



## Pedal on Down

In 2023, the Catholic Charities Advisory Board of Directors sought to honor the retiring executive director, Alan Pickett. Inspired by Alan's passion for cycling, board member Jim Volz proposed a bike ministry called Pickett's Corner that quickly gained the board's approval.

This initiative, spearheaded by Jim Volz, aims to provide bicycles to individuals in need of transportation for work, errands, and appointments. The ministry, based at Parish Kitchen, focuses on practical mobility rather than recreational use. The key component to this project is, of course, the bike itself. In its inaugural year, volunteers sourced bikes through word-of-mouth, refurbishing them before engaging with individuals at Parish Kitchen bi-weekly to assess their transportation needs. As donated bikes became scarce, the team turned to local schools during the winter months. Four schools have already stepped up to support this cause. Notre Dame Academy organized a "Rolling into Action" Bike Drive as part of a Lenten almsgiving project, collecting sixty-four bikes. Villa Madonna Academy Honor Society also hosted a bike drive, gathering seventeen bikes. St. Henry and Covington Catholic High Schools also contributed to make this project successful. Two hundred and fifty bikes were distributed after one year of the Pickett's Corner Bike Ministry.

Are you ready to dust off that bike hanging in your garage and be the next link in this chain of generosity? Help us meet our 2024 goal to distribute four hundred bikes! Please visit [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org) to learn more. To donate a bike, reach out to the Pickett's Corner team at [pickettscorner23@gmail.com](mailto:pickettscorner23@gmail.com). Let's keep the wheels turning for those in need!



Notre Dame Academy



Villa Madonna Academy

# A Letter from the Executive Director



## The Future Direction of Catholic Charities: Strategic Plan 2024—2026

As I conclude my first year as Executive Director of Catholic Charities this June, I'm eager to unveil our three-year Strategic Plan, shaped by input from our stakeholders. The plan focuses on meeting physical needs through corporal works of mercy while nurturing the spiritual growth of those we serve and those who serve. The plan, condensed for brevity in this Partners Newsletter, will be elaborated on in future newsletters and touch on all our ministries.

### CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

#### Shelter the homeless

- Maintain **housing for 16 individuals/families** at St. Joseph Apartments, supporting permanent home ownership if desired.
- Provide full-time **mortgage counseling** to secure housing or avoid delinquency.
- Propose collaborative initiatives to Bishop Iffert to increase **affordable housing** across the Diocese.

#### Visit the imprisoned

- Grow by 30%** the number of volunteers serving detention centers.
- Serve the remaining 2 detention centers**, growing from 4 to 6 served and covering the Diocese.

#### Feed the hungry & give drink to the thirsty

- Identify and provide **"wrap-around services"** (e.g., clothing, bikes) for Parish Kitchen guests and our Mobile Food Pantry neighbors.
- Evaluate and present the need and any recommendation(s) to expand the **mobile food pantry**. Currently, 5 of the 11 non-NKY counties are served.
- Build a multi-purpose garage** at Parish Kitchen to shelter the Mobile Food Pantry truck and offer crucial extra storage space.

#### Give alms to the poor

- With the support of our incredibly generous benefactors and volunteers, we continue Christ's work to expand our ministries.
- Increase **volunteer opportunities to serve** by **30%** (i.e., "give alms" through non-monetary gifts) by communicating and simplifying the process.
- Increase by 20%** the number of **people financially supporting Catholic Charities**.

### SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

While our counseling services don't neatly align with any of the spiritual works of mercy, we address spiritual, mental, behavioral, and emotional needs. Our main office served over 450 clients in 2023 and our school counseling program served students across nine Catholic schools and over 500 children in the 2023-2024 school year.

- Develop a long-range plan to provide best practices **counseling services** to students within our **Diocesan Schools**.
- Develop a long-range plan to provide best practices counseling services to individuals and families within parishes (i.e., **those not within Diocesan schools**).

Thank you for your steadfast support. As we implement our strategic plan, we humbly request your prayers for guidance by the Holy Spirit. Together, may we continue to deepen faith and transform lives as we share the Good News.

## News and Events

### Annual Golf Classic to Benefit the Clients of Catholic Charities

Saturday July 7, 2024  
Kenton Co. Golf Course, Independence  
Shotgun Start at 8:30 am  
4-man Scramble format  
Cost: \$125 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

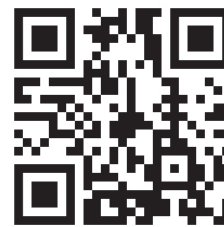
### Save the Date Cassba 2024

Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>  
Drees Pavilion, 3:00–7:00 pm

Corporate and Family Sponsorships  
still available.

Check out all things Cassba at  
**[www.cassba.com](http://www.cassba.com)**

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



St Pius X Church, through their Lenten Purple Bin Project, provided many items for those in need. Snacks, toilet paper, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, all-purpose cleaning products, and more. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Your generosity is amazing!!!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Catholic Charities ministries are always looking for volunteers.

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, please visit

**[www.covingtoncharities.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.covingtoncharities.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities)**



# For I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me (Matth

*By Karen Kuhlman*

Dana Gradel has 25 years of experience working in the private sector and 24 years as a Parish Kitchen volunteer. Now the Marketing and Fund Development Assistant for Catholic Charities, she speaks with an understanding of the importance of Parish Kitchen: "When our guests walk through the doors of Parish Kitchen for the first time, they have many reasons to enjoy the warm welcome they receive. The overriding reason is the absolute necessity of daily nourishment. Not every guest is homeless; The daily mid-day meal at Parish Kitchen enables them to put some of their small income towards groceries, healthcare, rent, or utilities."

Dana's favorite part of volunteering at the Parish Kitchen is the guest interaction: seeing so many familiar faces and hearing their stories. "It is hard to put into words, but we, as volunteers, receive so much more than we give. I always leave there with a sense of how much we take for granted and an appreciation for all we have. The simplicity of the ministry. For so many of our guests, this is the most important part of their day. It is truly a sight to behold, to see God's hand in action."

Gradel said, "I hope our donors and readers understand the profound impact their donations have on our guests. People from all walks of life, with different faiths and backgrounds, enter Parish Kitchen. Those who work or volunteer at Parish Kitchen experience the relief on the faces of our guests when they have that one moment: They enter, sit down, take a deep breath, and know for this one hour, they are honored and safe at Parish Kitchen. I am always amazed by how many say "Bless you, thank you" as they come through the line - or offer a little silent prayer before they begin their meal. There is this genuine appreciation for what they have, this respite from their day. Who knows what else is going on in their lives to get them to this point."

Guests come from various places in their lives, many never expecting to find themselves relying on Parish Kitchen for their daily bread. The staff becomes familiar with those who visit daily, so they pay a little more attention when someone new comes through the line. Dana remembers one guest in particular: "One day, a new gentleman came through the line; he was very nicely dressed, but you could see that his sportcoat was a little tattered, his shoes a little worn. He said he'd come from the airport; he'd just missed his flight. He'd never been to Parish Kitchen before and stopped by for lunch to see what things were all about. He had his meal and left. Well, he kept coming







back, and each time, he had just missed his flight at the airport. Over time, we learned his name and started welcoming him by name, and the other guests began calling him by name.

Eventually, he said, "I'm just here for a meal." It made me realize how difficult it must be to walk through our door for the first time. Not knowing what to expect, not knowing anyone, not knowing if anyone is passing judgment. Then, to see his transformation! He suddenly had this little community of friends. Despite his life circumstances, he found a place where he really belonged.

After several years, he stopped coming. You worry about those who stop coming. Life when they leave our doors is pretty unpredictable, and you always offer a silent prayer that their lives are a little better because of the love and compassion they received at Parish Kitchen."

If you are interested in supporting the Parish Kitchen 50th anniversary, scan the QR code to the right or visit, [www.parishkitchen.org](http://www.parishkitchen.org).



## PARISH KITCHEN 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Open House**  
**Monday, June 17th from 4-7 pm**

**Celebration Mass**  
**Friday, June 21st at 3:00 p.m.**  
**Mother of God Parish, Covington**

# Program Updates

## 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, Covington, KY 41015

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

## Friends & Family of the Incarcerated Free Support Group

3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Catholic Charities,

3629 Church Street, Covington, KY 41015

A safe, welcoming community where you will be accepted without judgment. Questions? Contact Dave Pike at 859-669-3636.

## Free Homebuyer Education Class

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Saturday, August 3, 2024

Saturday, September 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Catholic Charities,

3629 Church Street, Covington, KY 41015

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.



## Supporting Catholic Charities for Years to Come!

There are many ways to support Catholic Charities mission, but when you plan a gift as part of your overall estate and financial plans, you help ensure that Catholic Charities will be here tomorrow to continue to provide resources to serve anyone who walks through our doors.

Planned Gifts through the advice of professional counsel offer various strategies that can help you save on taxes or increase your income. They offer opportunities to provide for yourself and/or your family while allowing you to support the mission and programs of Catholic Charities that embodies your values, and represents what's most important to you, now and in the future.

Naming the individuals and charities that will receive your assets once you are gone can be a simple process. Most assets can pass to your intended beneficiaries as a bequest by the terms of your will. Bequests can take several forms such as:

**Specific bequest**—a certain amount of cash, securities, or property.

**General bequest**—property that is similar to all other items distributed, usually cash.

**Percentage bequest**—a stated percentage of the donor's estate.

**Residual bequest**—all or a portion of what remains of the estate after specific and general bequests are distributed.

Please watch for more information as we roll out our new planned giving program.

For questions about naming Catholic Charities as beneficiary of any of these assets, contact your financial planner or Catholic Charities.

If you have named Catholic Charities as a beneficiary or have left us in your will, please contact Jennifer Abdrabbo at [jabdrabbo@covingtoncharities.org](mailto:jabdrabbo@covingtoncharities.org)

# Program Updates continued

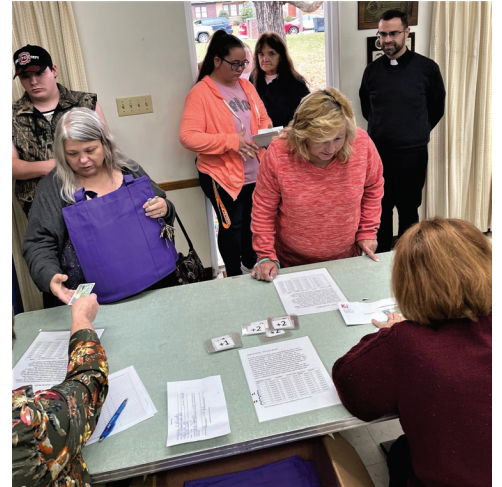
## Food For Friends Mobile Food Pantry

*By John Hehman*

While serving families in six separate rural communities, we have guests who come for many reasons. During Covid-19, we had limited conversations with the recipients of the pantry goods, but since we are again hosting “in-person” pantries at most locations, this has changed. Now visitors come into the building where the pantry is hosted, and we get to know our guests and listen to their stories.

At one pantry, we had a young lady who came in very distraught. Deacon Mike Keller, volunteer at the pantry, took her aside and talked to her. By the time Deacon Keller was finished meeting with her, “she looked as if the weight of the world was off her shoulders” shared John Hehman, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator. “I was glad that Mike was there to show her the love and care she needed. On this day, the pantry was not about the food but listening to and helping someone in need.” It is easy to see that on each pantry day, the staff and volunteers encounter God’s presence during this ministry. And it reminds me of the words of Mother Theresa, “It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

If you would like to volunteer for the Mobile Food Pantry, please contact Jill Walch at [jwalch@covingtoncharities.org](mailto:jwalch@covingtoncharities.org) or 850-581-8974 x119.



## Pickett’s Corner

It was a soggy start to the 2024 bike season for Pickett’s Corner. But the spirits were high as several bikes were taken home and others were fixed.

We also received a wonderful donation celebrating the lives of Chase and Cole. They loved to ride bikes, so this was a perfect way for them to be remembered. Thanks, Judy, for thinking of Pickett’s Corner. Thanks so much to all involved in making this ministry successful!

To learn more about how to donate a bike, make a financial donation or volunteer go to [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org).







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

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

***Serving the community for over 94 years***

***Our Mission:*** We serve all people in our Diocese who lack basic human needs, including physical, spiritual, or emotional, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Using a unique holistic approach, we support and empower our clients to achieve self-sufficiency by providing guidance, tools, and life-skills.

We also serve our volunteers, supporters, and partner agencies/ministries by providing the means for them to serve and assist their neighbors in need through our programs or referrals.

#### **Corporate Board**

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John Iffert, DD,  
Bishop of Covington  
Very Rev. Mark Keene, VG  
Juan Aviles  
Rev. Michael Comer  
Rev. Michael Grady  
Mr. Dale Henson  
Msgr. Gerald Reinersman

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Mary Paula Schuh  
Fr. Joey Shelton  
Rafael Torres  
Jim Volz

#### **Leadership Team**

Chris Goddard, Executive Director  
Shannon Braun, Assistant Executive Director  
Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement Manager  
David Durr, Mental Health Counselor and  
Clinical Director  
Anna Phillips, Parenting Supervisor  
Deanna Singer, Controller

#### **Catholic Charities Staff**

Jennifer Abdrabbo, Institutional Advancement and  
Development Associate  
Patti Anderson, Housing Supervisor  
Michelle Barbian, School Counselor  
Amy Bauer, Parish Kitchen Assistant Manager  
Sheila Dumford, MSW, CSW, School Counseling  
Supervisor & School Counselor  
Gary Frodge, Assistant Mobile Pantry Coordinator  
Dana Gradel, Marketing and Fund Development  
Assistant  
Mindy Garcia, Parish Kitchen Associate

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Susan Goodman, Parish Kitchen Weekend Staff  
John Hehman, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator  
Lisa Horney, Parish Kitchen Weekend Staff  
Amy Littleton, Quality Assurance Coordinator  
Brandy Medaugh, Client Care Specialist and St.  
Joseph Case Manager  
Chris Meyer, Parish Kitchen Weekend Staff  
Lynne Moore, Client Care Specialist  
Donna Moreland, MSW, CSW, School Counselor  
Dave Pike, Jail Ministry Coordinator  
Sharon Raaker, MS, LPCC, School Counselor  
Margaret Rahn, Client Care Specialist  
Autumn Ruehl, Mental Health Counseling Intern  
Erica Sellman, Parish Kitchen Weekend Staff  
Dimitra Ursic, Accounting Associate  
Clare Vetter, Parish Kitchen Weekend Staff  
Jill Walch, Volunteer Coordinator  
James Wendeln, Parish Kitchen Manager  
Jim Young, Parish Kitchen Weekend Staff  
Belle Zembrodt, LPCC, Clinical Counselor



**Diocese of Covington**

*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.*