

Catholic Charities Holds CaSSba “Bon Voyage” Fundraiser August 25 at Drees Pavilion

Sample the world through delicious cuisine and support the local efforts of Catholic Charities Diocese of Covington at the 2019 CaSSba Fundraiser “Around the World” on Sunday, August 25, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Drees Pavilion in Park Hills, Kentucky. Now in its 32nd year, the event is the major fundraiser for Catholic Charities. This year’s event premier sponsor is St. Elizabeth Healthcare. In addition to delicious fare with an international flavor, the event includes the popular CaSSba cash raffle, fun raffles, as well as a live auction and silent auction, both featuring a variety of appealing items: Catholic High School \$500 tuition certificates, trip to Victory Falls Africa, Indian Cuisine Dinner for ten people in your home by Father Baiju Kidaagen, just to name a few.

Once again, this year’s event will offer the convenient option of online bidding. Visit www.Cassba2019.GiveSmart.com in advance of or during the event to view the many silent auction items available for bid. New items will continue to be added up to the day of the event. This feature is perfect not only for those who wish to sneak a peek at the exciting items available, but also for those unable to attend this year’s event who still wish to get in on the bidding action and support Catholic Charities from the comfort of home.

“We are very excited about this year’s CaSSba,” said Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement Manager and Event Coordinator “Our volunteers and staff have planned an amazing Sunday afternoon of food, fun and entertainment, all to raise crucial funds for Catholic Charities Diocese of Covington. From helping us serve guests at Parish Kitchen, to offering pregnancy counseling and adoption services, to assisting with housing, proceeds from this event are transformative and can be life-changing for those we serve.”

Serving 14 counties in Northern Kentucky, Catholic Charities is the major outreach organization of the Diocese of Covington. It makes an impact in the following areas: Child and Family Services (pregnancy counseling, adoption, and parenting education); Counseling Services (individual, child, family, and marriage counseling); Housing Services (St. Joseph supportive housing, home purchase education, foreclosure prevention, and mortgage delinquency counseling); and Community Outreach (Parish Kitchen, jail ministry, client care and referral, disaster response, and social justice advocacy).

Help Catholic Charities Diocese of Covington continue its mission to “Extend a hand. Change a life.” Join us at 2019 CaSSba “Bon Voyage”. Tickets are \$65 each. For more information about the event visit www.CovingtonCharities.org or contact Vicky Bauerle at 859-581-8974



A Letter from the Executive Director



Who is my neighbor?

"Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10: 36-37)

Dear Friends,

Recently, a friend of mine confided to me that the Parable of the Good Samaritan left him feeling fearful and inadequate. Surely most readers know that in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus instructs us on who is our neighbor, and how to love our neighbor by showing mercy. What is so condemning about that? Well, my friend explained, "I fear that I am more like the priest or the Levite than like the Samaritan. I am too ready to judge and not ready to offer mercy." What a beautiful insight of self-awareness to recognize the challenge that our Lord presents in this parable. But I don't believe our Lord means to leave any of us feeling inadequate or afraid; rather, I believe He is inviting us to act with charity and love. To show mercy rather than judgment to all, especially the lowly.

Here at Catholic Charities, we strive always to show mercy rather than judgment, to act with charity and love. Rather than worry about being judgmental or not doing enough, our staff and volunteers choose to do something. Each small part is a blessing, not only to those we serve, but to each of us who serves. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." (Matthew 5:7) St. Francis says it another way, "It is in giving that we receive."

Of the corporal acts of mercy, feeding the hungry and providing shelter to the homeless are prominent in our ministry at Catholic Charities through the Parish Kitchen and the St. Joseph Apartments. Both are featured in this Partners Newsletter. Earlier this summer, Parish Kitchen celebrates 45 years of feeding the hungry, seven days a week, 365 days a year. St. Joseph Apartments provides supportive housing to 16 formerly homeless families. In this edition of our newsletter, we also highlight the fruits of our labor and honor all of our volunteers, many who came to our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in June.

If you are looking for something to do to support our ministry, please consider attending CaSSBa, our amazing, annual fundraising event at the Drees Pavilion in Devou Park, on Sunday afternoon, August 25, 2019, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The theme this year is "Bon Voyage," and the afternoon will be like a whirlwind trip with many prizes from around the world. It is hard to explain, but I guarantee you will have a ton of fun with our famous appetizers, hor d'oeuvres and drinks, various raffles, silent and live auctions and lots of laughs. You can find more information and a form for ordering tickets inserted in this newsletter. Many of your neighbors will be there, and I hope to see you there, too!

In God's mercy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Pickett".

Alan Pickett, Executive Director

Thanks Knights of Columbus

What a beautiful day for the 11th annual Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus Golf Outing which supports the clients of Catholic Charities. The event's success comes thanks to committee chairs Carl Biery, Bill Koop, and Dennis Elix. A special thanks as well to all those who golfed, volunteered, sponsored, and supported the event.



Celebrating 45 Years

Parish Kitchen kicked off their 45th year of ministry with a special lunch for the guests which included Chick-fil-A sandwiches, fresh fruit, salad, and ice cream. What a wonderful celebration for guest, staff, and volunteers.

Parish Kitchen Needs Your Help! Deodorant, razors, socks, feminine hygiene products, baby wipes and any travel size toiletries are needed for our guests. If you can help please drop off items to Parish Kitchen, Pike and Russell Streets Covington, KY 41011 8 a.m.-2 p.m. or Catholic Charities, 3629 Church St, Latonia, KY 41015 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri.

Listen to Catholic Charities on Sacred Heart Radio

Driving Home the Faith with Fr. Rob Jack, every month on the 2nd Thursday at 5:09 p.m.

Son Rise Morning Show with Anna Mitchell, every month on the 4th Thursday at 8:20 a.m.

Hear Catholic Charities staff member on the show talking about the programs offered by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington. You can listen live or through the podcast available on the website at www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events

Join Our Team!

Are you looking for a job where you can make a difference? Catholic Charities has several job openings:

- Food Pantry Outreach Coordinator**
- Clinical Director of Counseling Programs**
- Mental Health and Pregnancy/Adoption Counselor**
- Parish Kitchen Weekend Manager**

We would love to hear from you. Visit www.covingtoncharities.org/news-events for more info.

Offering Hope, Nurturing Life

By Karen Horgan Kuhlman

There is a lovely garden nearby, its plantings blooming beautifully in four raised beds. Its home is an asphalt parking lot, subject to temperatures that can become brutal during the heat of the day, storms with damaging winds, the near record rainfall our region has experienced this year, and bunnies who dine in the garden at night. Tomatoes, potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, peppers, pumpkins, watermelons and strawberries flourish under the care of gardeners who are determined to give the tender vegetation every chance to thrive despite these many challenges. These are very special gardeners, you see, for they have faced all of these same challenges themselves. Once homeless, they are now residents of the St. Joseph Apartments, a ministry of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington, and they, too, are thriving.

Brandy Medaugh is a client care specialist and case manager for the 16-unit St. Joseph Apartments. She has been a guide on the path that leads towards a life full of possibilities. All of the apartments at St. Joseph's are occupied by formerly homeless families; every family has at least one member who suffers from disabilities of physical or mental health. A companion on their journeys, Brandy Medaugh has witnessed the courage of those who have been dealt blows from which many of us could not recover. The misconceptions about the reasons for homelessness are many: substance abuse, a refusal to work, a criminal record. But the homeless are often not who we think they are. Many live on the street due to situations they feel powerless to change. Some face mental health issues due to trauma suffered through no fault of their own; some are trying to keep their family intact despite their own poor health; some are caring for children cast aside by others. Issues such as these can be impossible to face without a helping hand. Catholic Charities extends that hand.

A resident of the St. Joseph Apartments has achieved an inspiring level of success for herself and her children. She was a Catholic Charities client receiving counseling regarding past trauma when life became even more complicated. A relationship fell apart and she lost everything; with no one to turn to, the young woman and her two little children fell into homelessness. She had a good job with good benefits as an employee of a local large chain grocery store, but could not find affordable housing. They lived in a shelter and took their midday meals at the Parish Kitchen. As a result of the wrap-around services she was already receiving from Catholic Charities, she and her children found a home at the St. Joseph Apartments.

Their new home helped them turn the page on a difficult past and move forward with courage. Over the years, the mother has continued to enjoy job security and advancement in her job, with an employer who has been supportive of her through some very trying times. Her children have followed her example: her older child received a scholarship from a local parochial high school, and following graduation, received full collegiate scholarship offers and now attends a local university. Her younger son has chosen to attend public high school and is doing very well. This remarkable mother persevered for the sake of her family, and now the future holds many good things for the three of them. She received counseling, heeded good





advice and has achieved something remarkable. Mother and children have moved from the St. Joseph Apartments and now rent a two bedroom home which the owner has agreed to sell to them in two years' time!

A grandmother faced a tragic situation when her preschool aged grandchildren were removed from their parents care and about to be placed in foster care. Though homeless herself, she sought and won custody of the children, agreeing to take them, even without benefits. She loved and cared for her grandchildren, and saw to their education while living on the streets or in shelters until she was able to secure housing at the St. Joseph Apartments. The teens have now graduated from high school and were awarded full college scholarships. One grandchild is working this summer, preparing to attend a local community college in the fall where he will begin to study auto mechanics. The other teen wants to become a chemical engineer and will enter a local university following completion of National Guard boot camp and six months of active duty serving in support of our border patrol.

A mother and child who have lived at St. Joseph for 12 years are no longer on Section 8 housing or receiving food stamps. For all of those years she has held a full time job with a local shipping company, another corporation supportive

of someone experiencing one of life's rough patches. Her child, who also has a job, will begin studies at a local university in the fall.

Another mother raising four children has earned her G.E.D., completed further course work and now works with medically fragile children.

These examples illustrate an important point: the homeless can achieve great success. These are not stories of scary people, of families stuck on drugs or cheating the system. Only five of the current 14 families receive food stamps. These are true success stories about people ready to make a change in their lives, enabled to do so because of the case management and counseling available to them through Catholic Charities. They have talked through the big and small issues of life that can be worrisome. The friendly support of local firemen and police officers who drop by to say hello, or offer friendship and advice to the children and their parents is a blessing to this community. Residents have learned to feel safe and hopeful. They love where they live and the community they are a part of. And, they love Brandy Medaugh. The residents see the love which she and Catholic Charities have for them and for their children.

Brandy Medaugh says that the parking lot gardens have changed the community of the St. Joseph Apartments. Working together, the residents take pride in their small community, keep it neat and tidy and point out issues that need attention. This spring, they volunteered at nurseries in exchange for plants with which to fill those parking lot planters. Their ministries encourage the fragile life to come forth and bear fruit. This garden provides more than food for the body. This garden nourishes the soul.

Friends & Family of the Incarcerated Free Support Group

3rd Tuesday of the month

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Catholic Charities

3629 Church Street, Latonia

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

Wednesdays | 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, August 3

Saturday, Sept 7

Saturday, October 5

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.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: (859) 581-8974.

Our Housing Counselor Covers All The Bases

Did you know Catholic Charities is a HUD approved counseling agency? This allows us to offer different home counseling programs at no cost! Our housing program works with individuals, couples and families in all areas concerning housing, from the new home buyer, to those struggling with mortgage delinquency. The services we offer include:

- Homebuyer education classes & one-on-one pre-purchasing counseling
- Foreclosure/Delinquency mortgage counseling
- Financial Management Counseling/Budgeting

Our Homebuyer Education classes utilize the book “Realizing the American Dream Manual” for homebuyers by Neighborworks America. First time homebuyers can attend a one-day Realizing the American Dream Class, generally held the first Saturday of the month. All classes are held at Catholic Charities office at 3629 Church Street in Latonia. There is no fee for the eight hour course. Banking professionals, realtors, insurance agents, and our housing counselor present their expert knowledge of the home buying experience to the students that attend the homebuyer’s education classes at Catholic Charities.

Today, many class participants find owning a home with a mortgage payment which includes principal, interest, taxes and insurance is more economical than renting. HUD estimates that a homeowner’s net worth is 36X greater than renter’s. Down payment assistance is available to some eligible first time homebuyers though the City of Covington and the Northern KY Home Consortium. For more information on these programs, please contact John Hammons with the City of Covington at 859-292-2105 jhammons@covingtonky.gov. The cities include Covington, Ludlow, Newport, Bellevue, & Dayton.

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Volunteers

Volunteer Dinner 2019

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner "Red, White, and Thank You" was held on Tuesday June 11th at Memorial Hall of Saint Joseph Church in Cold Spring. Volunteers from both Catholic Charities and Parish Kitchen gathered to socialize with other volunteers, enjoy dinner, and to hear more about how their gift of time and talent helps our agency be able to continue to serve the community. As in the years past, at the dinner a scholarship was awarded to a graduating senior who participates in our Reach and Teach mentoring program. This program promotes academic success, self-confidence and positive choice making in elementary/grade school students through high school volunteers who have the desire to be positive, influential role-models. This year's winner, Kayla Kluemper of Saint Henry District High School, was a three year mentor in the program. We were thrilled to honor her, and all of our dedicated volunteers at this event!



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Receptionists Needed! Duties consist of answering phones; greeting and signing in/out clients and visitors, and occasional light administrative duties. Training is provided.

Parish Kitchen needs you to help serve lunch to our guests. We need both subs and we have a couple of regular spots to fill. Interested volunteers need to be VIRTUS trained and compliant.

Contact Kristina (859)581-8974 Ext. 119 or KJolly@CovingtonCharities.org for more information, or apply online at: Catholic Charities Volunteer Application.

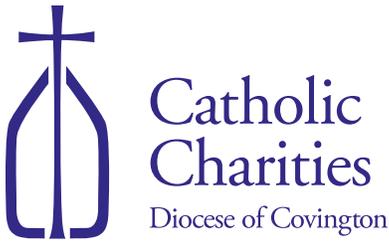
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One-on-one pre-purchase counseling is designed to help those in need of a little extra help in improving their credit score, paying down debt, and/or creating a spending plan.

Foreclosure/delinquency mortgage counseling is offered to individuals that might be at risk of losing their home. Navigating all of the paperwork involved with this process can be an overwhelming process. Our experienced counselors offer assistance with filling out the paperwork packets that the borrower receives, all the way to sending the completed paperwork to the lender. We act as an intermediary between the borrower and the lender. Different options that might be available to a borrower facing the loss of their home include loan modifications, repayment plans, and forbearance agreements.

Non-retention options might include a short sale or a deed-in lieu, which a borrower might want to consider to avoid a foreclosure. It is essential for borrowers to seek help with the delinquent mortgage payments as soon as possible. Foreclosure can happen quickly today, sometimes within four to six months of unpaid mortgage payments.

Financial management /budgeting counseling is available to anyone needing help in creating a spending plan, deciphering wants vs needs, setting financial goals, prioritizing your bills, and saving money for emergencies. As with all of our other housing programs, there is no cost for this service. Our counselor is happy to help create a budget with you and your needs in mind. Your budget or spending plan is the road map to your goals.



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www.CovingtonCharities.org
www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities

Serving the community for over 87 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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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.