

## Annual Appeal Celebrates 85 Years of Serving Those in Need



Alan Pickett and Bishop Foys with Marianne and Steve Fieger

By Vicky Bauerle and Laura Keener, Editor, Messenger

Catholic Charities represents Christ's hands to those in need in the Diocese of Covington. The agency serves more than 10,000 people annually; and provides 73,000 meals each year at Parish Kitchen. Guided by the principals of Catholic Social Teaching, their work expresses the belief in the dignity and the worth of every human person.

Catholic Charities Annual Appeal event provided guests with the opportunity to support our work and hear testimonials from clients and volunteers. "Their success stories are what make our jobs so rewarding," said Alan Pickett, Executive Director.

During the evening the agency honored volunteers Steve and Marianne Fieger with the Marcella Strategier Award. "Steve and Marianne Fieger embody Marcella Strategier's commitment in advancing the work and mission of Catholic Charities and the entire Catholic community," said Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement Manager. We thank Steve and Marianne for all they do and all they give, and congratulate them on this honor.

Bishop Foys closed the evening by saying, "From the bottom of my heart, as your bishop, as your shepherd, I thank you for remembering how good we have it, and how there are so many people who need our help, who simply need us, as the Holy Father says very often, 'to walk with them, to be there with them, to give them hope.'"

For almost 85 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. Over 400 people receive mental health or substance abuse treatment at the Latonia Office. School counselors provide vital mental health counseling and substance abuse prevention education to 16 schools serving grades K-12, 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 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](http://www.CovingtonCharities.org) to donate online. If you have already donated to the annual appeal we are truly grateful. If you have more questions about Catholic Charities contact Vicky Bauerle at 859-581-8974 or [VBauerle@CovingtonCharities.org](mailto:VBauerle@CovingtonCharities.org).

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# A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

"I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Already, much has been written about God's Mercy since the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in December. From the original announcement of the Jubilee, I have felt a special connection to the Year of Mercy because of our call at Catholic Charities to offer mercy. We are an agency of mercy for the Church, we are an agent of mercy to all who we encounter.

Our mission statement challenges us "to promote healing, restore hope and affirm human potential..." which we do whenever we are present and meet people where they are. We do this best when we allow Christ to dwell in us, and to see the face of Christ in those we meet. It is when we experience God's unconditional love for us, that is, His healing presence within us, that we can be God's mercy for others.

Throughout my entire first year here at Catholic Charities, I have marveled at how our volunteers have shown God's mercy throughout all of our various programs of Catholic Charities. It is in the volunteer receptionists that greet our clients with a smile; our volunteer servers at Parish Kitchen who feed the hungry with love and concern for their wellbeing; it's our Secret Santas who bought, organized, wrapped and delivered Christmas presents with joy and a prayer for each of our families at St. Joseph Apartments—each of our volunteers, in whatever way you serve, makes a difference by being present here and showing mercy.

The mystery of being merciful is as Jesus promised in scripture, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Matthew 5:7) So by volunteering at Catholic Charities and offering mercy in so many different ways to everyone we serve, we also gain mercy, which is the inexhaustible love of God, and healing for each of us.

Thank you volunteers for sharing this ministry of mercy with us. We could not do it without you. May God richly bless you and all those you love.

Kind regards,



Alan Pickett  
Executive Director

## News and Events



*Pictured: (sitting L-R) Monica Krulman, Catholic Charities Vicky Bauerle, Catholic Charities, SuAnn Ledonne, Volunteer; (standing L-R) : Bill Kopp, Dave Ledonne, Dennis Elix, Knights of Columbus, Alan Pickett, Catholic Charities Executive Director, Bob Merkle, Bill Theis, Wayne Brown, Carl Bier, Knights of Columbus*

## KOC Golf Outing

Catholic Charities is both humbled and proud to be the recipient of the Knights of Columbus Golf Outing, held on August 29th at Twin Oaks Golf Course. The annual event raised \$10,000 for Catholic Charities' LifeLine Fund! The proceeds will provide material assistance to low income women facing an unplanned pregnancy. The Knights have raised a total of \$54,500 in the seven years they have sponsored the outing. Thanks to the committee chairs: Dennis Eliz and Carl Biery and committee members: Bill Theis, Wayne Brown Bill Kopp, Dave Ledonne, and Bob Merkle and all golfers and sponsors who help make the event so successful.

## Save the Date

Feeling Lucky? Want to support Parish Kitchen Got Milk Campaign?

**Charity Night At The Tables Is BACK!** Sponsored by The Yearlings

Saturday, March 19, 2016 at Turfway Park

Tickets: \$75 per person

Includes: Buffet Food, Drinks, Casino-style Gaming, Entertainment & Silent Auction!

Event Time: 7-11 pm

Gaming Time: 7:30 – 10 pm

**LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

Don't forget to select **PARISH KITCHEN** at ticket purchase.

Register or pay online by March 7, 2016: [www.theyearlings.org/events.html](http://www.theyearlings.org/events.html)

Mail registration and payment postmarked by March 7, 2016 to:

The Yearlings

PO Box 17903

Lakeside Park, KY 41017

Don't forget to select **PARISH KITCHEN** at ticket purchase.



*Pictured are the festivities from last year where Parish Kitchen had the most admission ticket sales and second in chip count, raising over \$3,000 for the Got Milk Campaign. Please help support Parish Kitchen this year.*



# Program Updates

## Counseling and the Jubilee of Mercy



One of the many ways Catholic Charities offers support to adolescents within our community is through our School-Based Substance Abuse Treatment program. Julie Wagner, Catholic Charities' new High School Personal Counselor, provides ongoing substance abuse and mental health counseling to students at Bishop Brossart High School and Boone County High School. Ms. Wagner

is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with experience working with adolescents presenting with a wide range of emotional, behavioral, and substance use concerns. Both individual counseling and substance abuse prevention classes are offered as services to these students. Individual services include assessing adolescents' psychosocial history, diagnosing mental and emotional disorders, and developing a treatment plan to address any concerns or distressing symptoms. Students are also provided education about substance abuse in a classroom setting to raise awareness in an effort to prevent future problems associated with substance abuse.

Offering mental health and substance abuse treatment services in high schools is important due to the constant changes associated with adolescence. Adolescence is a critical period of development full of transitions. During this stage of life, adolescents are searching for identity and learning how to become responsible adults. All of these factors combined can result in emotional and behavioral distress, including but not limited to symptoms of depression, anxiety, insecurity, and anger. Having the guidance and support of a school-based counselor helps reduce students' preoccupation with their concerns and enables them to focus on learning to enhance their academic success.

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." With the start of the Jubilee of Mercy, Our Holy Father calls us to ask for forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance. Ann Schneible of the Catholic News Agency cited



## Free Support Group

PAL Parents of Addicted Loved-Ones

Every Wednesday, 6:30-8pm

No Charge

Catholic Charities,

3629 Church St, Latonia, KY 41015

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

[www.CovingtonCharities.org](http://www.CovingtonCharities.org)

Fr. Geno Sylva, official for the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization (PCPNE), regarding his thoughts of the Jubilee of Mercy. Fr. Sylva said, "Mercy is the tangible expression of God's love in the world. By placing ourselves in situations to reflect upon this love and to experience the grace of this love in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, (we find) the strength, the courage, and the compassion to be instruments of mercy to others. I really believe that by recognizing and experiencing how incredibly patient and forgiving God is with each one of us in our imperfections and failings, we can become ever more patient and forgiving of those with whom we live, work, and interact every day." School-Based Substance Abuse counseling services are one of the many ways Catholic Charities extends mercy onto those in need. As Fr. Sylva professed, we are all called to both receive and extend mercy onto ourselves and others.

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/the-year-of-mercy-whats-it-all-about-41675/>

## Catholic Charities Recipe for an Unforgettable Christmas

Combine the following Ingredients:

- Several local High Schools
- A Grade School Penny
- Many Kindhearted Families
- Several Generous Businesses
- Caring Groups of Friends
- Toys from the Sisters of Divine Providence
- College students on Christmas break
- A National Championship Women's College Basketball Team
- Many Elves
- A Jolly Santa Claus

Stir the above with over 300 clients in need and witness the true joy of Christmas.

Because of the generosity of so many wonderful donors and volunteers, Catholic Charities was able to help over 60 families. That's over 100 adults and 200 children who experienced the joy and love of Christmas. Thank you all for making this Christmas so special for those in need.

It is a joyful moment when those we serve come to the agency to pick up their Christmas gifts. They are very thankful for the gifts they receive, and many clients are so overwhelmed that they are moved to tears. One mother of five said, "This will be our best Christmas ever!" Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement Manager and program coordinator said, "Our goal is that everyone receives a wrapped gift for Christmas! Although, many of the adults do not want a gift for themselves and only request that they have a gift for their children, we want to make sure everyone in the family has a special Christmas." This program is what Catholic Charities mission is all about—Extend a Hand, Change a Life.

*Left: Santa and his elves delivering gifts to our St. Joseph Apartments.*





## Record Breaking CaSSba

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington's Color Crush CaSSba was held on August 30th at the Drees Pavilion. The event was record breaking with attendance and profits of \$55,000. Joe Danneman, Sports Anchor of Fox 19 was the Master of Ceremonies. The day was filled with much excitement and ended with the CaSSba Cash drawing with the three winners receiving a total of \$10,824. Thanks to all the support from guests, volunteers and sponsors, CaSSba Committee: Marianne Fieger and Katie Raverty-Evans, Event Co-Chairs; Jennifer Abdrabbo, Kathy Danneman Becky Domanico, Char Fieger, Cassidy Horan, Michelle Loos, Connie Noll, Phyllis Noll, Therese Paul, Trudy Rogers; and Vicky Bauerle, Event Coordinator. Save the Date for CaSSba 2016—August 28, 2016.

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## Support Catholic Charities While You Shop at Kroger!



Use your Kroger Reward card to register Catholic Charities as your favorite charity. Each time you swipe your Kroger Reward card, Catholic Charities earns a Kroger donation. All participants must enroll or re-enroll their Kroger Plus Card online 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! **Catholic Charities code: 83331**

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## Corporate Sponsors

BB&T | St. Elizabeth Physicians | St. Elizabeth Healthcare  
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Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter  
at [covingtoncharities.org/email-newsletter](http://covingtoncharities.org/email-newsletter)



Help us reach 500 likes! [facebook.com/covingtoncharities](https://facebook.com/covingtoncharities)

*This 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

## Volunteer of the Year

**Denny Vieth** received the 2015 Joy Boothby Volunteer of the Year award at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on December 5th at Summit Hills Country Club, Crestview Hills. Lesley Duggan, Volunteer Coordinator, presented Denny with his award.



Like many of Catholic Charities' volunteers, Denny reached out to us in 2010 after seeing a volunteer receptionist advertisement in St. Agnes' parish bulletin. Having recently retired, Denny was ready, willing and able to help wherever needed. Without hesitation, Denny stepped in to assume the role of Friday afternoon receptionist, and did so with great ease. Today, he continues to welcome all who enter our doors on Friday afternoons. In addition, he is always willing to fill in for other volunteer receptionists when the need arises. Denny's calm, pleasant manner and ability to multi-task lends greatly to the smooth operational flow of client check in/out which makes for very happy clients and staff.

It has been the agency's good fortune that Denny has become a great advocate for Catholic Charities. His own positive volunteer experience prompted him to recruit another volunteer receptionist, his wife, Lyn, for whom we are also grateful.

We at Catholic Charities are thankful for and blessed by Denny's presence, his faithfulness and his compassion in serving others, and we look forward to having Denny as part of our volunteer family for many years to come.

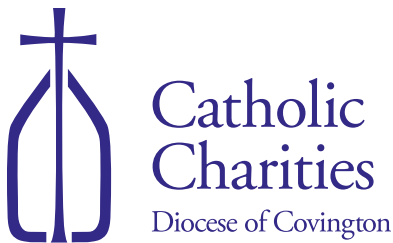
*Pictured above: Lesley Duggan, Volunteer Coordinator, Alan Pickett, Executive Director, Denny Vieth and Bishop Roger J. Foy.*

## Volunteer of the Season, Autumn 2015



**Charlie Bradley** is our autumn 2015 Volunteer of the Season. Charlie generously and regularly shares his faith and his gifts with Catholic Charities. Charlie joined our Advisory Board in 2013, and has increased his involvement continuously ever since. He currently serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee of our Advisory Board, member of our Executive Committee, and he also chairs an ad hoc Marketing Committee for Catholic Charities. For the past two years, Charlie has facilitated our strategic planning process at our All-Staff retreat in the fall. In 2014, Charlie spent most of a day with our staff to draft a new Strategic Plan, and in the fall of 2015, he helped us review, refresh and renew the strategy that he helped us implement a year earlier.

In Charlie's professional life, he serves as Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning at Fifth Third Bank, where he has worked since 1994. In his personal life, he is a family man, a husband and father of five, with kids ranging in age from college to grade school. Charlie's parents, Jim and Nancy Bradley, are regular volunteers for Catholic Charities at Parish Kitchen. So as the saying goes, "the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree." Thank you Charlie for your witness, for your generosity, and for all the many ways you live the Gospel of Matthew 25 in our midst.



***Extend a Hand. Change a Life.***

3629 Church Street  
Latonia, KY 41015  
859.581.8974 · 866.440.9612  
[www.CovingtonCharities.org](http://www.CovingtonCharities.org)  
[www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities](http://www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities)

***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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Charlotte Boemker, Institutional Advancement Associate  
Cindy Dixon, Pre-Services Coordinator  
Lesley Duggan, Volunteer Coordinator  
Bridget Go, Business Office Associate  
Joseph Kiesewetter, IT Coordinator  
Amy Littleton, Quality Assurance Coordinator

**Program Directors**

Mary Fleischman, Program Director—Capability Building Programs  
Monica Kuhlman, Program Director—Treatment Division: Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling Supervisor

**Program Staff**

Patti Anderson, Housing Supervisor  
Joe Behler, Counselor  
Sheila Dumford, School Counseling Supervisor

**Program Staff (cont'd)**

Troy Garrard, Interim Director—Parish Kitchen  
Bridget Go, Housing Associate  
Darryl Humphrey, Parish Kitchen Associate  
Laura Jackson, Substance Abuse Treatment Counselor  
Katie Martin, School Counselor  
Brand Medaugh, Case Management, Intake Specialist  
Elmer Meyers, Parish Kitchen Staff  
Donna Moreland, School Counselor  
Diane Mushaben, Counselor  
Jeff Mynatt, Parish Kitchen Staff  
Danielle Natorski, Intern  
Marci Nienaber, School Counselor  
Anna Philips, Parenting Program Supervisor  
Caisa Pope, School Counselor  
Sharon Raaker, School Counselor  
Lisa Ramstetter, Human Trafficking  
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