



ST. LUKE IN THE FIELDS  
**OUTREACH**

# OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT 2023







The Outreach programs of St. Luke's are the social service branch of the Church and is comprised of The GO Project at St. Luke's, our Art & Acceptance drop-in program for LGBTQ+ youth/young adults and our Community Closet. These programs are all non-sectarian and offered free of charge.

In 2022, we had an eventful year in Outreach as we resumed and grew our Art & Acceptance drop-in program after the Covid-related lockdown and have witnessed a surge in visitors to our Community Closet, mostly from recently arrived immigrants. After two years of virtual programming, we also welcomed the kids from the GO Project back to the block.





# THE GO PROJECT AT ST. LUKE'S

## What is the GO Project at St. Luke's?

For over 30 years, the Church of St. Luke's in the Field has partnered with the nonprofit, the GO Project to help New York City public school students thrive in the earliest stages of their education through year-round academic, social-emotional and family support.

***St. Luke's contributes a 1/4 of the operating budget for the GO Project at St. Luke's and hosts the program, rent-free.***

## Who attends the GO Project?

After two years of virtual programming, we've been steadily building back our in-person attendance and this summer we expect at least 75 students to join us for live instruction at St. Luke's.

- GO works closely with 40 NYC public schools to identify the kids that need the most help
- Many of the students who attend GO at St. Luke's attend PS 3 Charrette School, PS 1, PS 20, PS 130, & PS 134
- Designed to have a lasting impact on a child's life, kids are enrolled in k-3rd grade and can continue through 8th grade
- 100% of all GO students are 1-2 years behind in reading and/or math
- 45% have a special education classification, 20% are English language learners and 40% live in single parent households
- The average household income of families served is \$32K

- GO uses the Sanford Harmony curriculum where social emotional learning is just as important as academic learning
- Family Support and advocacy is a key part of their support structure and is embedded throughout their program model
- GO Families receive guidance on navigating the challenging NYC public high school & middle school choice process – a crucial piece of the puzzle for closing the opportunity gap



## What are the outcomes in 2022?

- A third of all K-8 students demonstrated significant growth in math
- 60% of K-2 students moved one or more levels closer to the proficiency bar in reading
- Students beat the summer learning slide in July-August 2022, but 53% grew one month or more in both reading and math
- GO expanded its ELA support, developing a Tier 2 literacy program for students in grades K-5 who have the most room to grow toward proficiency, with 85% of students outpacing expected grade level growth

**Here's a glimpse of the GO Project in action:**  
[Growing with GO in 2022](#)



### **COME AND SEE: VOLUNTEER FOR GO PROJECT AT ST. LUKE'S!**

We need your time, talent and enthusiasm to support enrichment activities including reading to kids, sports, games, and other fun that contribute to the social-emotional growth of our young learners!

To sign up to volunteer for A Day of Service on Saturday, April 22 10am-12pm, please email: [hsohn@stlukeinthefields.org](mailto:hsohn@stlukeinthefields.org)

Space is limited for up to 12 volunteers. You must be high school age or older.



# ART & ACCEPTANCE AND COMMUNITY CLOSET



*In 2022, St. Luke's served 7,400 meals and distributed 3,300 hygiene kits at our Art & Acceptance and Community Closet programs.*

**Art & Acceptance at St. Luke's**, our weekly evening drop-in program from 4-7pm every Saturday (entrance at 653 Greenwich St. in the West Village), features a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults, aged 18-29 years old.

Our mission is to offer a safe, hospitable, nonsectarian safe space operating through a harm-reduction lens. The program includes a nutritious home-cooked dinner, dessert, space for arts, writing and dance, access to our Community Closet, personal care and hygiene supplies, new socks and underwear, a metro card, health and legal services provided by visiting partnering organizations, a lending library and crisis support. But most importantly, we offer community.

In 2022 we increased Saturday drop-in hours for our guests who have longer commutes. Slowly over the last two years, we have managed to build back our attendance from before the pandemic-related lockdown. Lately, on a typical Saturday evening at Art & Acceptance, the sense of community is palpable and often feels quite festive!

We also ended 2022 full of activity. On December 17th, St. Luke's hosted a full "Day of Services" on behalf of the Ally Coalition who support a network of community-based non-profits around the country dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ youth. We're proud to have been able to host the event and partner with them. Over 100 LGBTQ+ youth and young adults including our Art & Acceptance regulars grabbed a hot meal, received haircuts, "shopped" at the "pop-up shop" which was full of brand-new swag, t-shirts,





socks, coats, footwear, backpacks, and winter coats, hats and gloves.

LGBTQ+ advocacy and healthcare nonprofits, like The Gay Center, The Door, New Alternatives, Columbia University, College of Dentistry, New York-Presbyterian and many more did outreach and provided additional services including free haircuts, flu shots, HIV/STD testing and dental services. Even our New York City Council member Erik Bottcher stopped by and sat down with several non-profit leaders. We're keeping in touch with these wonderful organizations advocating and providing services to LGBTQ+ youth.

After the event, The Ally Coalition donated over 25 large boxes of brand-new backpacks, t-shirts, socks, underwear, sweatshirts, winter coats, hats and gloves to St. Luke's Community Closet, just in time for the cold spell and the surge in visits to Art & Acceptance and our Community Closet.



## ***Our In Our Fields Ministry has been absorbed into St. Luke's Community Closet***

Every Saturday we open our Community Closet in Laughlin Hall to the public from 3-4pm and from 4-7pm, to our guests from Art & Acceptance. In the summer of 2022 during the heat wave, we realized that we were better able to meet the needs of those needing assistance in the clean, well-stocked, temperature-controlled environment of Community Closet in Laughlin Hall. Here we have ready access to all of our supplies including food, cold bottled water, clothing and personal care items. We soon realized we were able to offer more consistency by directing our neighbors to Laughlin Hall at the same time, every Saturday. Since then, the number of Community Closet visitors has surged as folks grapple with the dramatic increase in the cost of food and shelter in NYC and newly arrived asylum seekers adjust to life in NYC.



# What do we provide at Community Closet?

We distribute gently used seasonal clothing including winter gear, hats, coats, scarves and gloves when it's cold out. Our guests receive a couple pairs of brand-new socks and underwear to get through the week. They also stock up on personal care products and toiletries including bath wipes, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, deodorant, disposable razors, soap and first aid items.

The most in-demand items? Fresh socks and underwear.

## ***If you're spring cleaning...***

Please feel free to drop off seasonal, gently used clothing donations at the Parish House office, 487 Hudson St., Mon-Fri 9-5pm or the St. Luke's Thrift Shop, Wed-Sat 11-5pm.



***Our Outreach efforts are sustained by crucial grant funding from friends near and far and we're thankful for the support of the larger St. Luke's Church and school community.***

Oluwatobi "Tobi" Mojeed-Balogun and now, Kevin VanHook from Episcopal Charities of New York have provided crucial grant funding but they have also provided networking opportunities, guidance and a sense of community during their monthly zoom calls. We wanted to wish Patrick Bergquist the best of luck as he begins his next chapter. Brian O'Donnell of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS has been a long-time, crucial supporter of A+A which has allowed us to focus on enhancing and improving our services.

We wanted to thank NYC-based St. James' Church for their generous grant, The Fitzgerald Family on behalf of Clark Fitzgerald and the continued support of The Bonnie Cashin Fund of New York Community Trust. We've had a steady stream of donated, gently used clothing, brand new socks, underwear, first-aid and personal care items (Hanes underwear, Bombas socks, period products from I Support the Girls, winter hat, gloves and scarves from Knit the Rainbow, Vans sneakers, shipments of hygiene kits from





New York Cares') and boxes upon boxes of donated personal care products from the Camp Friendship Food Pantry in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Another anonymous donor shipped us 17 boxes of hygiene kits for our Community Closet!

At Art & Acceptance, we have rotating visits from partner organizations like Housing Works and COMPASS, in addition to our volunteer attorneys from LeGal, the LGBT bar association, our long-time, dedicated partners. We have also listed our programs with Help NYC and the Coalition for the Homeless who have listed our A&A drop-in program in their resource guides.

We've received wonderful support from the St. Luke's Community including financial contributions, deliveries from our online wish list and our parishioners who have volunteered their time and talent! We've also had a steady stream of dedicated volunteers from Loyola School. A couple of their students initiated a coat drive in the middle of major cold spell, when they noticed our Community Closet was depleted of any winter gear.

The Humble Ox, the community service offshoot of St. Luke's School's Parents Association, has been bringing us a variety of desserts every Saturday, which has added a personal touch to our meal service. Last Spring, the St. Luke's School community also purchased the supplies and assembled hundreds of hygiene kits that had our Community Closet well-stocked for months. This Spring, Outreach is partnering with St. Luke's School in a service learning project to introduce our 3rd graders to the Outreach work that we're doing.



# What has 2023 looked like so far?

As we kick off 2023, Jill Twohig, our dedicated Outreach Manager of four years has decided to focus on her private therapy practice but still manages to volunteer frequently at Art & Acceptance. Starting February 2023, Episcopal Seminarian Silas Koutour joined us as our new Outreach Manager after experiencing the program as a volunteer, Silas has hit the ground running responding to and providing support for the surge in visits by recent immigrants. When we were running through our gently used clothing and personal care supplies, we reached out to St. Luke's School and nearby public schools PS 3 and MS 297 who put the call out to their school communities on our behalf. The response was immediate as folks started dropping off bags of clothing that same week and we're so grateful!

## **COME AND SEE! VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND TALENT.**

Consider volunteering your time and talent on Saturdays at Community Closet (high school age and older) and Art & Acceptance (21 and older).

You can sign up to volunteer here:

<https://episcopalcharities.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/stluke>

### **If you're able, please consider making a donation:**

You can make a financial donation here:

<https://saintlukesnyc.org/donate>

(remember to choose "Outreach" in the drop-down menu).

You can also order supplies from our online wish list:

[https://saintlukesnyc.org/outreach\\_wishlist](https://saintlukesnyc.org/outreach_wishlist)

We accept gently used clothing donations, non-perishable pantry/canned food items and personal care supplies which can be dropped off at St. Luke's Parish House office, 487 Hudson St., Mon-Fri 9-5pm.







Thank you!

**Reverend Bo Reynolds**  
*Senior Associate*  
The Church of St. Luke in  
the Fields

**Silas Kontour**  
*Outreach Manager*  
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**Hannah Sohn**  
*Development Manager*  
The Church of St. Luke in  
the Fields









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## KEEP UPDATED ON THE WORK WE'RE DOING!

We are regularly posting on social media. Please “follow us” to keep updated and help spread the word about work we’re doing:

Instagram: [artandacceptance](#)

Facebook: [artandacceptance](#)

Last summer, during the week of Pride 2022, we were featured on [NY1](#)

There is a full-length, award-winning feature film, '[Saturday Church](#)', based on Art & Acceptance.

