

CONTACT US

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Community Closet

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810-785-6911

Foster Care and Adoption

810-232-3418

In Shiawassee County:

989-723-8239



The

Hopeliner

Winter 2015

A Publication of Catholic Charities

email: givehope@ccsgc.org



It's Coming!



St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner, and Catholic Charities will be celebrating in a big way with our annual **St. Patrick's Day Box Lunch Sale!** This fundraiser has become a Flint tradition, offering a delicious boxed lunch that includes a sandwich, stacked high with corned beef and Swiss on rye, chips, coleslaw, pickle and a treat – still for only \$6.

The drive-thru will be open on Tuesday, March 17, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., in front of Catholic Charities' main office at 901 Chippewa St., next to St. Michael Parish in Flint, for order pick ups. Free delivery in Genesee County is offered for orders of 10 or more. The deadline for sandwich orders is Friday, March 6.

We have sold out of lunches for the last five years! Don't miss out. Order your box lunches today! 810-232-9950 ext. 325/226 or visit our website, www.ccsgc.org.

Be Irish for the Day



Catholic Charities will be partnering once again with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sullivan and O'Sullivan Division, to host a St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Following the annual 12:02 p.m. Mass on St. Patrick's Day at St. Michael's Parish in downtown Flint, Catholic Charities will host the Ancient Order of Hibernians and their guests for dinner in the Center for Hope Gymnasium, located right across Chippewa St. from St. Michael's Parish. Light refreshments will be served immediately following Mass and the dinner buffet will open at 2:00 p.m. Irish or not, everyone is welcome to come celebrate. More details will be coming soon to our website.



SAVE A STAMP!

Make a contribution now on PayPal.

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties

Fourth Annual NBC 25 Days of Giving

Special thanks to NBC 25 and Dort Federal Credit Union for once again sponsoring the "25 Days of Giving," which ran through the month of December. Thousands of pounds of food and hygiene items, as well as monetary contributions were donated to Catholic Charities' three soup kitchens, the Center for Hope Community Closet and Warming Center, helping to provide for those most in need.

Thank you to everyone!



From the Desk of Our President



When the weather turns bitter cold, many individuals and families find themselves in Catholic Charities Warming Center. Some have been evicted and are working toward housing, while others are chronically homeless. Regardless of their situation, people in need can find a hot meal, warmth, and safety in our Center for Hope Warming Center.

So many individuals and families turn to Catholic Charities in their time of need, counting on us to help them when they have no other options. I encourage you to join us in our work to make sure that the vital programs we provide can continue to ensure that no one is left out in the cold. Please use the enclosed envelope to Give Hope to a family in need.

Thank you for your continued support!

Vicky L. Schultz, President/CEO



What is Your Legacy?

Now is the time to consider how you will touch the lives of those who follow you. Discuss with your loved ones the possibility of leaving a gift to Catholic Charities in your will or living trust.

Your gift, in any amount, can make a significant difference in the lives of those who come after you. You choose how your bequest will be used by designating a program, or programs you would like to support.

We invite you to join our efforts to make a change in the lives of those in need. Our work of *Providing Help* and *Creating Hope* can be your legacy. For more information on how to make a will or living trust, talk with your financial advisor.

A SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

Please join us on Wednesday, April 15, at 3:00 p.m. in Catholic Charities Center for Hope Gym, 517 E. Fifth Ave. in Flint for our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner! Our volunteers do everything from cooking and serving meals at our Soup Kitchens to sorting clothes and distributing personal needs items at the Center for Hope Community Closet, and everything in between. The volunteers are the heart of our work," according to John K. Manse, Director of Community Services.



Volunteers from
Bristol United Methodist Church.

Schultz. "Our volunteers make the work we do possible. This dinner happens just once a year to acknowledge all they do for those in need, but, they are truly making a difference in our community every day."

The event, which is free to all Catholic Charities' volunteers, includes a delicious dinner prepared by John Manse, door prizes and annual awards. To reserve your seat at this year's dinner, or to donate a door prize, call (810) 785-6911 or mail jmanse@cscgc.org. Hope to see you there!



Students from Powers Catholic High School making Hope Soap in the Center for Hope Community Closet.

"We want each and every volunteer to know just how grateful we are for their dedication," comments Catholic Charities' CEO Vicky L.



What are you waiting for?



Become our fan on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/catholiccharitiesflintandowosso

Click "Like" to become a fan today!



<https://twitter.com/CCFlintOwosso>

Follow us!

FACT:

Last year, 16,309 volunteers provided more than more than 57,000 hours of service at Catholic Charities!

Thank You!

Driver's License and Substance Use Assessments

Catholic Charities offers assessments for the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Michigan Secretary of State, as well as courts and lawyers, for persons facing MIP, DUI, or DWI charges. Our licensed substance abuse professionals provide recommendations for further education, counseling or other interventions as necessary.



Owosso in need

Cold winter weather means higher heating costs for many local families who are already living on tight budgets. Our Community Closet and Food Pantry in Owosso is in need of toiletries and non-perishable food, as well as blankets, to help families in need. Items can be dropped off Monday-Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Fridays, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our office is located at 120 W. Exchange Street, Owosso, or you can call for the nearest Hope in a Box drop-off location.



Have you ever thought about adopting, or opening your home to a child who needs a loving foster family?

Catholic Charities offers free informational meetings, where all your adoption and foster care questions can be answered by one of our adoption specialists. No pressure, just straight-forward information. Call our Children Services Department for details, 810-232-3418.



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

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

Go to Amazon Smile and designate a portion of each purchase you make to be donated to Catholic Charities. It's the same Amazon you know, same products, same prices, same service, but .5% of each purchase can be designated to Catholic Charities!



Winter Chili Casserole

Meals by Manse



John Manse has managed our meal programs for more than 18 years. Check out this genuine North End Soup Kitchen Recipe that you can try at home!

This cold, windy weather gives you the perfect excuse to stay indoors and try a new comfort food. This recipe for Chili Casserole comes from John Manse, our Community Services Director, and Gloria Waite, NESK cook. Give it a try and let us know what you think.



- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ingredients: | 1 Can Kidney Beans |
| 1 Pound Ground Beef | 1 Cup Water or V8 juice |
| 1 Onion, Chopped | 1 Pinch of each: Chili Powder, |
| 1 Can Stewed Tomatoes | Garlic Powder, Salt & Pepper |
| 1 Can Tomatoes Sauce | 2 Boxes of Jiffy Cornbread Mix |

First the Chili:

(Makes enough for a family meal)

In a large saucepan, over medium heat, combine the beef and onion and sauté until the meat is browned and the onion is tender. Add the drained stewed tomatoes, tomato sauce, beans and water or V8. Season with the chili and garlic powders, salt and ground black pepper to taste. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, cover and let simmer for 15 minutes. (Remember, we want the chili thick, not watery.) Once the chili is cooked, transfer to a large, greased, glass baking dish (9 x 12).

Now the Casserole:

Follow the directions of the Jiffy Cornbread Mix, combining both boxes. Mix well in a bowl. (It will be a bit lumpy, but that's OK.) Gently pour or spoon over the chili until it is covered. Bake in a preheated oven at 400 degrees, for 15-20 minutes, or until golden brown. Let cool for 10-15 minutes before serving. For a softer crust, use a little cooking spray on top. To spice things up, add a finely chop a jalapeño pepper to the corn bread batter.

Bon appétit!

You can help us make this meal for those in need by donating any of the above ingredients to Catholic Charities Soup Kitchens. Non-perishable food items are also accepted at the Community Closet and Food Pantry in Owosso, or you can use the enclosed envelope to make a gift.



Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties

The Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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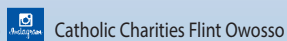
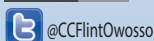
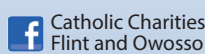
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**Are You Raising
a Relative's Child?**

Catholic Charities' Kinship Caregivers Program offers individual support, as well as workshop opportunities, for grandparents or other family members who are raising a relative's child. This program is free to residents of Genesee County. Call our prevention department for more information about groups forming in your area.

Providing Help.... Creating Hope

Is someone you know struggling with addiction? Catholic Charities can help. We specialize in addiction treatment, offering individual and group counseling as well as case management. All services are confidential. Help is waiting.

Call today...

810-232-9950 in Flint
989-723-8239 in Owosso

Looking for program information, upcoming events, and ways to get involved? Check out our updated website!

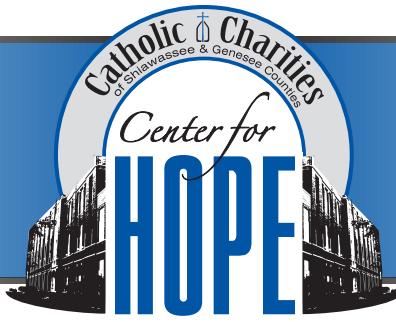


www.ccsgc.org



WANTED: A family to love.
Call: 810-232-3418





Restoring Hope

Nearly everyone in the country is aware of the economic turmoil that the recent recession has brought to Flint and Genesee County. What many may not know is that the situation began here long before it impacted the rest of the country. The rates of unemployment and homelessness, or near homelessness, have risen at alarmingly in the last few years. Here in Flint, three of the agencies tasked with serving the needs of this target population—Catholic Charities of Genesee County, Genesee Health System, and Resource Genesee have come together in an unprecedented collaborative effort, to create the **Sr. Claudia Burke Center for Hope**, developing plans to:



- Deliver a full range of services to meet physical and mental health needs, simply and efficiently
- Improve the delivery of human service needs through seamless agency interaction
- Provide a cost-effective method of delivery
- Capitalize on the strengths and resources of each partner agency
- Provide an opportunity to improve the quality of life for our target population by changing one life, one family at a time

The project involves a planned renovation of the site, centrally located in downtown Flint in the former St. Michael School building, now the Center for Hope, on Fifth Avenue, west of Saginaw Street. The building has already been assessed for future life and the planned renovations, estimated at \$5.5 million, will extend the building's service. Center for Hope partnering agencies are all currently funded for their individual operational and program costs, and plan to be funded into the foreseeable future.

Significant planning has already been completed and fundraising has begun. Renovations on the Center for Hope will begin later this year.

Every person has value and deserves the opportunity to receive basic needs and essential human services. The interactive coordination between partner agencies will provide a full range of services including meals, food pantry, clothing, personal needs, household needs and furniture, substance use and/or mental health counseling, housing assistance, recreational activities, warming center (during the winter months), along with laundry and shower facilities. Delivery of these services will be coordinated and performed at no cost to the target population, and will be done in a cost effective manner, eliminating duplication of services.

The Center for Hope will offer services to those who qualify solely based on need, without discrimination based on age, gender, religion or ethnicity.

Renovation Funding

The estimated cost for the planned renovation is \$5.5 million. Restoration will preserve this landmark, giving it a new role of service in the future of Flint for decades to come.



A young guest enjoying a treat in the Center for Hope Soup Kitchen.



A volunteer sorts children's coats in the Center for Hope Community Closet. Nearly 2,500 coats have been distributed since October 1.

Faces of Hope



S T E F A N

Stefan remembers having to sleep in an abandoned apartment building off Dort Highway in Flint several winters back with no blankets—only the clothes on his back.

“It was scary, cold,” said the 43-year-old Flint man. “I’m very grateful for the Warming Center—not having to be out on the streets. It is somewhere warm to lay my head down, and to eat.”

If not for the Center for Hope Warming Center, “I would probably be froze to death, robbed, or shot. There’s no telling what would happen,” Stefan said. At the Center for Hope, Stefan also is able to receive personal needs items, clothes, warm meals, blankets, and assistance with other needs.

“To be able to get all this in one location is a blessing,” Stefan said. Especially now since he has no transportation and is doing his best—at five years clean and sober from drugs and alcohol—to get back on his feet. Stefan has other challenges too,—including diabetes and neuropathy in his feet—that make it difficult to walk any long distance or stand on his feet for very long to do home remodeling work that he used to do. Getting to needed doctor’s appointments and other providers also is a challenge.

Beyond providing for his basic needs, however, Stefan said Catholic Charities provides him with hope that he eventually will have a place of his own to call home. With a warm place to stay and food to eat, Stefan is able to focus on the future beyond getting his basic needs met. He hopes soon to have a state ID that will help open doors for other assistance like Social Security Disability and Section 8 Housing. But for Stefan, it’s not all about receiving today—it’s also about giving back. He volunteers daily to help wash dishes in the soup kitchen and he helps clean the Warming Center.

“It’s all works of God,” he said. “I really like to help out in any way I can.”

FACT:

More than
100,000 points of service are
provided annually in the
Center for Hope.



**Find Catholic Charities’
Center for Hope
on Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/centerforhopeflint

Give 4

FAITH • FAMILIES • FUTURE
CATHOLIC CHARITIES CENTER FOR HOPE

Can You Give 4?

How can you give hope?
Can you give \$4, \$400, or \$4,000?
Can you give 4 blankets, 4 bars of soap, or 4 volunteer hours?
Anyone can join us to restore hope in our community, changing one life at a time. What will you Give4? How can you support the Center for Hope?

Welcome!

Two new programs are now joining us in the Center for Hope, to help provide more services for those in need. The MSU Extension Office is offering free nutrition classes in the Flint Rotary Club Life Skills Center. This is the first room in the Center for Hope to receive a facelift, thanks to a generous gift from the Flint Rotary Club.



Nicole Batway from the MSU Extension office, teaches a nutrition class to Warming Center guests.

Alternative Solutions will also be providing services on the second floor, helping to increase the educational achievements of young men and women, to encourage critical thinking, and to teach leadership skills, as well as to demonstrate the importance of community involvement. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with these programs in the Center for Hope.

**For additional information about the Center for Hope,
or to make a contribution, call 810-232-9950 x228 or email givehope@ccsgc.org.**