



Catholic Charities Celebrates 85 years

David Cooley, Assistant Editor, Messenger

Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement Manager, Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington held its annual campaign event, "Table of Plenty", November 17, at the Sterling Event Center: St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger. In 2016, Catholic Charities celebrated 85 years of providing healing, hope, love and compassion to those who need it the most.

Alan Pickett, executive director, and other staff members for Catholic Charities welcomed close to 170 friends and supporters. During the evening the new agency video was shown highlighting some of the programs provided by Catholic Charities. Jennifer Schack, from WLWT News 5, was the emcee.

"We are grateful for 85 years of Catholic Charities' ministry in our diocese," said Alan Pickett. "Tonight was a night to celebrate the many facets of this ministry. We truly are blessed to be the body of Christ, serving everyone in need with dignity and compassion. We are inspired by our Catholic faith, yet we could not do it without our many volunteers, our dedicated staff and our very supportive community partners and benefactors who all share in this ministry."

The occasion provided an opportunity for the agency to honor longtime volunteer Judy Rouse with the Marcella Strategier Angel of Hope Award and the Butler Foundation with the newly established Community Partner award.

Since 2002, Catholic Charities has recognized, in honor of Marcella Strategier, members of the community whose generous contribution of time, talent and treasure have advanced their mission.

Mrs. Rouse joined the advisory board member in the 1980's. During that time she was on the child placement committee of the board. Catholic Charities was making some changes in the practice of adoption, primarily moving to the practice of open adoptions. Mr. Pickett said that Mrs. Rouse gave wonderful advice and support as they moved through that process. Mrs. Rouse also volunteered as a speaker at their adoption home study classes for many years. In more recent years she has been known to volunteer around the office as well as on the cooking team.

"Judy and her late-husband, Brent, have been faithful and generous supporters of Catholic Charities for many, many years. We are very honored to present her with this year's award." Mr. Pickett said.

Catholic Charities began something new this year with the Community Partner Award, of which the Butler Foundation is the first recipient. This honor is awarded in recognition of an individual, company or organization that shares the values of Catholic Charities and had collaborated closely in partnership with Catholic Charities to make a significant difference in the community.

"The Butler Foundation has been a friend of Catholic Charities for years." Mr. Pickett said. "They help us behind the scenes with individual clients, as well as offer financial operating support for the agency almost every year. The generosity of the Butler

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A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I recall as a child hearing my grandmother exclaim, “Mercy, mercy, mercy!” I knew I was in trouble when I heard these words, but I also knew what mercy was because of this. Even though the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy has concluded, we continue to be a ministry of mercy in the Diocese of Covington. We have always been called to offer mercy to anyone who seeks our help. We do this because our Catholic values, teachings and traditions are the foundation of all we do. We reach out to vulnerable people, not because they are Catholic, but because we are. Let us continue this journey of offering mercy whenever we are called.

I am very grateful to share our Catholic Charities ministry with so many faithful and dedicated Partners. It is both a blessing and a challenge to be called to serve. I was recently inspired to pray for Wisdom, Passion and Strength; and I realize that being part of Catholic Charities offers all three. **Wisdom**, from the Catholic Social Teaching that lays the foundation and tradition for serving the poor and vulnerable; **Passion**, exemplified by our wonderful staff and volunteers; and **Strength**, from the many generous donors and benefactors who support our work.

Wisdom. By working at Catholic Charities, I am learning that the Church’s social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. The tenets of Catholic Social Teaching that form our foundation for service and mercy include our focus on Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, and Solidarity. Wisdom from the Church’s social teaching has developed over the centuries, yet we put this wisdom into action every day in our Catholic Charities ministry. Reflecting on our call to serve and seeing our faith in action, I am gaining more and more appreciation for the wisdom of our Church.

Passion. It has been a personal honor and privilege to serve alongside such an awesome group of staff, volunteers and benefactors here at Catholic Charities. I witness your passion in the many singular acts of mercy and kindness that each of you routinely do. Some of your acts are very public, like the 65,000 meals we served last year at Parish Kitchen, which has been open 365 days a year for over 42 years. Others’ passion is witnessed more privately when a birth mother makes an adoption plan so that another family can be blessed by a new baby; or by our Jail Ministry volunteers visiting a forgotten someone who is currently incarcerated; and by the impactful work our counselors do one-on-one in the privacy of our counseling services. Ours is a rich ministry serving in many different ways, and in each I witness and am inspired by the passion and commitment of our staff and volunteers to this Catholic ministry.

Strength. As 2016 ends and 2017 begins, we reflect on and recognize our many benefactors who supported us financially over the past year. Sincere thank you for each gift, large or small. Your generosity is a key ingredient of the strength we need to continue our mission. We are honored by your support, and we pledge to diligently manage the resources you have entrusted to us. We also hope that your witness of generosity will inspire others to give generously, too. Thank you for partnering with us in the very special ministry.

Looking forward to whatever 2017 brings, I pray that God will bless all of our partners—our staff, volunteers and benefactors as we continue to share this ministry of mercy, hope and love.

Your partner in Christ,



Alan Pickett, Executive Director

Catholics @ The Capitol

Bishop Foy invites all parishioners, priests and religious from across the Diocese of Covington to attend Catholics @ The Capitol, a regional meeting with our State Representatives and Senators on **Saturday, February 4, 2017**, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Diocese of Covington Curia, Howard Hall, 1125 Madison Ave., Covington, KY 41011. The purpose of this meeting is to be a Catholic witness and voice in the lawmaking process by learning about upcoming issues that may be voted on in 2017. This meeting will be led by Jason Hall and Andy Vandiver, the Executive Staff from the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, which is the official public policy voice of the four Catholic dioceses in Kentucky. The day will focus on certain pending Kentucky legislation such as Pro-life issues, School choice, Criminal justice reform, and Health care.

Continental breakfast is available starting at 9:00 a.m. Program starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. To register please visit www.covingtoncharities.org or contact Vicky Bauerle, Catholic Charities at 859-581-8974 x116 or vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org by January 30, 2017. The event is Free.

Charity Night at the Tables is Back

Feeling lucky? Want to support Parish Kitchen's 'GOT MILK?' Campaign? Charity Night At The Tables Is BACK on **Saturday, March 18, 2017** from 7 to 11 p.m. at Turfway Park! Sponsored by The Yearlings. Tickets are \$80 per person and include Buffet Food, Drinks, Casino-style Gaming (from 7:30 to 10 p.m.), Entertainment & Silent Auction! LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE! Purchase your tickets early and help Parish Kitchen have a chance for an extra \$500. Visit www.NKyCharityNight.org (don't forget to select PARISH KITCHEN at ticket purchase) or mail registration and payment postmarked by March 10, 2016 to: The Yearlings, PO Box 17903, Lakeside Park, KY 41017.



Save the Date: CaSSba 2017

CaSSba 2017 Celebrates 30 years. **August 27, 2017** at the Drees Pavilion. Thanks to our 2016 CaSSba Sponsors:

Event Sponsors: American Mortgage and BB&T

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Sacred Heart Radio—Son Rise Morning Show

Listen to Son Rise Morning Show at 8:20 a.m. the **fourth Thursday of the month** to hear Catholic Charities staff member on the show talking about the agency and how it is serving in the diocese of Covington. The podcast are also available on the website at www.covingtoncharities.org

SON RISE
MORNING SHOW

Blessed by God's Gift of Family | Celebrating Catholic

By Karen Horgan Kuhlman

Gene Guilfoyle met Mary "Mickey" Grove in 1953, and knew right away that there was something very special about her. While on their third date, a casual conversation about religion took a serious turn when Mickey remarked: "I am a Catholic girl, and I believe in my Church." Gene decided at that moment to become serious about his own Catholic faith because he had also decided that he would marry that Catholic girl. He remembers telling his father that night: "I have never met someone so good, someone who just exudes such goodness."

The couple married on September 3, 1955, and began to build a life on a foundation of their strong faith in God and their love for one another. Gene was employed as a pipefitter and Mickey as a PBX operator. They worked hard, saving money so that they could buy a home, and looked joyfully toward a future filled with children. When children didn't come along, and doctors told them that they never would, the couple turned to prayer for God's guidance.

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington had a reputation for successful adoption outcomes, so they took their hopes for beginning a family to Catholic Charities. That choice provided a pathway to an extraordinary life for the couple when they met Mary Moser, Catholic Charities' first social worker.

Gene and Mickey adopted their first child, Mark, in 1960. He was followed by Scott in 1962. They fostered Melissa for three years until she was adopted by another loving family. Stephen began life with the Guilfoyles as a foster child and became a full-fledged family member in 1964. Susan came along in 1966, and Sally rounded out the family in 1968. Today, Gene and Mickey are delighted by the addition of 16 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren to their clan.

The key to this happy family? It depends on whom you ask. Mickey says the key to their happy life is that she and Gene have always gotten along. Gene says Mickey is an amazing woman for whom no job is too big or too difficult. The support of their parents and extended families was very important to their success throughout the adoption processes and their lives. Husband and wife each credit the other as the reason for their happiness.



Left to Right: Gene, Mary and Mark Guilfoyle next to statue at Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities First Program—Adoption



Oldest son Mark says his mother and father made a good team, and provided the children with constant love and good example. His mother's persistence and sacrifice in attaining the dream of family that she and Gene shared stand out. But, Mickey says: "There was no sacrifice! We wanted kids, not a new house or car!" Mark says that his siblings would agree that there is no telling where any of them would be without their mother and father, and the kindnesses shown to all of them by Catholic Charities.

The Guilfoyles are grateful to all who helped them realize their dream of a family and know that none of the happiness they have enjoyed over the years would have been possible without the loving support of Catholic Charities and Mary Moser. Mickey said "Mary was the kindest person. She took a personal interest in us. I liked her and knew that I had a friend in her." Gene said of Mary: "She was an extraordinary person. She was understanding and so kind to people who were hurting."

A beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother holding her child, Jesus, stands in a garden in the front yard of Catholic Charities' office. The base bears the inscription "The Lord has done great things for me and holy is His name. His mercy is from generation to generation." (Luke 1: 49-50). It was a lovely gift to the Charity from the children of Gene and Mickey Guilfoyle in honor of their parents. Using Catholic Charities and Mary Moser as His instruments, the Lord has, indeed, done great things for the Guilfoyle family.

Karen Horgan Kuhlman, a journalist and writer who wrote this article, is the granddaughter of Mary Moser, the founder of Catholic Charities, and the first paid social worker at Catholic Charities.

To learn more about Catholic Charities' Adoption and Pregnancy Counseling programs contact Monica Kuhlman at mkuhlman@covingtoncharities.org or Angel Stumler at astumler@covingtoncharities.org or 859-581-8974. www.CovingtonCharities.org



statue in front yard at



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Family and the Butler Foundation is no secret; they truly give people a hand up and not a hand out. Whether it is through the Life Learning Center or through collaborating with many other local agencies and ministries, the Butler Foundation regularly ministers to the poor and strengthens our community."

In his closing remarks Bishop Roger Foys thanked everyone for the part they play in this ministry. "For 85 years and a 163-year history of the Diocese of Covington, we have had what is called Catholic Charities. Tonight, as we gather, we give thanks to God for all those who have been involved in any way with Catholic Charities," he said.

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. Catholic Charities provides a safe and stable home for 16 previously homeless families at St. Joseph Apartments in Elsmere. Over 400 people received 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, 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 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 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.



Pictured is Santa and his team delivering Christmas gifts to our St. Joseph Apartments.

A Christmas of Joy, Generosity and Gratitude

Sixty-four client families of Catholic Charities were able to experience a joy-filled Christmas thanks to those who supported its 2016 Christmas Program. Whether it be an individual, a family or a business "adopting" a family, providing monetary or gift card donations or donating a Christmas meal, or volunteers wrapping gifts, assisting with gift drop-off, pick-up or delivery, the outpouring of generosity from across Northern Kentucky as well as Cincinnati provided our families not only with tangible presents but also with that which represents Christ's coming – joy, hope, peace and love!

While Catholic Charities is grateful for the overwhelming support of the Christmas Program, these words from a few families who were blessed conveys it best. "I am so thankful for you and your family. I've never had to get help for Christmas. God bless!" "My family and I would not have had a Christmas without your thoughtful generosity and kind heart. May you have a blessed New Year!"

Volunteers

Mercy Mat Ministry

Catholic Charities' newest volunteer ministry, the Mercy Mat Ministry, creates and distributes hand crocheted sleeping mats for the homeless. Each mat, crocheted from "plarn" (plastic yarn), measures approximately 6' x 9' and provides not only a cushioned, pest-resistant sleeping alternative to the ground or concrete, it is also a protective barrier against surfaces that are wet and cold. They are non-absorbent, lightweight, clean easily and roll-up for portability. The "plarn" is made from plastic grocery bags. How did such a ministry get started?

In November 2015, Catholic Charities' volunteer, Marlene Meyers, shared with Volunteer Coordinator, Lesley Duggan, how she started crocheting the sleeping mats earlier in May. While she enjoyed making them, her arthritis wouldn't allow her to make them as fast as she wanted. Fascinated by the idea and seeing an opportunity to grow Marlene's vision and passion into something to share, Lesley asked if Marlene would be interested in teaching others how to make the mats. Thus, the birth of the Mercy Mat Ministry, appropriately named for the Year of Mercy.

Since the ministry's first gathering in February 2016, many volunteers have joined helping in various capacities from collecting grocery bags to crocheting. The ministry has engaged residents at Madonna Manor, members of a Cursillo team, youth groups and high school service groups.

To date, 21 mats have been delivered to and distributed by Parish Kitchen. While this may not seem like many, they represent approximately 252 hours of crocheting and 12,600 grocery bags. Each mat requires around 12 hours of crochet time and 500-700 bags.

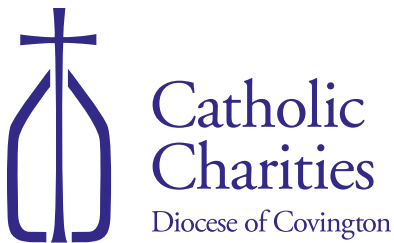
What has been the impact of the Mercy Mat Ministry in the community? Parish Kitchen Director, Troy Garrard shares, "We gave out four mercy mats today. One went to a gentleman who is 76 years old and is sleeping outside. He often helps unload donations for us and today he helped direct a delivery truck to our location. He was very appreciative. We gave another to a man who is disabled. He requires crutches to get around and sleeps next to the underpass directly adjacent to us. I often see him in the mornings while coming in to work."

Another story, "A woman came into Catholic Charities sharing her carpet cleaning business with the agency. While standing at the receptionist desk, she noticed a rolled up Mercy Mat behind the receptionist and inquired about it. Volunteer receptionist and Mercy Mat crocheter, Sheila Peeno, was more than happy to explain. Once the lady learned of its purpose and how they are made, she began to share the story of a woman she encountered and has attempted to help, a homeless woman in Florence, reluctant to go into a shelter and declining the offer of a hotel room because she doesn't want to give up her dog. After hearing the story, the Mercy Mat was given to her to share with the homeless lady. Truly feeling God directed her to Catholic Charities, not for the business solicitation but for the homeless woman, she left with gratitude and tears and the Mercy Mat over her shoulder."

More information can be found at www.covingtoncharities.org. Click on Volunteer Opportunities or email or call Lesley Duggan, Volunteer Coordinator, lduggan@covingtoncharities.org (859) 581-8974 ext. 119.



*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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