered to celebrate the one-year anniversary of our new permanent space in Elm Grove. Over 70 guests joined us for the **Firstfruits First Anniversary FUNraiser!** — an evening filled with live music, fellowship and plenty of fun. Entertainment was provided by local band “No Expectations,” including a performance of Joan’s special request, *Mustang Sally!* Along with food, drink and merriment, a multitude of generous donors made it possible to hold an impressive raffle and wine pull among the fundraising opportunities. The night ended with a full dance floor and over \$3,000 in donations. A sincere thank you goes out to all who helped make this event a warm and wonderful celebration!

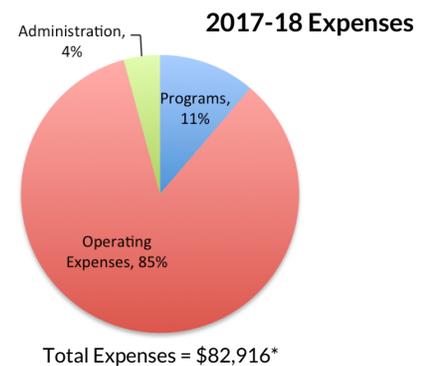
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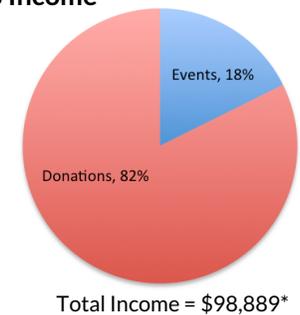
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## 2017-18 FINANCIAL INFORMATION



## 2017-18 Income



\* Includes \$50,775 In-Kind donation of labor for remodeling of space, and corresponding labor expense of \$50,775.



*A very warm, inviting place where I was able to search for answers internally and was not judged by others.*

*The nature of the topics is unlike any offered at my parish.*



*I rarely have time to spend looking at myself and my faith. Firstfruits allows me to do that, in addition to interacting with other women.*

*I loved the fellowship...*



Firstfruits is an independent, 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization which is sustained by support from participants, parishes, organizations and many, many volunteers. Thank you to those who have so generously shared your gifts. Firstfruits would not be possible without your help!