



Reflecting Back on the Holidays

By: Jill Walch, Catholic Charities Volunteer Coordinator

Thanksgiving and Christmas time at Catholic Charities was quite a whirlwind!

Once again, the generosity of our volunteers and donors was overwhelming at this special time of year. We served over 100 Thanksgiving meals and were able to provide Christmas presents to 36 families; more than 150 smiling faces were found on Christmas morning.

This year, with the help of the St. Pius Outreach Committee, our Mobile Food Pantry, and many volunteers and donors, we doubled the number of families who received Thanksgiving meals. We were also able to reach remote areas in the Diocese with the help of John Hehman, our Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator, and his pantry volunteers.

And to our wonderful Christmas family sponsors, we thank you for your time and generosity. Imagine the Christmas magic, in the wide eyes of the children, as they awoke to discover presents under the tree. This magic was possible because of you.

As always, it is good to be reminded at this time of year of a different "richness."

As Pope Francis reminds us: "In its genuine poverty", "the nativity scene helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas," a different Christmas "from the consumerist and commercial one." It helps us "to become intimate with God, with the fragile simplicity of a small newborn, with the meekness of his being laid down, with the tender affection of the swaddling clothes that surround him."

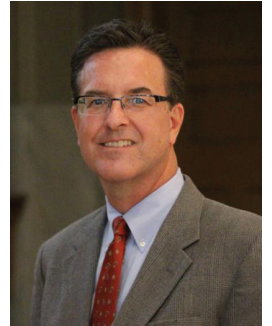
The Pope invites you to rediscover the surprise and amazement of littleness through the nativity scene, "the littleness of God, who makes himself small, who is not born in the splendor of appearances, but in the poverty of a stable."

Catholic Charities volunteers and supporters are truly "rich."

Peace be with you and yours today and throughout the year!



A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Reflecting over the past few months on the many ministries we offer at Catholic Charities and the increase in services being provided, I am amazed by all the ways that we have assisted others in need. And I am even more surprised by how many volunteers share their gifts of time, talent and treasure to accompany us as we serve others in these beautiful exchanges of love of neighbor. You can read about many of these recent efforts in this newsletter. I am humbled and grateful for these many "angels among us." You make this ministry possible. You help us thrive.

These reflections have caused me to ponder: Why do we do what we do? Where did the call to serve come from? What is our inspiration to serve others in our Catholic Charities ministry? And why do we attract so many others to join with us in serving our neighbor? We can easily go back to the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) True, we could be following these commandments and do this work out of obedience. And certainly, if we recognize how much God loves us, we may be motivated to share this love with others.

But how do we experience God's love for us? How do you know God's love? I would like to suggest that one way we know the love of the Father is by becoming more aware of the way he created us. He created us in his image, out of love. And our dignity and identity are received, as a free gift, from God. Recognizing that our image is received as a free gift from God, we may start to realize that our neighbor is also created in the image of God. And as we see others more like ourselves in the same image of God, we are more likely to treat our neighbor with the dignity and respect that we have already received. I suggest that we hold close to our heart this image of ourselves as in the image of God so that we don't let the world try to inscribe our own imperfect image into what God has created. What an awesome gift!

Again, I offer my personal thanks and gratitude to all who contribute to our ministry here at Catholic Charities in whatever way you are able to help. You have inspired me greatly over the past eight years, and I have been truly blessed by being part of it. There is still more work to do, as we expect new opportunities to arise and the needs will grow. So please keep in mind how God created us in his image, and then continue to share this love with everyone you encounter.

In God's mercy,

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

Don't Miss Out! Cassba is Starting Early

We are starting Cassba a bit early this year with a special raffle.

Calling all Taylor Swift Fans!! Don't miss your opportunity to purchase Taylor Swift concert raffle tickets for her July 1st performance. The winner will receive two tickets, located in section 136, Row 11, Seat 2 and 3. (11 rows from the floor and right by the stage)

Raffle tickets are on sale now by scanning the QR code or going to www.Cassba.com.

Hurry, only five hundred tickets will be sold. Purchase price is \$50 for each ticket with the drawing being on Thursday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m. at Catholic Charities 3629 Church Street, Covington, KY 41015. Need not be present to win.



Welcome Gary Frodge

Gary Frodge is our new Assistant Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator. Gary has been a faithful volunteer from the beginning of the mobile food pantry. He is a retired police officer, a parishioner at St. Augustine in Augusta, and very active in several other activities involving his parish and his faith, including helping to start St. Vincent DePaul in Augusta.



Welcome Lynne Moore

We are excited and happy to welcome Lynne Moore as a new, full-time Client Care Specialist. Lynne grew up in Northern Kentucky, attended Simon Kenton High School, and NKU. She and her husband live in Independence.

The Light of Christ Among Us

“What a special treat!” was the echo heard in the room at Walt’s Hitching Post after a wonderful dinner.

In the fall, a donor family asked if they could treat our hardworking staff to a nice dinner. We thought it was so generous, but also told them it was not necessary. Well, they disagreed. So, in early January, the staff spent a special evening celebrating Catholic Charities! The donors provided us with a great meal and gifted each staff member with a new Catholic Charities branded jacket.

Before the dinner began, one of the donors shared a little story, which was touching to the staff. One morning many years ago, she was traveling to work at 7:30 am and passed Parish Kitchen. Even at this early hour, the lights were already on there. She felt so moved because no matter the day, the weather, or the circumstances, the lights are on at the Parish Kitchen serving guests, 365 days a year.

She added that Catholic Charities keeps the lights on for so many people. Because of Catholic Charities, the lights are on at our St. Joseph Apartments, for families who were previously homeless. We provide a light at the end of the tunnel for parents in our parenting classes. We are the light to so many who face challenging situations through mental health counseling at our office and schools. We also keep the lights on at homes we helped save from foreclosure with our financial counseling.

Just as the star of Bethlehem was a light to the wisemen, Catholic Charities is the light to so many people. And in closing, our donors thanked all the staff for their light, who each give themselves to those in need of a light. This was truly inspirational to all our grateful staff.



We are very thankful to this special donor and to all our

1. The 3rd and 4th grade CCD classes at St. Williams Parish made Christmas ornaments and sold them to raise enough money to purchase two, zero degree sleeping bags, and hand warmers for the guests at Parish Kitchen. Thank you to the 3rd and 4th grade CCD classes for being an example to all of us to love thy neighbor as thyself.

2. Thank you to the Northern Kentucky Varsity Norse Hockey team for all their help delivering Christmas gifts to our supportive housing program residents today. Their goalie even dressed as Santa to make it extra special. In addition, they raised over \$1,200 to go toward their Christmas meals and future needs.

3. Thank you so much to the St. Pius School Student Counsel, who with the guidance of teacher, Cecilia Baker, purchased items for our St. Joseph Apartment Christmas Program. We and the residents of the St. Joseph Apartments are so thankful!

4. Mark Connaughton presented Alan Pickett with a donation from the Catholic Order of Foresters. We appreciate their continued support.

5. Catholic Charities was selected as a grant recipient for one of the six St. Timothy Parish Service Grants awarded in 2022. Parishioners of St Timothy Parish provided the labor and funding to purchase two, fourteen by ten-foot gazebos. The gazebos will provide covering for our two picnic tables on the St. Joseph apartment grounds in Elsmere. Prior to the installation of the gazebos, there was no protection against the rain and inclement weather. These picnic tables, used for case management sessions, arts and crafts for the kids, family dinners, and a relaxed meeting space for the tenants to interact with each other, will provide comfort to our residents.

A record number of St. Timothy parishioners came out on the Saturday before Halloween and were the hands and feet of Christ, installing the gazebos, cleaning up the landscaping, tidying, and cleaning the laundry facility/case manager's office, and painting fences. What a blessing for our tenants to see faith in action by someone they do not even know. Many of these brothers and sisters of ours have experienced a lifetime of struggles. To watch an act of kindness such as this will stay with them for a lifetime.



donors who support us to be the light to those in need!

Program Updates

Friends & Family of the Incarcerated *Free Support Group*

**3rd Tuesday of the month
6:30 p.m.**

A safe, welcoming community where you will be accepted without judgment.

Questions? Contact dcapella@covingtoncharities.org

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

**2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month | 6:30–8:00 p.m.
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, March 4, 2023

Saturday, April 1, 2023

Saturday, May 6, 2023

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Catholic Charities

3629 Church Street, Latonia

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

How can Catholic Charities help with Your Housing Issues?

Behind on your mortgage due to loss of income because of COVID-19? The Homeowner Assistance Fund (HOAF) is a program created to mitigate financial hardships associated with the coronavirus pandemic by providing funds to eligible entities for the purpose of preventing homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, and loss of utilities and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020.

Qualified homeowners will be eligible for up to \$60,000 to pay eligible expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. You must experience an annual loss of income of at least 10% and it must be due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your income must be less than 150% of the area median income. If you need more information about this program, you can contact Patti Anderson, Catholic Charities Housing Counselor, at 859-581-8974.

Want to purchase your own home? Catholic Charities has classes for homebuyer education. The schedule is on this page. New homebuyers could receive grants of up to \$15,000 under the new ARPA Mortgage Assistance program. This new program is separate from but like the City of Covington existing Homebuyer Assistance Program, which has helped almost four hundred families buy homes since 2014. The city is keeping the existing program but adding a new program.

The federal requirements allow the city of Covington to offer the new program, consisting of a grant for up to \$15,000, in Qualified Census Tracts, or QCTs. In Covington, the following neighborhoods included are: Mainstrasse Village, Westside, Historic West 15th Street, Eastside, Helentown, Austinburg, Peaselburg, City Heights, Monte Casino, and parts of Latonia. If you are interested in this program visit www.covingtonky.gov/government/departments/neighborhood-services/federal-grants or contact Patti Anderson at 859-581-8974.

Program Updates continued

Exciting News for the Mobile Food Pantry “Food for Friends”

By John Hehman, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator

We are excited to announce the hiring of Gary Frodge to help with the Food for Friends Mobile Food Pantry. Gary will assist at all the pantries along with assisting in other administrative duties required to keep the pantry running. Gary has been volunteering at all the food pantries from the very first pantry. Welcome Gary.

Here we grow again! In November, another food pantry opened. This new location is in Pendleton County at St. Francis Xavier, located at 202 Second Street in Falmouth. The pantry will be on the third Thursday of each month from 2:00pm until 4:00pm.

Our “Food for Friends” pantry schedule is the second Monday of each month at St. William Parish in Williamstown, the fourth Friday of each month at St. James Parish in Brooksville, the second Thursday of each month at St. Joseph Parish in Warsaw, the fourth Monday of each month at St. Edward Mission in Owenton, the third Thursday of each month at St. Francis Xavier in Falmouth, and the second Tuesday of the month at The Maysville Lions Club in Maysville.

We are proud of the expansion of our pantries and know it would not be possible without our donors, volunteers, and staff. This dedication makes every pantry successful each month.

If you are interested in volunteering for the mobile food pantry, please visit our website, www.covingtoncharities.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities, to fill out an application or contact John Hehman at jhehman@covingtoncharities.org



Jail Ministry

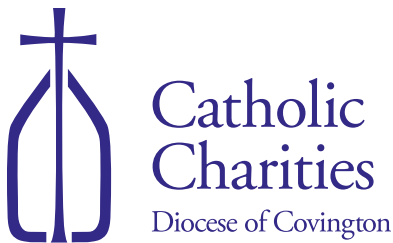
Amazing Work!

I am in awe of the amazing work our volunteers do week after week. In the brief time we have been back in all three local detention centers, they contacted over 700 inmates in Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County counties. This includes bilingual volunteers who met with over 150 hispanic inmates in Boone County. Our teaching volunteers have graduated twenty-five men and women from the Kenton County MRT (Moral Reconation Therapy) program. This program teaches the men and women a new way to think about their lives and the world around them.

Due to staffing shortages at the Detention Center, we were unable to deliver in person Christmas snacks to the inmates at the Campbell County Detention Center this year. However this didn't stop Catholic Charities staff and volunteers from purchasing snacks for the inmates and staff and dropping them off.

If you know of someone looking for support due to having a loved one incarcerated, please encourage them to join our group the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. It is truly a support group where people share experiences and feelings without judgment.

For more information about our Jail Ministry Program, contact Dave Capella, at dcepella@covingtoncharities.org or call 859-581-8974 Ext. 117.



Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

3629 Church Street
Latonia, KY 41015
859.581.8974
www.CovingtonCharities.org
www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities

Serving the community for over 92 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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Diocese of Covington

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for friends of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides Child and Family
Services; Counseling Services; Housing Services; and Community Outreach Services.*

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