



Let Them Leave Happier Than When They Came to You

By Jill Walch, Volunteer Coordinator

At the close of another year, I am reminded of the goodwill of those around me. Especially at Christmas, I note the time people take to speak kindly to others. I see demonstrations of kindness in small acts; a smile, a touch, or noticing when someone needs help and extending it without them asking.

This year at Catholic Charities we have experienced some awesome acts of kindness. Through the assistance of our volunteers, donors, supporters, collaborators, and friends, we provided a delicious Thanksgiving meal to over 70 families and adopted 31 families for Christmas. The Parish Kitchen provided a lovely meal on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day and provided sleeping bags and blankets to those in need throughout the winter months. And for those families who came to us just before Christmas, we were able to offer last minute help; giving away toys, warm articles of clothing, gift cards, housewares and more, because of our supporters.

It is clear, all those seeking our help, left a little happier than when they arrived. Beyond the walls of Catholic Charities and the Parish Kitchen, is where the magic happens...because of each of you; your gifts, time, talents, and treasures. I'm reminded of what Mister Fred Rogers once said, "It's not so much what we have in this life that matters. It's what we do with what we have."



St. Pius Student provided bins for the St. Joseph Apartments



Fr. Joe Rielage, St. Pius X blessed the Thanksgiving meals



Christmas Gifting Program ready for pick up

A Letter from the Executive Director



“Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

Dear Friends,

We continue to live in a time when the world tempts us to conform to the present age. Yet St. Paul’s message to the Romans is timeless, applying to us even today. That is, he urges us to be transformed by the renewal of our own mind, so that we contemplate and focus on the path that God has in mind for us. This should help us focus on what is good, and pleasing and perfect in the eyes of God rather than be distracted by everything else going on around us.

At Catholic Charities, each of our ministries focuses on what is good, and pleasing and perfect. We start by being present in our current circumstance, wherever we are, open to the needs of our neighbor. For example, between Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays, we intentionally reached out to our neighbors in various ways to be present to our neighbors beyond the four walls of our office. You can read about some of these initiatives in the article on the front page of this newsletter. Another example is highlighted in the article on pages 4 and 5 that describes how our Client Care team serves a number of unique and different needs. When we are present and when we reach out, we put ourselves in a position to understand the needs of our neighbor with compassion. Then we can respond with the love of God, serving God by serving others.

We continue to find ourselves challenged by the unique circumstances of these times. We don’t know when or if the pandemic will ever taper off, or when the next variant will emerge. We are called to be understanding and flexible, yet the anxiety of the unknown persists. If only we can let go of this anxiety and surrender to God’s will, we will be much better able to thrive and live.

To boil it down, all that we need to do is love God and love our neighbor. With your help and support, I believe the mission and ministry of Catholic Charities fundamentally does this. By being part of Catholic Charities as a volunteer, donor or prayer warrior, you enhance our vibrant ministry. If you haven’t had this experience, we invite you to join us. We could not do it without the help of many. As my wise grandfather used to say, “many hands make light work.” God bless you and all those you love in the new year.

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

"Seeing my school counselor is the best part of my week."
-Client

Better together

"At Parish Kitchen I have a place to eat and talk to a nurse."
-Guest

"I choose to volunteer to give back because I was adopted through Catholic Charities."
-Volunteer

Annual Campaign

Your donation makes a difference! We are all BETTER TOGETHER because we are acting on behalf of Christ.

Ways to donate: Enclosed envelope, Scan the QR code to donate via PayPal or Credit Card or visit www.covingtoncharities.org

Thank you for your continued support!!



"We have a special place that is making a difference for the people we serve."
-Staff



"A big thank you for all you do for our brothers and sisters in need."
-Donor



Save the Date Cassba 2022: Sunday, August 28th at the Drees Pavilion



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

A Refuge From Life's Storms

By Karen Kuhlman

When trouble finds its way to our doorstep, we can be overwhelmed by its arrival and unprepared for its impact on our lives. At those times, we seek the advice and counsel of someone we can trust in the hope of finding a way out of trouble and mitigating our suffering. Fortunately, those who reside in the Diocese of Covington have a friend in Catholic Charities' Client Care Information and Referral Services. Callers to Catholic Charities will find valuable information about the various services available for children, adolescents, adults, couples, and groups. The entirety of those services is enormous!

Anna Phillips, the Client Care Coordinator, is just one of the helpful people callers speak with when they call Catholic Charities. Phillips is also Catholic Charities' Parenting Supervisor and the Supervisor of the St. Joseph Apartments and oversees case management for residents there. Phillips says "Catholic Charities takes people off the street, families with disabilities, and provides them with permanent supportive housing - and counseling services come with it. That is an advantage for our clients whereas as others may live in market housing and be referred to various agencies, while we provide all of those services in house.

Client Care is a considerable undertaking and has two primary functions. Client Care's first responsibility is the scheduling of all client appointments. Clients calling Catholic Charities may be seeking an appointment for home buyers' education classes, housing counseling, parenting classes, individual, or couples counseling. Before scheduling an appointment, Client Care begins to understand the client's needs by conducting a mini-assessment to determine the history, background, and issues that bring clients to Catholic Charities. That assessment helps assure that clients are connected with the correct program and counselor.

Client Care's other functions address inquirers' needs through resources and referral. A third of the phone calls Catholic Charities receives are for financial assistance, often for housing-related issues. Many callers request assistance with rent or deposits; some face eviction from their homes, while others are street or shelter





homeless; others are in transit with no place of their own, “couch surfing” with friends or family willing to provide a haven for a night. Requests for food assistance or help with utility bills are common; some callers seek help with prescriptions or money for transportation or gas. People who don’t know where to turn in the community might request assistance with items such as a loved one’s funeral expenses or inquire about help transporting a deceased family member from a distant location back home for burial. Whenever requests are made for services not provided by Catholic Charities, Client Care does its best to identify resources and agencies that best fit the caller’s needs.

Catholic Charities keeps up with all community resources and is part of the Safety Net Alliance of Northern Kentucky. Virtually all of the helping agencies and non-profits in Northern Kentucky get together each month to share resources. “That helps us stay current and advise clients about actual funding opportunities instead of sending them on a wild goose chase, hoping for possibilities that don’t exist,” Phillips said.

Catholic Charities concentrates on the total person, beginning by listening to their concerns, assessing their needs, and identifying wrap-around services that will produce the greatest outcome for them. Lending a hand to individuals who seek assistance by really listening to their concerns is appreciated by those who have been treated rudely or whose concerns have been dismissed by others.

Anisha Gilreath, a Client Care Specialist, says that this is something that is very important to her. “I want the clients with whom I speak to know that they are heard. I want them to feel validated just by being heard. I enjoy having the opportunity to give them hope through our faith. I like to offer them a little bit of hope through prayer. “

If you need to speak to Catholic Charities Client Care Department, call 859-581-8974.



Program Updates

Catholic Charities continues to help many of our neighbors beyond our walls at 3629 Church Street.

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, February 5, 2022

Saturday, March 5, 2022

Saturday, April 2, 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.

Parish Kitchen is a Special Place to Volunteer

Volunteering at Parish Kitchen is more than just a regular volunteering opportunity. It is a spiritual exercise, where volunteers put their faith into action each day. At Parish Kitchen, we try to provide guests with more than food, it is why we pray. Each day, before the first guests arrive, Parish Kitchen volunteers and staff pray for their guests. We want the guests to know they are in our prayers, and we want to give the guests a chance to include their own intentions.

On the tables in the Parish Kitchen dining room, are little notebooks and pens for the guests to write their prayer intentions. And a prayer wall was created by Mindy Garcia, Parish Kitchen Associate. Interestingly, something beautiful and unexpected started to happen with these notebooks and the prayer wall. Guests do write their prayer intentions, but they also give a gift back to the volunteers...their thanks! Guests started to write thank you notes to the volunteers and staff. The wall turned into a prayer wall and a gratitude wall, where both volunteers and guests can give a gift to each other.

We thank all our volunteers who served our guests during the past year, especially during the holiday season.



Program Updates continued



Reach and Teach Program

Catholic Charities' school counselors provide counseling services in both public and private elementary and middle schools within Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties. Through the Reach & Teach Mentoring program, high school sophomore, junior, and senior students are recruited to mentor our counselor-identified students whose academic performance, self-confidence, and choice making can be improved through the mentorship of a dependable, positive, teenage role-model.

Once a week for one hour through April, on a designated school day, high school mentors meet one-on-one after school with their assigned mentee at the mentee's school. During the first half-hour, mentors assist with homework to promote academic success and responsibility. The second half-hour focuses on fun, and one-on-one group activities to build a relationship that promotes self-assurance, positive choices, and trust. Catholic Charities' school counselors are present for the mentoring hour.

Jail Ministry Program

During the past few years our jail ministry program has had to change due to Covid-19. But change is not always a bad thing, in this case, it is just different. We hope someday to return to ministering in person to our brothers and sisters in jail. But for now, this is what is happening in our three jails.

In Kenton County Jail, we continue to provide clothes on a regular basis. And one of our volunteers has started to assist with classes at the detention center.

In Campbell County Jail, we continue to provide clothes and Bibles. We have also made a connection with Jack Rabbit shoe store in Newport. The shoe store is providing used shoes to the detention center for the work program. At Christmas, we provided snacks (cookies/chips) for the 350 inmates and the staff. Coffee supplies and candy were also provided for the staff.

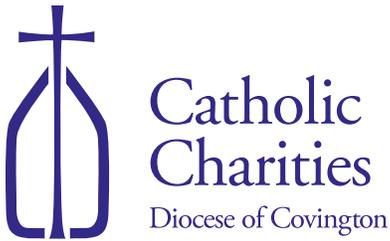
In Boone County Jail, we continue to provide clothes, reading glasses, and Bibles. A reflection video, and written reflections from the "Word Among Us," is now provided every other week.

Several volunteers are writing letters to inmates, and our Friends and Family Group continue to meet once a month.

Dave Capella, Jail Ministry Coordinator, continues to find new ways to help people getting out of jail. He connected with St. Vincent DePaul (SVDP) and The Council on Christian Reentry Ministry (CCRM), a faith-based employment agency for re-entry. Now, SVDP provides clothing vouchers for people working through CCRM. This is extremely helpful for those in need of clothes to re-enter the workforce.

Mobile Food Pantry

Two thousand twenty-one, was an exciting year for the Mobile Food Pantry. Our three mobile food pantries in Grant County, Gallatin, and Bracken County are consistently serving more families each month. But we have big plans for 2022. We are hoping to open two more locations and anticipate the arrival of our new sixteen-foot box truck. This truck, which was generously donated through a grant from the R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc., will help deliver food to the pantries. We are currently renting a truck and have been since April of this year.



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Serving the community for over 90 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.*