



*The*

# Hopeliner

February 2023

A PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF

*Shiawassee & Genesee Counties*



*Join us*  
in welcoming our new CEO

*Katie Baxter*

***THE CHAIR-ITY***

A HUGE SUCCESS,  
THANKS TO YOU!

***HOLIDAY GIVING***

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO  
EVERYONE WHO MAKES HOLIDAY  
GIVING POSSIBLE.

***Angels Among Us***

THEY ARE CALLED  
DONORS & VOLUNTEERS!



# Catholic Charities

of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties

**The Most Reverend Earl Boyea**  
Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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Foster Care and Adoption  
810.232.3418

[www.ccsgc.org](http://www.ccsgc.org)

email: [givehope@ccsgc.org](mailto:givehope@ccsgc.org)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Katie Baxter, and I feel abundantly blessed to serve in this important role. My predecessor, Vicky Schultz, has left a tremendous legacy for this wonderful organization and I am excited about the many opportunities ahead.

My faith is the cornerstone of my life and I am thrilled to serve God's people. As I take on this role, I am reminded of the great commission Christ gave us to spread the gospel and of the commandments to love the Lord, with all of our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

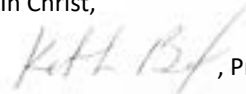
I can think of no better way to achieve this than through service to the most vulnerable in our community and I am proud to work along side the Board of Catholic Charities and our amazing staff and volunteers who make this possible every day.

There have been many challenges over the last few years including the Flint Water Crisis; the COVID-19 pandemic; grief and loss; staffing shortages; funding challenges; growing inflation; and increased cost of living, leaving more families in poverty and at risk of homelessness.

Yet we must never be discouraged; Jesus tells us not to be afraid and to trust in Him. God is bigger than all our problems and if we trust in Him and seek His will, He will give us everything we need to do His work and find peace.

Thank you for your generosity, kindness, compassion, and prayers. Together we will continue to share the love of Christ through service to our neighbors in need. God has many wonderful things in store for this coming year. May we all say, "*Speak Lord, your servant is listening.*" May God bless you abundantly!

In Christ,

 , President & CEO



## Volunteer Appreciation Awards

**Please join us for this FREE event!**

**April 19, 2023**

**2:00 pm**

**Catholic Charities' Conference Center  
609 E 5th Ave, Flint  
(Former St. Michael Church)**

*Without you we could not continue to provide Hope, Help and Healing within our communities. We hope you will join us so we can honor you for your hard work and commitment over the past year.*

**RSVP to John Manse on 810.785.6911 or [jmanse@ccsgc.org](mailto:jmanse@ccsgc.org)**



Join us in Welcoming

# Katie Baxter

The new CEO of Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties

**Bishop Earl Boyea officially appointed Mrs. Katie Baxter, LMSW as the next Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties (CCSGC) effective October 3, 2022, and we are so excited to have her!**

Katie holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work from Michigan State University. She served as Senior Clinical Director at Genesee Health System in Flint, and various management roles for nearly 20 years. She also has extensive experience as a licensed social worker and therapist.

She brings leadership experience and expertise in a large organization in providing behavioral health services, in developing budgets and strategic plans, and in implementing evidence-based practices to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery and positive outcomes for the children, families and individuals served.

In the short time she has been at the helm, it has quickly become apparent that she leads from a place of deep faith and compassion.

When asked what word describes her best, she simply said, Blessed. Mother of seven and wife to her husband Scott for 31 years, she holds dear the importance of family and considers it her primary vocation and her greatest joy.

"I am also blessed to be a licensed social worker and certified addictions counselor and humbled to be part of the healing journey of many

individuals and families over the years, from whom I have learned so much," she said, "It is a great honor to lead an organization that truly provides hope and real help for some of the most marginalized individuals in our community."

Katie is a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Otisville where she serves as Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and Proclaimer of the Word; and her husband Scott teaches religious education. Katie is passionate about promoting the dignity and life of every individual God created.

As CEO, she understands that our biggest challenge remains limited resources to do all we would like to assist people in need. Individuals are hurting emotionally, physically, and spiritually and families face many roadblocks to remaining intact and thriving.

Staffing shortages are also a significant problem and there is increasing competition in recruiting and sustaining qualified individuals.

"Despite these many obstacles, God reminds us not to be afraid. God is goodness and love itself and He has many blessings to bestow upon us; I'm looking forward to all He has in store!," she says.

"My prayer is that everyone who comes to our doors experiences the love of Christ through the compassion and support we provide," she continues, "I am blessed with a committed group of staff and

volunteers and loyal donors. I intend to sustain and further develop programming for our community to provide essential needs: food, clothing, housing, counseling, education, foster care, and adoption.

Through this work, I envision healthy, strong families and

safe, prosperous communities and Catholic Charities to be a place of refuge and healing when life is difficult."

Please keep Katie, her family and her service to Catholic Charities in your prayers.



Katie and her horse Fox.

Above, Left to right: (top) Christopher, Peter, Abraham, Luke Francis, Mary Grace, Henry James (bottom) Anthony Louis, Katie, Scott

# Chair-ity Event 2022

**With your help we raised  
over \$136,000!**

On behalf of the entire Catholic Charities family, and the thousands of people who receive assistance from us every year, thank you to everyone who contributed to our Annual Chair-ity Event!

Your financial support and donations were key to making the evening a huge success!

Much to Fr. Joe's delight, Michigan State fans won the night by raising the most money in our friendly MSU vs. U of M competition. It was neck to neck most of the evening, but in the final minutes, State fans pulled ahead and raised the most money proving that Spartans are green inside and out!

But the truth is, when we work together to help those in need, everyone is a winner!

Everyone played their part beautifully! Redwood Lodge served delicious food; our committee did a great job both in the planning process and the night of the event; Black Tie Productions was instrumental in helping us raise money; Fr. Joe and Board Chair Jesse Ortega kept us very entertained during the live auction; and of course, it wouldn't be *The Chair-ity* without some beautifully decorated chairs from donors all over Genesee County!

## *A Special Thanks to:*

**Edible Arrangements  
Crust Bakery  
Redwood Lodge  
Black Tie Productions  
Skaff Furniture & Carpet One  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
JP O'Sullivan Distributors  
The FIM**

**Our Amazing Committee**  
Rhonda Erickson, Penny Bonner,  
Karen Church, Suzanne Shew,  
Karen Marsh

**Our Live Auction MC's**  
Father Joe Krupp, Holy Family  
Jesse Ortega, Board Chair

***We are proud and  
humbled to have  
the support of  
many inspiring and  
talented people!  
Your support helps  
so many; we are  
grateful and blessed!***



We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this event possible!  
***We couldn't do it without you!***

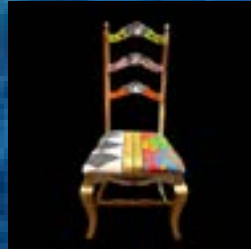
## *Live Auction Chairs*



***Always With You***  
Keri Brack



***Nostalgic Childhood***  
Alon Marie



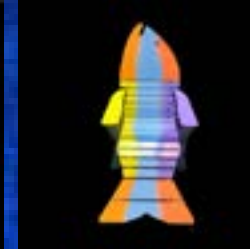
***Sisters***  
Lori Porter



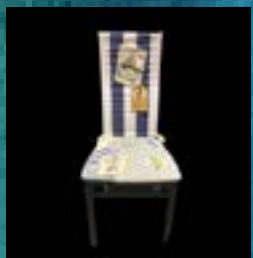
***Patio Set***  
Anonymous



***Because of the Brave***  
Jim Theolet



***Gone Fishing***  
Don Root &  
Greg Coulter



***Nestings***  
Dori Housel



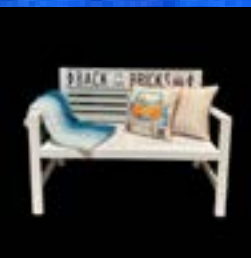
***Sparty Rocks!***  
Madeline Medich



***Go Green***  
Greg Coulter



***Go Blue***  
Greg Coulter



***Back to the Bricks***  
Back to the Bricks



***Birds of a Feather***  
Jorian Sipes

## *Thank you to our Sponsors!*



Genesys PHO, C & S Motors, HAP, Huntington Bank, Genesee Ceramic Tile, Molina Healthcare, Ascension Genesys, The Catholic Community of Flint, St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Community Goodrich, Genesee Health System, Wolverine Fire Protection, Northgate, CTI, Curbcoco, Mass Transportation Authority, Total Benefit Systems, Modern Concrete, Case Construction

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sibilsky, Wade Wisler Family, Flint St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshals, Re-Connections, Dcn & Mrs. James Kasprzak, Tummala Charitable Foundation, Joseph Hamo with The Hamo Group





## 2023 Staff Christmas Party

After two years of not being able to gather together for Christmas due to COVID-19, it was so much fun to have us all in the same room again! We are truly blessed to work day-in and day-out with so many beautiful souls!

## Blessed to be a Blessing

Thank you to everyone who made the 14th Annual Blessed to be a Blessing a success! Well of Hope has been an amazing partner putting on a Thanksgiving feast for the community! We had a wonderful evening of good food and good company!



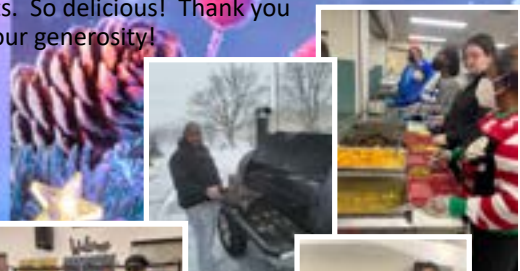
## Opening of the Warming Center

On December 3, the Warming Center opened for its 13th season. It will remain open, providing guests with three meals a day until the end of March. We have been providing a safe haven for over 80 people every night.



## Center for Hope Soup Kitchen with 810 Smoke

We were blessed to have 810 Smoke visit us on December 23 to donate lunch to the Center for Hope guests. So delicious! Thank you for your generosity!



This year, Catholic Charities distributed Christmas gifts to 499 families for a combined total of 1,200 children through our Adopt-A-Family program, in Shiawassee and Genesee Counties, including 44 Foster Children in care. We were so happy to be able to serve a Christmas feast to 245 people, all of whom received a gift when they arrived.

# Holiday Giving

## *The Gift of Hope*



Christmas is a special time at Catholic Charities because we see human kindness in all its glory! We witnessed countless acts of service and compassion. There are so many people to thank that we ran out of room, but please accept our heartfelt gratitude. We couldn't do any of this without your support! We would also like to thank everyone who responded to our plea for kids Christmas gifts from our Amazon Wish List!



Powers Catholic Hockey Team Annual Teddy Bear Toss



Francisco the originator of Soles for Souls donated over 600 pairs of shoes



AARP donated clothing and over 300 pairs of shoes



Mary Pelton coordinated the donation of coats & personal needs items



Denise Beels McElfresh brought hats, scarves & slippers



Friends from Brighton donated 30 backpacks filled with essentials



Holy Rosary Catholic School donated 100 shoesboxes of gifts



Maureen Alterman donated hats, scarves and toys



Anonymous donor left Christmas Trees



St. John's Catholic School in Fenton donate boys and girls gifts.



Beverly Applegate and her friends from several parishes donated 30 quilts and 50 dolls, blankets and coats.



Al & Nicki Smith brought hot chocolate for the Warming Center

*Thank You!*  
 You brought much joy to so many this Christmas!



# Your continued support touches our clients' lives in *Immeasurable ways!*



## Meal Programs

One in five children go hungry every month. Hunger affects how people perform at work, how children perform in school, and how people view their communities and their lives. Our programs provide vital support, giving individuals not only a hot meal, but relief from the cold and a place to socialize.



## Center For Hope Community Closet

In a city that helped build America, hope is often in short supply. Foreclosures and anxiety, joblessness and poverty – all contributors to depression and domestic violence – destroy families. For many, the Center for Hope offers hope for each new day. By relieving some of the financial stress on families, we allow them to focus on what's important.



## Counseling

Our counseling programs help people experiencing mental health issues such as: Depression, Anxiety, Grief and Loss, Divorce, Anger Management, Family Crisis, Domestic Violence, Pregnancy, and Substance Use Disorders.



## Prevention & Education

Prevention Specialists provide support groups, programs, and classes in an effort to strengthen individuals and families, as well as make children resistant to substance use. All programs are provided at no cost.



## Adoption & Foster Care

We provide help and hope to children awaiting the welcome and support of a foster or adoptive family. Every day, children need safety, stability, routine, and an abundance of love. We offer licensing and extensive services to those providing foster care or in the process of adopting a child.



## Outreach

Sometimes people need a little help. We provide emergency rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to eligible clients in need, as funds are available. If we are unable to help, we do our best to connect individuals with the resources they need to get through the rough patches of life.



## One Stop Housing

We provide comprehensive housing placement services for people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. We strive to eliminate barriers for those we serve by providing services that meet the needs of individuals and families and enhance the community safety-net by placing homeless service programs in one, easily accessible location.



## Offender Success

A public safety program based on 20 years of research, Offender Success strives to provide seamless services to post incarcerated individuals. It engages community groups as vital partners, lays out clear expectations for parolees, and holds them accountable for their behavior through enhanced supervision, ultimately leading to a successful returning citizen and safer community.



# Annual Report

At Catholic Charities we meet people, *without judgment*, where they are, with Faith, Compassion, and Service.

October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

## Resources and Support

		% of Total
Contributions	1,011,332	4%
Foundation Grants	529,217	2%
United Way	121,538	0%
Housing Grants & Contracts	20,634,959	75%
Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse	678,328	2%
Adoption & Foster Care	1,865,622	7%
Other Resources	519,582	2%
Counseling/Prevention Fees & Contracts	1,184,627	4%
Diocese of Lansing	165,979	1%
Offender Success	899,867	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,611,051</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Expenses

		% of Total
Counseling & Prevention	1,719,339	6%
Adoption & Foster Care	1,772,556	6%
Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse	549,435	2%
Meal Programs & Community Services	1,217,922	4%
Housing	20,674,298	75%
Offender Success	897,623	3%
Management & General	423,195	2%
Fund Development	314,146	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,568,514</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Based on unaudited numbers.

## North, South & Center for Hope Soup Kitchens

Hot Meals	80,479
Sack Lunches	22,796
Food Pantry (Owosso)	<u>74,265</u>
<b>Total Meals</b>	<b>177,540</b>
Food Boxes (Owosso)	4,144

## Community Closet

	Genesee	Shiawassee
Number of People Served	16,179	3,619
Personal Items Distributed	43,250	5,887
Clothes Distributed	392,632	20,702
Household Items Distributed	38,618	

## Center for Hope

Work Ready Room Clothing	92,742
Work Ready Room Steel Toed Boots	981
Warming Center Overnight Stays	6,995
St. Christopher Medical Transport Clients Served	150
Number of Miles Driven	14,046

## Housing Programs

COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA)	\$20,047,750
Clients Served	7,683
Homelessness Prevention Program	\$165,553
Clients Served	347
Rapid Rehousing Program	\$52,964
Clients Served	51
Emergency Housing Voucher	\$38,593
Clients Served	34
Outreach- EFSP	\$65,058
Number of People Served	172

## Adoption & Foster Care

Number of Adoptions	9
Total Days in Care	22,866
Children in Foster Care	99
Total Home Visits	1,188

## Counseling

	Genesee	Shiawassee
Service Hours	9,118	2,734
Clients Served	540	328

## Prevention & Education

	Genesee	Shiawassee
Service Units	4,706	3,517
Clients Served	1,732	1,455

## Offender Success Program

Total Returning Citizens Served	326
New Enrollments for Housing	175
Total Days in Housing	19,672
Enrollment for Job Placement	109
Participants in Full Time Employment	70

## Volunteering

Volunteers	8,686
Volunteer Hours	34,424

Thank You to our Community Partners!



ELGA Credit Union  
Landaal Packaging Systems

# Angels Among Us

**They are called Donors & Volunteers!**

Mary Pelton is been a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Brighton for 19 years. She is a retired nurse.

You could say that Mary was born to live a life of service. She was also supposed to be named Christy. But the day she was born, she stopped breathing and the doctors had to resuscitate her. Her grandmother, could hear the commotion going on in the delivery room and prayed to the Virgin Mary for help. Needless to say, the story had a happy ending and her name was changed to Mary without a second thought!

Fast forward to 2008, she had come full circle in a long career in Labor & Delivery and was helping veterans in Detroit. She had grown up in Flint (a St. Michael's graduate ) and wanted to give back, so she asked Jesus, how she could be of service. The next day

Faith Magazine came in the mail and Bishop Boyea was urging people to help the Center for Hope in Flint. That was all the prompting she needed.

She had been in a car accident and couldn't drive, so the best place to start was to downsize her personal belongings. From that moment, her mission to help grew, and today she maintains two large donation bins at St. Patrick's and brings deliveries every week (sometimes more, last week alone she brought 5 car loads which included 150 rolls of toilet paper!)

But she doesn't like the credit, and stresses that it's not just her doing this good work. "I just make the deliveries," she says, "there are hundreds of people that make these donations possible, I just encourage, and remind people that we are performing the corporal works of mercy, which are an important



component of our faith."

Mary is a shining example of faith in action. She is a Lay Franciscan, has acted as a sponsor for 3 people who have become Catholic, she currently teaches religious education at St. Patrick's and is part of the Healing Program there which prays over people for healing. She was presented with the Hand's of Hope Award at Catholic Charities and the Knights of Columbus presented her with a Family of the Month Award. (She is the first individual to receive.)

Thank you Mary, for everything you do, you truly are an angel in our eyes! You have inspired so many to help us in our mission of **Providing Help & Creating Hope.**



**We would like to thank Winston and Sharon Dolphin for all of their hard work repainting and repairing our statue of Mary, Virgin of the Golden Heart. We are so grateful to have her home looking so beautiful again!**

To celebrate, we plan to resume the tradition of having a May Crowning!

Throughout history, Catholics have long honored the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May. To symbolize her significance in the Church and in our lives, the "May Crowning" is intended to display her queenship as the Mother of Jesus. This tribute continues throughout the entire month in order to memorialize the importance of the Mother of God in the Church and in our personal lives.

There are many depictions of Mary; however, the statue in our Mary Garden is in honor **Our Lady of Beauraing.**

## Our Lady of the Golden Heart

The story of Our Lady of Beauraing began in 1932 in the quiet village of Beauraing, Belgium. From November 29, 1932 to January 3, 1933, the Virgin Mary appeared 33 times to five children in the playground of a convent school.

Initially, no one believed the children, yet the next evening they came home with the same story. The village laughed at them and their parents were angry. The next time she appeared, the children said they had seen a Lady who was more beautiful than her statue, dressed in pure white, with a crown of golden rays on her head.

The Belgian bishops at the beginning forbade any processions and started an investigation that was to last for ten years, during which, strong interogations were brought against the children.



*Children of Beauraing*



*Shrine in Beauraing, Belgium*

Finally, in 1943, the Bishop of Namur formerly decreed Our Lady of Beauraing as an authentic apparition.

On July 18, 1947, Msgr. Charue personally received papal blessings for the Sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of Beauraing – the Virgin of the Golden Heart. This devotion has since taken on new and ever increasing proportions.

The final approval was given on July 2, 1949. The appearances were declared miraculous. In the time since the declaration, many spiritual conversions and graces have been obtained through the intercession of Our Lady of Beauraing.

**In her honor we are excited to be celebrating this year with a May Crowning! (Date to be announced) We hope you will join us!**

# Tribute Gifts

Whatever you are doing keep it up! Someone thinks you're pretty awesome and has made a donation in your name!

Together you raised

**\$12,254.57**

Corky Bohlen's 97th Birthday

Diane Ames

Dr. Ralph Burgess

Ella Gregoricka

Emily Marrah

George & Lucinda Jamison

Greg Coulter

Greg Gaines Retirement

Homeless of Flint

Ida M. Passa/Payne

Jacob Clements

Janet Cotton

Janet Muliatt

John Manse

John Wilkerwicz

Karen Church

Karen Corrin

Kenneth and Dorothy West

Kim Zernec

L. Isaguirre

Lorraine Meagher

Maria Gonzalez

Marilyn Reid

Mary Stevenson

Michael William Viviano

Mildred Bleicher

Misty Bowers

Nick & Mary Andrykovich

Phil Dankoski

Rick & Kimberly Santini

Roosevelt J. Fontenot

Steve & Vera Keim

Tammy Burgess

Todd Bakos

Vera Wagner

Vicky Schultz

# In Memory Of...

When you give a gift in memory of a loved one you are not only honoring your loved one but your contribution will carry their legacy forward and help us continue to provide vital help to those in need in our community. Thank you for this meaningful gift. We feel privileged to be able to honor the memory of so many wonderful people, and their commitment to helping others.

To those who have joined our heavenly Father, we thank you for the blessings you continue to bestow on those in need.

From heaven you raised

**\$23,922.55**

Agnes A. Carroll

Al and Dona Wagner

Alan Yokobashy

Andrew and Phoebe Dupois

Angelo Branoff

Anthony Virgilio

Arthur & Margaret Bruneau

Arthur Tinetti

Barbara Hatter

Bertha M. Dillard

Betty Raupp

Bill Martin

Bob Herrman

Bro. John Bantz

Calvin, Florence, Hazel & Jannette

Carole A. Jozwick

Charles Kujawa

Cherry Joseph

Dale, Ray & Robert Owen

Daniel Rutkoski

Danielle I. Parks

Dennis Bogden

Dewey Hoel

Don Blanchett

Don M. Ashley

Edwin & Doris Daly

Esther Jaksa

Florence Lajewski

Frank & Marie Manley Sr.

Fred & Kathryn Daunt

Gary Compton

Gary D. Krupa

George & Helen Hauck

George Anthony

Harold Schmidt

Helen Marie Opre

Holly Craig

Hugh Welsh, Sr.

Ida Fontana

Irma E. Ward

Jack and Judy Martin

James Gazy Carol

Jamey Lewis Hutchison

Janet Deford

Jerolyn Hurd

Jerry Schultz

Joan Voorheis

Joe Forlenza

John & Dorothy & "John John" Nash

John (Jack) Donlan Jr.

John and Catherine Runyan

Joseph & Evelyn DuCharme

Joseph & Mary Madras

Joyce Maysura

Judy Sienko

Katie Paul

Kelly Family

Klein, Swanson and Graham Families

Leo Miller & Theresa Miller

Lois Martin

Lorraine Lavelle Meagher

Lorraine Meagher

Louis Stornello

Lupe Isaguirre

Margaret A. Berry

Margaret M. Howard

Maria Guadalupe Izaguirre

Mark Giles

Mary E. Newberry

Mary Johnson

Mary Lou Miller

Mary M. Cady

Mary Paradis

Mary Trebby

Michael Anderson

Mike Zelley

Mildred Bleicher

Mrs. Barbara M. Hicks

Nancy Schaezner

Nikki Thompson

Nora Crego

Norma Havrilla

Orville and Mildred Straith

Patricia Bensett

Paul Tomasoski

Paula Crelley

People of the Ukraine

Raymond and Gloria Krupp

Raymond E. Carey

Richard L. Swanson

Richard W. Kritlow

Rita M. Fortino

Rita V. Heller

Robert & Gloria Brewer

Robert Michael Spence

Ron Tomasik

Salvador and Maria Isaguirre

Sheryl Dianne Lewis

Sister Judy Blake

Stanley J. Telesz

Steven A. Payne

Suzanne Boudreau

The Melki Family

The Terlisner Family

Theresa K. Mozader

Thomas Garbulinski

Vernon 'Butch' Allen

William Wheeler

Would you like to show your appreciation for someone awesome in your life?

Visit [www.ccsgec.org/donate](http://www.ccsgec.org/donate) to make a donation in their name!

# Lord Hear our Prayer

It's easy to forget for a moment how important the work we do at Catholic Charities really is...that is, until you read just a few of the hundreds of prayer requests we receive.

**Please join us in prayer that these and all of God's children have food, clothing, and shelter, and are able to get through this difficult time in faith and thrive.**

- I am recently divorced from a really bad relationship. I was left with no money. I am a student in nursing school and trying to live on my own. I don't have much help from anyone. I am finally getting out of a deep depression, but I am quickly feeling like I am going downhill. I am trying to get myself out of this mess I've made, but I just keep drowning. I really do not want to go to court for not paying January rent.
- Please pray for strength, protection, comfort and peace of mind for Zack as he is newly incarcerated and begins serving his sentence, facing the consequences of his actions. Pray that he finds his way to accept Jesus into his life and learns to live in his likeness, seeking redemption.
- I'm at the end of my rope. I am 56 and my Fiance is 55 with a disability. He is in a hospital in Flint recovering from surgery having tonsils removed and a cyst removed from his throat. Biopsy done. We are in Knights Inn Hotel at the moment because we have no home and now in a few days we have to leave because we can't afford it anymore and he doesn't get his money until next month. I don't even have stuff to eat when he gets released. Begging is not my thing but I have to do it now. I have to stop cause I'm crying and can't see. Please help
- Please pray for my strength and mental well being as a single mom I'm so scared and nervous that I will be evicted and it's worrying me to the point I am not eating or sleeping
- Repairs so we can live in a place that has hot and cold water and safe electrical, with windows and doors. My adult kids stay there because they are homeless and my husband and I are staying in a mobile that I need out of like yesterday. The mobile has no hot water. Mobile home Park wants us out!
- I start college this fall and I just found out my financial aid fell through and getting any private or federal student loans with my dad isn't possible because his credit got denied and I got no scholarships or assistance. I got some loans on my own but because of my age, they won't let me get any private student loans on my own with no cosigner. I just need prayers because the college needs me to pay at least \$2,000 a month and I work four jobs and I barely bring home more than that.
- Our heat in our apartment went out Sunday and I have been waiting to hear when it will be fixed. It's been 5 days since we have been able to be home as space heaters isn't a great source of heat. We have been with family but that's wearing thin. Please let's pray it's fixed by the weekend. Please.
- We are struggling to make ends meet and living paycheck to paycheck. Unable to pay rent or utilities. Just please pray for a turn around. Pray for good news . Pray for new beginnings. Thank you.
- I wish I could have a prayer for help to get utility assistance, rent assistance, etc. I have fallen on hard times and hope this prayer can come true. I am having health issues and try the best I can and have bad depression.
- Hi I'm a mother of 4 children going through a lot. Me and my husband are struggling bad, we're not even sure how we're gonna do Christmas. Our car is breaking down, our dryer broke, all of our money is going toward food and bills please pray we can get our heads above water.
- We are having some very tough financial problems right now after multiple vehicle repairs, my father having a heart attack and now we have Covid. We are facing eviction at the end of this month and have no where to go. We have 4 kids in our house plus both my fiancé of 11 years and myself. We are trying so hard to keep faith and know that God has us no matter what. Some extra prayers would be greatly appreciated as we would have no where to go and are waiting on DHS to reach back out to us before we are able to even apply to other places for help! Thank you and God bless!
- Ask prayer for God give me the strength to shut the doors to a life long battle with addiction, and open doors to a safe Godly place so I can grow through repentance and relationship to Him! I truly want to fall in love with my savior.

**We have removed the names to protect the privacy of the individuals. With the help of you (and God) we have been able to answer many of these prayers.**



Catholic Charities'

# One-Stop Housing

Comes to Owosso!



Misty Bowers, Director of Housing

**At the start of the pandemic in early 2020, Catholic Charities became the Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA) in Genesee County, known as One-Stop Housing.**

It was a daunting task because we had to train for, and implement an extensive housing program at a time when the country was experiencing great uncertainty about what lockdowns would look like, for peoples' ability to remain employed and make their mortgage or rent payments.

Since Catholic Charities took over the program in 2020, we have distributed more than \$33.5 million in federal assistance to individuals and families in our community who were experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their home.

Misty Bowers joined the team in May of 2021 and came to Catholic Charities with 10 years of experience working with the HARA in Genesee County.

She is passionate about working for Catholic Charities because at a young age she was in foster care and experienced a period of homelessness.

"A lot of times people come to us and think that just because we work behind a desk that we can't understand what they are going through," she said, "but I left home at 14 because both of my parents struggled with substance use disorder and my home life was very difficult."

In November of 2022, Misty was appointed the Director of Housing,

and has been working diligently to bring our Housing Programs to Shiawassee County, and we are **VERY EXCITED** to be able to provide these services in our Owosso office.

One-Stop Housing provides comprehensive housing placement services for people who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of becoming homeless, or have special needs in Genesee County. We strive to eliminate barriers for those we serve by providing services that meets the needs of the individual and family and enhances the community safety-net by placing homeless service programs in one, easily accessible location.

"People often think of those experiencing homelessness as drug addicts, or people who are just lazy, and that's the furthest from the truth. We often see Veterans with disabilities, or people who have worked all of their lives and through some unpredictable circumstances find themselves facing a period of homelessness," said Misty.

Catholic Charities' One Stop Housing offers many different opportunities for individuals and families to receive vital services that meet their varying needs: central intake and assessment; referrals; screenings and inspections; resources and direct client assistance.

## One-Stop Housing Programs

### Rapid Rehousing Program

An intervention designed to help individuals and families that don't need intensive and ongoing support to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions - like employment, income, absence of a criminal record, or sobriety - and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household.

### Homeless Prevention

A supportive service targeting low-income households who are currently experiencing homelessness or are at serious risk of homelessness. Assistance is provided with possible short-term motel stay, rental arrangements, utilities, and water bills. We can help with: Housing Resources & Referrals, Eviction Diversion, Security Deposits Utility Deposits, Utility Payments (Shut-off notice required), Moving Costs. This program provides assistance that is necessary to help the participant regain stability in their current permanent housing or move into other permanent housing.

### Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) - Homeless Preference

Assists families & individuals experiencing homelessness by adding them to the HCV wait list. Clients must re-certify as homeless every 120 days while on the wait list. The HCV waiting lists are held by county which means that some Continuum of Care or Lead Planning Bodies may have multiple waiting lists within the geographic coverage area. The ability to add households to the HCV waiting list is secured via the completion of the Key Person Security Agreement and can only be completed by HARA staff.

**In Shiawassee County, Catholic Charities provides Coordinated Entry to implement and continuously improve our four critical processes: access, assessment, prioritization, and referral. To see if you qualify call 989-723-8239**

**For Coordinated Entry in Genesee County call 810-544-HELP (4357).**

# Owosso Giving Tree

**Making Winter Warmer!**

The Giving Tree in our Owosso office stays up until spring! Whether you need winter apparel or would like to donate some, make sure to stop and say hi!



The Giving Tree is in the Catholic Charities' lobby in Owosso so people have easy access to the items they need, as well as for those who would like to contribute. Whether giving or receiving, everyone is welcome to stop by:

**Mon - Thurs. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm**  
**Friday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**  
**1480 N. M- 52, Ste. 1, Owosso**

**Free  
3rd Thursday of  
Every Month!**

## Foster Parent Training 2023 4pm-6pm

- March 16  
Baby Safety/ Safe Sleep/Car Seat and Crib laws
- April 20  
The Impact of Trauma on Foster Children
- May 18  
Catholic Charities Foster Parent Handbook
- June 15  
Secondary Trauma and Selfcare
- July 20  
Cross Cultural Fostering
- August 17  
Prudent Parenting
- September 21  
Positive Discipline Methods
- October 19  
Determination of Care (DOC)
- November 16th  
Preparing Children for Visitation

**Children's Center- 575 Louisa St. Flint, MI 48503**



# Easter Basket Donations

Easter is on April 9th and at Catholic Charities, we strive to ensure no child goes without a basket full of Joy! This year we will be handing out Easter baskets at Catholic Charities' North End Soup Kitchen to every child that visits for Easter Dinner. We hope you will consider donating a fully made Easter Basket to put a smile on the face of a child in need.

**Please contact John at 810-785-6911 or [jmanse@ccsgc.org](mailto:jmanse@ccsgc.org)**  
**Donations can be dropped off by April 12 at**  
**Catholic Charities' North End Soup Kitchen, 735 E Stewart Ave, Flint, MI 48505**

## Join us for Lunch!

Our office will be closed on Good Friday, however we will still be serving meals at our Soup Kitchens.



**North End Soup Kitchen**  
735 Stewart Ave., Flint

**Center for Hope**  
812 Root Street, Flint

### Good Friday

**North End Soup Kitchen**  
Lunch 11:30am-12:30pm  
Dinner 4:00-5:00 pm

**Center for Hope**  
Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm

### Holy Saturday

**North End Soup Kitchen**  
Lunch 11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Dinner 4:00-5:00 pm

**Center for Hope**  
Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm

### Easter Sunday

**North End Soup Kitchen**  
Lunch 1:00 -2:00 pm  
**Center for Hope**  
Lunch 12:00 -1:00 pm

# Thank You!



# Community Partners

*Without the support of you, our impact wouldn't be as far reaching.  
Please accept our heartfelt Thank You for everything you do!*

## Diamond Sponsor



## Platinum Sponsors



**GOTTA GET GOYETTE!**



**LANDAAL**  
PACKAGING SYSTEMS

## Gold Sponsors

- C & S Motors
- Genesee Ceramic Tile Distributor
- Genesys PHO
- HAP
- Huntington Bank
- Molina

*By becoming a Community Partner you have the opportunity to show your customers, your competitors, your current and prospective employees that you are committed to building a better future for everyone.*

**To learn more or become a Community Partner please Contact  
Kellie Pardi at [kpardi@ccsgc.org](mailto:kpardi@ccsgc.org)**



Catholic Charities  
901 Chippewa Street  
Flint, MI 48503

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# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## *Boxed Lunch Sale*

In 2022 Catholic Charities served 177,540 meals through our Soup Kitchens, Sack Lunch Program and Warming Center. By Purchasing your lunch with us this St. Patrick's Day, you are literally putting food on the table for someone in need.



*For only \$12 you can get a great lunch and help someone in need!*

**PICK UP YOUR LUNCH ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

**Friday, March 17, 2023**

**DRIVE-THRU 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**

**LOCATED AT 901 CHIPPEWA STREET, FLINT**

**Lunches include a corned beef & Swiss on rye, chips, coleslaw, pickle and a treat!**

*\*For those observing meat-less Fridays during Lent, please pre-order by March 6th for tuna fish sandwiches.*

*Order Today!*

**CatholicCharitiesFlint.org/stpatricksday**

Sponsored by

