



The

# Hopeliner

Fall 2017

A Publication of Catholic Charities

## THE RETURN OF ST. MICHAEL'S SWORD

**S**t. Michael's Parish has long been a mirror, reflecting the history of the city of Flint, intimately intertwined with the highs and lows faced by our beloved city. The parish itself has dates back to the early 19th century, when five Irish Catholic families began holding prayer services in Flint in 1834, and requested a priest from the bishop in Detroit to preside over them. The following year their request was granted and St. Michael's was officially established. Three churches have been built on the site over the years to meet the needs of the parish as it grew. The first was built in 1844 but by 1880, the community had outgrown it and a larger church was built which served the parish for 81 years until the current church was built in 1966 and St. Michael's School was built in 1928.

The founders of St. Michael's could have never known that their name sake would serve as such an important symbol of both the future of Flint or that the site would eventually become the campus of Catholic Charities. When the school was built a statue of Archangel St. Michael was embedded in the south east corner of the building. St. Michael, the first Archangel created by God, is the leader of all the Archangels and provides protection, courage, strength, truth and integrity. St. Michael also oversees those who feel called to help heal the world.

Sadly, for some time now the hand and sword of St. Michael have been missing, perhaps another act of celestial symbolism in to the decline of the city of Flint. How the sword came to be missing has been lost in the annals of time and it may have never returned except for the kindness of Lyle Vance. Lyle is a masonry foreman working on the renovation of St. Michael's School during its transformation into the new and improved Center for Hope. While emptying the rooms before the renovation, the broken



hand of St. Michael was found in one of the storage room closets. When Greg Coultier, Catholic Charities Facility Supervisor, asked Lyle if he could reattach the hand, Lyle went one step further, 'I just didn't think it was right to reattach the hand without a sword' he said. Despite being the Restoration Specialist for

**“My daughter is an art student and she helped me grid the sword onto the stone and I carved it with wood chisels...”**

Davenport Masonry, he had never undertaken an art related project on his own. With a piece of limestone he had at home, he found a picture of a similar statue and fashioned the new sword by hand. He laughs as he remembers, 'I didn't even have the proper tools for carving in stone. My daughter is an art student and she helped me grid the

*Continues on page 3*

# Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties

The Most Reverend Earl Boyea  
Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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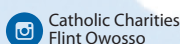
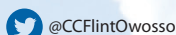
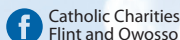
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## LETTER FROM THE DESK OF OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

### You have given hope... one life at a time.

In the past year you have shared so much with us! Thank you for your prayers, your hours of volunteer time and your financial gifts to bring hope to those in need. In this season of Thanksgiving, we are feeling very blessed to announce the **Grand Re-Opening of the Sister Claudia Burke Center for Hope**. With your help, our dream has become a reality!

~ *This is your personal invitation* ~

**to join us on Friday, October 27  
at the Center for Hope for a celebration  
with generous donors, friends, community  
leaders, members of our board and our  
own Reverend Bishop Earl Boyea who will  
bless our facility at 1pm.**

For many, the Center for Hope at Catholic Charities is the beginning of a new path for recovery. We have always offered foster care and adoption services and mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery services. We provide free water, food and basic needs giveaways, clothing, housing assistance and furniture. In addition to a hot meal, the Center will now have a place to enjoy

a warm shower with a laundry facility. The staff and volunteers at Catholic Charities recognize that we are all one in God's community and that the cornerstone of healing Flint is first and foremost to restore dignity and hope to its residents, creating this sense of community. The Center offers just that—hope for each new day, hope for a city that will never give up and hope for children and families who want to thrive again. Beginning in October, we hope that you will join us to recite the Rosary before lunchtime at the North End Soup Kitchen (NESK).

**Please consider an increased gift this year to help us meet the many growing needs we have at years end. Your gift will mean so much to so many.**

**We are truly grateful for your ongoing prayers and generous financial support.**

May God bless you  
and your family,

Vicky L. Schultz  
President/CEO



# Help is waiting.

**Catholic Charities offers outpatient  
counseling services for children, teens,  
adults, couples and families.**

*When life gets hard, and "you have fallen, get  
up. Never stay down. Get up and let people  
help you to your feet."* —Pope Francis

## COUNSELING SERVICES

Depression, Anxiety, Grief & Loss, Divorce, Anger  
Management, Substance Use, Addiction, Family Crisis,  
Domestic Violence, Parenting, and Pregnancy.

**Not Catholic? No Problem!** We Serve All People.

Most insurances accepted. Fees based on a sliding scale.

Supported by federal and state dollars through Region 10.





## RECOVERY CONTINUES FLINT WATER STILL NOT SAFE

**We are still in need of water for the residents of Flint. If you would like to contribute to the water crisis, please consider donating see below for more details.**

According to a press conference held on Friday, September 15, 2017, the flintwaterstudy.org confirmed that Flint water is still not safe despite reports to the contrary. *'We have repeatedly stated, our belief that no tap water in the U.S. can be made completely safe for all people at all times. All claims about safety must be made relative to existing federal regulations or levels of contaminants found in water of other cities. We concluded that Flint water now has lead levels in the range of other cities with old lead pipes.'*

The organization urges everyone to use filters or bottled water to further reduce consumer exposure to contaminated water in Flint. This report comes just as MLive reported that Lead in Flint's water increased fetal deaths and lowered fertility. Catholic Charities is still distributing water on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-1pm, with our food distribution, behind St. Michaels Church on Saginaw Street.



[www.gofundme.com/waterforflintccsgc](http://www.gofundme.com/waterforflintccsgc)

**We have raised \$24,184 of our \$50,000 goal! During the Flint Water Recover efforts, Catholic Charities is providing help to those in need. In addition to our distribution site, there are filling stations at the Center for Hope and North End Soup Kitchens.**

*The Return of St. Michael's Sword continued...*

sword onto the stone and I carved it with wood chisels which took me about eight hours'.

Perhaps the most inspirational part of this story is that Lyle wanted no special credit for replacing the sword. 'I was trying to sneak it back on so that no one would know how it got there but Greg caught me putting it back

**// I was trying to sneak it back on so that no one would know how it got there //**

in place,' he said, 'and it fit perfectly on the first try'. Of course we could not let him go without receiving the credit he deserves. He said he really didn't mean for it to be such a big deal, but we at Catholic Charities think it is a very big deal.

At a time when it finally seems things are starting to change for the city of Flint, Catholic Charities continues to strive to meet the ever-changing needs of the people. There could be no better time for St. Michael's sword to be restored to him. This symbol



Vicky Schultz, CEO, Lyle Vance

beautifully represents a fusion between the healing mission of Catholic Charities and the fighting spirit of the city. For all the things Flint may not be, it is a city filled with heart, determined to survive, and filled with people who genuinely care about the city's future. As St. Michael's school enters the next phase of its evolution on a site which has been serving Flint residents for almost 200 years, the restored sword of St. Michael will serve as a beacon for the community, providing courage, direction, hope and healing.

## THURSDAY MASS

**J**oin us on the third Thursday of every month as we celebrate Mass in the chapel at St. Michael's Church. Mass begins at 8:45 a.m. This starts your day perfectly...and in the company of friends!



## HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

If you would like us to pray for you or your special intention at our third Thursday Mass, email us [givehope@ccsgc.org](mailto:givehope@ccsgc.org)



**4th Annual Charity Drive**  
November 22, 2017  
Noon - 7 pm

CNL ward has partnered with the Flint Firebirds again this year to help 'Stuff a Truck' for those most in need. Get a free ticket to that night's Firebirds game at 7pm against Saginaw Spirit for donating five or more items or 1 warm coat/thick blanket. (one ticket, per person, per donation - first come first served). They will be collecting non-perishable food items, toiletries and winter wear Catholic Charities.

**For more information go to:**  
<http://goclward.com/about-us/community-involvement/stuff-the-truck/>

NEEDS FOR

**OCT. - Toothpaste & toothbrushes**

**NOV. - Dish soap**

**DEC. - Socks, towels, toiletries and new toys**

**HOPE**

**IN A BOX**





# HEALING A CITY ONE LIFE AT A TIME

## The re-opening of the Sr. Claudia Burke Center for Hope

In a city that helped build America, hope is often in short supply. Jobs are scarce – violence, illiteracy, and crime are prevalent. Young people are being raised in an environment of poverty and despair. Foreclosures and anxiety, joblessness and poverty – all contributors to depression and domestic violence – are destroying families. Clearly, help is needed.

For many, The Sister Claudia Burke Center for Hope at Catholic Charities is the beginning of a new path for recovery, adoption services and mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery services housing assistance and referrals for food and furniture. Perhaps equally important is that the Center offers a place to sit

and play cards after a shower and a hot meal creating a sense of community. The staff and volunteers at Catholic Charities recognize that we are all the same beneath the surface and that the cornerstone of healing Flint is to first restore dignity to its residents and make them feel like valued members of the community. The Center for Hope offers just that – hope for each new day that comes, for a city that won't give up on the individuals and families who live here.

After years of planning and preparation Catholic Charities embarks on a new era of healing in Flint. The Sr. Claudia Burke Center for Hope will soon be a reality. In spring 2016, construction and demolition began, and the renovated facility is now slated to open to the public on Monday, October 30, 2017.

With more than 30,000 square feet, the newly renovated Center will be able to offer a more comprehensive solution with expanded programs and services. The facility creates an attractive, highly functional environment, while preserving many of the architectural and historical elements of the building. Showers for men and women, a laundry room, and a

Hamilton Health Network micro clinic are among the new services. The Center for Hope Soup Kitchen is also excited to have recently hired Suntunya Williams, a qualified chef from Kansas City MO, who will provide high quality, nutritious meals with a flair, for clients.

Of course the services that Catholic Charities has always provided will continue on an expanded scale- namely the Community Closet, Volunteer Workroom, Work Ready Room, and Prevention Services. CEO Vicky Schultz says, "We are feeling very blessed to have completed our dream. This building will allow us to reach more individuals in desperate need, such as the homeless, veterans, children and families, more efficiently and effectively. We are truly grateful to the donors and organizations that provided their financial support, prayers, volunteer time and talents to make the Center a reality."

The light is at the end of the tunnel for and Catholic Charities welcomes everyone to join us for the Grand Re-Opening of the Center will be held on Friday, October 27, 2017 to celebrate the opening and thank everyone involved with the project. The project has been a labor of love and we hope you will come see the unveiling!

**// we are truly grateful to the donors and organizations that provided their financial support, prayers, volunteer time and talents to make the Center a reality. //**

Beginning at 1pm, Bishop Earl Boyea will bless the new Center and perform the ribbon cutting ceremony. As the community continues to combat economic issues and deal with water recovery, the Center for Hope will play a critical role in reaching those who need a helping hand toward a brighter, healthier future.



# CARL'S STORY

## COUNSELING WITH HEART

Since the era of Temperance we have been told a story about substance abuse that is as deeply ingrained in our society as it is inaccurate.

Moreover, while we as a society have been focused on the law enforcement aspect, or trying to pin down the genetic cause of addiction, we have failed to ask the two most important questions: Are there environmental influences which cause some people to become fixated on a drug or a behavior until they can't stop? How do we help those people to come back to us? The answer, it seems, is both extremely complex and shockingly simple.

Carl began receiving counseling as a result of a court ordered Alcohol Treatment Program at Catholic Charities. He received his wakeup call in 2015 when he was pulled over for a blown tail light and was arrested for driving under the influence. Prior to Carl's issues with alcohol, he had lived a very normal life. He worked maintenance for ten years and at General Motors for a couple of years before the collapse of the auto industry. He also worked for United Way for twenty years and served as a volunteer basketball coach for the Boy Scouts of America. Life was going good for him.

Carl grew up on a 275 acre farm, the youngest of 7 children. He describes his childhood as very happy, surrounded by siblings, cousins and every farm critter imaginable. His aunt and uncle also lived on the farm with their 6 children so his sense of family and community was very strong. When Carl was 40 his mom died and within a few years he had also lost 3 of his brothers. "I think this is what threw me off my square," he says. To cope, he started to use alcohol as an escape from his feelings of loss and loneliness. "At first I was real angry with the judge, until I realized that I was responsible. I never thought I would say this, but I am thankful for the judge sending me to Catholic Charities and the Alcohol Treatment Program."

Most of us believe that substance abuse is a result of the drug itself, that the chemical hook is so strong that addiction is inevitable. Some would even argue that there is a genetic predisposition to addictive behaviors, however this argument ignores the fact that many traits inherited from

our parents have nothing to do with genetics but rather are handed down as learned behavior. Nor does this theory explain those who do not have a family history of substance abuse. It is true that for most people the initial decision to use drugs or alcohol is voluntary; over time changes in the brain caused by repeated abuse can impair a person's ability to make responsible decisions while simultaneously creating an intense impulse to take drugs/alcohol. However, this is not the whole story.

During the Vietnam war, Time magazine reported using heroin was "as common as chewing gum" among U.S. soldiers, and there is solid evidence to back this up: approximately 20 percent of U.S. soldiers had become addicted to heroin there, according to a study published in the Archives of General Psychiatry. However, according to the same study, 95% of the addicted soldiers simply stopped when they returned home.

This is not the only instance where substance abuse stopped as a result of a change in environment, blowing away the theory that the chemical hook is solely responsible for substance abuse. We live in a time when society has become increasingly cut off from making the human connections we require to live a healthy life. Some have coined this the 'age of loneliness'. Today's research is becoming increasingly clear that abstinence alone is not an effective treatment for substance abuse; behavioral therapy is the best way to ensure success for most patients.

When Carl lost his loved ones his sense of community took a devastating hit. The people he had spent his life bonding with were now gone and emotionally the rug had been pulled out from underneath him. The therapists at Catholic Charities understand this. Before Carl started meeting with counselors at Catholic Charities, he said that he couldn't relate to people, so they couldn't teach him. "I tried Alcoholics Anonymous, but that wasn't enough." Carl was struggling in his personal life, had gotten into trouble and was required to seek out help, but said that it wasn't until he started meeting with people who really cared about him, at Catholic Charities that his life started to move forward and change for the better.

Carl describes his recovery journey like a "newborn" crawling before walking, and needing

someone's hand to hold while crossing the street. He said that the staff at Catholic Charities, from the front desk to the counselors, really made him feel cared about and encouraged him. He felt their sincerity and they helped him to grow in his understanding of how to relate to others and take positive steps for himself. When asked how he is doing today, Carl has a big smile and lots of hope for his future.

Healing substance abusers by strengthening the human connection may sound like an easy solution; however it is incredibly complex because it requires us to challenge everything we have been told about addiction. Recovery is not just about the individual, it is about relearning how to interact with ones community, love and be loved- and it is very hard to love an addict. In Carl's case it was fairly easy to identify the cause



Jan Gee, Clinical Supervisor,  
Carl, Wilhemeina Ross, Therapist

**// Recovery is not just about the individual, it is about relearning how to interact with ones community, love and be loved //**

of his sense of loss and isolation however many people struggle to see the forest for the trees, which is why behavioral therapy is so essential.

Today at age 58 Carl has been sober for 18 months. His aunt died on December 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, but this time thanks to his counselors at Catholic Charities he had the tools he needed to grieve without turning to alcohol.

Catholic Charities offers a variety of substance abuse counseling services. If you or someone you know is struggling with a substance use problem or addiction, Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties can help. They accept many insurance plans; we can work on a sliding scale and / or possibly help you access treatment services at little or no cost to you. For more information contact them on: Genesee County (810)232-9950, or for Shiawassee County (989)723-8239.



# COMING HOME... AND RECONNECTING

Imagine... it's 12:01 am; you are leaving prison after 30-40 years behind bars. No smooth transition, no one on the other side of the gate to greet you, they just open the doors, in the middle of the night and you are free. You have nothing but the clothing on your back; no food, no money, and no place to stay. Just imagine how that might feel. Flint, Michigan has the second largest population of returning parolees in the state, with over 700 men returning in 2017. Some of them will re-offend to go back prison because they feel lost and helpless. All of them will find re-connecting to everyday life difficult. The challenge will be an uphill climb, overwhelming, even terrifying—without help. They face the reality of returning to a city they no longer know, filled with blight and now the Flint water crisis, with little chance of getting a job in a struggling economy. The challenges faced by

those coming out of the prison system are almost beyond comprehension for most of us.

In 2015, Dennis Weinand, Executive Director, started Re-Connections, a faith-based organization whose goal is to assist in the transition of post incarcerated individuals back into their families and communities. He brought his mission of empowering citizens with felonies through coaching, education, and employment to Catholic Charities in 2015.

In 2009, Dennis was serving at a Christian camp when he picked up a brochure seeking a mentor for a post-incarcerated individual. Something in his heart prompted him to meet with Pastor Terry, who was heading the program. He was encouraged to mentor a returning citizen in Lapeer County. Dennis recalls, 'I had never been interested in this area of outreach until that camp encounter. God, however, had much bigger plans...' Since that day Dennis has helped

many men with their re-entry after returning from prison.

Re-Connections graduate Charles Hughes went to prison in 1985. He was 21 years old. Charles remembers Flint as a different city, 'I've seen a life that many people really wouldn't understand. Thirty years ago, it wasn't like this, children were still playing in the streets, everyone was sitting on their porch enjoying the summer... I grew up in a neighborhood where everyone cared for everyone's child.'

The early 80's began to see the early effects of the decline of Flint. In 1981 two of Charles' sisters started doing drugs and getting involved with prostitution. Despite constant threats and beatings Charles continued to try to get his sisters off the streets but with no success. He became more and more angry with what he saw happening in the community until finally, in 1984 a drug dealer opened a house on his block. He didn't know it then, but this would begin the events leading up to his incarceration, he had become a young angry man, raging against the injustice he saw happening around him and it landed him in prison.

Charles was one of the first graduates of the Re-Connections Program. After leaving prison he was moved to a transition house and came to Catholic Charities for food and clothing. One of the requirements of the Re-Connections program is 100% attendance for classroom and training sessions. More than once Charles had no choice but to walk the 10 miles from Coldwater Road to Catholic Charities, but his determination to finish the course was unwavering. He said that, 'until I came to Catholic Charities I didn't realize that there are people to really care about people in

**// I've seen a life that many people really wouldn't understand... children were still playing in the streets, everyone was sitting on their porch enjoying the summer //**

prison.' Today Charles has moved back into his family home, which he has renovated himself to make it habitable.

So strong was the impact of Catholic Charities on his life that he accepted a part time position in the Facilities/Maintenance Department here at Catholic Charities. Charles said, 'When I got the call from Vicky she asked me if I would like to come work for her I said YES MA'AM and didn't hesitate for a second!'

If you are interested in getting involved with the Re-Connections Program, we accept donations of lightly used professional clothing, work clothing, and professional expertise. In addition, we are always looking to expand our partners willing to hire graduates of the Re-Connections. Visit [www.re-connections.org](http://www.re-connections.org) or email Dennis Weinand at [reconnections.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:reconnections.dennis@gmail.com).



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# Gardening with God's Assistance: Surprise windfall from the Ruth Mott Foundation

Greg Gaines didn't want the job. He already had a job. No. Nope. Not interested. He turned them down three times. However, "Something was bothering me," Gaines says. He couldn't sleep. Finally, he called Catholic Charities and five minutes later, Mr. Gaines was hired into the program that is now his namesake: the Mr. Gaines Gardening Program PLUS.

That was 27 years ago and Gaines, now 68, is still at it because, "When God's got something for you to do, He also finds a way for you to keep doing it." says Gaines, with a kind smile.

It was a sunny afternoon. Mr. Gaines knew something was up as soon as he walked in the room. "Mr. Gaines, I'm happy to inform you that the Board of Trustees for the Ruth Mott Foundation has named you the winner of the inaugural Ruth Mott Foundation Leadership Award," said Handy Lindsey, the Ruth Mott Foundation's president. Mr. Gaines smiled and gave a little clap.

Mr. Gaines brings out the best in so many. Since 1990, Mr. Gaines' nurturing, firm hand has been at the helm of the garden program, which has employed about 1,600 Flint-area young people over the years.

Yes, he teaches them how to grow food, but that's only the beginning. Mr. Gaines instills so much more into his kids. He instills and nurtures a strong work ethic and self-confidence. He teaches them how to shake hands and how to look people in the eye. He teaches how important all the little things they do—and the little things they don't do—are.

The recognition comes with a \$25,000 award for the winner to give to a nonprofit of his choice, "to advance the winner's work in the community."

Mr. Gaines Gardening Program PLUS, operated through Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties.

Back when it all started, "I didn't know a green from a weed," says Mr. Gaines with one of his quiet laughs. And, well, now—"It grew beyond my expectations." In many ways it is a farm-to-table program—students plant, grow, and harvest the vegetables; they sell their goods at the Flint Farmers' Market; and they learn some cooking skills, too, so that they can each make a family dinner by the end of the 12-week program—but it is the PLUS in its name that probably really captures what Mr. Gaines teaches. The PLUS stands for "people learning useful stuff" and that's what Mr. Gaines does. His kids walk away from their experience with job skills, personal finance lessons, nutrition

information and a paycheck.

"It is so fitting that Greg Gaines is the first honoree of this award," said Harriet Kenworthy, vice chair of the Ruth Mott Foundation Board of Trustees and chair of the Leadership Award's Selection Committee. "Greg has been a positive role model for a tremendous number of young people and he is a phenomenal leader who is building other future leaders in Flint."

Mr. Gaines is a bit of a living legend. He's won lots of awards, including the Michigan's Farmer of the Year Award. The truth is, though, the honors he relishes are seeing the kids who grow through their experiences and create better lives for themselves. "We've been at this 20-some years now, and we've got kids that came up through the program scattered across the country and doing very well for themselves." Gaines says. "Every summer, they always come back and see how we are doing."

The Ruth Mott Leadership Award program recognizes individuals working to make a difference in the lives of Flint residents by advancing one or more of the foundation's priorities: youth, safety, economic opportunity,



Vicky Schultz, CEO, Handy Lindsey, President Ruth Mott Foundation President, Greg Gaines, Program Manager

neighborhoods, and Flint water. Mr. Gaines considers it a great honor to be the first recipient of this award and has already put the funds to good use by donating back to Catholic Charities for use in the garden program.



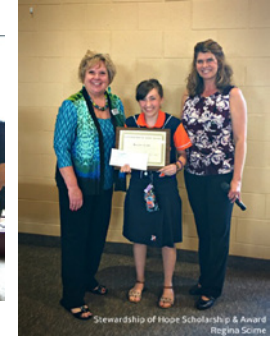
**LEAVE A LEGACY**

*"Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish yourself. It's what you do for others."*

**You can provide a brighter future for vulnerable men, women and children with a gift in your will to Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties**

To help future generations, name Catholic Charities as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement account or insurance policy. You will become a member of our Legacy Society when you include us in your estate plans.

For more information contact Joan Clarke (810) 232.9950 or [jclarke@ccsgc.org](mailto:jclarke@ccsgc.org)



# WE APPRECIATE YOU!

## VOLUNTEERS DON'T JUST DO THE WORK, THEY MAKE IT WORK!

Winston Churchill said, 'we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' The power of volunteering has been documented for the last 2,500+ years, however a slew of recent research is shedding even more light onto the personal benefits.

Anyone who has spent time volunteering will tell you that they get just as much out of the experience as they give. A simple google search will confirm that those who volunteer experience less depression, live longer, meet new people and learn new skills. Perhaps that is why we have such wonderful group of people committed to making our work at Catholic Charities possible. At our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in April, we celebrated our volunteers for their outstanding commitment of 72,868 volunteer hours which helped us to serve 197,187 meals in our soup kitchens, help 53,334 people through our community closet, and much more.

### Volunteer of the Year - GISD Retirees Group

The GISD Retiree's Group was formed when Brenda Maynard, who retired from GISD after more than 27 years, contacted John Manse looking for a volunteer opportunity. Jim and Monica Horton, Sandy Mann, Sheri Mykietiuik, Theresa Shepard, Margaret Smithwick and Candy Wagner soon joined her. This group of dedicated volunteers had worked with moderately/severely cognitive, emotionally, physically, hearing/visually impaired individuals, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder. According to Brenda, "We think of our time spent at NESK and CFH serving as an extension of what we did during our working years. We love ending with new people, laughing, and knowing all our work is appreciated."

### Special Recognition Award- Pedro Gatica, Costco

Pedro is one in a million. He was one of nine children, born and raised in Flint. When the water crisis hit, Pedro says he hated seeing what was going on in his hometown and wanted to help. Pedro has worked at Costco in Auburn Hills for more than 27 years and is known by his

co-workers as a "Costco Ambassador." Once he became involved with Catholic Charities, Pedro found himself becoming a "Water Ambassador." Organizations and individuals from across the country have filtered through Costco, and Pedro has gone the extra mile to personally manage countless deliveries.

### Hands of Hope Award - Karen Church, ELGA

**Credit Union** Karen was introduced to the credit union philosophy of "People Helping People" working a co-op position at ELGA Credit Union her senior year in high school in 1974 and in 1993 was named CEO. She is especially proud of her associates as they are truly committed to serving others. Karen serves on Catholic Charities Board of Directors, and is involved in her community. Karen spends countless hours each year organizing a giant garage sale that benefits Catholic Charities. She is an active member of her church, Zonta, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Community Foundation's Women and Girls Fund.

### Business Donor of the Year Award- Donna's

**Donuts** Alicia Gibbons has owned Donnas for the past 3 1/2 years. However, Donna's Donuts have helped the soup kitchen many times over the past 30 years. Alicia has provided Catholic Charities food program about 300 or more dozen donuts for our meals EACH WEEK. This saves us thousands of dollars by not having to purchase desserts for our meals. As any volunteer that have cooked and served at the soup kitchens knows, Donna's Donuts are a staple of the meals and continuously on our menu each and every day!

### Church Parish Award- Assumption Greek

**Orthodox, Grand Blanc** Since September 2015, Assumption Greek Orthodox has volunteered the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month at our Center

for Hope Soup Kitchen. Their group leaders, Fr. Angelo Maggos, and Volunteer Group Coordinator, Lori Photiou, assist a group that prepares food at the church and brings it to the Center for Hope, giving our cooks and our budget a much needed break. In addition, they donated a new Commercial Stove Top and Oven, Commercial Can Opener, and a Commercial Convection Oven valued at over \$10,000. We can't thank them enough for their contributions!

### Youth in Action Award- Vickie Weise & City

**School** Vickie has been coming to the North End Soup Kitchen with her students for over 30 years. With the help of Dot and Jim Gregory students get involved in their community by holding a "Hometown Heroes" event, inviting seniors to their school and meeting with veterans at Abbey Park twice a year. At NESK, the students cook, serve the meals and distribute over 1000 gifts to area children that visit the soup kitchen.

### Stewardship of Hope Scholarship & Award-

**Regina Scime** A few years ago, Catholic Charities created a new scholarship opportunity called the "Stewardship of Hope" to help encourage and reward student volunteers. The winner of this year's scholarship, receiving a check for \$1000, was Regina Scime. She was extremely helpful during her volunteer service. She also held a can good drive at her school collecting more than 725 lbs of food for our Soup Kitchen's pantry.

They say volunteering your love makes you feel more love. Admittedly, love is a hard thing to measure. But when researchers at the London School of Economics examined the relationship between volunteering and measures of happiness, they found the more people volunteered, the happier they were. Volunteering builds empathy, strengthens social bonds and makes you smile — all factors that increase the feeling of love, and we must admit, with almost 300 volunteers in attendance at this year's Appreciation Dinner, there was a lot of love in the room.





## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### HOPE IN A BOX

Collect hygiene items for our Community Closets in designated boxes at your church or business. Each month, we send out flyers highlighting a particular item that is needed.

### HOPE IN A BOX FOR KIDS

Just like Hope in a Box, this program is geared to schools, youth groups, clubs, religious education classes, etc.

### CLOSET CLEANING FOR A CAUSE

Clean out your closets and donate gently used clothing and household items.

### FOOD DRIVE

Collect canned goods and non-perishable food items for our three soup kitchens and Owosso food pantry.

### DONATE BUS PASSES

Help someone get to and from their counseling appointments or to a job interview.

### VOLUNTEER – COMMUNITY CLOSET

Volunteer at the Community Closet in Flint to help with organizing donations, welcoming clients, and assisting them to find things they need.

### VOLUNTEER – SOUP KITCHENS

Prepare and serve a meal at one of our three Flint Soup Kitchens.

### GROUNDSKEEPING

Help with spring planting to keep our Mary Garden, Peace Park, and yard clean and beautiful.

### DONATE

Monetary contributions are always welcome.



## World Class Bar-B-Q makes a World Class difference!

**D**avid Burton loves to talk barbecue, but he also loves to talk about the community.

Dave, owner of World Class Bar-B-Q at the intersection of Saginaw Street and Pierson Road, opened the seasonal, open-air barbecue stand almost twenty years ago as a way to give his stepson and nephew some summer work, never believing it would become a beacon of great food in Flint. "It just kind of took off," he said. "Since then, the customers won't let us shut down."

While Dave may be an award winning grill master at the weekends, he is semi-retired is an accountant. Born in 1947 in Mississippi, his family moved to Flint when he was four and he has watched Flint struggle over the years so his desire to give back is strong. Six years ago Dave decided to dedicate the last weekend of the BBQ season to raise money for charity. When asked why he chose Catholic Charities, "the Holy Spirit guided me, we are located on the north end of Flint and all summer we see folks headed to the North End Soup Kitchen, so we know how important the work Catholic Charities does there is. When I was at MSU there was an emphasis that you have social responsibilities," he said. "I've always tried live that way."

Not only does Dave donate all the proceeds

from the 4 day BBQ, his staff also volunteered to forfeit all of their wages and tips to help support the event and reach their goal of \$100,000 over the last 6 years. Not only did they reach their goal but they exceeded it for a grand total of \$105,068.73!

But his generosity doesn't end there, the weekend after the fund raiser Dave and his crew holds a free pig roast for the local community. When ask what he does when he's not tending the BBQ he grinned and said 'go fishin'. We at Catholic Charities think he's earned it!

All through the summer season, World Class Bar-B-Q serves up some of the best BBQ in Flint, every weekend from 11 a.m. and 11 p.m, be sure to look for him next spring!



I would like my Hopeliner newsletter e-mailed to me!

(Please complete and return this form)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



# WAYS to GIVE

PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.

As a generous benefactor, you have unique gifts and reasons for giving. There are many ways to give, and each gift will be carefully used as directed. Giving is not just about making a donation; it's about making a difference.

**CASH** Cash donations of any size are gratefully accepted. Mail your check to Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties, 901 Chippewa Street, Flint, MI 48503 or visit catholiccharitiesflint.org.

**CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES** Make a gift and receive steady payments in return. Your annuity payments will not be affected by economic downturns, and will continue for life.

**CORPORATE GIVING** For many companies, giving to Catholic Charities is a compelling way to support the communities where they do business. Make a program grant, sponsor a special event, host a food or clothing drive or volunteer.

**VEHICLE DONATIONS** We accept cars, trucks, boats and RV's. Pick-up is free and we do all the paperwork.

**EVENTS** Become involved in one of our fundraising events as an individual or corporate sponsor, a ticket or table purchaser, a member of a host committee or a volunteer.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS** Bring gently worn clothes, household goods and furniture. We will pick up large donations anywhere in Shiawassee or Genesee Counties. Please call 810 785 6911 to arrange pick up. For all other in-kind donations call Mary Stevenson at the Center for Hope.

**MATCHING GIFTS** Ask your employer if a matching gift program is offered. You may be able to double or triple your generosity with a matching gift.

**ONLINE GIVING** Online giving is safe, secure and fast. Go to catholiccharitiesflint.org to donate.

**PLANNED GIFTS** To help future generations, name Catholic Charities as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement account or insurance policy. You will become a member of our Legacy Society when you include us in your estate plans.

**STOCKS AND SECURITIES** Gifts of appreciated stock may result in tax savings.

**TRIBUTE GIFTS** You can make a donation in memory of a loved one or celebrate a special occasion.



*"We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give."*

*-Winston Churchill*

**Monetary gifts can be sent to:**

Catholic Charities of Genesee County  
901 Chippewa St. Flint, MI 48503 • (810) 232.9950

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee County  
1480 N. M-52, Ste. 1 Owasso, MI 48867 • (989) 723.8239



of Shiawassee and  
Genesee Counties

For answers to your questions about giving, contact Joan Clarke, Director of Development at (810) 232.9950 or jclarke@cscg.org



When children are removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, or an unsafe environment, it is a traumatic experience. All of their possessions; whatever will fit – are put in a single garbage bag and they leave immediately. This is how many start their journey in search of a caring, safe foster home. Your home.

## Steps To Becoming A Foster Parent:

- Educate yourself.
- Contact our agency.
- Attend an orientation

## Comprehensive Adoption Services include:

- Monthly informational meetings for those interested in adoption.
- Home studies for domestic and international adoptions
- Education and training meetings for adoptive parents
- Adoptive parent support groups

## Post-Adoption Services

These services provide support for adoptees and birth parents who wish to search for their biological parent or child.

## General Foster Care Services

We recruit, train, and license individuals and families interested in becoming foster parents for Catholic Charities. Children placed in foster care have been removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect. Our goal is permanent placement for a child in a loving, caring, and safe environment.

For information,  
call (810) 232.3418

INNOVATIVE HEALTH MAGAZINE PROUDLY PRESENTS

# THE Freedom RING

HELP US HELP OUR VETERANS THROUGH THE CIRCLE OF GIVING

Please consider purchasing a Freedom Ring and/or a subscription to Innovative Health Magazine. A portion of your purchase will be donated to Catholic Charities. For more information call 810-487-9790 or visit [www.thefreedomring.us](http://www.thefreedomring.us).

If you would like to subscribe to Innovative Health Magazine visit [www.innovativehealthmag.com](http://www.innovativehealthmag.com)

*Let us all band together for freedom!*

Purchase a ring for a veteran in your life... in memory of a veteran... or because you know that freedom is not free! By purchasing a Freedom Ring you will be helping a veterans' agency, disabled veterans' organizations or a veterans' support group of your choice!






**Every Tuesday & Thursday we distribute**

**FREE**

**food & water**

**NOON-1pm**

In the parking lot behind St. Michael's Church  
609 E. Fifth Ave, Flint 48503

## Our 2017 Wish List

- Picnic table for our Mary Garden
- Gift Cards – or school uniforms, shoes, pajamas, and stuffed animals for kids needing care
- Infant formula & baby wipes
- Kitchen towels & aprons for soup kitchens
- Furniture & appliances for families in need
- Work boots & career attire for work ready program
- Respite for senior caregivers, everyone needs a break!
- Personal care items
- Cleaning supplies
- New desktop scanners
- Lawnmower

**WE PICK UP LARGE ITEMS ANYWHERE IN GENESEE OR SHIAWASSEE COUNTIES**



Christmas is near....



## Adopt a Child

Be the difference  
this Christmas to  
a family in need.

Registration will be held:  
October 16-20 • 9:30am-1:00pm

### Catholic Charities' North End Soup Kitchen's Gym

735 E. Stewart Ave., Flint, MI 48505  
(1 Block E. of Saginaw St.)

*For more information*

(810) 785.6911 • Email John Manse at [jmanse@ccsgc.org](mailto:jmanse@ccsgc.org)  
Office hours 9:00am-4:00pm



Non-Profit  
Organization  
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**PAID**  
Flint, MI  
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