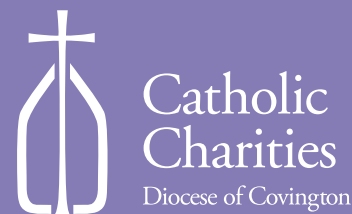


Partners Newsletter

Winter 2014–15 | Edition #76



2014 Annual Appeal—*Extend a Hand. Change a Life.*



The Marcella Strategier "Angel of Hope" Award recipients, Jim and Nancy Bradley (center).

Catholic Charities represents Christ's hands to those in need in the Diocese of Covington. The agency serves more than 11,000 people annually; and provides 75,000 meals each year at Parish Kitchen. Guided by the principals of Catholic Social Teaching, our work expresses the belief in the dignity and the worth of every human person.

Catholic Charities kicked off its "Extend a Hand. Change a Life." Annual Appeal with an event that provided guests with the opportunity to support our work and hear testimonials from clients and volunteers. "Our clients' testimonials are what make our jobs so

rewarding," said Alan Pickett, Executive Director.

The Marcella Strategier "Angel of Hope" Award was presented to Jim and Nancy Bradley. The Bradleys, like Marcella Strategier, are dedicated volunteers and friends of the agency. Dan Nolan, Operating Director of the Parish Kitchen, said "Jim volunteers at Parish Kitchen five days a week operating the dishwasher, while Nancy serves meals, and bakes desserts every Friday. They know our guests by name and continually bless us with their commitment to our mission. We thank Jim and Nancy for all they do and all they give, and congratulate them on this honor."

Closing the evening, Bishop Roger Foys thanked those assembled for their participation and congratulated Catholic Charities for its work in service to the Gospel and the people of the Diocese of Covington.

For 83 years, Catholic Charities has been led by a compassionate and knowledgeable group of professionals. The staff and volunteers open their arms to all people of the Diocese of Covington. The agency provides a safe and stable home for 16 previously homeless families at St. Joseph Apartments in Elsmere. The Insights Program teaches 400 junior high school students about poverty in Northern Kentucky. Over 400 people received mental health or substance abuse treatment the Latonia Office. School counselors provide vital mental health counseling and substance abuse prevention education to 16 schools serving grades K-12, both Catholic and public. The pregnancy counseling program provides emotional support to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and offers similar support to their family members.

Catholic Charities' goal is to Extend a Hand and Change a Life. Please help us serve all who walk through our front door of hope by donating to our Annual Appeal in the enclosed envelope or visit www.CovingtonCharities.org to donate online. If you have more questions about Catholic Charities contact Vicky Bauerle at 859-581-8974 or VBauerle@CovingtonCharities.org.

"Our clients' success stories are what make our jobs so rewarding."

Alan Pickett,
Executive Director,
Catholic Charities
Diocese of Covington.

Community Compassion healing
Charity Education

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends

Prepare the way of the Lord! (Isaiah 40:3)

As most of you probably know by now, I just joined Catholic Charities in September. Many people have asked me what sparked my interest to serve at Catholic Charities. To be honest, I believe that God has been *preparing* me to serve my entire life. It simply took this long for me to answer God's call. Just as God has been *preparing* me, God is *preparing* each of us to serve.

Every year during Advent, we are all called to renew our *preparation* for the coming of our Lord, just as the prophet Isaiah proclaimed. Advent is a time for anticipation and *preparation*. So as you scurry about your business to finalize your *preparations* for the coming of our Lord this Advent, consider this: how is God *preparing* you to serve?

Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

A few weeks back, I attended a conference for new Executive Directors of Catholic Charities from all across the U.S. in the Washington, D.C. area at the headquarters of Catholic Charities USA. I was greeted at the USAir Terminal in Reagan National Airport by a poster from Catholic Charities USA that read, "Reducing Poverty in America, One Person at a Time." It is no coincidence that God is with us wherever we go. And this message is consistent with our new tag line, "Extend a Hand. Change a Life." By extending a hand, we change lives, one person at a time.

Our Catholic faith inspires us to carry on our mission of hope to the poor and neglected in the Diocese of Covington, one person at a time. We see the face of Christ in the poor and neglected people we serve. Your partnership with us, extending a hand to serve with us, encourages us to continue this mission. Your prayers, your time, your talents and your treasure are truly appreciated. Thank you for walking with us, thank you for extending your hands, literally and figuratively. You are truly helping us make a difference.

May your Advent *preparations* be blessed as you anticipate the coming miracle of Christmas this year. And may the new birth of Christ among us bless us and keep us, now and for the years to come.

Your partner in Christ,

Alan Pickett
Executive Director

News and Events



Memorial Fountain Dedication

The former executive director of Catholic Charities, Bill Jones, died on November 6th 2013 after a long illness. One year later, on November 7th, 2014, the Catholic Charities community gathered to remember Bill at the dedication of a memorial fountain in the front yard of our building. Bishop Foys presided at the ceremony, which included daytime prayers from the liturgy of the hours and a reading from Scripture, followed by the blessing of the fountain. Donna Scholer, Bill's widow, was also present. The fountain is a beautiful and fitting memorial to Bill, whose dedication to serving those in need will always be an example and an inspiration to those who remember him.



Meet Your Legislator

Bishop Foys invites all parishioners to attend a meeting with your Legislators to discuss the upcoming Kentucky General Assembly on Saturday, January 31, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Howard Hall, Curia Building, 1125 Madison Avenue, Covington, KY. Of particular interest is the opportunity to share insights from Catholic Social Teaching with our elected officials on any bills that could affect the practice of our faith. Cost is \$20 for lunch and materials.

For reservations contact Vicky Bauerle, Catholic Charities at 859-581-8974 x116, or www.CovingtonCharities.org before January 19, 2015.



Program Updates

Healthier Happier You Class

This summer the agency began a collaboration with the nursing department at Gateway Community College to offer a wellness program to clients and other members of the community. There is a growing recognition among health professionals that mental and physical health are closely linked. United Way, a major funder of Catholic Charities' mental health services, is interested in projects such as this, where mental health professionals provide programming that promotes physical as well as mental health.

Six sessions were scheduled over six weeks, and topics included stress management and relaxation techniques, teaching about medication and about how to recognize and prevent recurrence of symptoms, wellness and nutrition, heart disease, blood pressure and diabetes.

The classes have gone very well, and the group has decided that they would like to meet monthly after the series. The group members have been supportive of one another, and have offered helpful suggestions for each other. The Gateway nursing instructor, Diana Loh, is willing to continue working with attendees who have asked for continued contact.

Catholic Charities has provided a warm and supportive environment for the program, greeting people as they arrive and offering healthy refreshments. Catholic Charities' staff presented a relaxation exercise for the stress management class. We will be planning for a new class in early 2015. Contact Paula Weber, 859-581-8974 or pweber@covingtoncharities.org, for more information about the class.

Adoption Program

Catholic Charities has been providing adoption services since 1948. We have had the privilege of working with many wonderful birth and adoptive families over the years. We are a licensed and accredited child-placing agency with an experienced, professional staff that values you and your needs. Our fees are all inclusive. Our services are for a life-time. We are presently looking to increase our number of prospective adoptive parents. The eligibility requirements can be found on the agency's Web site at www.CovingtonCharities.org. For more information, contact Monica Kuhlman, Program Supervisor, at 859-581-8974 ext. 125 or mkuhlman@covingtoncharities.org.



Parish Kitchen

This is the time of year when Parish Kitchen collects items that will help our guests through the cold winter months. We are currently collecting new blankets, sleeping bags, gloves, hats and warm, long socks. These cold weather necessities literally help save the lives of our guests who may live on the streets or in places unfit for human habitation because they have no heat.

Parish Kitchen is also accepting donations of grocery store gift cards to help with the purchase of the 84 gallons of milk that our guests consume each week. Parish Kitchen offers other kinds of assistance, including health screenings and flu shots. David Phillips continues to help guests obtain ID. An ID is a necessity at any time of year, but it is especially important in the winter months, because without an ID, people seeking to come in out of the cold cannot be admitted to any homeless shelter. An ID can save lives. David has also helped several guests obtain health insurance.

All donations may be dropped off at either Parish Kitchen or Catholic Charities.

Parish Kitchen, Pike and Russell Streets in Covington, KY
7:00—11:00 a.m. Monday—Friday; 8:00—11:00 a.m. Saturday & Sunday


Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street in Latonia, KY
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Monday—Friday

Walk-in Clinic Meets Client Needs

The counseling staff at the agency has known for a very long time that people calling for substance abuse counseling will make an appointment to begin services and then fail to attend their initial appointment. It is not uncommon for people who struggle with addiction to lose their motivation and give up in the time between making the appointment and actually keeping the appointment. In an effort to reach people struggling with substance abuse, and wanting to be more flexible for our clients, Catholic Charities now offers an option for walk-in appointments. The walk-in clinic began in May 2014, and has been very successful. Besides losing motivation, other reasons that people have difficulty keeping appointments include problems with reliable transportation, dependable childcare, and other issues surrounding stability. The walk-in clinic allows clients the ability to choose what works for them, and not get stuck with fees for missing an appointment.

The substance abuse counselors at Catholic Charities are highly experienced professionals, who are thoroughly educated and knowledgeable in this field. They meet clients in a confidential setting, without judgment, and can help in making an individualized plan and recommendations for treatment. If outpatient counseling is appropriate, staff can work with clients to develop healthy coping skills, a plan for good self-care, a Relapse Prevention Plan (RPP), as well as how to build a sober support network.

To learn more about the Catholic Charities walk-in clinic for substance abuse counseling contact Client Care at 859-581-8974 or info@covingtoncharities.org.



“We invite all in need to walk through our front door of hope.”

Volunteer of the Season: Autumn



Lisa Cooper and her husband, Dan, have been approved as foster parents since April of 2009. During this time, they have cared for 10 infants, for time periods ranging from one day to almost three months. Lisa has always said yes when asked if she could care for a baby – often with just a few hours' notice. She is committed to providing the best possible care. Even though Lisa knows that each baby will be part of her family for a very short time, she and her husband love them all. Lisa never complains about interrupted nights, and her babies never cry because there is always someone to hold them.

In February, 2010 Lisa asked to help in other capacities at Catholic Charities and there was an opening as a Monday morning receptionist. Lisa quickly learned the ins and outs of the busy Monday morning schedule. She relates very well to staff and clients and everyone enjoys her calm demeanor. However, being a foster parent has always been Lisa's first priority. She continues to sub as a receptionist when she is not caring for our precious little ones, and also helps in the business office.

Lisa and Dan work on their 25 acres of land, which includes a garden and an orchard where they harvest grapes and make wine. They are active members of their church and community. They thoroughly enjoy the company of their five adult children.

We are indeed blessed to have Lisa as one of our volunteers.

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Volunteer of the Year



Phyllis Noll was the recipient of this year's Volunteer of the Year award, presented to her at the annual Volunteer Brunch, which took place on December 6th. Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement Manager, and Amy Littleton, Quality Assurance Coordinator, presented Phyllis with her award.

Phyllis has been a volunteer at Catholic Charities since 2003. Her daughter Connie encouraged her to call Catholic Charities and find out about volunteering here, and the agency has benefited from her reliability and commitment ever since.

Phyllis comes to the office twice a month doing administrative work and sometimes taking work home. She is the coordinator and organizer of the mailing team, which comes in at least eight times a year to help with large mailing jobs.

She is also part of our CaSSba fundraising committee. Phyllis is a real go getter. She has a huge list of businesses and she asks them all for donations. She does not take no for an answer. In addition, Phyllis wraps the CaSSba gift baskets. We have been told that our items and baskets at the CaSSba are the best as they are so attractive, with the items beautifully presented.

We appreciate Phyllis for her loyalty to the agency. Amy and Vicky especially are grateful for her energy and positive attitude. "We are very privileged to call her our friend. Since the day we met Phyllis, we knew God had brought someone very special into our lives," said Vicky Bauerle, when presenting the award. "Phyllis, Catholic Charities thanks you from the bottom of our heart for your commitment and hard work. You are truly a blessing to us."

www.CovingtonCharities.org



Check out our newly redesigned website for all the latest news, as well as to sign up for our monthly *e-connector* newsletter!

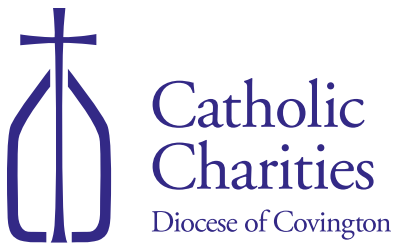
Catholic Charities is registered with the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

PLEASE REGISTER OR SIGN UP using the number 83331.

This does not affect your fuel points, but Catholic Charities will get money on a quarterly basis for all the purchases that are made under our number. Thank you for your support!



This newsletter is published three times a year in spring, summer and winter for friends of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides adoption services, housing support, therapeutic counseling, parenting services, pregnancy counseling, substance abuse treatment, jail ministry and prisoner reentry services, youth development services, client care, and volunteer support.



Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

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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.***”**

Bishop of Covington

Most Reverend
Roger J. Foys, DD

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Program Staff (cont'd)

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Katie Martin, School Counselor
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Paula Weber, Counseling Program Supervisor
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