



Record-breaking Cassba 2021

This year's attendance for Cassba was somewhat smaller than years past, but you sure couldn't tell! The room was filled with enthusiasm, laughter, and joy as all helped to celebrate Catholic Charities' 90th anniversary. You could see the delight displayed on the faces of those in attendance, thrilled about the chance to get back to an "in person" event. And those who were unable to attend, showed overwhelming support. Staff and volunteers worked diligently around the clock prior to the event, to keep track of the sale of Cassba Cash raffle tickets sold prior to the event. For the first time in history, we sold out of Cassba Cash raffle chances. Congratulations to our first-place winner, Terry Leming, who received \$11,814. Our second-place winner, Mary Ann Menke and her grandchildren, received \$5,907, and our third-place winner was Patricia Schalck, who received \$1,969.

Online participants also purchased raffle tickets, made online donations, bid on silent auction items, and for the first time ever, could participate in the live auction. Personal bidders were assigned to participants not able to attend, adding an extra level of fun and excitement to the live auction bidding war. Our amazing auctioneer, Marty Kamer, with his talented auctioneering skills, reminded the crowd of why we were gathered, and helped us to raise a little over \$25,000 during the live auction. In fact, because of your support, a record-breaking net profit of \$105,000 was raised this year at Cassba!

There is so much love poured into this event from all the various committees throughout the year. Everyone puts their heart and soul into it, knowing that the true winners are our clients. Thank you to our generous sponsors, those who donated cash or items for our auction, our amazing committee members, our dedicated staff, and all those who contributed in both big and small ways.



Phyllis and Bob Noll



Michell and Jack Loos

Premier Sponsor



Platinum Sponsor



Silver Sponsors

Rawe Financial
Schneller and Knochelmann Plumbing,
Heating & Air

Bronze Sponsors

Cincinnati Bell
Connley Brothers Funeral Home
DBL Law, LLC
Dorning Supply Company
Heritage Bank
Tom and Lisa Rawe
Riegler Blacktop
Ruehl Electric
Verst Group Logistics
VonLehman CPA and Advisory Firm
Ken Wulfeck

A Letter from the Executive Director

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1st Corinthians 12:12)

Dear Friends:

As a key ministry of mercy for the Diocese of Covington, Catholic Charities joins with the rest of the diocese in welcoming our new shepherd, Bishop John Iffert. Like everyone else, we look forward with anticipation and hope for new inspirations, ideas, and opportunities to serve alongside our new bishop. With a new bishop, we will be in transition for a while, but we have been in constant transition for the past 18 months, due to COVID-19, and, we have always evolved by virtue of the many programs we offer and the many people we collaborate with.

In addition, we welcome several new staff to our team. In this issue, we introduce David Durr, our new Mental Health Counselor and Director of our Clinical Counseling programs. You can read about his insights and vision on pages 4 and 5. We will introduce other new staff in future Partners Newsletters. We also say goodbye to Cindy Dixon, who retired after 35 years, serving Catholic Charities in a variety of roles, most recently as our Pre-Service Coordinator and Client Care Specialist, on page 7.

All of us here at Catholic Charities are devoted to our ministry; we are called to serve the marginalized, forgotten, and disenfranchised members of our society while promoting a culture of life and fulfillment. This call has always been challenging, and yet we continue to respond in faith to these needs. We do the best that we can, and we leave the rest for our Lord.

We could not do nearly as much or be as effective without the prayers and support of so many others. We are most grateful to all our partners who pray for us, volunteer in our work, and contribute financial resources. We are especially grateful to the expanded team of volunteers who helped make this year's Cassba the most successful to date, in over 34 years, and to the Knights of Columbus whose annual golf outing has become another highpoint in our summer.

Most of all, we are grateful to our dear Lord, who has provided us the opportunity to serve Him, to share our heart and our gifts in whatever way we are called. We lift up all those we serve, seeing the face of Christ in each person we help. We invite you to read more about our ministry and what goes on around here, in this edition of our *Partners* Newsletter. Please join us however you are able.

In God's mercy,



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 to Catholic Charities.

Pictured L to R: Bill Kopp, Dustin Reed, Bob Merkle, Keith Cahill, Vicki Bauerle, Catholic Charities Development Director, Alan Pickett, Catholic Charities Executive Director, Dennis Elix, Suanne Ledonne, Dave Ledonne, Carl Biery and Deacon Bill Theis.



Parish Kitchen Garden

Parish Kitchen has a new project underway in our courtyard. Thanks to Doug and Sheila Bray, who are huge supporters of the community garden effort around Northern Kentucky, Parish Kitchen now has six raised garden beds and two more still to come.

The produce harvested from the garden beds will provide fresh grown produce for the guests to enjoy.

Much thanks to Tom Rawe, Doug Bray and Keith Bundy for building the beds and planting the first crop of wonderful produce.



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 a Catholic Charities staff member on the show talk 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

Opportunities for Doing Good unto Others

By: Karen Horgan Kuhlman

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought sorrow to a world already weighed down with pain and suffering. No matter how hard we try, we can't pretend that the pandemic hasn't added an extra degree of difficulty to life's everyday challenges. We might find ourselves wishing we had someone to talk to, someone who can look at our problems from the outside, help us discover ways of dealing with our difficulties, and begin to breathe again. The counselors of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington can help us find a path toward living with hope in distressing times.

David Durr is a licensed clinical social worker, mental health counselor, and Director of Clinical Counseling Services for Catholic Charities. He is well-suited for the job, but that didn't happen overnight.

He was on his way to a business degree and owned successful companies, but he wasn't enjoying his successes. He thought about some of the great people he admired and realized that the paths they had taken in life were paved with their contributions to others. So, he struck out on a new path and took a job with a local nonprofit whose mission was to assist children and families experiencing severe challenges.

He started at the bottom, took a job as a janitor and moving truck driver, and discovered that he had fallen into a job that presented opportunities to become involved in mentoring and housing programs. Durr spent his days assisting children whose challenges stood between them and a path to a good life. A mentor pointed out that he could do more with a degree in social work. In his mid- 50's he returned to Northern Kentucky University, completed his Bachelor's in Organizational Leadership, and later received a Master's in Social Work.

He became the volunteer coordinator for the nonprofit, then the lead social worker at its homeless shelter for kids, counseling kids aged 10 to 17 who had been tossed out or had run away from their homes. He oversaw the programs that annually assisted over 600 children highly traumatized by physical or sexual abuse, helping them work through anger issues and suicide attempts. He worked on adoption and foster care cases and taught classes to kids and adults about healthy relationships and dealing with trauma. He counseled young pregnant women who left the streets and came into the shelter seeking refuge from the storms of their lives. The child given by God to those young women saved their lives - an outcome he has witnessed repeatedly.

Durr enjoyed his work, but the secular nonprofit was an ultra-liberal organization: you could talk about anything under the sun – except for God. That was a challenge for a devout Catholic active in Cursillo. He found it difficult to speak with 10-year-old kids about their problems while restrained from discussing God, reason, faith, a higher purpose, or a grand plan. He rebelled quietly by putting a crucifix on his office door and a bible on his





desk. He began to understand that God was calling him to something different. He came across an ad in the Messenger for a Clinical Director and began experiencing a nagging feeling that perhaps the position might be God's something different." A chance meeting with Catholic Charities director Alan Pickett at a Cursillo meeting changed the nagging feeling into a certainty. Durr joined Catholic Charities' team as a mental health counselor and Clinical Director on July 1, 2021.

Durr is well prepared to be a part of Catholic Charities: he is strong in his faith and active in his church. He is a Knight of Columbus, a lay Dominican, and chairs his parish council. He layers his social work and treatment experience on top of 30 plus years of business administration, financial management, and HR experience.

Many of the responsibilities for Catholic Charities clinical programs are long-established. In addition to counseling for individuals, children, families, married couples, and the jail and prison ministry, Durr sees the recently inaugurated Mobil Food Pantry as an opportunity to spread the word about counseling services to residents in our rural communities of the Diocese. He said, "By going where the mobile pantry goes, we can offer information about counseling services that can be made available via teleconferences with those in need of counseling, but unable to travel to Catholic Charities' Latonia location."

Durr sees an increase in mental health issues due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19, resulting in anxiety as a byproduct of social isolation. Teenagers, isolated from their peers and missing opportunities to learn about positive interaction, substitute social media for genuine human interaction and consequently suffer from depression. We have no idea of the long-term effects of isolation from friends or the inability to participate in academic or sporting events on these teens.

Older populations and those without family, fearing increased health risks from the virus, have not come back together in the way other folks have. Nursing homes are once again closing to visitors, resulting in the loss of the consolation of family and friends when patients need it most. People in the neighborhoods can often provide Catholic Charities with vital information about their friends or neighbors needing counseling services. Durr knows that the increasingly urgent need for counseling services will result in a need to bring more counselors to Catholic Charities, and he hopes to help make that happen.

David Durr is enthusiastic about the opportunities he has been given and says: "I am never going to retire. I am going to do this as long as God gives me the ability to do so. I can't imagine retiring from a job where we have the opportunity to minister to those in need of consolation, where we are genuinely helping people and doing so much good work."

News and Events continued

Friends & Family of the Incarcerated Free Support Group

3rd Tuesday of the month

6:30 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

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 6, 2021

Saturday, December 4, 2021

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.

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

By: John Hehman, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator

We are growing! In August, we opened another food pantry at St. Joseph in Warsaw. We served 40 households in both August and September. Our two existing “Food for Friends” locations have been consistently serving between 80-90 households, each month, at our mobile food pantries both in Bracken and Grant County.

But we are not done growing! We are hoping to open two more locations soon at St. Edwards Mission in Owenton and in Mason County.

Through a generous grant from the R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc. we received the funding to purchase a new 16ft. box truck, which should be ready in early 2022, to deliver the food to the pantries. We are currently renting a truck and have been since April of this year.

We are proud of the way that the pantries have continued to expand. We know it could not be possible without our donors and the assistance and support of the volunteers and staff whose dedication make each pantry successful each month.



Staff Changes

Saying Good Bye is Hard to Do!

After 35 years at Catholic Charities, Cindy Dixon, Preservice Coordinator and Client Care Specialist decided to retire. Pictured left is Cindy Dixon with Vicky Bauerle at her retirement party. Cindy and Vicky have spent 25 years together at Catholic Charities. Vicky said, "Cindy is a special person. She has an infectious laugh. I will miss that so much. We had many good times together." Good Luck Cindy!!



Welcome New Staff

Catholic Charities is excited to welcome new staff:

Deanna Singer, Controller, and **Anisha Gilreath**, Client Services Specialist, just joined the Catholic Charities' team in late September.



We are pleased to welcome back **Jennifer Abdrabbo** to the Catholic Charities family. Jennifer comes to us with years of experience in fundraising, marketing, communications, event planning and volunteering. Jennifer first came to us as a volunteer in 2001. Over a ten year period, she volunteered on the Cassba committee, the cooking team, as a receptionist, and she signed parents in as they arrived for the parenting classes. She took a break from volunteering when her third child came along. Shortly after that they moved to Virginia when her husband went back on active duty with the Coast Guard in the DC area. They welcomed another Abdrabbo to the family and moved back to the area a few years later. Jennifer and her husband, Sharif, are members at Blessed Sacrament where three (Alexis 7th, Maya 5th & Lian 2nd) of their four kids attend school. Their oldest Eli is a Sophomore at St. Henry District High School. Jennifer fits right in! It's as if she has always worked here! We are

delighted to have her on board!

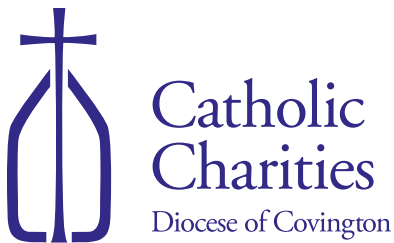


We also welcome **Jill Walch**, Volunteer Coordinator. Growing up in a family of eight, Jill learned early on that being part of a successful family means chipping in when times are good or when they are not so good. It is when she learned about teamwork, benevolence, and living one's faith, modeled by her parents and siblings.

Married with three grown children, two living in California and one in Nairobi, Kenya; she and her husband travel to be with their children as time permits, but many of her days are open to meet and enjoy new people and learn about them...she really enjoys hearing about life stories.

Spending many years as a volunteer herself, it was a natural transition for her to organize and manage volunteers. One of her favorite parts of meeting volunteers is to discover the talents and treasures in those she meets.

Catholic Charities is looking for volunteer receptionists and preservice support. Also Parish Kitchen is seeking volunteer morning cooks. To view these opportunities, visit www.covingotncharities.org and click on "Interested in Volunteering" or call Jill Walch at 859-581-8974 ext 119.



Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

3629 Church Street
Latonia, KY 41015
859.581.8974 · 866.440.9612
www.CovingtonCharities.org
www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities

Serving the community for over 90 years

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Covington, KY
Permit No 21.

Address Service Requested

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.***”**

Corporate Board

Most Reverend
John Iffert,
Bishop of Covington
Rev. Ryan Maher, VG
Rev. Michael Comer
Rev. Michael Grady
Msgr. Gerald Reinersman
Mr. Dale Henson

Advisory Board

Tim Beck, Chair
Carol Branch
Deacon Gerald Franzen
Gregory T. George
Dan Groneck
Jeff Jehn
Dan Meier
Edward Monohan
Sr. Fran Moore, CDP
Randy Rawe
Tom Rawe
Msgr. Gerald Reinersman
Clare Ruehl
Mary Paula Schuh
Jim Volz

Leadership Team

Alan Pickett, Executive Director
Shannon Braun, Assistant Executive Director
Vicky Bauerle, Institutional Advancement Manager
David Durr, Mental Health Counselor and
Clinical Director
Anna Phillips, Parenting Supervisor
Deanna Singer, Controller

Administrative Staff

Jennifer Abdrabbo, Institutional Advancement
Associate
Anisha Gilreath, Client Services Specialist
Amy Littleton, Quality Assurance Coordinator
Jill Walch, Volunteer Coordinator

Program Staff

Patti Anderson, Housing Supervisor
Amy Bauer, Parish Kitchen Assistant Manager
Dave Capella, Jail Ministry Coordinator
Cyndi Dennemann, School and Mental Health
Counselor
Sheila Dumford, School Counseling Supervisor
Mindy Garcia, Parish Kitchen Associate
John Hehman, Mobile Pantry Coordinator
Brandy Medaugh, Case Management, Intake Specialist
Donna Moreland, School Counselor
Sharon Raaker, School Counselor
Michelle Schuck, School Counselor
Julie Wagner, School Counselor



*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.*