

Partners Newsletter

Summer 2026 | Edition #110



Celebrating 95 Years of Love and Action at Cassba 2026

Written by Emily Hudepohl: Manager, Communications and Marketing

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington, hosted Cassba 2026, its annual fundraising event, at Drees Pavilion in Park Hills, Kentucky. Supporters, volunteers, community partners, and friends of Catholic Charities gathered for a fun afternoon in support of the organization's mission of providing help and creating hope throughout Northern Kentucky.

This year's theme, "Honoring America at 250 and Catholic Charities at 95 Years of Love and Action," celebrated two significant milestones while recognizing the lasting impact of Catholic Charities across the region.

For more than 95 years, Catholic Charities has provided assistance, hope, and dignity to individuals and families facing hardship. Each year, the organization serves thousands of people through programs that address food insecurity,

homelessness, incarceration, mental health challenges, parenting support, and family stability needs.

Cassba 2026 featured food stations, desserts, an open bar, a live auction, raffles, and other opportunities for guests to support the work of Catholic Charities. Attendees also had the opportunity to learn more about the organization's programs and the lives being transformed through its ministries and services.

Catholic Charities extends its sincere gratitude to the event sponsors, donors, volunteers, board members, planning committee members, and guests whose generosity made Cassba 2026 possible. Their support helps ensure that Catholic Charities can continue providing critical services and compassionate care to individuals and families throughout Northern Kentucky.

All proceeds from Cassba 2026 will benefit the clients and programs of Catholic Charities, helping the organization continue its mission of serving those in need with compassion, dignity, and hope.



Thank you to our Cassba sponsors!

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Cassba Cash Winners

Dave Moloney - \$10,000
Joanne Dugan - \$2,500
Megan Hay - \$1,000

Trip Raffle Winner

Cindy Becknell

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A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

At Catholic Charities, we understand that authentic charity is always both practical and spiritual. It is the Catholic “both and” in action: helping families secure housing, employment, and stability while also sharing the Good News through relationships rooted in faith, dignity, and encounter.

We are called to help families meet immediate needs and build stable futures, while also creating opportunities for them to encounter the love of Jesus Christ. This balance is especially evident within our housing ministry of St. Joseph Apartments.

At St. Joseph Apartments, our work extends far beyond providing housing. Through intentional case management, families work toward self-sufficiency using measurable goals focused on employment, income, education, life skills, parenting, transportation, health care, family relationships, and community involvement. These areas reflect the dignity of the human person and the dignity of work itself. Today, 15 of our 16 families are paying rent through earned income, a remarkable milestone that reflects perseverance, accountability, and growth. This was not always the case. Through coaching, encouragement, and hard work, parents are finding employment, managing household finances, strengthening family stability, and moving toward lasting independence. These outcomes did not happen by accident;

they result from intentional accompaniment and a shared commitment to human flourishing.

At the same time, we recognize that people need more than programs. They need relationship.

As highlighted in our summer ministry efforts, St. Joseph Apartments became a place where families encountered a joyful Catholic community through prayer, fellowship, learning, and celebration. Father Andrew and youth volunteers created spaces where families could experience the Church's welcome and learn about traditions such as May Crowning, the Rosary, meal prayers, backpack blessings, and other expressions of faith. These moments emerged naturally through genuine relationships and shared experiences.

In the end, our goal is not simply to help families succeed, but to accompany them on a journey toward both lasting stability and a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.

With gratitude —

Chris Goddard
Executive Director



Knights of Columbus Present \$17,000 Donation

Catholic Charities was honored to welcome members of the Knights of Columbus to our office for a check presentation following their 16th Annual Golf Outing. Through the generosity of golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters, the event raised \$17,000 to support Catholic Charities' mission of serving individuals and families throughout our community.

We are grateful for the Knights of Columbus' continued partnership and commitment to making a difference in the lives of those we serve.



News & Events

Building Relationships, Making a Difference

Written by: Kim Murphy, Manager, Volunteer Engagement

When people ask what I do, my answer is simple: I love helping people. Whether it was supporting children and families during my 30-plus years in early childhood education or connecting volunteers with opportunities to serve today, what has always mattered most to me is building relationships and making a difference in the lives of others.

Before joining Catholic Charities, I served as Director of the Early Childhood Learning Center at St. Cecilia School. Those years taught me the importance of compassion, teamwork, and meeting people where they are. While my role has changed, my passion for serving others has remained the same.

Joining Catholic Charities felt like the perfect next step. I was drawn to its mission of serving our neighbors with dignity, respect, and hope. Every day, I'm inspired by the generosity of our volunteers and grateful to connect people with meaningful ways to give back.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Doug, and our son, Colin, reading a good book, and being with family and friends.

I truly believe one person can make a difference, and I'm grateful to be part of the Catholic Charities family.



Save the Date! Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, March 2, 2027 • Receptions Erlanger

[More information to come in 2027]

Tune In to Catholic Charities on the Son Rise Morning Show!

Join Anna Mitchell on the Son Rise Morning Show every month on the 4th Thursday at 8:30 a.m. as she welcomes a representative from Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington. Learn about the programs and services that are making a difference in our community and discover ways you can support neighbors in need.

Listen live weekday mornings from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Sacred Heart Radio, 740 AM and 910 AM.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Taking care of your mental health is just as important as caring for your physical health. When stress, grief, or life's challenges feel overwhelming, you don't have to face them alone.

We offer compassionate, professional counseling for individuals, children, teens, couples, and families. Our licensed counselors provide support for anxiety, depression, grief and loss, life transitions, past trauma, and more.

Counseling can help strengthen relationships, improve communication, and support emotional well-being. We serve everyone, regardless of faith.

We accept most insurance and offer a sliding fee scale, meeting you where you are, so care is within reach.



Catholic
Charities
Diocese of Covington

**To learn more
or schedule an
appointment:**

Call Client Care:
859-581-8974

Visit:
**[covingtoncharities.org/
services/
counseling-services](https://covingtoncharities.org/services/counseling-services)**

Making Summer Matter at St. Joseph Apartments



Written by: Brandy Medaugh, Client Care Specialist and St. Joseph Case Manager

As God reminds us, when we surround ourselves with good people, good things follow. At St. Joseph Apartments, we have been truly blessed with incredible volunteers, youth groups, donors, and supporters who made this summer unforgettable. Among those who made a special impact were the youth from Mission Club, a group of middle school students from Blessed Sacrament, St. Pius X, St. Joseph, and St. Agnes schools led by Father Andrew Gronotte. Their generosity, enthusiasm, and commitment to service brought so much joy to our community throughout the summer.

One of the first opportunities we shared together was a special Mission Club visit to the apartments for a service project called Beautifying What God Has Blessed Us With. Approximately fifteen students in grades five through eight, along with youth leaders, volunteers, and parents, spent the afternoon building friendships with the children who call St. Joseph Apartments home.

The project centered around decorating terracotta flowerpots and planting flowers. What seemed like a simple activity quickly became something much more meaningful. As the children painted and planted, conversations naturally unfolded about favorite colors, school, hobbies, and everyday interests. The activity gave each participant something they could nurture and care for while creating opportunities for genuine connection.

The afternoon also included an optional May Crowning prayer experience. Children who wished to participate wrote prayer intentions on paper flowers and gathered with volunteers and community members for a brief reflection led by Father Andrew. Each child received a rosary and prayer card to take home. The experience offered an opportunity to learn about a Catholic tradition while fostering a sense of community and reflection among those who chose to participate.

Perhaps most encouraging was watching relationships form naturally throughout the afternoon. Children spent time together creating, laughing, and sharing stories while volunteers and students from local Catholic schools offered encouragement and friendship. These simple interactions helped our resident children feel seen, valued, and connected to a broader community of support.

We officially kicked off the summer with our Splash Into Summer event, where many of the Mission Club students once again joined us for a day filled with games, activities, laughter, and community. Despite the rain, the group did a fantastic job organizing activities ranging from Simon Says and Red Light/Green Light to sponge tosses, and plenty of water-filled fun. Laughter echoed throughout the property as children, volunteers, and families enjoyed time together.

Throughout the summer, our children not only enjoyed games, activities, crafts, and water play, but also learned about faith, community, and the importance of caring for one another. Every Tuesday, children participated in two hours of tutoring in a variety of subjects, helping them strengthen their

academic skills and build confidence. In addition, five different youth ministry day camps provided opportunities to create lasting memories for the children and families we serve.

One especially encouraging outcome of these summer experiences was seeing relationships continue to grow beyond individual events. Several youth volunteers expressed interest in returning to St. Joseph Apartments throughout the summer as reading buddies for younger children. These ongoing connections remind our residents that there are caring people in the community who believe in them, support them, and want to see them succeed.

Not only were the children working hard all summer, but the parents were as well. Many residents gained and maintained employment while participating in a variety of life-skills programs designed to support their journey toward self-sufficiency. These opportunities included training on budgeting and financial management, understanding health benefits and how to better utilize healthcare services, on-site mental health counseling and support, household management and organization, meal planning and preparation, and much more. Each of these resources helps families build confidence, stability, and independence as they work toward the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency.

We were also blessed by dedicated volunteers and donors who worked hard to keep our property looking beautiful and welcoming. Along the way, we celebrated residents who reached important milestones and took meaningful steps toward achieving their goals.

We wrapped up the summer with a wonderful Back-to-School Bash and Backpack Blessings with Father Andrew. Thanks to the generosity of Blessed Sacrament Vacation Bible School, Mission Club, and many other donors, every child received a backpack filled with school supplies, along with new shoes and socks, ensuring they were prepared and confident for the new school year.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who shared their time, talents, prayers, and support. Whether through tutoring, volunteering, donating, mentoring, or simply showing up to build relationships, your generosity helped make this a summer filled with growth, faith, community, and hope.

The impact you have made on our children, families, and community will be felt long after summer has ended.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Thank you for helping make St. Joseph Apartments a place where faith, community, and hope continue to grow.



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, October 3, 2026

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Saturday, December 5, 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.



A New Chapter for Parish Kitchen

Written by: Deacon Barry Henry, Director of Community Ministries & Outreach

On June 25, we gathered at Parish Kitchen in Covington for a very special moment: the groundbreaking for our new multipurpose building and prayer room. It was a day filled with gratitude, excitement, and hope as we celebrated what God is helping us accomplish together.

As I look back on that day, I am reminded of Psalm 127:1: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” This project is certainly the result of the hard work and generosity of many people, but ultimately, none of it would be possible without the grace of God. He has provided the vision, the people, the resources, and the opportunities to move this mission forward.

I am especially grateful to our volunteers and donors. Catholic Charities would not be what it is today without the people who give their time, talents, prayers, and financial support. You are helping us build more than a facility; you are helping us create new opportunities to serve our neighbors and share the love of Christ.

The groundbreaking was only the beginning, and I am excited to share that the project is moving forward.

Footers are now in place for both buildings. The All-Purpose Building has its foundation walls and is preparing for underground plumbing and electrical work. The Prayer Room will begin receiving its foundation walls this week, with the slabs expected to be poured soon.

This project continues a vision that began with Bishop Emeritus Roger Foy, who wanted the ministry of Catholic Charities to reach beyond the three northern counties of the Diocese. Today, that vision continues through the Mobile Food Pantry and our growing outreach. It also reflects Bishop John Iffert’s ongoing Campaign for Mercy, reminding us of our call as a Church to bring mercy, dignity, and hope to those in need.

The new space will support the Mobile Food Pantry, Pickett’s Corner, and, most importantly, provide a quiet prayer room where guests, volunteers, and staff can encounter God.

I am excited about what lies ahead and grateful to everyone who has helped us reach this point. Please continue to pray for the project, the workers, our volunteers, our donors, and everyone we are called to serve.

Mobile Food Pantry: A Growing Ministry of Hope

Written by: John Hehman, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator

The Food For Friends Mobile Food Pantry continues to serve rural communities throughout the Diocese, meeting a growing need for food assistance. During the first six months of 2026, the program served 9,453 individuals in 3,556 households, compared to 8,854 individuals in 3,327 households during the same period in 2025. Much of this increase can be attributed to rising grocery costs, which continue to place additional strain on family budgets.

Food distributed through the Mobile Food Pantry is provided through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Beginning July 1, the Freestore Foodbank in Cincinnati assumed administration of TEFAP in all

counties served by Food For Friends. While the administrative oversight has changed, guests can be assured that the quality and availability of food will remain consistent. The pantry continues to have access to the same types of nutritious food that families have relied on in the past.

Visitors to Parish Kitchen may have noticed construction underway on a new multi-purpose building. This facility will provide a secure location to store the Mobile Food Pantry truck, as well as space to clean and maintain equipment used during distributions. Designed with future growth in mind, the building will also be large enough to accommodate an additional truck should the need arise. In addition,

the Mobile Food Pantry offices have relocated to the second floor of Parish Kitchen. Staff can still be reached through the Catholic Charities main office at (859) 581-8974, ext. 124.

None of this work would be possible without our dedicated volunteers. Their commitment and compassion help ensure that families across our region receive the support they need. We are deeply grateful for the many individuals who give their time and talents to this ministry. If you would like to learn more about Mobile Food Pantry volunteer opportunities, please contact Kim Murphy, Manager of Volunteer Engagement, at kmurphy@covingtoncharities.org.

Reach and Teach Mentor Scholarship Awarded to Notre Dame Academy Senior

Written by Emily Hudepohl: Manager, Communications and Marketing

Catholic Charities is proud to recognize Maya, a senior at Notre Dame Academy, as the recipient of this year's Reach and Teach Mentor Scholarship. Maya earned this honor through her outstanding commitment to the Reach and Teach program, where she served as a mentor to a student at St. Agnes School.

For two consecutive years, Maya dedicated 20 weeks each school year to meeting one-on-one with her mentee. Through weekly after-school sessions, she provided academic support, encouragement, and a consistent presence that helped foster both educational growth and self-confidence. Beyond assisting with schoolwork, Maya built a meaningful

relationship with her student, demonstrating the lasting impact that mentorship can have on a young person's life.

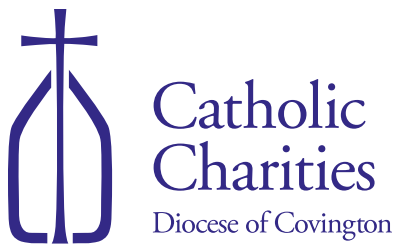
Maya learned about the Reach and Teach program through Campus Ministry at Notre Dame Academy and embraced the opportunity to put her faith into action through service. Her dedication exemplifies the mission of the program, which pairs high school volunteers with younger students to provide academic assistance, positive role models, and encouragement.

This fall, Maya will attend the University of Kentucky, where she plans to study Political Science with a minor in Spanish.



Maya is pictured with Donna Moreland, MSW, CSW, School Counselor

We congratulate Maya on this well-deserved recognition and thank her for her generous service and commitment to helping others succeed. Her dedication has made a meaningful difference in the life of her mentee and serves as an inspiring example of leadership and compassion.



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 96 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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