

The Legacy of Catholic Charities' First Social Worker



Mary Moser and Msgr. Edward Klosterman in 1948

By Karen Hogan Kuhlman

Eighty-five years ago, in 1931, Most Rev. Francis W. Howard, DD, the fifth Bishop of Covington, appointed Fr. Edward Klosterman, pastor of Mother of God Parish, as the first director of Catholic Charities and charged him with coordinating the mission of charity in the diocese of Covington.

Initially, this work was done primarily in the parishes and through the clergy. In 1948, Bishop William Mulloy and Monsignor Edward Klosterman established direct services—a child welfare agency providing adoption and foster care services for children in need of out- of-home care and knew just whom they wanted to help them lead Catholic Charities. Experienced social worker Mary Moser had earned a reputation for true compassion and the ability to get things

done. Though she had no formal training for the profession, the widowed mother of four girls, who had been working as a social worker for the Kenton County Welfare Department as a caseworker, clearly had a talent for the game.

Mary loved her position as the first social worker with the Diocese of Covington. Helping others made her happy, and she was devoted to her mission of providing an opportunity for a happy future to children who might not otherwise have one. Whether the task involved short-term foster care or permanent placement through the Catholic Charities' adoption services, she had but one goal: securing a good life in a loving family for every child who came her way.

She counseled young women dealing with untimely pregnancies, working with each mother to develop a plan that would help her decide where the best interests of her child lie. She understood the difficulties involved for a young woman making an adoption plan for her child. Mary's promise to a birthmother who decided on adoption was that she would personally direct the placement of her child, and deliver the new little life to a family better able to offer a lifetime of love and security.

Mary enjoyed great personal and professional success. In 1980, she was recognized as the social worker of the year and received the Jane Gallagher Award from the National Conference of Catholic Charities. She continued her work at Catholic Charities until her death at age 90. Her legacy continues today, and people such as Adoption Supervisor Monica Kuhlman, Mary Fleischman and Angel Stumler carry on the work she began in 1948. Since its inception, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington has placed over 1,500 infants with loving families.

On the walls of Monica Kuhlman's office is a wonderful collection of photographs Catholic Charities has received over the years. Some are of children whose birth mothers chose to parent them. Others are of children whose adoptive parents have spent their lives in thanksgiving for the loving gift they were given. Holiday photos, graduation announcements, wedding invitations; all mementos of loving life plans, brilliantly executed.

Mary Moser had a great love for people and a determination to help make their lives better. The scope of the contributions that Catholic Charities and this modest woman have made to our community through the lives they have enhanced is extraordinary. She must be watching with pride from Heaven as Catholic Charities, the organization she helped found, continues to offer love and comfort to those most in need of those blessings.

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy." (Matt 5:7) We know from this scripture in the Beatitudes that if our hearts are merciful, we can expect mercy in return. Mercy, like forgiveness, comes back to us when we first offer this gift to others.

As we journey our way through the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, we at Catholic Charities have redoubled our attention on works of mercy to all we encounter. We have focused on Mercy in our weekly staff prayer times, in our monthly staff meetings, and in March, Monsignor Bill Cleaves gave a conference about Mercy to our Advisory Board in our annual Board Retreat. As I circulate throughout our facilities and interact with so many of our volunteers, I marvel at the ways our volunteers share their heart of mercy to our many ministries.

Catholic Charities is the ministry of mercy for our diocese, so it is no wonder why so many people are amazed when they find out all the ways we serve at Catholic Charities considering the number of Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy are these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs. The seven Corporate Works of Mercy are: (1) feed the hungry, (2) give drink to the thirsty, (3) clothe the naked, (4) shelter the homeless, (5) visit the sick, (6) visit the imprisoned, and (7) bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs. The seven Spiritual Gifts of Mercy are: (1) counsel the doubtful, (2) instruct the ignorant, (3) admonish sinners, (4) comfort the afflicted, (5) forgive offenses, (6) bear wrongs patiently, and (7) pray for the living and the dead.

One of the more prevalent Spiritual Acts of Mercy throughout our ministry at Catholic Charities is "comfort the afflicted." If you think about it, everybody is going through something. Sometimes they need a hug. Sometimes they need a shoulder to cry on. Sometimes they just need someone to listen. We strive to be a strong and constant source of mercy, offering comfort to the afflicted through this Spiritual Act of Mercy.

In our promotional video that is being produced and scheduled for release in June 2016, we highlight a counseling client who was comforted by her Catholic Charities Counselor during a particularly painful period of her life. Our hope is that we are not only a source of mercy to those we serve, but that we also will encourage others to be a gift of mercy to those they encounter.

Here are a few ways you can "comfort the afflicted" by being open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference. Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time, make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time, write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering. A few moments of your day may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is going through a difficult time.

To all who share their many gifts to time, talent and treasure, especially your gifts of mercy, thank you for being an instrument of mercy to all you encounter through Catholic Charities.

Kind regards,

Alan Pickett
Executive Director

News and Events

It's Time to Re-Sign Up or Join

If you have been supporting Catholic Charities with your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card, thank you. In 2015 Catholic Charities received \$1,652.41 from the Kroger Rewards Program. Beginning April 1, all Kroger customers must update their Kroger card to continue supporting their selected organization. If you have not done so already, please go to www.kroger.com/account/update and re-designate Catholic Charities for your continued support. Don't have a selected organization? Please consider Catholic Charities today. Enrolling will not affect your fuel points.



Pictured is the Planning Committee (L-R): Carl Biery, Vicky Bauerle, Deacon Bill Theis, Bill Kopp, Don Ward, Bob Merkle, and Wayne Brown.

Save the Date

Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus are planning their **8th Annual Golf Classic** to benefit Catholic Charities LifeLine Fund which provides material assistance to low income women facing an unplanned pregnancy. The outing is on Saturday, July 23 at Twin Oaks Golf and Plantation Club. A four man/women scramble format and a shotgun start at 8:00am. Cost is \$90 per golfer which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, coffee, donuts, lunch and dinner, beer, soft drinks and a gift bag. For more information about golfing or to be a sponsor call Carl Biery at 859-781-5054.

CaSSba

Save the Date

CaSSba will be held on Sunday August 28, 2016 from 3-7 p.m. at the Drees Pavilion, Devou Overlook.

Admission \$60 per person (presale), \$65 day of event

See enclosed flyer to purchase your CaSSba Cash raffle tickets now!

To purchase your tickets early contact Vicky Bauerle at 859-581-8974 or vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org

See page 6 for additional News and Events

Program Updates

Building Bright Tomorrows One Family at a Time

By Karen Hogan Kuhlman

“May we always care for our children, not counting the cost, so that they may never believe themselves to be mistakes, but always know their infinite worth.” Pope Francis, April 8, 2015

What comes naturally to one person may seem an impossible undertaking to another. The parent and child relationship can fall into the latter category, but, with love and patience many mothers and fathers find themselves surprisingly up to the task. Others have a desire to become good parents but have no idea how to begin. That is the point at which the assistance of Catholic Charities’ *Parent Child Interactive Therapy* (PCIT) program can be a great blessing.

Parents with complex problems who come to Catholic Charities for that assistance are usually referred to the agency by a Family Court judge or a child protective services caseworker. Poverty, addiction, violent or abusive behavior, incarceration, homelessness and mental health are just a few of the factors that can stand in the way of an individual’s ability to lovingly parent a child. A combination of those problems increases the risk of abuse, as well as learning and developmental disabilities for children. They tend to experience higher rates of special needs, physical, mental, emotional and behavioral problems.

Since 2003, the PCIT program has been helping parents strengthen the parent child relationship by providing them with the tools necessary to lay the foundation upon which a strong family can be built. When counselors Anna Phillips and Mary Fleischman meet with parents, in-depth interviews enable them to assess the factors that have brought their clients to Catholic Charities. Many children are removed from the parents’ custody for reasons of abuse or neglect. Heroin addiction is often cited as reason for loss of custody. Some parents are unable to provide proper housing due to poverty brought about by low income or job loss due to lack of reliable transportation.

No members of society are more vulnerable than women and children living in poverty, and 75% of the parents in the PCIT program are single women who have little relationship with the



Free Support Group

PAL Parents of Addicted Loved-Ones

Every Wednesday, 6:30-8pm

No Charge

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For more information contact Client Care
at 859-581-8974

www.CovingtonCharities.org



fathers of their children. The period of birth to 3 years of age is a critical time in human development, and children can't wait long for help if they are to avoid the troubles that have plagued some of their families for generations. Adults who received little nurturing in their youth are ill-equipped to nurture their own children. Catholic Charities is working hard to find ways to nurture both parent and child in the hope of breaking that cycle.

PCIT is a program modeled on ordinary parent and child interactions aimed at teaching parents how to respond to their children in healthy ways. During 12 weekly sessions of 1 to 1½ hours, parents begin to understand that many of their child's behaviors are to be expected and appropriate for their age. They learn that perceived misbehavior is actually normal behavior, perhaps in response to environment, hunger or exhaustion. This understanding allows a parent to react in a positive manner to a child's needs, rather than resorting to physical punishment that might result in abuse.

The seeds of a joyful parent and child relationship are planted and carefully tended by counselors who monitor sessions that incorporate family time with activities such as reading, games, crafts and free play. Everyday activities enjoyed together provide a family with an opportunity to discover what a loving relationship really feels like. Some families experience those tender mercies for the first time with the help of the counselors of Catholic Charities.

One mother recently told counselors: "I learned that when I hold my baby I won't spoil her. She's much calmer now and I feel like a good mother." Another said: "It is good to know that Crystal is not a bad kid when she says "No" to me. I know it is normal for her age, so I don't get mad." Another reported: "I used to tell BJ that he was a bad kid. Now, I know to tell him that it's what he does that I don't like and have stopped calling him a bad boy. I think he acts better now."

Over the last five years, 95% of the *Parent Child Interactive Therapy* participants have reached the programs defined goals. Such successes are encouraging as Catholic Charities endeavors to accomplish its' long term goals of reducing child abuse through stable family relationships, and improving children's academic achievements through social and emotional well-being. Such outcomes are not easy to measure, but, in Kentucky, where the rate for child fatalities caused by parental abuse is one of the highest in the United States, those outcomes are crucial.

Catholic Charities mission is "To promote healing, restore hope and affirm human potential through services that empower, voices that speak for justice and partnerships that strengthen communities." That mission has recently become a bit more difficult. Catholic Charities has learned that the *Parent Child Interactive Therapy* program has lost United Way funding of \$38,000 because the program focuses on Children's social and emotional needs, not on cognitive needs. Pope Francis' words become even more compelling as Catholic Charities looks for ways to offset this loss. If you are interested helping support the PCIT program or would like more information, please contact Charlotte Boemker, cboemker@covingtoncharities.org, or Anna Phillips, aphillips@covingtoncharities.org.

News and Events (continued)

Catholic Charities Celebrates

On April 11th, the staff of Catholic Charities celebrated staff longevity and agency accomplishments for 2015 at their Founder's Day gathering. The staff toured the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption and finished their day by providing Parish Kitchen, a ministry of Catholic Charities, with an afternoon of service.

Congratulations to Staff pictured: Michelle Schuck, School Counselor, 10 years; Sharon Raaker, School Counselor, 5 years; Joe Behler, Mental Health Counselor, 30 Years; Cindy Dixon, Pre-Service Coordinator, 30 years; Joseph Kiesewetter, IT Coordinator, 5 years; and Mary Massie, CFO, 5 years. Not pictured Darryl "Pip" Humprey, Parish Kitchen, 20 years.



Pictured above Barbara Moran from the Yearlings presenting the check to Vicky Bauerle. Pictured right Parish Kitchen Director, Troy Garrard at the Charity Night at the Table and the "Got Milk" Cow.

Parish Kitchen Celebrates

Parish Kitchen, a ministry of Catholic Charities, selected GOT MILK! as this year's Charity Night at the Tables theme to raise money to help cover the annual cost of \$8,000 to supply milk to guests 365 days a year.

Parish Kitchen will automatically be invited to attend next year's 2017 charity event because of their 3rd place finish with admission ticket sales. Parish Kitchen's horse took the top place at the Spiral Stakes, at Turfway Park, which provided Parish Kitchen's "Got Milk" campaign with an additional \$5,000. Parish Kitchen received a total of \$7,500 from the event. Special thanks to The Yearlings, volunteer dealers Dave Hatter and Chad Bilz, Costume Gallery of Newport for donating the cow costume, Triple Crown Country Club, River's Bend Golf Course and Liquor City for supplying silent auction items, and all who supported the event!



**Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter
at covingtoncharities.org/email-newsletter**



*Partners newsletter is published three times a year in spring, summer and winter for friends of Catholic Charities.
Catholic Charities provides Child and Family Services; Counseling Services; Housing Services; and Community Outreach Services.*

Volunteers

The Greatest of These...

Seeing or hearing these few words evokes almost instinctively *1 Corinthians, chapter 13* when Paul speaks of the well-known triad—faith, hope and love. While Paul does not actually present this harmonious blend of virtues as a question, we know the answer, “...but the greatest of these is love.”

Let us consider a triad of volunteer opportunities. Which of these three would be the greatest act of service? Providing a hot meal to those who are hungry, whether cooking the meal or serving the meal directly? Providing administrative assistance such as data input, greeting clients, crunching numbers, making phone calls or stuffing and labeling mass mailings? Or lastly, serving on a committee or advisory board offering leadership, financial or organizational advice? Which is the greatest of these? Most would probably say the first is the greatest, feeding the hungry. After all, it is exactly what Jesus did during His time on earth, and it is a direct service He calls us to do. What about the second volunteer opportunity, providing administrative assistance? Consider the apostles and others who were close followers of Jesus. While they may not have done things considered administrative support by today's standards, they most likely supported Jesus and His ministry in more indirect ways, perhaps by sending a town word of Jesus' arrival or collecting and sharing with Him “data” of people's requests and needs. What about the third opportunity, serving on a committee or board? For some this may seem to be the least rather than the greatest, but consider the value of good guidance when it enables a greater reaching out to those in need. So which is the greatest act of service? The efforts of all our volunteers, who reach beyond themselves for the greater good of others makes each the greatest!

When we consider what drives a volunteer to perform any of these acts of service, all three are equally great. How so? These acts and so many more, performed by our volunteers, are driven by the same harmony of spiritual gifts—faith, hope and love—and inspired by the same Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The collaboration of volunteering throughout all of Catholic Charities' ministries is to be celebrated, from administrative work and cooking meals to serving meals and serving on the Board. The efforts of you all, our volunteers, reaching beyond yourselves for the greater good of others makes you all the greatest!

Looking ahead, all ministry volunteers—from Jail Ministry and Committee members to our Latonia office and Parish Kitchen—will have an opportunity to come together the evening of June 6th at St. Joe's Memorial Hall in Cold Springs for a bit of socializing, sharing and celebrating what unifies all of us as volunteers—faith, hope and love. Invitations to “Celebrating the Greatest of These—Our Volunteers!” will soon be in the mail!

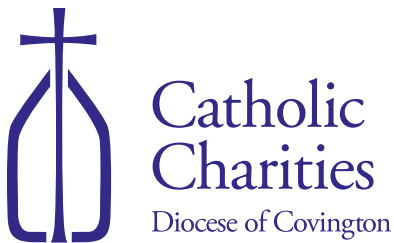


Catholic Charities' Mercy Mats Volunteer

Ministry (pictured above) creates and distributes sleeping mats for the homeless from recycled plastic grocery bags. Each mat provides not only a cushioned, pest-resistant sleeping alternative to the ground or concrete, it is also a protective barrier against surfaces that are wet and cold. The mats are nonabsorbent, light-weight, clean easily and roll-up for portability. The mats will be distributed primarily through Parish Kitchen in Covington, a Catholic Charities' ministry which serves a hot lunch-time meal 365 days a year.

Want to learn more? Monthly gatherings are on the 3rd Thursday, 9:00-11:30 AM at Catholic Charities. Your first visit includes a tutorial of the process with hands-on practice of each step and ways to help beyond the gatherings.

More information can be found online at www.covingtoncharities.org. Click on Volunteer Opportunities or contact Lesley Duggan, Volunteer Coordinator, 859-581-8974 ext. 119 or lduggan@covingtoncharities.org.



Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

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Latonia, KY 41015
859.581.8974 · 866.440.9612
www.CovingtonCharities.org
www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities

Serving the community for 85 years

Our Mission:

“*To promote healing,
restore hope and affirm
human potential through
services that empower,
voices that speak for justice;
and, partnerships that
strengthen communities.***”**

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