

## 2019 Mission Endowment Fund Recipient – Mt. Olive Lutheran Church –

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual South Dallas Youth Rally



*In 2019, the Mission Endowment Fund granted \$80,000 to 29 ministries. This is one of the ministries.*

#### SAVE A LIFE TODAY (SALT)!

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, organized in 1948, has served the community for over 71 years. Located in the heart of South Dallas, the church faithfully serves the community through various outreach programs and ministries. One of the reasons for Mt. Olive existing, stated in the Purpose Statement, is to mentor and develop youth.



To further this goal, on Saturday, August 17, 2019, Mount Olive Lutheran Church hosted its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual South Dallas Youth Conference combined with the Back to School Rally. With approximately **130 participants**, (including youth and parents), the mission of this project was successfully fulfilled. A total of **105 backpacks** were distributed for students in Pre-K through 12th. The major focus of this combined project was to provide youth and parents information on how to help “**Save A Life Today**” (SALT).

Helen Beaujour from Mt. Olive shares this information: First of all, the success of this project was made possible by the generous donations from individuals, companies, and the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund. The second contributor to the success of this project was that each child was required to be accompanied by an adult. Backpacks were distributed at the end of the program so parents and youth stayed throughout the Youth Conference activities. Parents and youth received information, education and encouragement. All presenters were positive and encouraging, and received excellent interaction from the entire group.



Speakers included: URBAN SPECIALISTS who presented the topic, “Where is the intersection of action by the faith community and the community at large?” Other speakers/ round table discussions focused on, “How can we join forces to help save a life today?” Noted speakers were Honorable Cheryl Williams – Juvenile Court Judge, Honorable Mark Murrell – Municipal Court Judge, Tanya Browne – Former School Administration, and four officers from the Neighborhood Division of the Dallas Police Department

Youth in this community have been underserved for years. We often wonder why certain behaviors manifest in early years but do not take the time to determine what role we should play in helping to stop the cycle. This project is one in a series that focuses attention on building up the whole person. It serves to build trust, strengthen relationships and provide tools for making good and sound decisions. This translates to a healthy, productive mind.





We are extremely grateful to the Mission Endowment Fund for their part in helping fund this project. We were also fortunate to have had several other sponsors along with individual members of Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Without your generosity, we would not have been able to present the quality program that we believe our youth deserve. We are particularly proud of the quality of professional presenters engaged this year. Each one has advanced expertise in their fields of concentration. It is our hope that the continued partnership of our sponsors will enable us to focus our energy on planning beneficial programs for our youth rather than agonizing about how to fund the event.

**Our Lives Matter**

**Thank you, Ms Helen Beaujour for contributing this story.**