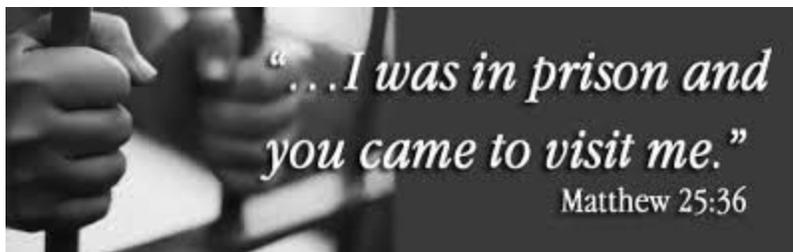




Parenting Classes Making a Difference in Local Jail



By Maria Meyer,
Catholic Charities Jail Ministry Coordinator

All prisoners are human persons created in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done (or been accused of doing), he or she deserves the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Jesus Christ. Catholic

Charities' Jail Ministry seeks to bring the message of Christ to those who are imprisoned, and simultaneously see the face of Christ in them.

Visiting the imprisoned is one of the corporal works of mercy. We can never forget that our own Lord and Savior was treated as a criminal. The Bible is replete with stories of God's people held captive, whether it be Israel's son Joseph in the Old Testament or John the Baptist, St. Paul, and the Apostles in the New Testament. The Letter to the Hebrews exhorts us to "be mindful of prisoners, as if sharing their imprisonment." (Hebrews 13:3) The words of Jesus are particularly instructive: "I was ... in prison and you visited me. . . . Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)

But if we are being honest, how often have we visited Him in prison? While many of us have engaged in other corporal works of mercy, such as feeding the hungry or giving alms to the poor, most of us have never answered our Lord's call to visit the imprisoned. But Catholic Charities has opportunities available to do just that. Its Jail Ministry Program is currently seeking volunteers to lead parenting classes in our local county jails, to help our incarcerated brothers and sisters become better moms and dads.

Like the Apostles, our volunteers venture forth in pairs. No experience is necessary. Catholic Charities provides the course materials for the classes, and can pair you with an experienced volunteer. All that is needed is your willingness to serve.

Are you willing to answer the Lord's call to minister to His people? The time commitment is minimal: just eight consecutive weeks, once per week, for two hours. The volunteers who lead the course determine what day of the week the class will be offered, and at what time.

Catholic Charities began offering parenting classes to local inmates earlier this year. The early results have been nothing short of remarkable. Many participants have commented that they have an increased understanding of the important role they play in the lives of their children, that they are more self-aware, and that completing the class was the most meaningful accomplishment of their lives. It has given many of them direction and hope.

Continued on page 6.

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” (1 John 4:16)

In our various ministries of Catholic Charities, we routinely practice many great corporal and spiritual acts of mercy, and we do it with great love to all who seek our help. Why else would we offer an act of mercy to a stranger, if not out of love for our neighbor? Love and mercy go together. Whenever we offer an act of mercy, we are offering an act of love, witnessed as the hands and feet of Christ. We are offering God's love.

We celebrated our volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner in June, and I was inspired once again by the devotion of love and mercy I witnessed that evening in our numerous dedicated and devoted volunteers. I see this love and mercy every day in various ways at Catholic Charities, but when over 125 volunteers come together at one time, I feel especially moved and blessed. We could not accomplish or serve all who we serve without this great devotion of love and mercy by our volunteers.

In this edition of our Partners Newsletter, we feature our School-based Counseling program in an article entitled, “Guiding the Little Ones.” Now, more than ever, our school aged children are vulnerable to many challenges and difficult circumstances. Our School-based Counseling program currently serves in nine Diocese of Covington Catholic schools and three public schools during the school year. Our program is unique because we are able to offer mental health counseling by clinically licensed counselors to any student in these schools who needs help. Clearly, our school-based counselors offer love and mercy to all the students they meet.

Another article highlights the parenting classes in our Jail Ministry that our volunteers taught in the Kenton County Jail Substance Abuse Program earlier this spring. It is an act of love and mercy to visit the prisoners in jail and spend time teaching them critical life skills. The men who completed this program learned how important their example of love to their children is, which helped them during incarceration to begin loving themselves, loving and forgiving their own fathers, and accepting the way other people are.

When you read this edition of our Partners Newsletter, I hope you will be as inspired as I am by each example of love and mercy shown by our staff and our volunteers. And for all who volunteer in any way to help us offer love and mercy in our various programs and ministries, please know how much we appreciate your help and what a difference you make!

Your partner in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Pickett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Pickett, Executive Director

9th Annual Golf Classic

Thank you to the Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus, sponsors and golfers for another successful golf classic. Proceeds from the golf classic go to support Catholic Charities Lifeline fund providing material assistance to low income women facing an unplanned pregnancy.



Save the Date: Hats Off to 30 Years of CaSSba

Whether a Top Hat, Ball Hat, or Something in between, grab your hat and join Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington for a fun day of great food and drink on **Sunday, August 27 from 3-7pm**. Don't forget our thrilling live auction, fantastic silent auction and wonderful raffles and much more! See attached flyer for more info.

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



Thank You for Supporting Catholic Charities WHILE YOU SHOP at Kroger!

Catholic Charities received over \$1628 from Kroger's in 2016 because you used your plus card. If you have not designated Catholic Charities, all you have to do is Enroll your Kroger Plus Card online to help Catholic Charities.

Go to krogercommunityrewards.com

1. Log in and select my account
2. Community Rewards
3. Enter Catholic Charities or code 83331
4. and Enroll

Simple, Fast and Easy.

Guiding the Little Ones

By Karen Horgan Kuhlman

When, as adults, we are faced with problems that seem insurmountable, we turn to prayer and to those we trust for advice and guidance. We talk things over with a trusted friend or counselor in the hope of discerning a way to overcome the difficulties we are experiencing.

School-age children often face difficulties in their lives as well. Some of those who are too young to handle life's curve balls on their own may have no one to whom they can turn for guidance. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington seeks to lighten the load on the shoulders of these little ones and reduce the lifelong impact of childhood struggles through its Therapeutic Counseling in Schools program.

Eight school counselors for Catholic Charities partner with administrators and teachers in 9 parochial and 3 public schools to identify and assist children in grades K-8 whose difficulties are standing between them and success. The program is available to all students in participating schools with no cost to the family.

Children gain access to the program through referral by a parent or teacher; some children request counseling on their own. Struggles with behavior, learning or developmental problems are diagnosed and then addressed in one on one counseling sessions. (The parent or guardian must complete the proper consent forms.) Counselors can see any child one time, but will need parental approval to continue long-term counseling.

Since participating schools refer children whose families can afford the cost of outside agencies for counseling, Catholic Charities tries to focus its attention on those kids who have no other options. Student clients come from all income levels, but most live in poverty and are considered at high risk for experiencing a less than satisfactory educational outcome and future life.

Children dealing on their own with emotional or mental health issues need a go-to-person, and every Catholic Charities counselor tries to be that person for each child they counsel. Older children often approach counseling in a manner similar to that of adults; they understand that they are experiencing difficulties with school, friendships or life, and are open to talking those problems over with someone who will really listen.





“Eight school counselors for Catholic Charities partner with administrators and teachers in 9 parochial and 3 public schools to identify and assist children in grades K–8 whose difficulties are standing between them and success.”

Younger children require structure, so counselors must be prepared to be creative when trying to connect with those clients. They employ a whole bag of tools, filled with items such as markers, workbooks and therapeutic games, which help reduce stress and create an atmosphere in which a child can begin to relax. Only then can the real work begin.

The issues young clients face are many; some have no idea how to begin to travel the academic road and must learn “how to do school”. Making and being a friend are concepts that seem second nature to their classmates, but impossible to them. Poverty, family concerns, issues of low self-esteem and diagnosable conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Anxiety and Depression are heavy burdens for a child to carry.

Counselors have tools at their disposal for making assessments of the outcomes of the counseling they provide to their clients. But, for us, a few examples of the improvement in the lives of their young clients provide a glimpse at the possible.

Thomas, a sixth grade boy, was defensive, apathetic about learning, experiencing emotional breakdowns at school, took no responsibility for his actions and lacked the social skills necessary for making friends. A collaborative effort of his parents, his Catholic Charities counselor, teachers, and outside counselor helped him take a look at his behaviors and identify how they were making him feel. His support group set about creating a series of little tasks, like watering classroom plants and running papers to the school office. The tasks were designed to let Thomas experience success and the enjoyment of receiving praise for a job well done. When his counselor paired him with a high school student who served as his mentor, Thomas began to become a better student, peer and responsible young man with the capacity to be happier and more successful.

Kaleb, as a first grader, was impulsive and often angry at school when things did not go his way. He would become physical with another student or damage others’ property. His Catholic Charities counselor worked with him on strategies that would help him pay attention to his body, recognize triggers and practice coping skills for dealing with anger. Kaleb continued counseling sessions through the first and second grades. Now, in the third grade, he is able to effectively use the skills he has acquired through counseling to analyze and pull back from situations that he now realizes may cause a problem for him. His continued sessions with his counselor have helped him develop skills at a critical time in his development and have helped him overcome obstacles that were interfering with his learning and success at school.

Thomas and Kaleb are like many children in our area; they are leading lives that would test most adults. Left unaided, these little ones face a future that is surely not what God had planned for them. But, like Thomas and Kaleb, with the loving assistance of the counselors of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington, those plans of God’s may be fulfilled.

News and Events continued

Continued from front page

As an example, one of the fathers wrote the following note to the volunteers who led the course:

"I personally would like to thank you for volunteering your time and experience at the Kenton County Jail Substance Abuse Program. It takes great courage and tolerance to give your time freely and of no financial gain. What you guys are doing is making a difference. You've opened the door to me forgiving and understanding my father, and made it possible to forgive and understand myself for mistakes I have made as a father. Your guidance and teaching has given me a new respect for the mothers of my children and helped me understand why they are the way they are. Thank you, and may God keep blessing you both. You're making a difference."

If you would like to make a difference by volunteering with our Jail Ministry, please contact Vicky Bauerle at vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org, or (859) 581-8974, ext. 116 or visit the web on our volunteer page and fill out an application. Numerous opportunities are available, as the demand for the parenting course currently exceeds the number of volunteers.



Courageous Kids—Supporting children with incarcerated loved ones

**Thursday, September 14 | 5:30-6:30 pm | Grades K-5
Erlanger Branch, Kenton County Public Library
401 Kenton Lands Road | Erlanger, KY 41018**

We offer support, a listening ear, and fun activities for children who are experiencing the stress of incarcerated parents/relatives. Sometimes having friends who know what you are going through can make all the difference! We can be that group of friends for you! Our group will meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 5:30 pm. Call 859-962-4147 with questions or for more info.

Community Baby Shower Provided Much for Those In Need!

Expectant and New Mothers were invited to a Baby Shower at Catholic Charities on June 28, 2017. The event was hosted by Jessica Whalen with Opportunities for Life, a statewide life affirming pastoral outreach ministry of Kentucky's Bishops and Angel Stumler, Pregnancy and Adoption Counselor with Catholic Charities. Jessica Whalen, Opportunities For Life Regional Program Director, Dioceses of Covington and Lexington said, "We served over 60 families with more than 100 attendees. One of the lovely women who attended the event was moved to tears while writing a thank you note. This outpouring of support was inspiring." Catholic Charities is blessed to be a part of such a generous community who provided many of the items for the shower.



Volunteers

Angels Among Us

More than 125 volunteers from Catholic Charities and Parish Kitchen attended our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on June, 2017 at St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring. Alan Pickett, Executive Director, said during his welcoming, "What a joy it is to see so many different people come together to serve Christ through our ministry at Catholic Charities. You are a wonderful inspiration, and I know you help us make a difference to all the people we serve."

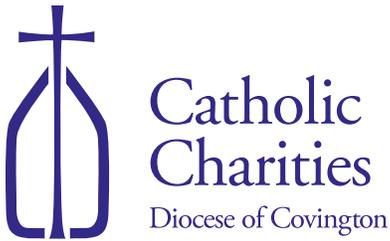
During the event we awarded our first annual scholarship for our Reach and Teach Mentor Program. Jacob Rohling, a 2017 graduate of Covington Catholic and mentor for two years in the program, was awarded a \$500 scholarship. Sheila Dumford, Catholic Charities School Counseling Supervisor, shared, "Jacob is a model example of what a dedicated and impactful mentor should be. Jacob had the ability to keep his mentees on track, motivate them, and he went that extra step to enrich his mentees' lives. They could count on him to be there every week. It is students like Jacob that make Reach & Teach possible and successful for the young mentees."



The evening ended with Alan Pickett introducing Maria Meyer as the new Manager at Parish Kitchen. Maria is not new to Catholic Charities, but she is new to Parish Kitchen. Maria joined Catholic Charities over a year ago as our Jail Ministry Coordinator, and she quickly became an integral part of the unique fabric in the ministry of love and mercy at Catholic Charities. Maria relates well with the many guests at Parish Kitchen and will do an outstanding job. Alan Pickett added, "Together, we have a very special ministry to serve our neighbors in need. Special thanks to each of you for being the hands and feet of Christ."



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.



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Covington, KY
Permit No 21.

Address Service Requested

Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

3629 Church Street
Latonia, KY 41015
859.581.8974 · 866.440.9612
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.”*

Corporate Board

Most Reverend
Roger J. Foys, DD,
Bishop of Covington
Rev. Ryan Maher, VG
Rev. John Michniuk
Rev. Gerald Reinersman
Mr. Dale Henson

Advisory Board

Thomas Neltner, Chair
Juan Aviles
Charles Bradley
Katie Raverty-Evans
Cindy Hassan
Mark Jaconette
Deacon Mike Keller
Gary Meyer
Mary Miller
Thomas Neltner
Therese Paul
Fr. Gerry Reinersman
Tom Schuh
Jim Young
Marna Meier Zalla

Leadership Team

Alan Pickett, Executive Director
Shannon Braun, Assistant Executive Director
Bridget Go, Chief Financial Officer
Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement Manager
Monica Kuhlman, Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling
Supervisor
Paula Weber, Director of Counseling Services

Administrative Staff

Charlotte Boemker, Institutional Advancement
Associate
Cindy Dixon, Pre-Services Coordinator
Joseph Kiesewetter, IT Coordinator
Amy Littleton, Quality Assurance Coordinator
Mary Massie, Business Office Associate

Program Staff

Patti Anderson, Housing Supervisor
Drew Bamberger, Parish Kitchen Assistant Manager
Sheila Dumford, School Counseling Supervisor
Bridget Go, Housing Associate
Darryl Humphrey, Parish Kitchen Associate
Laura Jackson, Substance Use Disorder Services
Supervisor
Katie Magnus, School Counselor
Brandy Medaugh, Case Management, Intake Specialist
Maria Meyer, Parish Kitchen Manager
Donna Moreland, School Counselor
Diane Mushaben, Counselor
Marci Nienaber, School Counselor
Anna Phillips, Parenting Program Supervisor
Caisa Pope, School Counselor
Sharon Raaker, School Counselor
Shannon Resing, Client Care and Preservice Specialist
Lisa Ramstetter, Human Trafficking Advocate
Michelle Schuck, School Counselor
Angel Stumler, Adoption & Pregnancy Counselor
Julie Wagner, Counselor
Jessica Whalen, Regional Program Director,
Opportunities for Life, Dioceses of Covington and
Lexington

