



Donations Provide Support for St. Joseph Apartments



In 2010, when Catholic Charities purchased the apartment buildings at 1024 and 1028 Capitol Avenue we became landlords for the first time. These buildings, which we named St. Joseph Apartments, provide low income supportive housing, offering homeless families stability, as well as the opportunity to work toward self-sufficiency. The apartments house sixteen families, and altogether there are approximately 50 people living in the buildings. Every household includes at least one family member with some kind of disability.*

When we bought the buildings, we knew we would be good at the social services aspects of our work with our tenants, and we have many success stories to share. Overall, the tenants improve their lives, take jobs, get bet-

ter jobs, succeed in school and improve physical and mental health. This spring we will be having a big celebration, as for the first time, there are two high school seniors who will be graduating and going on to college. In the beginning we were not so sure about the practical aspects of owning an apartment building, especially the long term and expensive maintenance issues, such as the HVAC units. In 2010, we already knew that the HVAC units were old and would need to be replaced in the next few years. The cost for each unit is close to \$4,000, so we were looking at expenses in the range of \$64,000.

We have been spectacularly blessed with generous community partners who have financed our long term project to replace all the HVAC units. Since 2013 we have replaced ten of them, and the remaining six will be replaced over the summer of 2015. Our tenants, many of whom have had bad experiences in rental housing, are grateful for our care of their homes. When we tell a tenant that it is their turn for a new HVAC unit, they often say, "Why? It's still working!" We tell them that, thanks to our generous donors, we are able to replace the units, not in emergency situations when the temperature is zero degrees in winter or 100 degrees in summer, but at a time that is much less stressful for them as well as for us.

We would like to acknowledge the amazing generosity of Guardian Savings Bank, which has financed eight of the units. When they gave us this commitment, we could hardly believe that one organization would take on half of this responsibility, and this tangible sign of their belief in our work at the apartments was humbling. We also want to thank the Bank of Kentucky, which generously funded four units. Again, we are grateful not just for the financial assistance, but also for their faith in our work, expressed in a practical way. We offer thanks also to Fifth/Third Bank, Republic Bank, PNC Bank, and the R.C. Durr Foundation, for their generous donations which together funded the remaining four units.

Catholic Charities relies on the generosity of our donors, because that is what makes it possible to do our work. Thanks to each of you for helping us provide our tenants, who have come to us from the streets or from homeless shelters, with safe, stable and well-maintained housing, where they can begin to rebuild their lives.

*“We have been
spectacularly
blessed with
generous
community
partners.”*

**To be eligible for the St Joseph Apartments, families must be on the street or living in a homeless shelter, and must have at least one family member with a disability.*

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

As we embrace the Easter season, we are inspired by the message of hope in the Resurrection and rebirth that Easter represents. Also during the Easter season, the weather starts to become warmer, the days are longer, and we see more sunshine. In all of this, we experience rebirth.

At Catholic Charities we are reborn as we continue to re-invest, build and grow in our programs. In this edition of our *Partners* Newsletter, you will read about many of the various things that are going on recently at Catholic Charities. You will read about the people we serve at Parish Kitchen and about the volunteers who recently repainted the entire Parish Kitchen facility. Our Reach and Teach program was recently featured in the Bishop's DPAA video, so we will tell you a little bit more about this wonderful program and the students whose lives have been changed, both the mentors and those who are mentored. We will share a glimpse of our growth in the program at St. Joseph apartments and the way we impact the residents who live there. You will read about advocacy in action during January at the March for Life in Washington D.C. and at our Catholics at the Capitol event. We also highlighted some ways to have fun that also raise money for our programs. Most importantly, we are especially pleased to feature a few of our outstanding volunteers. None of these good works could be done without the generous volunteers who contribute countless hours to our mission to Extend a Hand and Change a Life. I am so thankful for each our volunteers for their contribution of time and talent. You truly make a difference.

One of our most noteworthy accomplishments—a legacy really—is that we have been accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) continuously since 1996. This is a fairly rigorous process and it gives our staff, clients, partners and benefactors assurance that we have consistently strived to meet the highest standards possible. This assurance allows us to continue doing the work we have been commissioned to do. We are reviewed by the COA every four years, and they just concluded their 2015 on-site review during the last week of February. It will take a couple of months to finalize and renew our accreditation, but the preliminary report is very positive, so we expect our COA accreditation will be finalized later this spring. I am especially grateful for our outstanding staff who were commended during the on-site COA review, and all who contributed to the successful COA review process.

I am continually blessed to be part of this outstanding ministry, serving throughout our diocese. We have a bright future, which gives me hope.

Easter blessings to you and those you love,

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



Save the Date!

Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus is sponsoring the 7th Annual Golf Classic to benefit Catholic Charities LifeLine Fund on Saturday, August 29, 2015 at Twin Oaks Golf and Plantation Club. A four man/ women scramble format shotgun starts at 8:00 am. The cost is \$90 per golfer which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, coffee and donuts, lunch and dinner, beer, soft drinks and a gift bag. For more information or to register call Dennis Elix at 442-0296 or Carle Biery at 781-5054.



Catholics at the Capitol

Over 100 parishioners from the Diocese of Covington joined Bishop Foys to meet with elected officials about Kentucky bills that could affect the practice of our faith.

Pictured above from left to right: Rep. Arnold Simpson, Rep. Joe Fischer, Alan Pickett, Rep. Addia Wuchner, Bishop Roger Foys, Andrew Vandiver, Catholic Conference, Fr. Ryan Maher, Jason Hall, Catholic Conference, Senator Wil Schroder, Fr. Dan Schumacher. Attended but not pictured-Rep. Sal Santoro, Senator John Schnickel.

Program Updates

Parish Kitchen

David Phillips continues to be available every week at Parish Kitchen to help guests by connecting them with community resources. He also interacts with guests during the lunch hour so that they get to know David, establish some trust, and are willing to seek his assistance.

“I’ve helped get food stamps, health insurance, ID, housing, food, clothing and employment,” says David. “I’ve also helped prevent street homelessness on a few of occasions by getting people into shelters when they had nowhere else to go.” Many of the people that David works with are not able to receive help other places because they don’t meet the HUD definition of homelessness. (The HUD definition of homelessness is living on the street, in a place unfit for human habitation, or in a homeless shelter.)

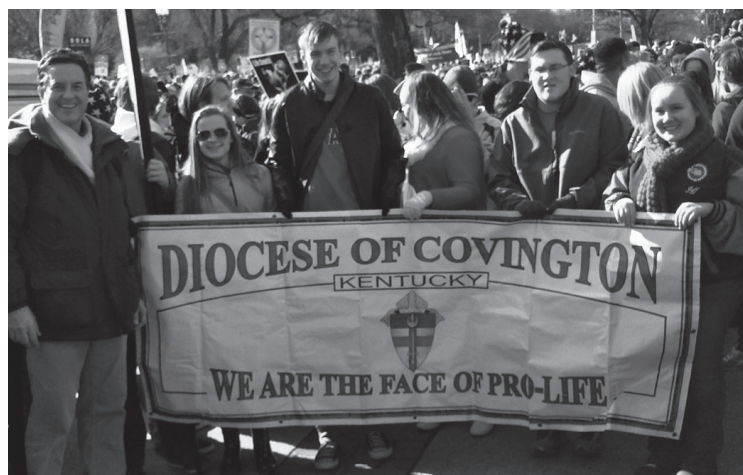
In addition, David has collected demographics so that we have more information about our guests, which is useful in determining needed services. David also participated in the K-Count, the annual attempt to count homeless people in our community, in coordination with Welcome House.

Other Good News

The Parish Kitchen served 71,091 meals and purchased over 4,160 gallons of milk in 2014. The staff and volunteers distributed 154 sleeping bags or blankets at the start of the cold winter months. Parish Kitchen provides socks and toiletries to our guests throughout the year, thanks to the generous donations we receive. Walgreens Pharmacy provided flu shots, and Tri-State Gastroenterology Associates provided health screenings for guests.

The Parish Kitchen got a new look this winter, thanks to the hard work of four dedicated volunteers, who clocked 68 evening hours painting the whole facility. Guests and staff appreciate the updated, fresh new décor. Many thanks to Dave Ruschman, who led the project, and to Steve Ruschman, Larry Ruschman and Dick Grothus, who worked alongside Dave. Parish Kitchen provides a hot lunch every day of the year to whoever comes to the door. For more information about Parish Kitchen contact Theresa Bergmann at tbergmann@covingtoncharities.org.

Pictured top left: Painters Steve Ruschman (left) and Dave Ruschman (right).



Mentors Are Positive Role Models

Catholic Charities' *Reach & Teach* program provides elementary and middle school students with an opportunity to build relationship skills and improve school performance. Each child spends time each week with a high school student who acts as a mentor and tutor. The program currently has approximately 40 mentors from Covington Catholic High School, who are paired with children from Collins Elementary, Ockerman Elementary, RA Jones Middle, Prince of Peace, Holy Trinity and St. Agnes elementary schools. There are also three mentors from Notre Dame Academy.

The mentors are positive role models for the younger students in many ways. The elementary and middle school children have shown improvements in attendance, behavior and academic performance after taking part in *Reach & Teach*. A current eighth grade participant is getting better grades and is less disruptive in class. This boy is currently homeless and living in a hotel with his mother. He has no other family, and very little support from anyone other than his mother. He is often in trouble at school, defiant toward authority, and he refuses to do homework. After nine sessions with his mentor, he is more cooperative. He stays on task, and since he began the program he has consistently completed at least one homework assignment each week. He looks forward to *Reach & Teach*, and it currently seems to be the main thing that motivates and excites him.

Catholic Charities' staff make this program possible. Theresa Bergman, volunteer coordinator, matches mentors with the participating schools, and provides administrative support. School-based counselors provide orientation and training for the mentors, supervise the sessions and help the mentors in their interactions with the students. This is over and above their regular work assignments, but they are committed to the program because they see the benefits to mentors and mentees alike. "The younger children benefit tremendously from having a consistent, positive role model, someone who cares about them," said Sheila Dumford, supervisor of the school counseling program. "These children are also in desperate need of the academic support. The mentors benefit from building a relationship where they are seen as role models and are looked up to. They can also see, as their student's grades improve, that they are helping a child to succeed."

For more information about *Reach & Teach* contact Theresa Bergmann or Sheila Dumford at 859-581-8974.

March For Life

On January 22, 2015, Alan Pickett, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington took part in the 42nd March for Life in Washington DC. Bishop Foys along with 1200 people from the Diocese of Covington participated in the march.

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

Sellout Crowd Benefits Parish Kitchen

The Yearlings brought back a well-loved charitable event to Turfway Park in Florence on March 14, 2015. Charity Night at the Tables featured casino-style gambling, live racing, live music by Prisoner, and silent auctions with winnings to benefit eight non-profit organizations which included Parish Kitchen. Event sponsors included The Bank of Kentucky, Toyota and St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

Parish Kitchen, a ministry of Catholic Charities, selected GOT MILK! as this year's Charity Night at the Tables theme to help raise money to cover the annual cost of over \$12,000 to supply milk every day to guests arriving 365 days a year to receive a nutritious hot meal served from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in Covington.

Dan Nolan, Parish Kitchen Director, was thrilled to learn that as the top event ticket seller, Parish Kitchen will automatically be invited to attend next year's 2016 charity event. In addition, Parish Kitchen placed second at the end of the evening in collecting winning chips from event guests. As second place chip winner, Chad Bilz Parish Kitchen event chair selected horse Metaboss which placed 5th and provided Parish Kitchen with an additional \$1,000 for milk.

Special thanks to volunteer dealer Dave Hatter, Costume Gallery for donating the cow costume, Chad Bilz our event chair and donor of 4 Reds Club Seats auctioned for \$300, Fox 19 Sports Director Joe Danneman for Serve Lunch with Joe Danneman at Parish Kitchen auctioned for \$200, and all who supported the event!

Catholic Charities' Board Members Cindy Hassan and Kathy Danneman play Black Jack.



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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.

Like us! facebook.com/covingtoncharities

Volunteers of the Season: Spring

Chris Ruschmann, Nancy Krull and Barb Feldman are our school volunteer team. This team has been together since 2012, and we rely on them to help out in many different ways and they always come through. They arrive at 9 am every Thursday, and stay until the job is done. Sometimes they are finished at 11 am, and other times it isn't until 4 pm. Either way, if we have work for them that is urgent, they will stay until the tasks are completed. They work very well as a team, but will also "divide and conquer," to make sure everything gets done. Chris, Nancy and Barb will do anything asked of them, including tedious, repetitive, but vital tasks, such as putting together hundreds of blank case files and packets, entering data or scoring outcomes. They are quick to learn new skills, and no matter what is asked of them to do, they are always willing to help.

The school counselors are usually out in the schools when Chris, Nancy and Barb are at the agency, but they always see the "To Do" lists completed, and know the volunteers were here, working hard. Having this team of volunteers takes a tremendous amount of pressure off the staff. It's wonderful to know that help is always there. We appreciate their consistency, their level of commitment and their willingness to go the extra mile. "Because of their help and dedication to their work, the school counselors have more time to help clients, and this is priceless. Chris, Nancy and Barb embody what it means to volunteer, and we are so thankful to have them as part of our team. Now that we have them we don't know what we did without them!" said Sheild Dumford, School Counseling Program Supervisor.



Pictured are Nancy, Chris, and Barb

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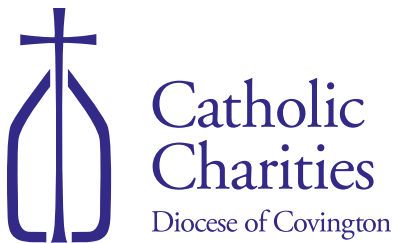
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3. Enter Catholic Charities or enter code 83331.
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All participants must enroll or re-enroll each year. Contact Vicky Bauerle (859)581-8974 Ext. 116 for Kroger Reward Card questions. Thanks for supporting Catholic Charities every time you shop at Kroger!

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



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

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