



The

Hopeliner

February 2022

A PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF
Shiawassee & Genesee Counties



Homeless but not *Hopeless*

How one woman lost everything
but her faith.

Special Hearts

Creating a world where limitations
do not define a life.

The Gift of Hope

A heartfelt Thank You to everyone who
makes Holiday Giving possible.



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of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties

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Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,
I hope this finds you well and off to a good start in 2022.

It is truly hard to believe that we just completed our second year of the pandemic. I know during this time, it has been taxing and challenging for everyone. For many, it has been hard with employment or business struggles, and for others, even more trying and demanding because you have lost a loved one without a proper farewell. This time has forced all of us to learn a new normal, which as we know, is still ever changing.

I understand the struggles completely. For me, 2021 was the most difficult year. I lost my husband of 48 years to cancer in December (right after a bout with COVID) and I too, am forced to learn a new normal. Between COVID and the loss of my husband, I have learned to take a closer look, pause and appreciate even more, the many blessings that surround us every day.

Catholic Charities is a blessing to many, a place of comfort, relief and solace to those who need a helping hand. Whether someone comes to us homeless, hungry, cold, as a foster child or struggling emotionally, we are here to help.

We recognize you have a choice of who you support, and as stewards of your generosity, we take that responsibility very seriously. We are only able to do what we do because of the communities' generosity - our volunteers and the countless hours they donate, those who donate clothing, shoes, personal hygiene items (and way more), and those who provide the financial resources to continue our programs.

Your dedication and support is what makes our work possible. A blessing we recognize and appreciate every day. We applaud you and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers, your time, your talent and your treasure.

Vicky L. Schultz, President & CEO



Join us LIVE on Facebook

Volunteer Appreciation Awards

April 18, 2022
2:00 pm

We can't do what we do without you! Due to COVID-19 we haven't been able to hold our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for the last two years. We are confident that next year we can come together again to celebrate your faith and dedication to helping those in need, but we didn't want to wait any longer to honor the tremendous impact and contributions our volunteers bring to the Catholic Charities family!



@CatholicCharitiesShiawasseeandGeneseeCounties

Homeless but not Hopeless



Kimberly Edwards was born on March 31, 1966 addicted to heroine. They called her a miracle baby because in those days babies addicted to heroine rarely survived. She was abandoned at the hospital.

Fastforward to 2020, she was raised by adoptive parents in a loving family, her mother a retired teacher and her father a retired Pastor. She attended a private Christian school growing up and now has four children and eight grandchildren.

Kimberly has worked two jobs her whole life, most recently as a Food Service Coordinator at a local assisted living facility and the other as a driver for people with special needs to get them to their daily activities. She worked long hours and earned in excess of \$50,000 a year.

When the pandemic hit and they started closing down programs, of course her employment as a driver came to an end. She was transporting her clients one last time when she got out of the transport van and slipped on some black ice, a fall that would change the direction of her life.

She injured her hip badly and couldn't work. She was told that she could not collect unemployment because she was now considered disabled and would have to apply for disability. Of course disability takes a long time to process and in the meantime she was running out of money.

She received her first eviction notice in late September and rather than wait to be taken to court she decided to

pack her things into storage and leave. She attempted to stay in a shelter but they were all full and turned her away.

"There is a river on the South Side of Flint with a little boat ramp which is so peaceful. I would go down there and pray and ask God to protect me while I slept in my truck," said Kimberly.

For two months she slept in her car every night until she got a call that she could go to a shelter, where she stayed for three months.

In the meantime, her hip was deteriorating and it was decided that she needed a hip replacement.

By February of 2021 she had begun getting her disability payments only to find out that despite the fact that she was never officially evicted from her previous apartment, it had been listed on her credit report as a "probable eviction" and that alone was enough to make it impossible to find housing - no one would rent to her.

She hated being in a shelter, she had worked hard her whole life and had never thought she would be in this kind of situation, so when her disability checks began to come she left the shelter and began living at the Days Inn on Miller road for \$52 a night.

"This obviously wasn't sustainable, but the weather was getting warmer and my family was trying to help me financially, so in the end I would split my time between staying in the hotel and sleeping in my truck," said Kimberly.

When she entered the shelter she was put on a list to get an Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV), referred to as a Section 8 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and facilitated by the Genesee County Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA).

This is how Kimberly first came to Catholic Charities. We are the HARA in Genesee County, known as One Stop Housing, and provide 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 enhance the community safety-net by placing homeless service programs in one, easily accessible location.

July 8, 2021 was her first appointment with Catholic Charities. She received her EHV and our Agency was there to help her every step of the way.

Of course Kimberly was excited to have the EHV because it meant that she could pay rent and her disability check provided her additional income, but her credit report was ruining her chances of finding a place to live.

"The difficulties that people experiencing a period of homelessness face is not straight forward," said Misty Bowers, One Stop Housing Coordinator. "People often wonder, why the homeless don't just get a job and take care of themselves, but the reality is that people who are

"I really didn't know what I was going to do, I didn't want to be homeless for another winter. I was starting to believe that God had given up on me, but I kept praying."



*Homeless but not Hopeless
(continued from page 3)*

homeless face enormous obstacles. We see people all the time who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless through no fault of their own."

Indeed, in 2020/2021 Catholic Charities' One Stop Housing, facilitated the distribution of \$11,811,287 to Genesee County residents through its various One Stop Housing Programs. Kimberly is not alone.

"I called my case manager at Catholic Charities and cried to her so many times, she was so graceful and understanding. She would go above and beyond to send me different places that could possibly give me a chance. I called her so much I felt bad, but not one time did she brush me off. She listened and would see what she could do to help," said Kimberly.

It took her another four months to finally find a place to live. One day in October, out of desperation she called the property manager from her old apartment and asked if she would accept her EHV. The manager knew she had always payed her bills and that she would be a responsible tenant, but unfortunately they had no vacancies and almost all of their tenants were long term residents, so she didn't expect anything to open up soon.

"I really didn't know what I was going to do, I didn't want to be homeless for another winter. I was starting to believe that God had given up on me, but I kept praying," she said.

About a week later, out of the blue, she got a call from the property manager. A resident of her apartment complex had picked up and moved out of state with no warning. She now had a one bedroom apartment, with a garage, available for Kimberly to rent if she still needed it.

It was just the miracle she was looking for. By now, she had lost all of her possessions because she had not been able to make the payments on her storage unit, but that didn't matter, she would have a roof over her head. On November 22, 2021 she spent her first night in her new apartment. After 14 months, she finally had a place she could call home.

But her journey didn't stop there. The apartment was unfurnished and she had nothing, not even a bed, so that first night she slept on the floor. Because of her hip issue, the next morning she was unable to get off the floor and couldn't get to her phone. It was only after she hadn't answered the phone for two days that her cousin came to investigate and found her there.

Since November she has slowly been able to get the furniture she needs and is piecing her life back together. She is now waiting to get a hip replacement so she can get back to work. At 55, she's not ready to stop living yet!

She has always worked in service to others, helping those that need it, but everything she has experienced in the last 18 months has opened her eyes, not only to the logistical challenges of being homeless, but the emotional toll it can take...the loneliness and isolation it creates.

Kimberly is considering going back to college to study psychology. But no matter what happens she wants to inspire others not to give up, and assure them there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

To learn more about Catholic Charities' One Stop Housing Programs please call (810) 600-4525 or visit our website.

www.ccsge.org/onestophousing

Tribute Gifts

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

- Arthur Tinetti
- All Veterans of Shiawassee County
- Andrew Lurvey
- Ann and Bill Sleno
- Bill and Stashia Nicol
- Calvin, Florence, Hazel
- Chris Morel
- Corky Bohlen
- Dennis Weinand
- Diane R. Schmidt
- Ella Gregoricka
- Emma Lurvey
- Florence Collier
- Fr Leronio Vodivodi
- Ginger and Ken Ortiz
- Hogarth Avenue Victims
- Janet Deford
- Jeff Wichmann
- Jim & Sue Drummond
- Joe Forlenza
- John Manse
- Julia Partridge
- Karen Church
- Kathryn C. Stark
- Kevin Kelly
- Margaret C Story
- Margaret Daly
- Mark Spender
- Matt Batchelder
- Michael Kelly
- Mike Martin
- Pat Hinterman
- Patrick Kelly
- Sharon Mitchell
- Tom & Kathy Baughman
- Scott & Michelle Parker
- Vera Wagner

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

Visit www.ccsge.org/donate to make a donation in their name!

In Memory Of...

Rosemary Leszczynski
Alex & Virginia Godin
Andy Kenney
Anthony & Dorothy Ragnone
Barb Miculka
Barbara A. Landis
Barbara Koegel
Berlin Dobson
Beverly Cords
Beverly Wilkerwicz
Bob & Bobby Gibson
Bob Eckert
Bob Garrison
Bob Herrman
Bob Hurley
Brian Doty
Buck & Marie Killion
Carl and Genevieve Routhier
Carol A. Revard
Carol Jansen
Carole A. Jozwick
Carole Timm
Charles & Katherine Keehn
Charles Kujawa
Charlie and Marie Garant
Cherry Joseph
Christine Morel
Cottrell Evans
Dale LeBeau
Dale, Ray & Bob Owen
Danny Paris
David Hayes
David Stechschulte, Sr. & Mary Stechschulte
Dean Wilson
Deceased Members of Vella Family
Don & Pat Schaffer
Don M. Ashley
Donald and Carmen Lillis
Donna Belli
Donna Brothers
Donna M. Ward
Dorothy and Russel Panks
Earl & Frances Lindgren
Earl and Frances Lindgren
Edmund & Anna Shippritt
Edward Benaway
Emma Atkinson
Ernest Tomczak
Eugene Anthony Robinson
Eugene Robinson
Father Paul Schwermer
Fidelis "Faye" Vincke
Frank & Laurie Baldino
Frank E. Mooney
Frank Peterson
Freda Farone & Angelo Branoff
Fulvio E. Ragnone
Gage L. Elkins
Garry Wilson
George & Lucinda Jamison
Gerald & Doris Gagne
Gerald & Marion Kelly
Gerald J. Belanger
Gerald Lemons
H. Mark Giles
Helen F. Murphy

Helen S. Toth
Henry R Smoke
Jack & Judy Martin
Jerrod Nutt
Jerry Schultz
Jerry Sprangel
Jerry, Adam & Kevin Daunt
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Jill Bruckman
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Patrick & David McCarty
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Peter F. Sullivan
Philip Benore
Phyllis Kolowicz
Princess & Bruno
Ralph & Ruth Hinkle
Regina Power Wolfe
Renee A. Karczewski
Richard Swanson & Rudy Mora

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
\$32,954!**

Robert "Bob" Garrison
Robert & Helen Hutchins
Robert & Marie Herstein
Robert & Virginia Smith
Robert Allen Sr.
Robert, Marguerite & Amy Sweeney
Harold & Carol Weston
Roberto & Linda Molina
Ronald Brownrigg
Ronald Savoie
Ruth Page & Terry Humpert
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Tom & Theresa Forncsi
Tom Lamberson
Tracey Brownrigg
Victor E. Rosales
Viola MacDonald
Walter Rensch
Washington & Waters Family Members
William & Helen Bocek
William H Lurvey
William Martin
William Wheeler
Wilma & Bill Bliss
Wm. & Lila Howard
Zappa Family



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



Christmas Day at the Center for Hope we welcomed 107 families and provided gifts. Thanks to so many of our friends, including St. Patrick Parish in Brighton, the National Giving Alliance of Flint, St. Robert Parish in Flushing, Catholic Women of St. John Fenton, area Knights of Columbus, Holy Rosary Catholic School and many, many others including our volunteers on the day, Bill and Jan, Kitty, Karen, Aaron and Bailey.

Francisco Dionne celebrated the 10 year anniversary of his annual shoe drive. It all started in December of 2011 when he was just seven years old and wanted to make sure the homeless had a pair of shoes for Christmas. That first year he donated around 15 pairs of shoes. This year we lost count, but it took a U-Haul to bring them to the Center for Hope!



Catholic Charities' North End Soup Kitchen distributed gifts to 1,150 children through our Adopt-A-Family program, including 75 Foster Children in our care. We were so happy to be able to serve Christmas dinner on Christmas Day, indoors for the first time since the start of the pandemic! We fed 381 people a Christmas feast, all of whom got a gift when they arrived.



William Palmer, Director of Veterans Services of Genesee County



Logan and Addison & Jan, volunteered in our Personal Needs Room.



Holly Farmer and her son blessed us for the holidays.



Local AARP members delivered Christmas gifts and then hung out for a tour!



St. John Catholic School in Fenton dropped off their annual gifts!



Bill Bradburn helped decorate the Christmas tree & brought a donation from the St. John's Council of Catholic Women



Nancy and Mike from Howell brought us some beautiful handmade gifts.



Stashing and Bill, longtime volunteers, brought donations in from friends in Howell.



Denise, the Slipper Lady, dropped off handmade slippers to share on Christmas Day.



Our friends at Evangelistic Temple Church Apostolic Ministries donated lovely winter wear.



The Pat Schneider Family and members of Holy Redeemer Parish.



Jane and the dedicated needleworkers of Let's Sew for Kids



Marilyn and Judy from Bethel United Methodist Church



University of Michigan Flint Winter Wear Drive



Dave and Lorraine Pettit



Josh Gonzales and our friends at Mt. Zion Church



Powers Catholic High School Hockey Team

Thank You!

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

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



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 Addiction.



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 homes or going through adoption.



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, 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 individuals and families and enhances 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 prisoners from the first day of their sentence until they are released from prison and complete parole. It engages community groups as vital partners, it lays out clear expectations for parolees, and it holds them accountable for their behavior through enhanced supervision, ultimately leading to a successful returning citizen and safer community.

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020-2021
October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

Resources and Support		% of Total
Contributions	1,066,288	6%
Foundation Grants	279,830	2%
United Way	178,658	1%
Grants & Contracts (Federal Housing Funds)	11,725,660	64%
Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse	450,117	2%
Adoption & Foster Care	2,064,387	11%
Other Resources	349,193	2%
Counseling Fees & Contracts	1,246,974	7%
Diocese of Lansing	113,418	1%
Offender Success	764,494	4%
Total	18,239,019	100%

Expenses		% of Total
Counseling & Prevention	1,869,520	10%
Adoption & Foster Care	1,842,471	10%
Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse	386,234	2%
Meal Programs & Community Services	1,069,817	6%
Housing	11,622,448	64%
Management & General	376,776	2%
Fund Development	258,714	1%
Offender Success	751,296	4%
Total	18,177,276	100%

*Unaudited Figures

North, South & Center for Hope Soup Kitchens

Hot Meals	72,307
Sack Lunches	40,477
Warming Center Meals	7,200
Food Pantry (Owosso)	<u>31,686</u>
Total Meals	151,670
Food Boxes (Owosso)	2,521

Community Closet	Genesee	Shiawassee
Number of People Served	11,889	2,398
Personal Items Distributed	28,910	4,723
Clothes Distributed	268,056	1,189
Household Items Distributed	29,298	812

Center for Hope

Work Ready Room Clothing	26,073
Work Ready Room Steel Toed Boots	185
Warming Center Overnight Stays	3,479

East Side Ride to Hope

Number of Rides Provided	2,055
Total Miles	7,657

Housing Programs

COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA)	\$11,154,403
Clients Served	1,881
Homelessness Prevention Program	\$482,280
Clients Served	467
Rapid Rehousing Program	\$140,604
Clients Served	70
Emergency Housing Voucher	\$34,000
Clients Served	39

Adoption & Foster Care

Number of Adoptions	10
Total Days in Care	24,669
Children in Foster Care	80
Total Home Visits	936

Counseling

Genesee	Shiawassee
Service Hours	9,572
Clients Served	559
Service Hours	3,633
Clients Served	428

Prevention & Education

Genesee	Shiawassee
Service Units	3,614
Clients Served	1,706
Service Units	3,354
Clients Served	1,732

Offender Success Program

New Enrollments for Housing	178
Total Days in Housing	27,162
Enrollment for Job Placement	130
Participants in Full Time Employment	60

Outreach Assistance

Rent/Utilities Assistance	\$154,592
Number of People Served	351
St. Christopher Medical Transport Clients Served	135
Number of Miles Driven	16,075

Volunteering

Volunteers	6,037
Volunteer Hours	25,932

Thank You to our Community Parnters!



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ELGA Credit Union

Special Hearts

Creating a world where limitations do not define a life.



Miss Pearl, GISD Paraeducator



Let's face it, no matter how good our programs are or how many donations we get, we couldn't do what we do without the help of hundreds of volunteers that donate their time and talent to help those in need every year.

We have volunteer groups from all different backgrounds - from company sponsored volunteer days, to local churches, to youth groups getting in volunteer hours for class credit. We've always said, volunteering provides its own rewards because it brings people a greater sense of purpose, optimism and joy. But some times volunteering provides even more than that!

One such example is through our partnership with the Genesee Intermediate School District's (GISD) Transition Center. They offer a program to students which is an extended academic year program for students with moderate cognitive impairments.

The program is based on a supported curriculum model focusing on adult work/life skills and provides job exploration training, Individualized Vocational Training (IVT) or Work-Study Program (WSP). Another program focus is the development of adult life skills, which includes teaching students how to live independently in the community. The primary goal is to teach students to develop into self-sufficient employees and community members.

The program first came to Catholic Charities via our North End Soup Kitchen, and currently work at

the Center for Hope Community Closet as well as the Catholic Charities' Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse.

"We love the GISD program," says Mary Stevenson, Catholic Charities' Volunteer Coordinator, "They are among our most reliable volunteers. The kids are great, they are well behaved and work hard while they are here. It's a great partnership, we get vital assistance in our Community Closet and they get valuable skills that will help them live independent lives."

The program started over 10 years ago. Special needs youth generally come to the program at 18 or 19 years of age and can get special education services up to the age of 26.

"We had to put a lot of things on hold when COVID-19 hit, but when things started to loosen up we hit the ground running. Even though we couldn't do the normal work placement due to shut downs we worked with them on personal budgeting, cooking, washing and mending clothes, any training that will help them live independently," said Miss Pearl, GISD Paraeducator.

Once they graduate from the GISD Training Program many find paid employment. GISD provides training, helps them with resumes, applications, mock interviews, teaches them appropriate job dress attire and a lot more. The goal is to make them self sufficient and employed by the time they age out of the program.

"It is a joy to welcome the GISD students each week. We truly missed them during the pandemic. Miss Pearl and her students work hard to make a difference in the Community Closet," said Mary. "Their enthusiasm brings smiles to the faces of our donors and guests alike. They remind us of why we are here."



We are always looking for volunteers!
If you would like to join the Catholic Charities Family scan the QR Code or email us at givehope@ccsgc.org



Volunteer

Owosso Giving Tree

Making Winter Warmer

Christmas may be over but we keep ours up until it gets warm! Most of us have a stash of cold weather gear, but for some families, staying warm is a little tougher.

The purpose of the Giving Tree is to make sure that anyone who is in need of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks can have access to them.

In 2011, the Agency had an abundance of winter apparel. Much of it came from a donor named Janet, who had recently lost her husband and lifelong companion and wanted to turn her loss into a blessing for the community. Finding an abundance of hats, scarves, and gloves as she sorted through his personal items, she pondered, "How

do I get these to people who need them?" She brought them to Catholic Charities and the rest is history, the Giving Tree has gone up every year since then.

At the time, her grandchildren were young, and this was a way she could not only give back, but also teach them to do the same. She has always wanted her children and grandchildren to understand that, even in the face of our own pain and loss we should always choose kindness. She felt that the best way to convey this lesson was by showing them. She also hoped that her donation might also inspire more people to choose kindness and help others.

Today the items are supplied by donations from the generosity of the community – individuals, church groups, community groups.



The Giving Tree is in the Catholic Charities lobby in Owosso so people have easy access to the items if they need them, 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



Volunteers Needed

Make the Most of Lent!

Lent conjures images of ashes, sacrifices and the suffering of Christ. With these images in mind, it can seem like a dismal season, a time to concentrate on our sins and when we have fallen short of the will of God. However, Lent is not just a time of sacrifice and penance, it is also a time to look forward to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus and his triumphant resurrection.

To prepare ourselves for the passion and resurrection of Christ, we are called to make sacrifices. These are often outward signs of our devotion to God, such as giving up coffee or dessert. Though we are called to practice these sacrifices and bear witness to our faith in Christ, we can be tempted to leave it at that, missing

the whole point of Lent.

The true purpose of Lent is to deepen our relationship with God and prepare ourselves to receive his love and mercy manifested in his resurrection on Easter. The 40 days of Lent is for focusing on the areas of our lives that need attention. Lent is a time for us to make changes that allow us to be changed by God's saving mercy.

The Church offers a recommendation to focus on three key areas (or pillars) throughout Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These three words encompass both the outward sacrifices and the inner commitments that we are called to during Lent. We are called not to make known the sacrifices of our Lenten journey, but

if we fail to focus on where our sacrifices will lead us, closer to God and draw us deeper into relationship with Him, we have overlooked their ultimate goal.

This Lent, consider giving of yourself. Though prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the three pillars of Lenten sacrifice, service underlies all three. In a time when many are struggling from the effects of the pandemic, choose to offer what you have to give. Giving of your time and self to serve the vulnerable in our communities will allow you to see beyond your personal Lenten journey and live out your faith in the process.

Ultimately, every individual's Lenten journey is unique. We hope you will consider Catholic Charities on yours.

It Takes All Kinds To Care This Much



Be A Hero

Become a Foster Parent

At Catholic Charities, 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 understand that you have a lot of questions, but we are here to assist you in the biggest adventure of your life!

We are **ALWAYS** looking for Foster Parents. Call our Children's Center Director, Debra at 810-232-3418 ext. 321 today if you think you may be ready to open your heart and your home to a child in need.

Foster Parent Training

March 17th 2022
Cross Cultural Fostering

April 21st 2022
Prudent Parenting

May 19th 2022
Positive Discipline Methods

June 16th 2022:
Determination of Care (DOC)

July 21st 2022
Preparing Children for Visitation

St. Patrick's Day Boxed Lunch Sale



Thank You!

We have so many people to thank for helping make this year's St. Patrick's Day Boxed Lunch Fundraiser a huge success! We sold 1,610 lunches and it takes a whole lot of people to make that happen!

We want to give a shout out to our Event Sponsors - Northgate, CTI and Applied Imaging. Thank you to Crust Bakery of Fenton for donating the cookies, all the volunteers who folded boxes, made sandwiches, stuffed boxes, delivered orders, and manned the pick up tent! We couldn't have done it without you!

Last, but certainly not least, **THANK YOU** to everyone who purchased lunches and made donations! Your generosity is so greatly appreciated by those in need!

HOPE

IN A BOX

By donating to Hope in a Box you will help provide for more than 500 individuals who seek assistance each day.

www.ccsgc.org mstevenson@ccsgc.org

- March:** Feminine Care & Dental Products
- April:** Deodorant & First Aid Items
- May:** Bar and Hand Soap
- June:** Laundry Soap & Jeans
- July:** Toilet Paper/Travel-Size Toiletries
- August:** Razors and Shaving Cream/Lotion
- September:** Bar and Hand Soap
- October:** Socktober
- November:** Dish Soap & Laundry Soap
- December:** Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys

Don't have a box?
For information or to sponsor a box, please call 810-262-7025



Thank You!

To everyone who donated winter garments, hot drinks and snacks to the Warming Center!

Your support means so much to those who have so little.

The Warming Center is open 24 hours a day from December - March to anyone who needs a safe, warm place to get out of the elements.



Another way to support Catholic Charities!

When you shop at smile.amazon.com

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- Go to www.smile.amazon.com
- Enter your amazon username & password
- Search for Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties
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P.E.A.R.L.S

Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives

Prevention specialists provide support groups, programs, and classes in an effort to strengthen individuals and families, as well as make children

P.E.A.R.L.S is designed to improve the quality of life for older adults promoting healthy aging and making changes that to lead a more active and rewarding life.

For more information call Rochelle on 810-232-9950 ext. 228
Visit www.ccsgc.org to learn more about our Prevention Programs.

Help is waiting.

Catholic Charities offers outpatient counseling services for children, teens, adults, couples and families.

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When life gets hard, and "you have fallen, get up. Never stay down. Get up - and let people help you to your feet." *-Pope Francis*

Counseling Services
Depression, Anxiety, Grief & Loss, Divorce, Anger Management, Substance Use, Addiction, Family Crisis, Domestic Violence, and Parenting.

To book an appointment call
Genesee 810.232.9950 or Shiawassee 989.723.8239

Not Catholic? No Problem! We Serve All People.
Most insurances accepted. Fees based on a sliding scale.



"How are you?"

Broken. Useless. Alone. Clueless. Confused. Betrayed. Angry. On the verge of tears. Depressed. Anxious. About to give up. Pathetic. Annoying. A just burden. Distant. Lonely. Bored. Lonely. I just feel like I'm going to just fall apart at any moment. Empty. Defeated. Never good enough.

Fine.

Are you looking for the most rewarding job of your life? At Catholic Charities we are always looking for fully licensed therapists who understand the importance of compassion, empathy and meeting each person where they are in life without judgement.

Email Kristin at kblevins@ccsgc.org to apply.



The Future

The future of our ministry will be built on today's planned and deferred gifts.

Since 1941 we have shared the love of Christ by providing support to anyone who comes to our door. Together, with our most faithful donors, we can continue to be a lifeline to the most vulnerable in our community for many years to come.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving serves a dual purpose. On the one hand, planned gifts help support worthy causes. At the same time, they can be useful in helping individuals make more substantial gifts, as well as address their own financial needs.

Planned gifts make use of legal and tax strategies and/or financial products to maximize the benefits both to the charity and the donor. In contrast, a charitable donation made from a person's cash flow is not defined as a planned gift.

Planned gifts take a number of forms. Some planned gifts are payable upon the donor's death such as a life insurance policy where the beneficiary is a charitable organization. Others are paid during the lifetime of the donor, the choice is yours and you have a lot of options! Here are a few more ways to donate:

- Donor Advised Fund
- Memorial Gift
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust

We welcome the opportunity to assist you as you create philanthropic objectives into your estate plans. If you have included Catholic Charities in your estate plans, or would like more information on how to, please contact us so we can welcome you as a member of our Legacy Society.

*Please consult your financial advisor as tax laws change frequently.

Theresa Hurley
Director of Development
Phone: 810-232-9950 ext. 710

Charitable Giving Annuity

There is a way for you to support Catholic Charities and feel confident that you have dependable income in your retirement years. You can do this with a charitable gift annuity. This popular planned gift can provide you with secure lifetime payments and allow us to further our work on behalf of everyone we serve.

Charitable Endowment

An endowment is a type of donation where the principal amount is invested so that a nonprofit organization can benefit from the income on a long-term basis. If structured correctly, endowments have the ability to make organizations more sustainable, better able to plan, and to enable them to move away from survival mode to a steady revenue source.

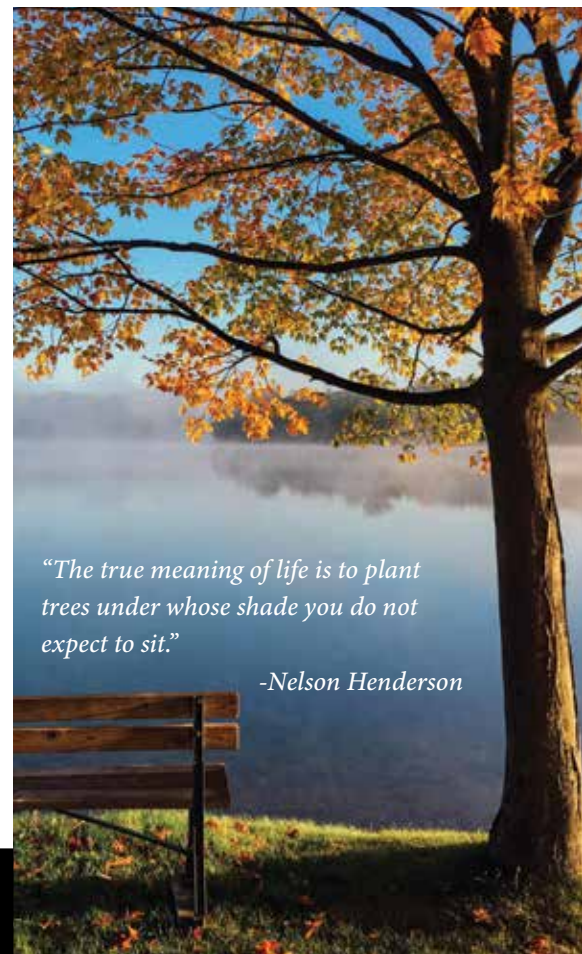
Beneficiary Designations

A beneficiary designation gift is a simple and affordable way to make a gift to support Catholic Charities. After a person's death, retirement accounts are exposed as income, and in some cases estate taxes. The best way to avoid these taxes on your retirement plan is to give those assets to a charity. You can designate us as a beneficiary of a retirement, investment or bank account or your life insurance policy. By designating Catholic Charities as your beneficiary, you will ensure 100% of the value of your account benefits those we serve.

IRA Distribution

Did you know you can make a tax free contribution to Catholic Charities directly from your IRA? Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts are required after age 70 1/2, and the penalty for skipping a Required Minimum Distribution is 50% of the amount that should have been withdrawn. However, if you are in the fortunate position of not needing your distribution for living expenses and are charitably inclined, you can avoid income tax on your required withdrawal by donating your money directly to a qualifying charity.

*Please note that due to COVID-19 temporary changes have been made to RMD payments. Please consult your financial advisor.



"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

-Nelson Henderson

To learn more about our services visit www.ccsge.org

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!*

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Founded in 1928, this year marks the 93rd Anniversary of Goyette Mechanical doing business in Mid-Michigan. Three generations of the Goyette Family have kept the business growing and their legacy strong. What began as a small heating company in Flint, has steadily grown into a substantial Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical Contractor that works across the country.

Goyette strives to be a great employer and a responsible corporate citizen. The Goyette family is committed to Michigan and to remaining headquartered in Flint. Goyette is proud to support Catholic Charities and feels an obligation to give back to their community. Focused on delivering 100% Satisfaction, our clients know, "You Gotta Get Goyette!"

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 Genesee Education Consultant Services

Since 2012, Genesee Education Consultant Services has established itself as the premier **School Staffing Company** for over 30 districts and 2,500 employees in Mid Michigan. GECS provides all Human Resources Services, especially recruiting and hiring. GECS strives to be a competitive NON-PROFIT for client districts and gives back to the community in many ways to enhance the lives of the children our employees' serve. GECS is a proud sponsor of Catholic Charities and their mission to meet the needs of families in our area.

GECS

GECS

Genesee Education Consultant Services



Thank you to our Silver Sponsor

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 Theresa Hurley at thurley@ccsgc.org



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Easter Basket Donations

Easter is on April 17 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
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