



*The*

# Hopeliner

October 2021

A PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

# 80 Years

Providing Help & Creating Hope  
in Genesee County since

# 1941

## Past, Present & Future

Hear from our Leadership Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Excited about the Future.

## Fostering Love

One Woman's Journey to  
Becoming a Mother.

## Driven to Succeed

On the Road with Jesus



# Catholic Charities

of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties

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Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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**CONTACT US**  
In Genesee County:  
Main Office  
901 Chippewa St.  
Flint, MI 48503  
810.232.9950

In Shiawassee County:  
1480 N. M-52, Suite 1  
Owosso, MI 48867  
989.723.8239

Community Closet  
810.232.9950 ext. 712

Meal Programs  
810.785.6911

Foster Care and Adoption  
810.232.3418

www.ccsge.org  
email: givehope@ccsge.org



## Celebrating the Present

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here we are,  
Celebrating 80  
Years of Service

in Genesee County. The past few years have been eventful, to say the least, but nothing could have prepared us for what we are experiencing now. Truthfully, I really feel this has been an eye-opening period for everyone.

As a faith based, non-profit organization, COVID-19 has shown us just how adaptable and nimble we must be when our community needs us. I am so proud of my staff for their patience as we navigated the ever changing mandates and procedural changes. I am grateful to our volunteers, without whom we couldn't do what we do, and to our donors, who continue to step up during these challenging times.

In March 2020, Catholic Charities had just taken on the HARA (Housing Assessment Referral Agency) designation for Genesee County, when we received the directive from Governor Whitmer to shut down, and work from home where possible, except for essential workers. Well, most of what we do is essential services.

Countless residents rely on us, and the pandemic impacted almost all of our programs. Loss of income created greater demand for daily meals in our Soup Kitchens; Counseling for mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence increased due to the isolation of being at home; children in Foster Care anxiously waited to see their biological parents; in an attempt to control infections, prisons furiously released inmates who would need our help and direction to start their new lives back in the community; our Housing Department was inundated with people who needed assistance with rent and utilities to keep them from being evicted from their homes; and our Community Closet experienced an increased demand for

personal hygiene products, clothing and household items.

As challenging as it was to navigate, we didn't close our doors even once! And that, my friends, is cause for CELEBRATION! In fact, we have had so many "wins" in the last few years! We were one of the main hubs for water distribution when the water crisis hit in 2016, and still provide filtered water every day to those who need it. We finished renovations on the Center for Hope in 2017, making it possible to serve more people and create new programs. We also secured the state contract for the Offender Success Program which has blossomed into a model of excellence for helping parolees return to our community and become successful citizens.

Today's challenges are unlike any this organization has faced before. For many, times continue to be tough – making us even more resolute to stay true to our agency's mission and vision – providing our community with the **Help** and **Hope** it needs to move forward in faith, laying the groundwork for another 80 years of service. We draw strength from our shared purpose, knowing our work is bringing comfort and peace of mind to those who come to us in need.

Serving as CEO at Catholic Charities in Genesee County is the most satisfying experience of my career. I remain committed to my faith and to my passion for helping those in need. With guidance from the Holy Spirit, the help from my dedicated staff, and hundreds of amazing volunteers, I will continue to lead this organization into the future, offering help and hope wherever it is needed.

*Vicky L. Schultz*, President & CEO  
**Thank You!**

To stay up to date with our programs and services please visit our website at [www.ccsge.org](http://www.ccsge.org).





# Fostering Love

## One woman's journey to becoming a mother.

**Ashley Allen began her journey at Catholic Charities as a foster parent and ultimately adopted two brothers. These are the words she used to inform us she will no longer be fostering (for now).**

*In November 2014... seems so long ago... I decided I was going to read the Bible cover to cover because I wanted to understand what was in it and make decisions for myself. As a skeptic about the Bible, I was not buying that this old book had anything for me.*

*So, I set off on this journey. While I was reading, weird things started going on within myself. I started feeling there were things that I needed to do, and I couldn't describe where the feeling came from.*

*For example, I needed to save \$5,000 and clear my upstairs rooms, which were used for storage. I didn't really know why I needed to do these things, I just assumed there must be a reason.*

*January 2015, a young woman I have loved very dearly her whole life, told me that she was pregnant. She said she just wasn't in the position to be able to take care of the baby.*

*This got me thinking about what my life would look like with a child in it. I decided that my single awesome party life really didn't need to go on any longer and that it could be made better by a small human.*

*I began to do some research and found that children at age 5 have a less than 20% chance of getting adopted. A 5 year old is a baby for goodness sake!*

*I had already been communicating with Amy Lee, an Adoption Specialist from Catholic Charities, who I was referred to by a friend. Soon, we were talking about adopting and getting a foster licensed. When I knew that I was moving this direction, I realized that I needed to do some home improvements to make the house*

*better for a child. I remodeled the bathroom, bought new windows, and built a third bedroom. The repairs cost \$4,980, which I had already saved, and those rooms I cleaned out are where all my children have slept safely.*

*By September 2015, my forever child was in my house ready to teach me lots that I never knew I didn't know.*

*Catholic Charities has been with me through the last 5 years of fostering. It's not at all what I visualized that I was going to be doing. I never in my life thought fostering could be so hard. I was definitely one of the people who thought foster parents made a lot of money... I'm laughing right now thinking of all the money I have spent on all the kids!*

*I researched before I became a foster parent. I learned about trauma. I really thought I knew what I was getting into. I had to walk a long windy path to get to where I am right now.*

*This is what I've learned. I've learned that the majority of foster parents move with their hearts forward, even if sometimes they don't know what to do with their love or know how to help all the time. They need help and guidance, because they don't get a degree to take care of kids, they just know we want to love kids and help.*

*I learned the social workers are right there next to sainthood. They have so much influence in foster parents' lives. It feels like your whole life is in their hands and when you have a good social worker, it really feels nice to be supported. As a foster parent you're not looking for a crown or angel wings, you just want to know that somebody has your back and is there to help you make it feel a little bit more doable.*

*Lastly, I was one of the people who said that biological parents need to get their life together so they can get their kids back.*

*I've realized that there's so much more to that story. Most of them need love and support too, and it's so important for kids to know how many people love them including people that may not be able to keep them safe.*

*I had always thought about fostering but I never really thought I would actually do it. I know this is what God wanted me to do. He let me tear my heart into pieces and give a piece to every child that has been in my house.*

*It's amazing that when you give them your protection, your heart swells and gives love to them. I've never felt the depth of emotion that I*

***"He let me tear my heart into pieces and give a piece to every child that has been in my house."***

*have felt since becoming a foster parent. I know that my journey never would have felt fulfilled without Catholic Charities. I think you are incredible, wonderful people.*

*I don't know where my journey is going to take me. I might be calling you in a year and saying "wait! don't close my license! I can't stop loving and protecting children who need a strong rock to lean on for a while!"*

*Whether you see me coming back or see me somewhere else. I hope to see you all again, because you have no idea what incredible things you have done for me and my family. Child Welfare has been a beautiful, heart wrenching, mind bending, awful, exciting, amazing, loving, difficult, and blessed experience. It is everything all in one and I would do it all over again.*

*Even as incredible as it has been, I must focus on my perfect little men and give them everything I have got. You never know. Zeke is already asking for a baby sister..lol! For now, I am closing my foster care license.*

**With So Much Love,**



Ashley Allen

**To learn more about becoming a foster parent contact our Children's Center on 810.232.3418**

# Honoring the Past

**Robert Sibilsky, Board Member**

The mission of Catholic Charities of Genesee and Shiawassee Counties has always been the work of the Catholic Church, to share the love of Christ by performing the Corporal Works of Mercy. Jesus taught us to act on the Corporal Works of Mercy as a way of showing our love for him and spreading his love to others. That is why I'm so blessed as a member of the Board of Directors. We are drawn by those directions of Jesus Christ and our natural desire to assist those less fortunate in our community.

Catholic Charities has evolved over the last 80 years from a small office in the United Way building, into a large campus on Fifth Ave including: the Sheridan Center which houses Counseling and Prevention, the Center For Hope, the Children's Center and, more recently, Catholic Charities' Conference Center and St. Michael Chapel. Additionally, Catholic Charities operates the North End Soup Kitchen, the South Flint Soup Kitchen, and the Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse. The Shiawassee County office, in Owosso, has also grown over recent decades and includes a Community Closet, Food Pantry, Counseling, and Prevention.

I can only imagine how happy Fr. Earl Sheridan, who started the agency in 1941, would feel if he were here to witness the number of souls that have been helped over the last 80 years. Of course, none of this would have happened without the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Committed Heroes who poured their hearts and compassion into Fr. Sheridan's legacy.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the incredible contributions of some of these exceptional and faithful people. Reverend Monsignor Earl Sheridan, after starting the Agency, became the pastor of St. Michael Church in 1950, oversaw the construction of the current church in 1965, and would call it home until he retired in 1975. He was also an active member of many social groups including Kiwanis, Elks, Knights of Columbus and the American Association of Social Workers. He was a truly inspiring servant of God.

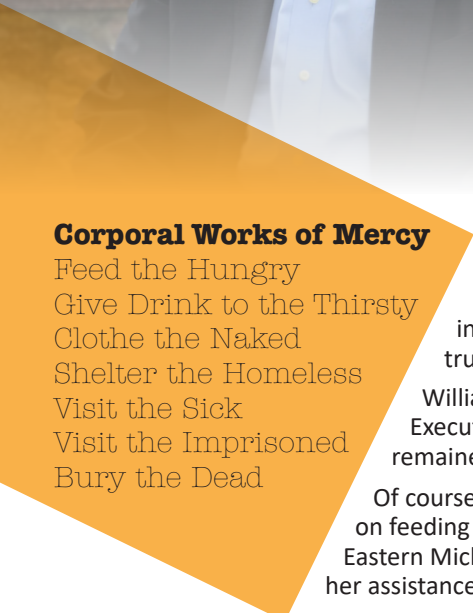
William Haley started his tenure as a Social Worker and in 1966 became the first lay person to become the Executive Director. He too was committed to helping people in Genesee County. Even after retirement he remained involved in Genesys Hospice, the St. Joseph Guild, the Knights of Columbus, and the Sons of Italy.

Of course no one can forget Sister Claudia Burke, a Franciscan Sister of the Poor. She was a feisty nun who focused on feeding and financially assisting those in need. She was instrumental in forming what is now the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Perhaps some of you may remember her as the Bingo Queen, as she was able to fund many of her assistance programs with money she earned hosting Bingo events.

John Manse, Director of Community Services, joined the agency in 1995. Since then he has worked tirelessly running our meal programs, the North End Soup Kitchen Summer Camp, and more recently the Catholic Charities' Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse. The North End Soup Kitchen could not operate without the hundreds of caring community churches and people who VOLUNTEER their skills and time.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the many exceptional members of the current and past Board of Directors, including the deceased Dr. Gary Lipe past Board Chair. Last, but certainly not least, I am so grateful for the vision, dedication, and energy of Vicky Shultz, current CEO of Catholic Charities. "No" is not in her vocabulary. When there is a need in the community, she finds a way to meet it.

We know that without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Agency could not have achieved what it has over the past 80 Years. It is a history that we are very proud of and we are eternally grateful to **EVERYONE** who has made it what it is today!



## Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Clothe the Naked
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Sick
- Visit the Imprisoned
- Bury the Dead

## Why Monthly Giving Helps us Plan for the Future!

We appreciate every donation you make at any time of the year to help us carry out our work. By giving regularly you can help us have a greater impact. Regular gifts ensure we can better plan our future, as we know we can rely on regular funds from recurring donors. By relying on single donations, we have to predict how much money we will receive from an event or campaign.

Having a predictable income is especially crucial when we are faced with unexpected circumstances such as the Flint Water Crisis or the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you are a frequent giver, becoming a monthly donor also helps you spread the cost of your support over the year versus donating larger sums at infrequent intervals.



Monthly Giving

To set up a monthly donation plan scan the QR code or contact:

Theresa Hurley  
810.232.9950 ext. 710  
thurley@ccsgc.org



# Excited About the Future

**Karen Church, Board Chair**

As Catholic Charities embarks on a new decade of service in Genesee County, we are excited for what the future holds! The services we offer may come and go, as the needs of the community shapes our future, and we pray that one day our services will no longer be needed, but until that times comes, we will answer God's call to provide help to those in need.

We will continue to look for innovative ways to fund our programs while meeting the needs of the community. We are so excited to announce the launch of our plans to renovate St. Michael's Church into a beautiful new Conference Center! This new facility provides additional space for Catholic Charities' programs. Every step of the renovation process will be done with prayer and much care to preserve the legacy and beauty of St. Michael's Church and ensure the integrity of the building is preserved. The extraordinary stained-glass windows will be a gorgeous feature of our design.

It will be available to host small business meetings, conferences or large celebrations! Not only will it provide income for our programs, our vision is to create a training center for people interested in the food and service industry. We hope to provide our clients with more than just a hand out, but a hand up, by providing employment opportunities that help break the chain of poverty so many people in our community face today.

We are also in the beginning stages of a "tiny homes" village that will be constructed across from our North End Soup Kitchen, for veterans experiencing homelessness. The intention is not only to provide food and shelter to get our local heroes off the street, but to provide community and counseling, creating a path to a better future. We are also hopeful that this model of housing and its wrap around services can be duplicated throughout the counties we serve as a means of providing affordable housing to those in need.

And so it is with immense joy and humble gratitude, that I ask you to raise your glass and say, "Cheers to 80 Years!" On behalf of the the Board of Directors and all of the staff here at Catholic Charities, we couldn't do it without you!

*"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brethren of mine, you did it for me."*

*Matthew 25:40*



# 7 Awesome Reasons to Volunteer!

Did you realize just how important volunteering could be for the volunteer? Volunteering is beneficial for a whole host or reasons, and while studies do show that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment. Even giving in simple ways can help those in need and improve your overall health and happiness.

**1. Volunteering connects you with others**

If you're feeling lonely, isolated, or simply want to widen your social circle, volunteering in your local community is an important – and often fun – way to meet new people with similar interests and passions.

**2. Volunteering builds self-confidence & self-esteem**

Doing good for others and the community helps to create a natural sense of accomplishment. And working as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity, helping to boost your self-confidence further. Research shows that volunteering could be particularly useful in boosting the self-esteem and confidence of adolescents.

**3. Volunteering is important for physical health...**

Interestingly, volunteering has distinct health benefits that can boost your mental and – perhaps more surprisingly – physical health. Indeed, a growing body of evidence suggests that people who give their time to others might benefit from lower blood pressure and a longer lifespan.

**4. ...and mental health**

When it comes to volunteering being important for mental health, the benefits are clear. It can help counteract the effects of stress, depression and anxiety. Indeed, the social contact aspect of helping others can have a profound effect on your overall psychological well-being.

**5. Volunteering is important for a sense of purpose**

Because volunteering means choosing to work without receiving monetary compensation, people often choose to give their time to issues or organizations they feel are important or have a special connection to. Volunteering like this helps address a social problem that is meaningful to you and in turn helps to build a sense of purpose.

**6. Volunteering helps you forget your own problems**

One other benefit of volunteering is that focusing on others can give us a deeper sense of perspective and help distract us from negative thoughts and help stop rumination. Volunteering often involves helping those in need and can be useful in showing us that, in fact, our own lives are not as bad as we thought they were.

**7. Volunteering is important for your career**

In an increasingly competitive job market, volunteering experience can be incredibly useful. It shows potential employers that you can take initiative and that you're willing to give your own time to improve the world for other people.

*Sign up today!*

Using the camera on your phone, scan the QR code to sign up to be a volunteer.



**VOLUNTEER**

# Celebrating 80 Years of Providing Help &

**1941** Father Earl Sheridan, a young priest with a Masters in Social Work, formed the Catholic Social Services Bureau and was joined by three Franciscan Sisters of the Poor. Father Sheridan and the Franciscan Sisters offered family counseling. In the 1940's the Bureau also ran a sandwich program, and any hungry person who knocked on the back door of the Holy Angels Convent was fed. The Bureau recognized even the most basic needs and worked on assisting in any way they could.



**1965** Father Sheridan was appointed Monsignor and resigned his position as Executive Director of the Agency. He was replaced by Father Francis Murray for one year.

**1966** Bill Haley, a caseworker for the Agency, became the Bureau's first lay Executive Director. That same year, the Agency changed its name to Catholic Social Services of Flint.

**1982** Sister Claudia Burke and a group of dedicated volunteers established the North End Soup Kitchen (NESK) located on Stewart Avenue.

**1987** The North End Soup Kitchen and the Holy Angels Sandwich Program merged with Catholic Social Services (CSS).



**1988** Ne...  
Foster Care Pr...  
of Private Child

**1990** Ca...  
education pro

**1994** De...  
TH...  
Program was i...  
and home.

**1997** Ca...  
Un...  
Sheridan Cent...  
Catholic Social...  
the Flint Agen

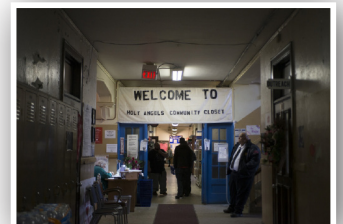
**2007** Vicky Schultz was appointed President and CEO of Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties. Vicky previously worked with CCSGC from 1999-2001 as the Director of Development, and was excited to return.



**2008** The Agency expanded by securing contracts with Genesee County Community Mental Health to incorporate a Women's Specialty Program, Role Induction, and Intensive Outpatient Therapy. Contracts were also added with the Michigan Department of Corrections to provide substance abuse and sex offender treatment. The Personal Needs Closet was expanded to include clothing, household items, furniture, and appliances. It relocated into Sacred Heart Church, and became known as the Community Closet.



**2010** The acquisition of the former St. Michael's School allowed the Agency to expand programming. The Community Closet relocated from Sacred Heart over to the school. C.S. Mott Foundation increased funding to the Agency and North End Soup Kitchen is able to serve a dinner meal. The Agency also partnered to open the Warming Center in the winter which stays open 24/7 during the winter months.



**2021** On June 3, 2021 St. Michael Catholic Church held its farewell mass and the facility became part of the Agency Campus. Plans began to convert the former worship space into a beautiful Conference Center. The Offender Success Program moved into the former rectory and the Housing Department moved into the basement.



**2020** COVID-19 became a global pandemic and 4 in 10 individuals sought food assistance for the first time. The Agency increased food distribution and the Counseling Department introduced Telehealth. The Agency became the Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA) for Genesee County known as One Stop.



**2017** Renovations on St. Michael School were begun in March and the Sr. Claudia Burke Center for Hope officially opened to the Public in October. The Owosso office had outgrown its location on Exchange Street and relocated to a larger space on N. M-52 in Owosso. The Agency secured the State contract for the Offender Success Program.



# Creating Hope

Horizons, a foster care program for teen mothers and their babies was named Innovative Program of the Year by the Michigan Federation of Child and Family Agencies.

Catholic Social Services started drug and alcohol dependency and prevention and programs for youth and families.

Deborah McCormack joined CSS as President. The Families and Schools Together (F.A.S.T.) was introduced to help youth succeed in school.

Catholic Social Services moved from the small United Way building (downtown Flint) to the new center on Chippewa Street. This same year, Catholic Services of Shiawassee County merged with the Agency.

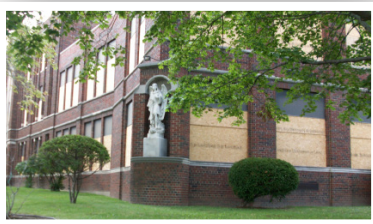


**2001** The Agency name was changed to Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties (CCSGC) in order to be more recognized across the country, with Catholic Charities USA. Program growth continued with the expansion of contracts for family reunification, parenting, and drug court services.

**2003** The Agency launched a Capital Campaign and raised \$1.7 million to renovate and expand the main offices in the Sheridan Center on Chippewa Street and install an elevator.

**2006** National Council on Alcohol Addictions (NCAA) merged with Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties, and the Agency inherited the additional substance abuse programming. The Agency's budget tripled and staff grew to approximately 75 employees during this time.

**2011** St. Michael School next to the Sheridan Center was re-dedicated by the Bishop and renamed to be the Sister Claudia Burke Center for Hope in memory of Sister Claudia. She continued her services at Catholic Outreach assisting those needing help with personal needs, utilities, rent assistance, and food until her death in 2010.



**2012** The Agency expanded to include Housing and Urban Development programming by offering supportive services through homeless case management and homeless substance abuse case management. It was also awarded funds for a Transitional Housing Program for homeless individuals with co-occurring disorders.



**2013** Catholic Outreach merged with Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties, and services expanded to now include utility and rent outreach assistance, food bag give-aways, and the St. Christopher Medical Transport Program which transports kids all over the state to hospital and doctor's appointments.



**2016** The Flint Water Crisis became public and the Agency was one of the first on the scene to assist with water distribution. Donations from all 50 states flooded in. The Agency celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a reception featuring clients served, community partners, Board Members, and staff. The Agency provided services to over 30,000 people annually through the support of over 100 employees!



**2015** The Agency partnered with United Way and the Salvation Army on water efforts to Keep the Water Flowing, and was asked to join a collaborative workgroup pertaining to Energy Assistance to help improve clients gaining better access to services. The Agency passed their accreditation through the Council on Accreditation for substance abuse, mental health, and prevention education services.



**2014** The Work Ready Room Program was established in the Center for Hope for those utilizing the Community Closet to prepare for employment through dress, interview prep, and resume assistance. The Agency partnered with non-profit, Re-Connections, to provide collaborative training and assistance for parolees.



# Cheers to 80 Years!



Our *Cheers to 80 Years Celebration and Chair-ity Event* was a **HUGE** success! The food and entertainment were great, the tables were beautiful and our guests were wonderful and generous! Together we raised more than \$135,000 to help those in need! The Planning Committee would like to thank everyone for taking the time and effort to celebrate with us. Please accept our sincere thanks for adding to the joyfulness of our Anniversary Celebration with your attendance and donation. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!





Thank You!



TO OUR  
**SPONSORS**  
*Thank You!*

**Providing Help**

**\$10,000**

*ELGA Credit Union  
Goyette Mechanical  
Molina Healthcare*

*Holy Redeemer Soup Kitchen Volunteers*

**Keeping Faith**

**\$5,000**

*Blue Cross Complete of Michigan  
Cameo Event Planners  
C & S Motors Inc  
Genesee Ceramic Tile  
Genesys PHO  
HAP*

**Spreading Joy**


**\$2,500**

*Ascension Genesys  
Genesee Health System  
M & M Travel and Tours  
Savita & M. Rao Tummala Foundation  
St. John Vianney  
St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church*

**Sending Love**

**\$1,000**

*Applebees  
Carriage Town Ministries  
Case Construction  
Cubrco, Inc  
Commercial Case Works  
Commercial Graphics  
Communication Technologies, Inc  
Flint Provision  
Hamilton Community Health Network  
Horizon Group of Raymond James  
Hurley Medical Center  
Huntington Bank  
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Serra Foundation  
Signs by Crannie  
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Re-Connections  
Wolverine Fire Protection  
Dcn & Mrs. James Kasprzak  
Dr. Bobby Mukkamala  
Jesse & Barb Ortega  
Robert Sibilsky Family  
Michael Carr Family  
Kathleen Hayes*



**We would like to extend a heart  
felt THANK YOU to everyone  
who made our Anniversary  
Celebration so wonderful!**

*Chef Besh & Cameo Event Planners  
Jazz on Wheels  
Deacon Ron Kenney*

**Chair Donors**

*Kellie Pardi, Keri Brack, Kish Mahoney, Leslie  
Daunt, Greg Coulter, Don Root, Teresa Kogut*

**Planning Committee Members**

*Lori Richardson, Suzanne Shew, Rhonda  
Erickson, Tanya Jefferson, Karen Church, Leigh  
LaForest, Debra Collins*

*Volunteers: Amber Tayler, Helen Alexander,  
Sharon Ganssley, Janet Cotton, and Carol  
Throne, ELGA Staff and Catholic Charities Staff.  
All our Generous Sponsors, Donors,  
Silent Auction Contributors, Chair Artists and  
Auctioneer Sheriff Chris Swanson*

# Live Auction



**Be Still and Know**  
Artist: Kellie Pardi



**Gone Fishing**  
Artist: Don Root, Greg Coulter



**It's the Weekend**  
Artist: Greg Coulter



**Friends Forever**  
Artist: Kish Mahoney



**Angel**  
Artist: Teresa Kogut



**Victorian Rose**  
Artist: Keri Brack



**Garden Tea Party**  
Artist: Lesley Daunt



**Jokers Wild**  
Artist: Kish Mahoney

# Silent Auction

## 1. His & Hers

Donor: Sugarbush, Copper Ridge, Corcova, Lynn & Dave Soave  
Round of 18 for 4 w/Cart, Round of 18 for 2 w/Cart, cart valet, Salt Lamp & Spa Gift Certificate

## 2. Slam Dunk

Donor: Pistons  
2 Tickets & VIP Parking

## 3. Contemplating

Donor: Chef Besh  
Large Painting

## 4. On the Town

Donor: Karen Church, Phil Schaltz  
Limo, Redwood Lodge gift card

## 5. Gourmet Grand Blanc

Donor: Oliver T's, Great Harvest  
Gift Basket

## 6. Shop Local

Donor: Gerych's Greenhouse  
Gift Basket

## 7. Arm Chair Quarter Back

Donor: Skaff  
Blue arm chair

## 8. Coming up Roses

Donor: Vogt's  
Gift basket

## 9. Weekend at Bernies

Donor: Brienne & Josh Ingersoll  
2 night stay in Cheboygan vacation rental - sleeps 15

## 10. Go Blue

Donor: Brokerage Real Estate Group  
2 tickets to UM game on Sept. 18  
Sweatshirt and Yeti Coozie

## 11. Here Comes Santa

Donor: Nicholas Wambach  
Custom outdoor holiday display.  
Includes Set up and Take down.

## 12. Date Night

Donor: Whiting, Fenton Hotel  
2 tickets to the Nutcracker  
Dinner for 2

## 13. Count Your Blessings

Donor: Pat Cronley  
10 ft. pew from St. Mathews Church

## 14. Stepping Out

Donor: Whiting, The Laundry  
2 tickets to choice of show, Lunch for 2

## 15. Fancy Pants

Donor: Whiting, Relief & Resources  
2 tickets to Flint Symphony  
Appetizers & Drinks

## 16. Hop Around Town

Donor: Jason Warda, The Corner Bar/  
Lake Ponemah, El Tapo  
Fenton Hopper (limo bus), Gift Card

## 17.. Flint Town

Donor: Hilton Garden Inn  
Hungtington Bank, Farmers' Market  
Night Stay, Weather Ball Tour, Gifts

## 18. Go West

Donor: Hampton Inn & Suites (Grand Rapids)  
Brown & Brown Insurance  
Night Stay, Visa gift card

## 19. Death by Chocolate

Donor: Sweets by Susan Marie  
Chocolate Pizza and gift card

## 20. Cat Nap

Donor: Karen Church  
Wicker basket chair



# Driven to Succeed

On the Road with Jesus.

Many people don't realize that when you leave prison, you leave with nothing more than the clothes on your back. Scott Lenderman of Flint was 60 years old when he left after 11 years of incarceration. It is a lonely, isolating experience, one that can leave parolees feeling so lost and untethered that they reoffend just to go back to prison- where at least life is predictable. Our goal is to make sure that from the moment someone comes to us they feel people care about their success. "Catholic Charities is amazing with what they supply you," Scott says. "When you first come out of prison you have nothing."

Under the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Catholic Charities' Offender Success Program is a public safety program based on 20 years of research of what works to help prisoners succeed when they return home. It strives to provide seamless services to prisoners from the first day of their sentence until they are released from prison and complete parole. It engages community groups as vital partners, it lays out clear expectations for parolees, and it holds them accountable for their behavior through enhanced supervision,

ultimately leading to a successful returning citizen and safer community. The program runs in partnership with Michigan Works, Michigan Rehabilitation Services and local employers and educational institutions. Scott was determined to succeed and stand on his own, but he needed help and compassion to guide him through the process. "I have never had to depend on anybody before. I couldn't do what I have done without the Lord putting these people in my life at the right time," says Scott. "I don't know where I would be without them. I really don't."

Living in the transitional house after his release from prison, Scott was required to finish all his tasks and be home by noon, which included walking and navigating bus schedules.

"This one morning a cold front came through. It started raining. I was freezing waiting for the bus," Scott says. "I saw Catholic Charities. Dennis was standing in the foyer. He took me by the hand and got me a winter coat. I have warm clothes thanks to this organization."

Scott knew what he wanted to do for his new career – drive a truck. To

reach that goal, he had to work hard and learn new skills. The first step was to sign up for driving school, but the three-week class on how to drive a semi-truck cost \$4,300. Scott didn't have the money, but he knew the funds existed for him to take the class and get his Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

"It took a while," he says about finding the funding for school. "I was determined to get it done. I did a lot of walking. At sixty with a bad knee, it wasn't easy some days. All you have to do is look for the help and everyone down here has been extremely nice. They don't look down on you or judge you."

Once he secured the tuition for school, Scott signed up with Tri-Area Trucking School. He stayed focused through the class, knowing the CDL would change his life.

"You have to learn about three hundred different things about the semi," says Scott. "I was studying every night for three or four hours." After he passed the CDL test, Scott faced his next hurdle – sending out resumes for a job. "I knew nothing about computers at all," he says. "I walked to the bus station and I was

down here three to four hours a day putting in resumes. I had to turn down thirty to forty jobs because I couldn't go out of state. Now I have a great job," says Scott. "It just worked out perfect. It's a forty-five-minute round trip. That was the criteria I had to meet. The Lord somehow put it together."

Scott admits he did not always trust in God. "I didn't know the Lord until I went to prison," he says. "I knew I needed someone to hold on to. I have studied the Bible. I know the Lord says if you do your part, he will do his part. He showed me miracles. If you pay attention a little bit you can see the miracles he does in your life. Now I look for those things. I see them all the time."

The biggest miracles in Scott's life have been the people who guided him and supported him along the way. "It's amazing that all these people have been put in my life," says Scott. "The

way things fell into line, every time. There's only one reason – that God is working in my life." For over two years, Scott has been driving his route and hasn't missed a day and he has an apartment to come home to every night. From work clothes to connecting with the right people, Catholic Charities was there to support Scott every step of the way.

His mistakes in life cost him dearly, but without those mistakes Scott wouldn't know God's love. "It's just amazing," he says. "I'm so grateful for what I have. I want people to know God works in your life. I lost everything, but I see the Lord now."

More than 90% of prisoners eventually return home. Before the Offender Success Program was implemented, far too many prisoners had little support in their transition back into their communities, and almost half returned to prison within two years.

This revolving door resulted in more victims and added costs to a prison system, diverting precious resources from other priorities like higher education, public schools, and health care. As a result of lack of transitioning programs, the State of Michigan has decided that the best way to prevent crime is to avoid crimes that result from a lack of resources.

By providing the needed resources and tools for this population, we have less victims, safer communities and a better economy due to a strong, qualified workforce. Additionally, this program, when successful, improves the quality of life of the family of the citizen returning home.

**If you or someone you know would like to learn more about this program please contact Robert Esselink on 810-484-2828 ext. 524**

# Mid Michigan Re Source Warehouse

A Program of Catholic Charities

## We're Expanding!

**MMRW doubles its floor space to include a Teacher Store!**

In January 2019 Catholic Charities teamed up with Good360 to become a Community Redistribution Partner to help Michigan non—profits get the resources they need. Since then the program has continued to grow!

MMRW is Available for all Mid-Michigan Non-Profit Agencies, Churches, and now all School Teachers. Teachers can join the new Teacher Store, located within the MMRW, with NO Membership Fees.

We have members from Detroit, Ann Arbor, Saginaw, Midland, Lansing, Flint, and other Mid-Michigan cities.

We receive thousands of items a day for our members to help with pantries and teacher's classrooms. Come and

see what almost 300 teachers have already discovered at the warehouse.

Through our partnership with Good 360, we receive items from Walmart and CVS as well as an Amazon Distribution Center. We will double our store space to accommodate all the items we receive. This means more to choose from for our members.

You can't beat the prices! Our fees on items are between 60-95% off retail store prices. There are sales monthly to give even more discounts to our members.

There are over 100,000 items in the warehouse such as clothes, shoes, baby items, bedding, bath, kitchen, home décor, health and beauty, school and office supplies, pet supplies, electronic items, arts and crafts, appliances, outdoor and tools, toys, and non-perishable food, candy and snacks.

During the holidays there will be thousands of Christmas items, Thanksgiving, Easter, and more displayed. Make your classroom stand out at a fraction of what you would pay retail or sponsor a family in need with Christmas Gifts.

All Profits from the warehouse go directly to the Catholic Charities Soup Kitchens.

Take a Tour and see how MMRW can help you. See our website for applications and video about the warehouse. The warehouse is located at 6340 N. Genesee Rd. Flint MI 48506

**For more information, please call John Manse at 810-785-6911 or the Warehouse at 810-391-2509. Or email us at [MMRW@CCSGC.ORG](mailto:MMRW@CCSGC.ORG)**

*Located At*  
6430 N. Genesee Rd. Flint

Located in the plaza on the east side of the road between Coldwater Rd. and Stanley Rd.



*Thank You!*

Without the support of Community Partners, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. Please accept our heartfelt *Thank You* for everything you do!



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Founded in 1928, this year marks the 93rd Anniversary of Goyette Mechanical doing business in Mid-Michigan. Three generations of the Goyette Family have kept the business growing and their legacy strong. What began as a small heating company in Flint, has steadily grown into a substantial Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical Contractor that works across the country.

Goyette strives to be a great employer and a responsible corporate citizen. The Goyette family is committed to Michigan and to remaining headquartered in Flint. Goyette is proud to support Catholic Charities and feels an obligation to give back to their community. Focused on delivering 100% Satisfaction, our clients know, "You Gotta Get Goyette!"

ELGA Credit Union is a full service financial institution established in 1951, celebrating their 70th anniversary this year! They have over 80,000 members taking advantage of great savings, loan, and investment options. They also offer trust services to help you plan your legacy.

The Credit Union's philosophy of **People Helping People** aligns well with Catholic Charities mission to provide hope and help for those in need. Each year, ELGA Credit Union partners with Catholic Charities on several fundraising events, including The Ginormous Tent Sale and the Chair-ity Auction. ELGA Credit Union associates have volunteered at the Catholic Charities Soup Kitchen. They also collect sock donations for the *Blessed to Be Blessing* event.

ELGA Credit Union is proud to support Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties and their core beliefs in compassion, education, hope, human dignity, integrity, love and respect.

Here for the **important Moments**  
SINCE 1951



**Proud to support Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties**

and their core beliefs in compassion, education, hope, human dignity, integrity, love and respect.



*By becoming a Community Partner you have the opportunity to show your customers, your competitors, your current and prospective employees that you are committed to building a better future for everyone.*

**To learn more or become a Community Partner please contact Theresa Hurley at [thurley@ccsgc.org](mailto:thurley@ccsgc.org)**

(810) 715-3542 • [www.ELGACU.com](http://www.ELGACU.com)

# Community Partners

investing in

# ope

Molina Healthcare is proud to be a Catholic Charities community partner! The work done by Catholic Charities is not only important but is necessary for the betterment of our community. Molina is dedicated to serving the underserved in our communities. We are thankful to have this resource available that addresses several social determinants of health (including: food insecurity, clothing, housing, access to healthcare, etc), and see the value the services offered give to our members, potential members, and the community at large. Thank you Catholic Charities for all you do and for allowing Molina Healthcare to partner with you!

**The MolinaCares Accord is proud to support the Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee counties.**

The MolinaCares Accord is an initiative committed to building stronger communities through improving people's health and lives.



## Silver Sponsors



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**Catholic Charities**  
 901 Chippewa Street  
 Flint, MI 48503



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 Flint, MI  
 Permit No. 599

# COVID EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

## COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA)

Having trouble paying or receiving rent? MSHDA (Michigan State Housing Development Authority) has federal funds available to help tenants facing pandemic-related hardships avoid eviction while also ensuring landlords can recoup owed rent through the COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program. MSHDA administers CERA through its statewide network of local nonprofit agencies.

### CERA PROGRAM - ZIP CODE DIVISION

 Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties	Phone # (810) 232 - 3777	 Genesee County <b>CARD</b> Community Action Resource Department	Phone # (810) 768 - 4675
	E-mail: cera@ccsgc.org		gccardncs@co. genesee.mi.us
48411	Atlas	48429	Durand
48415	Birch Run	48430	Fenton
48418	Byron	48433	Flushing
48420	Clio	48436	Gaines
48421	Columbiaville	48438	Goodrich
48423	Davison	48451	Linden
48437	Genesee	48457	Montrose
48439	Grand Blanc	48458	Mt. Morris
48442	Holly	48464	Otter Lake
48449	Lennon	48505	Flint
48462	Brandon	48506	Flint
48463	Otisville	48507	Flint
48473	Swartz Creek	48509	Burton
48502	Flint	48519	Burton
48503	Flint	48529	Burton
48504	Flint	48746	Millington
48532	Flint		



Catholic Charities is the Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA) in Genesee County, known as **One Stop Housing**, that provides comprehensive housing placement services for people who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of becoming homeless, or have special needs in Genesee County. We strive to eliminate barriers for those we serve by providing services that meets the needs of the individual and family and enhances the community safety-net by placing homeless service programs in one, easily accessible location.

To learn more visit:  
[www.ccsgc.org/onestophousing](http://www.ccsgc.org/onestophousing)

Highlighted = Multiple Counties

Genesee/Shiawassee	Genesee/Lapeer	Genesee/Lapeer/Tuscola	Genesee/Tuscola
Genesee/Livingston/Shiawassee	Genesee/Saginaw/Tuscola	Genesee/Livingston/Oakland	Genesee/Lapeer/Oakland