



Restoring Joy Ministries

Annual Report 2016

Restoring Joy Ministries, International
restoringjoy.org

Executive Summary



“Now then, stand still and see this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes!” The book of Samuel certainly puts perspective to our role in God’s great works! This has been a very interesting year. Just when impossible situations loomed like foreboding shadows, suddenly there arose God’s great and marvelous miracles. We experienced miracles in custody situations, court rulings, finances, staffing, and spiritual growth. Truly---When we had done all we could do we would just stand trusting God and God did great things before our eyes!

After the completion of eight years in ministry, I think it is valuable to give God glory for some tangible facts. RJMI has served more than 800 women and children to date. We have given a home to more than 500 women and children. Our residents have entered into 22 different professional positions ranging from Autobody and Mechanics to accounting. We also have a standing record of reuniting more than 99% of families temporarily separated from their through Child Protective Services.

We worked in conjunction with churches, ministries and community organizations reaching from Southeast Texas to Northeast Texas. We have been blessed and partnered with many churches, denominational and nondenominational.

We continued to serve women and children in the greater East Texas community and beyond. We served 34 families in our Residential Program and a total of 109 women and children. More than 50% of those children lived with us full time and the rest resided with us part time. That’s 34 families that God is reuniting for the glory of His kingdom!

The heart for quality restoration in all aspects of life continued. Out of 34 female residents, 11% came to know Jesus Christ as their personal savior for the first time and 12% rededicated their lives to Jesus Christ. We had over 20 baptisms! In fact, in total, more than 98% of our residents professed belief in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Academic education also grew in strength this year. RJMI enrolled 34 residents in GED preparation, professional certificate programs and college. We collaborated with Kilgore College, Texas Workforce Commission, ETCADA (East Texas Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse), PATH (People Attempting to Help), Huston Counseling Services, Celebrate Recovery, and online programs and community volunteers to help residents achieve their academic goals.

Our relationship with the Department of Family and Protective Services continued to strengthen this year. We worked with 20 mothers involved in CPS cases in eight counties and 10 of those 20 cases closed with the reunification of mothers and children. That's TEN completely REUNITED families! Although we continued into 2017 with 5 open CPS cases, this is an ongoing process for many of our residents.

God continued to bless us with amazing surprises! From new vans, to 800 pounds of frozen chicken, to remodeled apartments, we felt the hand of God everywhere. We've been known to pass out 100 heads of cabbage and hundreds of loaves of bread over the whole community just sharing our blessings!

RJMI continued to give back to the community this year serving other organizations such as the Gladewater Roundup, The Longview Dream Center, the Gladewater Ministerial Alliance, and the Manna House. We always encourage our residents to give and serve the community around them as a direct reflection of Christ's actions. Not only did we serve with these organizations, but they always found a way to serve us back! We were even served by The Works in Gilmer, TX, numerous missions teams from all over East Texas, and New Creation Foundation in Troup, TX. We have been blessed beyond measure!

We are looking forward to 2017. God has blessed so abundantly in the last year. We have worked diligently to be good stewards of those blessings. We want to make 2017 the best year yet!

Currently Restoring Joy Ministries, International is led by Dr. Charli Caraway. Dr. Caraway is a former educator, school administrator and college professor. She is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University and lives with her husband, and ministry co-founder, Rodney Caraway in Gladewater, Texas.

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Contents	3
RJMI Residential Program	5
Financial Report	10



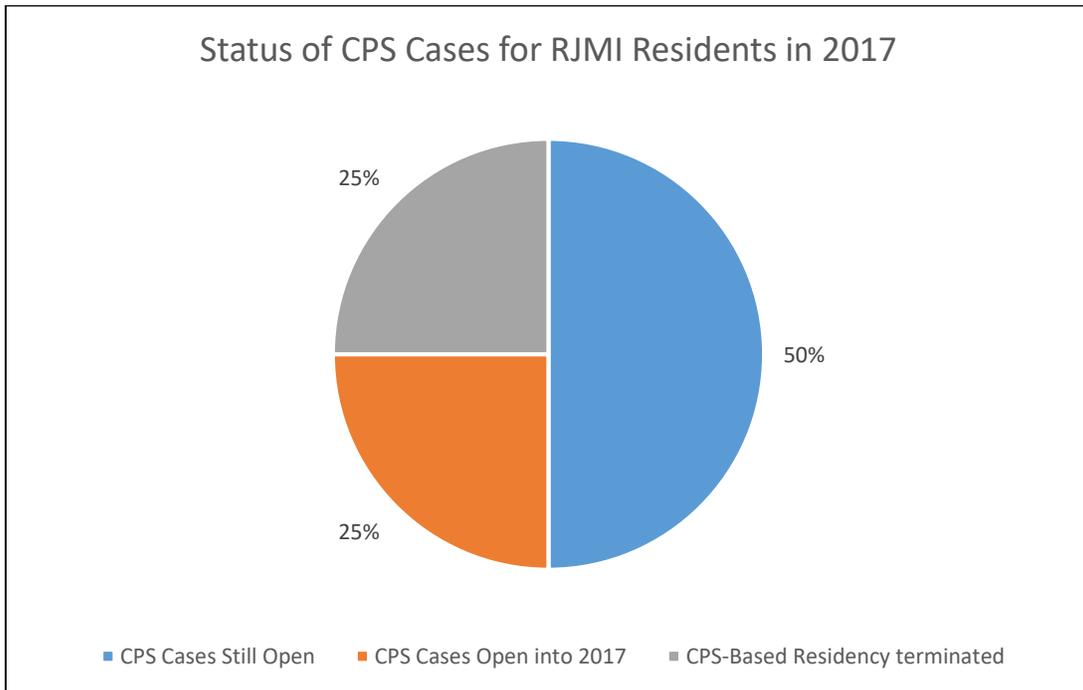
RJMI Residential Program

In 2016, the RJMI residential program served 109 women and children! There were 34 total women to whom we gave residency. We had 75 children total, of which 50 lived with us full time. The other children resided with us in various part-time circumstances. Those children who lived with us “part time” are part of circumstances where custodial rights belong to, or are shared with, another parent, family member or custodial rights are temporarily placed with the state of Texas.

The ministry held two graduations last year for seven women. Those women completed GEDs and professional training, then entered into the fields of Respiratory Therapy, Radio Communication Sales, Nursing Assistant, Human Resources and Restaurant Management. Two of the graduates are due to graduate this year with an Associate’s degree in Psychology and an Associates in Radiology.

We had several residents who received their training or began their training and chose to leave the ministry before achieving graduation. RJMI had 12 residents enter GED courses and 6 completed the GED program. Four residents are still currently enrolled in the GED program. We had 5 residents complete professional training as Nursing Assistants.

This year, RJMI continued to work closely with the Department of Family and Protective Services. In fact, RJMI advocated for residents in 20 CPS cases in 10 counties including Gregg, Upshur, Wood, Rusk, Harrison, Camp, Anderson and Van Zandt, Panola, and Smith counties. Over the last five years, and most especially evident in 2016, was the evidence of closed cases with CPS. In fact, 50% of all cases were closed and 25% of cases continued on into 2017. There were five instances, 25% of the cases, where residents did not complete the RJMI program. All residents who remained in the RJMI program and completed or are still enrolled in the RJMI program, had 100% of their CPS cases closed which resulted in reunification between mothers and children. Look at what God is doing!!



RJMI continues to offer a high quality program where we focus on quality, not quantity. We keep a waiting list of 15-20 applications and turn applicants away daily. One of our greatest challenges remains to increase our graduation percentage. Although the percentage of success is climbing, women in the program are struggling to remain with the program long enough to graduate. They achieve educational goals, but rush the transition process between program completion and re-entry into society as independent, self-sufficient persons. We have assessed this weakness and are implementing measures in 2016 to increase this percentage. It is also valuable to note that the achievement level required to graduate is unprecedented by any other non-profit residential program in our area. In fact, we've yet to find another residential program with our expectations for graduation and the quality of graduate we produce in Texas or Louisiana.

Graduation requirements from RJMI Residential Program include

- Resident will be grounded in the Word of God with evidence of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Resident will prove the ability to live independently with evidence of skills in self-discipline and self-motivation within the areas of 1) personal care and grooming 2) parenting if applicable and 3) care and responsibility towards their living environment
- Resident will advance academically in respect to their own personal goals and show evidence of the attainment of professional skills

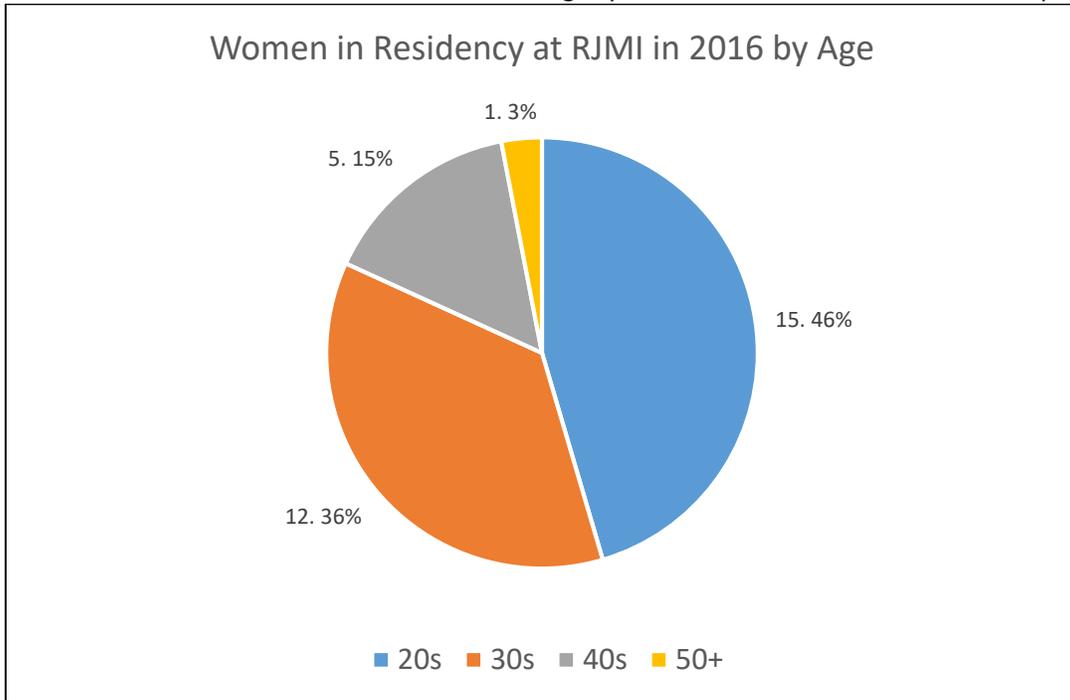
Qualities about our program that are sometimes “hidden” within the graduation requirements are the attainment of all personal documents like birth certificates for a mother and all her children, copies of pertinent legal documents, and driver’s licenses. The driver’s license is often the most difficult because to attain the driver’s license, many residents must make restitution with state and local departments for past violations. This is a time-consuming and challenging process. Another “hidden” quality is the attainment of a personal vehicle. This, too, takes time and dedication. RJMI also requires residents, as part of case management, to make restitution with any other organizations or business to which they owe money in order to assist with their credit rating and their ability to rent or own property later.

The following data is demographic. RJMI shows no bias to race, color, or ethnicity. We welcome hurting people of all kinds—for pain is not specific to socio-economic culture, color, religion, or denomination.

We track demographics for the purpose of reflection on our inner community and how we are reflecting the community at large. We strive to be a multi-cultural environment, thus we look closely at our demographics to study our effects on all cultural communities.

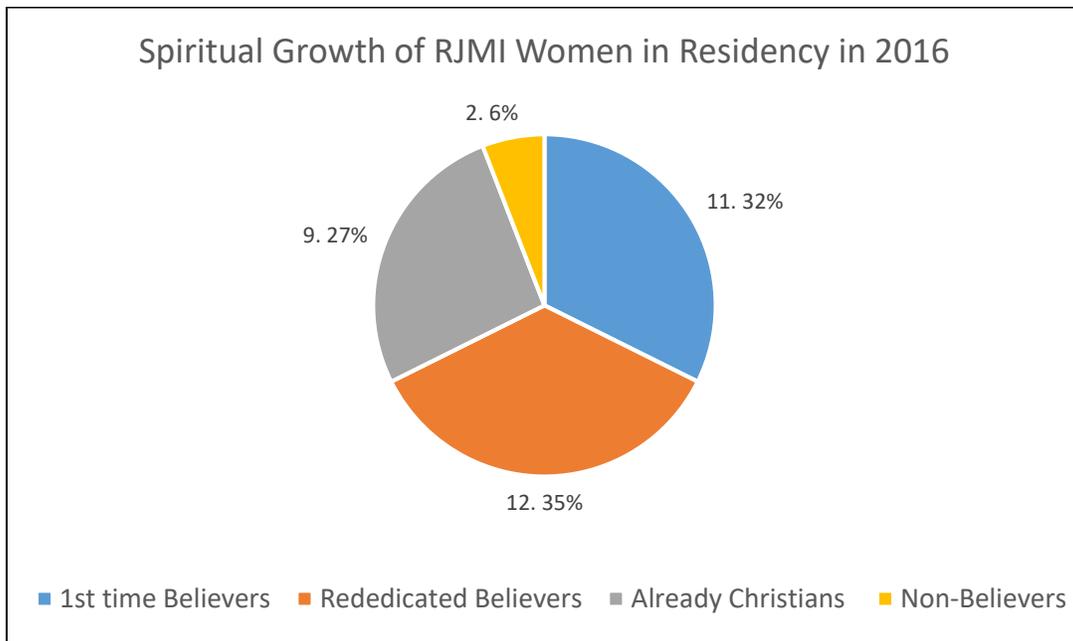
2016 showed a stronger cross section of twenty and thirty year-old residents. In fact, 98% of our residents aged between 20 and 39 years of age. Our data shows that residents in this age bracket tend to be more successful in our program.

The demographic breakdown of women residents is as follows:



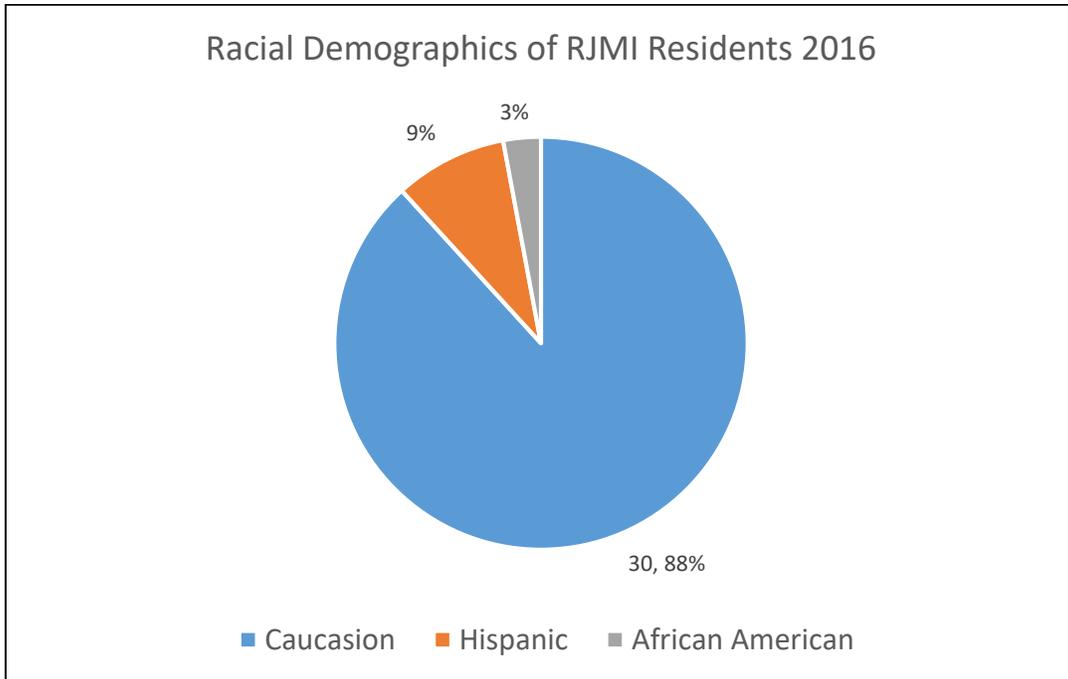
We feel that it is also very valuable to measure spiritual growth at RJMI. At the core of everything we do, the amount of spiritual growth we see in women dictates the success of every other element in our program. Sadly, in 2016, we encountered one woman who would not choose Christ. She was respectful of our choice to love and serve Him, but would never apply this truth to her personal life. We still pray for her.

The demographic breakdown of spiritual growth is as follows:



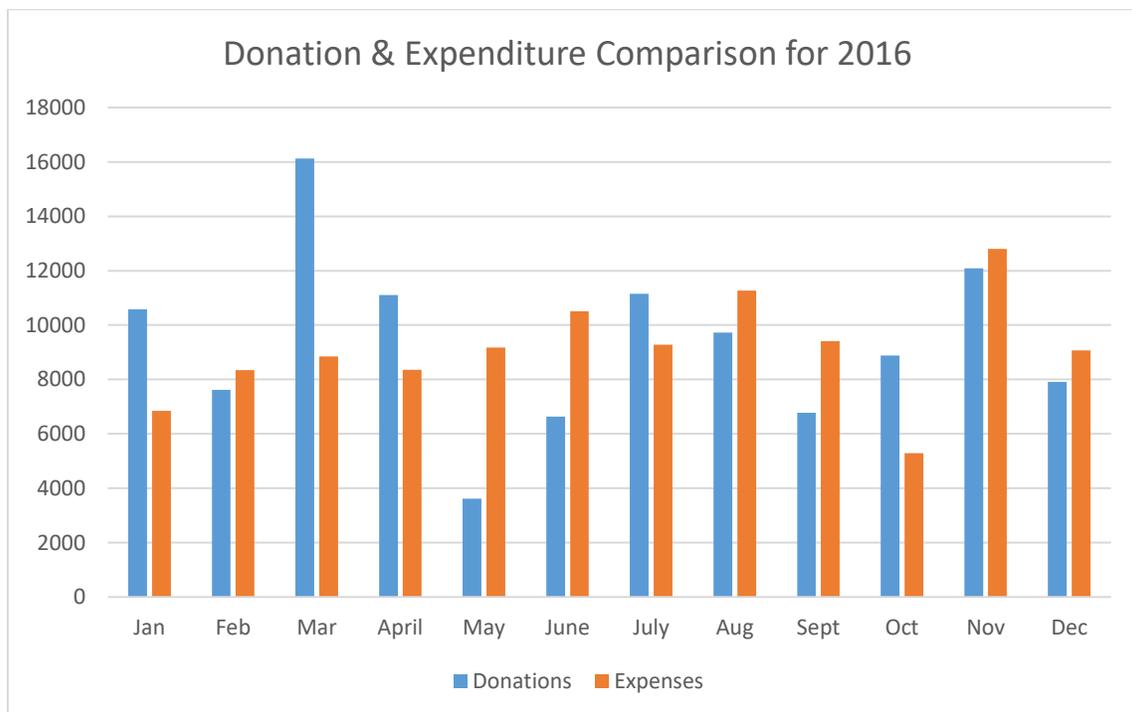
We also consider the demographics of race based on our desire to reflect our greater community. Sadly, we do not feel that our demographics mirror our community yet due to the high number of Caucasian residents. We believe that this is due to different perspectives of “homelessness” across our communities’ subcultures, especially in people groups of color. In 2016 it is our goal to educate ourselves about this challenge and how to address it.

The racial demographics are as follows:



Financial Report

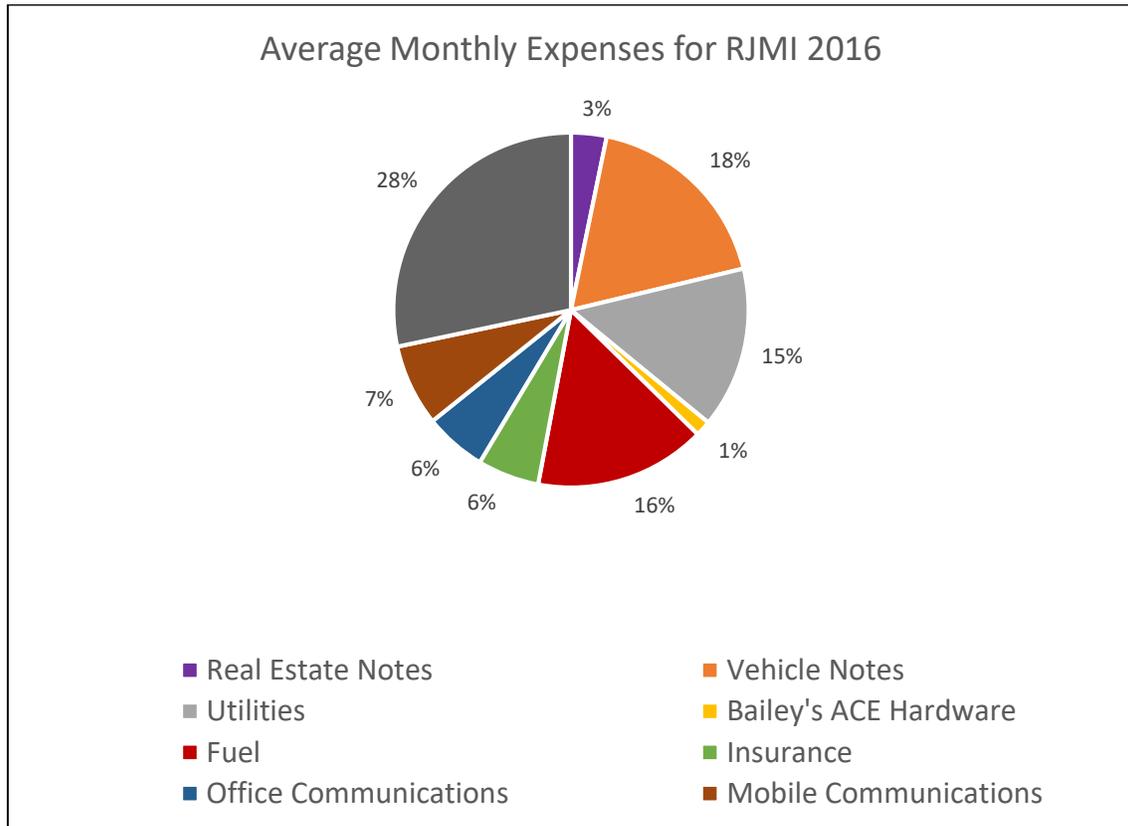
RJMI has had a rocky financial year, but God has consistently prevailed! Although we increased from 15 to 20 regular donors, our monthly expenditures are still slightly more than our dependable, monthly contributions. About 70% of our regular donors were corporate bodies of churches and businesses, and 30% were private individuals who share our vision. Our donations totaled \$112,186.91 which is evidence that God always provides! This was a 17% increase in revenue since 2015, however, this was not in regular donations. The increase was by majority sporadic and non-regular giving. All donations were received with thanks, but our monthly giving needs to increase.



Overall, it took an average \$780 dollars each month to support one family in our Residential Program. Each family was encouraged to use as many outside resources as possible to meet medical, physical, psychological, and educational needs.

For RJMI, consistently, the greatest expense is fuel and vehicle costs. Second to those expenses are utilities and payroll. Our primary goal in 2017 is to increase our monthly donations so that there is more consistent attention to regular giving. Currently, our average monthly expenses exceed our *dependable* monthly donations. Therefore, we are operating on

faith. It has not yet failed us, but we feel driven to be more financially prepared for monthly expenses. The chart below shows average monthly expenses so that you may see the division of those expenditures.



It is the goal of RJMI staff to focus on fundraising this year to stabilize the budget and increase the salary component of the mission. Although most staff members are provided housing, they consistently have expenditures and needs that are not being met.

Until these efforts are actualized, we will be cutting back in a few areas of expenditures and, effective January 1, 2017, we have increased the financial responsibilities of residents by 5%. In addition, due to the fact that the majority of RJMI residents are involved with DFPS, the Executive Director is currently in conversations with state and federal congressman promoting the fact that RJMI is assisting DFPS in doing their job well but receiving no compensation.