



Parish Kitchen

*Celebrating*

*years*

Dignity Respect Affection Attention Hospitality

1974-2024

**Winter 2024**

## A Big Thank You From Pickett's Corner

**Chris Goddard**  
Catholic Charities,  
Executive Director

### Parish Kitchen Staff

**James Wendeln**  
Manager  
**Amy Bauer**  
Assistant Manager  
**Mindy Garcia**  
Parish Kitchen Associate

**Weekend Staff**  
Craig Chamberlain  
Lisa Horney  
Chris Meyers  
Erica Sellman  
Clare Vetter  
Jim Young

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Rafael Torres  
Jim Volz

As we wrap up another year at Pickett's Corner, a ministry of Catholic Charities, we want to share the impact we've made together with your support. Since launching in July 2023, we've distributed 747 bikes and locks to individuals across three counties in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati, OH. Our motto, "Donate a bike and change a life," is backed by a 2015 Harvard University study that found access to affordable transportation is crucial for escaping poverty and preventing homelessness. This has been echoed by our bike recipients, who share how their new bikes make commuting to work, attending doctor's appointments, and improving their daily lives much easier.

Here are two of the many inspiring stories we've heard:

One gentleman returned from a clinic visit and shared that he had been taken off some of his medications. When asked what had changed, he proudly replied, "They gave me this bike, and I take it everywhere I go!"

Another recipient brought his bike in for repairs after wearing out the wheel bearings while delivering for UberEats. We set him up with a new bike and luggage rack to help him carry more. He told us this bike is essential for his livelihood.

Thanks to the generous donations of bicycles from people throughout the diocese and funding from grants, we've been able to keep this initiative going.

Jim Volz, an advisory board member and team leader at Pickett's Corner, expressed, "As we take a break for the winter, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your support of our bike ministry. We encourage you to spread the word about our ongoing need for bike donations." For more information about Pickett's Corner, please visit [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org).

Your contributions help our friends continue to roll forward on their bikes, providing them with affordable, sustainable transportation. We look forward to resuming our efforts in March 2025!

Warm regards from the Pickett's Corner Team:

Jim Volz, Steve Klare, Phil Mayleben, Nick Blank, Alan Pickett, Rick Heil, Steve Wilmhoff, Jerry Meyer, Greg George, Nancy Winstel, Barry Bungenstock, Ken Cahill, DJ Best, Ben Alwell, and Joe Ruh.

Parish Kitchen  
1561 Madison Ave  
Covington, KY 41011  
(859) 581-7745



[www.parishkitchen.org](http://www.parishkitchen.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/ParishKitchen>  
[www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org)

Dignity

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Attention

Hospitality

Respect

## The Gift of Volunteers

### By: James Wendeln, Parish Kitchen Manager

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation to all the volunteers who worked on our courtyard project. Over the past two years, this project has transformed our space into what we truly believe is the most beautiful courtyard, garden, and landscaping in the city — and I say that with complete sincerity.

From the flourishing gardens of fresh produce, flowers, trees, and bushes, to solving drainage issues, and completing the concrete and brick work, walls, and more — every detail has been thoughtfully crafted. When I look at the courtyard, I see the work of skilled craftsmen and gardeners who, with tireless dedication, brought this space to life. They've turned a once ordinary area into a place of beauty and character.

The courtyard project is now complete, with only one final addition: a bicycle rack that will be placed along the sidewalk.

As we celebrate this achievement, I also want to take a moment to reflect on one of our dearly departed and devoted volunteers, Tom Rowe. Tom was there from the very beginning, helping to plant and nurture the gardens that have grown into what they are today. And even when his stamina was down, he never stopped working on this project until he was called home to his just reward. Rest in peace dear friend, we love you and thank you for your service to our Parish Kitchen.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to capture photos of everyone involved, and if we missed anyone, we apologize.

A special thank you to the following volunteers who gave their time and talents: Jorja Kremer, Lisa Arlinghaus, Pat Metzger, Larry Kremer, Ken Kremer, Gerry Foltz, Dan Meier, Jim Maifield, Nick Reese, Denise Korzenborn, Robert Cocagne, Lisa Zeller, and Christine Romani.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to Steve Foltz from the Cincinnati Zoo for generously providing fertilizer, trees, flowers, and plants to enhance this project. Thank you all for helping us grow here at Parish Kitchen. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and we are truly grateful.



## SAVE THE DATE!

We will celebrate YOU, our volunteers and donors!!!

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Receptions, Erlanger

Invitations will be mailed early in 2025.

## Charity First

by: Shannon Braun, Assistant Executive Director

Embracing their motto "Charity First," Bishop Brossart students actively engage in service days at local organizations. In the fall students from Bishop Brossart and parents volunteered at Catholic Charities and Parish Kitchen.

During their time, the students served lunch and distributed essentials during lunch at Parish Kitchen, cleared out storage areas, organized closets and helped with yard work. Many items were recycled or donated to St. Vincent DePaul.

The students gained valuable insight into the various programs offered by Catholic Charities throughout the diocese, including mental health counseling at the Latonia office and schools, food assistance through Parish Kitchen and the Mobile Food Pantry, and housing support at St. Joseph Apartments. They also learned about additional opportunities to contribute their time and talents.



**Thank you,** Jenny and Joe for coming to parish kitchen to help hand out Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches during serving hours. The guest love PB&J sandwiches.

## Transforming Lives

As part of our ongoing efforts to transform lives, a new group of volunteers is now collecting prayer requests from our guests and recording them in a special prayer book. After serving is complete, both volunteers and staff will come together to pray for these intentions.

If you'd like to be a part of this heartfelt initiative, please contact Jill Walch at [jwalch@covingtoncharities.org](mailto:jwalch@covingtoncharities.org). Pictured is Sr. Mary Pat, collecting prayer requests from our guests.



## Ask and You Shall Receive

The Parish Kitchen annual sleeping bag and blanket drive has been an unbelievable success. We will be distributing the items on December 12<sup>th</sup>. It is amazing when we ask for your support, and we receive. We are overwhelmed with your donations. A Big Thanks!!!!

## Parish Kitchen Annual Appeal

Hopefully by now you have received the Parish Kitchen Annual Appeal card. This appeal is the main source of funding for the Parish Kitchen day-to-day operations. With the cost of food at an all-time high, and a steady number of guests entering our doors, your donation truly matters. Please scan the QR code or visit [www.parishkitchen.com](http://www.parishkitchen.com) to donate. Thank you for being a part of our ministry!



*Respect*

*Hospitality*

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### **Parish Kitchen Wish List**

Parish Kitchen is in need of Hygiene items such as small bottles of shampoo and deodorant. If you can help you can drop off at 1561 Madison Ave between 7:30-11:30 am. or call at 859-581-7745