Feed the Hungry

ROUNDTABLE
Supper Program

PARISH PROFILE
St. James in Highwood

LAST WORD
siblings Serve Together
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2016 JUBILEE OF MERCY
The Light of Mercy is a Beacon of Hope

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland
PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis we are celebrating the life-giving lessons of merciful acts. Each issue of Spirit magazine will focus on a specific work of mercy. “Feed the Hungry” is our theme for spring, and I know you will enjoy learning about the many ways Catholic Charities programs meet this most basic human need, from our evening supper program to holiday dinners for young parents, from group meals for seniors to the wide reach of our 10 food pantries.

When we shine the light of mercy on our challenges we can continue seeing the value of our work and its impact on the poor.

Along with many other human service providers across Illinois, our charitable work has become more challenging this year due to the state budget stalemate. Catholic Charities is owed $25 million for services we have provided for the state, such as adult day care which keeps vulnerable seniors in their homes and communities. It is truly frightening to watch the safety net of charitable care, so carefully woven over decades by nonprofit agencies large and small, unravel before our eyes.

In the face of this tragedy, the Pope’s call for mercy is a beacon of hope. When we shine the light of mercy on our challenges we can continue seeing the value of our work and its impact on the poor. “Faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit,” the Pope says. No matter how dire our circumstances may be, faith-based works of mercy will remind us of our common humanity and keep our hearts open and hopeful for positive change.

Seeing mercy in action makes me...

• Humbled by the dedication of our Board Members and Parish Partners who are advocating steadily on our behalf with elected officials

• Inspired by the commitment of our staff members who are coping with hiring freezes and other cost-saving measures while continuing to provide compassionate service of the highest caliber

• Grateful for private donors—individuals, foundations, and others—who continue to invest in our mission. You are all heroes to me, and to our clients whose lives you improve every day

During a drought the roots of plants go deep to find water and other nutrients. I know that many people who support the work of Catholic Charities are reaching deep to secure the future of our great agency, which will celebrate 100 years of service next year. Thank you for being one of our many “roots.” Together we will stand firm in our belief that mercy can transform the hardest of soil into fertile ground.
Supper Program Feeds Body and Soul

There is nothing like the smell of hot food on a cold night to soften the jagged edges of a day lived in poverty. Monday through Friday Catholic Charities provides hot meals at various locations across our broad service area, from Hazel Crest in the far South Suburbs to Highwood in Lake County. The food is usually donated by a local restaurant or paid for by a parish or other group. Our supper guests receive a warm welcome from dedicated volunteers at each of our seven supper sites. This issue’s Roundtable features the reflections of three long-time volunteers on feeding the hungry.

SISTER BENJAMINA “BENJI”
Albertine Sister
Staff Member
St. Blase Food Pantry/Supper

JACKIE HAYES
Founder
Chicago HELP Initiative
Lead Supper Volunteer

RALPH METZ
Holy Name Cathedral
Lead Supper Volunteer

17,642
Guests served at evening suppers

171,217
Hot meals served Monday through Friday

632
Suppers hosted at seven locations per year
How did you get involved with the program?

SISTER BENJI
My order, the Albertine Sisters, is based in Poland and has served at St. Blase Parish for many years. I came to St. Blase about three years ago.

JACKIE
Through the ChicagoHELP Initiative I started up a supper staffed by volunteers at 721 N. LaSalle in 2001. It was successful and over time other faith groups got involved. It has become a very ecumenical form of service.

RALPH
I have been active at Holy Name Cathedral for a long time. Sixteen years ago Catholic Charities asked me to bring some volunteers from the parish over to help staff the Tuesday night supper. I’ve been a regular volunteer for the supper program ever since.

Do you see our suppers feeding more than our guests’ bodies?

SISTER BENJI
Yes I do see our suppers feeding more than our guests’ bodies. It feeds their souls and spirits. What we see at supper is one big family meeting at the table for food; not just the usual meal but the feast of brotherly love.

JACKIE
We don’t know everyone’s story, but we treat them as one human being to another and sometimes that’s enough to improve the quality of their life. You never know how you are going to impact someone.

RALPH
Our guests have no choice or say in what they are served, they sit and are called to line-up at a table, never knowing what they will eat until it’s put on their plate, yet almost always, they smile.

How does participating in a corporal work of mercy like feeding the hungry affect our volunteers?

SISTER BENJI
Our volunteers are willing to come back to serve the hungry every week. Volunteers’ hearts grow stronger with compassion towards people.

JACKIE
There are some amazing relationships that have developed between the guests and the volunteers. Many of our volunteers have been coming for years. The guests care about the volunteers and will ask about them if they don’t see them. There is a real “family tie” between the guests and volunteers. The volunteers are filling a void in their lives with charitable outreach to others.

RALPH
Through the service of every volunteer our guests are fed body, mind, and spirit. With our corporal acts of mercy to the poor, this reciprocal grace becomes a connected circle of wonderment. I tell our volunteers to “have fun.” This is in part, my idea of what it means to serve the poor. Have fun. In order to keep it, you have to give it away.
A Safety Net for Those in Need on the North Shore

Located in tiny Highwood, Illinois (population 5,377) on the shore of Lake Michigan, it is not surprising that St. James Parish has a photo of a fishing boat on a shore with the quote, “I will make you fishers of men,” (Matthew 4:19) on its website. The church’s logo features waves, which at once symbolize the lake, and the interconnectedness of the parish to the surrounding community which includes both wealthy and poor areas.

Though small in size with 644 families, St. James parish has a big heart as evidenced by its full roster of human concerns commission projects. John Cullen, Chair of the Human Concerns Commission, was a career Army officer stationed at nearby Fort Sheridan before retiring. He and his family have been parishioners at St. James for 35 years, with a short break when stationed overseas for a few years.

“In 2009 we formed St. James’ first pastoral council. My wife, Judy, has been the Director of Religious education at St. James since 1985, so she invited me to the formation meetings,” John explains. “I was winding down toward retirement and wanted to do good works in my expanded free time, so I volunteered for Chair of Human Concerns. A year later, we established our food pantry.”

The biggest need that John and his fellow commission members see in the parish is food. The parish’s pantry averaged 50 families per week for years, but that number has dropped to around 42 this year. “That’s a good thing,” John says. “My dream is that one day we’ll open the doors and no one will come because they have what they need.”

Senior Regional Director Terri Denny oversees Catholic Charities Lake County Services, and is very grateful for St. James’ assistance. “St. James Parish has been such a great partner of ours and under Fr. Tom’s leadership our partnership continues to grow. When we identified the need to provide warm meals and socialization for struggling families in southeastern Lake County, the parish immediately said ‘yes’ and opened
Father Tom Baldonieri has been Pastor of St. James in Highwood since 2007, following assignments around the Chicago area, including several parishes and as an adjunct faculty member at Quigley Preparatory Seminary. He is a regular presider of Sunday Mass at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.

“We are grateful for our partnership with Catholic Charities, which I see as a great relationship,” Fr. Tom says. “It gives us an opportunity to put what we believe or preach into practice. Parishioners can tap into their God-given gifts and share. The parish, in collaboration with Catholic Charities, steps up to the plate so to speak. Together we help make the works of mercy visible.”

It is important to Fr. Tom that people in need know that they are not alone. The community stands with them, and Christ is present to them through charity. He also sees charity as something that can engage everyone in the parish, from children to seniors. “All ages have something to offer, everyone is valuable,” Fr. Tom explains. “We want people to know that there is someone out there who will see them, hear them, and reach out a welcoming hand of friendship. We want to remind them of the mercy of God by hearing the joy and challenge of Christ in the Gospel: Whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40-45).

Between 70 and 80 people are served a full meal at the parish supper. The meal is prepared and served by different community groups, including a synagogue. The supper is held on the first Thursday of every month, and follows the regular pantry hours to catch families and individuals who are in need.

Growing the Gift of Charity

Other charitable activities at St. James include the annual “Giving Tree” project to support Catholic Charities Christmas gift drive, and an annual baby shower for the agency.

Roberta Mocogni has been a parishioner at St. James since 1988. She moved to Highland Park when she married her husband, who had always been a St. James parishioner.

“Judy Cullen asked me to take over the Giving Tree from her about 15 years ago,” Roberta says. “Right now I do the giving tree with two other women, Rita Agostinelli and Michelle Gallo. We have always had our kids help us sort and bag the gifts that are donated.”

In 2015, St. James took 90 names of children and elderly individuals from Catholic Charities and fulfilled their Christmas wish lists.

“We are all so fortunate at Christmas to be able to receive and give gifts that it is nice to make sure other children also receive gifts,” says Roberta.

Margarita “Margie” Mendoza has been a parishioner at St. James for about 46 years. She recently got involved in the parish’s baby shower collection for Catholic Charities.

“Last year was my first year with the baby shower. We collected not only baby clothes; we were fortunate enough to have blankets, toys, diapers, books, strollers, furniture, and maternity clothes donated also,” Margie says. Volunteers and their families were involved in all aspects of the event, from securing the donations to making food for the shower. But she finds that she receives a lot in return.

“Volunteering brings me a certain type of peace. No matter what is going on in my life, the stresses seem to diminish when I think about those I am helping. I would like to think that my service is helping others and making their lives a little easier,” Margie explains.

PHOTOS: (L to R) Volunteers at the March 2016 Thursday night supper. Weekly pantry volunteer Cristina Flores in action.
STATE OF ILLINOIS FUNDING

Catholic Charities Clients at Risk; Please Urge End to Budget Impasse

As of press time, the State of Illinois had yet to pass a Fiscal Year 2016 budget, more than nine months past the deadline. The budget stalemate has caused social service agencies to reduce or eliminate programs and in many cases to close.

“Once you start taking away services, things begin to unravel. You not only don’t have early childhood care, but you have families who now can’t work because they need to take care of children and this becomes a spiral effect that sinks them deeper into poverty.”

While Catholic Charities has maintained programs and services, we are greatly impacted by the state budget impasse. Each month we float the state $2 million in services, primarily to provide services for

- more than 25,000 seniors in Cook and Lake counties who rely on home visits, Meals on Wheels or adult day services.
- Catholic Charities supports more than 1 million people each year. These are the most vulnerable people who often have nowhere else to turn for help and hope.

For Monsignor Boland, the larger concern is the fabric of social services across the state. “Once you start taking away services, things begin to unravel. You not only don’t have early childhood care, but you have families who now can’t work because they need to take care of children and this becomes a spiral effect and sinks them deeper into poverty. This will have devastating effects on the state.”

Catholic Charities leadership and Board of Directors advocate on a regular basis for a responsible budget to be passed, one that is not balanced on the backs of the poor. Many parishes have asked their congregations to contact their elected leaders and some have started petitions to Springfield encouraging them to quickly pass a budget.

We are asking you to contact your state representatives, senators and our state leadership and urge them to pass a budget that cares for the poor in our communities.

If you have not yet taken action, please use the template letter at catholiccharities.net. You can find your State legislator and governor’s office information at http://bit.ly/24GGiKV or call (217) 782-4141.

25,000
Seniors in Cook and Lake counties who rely on our services

$2 million
Amount the state government owes Catholic Charities each month for services provided
“She was telling me about 100% wheat bread. It’s better for us,” said Brenda Martinez, a customer at a Catholic Charities WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Food and Nutrition Center. Brenda took the Cooking Matters at the Store tour at the center, led by Lupe Prieto, Client Service Representative.

“I learned that brown rice is better than white rice for the nutrition.”

Families on a tight budget report that the cost of healthy groceries is their biggest barrier to making healthy meals at home. Food skills, like smart shopping, can help overcome that barrier.

Cooking Matters at the Store is a free program of the No Kid Hungry campaign that empowers families to stretch their food budgets so their children get healthy meals at home. Catholic Charities WIC Program has offered Cooking Matters at the Store tours for three years. The program’s impact has grown over time, from 800 clients in 2014 to 900 clients in 2015, and a projected 1,000 clients in 2016.

“It is basically an after-care plan for our WIC clients to make healthy choices when they are no longer eligible for the program,” explains Tallett Vanek, Nutritionist. WIC serves pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women as well as infants and children up to age five. Catholic Charities also offers other nutrition programs for all ages.

The Cooking Matters at the Store tour is short, only 15 to 20 minutes, but includes important skills: how to read food labels, compare unit prices, find whole grains and purchase produce. Participants take home a booklet with recipes, shopping tips and a reusable grocery bag.

Wanda Medina also took the tour. “I learned that brown rice is better than white rice for the nutrition,” Wanda says.

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<td>Individuals gained practical skills to make healthy behavior changes when grocery shopping</td>
<td>WIC participants reduced nutrition risk during critical periods of growth and development</td>
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Meals Fuel Learning and Bonding for Young Parents

Every Wednesday afternoon on the far South Side of Chicago, young mothers and their children arrive at Catholic Charities Jadonal Ford Center where they are greeted by smiling staff members. At the weekly meeting of the Roseland Adolescent Parenting Program (RAPP) the first order of business is sitting down to a hot, delicious meal.

Shavon N. Parker, Program Director.

After meal time, parents and their children participate in a shared activity. Parents then escort their children to the center’s nursery. While the kids play, parents meet for their weekly classroom session with staff.

Every aspect of the afternoon’s program is designed to maximize learning and bonding between the parents and their children, and between the parents and staff.

“When clients are sitting for meals, they feel very comfortable talking to one another about their children. Relationships have been established and friendships begin to emerge. Clients look forward to discussing the different milestones their children have reached,” Shavon explains.

The meals also allow staff to gently guide and educate the parents. For example, if a parent refuses to give vegetables to their baby, a staff member will talk to the parent about good nutrition and encourage them to offer a variety of foods to the child.

Many of the RAPP participants have told staff that they rarely ever receive home cooked meals. “I’ve heard parents say, ‘I look forward to this meal every Wednesday,’” Shavon says. Perhaps that’s because the meal comes with a large helping of support and compassion.

1,251
Meals served at Jadonal E. Ford Center

624
Teen parents benefitted from CYFS parent support programs

97%
Parenting teens in Arts of Living program graduated
“Often when people come to us for a bag of food they have other needs,” says Sharon Tillmon, Director of Emergency Assistance. Sharon oversees Catholic Charities 10 food pantries, located in our regional offices and in the City. “My predecessor used to say, ‘Why do people come back to us? What other needs do they have?’ Our pantries are the entry point for a lot of our clients, where we can connect them to other services. We want to really listen and find out how we can help them for the long term.”

A typical food pantry package consists of nonperishable food such as canned meat, vegetables and fruit; pasta, rice, oatmeal, peanut butter, and crackers. Packages are sized based on the number of individuals in a household and are planned to provide meals for three to five days.

Catholic Charities has been blessed by regular deliveries of fresh food—produce and dairy—through Ryan’s Joy, a family foundation. Parishes, local grocers and food companies also make regular donations of fresh bread, frozen meat, and other items.

Suburban poverty has been on the rise, and some of the pantries in our regional offices have seen increased demand over time. For example, the pantry at St. Iranaeus in Park Forest saw its numbers double from 2013-14.

One advantage of having regional pantries is to serve people close to where they live. We are also able to provide meaningful volunteer service for parishes, schools and community groups who want to engage in the corporal works of mercy. Organizing a food drive, stocking shelves, or checking clients in and out of the pantry are all essential supports to the pantry program. These activities also educate people about how physically and emotionally challenging poverty is for the families and individuals caught in its grasp.

“Poverty is demoralizing, and we see a lot of people who are struggling with despair,” Sharon says. “A big part of what we do is to really listen to our clients and talk to them as human beings, not numbers. We can see how relieved they are to learn that they are not alone.”
Head Cook Serves Loving Affection to Seniors

When Aixa Reyes started working as a dishwasher at Bishop Edwin M. Conway Residence, she never expected that she would one day be serving as Head Cook. Eleven years later, she now leads the kitchen with an open and serving heart.

Bishop Edwin M. Conway Residence is a supportive living residence for seniors that specializes in care designed to assist individuals with daily activities such as medication management, bathing, dressing, and keeping appointments.

Meal times are crucial for building community among staff and residents. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in a common dining area so staff can complete wellness checks on the seniors. Aixa, cook Sandra Solano, and kitchen aides Annabella Mendez, and Alejandra Rosario walk around at every meal to request feedback and provide residents with other dining options if they do not like the meal.

The residents at the Bishop Edwin M. Conway Residence have more formal input to the nutrition program as well. Seniors participate in a Food Committee, where they sample upcoming menus, and give suggestions. While residents often request desserts and attempt to forgo the vegetables, Aixa makes sure that they are served a low sodium, low cholesterol diet. She is even known to sneak vegetables into desserts to make sure that seniors are getting a nutritious meal! A dietician is brought in throughout the year to ensure that the menus created are balanced for the residents. Every meal is made from scratch.

Residents of Bishop Edwin M. Conway Residence encounter mercy every day as they are truly treated like part of the family. The kitchen staff have been a huge blessing to residents at the facility. “This is my restaurant,” Aixa says with loving affection. “These are my people.”

By Amanda Hamilton, Communications Intern

Aixa Reyes, head cook at Bishop Edwin M. Conway Residence.
“We make a whole day of it; the socializing is so nice,” says Geraldine Cushing, one of 160 senior diners attending a festive “Leap Year Birthday Bash” at Maravela’s restaurant in Lake County. Geraldine sat with three of her friends, Madeleine Hosbein, Rose Panek, and Cecilia Alldredge. The four women met through Catholic Charities Congregate Meal Program and are regulars at Monday lunches. “It’s on the day we get together for board games,” explains Maddie.

Catholic Charities Senior Congregate Meal Program has two primary goals: nutrition and socialization. Last year 1,826 individuals aged 60 or better were fed 32,736 meals at 13 sites around Lake County. Each meal is an opportunity for a senior to get out of the house, meet up with peers, and learn about other social services. Catholic Charities staff is present at many of the locations, ready to share information that can help keep seniors safe in their homes and communities, such as how to find affordable help when housework or yardwork becomes unmanageable.

Congregate meal sites vary from restaurants to senior centers. This year, staff started the “Dine Around Lake County” initiative, and infused more fun into the meals by holding them at various ethnic restaurants. Menus are chosen for nutritional value, and diners are encouraged but not required to make a donation for their meal, usually five dollars.

“Out here, homes and towns can be spread out,” says Marla Harris, Director of Senior Services. “We don’t want seniors to become isolated and congregate meals are one way to get people together in a relaxed setting. Over time we get to know the diners and the issues they are facing. We can offer help when they need it.”
2015 Legal Lifelines  
2015 Art of Caring  
2015 Annie Ryan Run  

Hearts for Hope Dinner & Auction  
SATURDAY • APRIL 16  
Schaumburg Golf Club  
(847) 376-2118  
The Hearts for Hope Dinner & Auction takes place on Saturday, April 16 at Chandler’s Chophouse at the Schaumburg Golf Club. Honorees include Queen of the Rosary Parish, the Duchossois Family Foundation, and Mr. Pat Cox. Entertainment will be provided by 7th heaven, one of Chicago’s most popular bands. The event benefits Catholic Charities services in the Northwest Suburbs.

Legal Lifelines Cocktail Reception  
THURSDAY • APRIL 21  
Union League Club of Chicago  
(312) 655-7290  
The Legal Lifelines Cocktail Reception will take place on Thursday, April 21 at the Union League Club. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP will be recognized for their service to the community with the Justice for the Poor Award. For the first time, the Justice for All Award will be given to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Bob Thomas. This event is the sole fundraiser for Catholic Charities Legal Assistance.

25TH ANNUAL Blossoms of Hope Brunch  
SUNDAY • APRIL 24  
Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace  
(312) 948-6797  
2016 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Blossoms of Hope Brunch, benefiting the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) program. The event will take place on April 24 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. Dr. David Clark of the Medical College of Wisconsin will be the recipient of the Charles T. Rubey Award. Television host and interior designer, Monica Pedersen, will return as the event’s emcee.

Spring Luncheon  
THURSDAY • MAY 12  
Barrington Hills Country Club  
(847) 782-4115  
Join us on Thursday, May 12 at the beautiful Barrington Hills Country Club for our Spring Luncheon. This event will feature remarks from Eve Reppen Rogers, the Director of Graff Diamonds, Chicago. Come out for a beautiful day of sparkling jewelry and fellowship, that benefits programs serving those in Lake County.

Art of Caring  
SATURDAY • MAY 21  
Exmoor Country Club, Highland Park  
(847) 782-4115  
The 27th Annual Art of Caring returns to Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park, hosted by The Women’s Board of Catholic Charities Lake County Services. This exciting evening will feature the works of over a dozen talented artists, cocktails, gourmet hors d’oeuvres, dinner, raffle, and a fantastic live auction featuring unique travel and dining experiences. Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, and Catholic Charities President, Monsignor Michael M. Boland, will offer opening remarks. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities programs in Lake County.

Annie Ryan Run  
SUNDAY • JUNE 5  
Elmhurst  
(312) 948-6797  
The 17th Annual Annie Ryan Run will be held on Sunday, June 5 in Elmhurst. The event includes a timed 5k run, a 1 mile fun run for kids grades K-8, and a performance by the Jesse White Tumbling Team. Proceeds benefit the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) program for children and youth, and other Catholic Charities programs for children.

www.catholiccharities.net/events

ALL EVENT TICKET Information  
Maureen Stern  
Director of Donor Relations  
(312) 948-6864  
mstern@catholiccharities.net

The CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
www.catholiccharities.net  
Find ccofchicago on:  •  •  
S P I R I T spring 2016
The 15th Annual d’Vine Affair

The d’Vine Affair was held at the Union League Club on January 31, raising more than $137,000 for our Self-Sufficiency Programs. The event has raised more than $1.3 million since it was founded 15 years ago by Joe & Helen Glunz of Louis Glunz Wines, Inc., and John & Teddi Scholz. More than 480 guests enjoyed samples of 250 different wines from around the world. A Wine Appreciation Seminar was hosted by Peter Schwarzbach of Vin Chicago. The event included a tasting of Craft and Import Beers, hosted by Louis Glunz Beer, Inc. and an exciting live auction of three barrels of wine. The wine was generously donated by Glunz Family Winery and Cellars, Keenan Winery and Pedroncelli Winery. Event Co-Chairs Erin & Jon Cohn and Jean & Joe Imperato planned a very memorable afternoon with the fantastic support of their planning committee and the event’s founders.

$137,000
Benefiting Self-Sufficiency programs

Patrick J. Ryan Main Event

On February 5, the 2nd Annual Patrick J. Ryan Main Event raised more than $109,000 to benefit the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program for Children and Youth. This unique event, presented by Eastlake Management and Development Corporation, welcomed 600 guests to Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. Jim and Marie Ryan chaired the event, which featured Golden Glove-style amateur boxing matches. After the Ryans lost their son, Patrick, to suicide in 2007, they helped form the LOSS Program for Children and Youth. To date, the program has helped 211 children cope with the death of a loved one by suicide, through individual and group counseling with clinical professionals at various locations throughout the Chicago area.

$109,000
Benefiting the LOSS Program

Chicago Auto Show’s First Look for Charity

Tuxedos, gowns, and the newest sports cars delighted nearly 600 friends of Catholic Charities on February 12 at McCormick Place. The exclusive preview night of the Chicago Auto Show, First Look for Charity, raised more than $140,000 for our Maternity and Adoption programs and our Neighbors in Need Fund. Catholic Charities pre-event reception featured special guest, Alicia Roman of NBC5 Chicago and included gourmet food, entertainment, and raffles. The event was chaired by Marty Bredemann and Bill Montana. On the Auto Show floor, guests enjoyed Chicago’s finest food and cocktails, a chance to win a new car, and an exclusive “first look” at the new cars available for 2016.

$140,000
Benefiting Neighbors in Need Fund and Maternity /Adoption programs

PHOTO
Scott & Norene Chesbro with Larry & Debbie Weber. Norene is Director of Maternity and Adoption, and Debbie is a program volunteer who has cared for 38 infants in her home since 2001.
Ted’s Diaper Drive collected more than 9,000 diapers for Catholic Charities Diaper Depot.

Westlake Health Foundation
The Westlake Health Foundation graciously continued their support of our Maywood Adolescent Parenting Project (MAPP). MAPP offers education and supportive services to parenting teens and expectant teen parents (both male and female) in Proviso Township, in Catholic Charities West Region.

Lake County Diaper Drive Benefits Diaper Depot
In February, East Lake Academy in Lake Forest, along with Mrs. Elizabeth Simutis, former Director of Admission at East Lake Academy, collected more than 9,000 diapers for Catholic Charities Diaper Depot in Lake County. This was the 11th Annual Ted’s Diaper Drive in honor of baby Ted Simutis who was stillborn 12 years ago. To date, the diaper drive has provided more than 35,000 diapers, along with diaper wipes and monetary donations to the Diaper Depot.

Washington Square Health Foundation
The Washington Square Health Foundation awarded their first grant to Catholic Charities to be used to purchase food and pantry supplies for Catholic Charities HIV Care Cupboard in Waukegan. The HIV Care Cupboard is designed to provide people living with HIV/AIDS access to balanced meals, and help them improve and maintain their physical health.

Help Them to Hope, Inc.
Help Them to Hope, Inc. continued their support of our efforts to help Lake County residents meet their immediate basic needs that are provided through our Emergency Assistance, HIV/AIDS, Family Self-Sufficiency and Housing Case Management programs. With the ongoing state budget impasse, these services are needed more than ever.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops awarded a grant to support our Refugee Resettlement Program’s Community Resource Developer in the coming year. The Developer will work closely with at least four parishes so they can build their capacity to support refugee families with concrete assistance such as rent and household goods, as well as fellowship while they adjust to their new homeland.

Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois
The Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois committed to supporting Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA) in calendar year 2016 to help ensure that everyone has access to legal assistance regardless of income or resources. In FY 2015, our CCLA assisted more than 1,800 men, women and children facing legal difficulties.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has funded a Community Resource Developer for Refugee Services.

Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois has committed to supporting Catholic Charities Legal Assistance.
Ash Wednesday Evening of Reflection

The annual Ash Wednesday Mass and Evening of Reflection for members of our Board and Junior Board took place on Wednesday, February 10. We were blessed to welcome Bishop Joseph Perry as our primary Celebrant of the Mass. Bishop Perry also joined more than 110 staff and Board Members for dinner following the Mass. He provided a very heartfelt reflection, highlighting the Pope’s message of mercy and expressing his gratitude for the presence and commitment of Catholic Charities on Chicago’s South Side and Vicariate VI. Services in the region include Emergency Assistance, Food Pantry, Clothing Room, Adult Day Service, Senior Housing, and Counseling. Junior Board Members Peter Thompson, Megan Ratliff, Jenny Anderson, and Matthew Povlock enhanced our evening Mass with the beauty of music and song.

Lenten Lessons in Practice

Catholic Charities embodies the corporal works of mercy, which include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked and sheltering the homeless. During the season of Lent and Easter, the Board Relations Committee developed service opportunities to engage Board members and their families in witness of these corporal works. A special Board of Advisor Partner page was created on our volunteer site (www.volunteerbridge.com). Opportunities included sponsoring and serving a Tuesday night supper to the hungry and homeless in our 721 North LaSalle Street location, and packing food and sorting clothing in one of our Emergency Assistance sites in the city and in suburban Cook and Lake counties. We invite individuals, families and our corporate partners to join us in service. For more information, please contact Dalia Rocotello at (312) 655-8492 or drocotelu@catholiccharities.net.

Junior Board Activity Update

The Junior Board of Catholic Charities hosted their 3rd Annual Best of d’Vine Affair wine tasting sponsored by Louis Glunz Wines on Thursday, February 18. More than 70 Junior Board members and friends raised $1,300 to support Self-Sufficiency programs. Other donors included: Blowout Junkie, AMC Theatres, Lou Malnati’s, and Lagunitas Chicago TapRoom.

The Junior Board’s annual Lenten Retreat was led by Fr. Wayne Watts on Saturday, March 12. This year’s retreat theme reinforced the Pope’s message of mercy: Caritas Christi urget nos (The love of Christ compels us). The retreat included a full day of reflection and exploration to prepare participants’ hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter. There was a particular focus on the works of mercy as an opportunity to contemplate God’s merciful love, as well as through penance, group reflection, and Eucharistic celebration.
Every Tuesday night for more than 13 years, the dynamic duo of Joe and Rose Haddad has served supper to guests in St. Vincent Hall at 721 N. LaSalle Street.

In response to the question “Why do you volunteer?” Joe laughs. “There’s no rest for the wicked,” he says. His older sister chuckles too. “We sponsored a dinner because we knew Fr. Watts,” says Rose, explaining how they got involved.

Fr. Wayne Watts is an Associate Administrator at Catholic Charities as well as Pastor at St. John Berchman Parish. He is also Rose’s godson. The Haddads lived in the same apartment building as the Watts family many years ago, and over time became an integral part of the Watts family.

Similarly, Joe and Rose have become members of the Catholic Charities family of volunteers. Throughout the year, whether it’s freezing, sweltering, or pouring rain outside, the siblings faithfully arrive at 721 N. LaSalle at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday. They start off by making 48 sandwiches and sack lunches for the overflow of guests who cannot be seated for supper in St. Vincent Hall. Then they help with set up for the main meal, putting out desserts, making sure serving stations are ready, and guiding new volunteers.

Alzenia Melton is Program Supervisor for Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Program. Like Joe and Rose, Alzenia is a regular helper at the Tuesday Night Supper. She is grateful for Joe and Rose’s assistance. “They bring so much energy! They are really leaders and gently train the younger people,” Alzenia says. For Joe and Rose, feeding others is just something they like to do.

“I’m helping people who might not have a meal like this and who are in a friendly atmosphere.”

“I’m helping people who might not have a meal like this and who are in a friendly atmosphere,” Rose explains. “I enjoy coming here every week,” Joe adds. The siblings come to 721 N. LaSalle from Chicago’s Loop, where they operate a travel agency together.

“For as long as I have known them, Joe and Rose have demonstrated selflessness,” Fr. Watts recalls. “They always remembered and celebrated the birthdays of everyone in my family of nine. At Catholic Charities they serve quietly and generously, bringing the Gospel’s mercy commandment to life: ‘I was hungry and you gave me to eat.’”
A Gift of Mercy

Catholic Charities
MOTHER’S DAY COLLECTION

Sunday
May 8, 2016

On Mother’s Day, we will come together in our parishes to bring mercy and compassion to those on the margins. Mercy changes everything, easing the way and welcoming those suffering from poverty, hunger, homelessness, joblessness, mental illness, abuse, and aging.

Be an instrument of mercy by giving generously to the Catholic Charities collection in your parish, or send your Mother’s Day gift directly to us.

DONATE TODAY

Ways to Give

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ONLINE www.catholiccharities.net/donate
BY MAIL CATHOLIC CHARITIES
75 REMITTANCE DR, STE 1623
CHICAGO, IL 60675-1623
2016 UPCOMING EVENTS

**April**
- **MEALS ON WHEEL DINNER DANCE**
  - Saturday, April 2
  - Maravela’s, Ingleside
  - (847) 782-4115
- **HEARTS FOR HOPE DINNER & AUCTION**
  - Saturday, April 16
  - Schaumburg Golf Club
  - Schaumburg
  - (847) 376-2118
- **LEGAL LIFELINES COCKTAIL RECEPTION**
  - Thursday, April 21
  - Union League Club
  - of Chicago
  - (312) 655-7290
- **25TH ANNUAL BLOSSOMS OF HOPE BRUNCH**
  - Sunday, April 24
  - Drury Lane
  - Oakbrook Terrace
  - (312) 948-6797

**May**
- **SPRING LUNCHEON**
  - Thursday, May 12
  - Barrington Hills
  - Country Club, Barrington
  - (847) 782-4115
- **THE ART OF CARING**
  - Saturday, May 21
  - Exmoor Country Club
  - Highland Park
  - (847) 782-4115
- **AFTER SUPPER VISIONS EXHIBIT & SALE**
  - Fri./Sat. June 10/11
  - 721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago
  - (312) 655-7003
- **DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER LUNCHEON & BOUTIQUE**
  - Thursday, June 16
  - Westmoreland Country Club
  - Wilmette
  - (847) 376-2121

**June**
- **ANNIE RYAN RUN**
  - Sunday, June 5
  - Elmhurst
  - (312) 948-6797
- **CHARITIES GOLF CLASSIC**
  - Monday, July 25
  - The Knollwood Club
  - Lake Forest & Shoreacres
  - Lake Bluff
  - (847) 782-4115
- **GOLF INVITATIONAL**
  - Wednesday, July 27
  - Cog Hill Golf & Country Club
  - Lemont
  - (312) 655-7290

**July**
- **P.A.R.T.I.C.K. J. RYAN GOLF OUTING**
  - Thursday, August 18
  - St. Andrews Golf & Country Club
  - West Chicago
  - (312) 948-6797

www.catholiccharities.net/events