



# Investment Connection

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

## Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Investment Connection Proposal

Proposal title	WorkLife at Victory Square
Contact	Trenton Sims
Title	Development Director
Email address	tsims@victorymission.com
Phone	417-880-9073
Organization name	Victory Mission
Mission statement	We share God's love through intentional relationships for the restoration of a brokenhearted world.
Overview of organization	Springfield Victory Mission was founded in 1976 when Rev. and Mrs. Everett Cook began serving sandwiches and coffee to homeless individuals in downtown Springfield. Over time, the organization grew to focus on emergency assistance, intentional programming, housing, and social enterprise. The organization feeds 80 individuals on average each night through their evening meal. The Food Pantry sees 250 to 500 families each month, with more served during the winter months and holiday season. Victory Square has 152 beds with an average occupancy between 130 and 150 men. Street Chef catering provides an outlet for culinary training and employment when resources are available. Funds raised through NAP credit donations will be able to expand this WorkLife pipeline to be more intentional and evidence based. The addition of a licensed mental health counselor, evidence informed soft-skills education, and a system for replenishing funds to pay individuals, will resource men so they have the capital needed to move into a home/apartment in the community. To bridge the gap from homelessness to housed, Victory is master leasing homes in Springfield to help men reestablish credit and a positive rental history.
Website	www.victorymission.com
Social media link(s)	Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldVictoryMission/">https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldVictoryMission/</a>
Location of project/activity	Springfield, MO (MSA) Missouri Greene County
Geographic Impact	Citywide and Neighborhood(s)
Support request	Investment/Grant

Requested amount	\$10,000 to \$412,030
Proposal narrative	<p>WorkLife is broken into two phases. The first phase focuses on supportive services to include; license mental health care, case management, evidence informed soft skills education (Jobs for Life, Circles), and experiential job training. Experiential job training will include time spent at Springfield Community Gardens, Habitat for Humanity, Life360 Screen Printing, and/or Victory's Street Chef Catering and Food Products. During phase one, they will receive shelter, meals, clothing, and other basic needs while living at Victory Square or in a partner housing program.</p> <p>During phase 2, individuals will be paid \$10 an hour to work for Street Chef Catering and Food Products. During this time, they will bottle sauces and roast coffees for sale at farmers markets and wholesale to retailers. Victory currently operates a commercial kitchen and will be better process control certified on March 26 and 27th. HACCP certification will occur over the summer. NAP funds will buy a coffee roaster.</p>
Issues addressed	Economic/Workforce Development
Target population/geography	<p>Victory Mission's WorkLife program targets men and women experiencing homelessness or reentering society from prison. 80-90% served will be men living at Victory Square with 10-20% being women recruited from Life360's women's house, Safe to Sleep, or another women's program. As capacity for women's housing grows at Victory, the split will become more 50/50.</p> <p>All individuals will have an initial income level less than 100% of the federal poverty level. Most will have little to no income as they recover from a state of homelessness. The majority of those entering the program will be from Springfield's City Council Zone 1, where poverty is most concentrated.</p>
Population served including income	<p>Individuals served will be living at Victory Square, Life360 House, Safe to Sleep or another supportive housing program. Most living at Victory Square, Life360 House, and Safe to Sleep report no income due to their state of crises. However, as individuals gain employment through working for Victory or other organizations, we will use a month of pay stubs to project income levels for reporting.</p> <p>80-90% served will be men because we have 152 individuals living at Victory Square during most nights compared to 3 to 10 individuals staying nightly at the partner agencies.</p>

Anticipated outcomes/impact	The primary goal of this project is to build an intentional pipeline from homelessness to employment that takes into consideration the barriers created by mental illness, substance abuse, and gaps in job skills created by low-educational attainment. The program seeks to serve 32 individuals each year with 28 individuals employed with a living wage within 12 months.
Evaluation methods used to measure success	<p>The program will be evaluated based on its capacity to prepare individuals for living wage employment and independent housing. Pre and post income levels will be documented to show income growth, along with reduced dependence on welfare assistance. The number of individuals moving from Victory Square to paid affordable rentals will also be tracked to show the move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.</p> <p>The program also acknowledges that because of barriers created by mental illness and other social concerns related to homelessness, Victory may need to become a long-term employer for many in this demographic. Victory's capacity to do this will be evaluated based on the number of jobs created and sustained through product sales. Individuals employed and housed long-term will continue to receive supportive case management that tracks their length of employment, maintained housing stability, and anecdotal stories of success based on that individual's personal goals.</p>
Project time frame	New Program Project Duration: Ongoing Program
Other significant partners in the proposal	<p>Springfield Community Gardens Type of Partnership: Other Urban Farm Training and produce for food products as viable <a href="http://www.springfieldcommunitygardens.org/">http://www.springfieldcommunitygardens.org/</a></p> <p>Habitat for Humanity Type of Partnership: Other Construction training <a href="https://habitatspringfieldmo.org/">https://habitatspringfieldmo.org/</a></p> <p>Safe to Sleep Type of Partnership: Other Referring women <a href="http://ccoarks.org/the-need/safetosleep/">http://ccoarks.org/the-need/safetosleep/</a></p>
Audit Report	<a href="M:\Dept\ComAff\Investment Connection\Springfield Victory Mission, Inc Audit Report.pdf">M:\Dept\ComAff\Investment Connection\Springfield Victory Mission, Inc Audit Report.pdf</a>
Time/Date Received	3/21/2018 3:26:52 PM