



Chris Goddard is named next Executive Director for Catholic Charities

Excerpt from the March 31, 2023, *Messenger*, by Laura Keener, Editor

At the annual Catholic Charities appreciation dinner, Bishop John Iffert introduced Chris Goddard as the next executive director, he said, “We have a man with great talent and acumen, a man with a love for his faith, who has taken the time to study his faith and be formed in his faith, and who has always had a heart for the poor, who is stepping up now to take leadership of Catholic Charities. I am very pleased and hopeful for the future, and I welcome you with great joy.”

For the previous 20 years before Mr. Goddard’s current four-year stint teaching religion at the high school level, he led HealthPoint Family Care in Covington as its CEO. There, he served the healthcare needs of vulnerable populations — low income, uninsured, homeless, immigrant and migrant children and families. During his tenure, HealthPoint dramatically grew the number of patients served by adding mental health, behavioral health and addiction services and expanding its existing medical, dental and women’s health services.

“I guess my heart still is in leadership and wanting to affect change, maybe at a macro instead of a micro level,” said Mr. Goddard about his decision to, after four years, move out of the classroom and back into executive level, non-profit administration.

Mr. Goddard holds a bachelor’s degree in finance from Miami University, Ohio; and three master’s degrees — Hospital and Health Care Administration, Xavier University; Business Administration, Xavier University; and Theology, Athenaeum of Ohio. He and his wife, Diane, will celebrate 35 years of marriage in October. They have three children and one grandchild.

Interestingly, Mr. Goddard said, that throughout his entire life, even when at age 27 he accepted the Chief Executive Officer position at Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital in Irvine, Ky., he was never searching for a job. Instead, people who knew him, his character, and his qualifications, would recommend that he apply for an open position that they had learned about. Such was the case at Catholic Charities when he submitted his resumé for the executive director position.

About being named executive director of Catholic Charities, Mr. Goddard said, “I feel really honored to be selected as Alan’s successor and, and I find it to be a true privilege to be able to serve the people of the diocese, whether they’re a practicing Catholic or not. That has always been the history of my career not to ask questions, but just to serve and try to meet the need. Hopefully, people will keep me in their prayers as I start this new journey and as Catholic Charities begins a new chapter.” Mr. Goddard will start at the end of May.



**Meet Our New
Executive Director!**

**All are Welcome to
meet Chris Goddard
at an Open House:**

**Thursday,
June 15, 2023**

4–6 pm

**Catholic Charities
3629 Church Street
Latonia, KY 41015**

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I can't believe this will be my last letter in the *Partners* Newsletter to all of our volunteers, benefactors and friends of Catholic Charities. A friend asked me recently how I was handling my "liminal space." I had no idea what he was talking about, so he quickly explained. Liminal refers to (1) "occupying a position at or on both sides of a boundary or threshold," and (2) "relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process." In my case, I am preparing to retire; and because of circumstances outside of my control, my retirement has been delayed—just a little—from March 31 to May 31. No big deal, but actually a gift. With one foot in and the other foot out, I am sometimes torn, but at the same time blessed. A liminal space is a good place to take stock, reflect back and plan ahead. I am enjoying these moments.

For the past 8½ years, I have been privileged to lead our ministry at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington. I thought when I started at Catholic Charities, that I would ease into retirement more gradually. As it turns out, I was as committed as ever to my work, and I continued to give 100%. Now, during this liminal time, especially over the past few weeks, I have been trying to process all the emotions, feelings and plans that have washed over me as I consider how ministry to others has shaped me. At Catholic Charities, we see God's presence every day in the people we serve and in the work we do. I recognize the gift of so many people walking alongside to help me—to help us—serve in our various ministries of God's mercy to the marginalized, broken, despondent and hopeless. I am thankful.

Have you ever been through a liminal space? I suspect you have. All of us go through various transitions throughout life. Perhaps you are finishing the school year, or maybe even graduating. You might be preparing for marriage or starting a new job. If you are from my generation, you might be anticipating a first grandchild, or starting to think about what you will do in retirement. Whatever transition might be looming in front of you, don't miss the opportunity to see the blessings in your current state, and be careful what you are planning to do next. As the saying goes, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans."

Recently a priest reminded me that faith is an action verb. We cannot simply think our way into believing, but we must consciously decide to choose faith, and then act on that. God is always calling us, but we do not always listen or respond. Many years ago, I started praying about how to answer God's call. Through the various trials and struggles that all of us encounter over a lifetime, God led me right here. I have been blessed beyond measure. Today, I am more in love with God and neighbor than ever, and I will never be the same. I don't know what the future holds, but I am assured by God's presence in my life that whatever comes next will also be blessed. If you are anticipating an upcoming transition, I encourage you to embrace the possibilities of the unknown in your liminal space. Consider, how is God calling you? And how will you act on His call? I hope that you will be as blessed as I have been. Thank you for your presence and support over these past 8½ years!

In God's mercy,

Alan

Annual Golf Classic to Benefit the Clients of Catholic Charities

Saturday July 29, 2023
Kenton Co. Gold Course, Independence
Shotgun Start at 8:00 am
Cost: \$100.00 per Golfer

If you aren't a golfer you can still support
the outing by becoming a sponsor.

For Golf Classic Information call or email:
Dennis Elix 859-240-6350, DennisElix@yahoo.com
Bill Kopp 513-262-8102, billkopp6@gmail.com
Carl Biery 859-781-5054, cbiery@fuse.net

Save the Date Cassba 2023

Sunday, August 27th
Drees Pavilion, 3:00–7:00 pm
Corporate and Family Sponsorships
still available.

Check out all things Cassba at
www.cassba.com

See enclosed flyer or purchase your Cassba
Cash Tickets by scanning the QR code



Welcome Dana Gradel

Dana is excited to have joined Catholic Charities as a part time assistant to the Institutional Advancement Team. She has enjoyed over 20 years of volunteering at Parish Kitchen and feels blessed to be part of a great team. Welcome Dana!



Pickett's Corner Needs Your Help!

Catholic Charities announces the start of a new ministry, Pickett's Corner at Parish Kitchen. The new ministry will repair and distribute bicycles to those in need in the area. Bicycles will greatly help folks get around town and especially to their jobs. Volunteers are needed to be present at Parish Kitchen during lunchtime (11:30 am-1:30 pm) to repair bikes. Volunteers are also needed to collect and repair bikes at their home for distribution at the Parrish Kitchen. Please respond to pickettscorner23@gmail.com for more details.

The Gift of Hope

By Karen Kuhlman

Through its many ministries, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington lives the teaching of Jesus. Catholic Charities Jail Ministry unites the Fifth Beatitude, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy,” with the Fifth Corporal Work of Mercy, “To visit the imprisoned.” Jail Ministry Coordinator Dave Capella and his volunteers bring that mercy to the incarcerated, those about to be released, their families, friends, and victims of crime. John Lubrecht, a Catholic Charities jail minister, has been visiting the Boone County Jail for four years. He has met with many inmates, but one young man and his family have made a lasting impression on him.

When John visits inmates, he never asks why they are incarcerated; he asks why they decided to meet with him. Do they want him to pray with them, talk with them or take a break from their cell? A young man, who had never been in trouble before, was incarcerated at the Boone County Jail. He was emotionally in dire straits, and his mother was overwhelmed with worry about potential disastrous consequences. “My son, Paul, got in trouble, and I panicked. I’d had a previous association with Catholic Charities and reached out to them for help.” Dave Capella responded and emailed his volunteers, explaining the situation and requesting immediate assistance.

When John arrived at the jail 15 minutes later, he found a crying, broken 23-year-old man. From that day on, he visited the young man every Saturday for three years. John explained, “We think much is to be gained for the people who meet with us. We pray with them, talk with them; we are present to them. I tried to be that positive person Paul could talk with and count on. We hear a lot about transformational experiences; I witnessed a remarkable transformation.”

John wanted to ensure that once Paul was out, he would stay out. “I will work with you for as long as it takes, as long as you make me one promise; You are never going to go back.” Paul responded, “I promise you that when I get out of here, I am never coming back here. All I want to do is to be the greatest dad, son, and part of this community.”

Paul explains, “I thought about all I had done wrong. I felt so bad about how I had hurt my mom and uncle, and I didn’t want to do it again. I had hurt them so badly that I didn’t think they would ever answer the phone if I called, would never want to help me again. I would stand in the shower and cry – the only place where no one could see my tears. John helped me find ways I could do things differently.”

Catholic Charities’ Jail Ministry is a presence ministry, and John has been a presence in Paul’s life for four years. He’s prayed with him, talked with him, shared his sorrows, rejoiced in his successes, and befriended him. John suggested that Paul use his time to improve his body and soul. He encouraged him to give his life purpose by volunteering for any available job in the facility. So, the young man said yes to painting, maintenance, laundry chores - any opportunity that allowed him to get out of his head through labor. As an additional physical component, John helped him devise a fitness program he could work on in his cell. Others in his pod followed his lead and began working out as well. Triceps dips on the edge of the bed, 1,000 sit-ups, and 1,000 pushups a day helped rebuild the physical Paul as John slowly refined the interior. Paul said, “being rebuilt physically helped me deal with my emotions; previously, I spent too much time in my head.”

An essential component of John’s successful ministry to Paul was the unparalleled support from Paul’s mother and uncle. In preparation for his weekly visits, John contacted Paul’s mother and uncle, asking if there was anything they



wanted to know or how he could best support Paul. His mother said the hardest part was seeing Paul behind bars, but she knew he had to learn from his mistakes. She leaned heavily on the support of John and her brother. With his background in law enforcement, her brother was impressed with John's commitment to visiting Paul week after week for three years.

"I grew up in the Methodist faith and also witnessed the work done by Catholics among the people of the community. I was grateful for John's commitment to Paul, to go out to jail time after time. I don't know if I could do that, do what John has done. There was so much stress on my sister, and John provided her with a bridge to Paul." John visited with Paul on Saturdays while the family visited during the week. Paul's uncle said, "The Jail Ministry's influence on rehabilitation is so important to society, and to see that is a blessing. It was a wonderful thing to observe the process of John showing up week after week and witness the rebuilding of a man."



Paul is now doing very well. He has done his time, completed his parole, gets to see his children, has taken the classes the Judge deemed necessary, and has been gainfully employed for over a year. He is doing so well that he is being considered for extra responsibilities by his employer. He enjoys those responsibilities and is anxious to learn all he can to move forward in life.

Paul doesn't know what he would do without his family, without his mother, his uncle, John Lubrecht, Dave Capella, and Catholic Charities. He is determined to become a good father, a good son, and a good man. Along the way, he will have the love of his mother and uncle and the continuing friendship of John Lubrecht. John never let go of Paul during the most difficult days of the young man's life; he will not let go of him now that his best days are on the horizon.

Paul's story began in despair but continues now with the hope of a good life. And to Paul and his family, the knowledge that there is hope is the greatest gift. Paul said, "The Jail Ministry would help so many others if there were more people like John to talk with, to help them get out of their heads. I went in broken, but with the help of my family and John Lubrecht, I came out better." Paul's mother and uncle are grateful for John's commitment to Paul and the others he serves through Catholic Charities' Jail Ministry. They hope their story will inspire others to consider volunteering for the ministry.

For more information about Jail Ministry Program or if you are interested in volunteering contact Dave Capella at dcapella@covingtoncharities.org or 859-581-8974 ext. 117

Note - While John's story of dedication to Paul and his family is beautiful, our jail ministry volunteers typically don't visit one-on-one with inmates or get involved with family members to this extent. Our volunteers visit in pairs and meet groups of inmates to read Scripture, pray, teach classes and listen. That is how the spirit moves us.

Program Updates

Friends & Family of the Incarcerated *Free Support Group*

3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
PAL meets at Crossroads, 828 Heights Blvd, Florence, KY 41042 during the summer months. It returns to Catholic Charities in October.

A safe, welcoming community where you will be accepted without judgment. Questions? Contact dcapella@covingtoncharities.org

Parents of Addicted Loved-Ones (PAL) *Free Support Group*

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street, Latonia

PAL meets every week and provides continuing education along with support, at no charge, for parents with a son or daughter suffering from alcohol or drug addiction.

Free Homebuyer Education Class

Saturday, July 8, 2023
Saturday, August 5, 2023
Saturday, September 9, 2023
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street, Latonia

Learn about managing money, budgeting, insurance, inspections, mortgage lending, realtors, protecting your investment and predatory lending. Class size is limited. REGISTRATION REQUIRED: (859) 581-8974.

Exciting times with the mobile food pantry!

By John Hehman, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator

All six of the targeted pantries are now open! Two of the pantries are as originally designed, that being walk-in pantries and in June, the Bracken County pantry will convert from drive-thru to walk-in. The other pantries will also be converted as soon as we are able to make this transition.

One of the main reasons we prefer the walk-in pantry is that we can meet the people who need the food, and we are able to educate people about other Catholic Charities programs.

Through the first four months of 2023, we have served 4,857 people in 1,865 households. We look for these numbers to increase as we have had some pantry days where the weather did not cooperate, reducing the number of participants.

We are often asked where our food comes from. The food is part of “The Emergency Food Assistance Program” (TEFAP) which is a grant administered by the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD). In addition, Anthem has partnered with us to supply fresh produce from the FreeStore Foodbank at every location each month. We also have had schools and organizations collect hygiene products which we will give out. For example, we have given out bars of soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, or shampoo. If you are interested in collecting items, please contact Jill Walch at 859-581-8974 ext. 119.

God Has a Plan!

By Dave Capella, Jail Ministry Coordinator

We don't worry if we see 10 people or one person on a given night when we visit the detention centers, because we know God has a plan.

So far this year between Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties we have seen 471 people through our ministry programs on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights. We also serve many family members through our support group each month and by writing to people in jails and prisons.

God has blessed Catholic Charities and the people we serve with a great group of volunteers.

We will be starting Jail Ministry at Mason County Detention Center on Monday nights. We are actively recruiting volunteers. Please contact Dave Capella at Catholic Charities at 859-581-8974 ext. 117 or dcapella@covingtoncharities.org, if you are interested.

Program Updates continued

You Are the Light

By Jill Walch, Volunteer Coordinator

At 5:15 pm on March 28, 2023, at Receptions Event Center, we approach a silent room with pristine table decorations, beautiful décor, and a delectable aroma filling the air. The setting is perfect, but something is missing. It's the sound of joy and hope, laughter, and storytelling. Volunteers and donors sharing with those who not that long ago may have been a total stranger to them. It's the community that occurs when a group of people get together who live not just for themselves but for others. Those who do something for someone else who can never repay them.

As our Appreciation Dinner event time draws near, familiar faces begin to appear, smiles, hearty laughter, and even a few tears surface. Each guest arrives with their individual life story, meshing in a web of love, filled with the journeys of many who share a common thread; in giving, we receive.

The message delivered by the speakers of the evening is clear; those of you in this room, and those invited but unable to attend, bring light to others who need it. By living and walking your faith, you are the light!

And congratulations to our honored guests, Monsignor Gerry Reinersman, the 2023 Marcella Strategier Angel of Hope Award winner, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare, the 2023 Community Partner Award Winner.

Before the evening ends, Alan Pickett is honored by the Advisory Board who is creating a new Bicycle Repair Ministry, housed at the Parish Kitchen, called Pickett's Corner, in his honor. (see page 3). For those who may not know, Alan is an avid cyclist and thus, this is a perfect fit for him.

On this day, and every day, we thank all our donors and volunteers for all that you do to share your faith, hope, love, and help with everyone we serve!





Catholic Charities

Diocese of Covington

Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

3629 Church Street

Latonia, KY 41015

859.581.8974

www.CovingtonCharities.org

www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities

Serving the community for over 91 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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Diocese of Covington

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