



It All Begins with Helping Hands

By Jill Walch, Volunteer Coordinator

On Tuesday, April 5th, the doors were opened at the Receptions Event Center to host an Appreciation Dinner for our donors and volunteers. The vacant, silent room soon became filled with laughter and conversation. All were thrilled to be “in person” again after the long haul of COVID-19. Handshakes, smiles, and hugs flourished. This was for us, the most important night of the year, on which our job was to show our gratitude for the wonderful work of our guests. We know without your helping hands Catholic Charities would not exist.

As we gathered, it was clear all of you decided to answer the call “to belong.” True belonging is being a part of something bigger than oneself. Your belonging, by your good works at Catholic Charities, energizes and empowers healing, and changes lives.

Thank you for answering the call, we are so grateful for all of you!

Grateful for donors and volunteers who give from their heart

Rallying support to feed both the body and soul

Always here to help

Treating all with dignity and respect

Initiating small steps to make a larger impact

Tirelessly giving while experiencing difficulties of one’s own

Understanding the needs of others

Dignity not deprecation

Extend a hand, change a life

And congratulations to our honored guests, Joe and Sheila Peeno, the 2022 Marcella Strategier Angel of Hope award winners, and to the RC Durr Foundation, Inc., the 2022 Community Partner Award winner.

On this day, and every day, we thank you for all that you do!



A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As I write this note during the month of May, we dedicate ourselves to Mary, the mother of God. In addition to preparing for the warmer spring weather and the end of the school year, we also turn to Mary as we celebrate May Crowning and honor Our Lady. My mind goes to the *Memorare* prayer: "Remember most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided..." What a beautiful prayer and witness for us, inspiring us to strive to serve all who come to us for aid. This aligns with our tag line and motto that we adopted years ago: "Extend a hand and change a life."

This edition of our newsletter highlights a number of ways that we are continually reaching out to those in need to make their life a little bit brighter. We offer support and hope by our presence, and we strive to offer aid whenever we see a need. After two years of COVID restrictions, our jail ministry is returning to two of our local county detention centers in Boone and Kenton counties (*see page 7*). Our mobile pantry continues to meet a need in the food deserts of some of our outlying counties, and we continue to expand this ministry to touch more lives (*see page 7*). The article on pages 4 and 5, "The Hidden Angels of the St. Joseph Apartments," describes the many people who participate in our ministry to the residents of our housing program at the St. Joseph Apartments in Elsmere. We also share with you the sad news of our decision to discontinue the adoption and pregnancy counseling ministry on page 6. We did not make this decision lightly, but we trust God to lead us to new opportunities. It is often said, and we believe that, "as one door closes, another one will open."

Our ministry depends on the support of numerous volunteers and benefactors. Some of our staff work very hard in direct service to our many clients, while other staff are responsible to organize and support the volunteers who partner with us in ministry. This was highlighted in a big way at our Appreciation Dinner in April. We could not do all of our ministry without you.

So once again, we thank you and commend each of you who partner with us to be the hands and feet of Christ. We thank our Mother Mary for her guiding light that inspires us to continue the work that we are called to do. May your lives be enriched by all the ways that you are supporting our shared ministry.

In God's mercy,

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

Alan Pickett
Executive Director

News and Events

Annual Golf Classic to Benefit the Clients of Catholic Charities

Saturday July 23, 2022
Devou Park Golf Course and Event Center
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 2022

Sunday, August 28th
Drees Pavilion
3:00–7:00 pm

New this year is Family Sponsors

Check out all things Cassba at
www.cassba.com

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



The students at St. Cecilia School organized a toiletry drive for our residents at the St. Joseph Apartments and our Mobile Food Pantry guests. They collected paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and bars of soap. Father Harry Settle and Principal Jeanetta Kathman made the special delivery. Thank you to all who participated in this service project!

The Hidden Angels of the St. Joseph Apartments

Since 1948, the mission of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington, has been to promote healing, restore hope and affirm human potential. Some of Catholic Charities' ministries such as the Parish Kitchen, Child and Family Services, and Counseling Services are long-established and well known. Others, such as the St. Joseph Supportive Housing Services, might be less well known. This ministry provides safe, stable, permanent housing to families impacted by homelessness and disability.

The St. Joseph Apartments consists of two eight-family apartment buildings in Elsmere; but that description is only part of the story. The life-changing experiences of the residents are the real story, a story written day by day. Brandy Medaugh is a Client Care Specialist and Case Manager for St. Joseph Apartments. She accompanies the residents on their journey from homelessness and hopelessness to a future full of possibilities. That dream becomes a reality through intensive case management which helps residents set goals and achieve self-sufficiency. Medaugh says that, without a doubt, the pandemic, economic conditions, and current events have made the last three years the most challenging of her career. Those dynamics have affected the ways in which she can serve her clients. Thank heaven, she has many hidden angels at her side.

The scope of a ministry that rebuilds lives from the ground up is enormous and requires many helping hands. There are large agencies whose assistance Catholic Charities cannot do without. There is also the blessing of those hidden angels who work in the background, appearing when needed most. When Girl Scout Troop 250 asked Medaugh about providing a worthwhile service project, she requested a small playground for the young residents. The Scouts provided the playground equipment; Lowes of Highland Heights provided the chain link fencing, post hole digging, and mulch installation. Working together, they built a safe playground where children can enjoy the simple pleasures of spending a sunny day with friends.

Medaugh says, "We have a huge relationship with the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Blessed Sacrament Church. If not for them, I truly could not do all that I do for the residents. They are amazing. I will give our contact, David Burridge, a call as soon as I know we will have a new family. Families calling on the emergency hotline are immediately connected with David, and he speaks with them to assess their needs. David and his volunteers pray with the residents and learn their stories. They bring them food and vouchers for clothing and furniture. Currently, St. Vincent de Paul is working with one of our residents to help have his car repaired through their car program. That is another cool blessing!"

Through Blessed Sacrament's Birthday Program, Sue Kathman makes sure that the children of St. Joseph receive a birthday cake, a gift, and a card: things that Mom and Dad can't provide. She is also available for various emergencies, delivers emergency food the day of the request, and helps with baby showers for new little ones.

Several years ago, a grant from St. Timothy Parish provided several picnic tables that created an outdoor dining space for residents. Now, Medaugh is working on a grant to pay for a simple gazebo over the dining space. That would allow her to move meetings with individuals from the small office space she shares with the residents' coin-operated laundry to the outdoors.



Medaugh's excellent relationship with her young residents' schools helps the children keep a good relationship with their school. The Erlanger/Elsmere School Districts' Families in Transition Coordinators, Shelley Werner and Jenni Nichols, help support the families needs.

Rosalie and her friends volunteer throughout the year to create Blessing Bags for the residents to celebrate birthdays and holidays. The simple bags contain personal care items, household goods, cleaning supplies, and prayers. Sharing the blessings of love she has received in her own life is Rosalie's way of letting the St. Joseph families know that they have not been forgotten – especially on days of celebration.

Be Concerned of Erlanger helps residents complete the service hours necessary to keep their benefits going. And they invite new residents to visit the Erlanger thrift shop to select items that St. Vincent de Paul might not have available.

United Christian Volunteers, a non-profit, is located a walkable ten blocks away from St. Joseph Apartments. Medaugh says, "The director, Charles Lambert, is a really good guy. He helps our residents with food, basic needs, and a clothing voucher."

The laundry/office facility is also home to the St. Joseph Lending Library. As a service project, Claire Ruehl and her grandchildren set up and maintain the small library and keep up with residents' requests for reading material. They've read most of the books and are now hoping for history books, novels, and children's books. Claire and her family help new families feel welcome with cribs, beds, toys, diapers, and whatever they might need. Working with the CARE Closet in Newport, Claire has been able to supply most of those basic needs.

Common Spirit Health, formerly Catholic Health Initiative, initially partnered with Catholic Charities by offering assistance with landscape maintenance on the St. Joseph grounds. That assistance has grown into a friendship that supports each St. Joseph family at Christmas and with back-to-school supplies for the kids for the last four years.

The Knights of Columbus annual golf outing has been of tremendous support to women and children for decades. Now, the Knights' golf outing is the reason so many of the St. Joseph families have beds to sleep on, pillows to rest their heads on, warm blankets, shoes on their feet, and more. So many families enter the program with just a bag of clothing and the clothes on their backs. The Knights' annual golf outing allows families to get the basic needs for their new home and additional needs on their journey through the program. Documents, birth certificates, IDs, GEDs, education fees, shoes, medication, transportation, and summer camps: life's necessities the residents cannot afford are within their reach because of the Knight's generosity.

Brandy Medaugh says, "There are also those who support the community through prayers or contributions to the Diocese. They, too, number among the hidden angels of the St. Joseph Apartments: The small people who come with large gifts."

Program Updates

Friends & Family of the Incarcerated Free Support Group

3rd Tuesday of the month

6:30 p.m.

PAL will meet in the summer months on Tuesdays at 6:30pm at Crossroads, 828 Heights Blvd, Florence, KY 41042. It will return 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 9, 2022

Saturday, August 6, 2022

Saturday, September 10, 2022

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.

Catholic Charities Continues to Support Families Amid Changes

As of March 11, 2022, Bishop Iffert accepted our recommendation to discontinue the Adoption Program at Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington. This was no easy decision as we deliberated long and hard on ways to keep this program going. Despite this change, our commitment to supporting families continues. For couples who have asked for our help in the adoption process, and any future couples wanting to start a family through adoption, we will recommend other known adoption agencies, offer our clinical counseling services, and advise them about other adoption options such as adoption through foster care programs like DCCH.

We will likewise continue to offer clinical counseling services to any man or woman involved in an unplanned or difficult pregnancy to help them find the support they need.

If you or anyone you know is seeking to adopt, or is in an untimely pregnancy, please call Catholic Charities at 859-581-8974 and ask for a Client Care Specialist who can help navigate options and resources. As always, we are here to extend a hand and change a life.



The lettuce is coming up at the Parish Kitchen garden! There will be more planting in all the raised garden soon. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who are making the garden successful.

Program Updates continued

Reach and Teach

At the May 23rd Advisory Board Meeting, Seth Gruner, a Reach and Teach mentor and senior at Covington Catholic High School, received the \$500 Reach and Teach College Scholarship. Seth earned this award for his mentorship to a middle school student during the 2021-2022 school year. His scholarship essay was inspiring. Congratulations and good luck!

The Advisory Board also recognized Keira Schneider and Candace Stallmeyer, Notre Dame Academy juniors, for their artistic contributions. This talented duo has brightened up the days for our guests, volunteers, and staff by painting the Parish Kitchen windows throughout the year. Thanks Keira and Candace!



Jail Ministry Program

Great news! We are back in two of the detention centers. In Boone County we are meeting with both Spanish and English speaking inmates two to three evenings a month. In Kenton County we are starting to teach classes once a week in the men's dorms. It has been two years since we were able to visit with people inside the detention centers. Our Friends and Family support group has been meeting in person for several months now. If you know of someone looking for support due to having loved ones incarcerated, please encourage them to join our group the third Tuesday each month 6:30-7:30. It is truly a support group where people share experiences and feelings without judgement.

For more information about our Jail Ministry Program contact Dave Capella at dcepella@covingotncharities.org or call 859-581-8974 ext 117

Exciting News for the Mobile Food Pantry “Food for Friends”

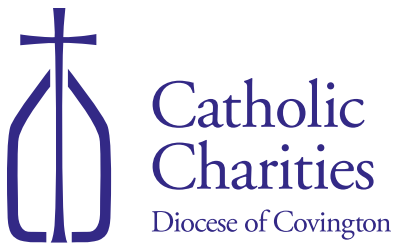
By John Hehman, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator

We are growing! In June, another food pantry will open. This new location will be at St. Edwards Mission Parish, in Owenton. The pantry will be on the fourth Monday of each month, from Noon to 2:00 pm.

Our food pantry “Food for Friends” schedule is the second Monday of each month at St. William Parish, in Williamstown; the fourth Friday of each month at St. James Parish, in Brooksville; and the second Thursday of each month at St. Joseph Parish, in Warsaw.

We are proud of the expansion of our pantries and know it would not be possible without our donors, volunteers, and staff. This dedication makes every pantry successful each month.

If you are interested in volunteering for the mobile food pantry, please visit our website, www.covingtoncharities.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities, to fill out an application or contact John Hehman at jhehman@covingtoncharities.org



Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

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“*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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*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.*