

Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

3629 Church Street
Covington, KY 41015
859.581.8974
www.CovingtonCharities.org
www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities

Serving the community for over 95 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.

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Diocese of Covington



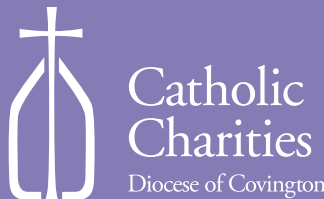
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Partners newsletter is published three times a year in spring, summer and winter
for friends of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides Child and Family Services;
Counseling Services; Housing Services; and Community Outreach Services.

Partners Newsletter

Spring 2026 | Edition #109



Together We Can Do So Much

Written by Emily Hudepohl: Manager, Communications
and Marketing

The room was filled with warmth, conversation, and heartfelt appreciation as volunteers, donors, staff, and community partners gathered for this year’s Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on March 10. Guided by the theme “Together We Can Do So Much,” the evening served as a powerful reminder that when faith, generosity, and service come together, the impact reaches far beyond what any one person could accomplish alone.

Throughout the evening, reflections focused on the sacred encounters found in service. Volunteers and donors were reminded that when we serve those who are poor, marginalized, or vulnerable, we are encountering Christ Himself. Acts of kindness, whether preparing a meal, offering support, or giving generously, become moments of grace that draw us closer to one another and to God.

A deeply moving highlight of the night was the presentation of the Marcella Strategier Angel of Hope Award, which honors individuals who exemplify a quiet, faithful dedication to service. This year’s award was presented to Rose Schlosser, a volunteer known for her humility and compassion.

Introducing Rose, Jill Walch, Director of Volunteer



Engagement, shared that when approached about receiving the award, Rose tearfully asked, “Why me?” As Jill noted, that humility is precisely why Rose embodies the spirit of the Angel of Hope Award.

A behind the scenes servant, Rose faithfully prepares and serves meals at Parish Kitchen, tending to whatever needs arise. Deeply attentive to those she serves, Rose notices when guests are absent and carries genuine concern for their well being. Her meals, lovingly prepared for guests, staff, and board meetings alike, nourish not only bodies but also the sense of community at the heart of Catholic Charities.

The evening also celebrated partnership through the Community Partner Award, presented this year to CommonSpirit Health. For more than a decade, CommonSpirit has played an integral role in supporting families at St. Joseph Apartments, a housing program serving formerly homeless families. As shared by Brandy Medaugh, Client Care Specialist and Case Manager, CommonSpirit’s engagement has always been rooted in authentic service.



One especially transformative collaboration included redesigning the Christmas program to empower children through goal setting, along with launching a literacy initiative that provided tutors, homework stations, and a community library. The results, improved reading scores and strengthened families, stand as a testament to what intentional partnership can achieve.

As the evening drew to a close, one truth resonated clearly: this mission is carried forward by people who choose mercy and love. Together, through every act of service and generosity, we continue the work of hope, proving that together, we can do so much.



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A Letter from the Executive Director

A Bold New Chapter: Planning Our Future Together

Written by: Chris Goddard, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I begin by thanking you, our Catholic Charities family, for the many ways you continue to support our mission through your generosity and service.

I am excited to share that we have begun a new long-range strategic planning process that will help shape the future of our work for years to come. As outlined in Bishop John's recent letter, this effort is part of a broader diocesan-wide initiative bringing together clergy and laity through four planning commissions, including Catholic Charities. It is both an honor and a responsibility to contribute to this shared vision for our Church.

This effort began in April and will continue through the summer, concluding in July with the drafting of clear, mission-driven goals to guide our path forward. This intentional timeline allows us to listen carefully, engage meaningfully, and act thoughtfully.

What makes this process especially meaningful is the wide net we have cast. We have intentionally invited not only board members but also volunteers and donors, those who know our mission best, to lend their voices. Like the early Church gathering in prayer and conversation, we believe the Holy Spirit works most powerfully when many faithful gather with a shared purpose.

Through these planning commissions, participants are helping us assess our current impact, identify emerging needs, and imagine bold, faithful responses. It is both humbling and energizing to witness such thoughtful engagement and commitment.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your prayers, insights, and continued support are essential as we seek to serve with greater clarity and compassion.

With gratitude — Chris



Service Above Self: A Six Year Partnership with Rotary Club

Written by: Amy Bauer, Parish Kitchen Manager and Brenda Fauber, Parish Kitchen Volunteer and Rotary Club Member

Over the past six years, Parish Kitchen has been deeply blessed by the consistent compassion and dedication of the Covington Rotary Club, led by Co-President Jim Baker. Week after week, Rotary members have shown up with generosity and joyful hearts, providing thousands of food items and beverages that helped nourish our guests during lunch service.

This partnership began during the uncertainty of 2020. As the COVID pandemic forced programs to adapt quickly, Rotary members reached out asking a simple but powerful question: *How can we help?* During that time, when Parish Kitchen had shifted to take away meals, the preparation of specific food items was a unique and temporary need that helped ensure guests continued to be served safely

and with care. Rotary stepped forward without hesitation.

What started as a response to crisis has become a remarkable long term commitment. Since 2020, Rotary members have prepared and delivered more than 40,000 food items, along with bottled water. More than 50 Rotarians have participated over the years, transforming their desire to serve into a dependable act of love for neighbors most in need.

Beyond the food itself, what stands out most is the spirit behind the service. "We often talk about the people who might receive these meals and what the moment could mean to them," one Rotary member shared. "It reminds us why service matters."

Parish Kitchen staff frequently notice the genuine joy Rotarians bring when they arrive along with their ongoing question: "What more can we do to help?" In May, Deacon Barry spoke at a Rotary Club meeting to formally thank them for their continued support of this ministry.

We are grateful for this partnership and the many ways Rotary Club lives out its motto, Service Above Self, right here in our community.



Caring for the Whole Child: Mental Health Support in Our Schools

Written by: Sheila Dumford, LCSW, School Counseling Supervisor

Spring is finally here, and that means we are in the final weeks of the school year. The school based mental health counselors have been providing services to 11 schools within the diocese this school year. The program gained new staff, partnered with two new schools, and piloted CARES (Catholic, Approach, Resilience, Engagement, Support), which focuses on classroom level social and emotion education and prevention. It has been a busy but productive and fun school year thus far.

Over 300 students have received individual counseling support for various presenting issues so far this school year. The counselors are master's-level clinicians that follow and support

Catholic Social Teaching, providing a safe and therapeutic environment for students to process and grow. Whether a student is having a bad day, or they are experiencing an ongoing struggle, the counselors are available to offer support. If ongoing support is needed, parents/guardians are engaged and must offer consent for services.

CARES proved to be a valuable extension to the existing school counseling program this school year. The hope is to expand into more schools to not only reach more students, but to give them time to learn about social and emotional skills that are essential for overall functioning and success. Providing students with this level of knowledge

helps the counseling process as it provides students with a foundation to build upon. It also can prevent students from needing individual support, as they can learn skills that help with resiliency and problem solving. CARES providers work closely with school counselors and school principals to adjust programming to best meet each school's needs.

While there is not always enough time, resources, or capacity to meet every need within the schools, the program remains committed to serving and supporting students to the best of its ability. Although we are coming to the end of another school year, there is a feeling of momentum that we intend to carry into the next school year.



2026 Cassba

Catholic Charities Diocese of Covington

STARS AND SERVICE

Save the Date!

Sunday, August 23 • Drees Pavilion • 3:00–7:00 pm

If you have questions or need assistance, please email or call Ellen Wira at ewira@covingtoncharities.org or 859-669-3635.

Find everything Cassba has to offer at www.cassba.com.

Save the Date!

17th Annual Knights of Columbus Golf Classic

Dennis Eliz Memorial to Benefit the Clients of Catholic Charities

Saturday July 25, 2026
Kenton Co. Golf Course
Independence, KY

Shotgun Start at 8:00 am,
Cost: \$125 per golfer

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

For Golf Classic Information contact:

Bill Kopp
513-262-8102
billkopp6@gmail.com

Carl Biery
859-781-5054
cbiery@fuse.net



Program Updates

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

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month
6:30–8:00 pm
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
6:30 pm
Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street, Covington, KY 41015

A safe, welcoming community where you will be accepted without judgment. Questions? Email Vince Lonnemann: vlonnemann@covingtoncharities.org

Free Homebuyer Education Class

Saturday, June 6, 2026
Saturday, July 11, 2026
Saturday, August 1, 2026
Saturday, September 12, 2026
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
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. Contact Client Care at 859-581-8974.

Housing: A Foundation for Stability and Hope

Written by: Patti Anderson, Housing Supervisor

At Catholic Charities, stable housing is more than a roof overhead. It is often the foundation that allows individuals and families to move forward with security and hope. Through HUD approved housing counseling and supportive services, our team walks alongside people at critical moments, helping them navigate complex challenges and take meaningful steps toward a more stable future.

Our Housing program provides guidance for individuals facing mortgage delinquency or foreclosure, rental instability, and ongoing financial stress. Counselors help clients understand their options, communicate with lenders and landlords, and develop realistic plans to remain housed whenever possible. For others, housing stability begins with education, such as learning how budgeting, credit repair, and long-term financial planning can open doors that once felt out of reach.

One recent story highlights just how life changing this support can be. A single mother working to leave an unsafe situation was facing mounting financial pressure, including a past due utility bill that threatened her ability to move forward. Through Catholic Charities,



she received housing counseling, advocacy, and limited emergency assistance that helped

stabilize her situation and restore momentum during a critical time.

While Catholic Charities does not provide Scholar House directly, our support made it possible for her to pursue this next step. With stability regained and guidance from our team, she was able to successfully apply and be accepted into Scholar House, an innovative program that offers safe, affordable housing, on-site childcare, and supportive services for parents pursuing higher education.

With rent set at an affordable level and childcare provided through Scholar House, she is now able to focus on her studies, work toward self-sufficiency, and build a more secure future for her children.

“Knowing someone believed in me and helped me figure out my next steps made all the difference,” she shared.

Stories like this reflect the heart of Catholic Charities’ Housing program, meeting people where they are, addressing immediate barriers, and helping families access the tools and opportunities that lead to long term stability and hope.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking the next step toward housing stability, consider attending a NeighborWorks Homebuyer Education class on Saturday, June 6. Registration is required. To learn more or sign up, please call 859 581 8974.

News & Events

New Director of Donor Engagement Joins Staff at Catholic Charities

Written by: Ellen Wira, Director of Donor Engagement

I am pleased to share that I have joined Catholic Charities as the new Director of Donor Engagement. In this role, I oversee efforts to cultivate and strengthen relationships with the donors, parishes, and partners who make the organization’s mission possible.

My focus is on fundraising and stewardship through strong, relationship based engagement and communication, while also enhancing internal systems and workflows to support effective donor stewardship and efficient fundraising efforts.

To step into a role that supports and strengthens this work is both humbling and deeply energizing. I am excited to walk alongside our generous supporters as we continue building a community rooted in hope and opportunity.



I bring a strong background in communications and strategic relationship building, with experience developing initiatives that support organizational growth and meaningful donor involvement. I am especially passionate about helping donors understand the why behind the mission and how their support helps create lasting change.

I am grateful for the warm welcome from the Catholic Charities team and look forward to advancing donor engagement efforts while helping ensure supporters feel connected to, and valued in, the mission they help sustain.

When Life Is Hard, We Are Here

Written by: David Durr, Mental Health Counselor and Clinical Director

When we scroll through social media, it’s easy to believe that everyone else has life figured out with smiling family photos, exciting vacations, and moments that look picture perfect. What we don’t see are the quieter struggles: a marriage under strain, a child with ADHD trying to keep up in school, or a teenager navigating social situations that feel overwhelming. Many people carry pain silently. In fact, a significant number of the individuals we pass in church each Sunday have experienced trauma, whether from loss, abuse, or hardship that still affects their daily lives.

At Catholic Charities, we are privileged to walk alongside those who are hurting and offer compassionate, professional support during life’s most difficult moments. Our counseling team serves children and adolescents facing challenges at home or at school, adults coping with grief or job loss, seniors navigating unexpected life transitions, and couples whose relationships are going through trying seasons.

Our counselors provide a safe, welcoming space rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, where individuals and families can process their experiences, grow in resilience, and begin healing. Each person’s journey is unique, but one constant remains: no one must walk it alone.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Catholic Charities can continue offering counseling services grounded in faith, respect, and compassion. With every life we are privileged to serve, we strive to meet people where they are and help them move forward with hope.

To learn more about our Counseling Services or how to access support, please visit: www.covingtoncharities.org/services/counseling-services

When life is hard, we are here.

Blessed Are Those Who Visit the Imprisoned

Benditos Sean Los Que Visitan a los Encarcelados

Written by Emily Hudepohl: Manager, Communications and Marketing

At Catholic Charities, our Jail Ministry is rooted in Christ's call to love those who are often forgotten. Jesus reminds us plainly, *"I was in prison and you visited me"* (Matthew 25:36). Through this ministry, we seek to meet Christ behind jail walls by offering presence and hope to those impacted by incarceration.

The Jail Ministry Program accompanies individuals who are incarcerated or preparing for release, as well as families and loved ones affected by the criminal justice system. Working in partnership with correctional facilities, community agencies, and trained volunteers, we emphasize justice and mercy while promoting responsibility and rehabilitation for all.

A recent visit to the Kenton County Jail reflected this mission in a powerful way. Jail Ministry Coordinator, Vince Lonnemann, along with volunteer and Catholic Charities Board member, Rafael Torres, entered a dormitory to offer Scripture and reflection. Typically, four or five men choose to attend these gatherings. On this day, however, 27 men stepped forward.

Even more striking was that the entire gathering took place in Spanish. Scripture was proclaimed, reflections were shared, and personal stories filled the room. Several of the men asked if Spanish Bibles were available so they could continue praying and reading Scripture on their own. Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters, Catholic Charities has since been able to donate Spanish-language Bibles to the inmates, extending the impact far beyond that single visit.

For the safety and dignity of everyone involved, jail ministry volunteers always serve in same gender pairs and receive training to provide respectful, compassionate presence. Some incarcerated individuals come from Spanish-speaking or bilingual backgrounds and are deeply hungry for spiritual connection in their language. We are prayerfully and respectfully seeking Spanish-speaking volunteers who feel called to serve and walk alongside individuals during one of the most vulnerable seasons of their lives.



The impact of incarceration reaches beyond jail walls. Families and friends often experience isolation and emotional strain. In response, Catholic Charities offers a Family & Friends of the Incarcerated Support Group. This group is a confidential and non judgmental space for connection. The group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM at Catholic Charities.

To learn more or to serve as a volunteer in the Jail Ministry Program, please contact Vince Lonnemann, Jail Ministry Coordinator, at vlonnemann@covingtoncharities.org.

Whether you are seeking support, connection, or a way to live out the Gospel, we are here for you.



Escrito por Emily Hudepohl: Gerente de Comunicaciones y Marketing

En Caridades Católicas, nuestro Ministerio Carcelario está profundamente arraigado en el llamado de Cristo a amar a quienes a menudo son olvidados. Jesús nos lo recuerda claramente: *"Estuve en la cárcel y me visitaron"* (Mateo 25:36). A través de este ministerio, buscamos encontrar a Cristo detrás de los muros de la cárcel, ofreciendo presencia y esperanza a quienes han sido impactados por el encarcelamiento.

El Programa de Ministerio Carcelario acompaña a personas que se encuentran encarceladas o que se están preparando para su liberación, así como a familias y seres queridos afectados por el sistema de justicia penal. Trabajando en colaboración con centros correccionales, agencias comunitarias y voluntarios capacitados, ponemos énfasis en la justicia y la misericordia, al mismo tiempo que promovemos la responsabilidad y la rehabilitación para todos.

Una visita reciente a la Cárcel del Condado de Kenton reflejó esta misión de una manera poderosa. El Coordinador del Ministerio Carcelario, Vince Lonnemann, junto con el voluntario y miembro de la Junta Directiva de Caridades Católicas, Rafael Torres, ingresaron a un dormitorio para compartir la Sagrada Escritura y una reflexión. Normalmente,

cuatro o cinco hombres eligen participar en estos encuentros; sin embargo, ese día, 27 hombres se acercaron.

Aún más impactante fue que todo el encuentro se llevó a cabo en español. Se proclamó la Escritura, se compartieron reflexiones y surgieron testimonios personales. Varios de los hombres preguntaron si había Biblias en español disponibles para poder continuar orando y leyendo la Palabra de Dios por su cuenta. Gracias a la generosidad de donantes y colaboradores, Caridades Católicas ha podido donar Biblias en español a los internos, extendiendo el impacto mucho más allá de esa sola visita.

Por la seguridad y dignidad de todos los involucrados, los voluntarios del ministerio carcelario siempre sirven en parejas del mismo género y reciben capacitación para ofrecer una presencia respetuosa y compasiva. Algunas personas encarceladas provienen de contextos de habla hispana o bilingües y tienen un profundo deseo de conexión espiritual en su propio idioma. De manera reflexiva y respetuosa, estamos buscando voluntarios que hablen español y sientan el llamado a servir y acompañar a las personas durante uno de los momentos más vulnerables de sus vidas.

El impacto del encarcelamiento se extiende más allá de los muros de la cárcel. Las familias y amistades a menudo experimentan aislamiento, incertidumbre y una gran carga emocional. En respuesta, Caridades Católicas ofrece el Grupo de Apoyo para Familiares y Amigos de Personas Encarceladas, un espacio confidencial y sin juicios donde se fomenta la conexión y el acompañamiento. El grupo se reúne cada tercer martes del mes a las 6:30 p.m. en Caridades Católicas.

Para obtener más información o servir como voluntario en el Programa de Ministerio Carcelario, comuníquese con Vince Lonnemann, Coordinador del Ministerio Carcelario, al correo electrónico vlonnemann@covingtoncharities.org.

Ya sea que esté buscando apoyo, conexión o una manera de vivir el Evangelio, estamos aquí para usted.