



A short report on 2018 and an outlook on 2019

God and so many good friends like you filled 2018 with more blessings than we can count!

It's hard to pick just a few things to share and even harder to talk about the difference they made. So, here are a few highlights that will give you a "snapshot" of what your support did in 2018.



- You helped host and support at least 500 people (most of them youth) at Hope House & Gardens programs and volunteer projects.
- You helped start an after-school program for K - 5 children.
- You supported an "extreme makeover" of our neighborhood garden.
- You helped make Hope House & Gardens more of a neighborhood asset:
 - New flower garden and "medicine wheel" in the "pocket park"
 - Neighborhood mural (thank you Summer in the City!)
 - Patio in the garden (thank you Father Kern Foundation!)
- Your support helped Christ the King Service Corps choose VEJ as the one-year placement for a full-time corps member. In June, Julia Hall joined our team as community program leader.
- You helped VEJ hire former intern L'Oreal Hawkes-Williams as our garden program leader.
- Your support inspired new people to join VEJ's board. We started the year with just three board members and now we are up to eight (with more joining in early 2019): Doris Allen, Bob Chapman (new), Sister Rebecca Hodge (new), Jeff Jenks, Erma Leaphart (new), Vito Rosolino (new), Terri Slaughter (new), and Sister Janet Stankowski.



Looking ahead to 2019



VEJ's mission is, in a nutshell:

Prayer, education, and action on behalf of Earth.

The hard thing about VEJ is not that we are such a *small* organization; it's that our mission is so *big*.

This year, the VEJ team put in months of work thinking about how to make a big mission so simple and small that a child can do it. The mantra we made for ourselves is "*Everyday Earth Justice.*"

You might say that *Everyday Earth Justice* is a way to make Earth Justice "bite size."

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