



Cassba—The Magic Continues!

By Jennifer Abdrabbo

How is it that we outdo ourselves each year? We ask this question every year and it comes down to blessings! The blessings of our amazing staff, the blessings of our dedicated volunteers, and the blessings of our generous donors and attendees. We managed to raise an all time high of over \$145,000.

The participation in our online silent auction bidding continues to grow and allows guests who aren't able to enjoy the event in person the ability to support us from afar, but you can't miss the enthusiasm and excitement that comes from being in person at the event. Who would believe that the Bishop would flip a coin six times in a row on the tail side during our popular "Heads and Tails split the pot." You had to see it to believe it!! The crowd was on the edge of their seats with every flip! Tony Ruehl and Michelle Alley were the last two standing and decided to split over \$800. Both generously donated their portions back to Catholic Charities. Those are the kind of supporters that Catholic Charities and Parish Kitchen are blessed to have and have been attending this event since 1987.

New this year was our "Amazing Rare Bourbon Raffle." 1st place went to Connie Noll, 2nd place to Joseph Schwengmann and 3rd place to Nicholas Meier. Our Cassba Cash raffle winners were Mike Hassan (1st place), Mary Carol (2nd place) Hodges, and Mary Ann Menke and grandchildren (3rd place). To view the entire sponsor list visit www.cassba.com.



Top: Bishop John & Mary Arlinghaus; Middle: Joe Danneman, emcee & Fox 19 Sports Anchor; Bottom: Donna Wilmhoff, Rosalie Hentz & Paula Volz.

Cassba 2022

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Interested In Helping?

We are looking to expand the various committees for Cassba 2023 and invite anyone who is interested to contact Jennifer Abdrabbo at 859-581-8974 ext. 121 or email jabdrabbo@covingtoncharities.org. We need skill sets of all kinds: sponsorship, marketing, administrative, and help with getting items for the auction and raffles. Grab some friends and help a great cause. Contribute in any way that you can. Meetings can be in person or virtual.

Save the Date!!! August 27, 2023

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As we approach Pro-Life Month, October, I am mindful of the recent landmark decisions by the United States Supreme Court, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and making a favorable decision in the Dobbs case. What I realize is that the work is not over, but it has just begun. We are called to be witnesses, and now is the time to step up. See page 3 about the “Yes for Life” campaign.

Our witness extends beyond the political realm. We have the opportunity this fall to make a fresh start in many other ways through our various programs and ministries. This edition of our newsletter highlights how we are renewing our efforts to be the hands and feet of Christ to everyone we encounter. “Support, Hope, and Healing for Children and Families” on pages 4-5 features our School-based counseling program. The beginning of the school year is a great way to make a fresh start, and our counselors offer amazing support to so many students who just need a little extra boost. We highlight our Jail Ministry on page 6, explaining how this ministry was restricted during the pandemic but is finally opening back up to witness God’s love to the inmates in our county jails who are often overlooked or forgotten. We are happy to announce that the PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved-Ones) support group is restarting on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, after taking off for the summer. PAL meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Lastly, we are starting over with a new accreditation process after being accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for the past 25 years. We were disappointed to learn that the successor of COA made a statement about the *Roe v. Wade* decision that betrays everything that we believe and stand for. As a result, we severed ties, and we are now looking for a new accreditation agency to work with going forward. We have always believed that through the accreditation process we demonstrate to our constituents that we strive to follow the highest standards and best practices.

All of our ministry depends on the support of many volunteers and benefactors. Some of our staff work very hard in direct service to our clients, while other staff are responsible to organize and support the volunteers who partner with us in ministry and help us raise the financial support needed to continue. This was highlighted in a big way at Cassba, our annual fundraiser, featured on the cover of this newsletter. A fun time was had by all!

So once again, we thank you and commend you for witnessing the love of God and love of neighbor to our community. 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 Check Presentation

The Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus Golf Committee recently presented a check in the amount of \$15,000 from the proceeds of its Annual Golf Outing held in July. Over 13 years, the Knights of Columbus have donated over \$136,000 to Catholic Charities Lifeline Fund!



Pictured L to R: Bob Merkle, Carl Biery, Bill Kopp, Vicky Bauerle (Catholic Charities), Greg White, Dennis Elix (Chairman), Dustin Reed, Keith Cahill, and Don Ward. Not pictured: Dave Ledonne, Tim Buerger, Eric Oberschmidt, Walter Mace, and Bill Theis.

“Yes For Life” Campaign

By turning the abortion laws back to the states, we have an urgent and monumental task to pass the Kentucky Constitutional Amendment #2, the “Yes for Life” amendment on Election Day, November 8, 2022. We cannot afford to fail like Kansas did this summer. To be clear, the proposed amendment does not create any new restrictions on abortion. It simply establishes that nothing in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky can be interpreted to include a right to an abortion. In other words, it prevents a Kentucky judge from imposing a statewide version of Roe v. Wade on the citizens of Kentucky. It provides that issues about abortion and the sanctity of human life will be decided in the state legislature and at the ballot box, not by a judge or court. I hope you will not only vote “Yes for Life” in Kentucky on Election Day, November 8, 2022, but you will also help us spread the word and encourage everyone you encounter to do the same.

Lifeline Fund

Thank you to the students at St. Agnes for their support of Catholic Charities Lifeline Fund. The students collected money throughout the month of May to support three pro-life ministries.

Pictured (L to R): Mary Beth Scott, Pro-Life Coordinator, St. Agnes Parish; Addison, 8th grade & Sam, 3rd Grade St. Agnes School students; Bob Albers, St. Agnes parishioner; Alan Pickett, Executive Director and Jennifer Abdrabbo, Institutional Advancement Associate, Catholic Charities.



Welcome Belle

Belle Zembrodt to our Mental Health Counseling Program. Belle is an independent licensed mental health counselor experienced in working with adults and adolescents with anxiety, depression, and anger. She specializes in trauma and is trained in EMDR and couples counseling. If you or a family member are struggling with overwhelming stress, depression, or anxiety contact Catholic Charities Client Care Department at 859-581-8974 to schedule an appointment.



Support, Hope, and Healing for Children and Families

By Karen Horgan Kuhlman

Childhood can be a thing of beauty, a stage of life when we are the center of the universe to those who love us. Those happy days are often filled with simple pleasures that delight, inspire, and imply a future filled with more of the same. Small challenges and disappointments naturally appear and are part of growing up, but children sometimes experience unexpected stumbling blocks. During those times, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington assists children and their parents in finding their way to work around some of those obstacles.

Sheila Dumford is one of Catholic Charities' masters-level mental health counselors who travel to nine Diocesan schools (including five that are part of the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education) to lend a hand to children from ages five to 14 who are having behavior issues or struggling in various ways for a number of reasons. These school-based counselors visit with children who may be affected by low self-worth, ADHD, anxiety, or mental health issues that may need a diagnosis and parental approval of recommended counseling. The loss of social skills due to isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic added another degree of difficulty to children's lives. Every day is different for the Catholic Charities school counselors: flexibility is the hallmark of their days, whether during the school year or the more relaxed summer days. The summer allows counselors to reinforce the gains made during the previous school year.

Dumford explains that referrals for counseling come in many ways: Parents, teachers, or a child themselves can seek assistance for a student. Counselors may initially visit a child and then visit the classroom to get an assessment of the issues involved. Sometimes a teacher may ask a counselor to keep a situation from escalating by visiting with a child away from the classroom.

Early intervention is always the key; counselors reach out to meet and talk with parents, engaging them by putting the process in their hands. Whether working in a classroom setting or with an individual student, the counselors meet the children where they are and equip them with coping skills that can smooth the path ahead. Some students have issues that can be resolved with as few as five counseling sessions; others may require weekly sessions, possibly 30 sessions during the school year.

Sharon Raaker has been a Diocesan school counselor for ten years and has counseled in schools in the urban core, St. Joseph School in Crescent Springs, and Holy Cross School. She made good progress with students during the 2021-2022 school year and didn't want to interrupt the students' momentum over the summer. She had not been able to visit with some of the children as much as she would have liked, while others remain at risk due to poverty, neglect, or suicidality. Catholic Charities supported her request to continue counseling through the summer and reduced the parent co-pay rate to accommodate the sessions. That made a tremendous difference to parents who needed access to mental health counseling for their children but could not afford the typical co-pay.

The summer sessions went very well. Raaker devoted a few mornings a week to meet with several individual students over the summer at Catholic Charities' Latonia location. Absent the typical distractions that accompany counseling on-site during the school day, she accomplished a lot with the students over the summer. She could focus on the children's growth, development, and goals for the new school year. Another benefit was meeting and talking with the parents accompanying their children to the sessions. The continuity Raaker has maintained



with the children over the summer will yield benefits throughout the coming school year.

Pope Pius IX founded the Diocese of Covington in 1853, and from the beginning, the Diocese has been a melting pot of immigrants. The Hispanic population is perhaps the most recent to arrive in the Diocese, and many of those immigrants have become parishioners of St. Augustine Parish. The children of the new parishioners are enrolled in the parish school and comprise nearly 50% of the student population. School Counselor Michelle Schuck is happy to assist the St. Augustine students through Catholic Charities counseling services.

A language barrier can sometimes be difficult for the children and their parents, a common theme among generations of American immigrants. The children have a lot on their shoulders as they help their parents learn the basics of life in America. History shows that children often acquired a rudimentary use of English and helped their parents assimilate into the American culture. There are, naturally, accommodations required to ease that assimilation. Schuck says need comes before counseling and turns to Anna Phillips, Client Care Coordinator, for assistance. Brandy Medaugh, Client Care Specialist and St. Joseph Case Manager, has a lot of community resources that Schuck clients can turn to for assistance. They are developing a family resource collaboration to help connect clients with basic needs such as food, utilities, and transportation.

There is a lot of fear in the Hispanic community, fear of deportation, fear that they will have to leave the country to which they fled for safety. That fear trickles down to the children, who are often the only family members who can speak or read English: that puts a lot

of responsibility on the shoulders of the young as they navigate the adult world for their parents. Schuck relates an experience with a child who needed counseling. Her anxiety and fear for her family's safety were high due to the violence and criminal activity she witnessed. She was panicked about safety, and school was her safe place. When counselors convinced her family, through an interpreter, to permit counseling, she began to blossom. The child taught herself to play the piano on an old piano in the school's music room and then started a music club with her classmates. St. Augustine Church allowed her to come into the church to practice piano at recess. Playing the piano was therapy for the child, and St. Augustine gave her that ancient piano as her own.

Many gains made over the school year might have diminished without the reinforcement of summer counseling. This was the first time that two of our School-based counselors were able to extend counseling through the summer. We are hopeful that we can continue to offer and expand counseling to our School-based counseling clients over the summer in the future.

Michelle Schuck said, "Mental health counseling for at-risk children is vitally important. I believe that the presence of mental health counselors in schools is just as impactful as the presence of teachers in the classrooms." These critical opportunities for mental health counseling for at-risk children throughout the year do not come without cost. Thanks to the generous support of people of goodwill, the mental health counselors of Catholic Charities have an opportunity to equip the school children of today with the tools necessary to become the exceptional adults of tomorrow.

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, November 5, 2022

Saturday, December 3, 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.

Jail Ministry Program

We are back in two of the detention centers. In Boone County, our volunteers returned in April, and have met with nearly one hundred men, reading scripture, praying, and talking. We visit two to three times a month, including meeting with Spanish speaking inmates, through our three bilingual volunteers. Clothes, reading glasses, and reading materials (including prayer books and Bibles) are provided.

In Kenton County, volunteers do a weekly ministry night and are meeting both men and women. Since May, our volunteers have met with over one hundred inmates and have distributed prayer books and Bibles. Our volunteers started teaching weekly classes and have graduated eight men. We started a women's class in August. Graduates get 90 days off their sentence. We continue to provide the detention center with shoes, clothes, and reading glasses for the inmates. Even though volunteers are not permitted in the Campbell County Detention Center to date, we still provide clothes, shoes, and reading glasses to the inmates.

If you know of someone looking for support due to having loved ones incarcerated, please encourage them to join our group the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. It is truly a support group where people share experiences and feelings without judgement.

Catholic Charities was one of fifty agencies at the Life Learning Center on July 28, 2022, for a Re-Entry resource night. Several people stopped at our table, including a few people we have met in the past while they were incarcerated.

For more information about our Jail Ministry Program, contact Dave Capella at 859-581-8974 Ext. 117 or dcapella@covingtoncharities.org.

Program Updates continued

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

By John Hehman, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator

Here we grow again! In November, another food pantry will open. This new location will be in Mason County at the Maysville Lions Club located at 1403 E. 2nd Street in Maysville. The pantry will be on the first Tuesday of each month, from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm.

At this time, we are also currently recruiting volunteers for our Pendleton County pantry which will be hosted at St. Francis Xavier Church Hall located at 202 West 2nd Street in Falmouth. The day and time of this pantry have not been set yet.

Our current “Food for Friends” pantries are the second Monday of each month at St. William Parish, in Williamstown; the fourth Friday of each month at St. James Parish, in Brooksville; the second Thursday of each month at St. Joseph Parish, in Warsaw; and the fourth Monday of each month at St. Edward Mission in Owenton.

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.

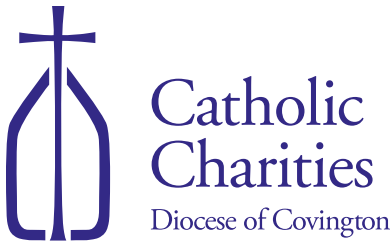
We are also thrilled with the addition of our own Isuzu 16 ft box truck to transport food to the pantries. It is a welcome site! We are immensely proud of this truck and hope that all who see the Catholic Charities truck coming will know that help is on the way. We want to again thank the RC Durr Foundation for providing the funding for the purchase of the truck.



Defunded by the United Way

As you may have heard, with a significantly shrinking pool of money, and major changes to the selection criteria, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington was one of approximately 120 agencies eliminated from the Greater Cincinnati United Way funding allocation this year. As a result, we will no longer receive any United Way funds after this year, and we are no longer listed as one of the United Way agencies that you can designate your United Way gift to going forward. Ironically, we will still receive United Way funding this year equal to approximately half of what we got last year because of the large number of United Way supporters who designated Catholic Charities when they made their pledge last year.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington began receiving funds from the United Way and its predecessor in 1955. At the peak, we were allocated almost \$400,000 per year from the United Way. Last year, we received \$148,000. We are sad for this relationship to end. Due to this lost support, we are asking everyone who has given to the United Way in the past to consider making a gift directly to Catholic Charities instead of through the United Way.



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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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Margaret Rahn, Client Care Specialist
Michelle Schuck, School Counselor
James Wendeln, Parish Kitchen Manager
Belle Zembrodt, Mental Health 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.*