



Butler Foundation Donation Match Challenge

As we ring in the New Year and reflect back on 2017, Catholic Charities is so thankful to all of our donors, volunteers, staff, and clients. We see firsthand the difference that every dollar makes in the lives of those who are experiencing poverty. We recognize that poverty encompasses not only financial poverty, but also spiritual, emotional and mental poverty. We aspire to be part of the solution by giving hope and encouragement to those experiencing difficulties.

Catholic Charities strives to collaborate with those who share 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." It is our pleasure to share that **we have received a dollar for dollar challenge match on all new and increased donations up to \$10,000 from The Butler Foundation.** The Butler Foundation is synonymous with helping people reach their full potential, and being the face of Christ to those less fortunate. While the Foundation not provide direct services to those in need, Catholic Charities is blessed to have their support in providing housing, counseling, child and family services, and community outreach services. As you celebrate 2018, **please consider a generous donation to Catholic Charities that will leverage these matching funds and double the impact on those in need.** A donation envelope is enclosed for your convenience or visit covingtoncharities.org to donate.



How your Donation Makes a Difference

We believe the best way to say thanks to our donors is to tell you about a couple lives that were changed because of your generosity. One of the goals that Catholic Charities strives for is to give people a hand up, not just a hand out. While there is a face and name to every dollar donated (both on the giving and receiving end of the donation) the following are two examples of many lives that have been impacted.



Catholic Charities provides a wide array of counseling services. Because of the confidentiality of our clients, we often can't share the truly life changing difference we are able to accomplish with your help. Our St. Joseph Apartments house families who were formerly experiencing homelessness. One of our clients has worked tenaciously to graduate college, pass testing in her designated field, and has found employment with a wonderful company. Completing college and securing a job is always a cause for a celebration, so to accomplish this while being a single working mother, who is overcoming financial difficulties while maintaining housing, is an inspiring testimonial.

This year, through our housing program, 141 people have saved their homes from foreclosure. It would be hard to imagine how desperate you might feel if you were ever in this situation due to a medical catastrophe, loss of employment or a life changing situation. When we are able to work with clients, advocate for them, and keep them housed, there are no words to express the joy that is felt. However, during this time of year when the weather is bitterly cold and the holidays linger in the air, it truly feels like a Christmas miracle to be able to help someone stay in their home. Because of our donors these are just a sample of the many successes that we have experienced throughout 2017!

A Letter from the Executive Director



The Least of These

The gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, provides a framework for how we are called to multiply our talents and to see Christ in “these least ones.” This is the foundation of the work we do at Catholic Charities, and it inspires us to be present as the hands and feet of Christ to all we encounter.

In the Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25: 14-30, the servant with five talents doubled them to ten, the servant with two talents doubled them to four, but the servant with one talent buried it in the ground, and eventually returned it to his master. Our master, our Father in heaven gives each of us unique talents and gifts, not to hide them in the ground, but to develop them, enhance them and share them. That is why he said, “For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich.” (Matthew 25: 29) This is not to say that we should be motivated to grow rich in worldly terms, but it is a promise from our heavenly Father that we will be rewarded for developing and sharing our talents. I witness this being lived out every day in the many staff and volunteers who have dedicated a portion of their life to serving the poor at Catholic Charities. I see many various and different talents among our staff and volunteers. No talent is unappreciated, no gift is too small. Each makes a difference in our ministry. Each has an impact on those we serve. The paradox is that in our sharing, we receive more. This is the blessing and the promise.

In the Judgement of the Nations from the latter part of Matthew 25: 31-46, we hear Jesus defining his judgement in terms of whether we served the least of these. At the judgement, our Lord tells us that He will invite those who when ‘I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ From this partial list of the Corporal Works of Mercy, our Lord gives us an idea about how we are called to share our gifts. It also encourages us to be attentive to the basic needs of our brothers and sisters, especially the least of these – the poor, the outcast, the marginalized members of our community.

Perhaps even more profound than how to serve these least ones is the notion that we should see the face of Christ in each one we serve. Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.” (Matthew 25:40) In other words, Jesus identifies with those we could very easily overlook. This is the difficult challenge, to see Christ in the face of our brothers and sisters who are most difficult to recognize, who we normally look past. Perhaps it starts with a change of attitude and an openness to see things differently. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “Look, here comes Jesus in another awful disguise today.” By actually allowing ourselves to see and then to care for people who are down and out, we are given the opportunity to let Christ’s love empower us and make us do things we’d normally not do. In other words, loving unlovable people is an opportunity to step out in faith and let Christ’s love move us. What an awesome gift this is, the gift I experience daily by serving at Catholic Charities.

Your partner in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Pickett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Pickett, Executive Director

News and Events

Catholic Charities Celebrates

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington honored two of its contributors at their annual campaign event. Kathy Danneman is the recipient of the 2017 Marcella Strategier Angel of Hope Award, and BB&T the recipient of the Community Partner Award. Grace Penn, community mortgage specialist, Florence, accepted the award on behalf of BB&T.



Kathy has been volunteering with Catholic Charities as a receptionist for 11 years. She was on the Catholic Charities Advisory Board for six years and has spent the last five years on the CaSSba committee, helping to organize the agency's major fundraising event.

BB&T has been a community partner with Catholic Charities for many years. Their support has helped individuals, families and strengthened the local community. Here are a few examples, from last year, of the lives that were touched by the generosity of BB&T:

- 119 individuals became mortgage ready after attending a homebuyer education class;
- 141 clients saved their home from foreclosure.

Congratulations Kathy Danneman and BB&T bank. You are an inspiration to our community.

Sacred Heart Radio—Son Rise Morning Show

Listen to Son Rise Morning Show at 8:20 a.m. the **4th Thursday of the month** to hear Catholic Charities staff members talking about our programs and how we are serving in the Diocese of Covington. The podcasts are also available on the website at www.covingtoncharities.org.



Thank You for Supporting Catholic Charities WHILE YOU SHOP at Kroger!



Catholic Charities received over \$2,000 from Kroger's in 2017 because you used your plus card. If you have not designated Catholic Charities, all you have to do is Enroll your Kroger Plus Card online to help Catholic Charities.

Go to krogercommunityrewards.com

1. Log in and select my account
2. Community Rewards
3. Enter Catholic Charities or code 83331
4. and Enroll

Simple, Fast and Easy.

To Listen and To Understand

By Karen Horgan Kuhlman

When things are going well in our own private world we may be able to handle the challenges and the difficulties that the larger world throws our way. But, when external challenges are added to existing personal difficulties, we may need some assistance to set things right. The counselors of Catholic Charities have been there to extend a hand during some of life's most stressful moments for almost six decades.

A unique aspect of Catholic Charities Counseling Services is the ability of counselors to integrate spirituality and faith with their professional wisdom and knowledge of psychology. Diane Mushaben, MA, LPCC, mental health counselor at Catholic Charities says: "We use the best evidenced based practices in our field and are able to tie that into a person's faith. We can see the role of our relationship with God, see how He walks with us and is at work in the process. Some of our clients do not share our faith, but we respect, honor, validate and take into account their own faith. We can talk about how faith affects their life as a client wishes. Some have no particular faith and we respect that, too. Some secular counseling offices often do not take faith into account or see faith as a positive aspect of a person's life. At Catholic Charities, we see God's healing presence in the work that we do. God is the ultimate Healer."

Individuals wary of sharing the details of their struggles with perfect strangers may be reassured to know that at Catholic Charities they will find a safe place in which to examine those struggles. A counselor's most important task: to listen. Really listen, to those who seek their help and guidance.

People come from all backgrounds and situations, and Catholic Charities' Paula Weber, MSW, LCSW, Director of Counseling Services says: "We meet people where they are. The concerns that individuals bring to counseling are varied. Issues of loss, death, divorce, depression, anxiety, trauma or substance abuse can be compounded when one feels alone in the world. The everyday aspects of raising children or caring for elderly parents may be overwhelming and isolating. Adults in chronic situations may create barriers that keep them from connecting with the world. Sometimes, just the appearance of struggling causes others to turn away from





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them and not get involved. At times, they just need a place to talk things out. When clients feel heard, valued and affirmed, they are more likely to return and offer important information about their situations. That makes it possible for us to help people find their own answers.”

Individuals considering counseling may be resistant to the idea or, perhaps there is just one little thing stopping them. Mushaben says: “They owe it to themselves to seek a mental health practitioner. A person may be stuck and have a blind spot they cannot readily see. A counselor has the ability to help the person see that blind spot so they can become unstuck and move on. Why not give yourself a few sessions to see where it goes? You may develop a good rapport with your counselor and decide to move forward.”

Individuals who have fears or concerns about counseling should know that counselors are trained to be attentive to a client’s comfort level. If a counselor senses that things are moving too quickly or into an area a client is not ready to approach, they will back away for a time. This is especially true in the case of trauma. Proceeding at a rate that is safe and comfortable for the client, or honoring a client’s reluctance to go in a certain direction are important when handling difficult situations. Parents are asked to explain to a child “I want you to go to counseling three times before you quit and then see how you feel.” When parents offer that suggestion, it is usually enough time for the counselor to get things started and establish a good rapport with the child.

Catholic Charities does not want people to stay in counseling any longer than necessary, and is attentive to the needs of clients in the here and now. Counseling techniques today are different from those of the past, but concerns about those techniques may cause people to resist counseling. They may not want to unearth certain things or go to places they know to be unsafe for them. These days clients needn’t worry about that. They won’t have to go into every detail of the things they have experienced or continue through long years of therapy.

Sessions are not limited, but short term therapies often work to let people feel better and get back to life more quickly. Counselors determine a client’s expectations and can give a general idea of how long it may take to accomplish their goals. When clients begins to feel better and handle things on their own, sessions can be spaced further apart as they move on. To inquire about services you can call Client Care at 859-581-8974, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm or visit our webpage at www.covingtoncharities.org. Some evening appointments are also available.

Karen Horgan Kuhlman is a freelance writer and also the granddaughter of Mary Moser, a founding staff member of Catholic Charities.

News and Events continued

Volunteers Needed

Catholic Charities is looking for confident, reliable volunteers for **front desk receptionists and client billing**. There are four hour shifts for morning, afternoon and evening. Different opportunities are available. Diocesan VIRTUS training is required. To learn more contact Kristina Jolly, Volunteer Coordinator at 859-581-8974 ext 119 or kjolly@covingtoncharities.org.



Save the Date: CaSSba 2018

August 26, 2018 at the Drees Pavilion.

Thanks to our 2017 "Hats Off to 30 years of CaSSba" CaSSba Sponsors:

- Event (Top Hat) Sponsors: American Mortgage, BB&T and St. Elizabeth Healthcare
- Gold Hat Sponsors: Central Bank, PNC Bank, Ruth Faragher and Schneller Heating and Air
- Silver Sponsor: Dorning Supply Company
- Bronze Sponsors: Connley Brothers Funeral Home, Northern Kentucky and Schott Monument Companies, Rumpke Waste and Recycling Services, VonLehman CPA and Advisory Firm and Ken Wulfeck

Courageous Kids *Supporting children with incarcerated loved ones*

**2nd Thursday of the month
5:30-6:30 pm | Grades K-5
Erlanger Branch,
Kenton County Public Library
401 Kenton Lands Road
Erlanger, KY 41018**

We offer support, a listening ear, and fun activities for children who are experiencing the stress of incarcerated parents/relatives. Call 859-962-4147 with questions or for more info.

Parents of Addicted Loved-Ones (PAL) *Free Support Group*

**Wednesdays | 6:30-8:00 pm
Catholic Charities
3629 Church Street, Latonia**

PAL meets every week and provides continuing education along with support, at no charge, for parents with a son or daughter suffering from alcohol or drug addiction.

Free Homebuyer Education Class

**Saturday, Feb. 3; Saturday, March 3;
Saturday, April 7 | 9am-4pm
Catholic Charities
3629 Church Street, Latonia**

Learn about managing money, budgeting, insurance, inspections, mortgage lending, realtors, protecting your investment and predatory lending. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** (859) 581-8974.

Volunteers

The Spirit of Giving

What does the spirit of giving mean to you? For 66 adults and 134 children, it meant Christmas. Because of the generosity of local parishes, businesses, and individual donors these 53 families felt the joy of the Christmas season and the love of the community around them. While it is a season of happiness for many, for others, they are left wondering how they will be able to provide gifts for their families. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, it has allowed them to fully enjoy this Holiday Season.

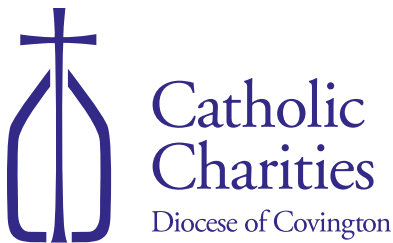


We also want to thank Catholic Health Initiatives for providing Christmas gifts for the 16 formerly homeless families who call St. Joseph Apartments home. These families were also provided a Christmas dinner by the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament. The joy on the faces of each child when Santa brought them a toy was priceless.

The success of this program, year after year, is also due to the support of our Volunteers who help with gift drop off, pick up, and delivery as well as dressing as Santa, wrapping the gifts, sorting presents, shopping for last minute needs, and tagging the packages. When they say it takes a village, it's true! Whether through monetary donations, gift card donations, or simply the donation of time, we treasure each and every one of our Volunteers and are grateful for them year round. As one volunteer said "this is truly what the Christmas season is all about. It's about sharing the true meaning of Christmas with others and treating them as Jesus would". It's another small reminder that our mission is to extend a hand, and change a life.



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.



Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

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www.CovingtonCharities.org
www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities

Serving the community for over 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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