

CONTACT US

In Genesee County:

Main Office - 810-232-9950
Community Closet
810-265-7025
Meal Programs
810-785-6911
Foster Care and Adoption
810-232-3418

In Shiawassee County:

989-723-8239



The Hopeliner

Winter 2016

A Publication of Catholic Charities

email: givehope@ccsgc.org

St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser & Dinner



Two Ways to Celebrate & Support a GREAT Cause!

Catholic Charities' Annual St. Patrick's Day Box Lunch Sale, a Flint tradition to raise funds to support people during crisis is Thursday, March 17th. Drive up to our Center for Hope, 517 E. 5th Ave. off Chippewa between 10am and 1pm, and find the GOOOOD Luck-of-the-Irish in a savory corned-beef and Swiss sandwich stacked on rye, fresh coleslaw, crunchy chips, dill pickle, sweet-treat and bottled water - just \$7 each. Free delivery is available for Genesee County orders of 20 or more. **The deadline for orders is March 7th.** PRE-ORDER LUNCHESES TODAY!! Fax 810-232-3465, Ph 810-232-9950 ext. 325, website www.ccsgc.org.

YUM!



St. Pat's Dinner

YUM! St. Pat's DINNER with the Ancient Order of Hibernians - Show up in your finest Irish Green and join in for an amazing St. Pat's Dinner celebration with the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Enjoy dinner, dancing, music, a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle that will benefit Catholic Charities' Soup Kitchens. Dinner and Mass at St. Michael's, 609 E. Fifth Ave., Flint. Enjoy with us corned beef, cabbage w/carrots & potatoes, Irish stew, Mac-n-cheese, garden fresh salad and coleslaw...YUMmy desserts too! \$10 for adults, \$5 ages 5-12, under 5 free.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES JOINS STATEWIDE EFFORTS DURING FLINT WATER CRISIS

As Flint continues to struggle with water woes, Catholic Charities is providing help to those in need through its Center for Hope Community Closet located at 517 E. Fifth Ave. in Flint, distributing water from 9 am to 12 noon Monday - Friday. The North End Soup Kitchen located at 735 E. Stewart Ave., in Flint, is also distributing water from 11:30 am to 5 pm daily. Families and individuals are able to take home bottled water and gallon jugs, as supplies allow.



CITY OF FLINT FIRE STATION WATER RESOURCES SITES
310 E. 5th St. • 1525 Martin Luther King Ave.
3402 Western Rd. • 716 W. Pierson Rd. • 202 E. Atherton Rd.

Community members can do their part to provide relief by donating cases or gallons of water, water filter kits and replacement filters, cash or checks. Donations of all kinds, including clothing, personal hygiene, and household items, are also accepted. Items are distributed to community members at no charge. Monetary donations may be mailed to Catholic Charities, 901 Chippewa St., Flint, MI 48503. Please include "water relief" on the memo line of your donation. All gifts are tax deductible. For more information contact Catholic Charities, 810-232-9950 or givehope@ccsgc.org.



5th Annual 25 Days of "Merry" Giving In December

Smiles and heartfelt thanks, even tears of joy were shared as hundreds of individuals and families who received gifts and more over the holidays benefited from selfless giving to our Soup Kitchens and Community Closet. THANKS and APPRECIATION to NBC 25, Dort Federal, and YOU for the outpouring of food, personal needs items and gifts during the 5th annual NBC 25 Days of Giving. More than 5,000 pounds of food and hygiene products were shared during the "Merry" month of December.



Thank you to everyone!

From the Desk of Our President



Our Challenges Strengthen Us

2015 was a tough year for Catholic Charities. We experienced funding losses, staff layoffs and organizational restructuring to continue our services to the poor. For the first time, we had a waiting list for counseling - because more people needed our help! Under this pressure, our team has found greater strength. In our challenges, we are standing together and sharing the burden, and joy, of work. A greater resolve to do more with less, and still get what we need can be seen in offices, heard in voices and laughter, and in the eyes and faces of our team.

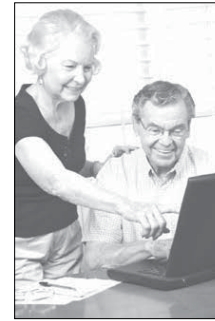
Please continue to volunteer and donate what you can - food, clothing, personal needs items, blankets, money, it all helps! It's important to have funds to pay the good people who care so much, and work so hard, to see that other people and their families get what they need to live a better life. **We need money to help with the water crisis in Flint. The families you hear about needing water are the families we are serving every day.**

May you and yours have a blessed 2016 - also finding greater strength in your challenges!

Vicky L. Schultz, President/CEO

Wishing Catholic Charities Staff A Speedy Recovery

Several longtime, dedicated staff members are out recovering from recent surgeries. Please remember our friends and Catholic Charities family members in your thoughts and prayers!



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.

What are you waiting for?



Become our fan on Facebook & follow us on Twitter

www.facebook.com/catholiccharitiesflintandowosso



Click "Like" to become a fan today!

Unplanned Pregnancy?



You don't have to face this difficult time alone. When all you have are questions, Katie can help you find the answers. Text Katie anytime at 810-701-5949.



Electronic Funds Transfer

Supporting your favorite Catholic Charities program just got easier. You can now make a monthly contribution using an electronic funds transfer (EFT)! Just fill out and detach the slip below and mail it in the envelope provided. We will schedule an automatic monthly gift payment with your financial institution, and will mail you an acknowledgment letter each month. All gifts are tax deductible. Save time and money, sign up today!

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Form

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Date to start deductions: _____ (Deductions will be made on the 15th of each month.)

Please debit my gifts from: Checking Account Savings Account (check only one)

Financial Institution: _____

Routing Number: _____

Account Number: _____

My monthly deduction: \$ _____



Authorization agreement: I authorize Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties to charge my checking or savings account monthly in the amount of \$ _____. This authority is to remain in full force and effect for at least twelve (12) months, which constitutes a one year commitment. I understand I must notify Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties if I wish to discontinue the automated payment service.

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____



All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your gift.

CALLING VOLUNTEERS:

Annual Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Banquet



RSVP by April 1



CELEBRATING OUR BELOVED VOLUNTEERS is something we really look forward to each year! We simply could not serve as many as we do without the numerous daily volunteers that prepare and serve meals, and provide clean up afterwards at our various service sites. Hot meals, sack lunches, even sorting and distributing clothing, blankets and personal needs items is part of the volunteer experience at Catholic Charities. If you serve as a volunteer at the North End Soup Kitchen, South End Soup Kitchen, Center for Hope Soup Kitchen and Warming Center or Community Closet, please join us for a scrumptious dinner among friends, awards and door prizes!

Awards to be presented include Volunteer of the Year, Youth Group of the Year, Golden Soup Bowl, Business Donor of the Year, Staff Volunteer Award and other special recognition! Our hope is that you will walk away knowing how much you truly are appreciated!! Call 810-785-6911 to reserve your seat by April 1st. This anticipated event is held during National Volunteer Week on April 13th, starting at 3pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 2316 W. Coldwater Road, Flint. Consider donating a door prize! For more information about year-round volunteer opportunities contact us at astart@ccsgc.org or contact John Manse, Director of Community Services, jmanse@ccsgc.org / 810-785-6911.



<https://twitter.com/CCFlintOwosso>
Follow us!



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!

amazonsmile



Wristbands For Sale "SHOW FAITH IN OWOSSO"

SHOW YOUR FAITH IN OWOSSO! NEW "Faith in Owosso" silicone wristbands for everyday wear, parties and other meetings or special events are available for \$5 each. Orders of 100 or more will receive FREE shipping! To order online visit www.ccsgec.org.



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

Walking Tacos

Catholic Charities serves everyone - believers and non-believers alike.

Meals by Manse



John Manse has managed our meal programs for more than 20 years. Check out this genuine North End Soup Kitchen Recipe that you can try at home!



Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 envelope reduced-sodium chili seasoning mix
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (10 oz.) diced tomatoes and green chilies
- 1 can (15 oz.) Ranch Style beans (pinto beans in seasoned tomato sauce)
- 5 packages (1 ounce each) corn chips
- Toppings: shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream and sliced green onions

Prep: 10 min. Cook: 30 min. YIELD: 5 servings

Directions:

In a large skillet, cook beef over medium heat 6-8 minutes or until no longer pink, breaking into crumbles; drain. Stir in chili seasoning mix, pepper, tomatoes and beans; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 20-25 minutes or until thickened, stirring occasionally. Just before serving, cut open corn chip bags. Add beef mixture and toppings as desired.

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.

Turkey Day at The North End Soup Kitchen

The North End Soup Kitchen was filled with warm hearts and helping hands preparing and serving meals for the holiday. 60 volunteers welcomed 250 visitors on Thanksgiving Day! In addition to serving a holiday feast with all the trimmings, volunteers were able to GIVE warm winter clothing and coats to people who really needed it. It's wonderful to have so many who are willing to rally and give their time away from home on this special day to ensure others know they are important. So thankful for our turkey day volunteers at NESK! Register to volunteer anytime at asmart@ccsgc.org or contact John Manse, Director of Community Services at jmanse@ccsgc.org.

Students Hanging & Helping Out!

The Center for Hope Soup Kitchen and Community Closet is a place that provides warmth, food, toiletries, clothing, and household items. By helping people meet these basic physical needs, a pathway toward independence is created for them



and their families. Students are encouraged to volunteer through the Stewardship of Hope Program. Contact Amy at astart@ccsgc.org or 810-232-9950 x143 for more information and schedule time to hang out with us soon!



Visitors & Volunteers Receive Christmas Day Blessings

A record number of 525 visitors were served a holiday meal on Christmas Day. 70 volunteers willing to share their special day with strangers, came in to serve along with John Manse, Director of Community Services, his wife Krystal, NESK staff and many others from the community. Visitors were GIFTED a new towel, socks and other care items, including toys and a holiday photo for the kids - all wrapped in holiday cheer and Angels too, to brighten their day. "Everyone's bucket list should include a volunteer experience at the North End Soup Kitchen, on Thanksgiving or Christmas Day," says John Manse. If you are interested in serving on Thanksgiving or Christmas, please contact us four months ahead. People like serving on holidays, especially these two. Call 810-785-6911 or jmanse@ccsgc.org.



Outpouring of *Gifts* During Holidays

With a hand from Santa's helpers, we distributed thousands of gifts this year so that individuals and their families would experience the joys and true spirit of Christmas - GIVING! We witnessed countless acts of service and compassion at various collection sites including gymnasiums, offices, church halls, storage rooms, even vehicles that were filled generously with care items, clothing, toys and books from friends, family and strangers who were all paying it forward.

No doubt that there is Faith in Flint!



Center FOR HOPE Warming Center *Doors Are Open*

It's cold outside and our Warming Center doors are open seven days a week to the homeless and those lacking adequate food for meals. Visit us at 517 E. Fifth Ave., Flint, to see for yourself the many angels that provide the miracles that surround a vulnerable population at the Center for Hope Warming Center.

Our Goal is permanent placement for a child in a loving, caring, and safe environment. Loving foster and adoptive homes are needed for children of all ages. Families come in all shapes, sizes and backgrounds. Please contact the Child Welfare Center of Catholic Charities to learn more about these vital services to support children and teens without permanent homes @ 810-232-3418. We provide training and support for foster and adoptive parents.



Thanksgiving is First Holiday with Family for 17-Year Old After Adoption Day

THANKSgiving was very special this year for 17-year old Undray. He was able to eat Thanksgiving dinner at home with his loving, adoptive family after spending most of his life in foster care. Undray was adopted through Catholic Charities Child Welfare Program as part of Michigan Adoption Day on Tuesday, November 24th. Read his touching story on our website, www.ccsge.org/adoption/fostercare page. For information about fostering or adopting children who, like Undray, are waiting for loving homes, please contact Child Welfare Program Specialists at 810-232-3418.



Time is Critical for Those Seeking Counseling & Treatment

During crisis and difficult times, people turn to Catholic Charities. Our counseling and treatment programs help children, adolescents, individuals, and families experiencing emotional or mental health issues. On any given day, hundreds will seek refuge from the storms of life at our various service sites. We rally to offer respect, kindness, a listening ear and a helping hand - to anyone and everyone in need. In our 75 years of service, we have never turned anyone away. At the counseling offices in Flint and Owosso, some will wait up to six months to receive assistance. To eliminate the waiting list and respond to client needs right away, we are restructuring teams, adding volunteers, revising budgets and raising additional funds - with your continued help! Thank you, thank you, thank you - for your caring!!

**Catholic Charities substance abuse disorder and addiction services are part of counseling and treatment programming.*

Work Ready Partners Provide Faith In Flint

The Work Ready Program in the Center for Hope is excited about some new partnerships that are creating positive change for ex-offenders returning to the Flint area. Did you know that Genesee County has the second largest returning citizen population? There are many barriers these individuals face as they try to successfully rebuild their lives, and many turn to Catholic Charities for help with support services during this transition period.



Pictured above are Re-Connections graduates, Catholic Charities staff & CEO, Vicky Schultz

In November, Re-Connections, a faith-based organization whose mission is to provide mentoring support and employment coaching, joined with Catholic Charities to help provide supportive services to these individuals looking for employment. Upon completion of the Re-Connection's six-week training course, the men received certificates they are now able to use as they move forward in their search for employment.



Two Re-Connections participants, Kelvin and Anthony were hired full-time on third shift at a factory in Lapeer while taking part in Re-Connections. While they were tired from working the night before, they never missed class! We are proud to say that they are now listed among the first five student graduates of the program. Congratulations to Kelvin and Anthony!!

Would you like to help the work ready room? Consider donating work clothing, steel-toed work boots, scrubs, and other items someone may need as they move along the path to employment and towards a better life. Contact Amy, astart@ccsge.org.

In addition to the certificates of completion from Re-Connections, the men also received Faith in Flint backpacks. Catholic Charities and Marlene Collick, Deputy Director of Community Corrections in Genesee County partnered with the Charity Justice of Brighton (affiliate of Mary Magdalene Catholic Church) to create the Faith in Flint Backpack Program. The backpacks and items included were donated by Mary Magdalene Catholic Church Knights of Columbus and the parish parishioners. Items in the backpack included gloves, t-shirts, socks, underwear, toiletries and calendar/planner. A welcome letter to the recipient from the church expressing their love, care, and hope for success was also included in the backpacks.

Aggression Intervention for Men (AIM) and Aggression Intervention for Women (AIW), many times referred to as Batter's Intervention Program and/or Domestic Violence Program, is designed to help individuals change behaviors and unhealthy thinking, learning to no longer use violence



and intimidation to gain power and control over others. Group sessions are offered for both men and women. Assessments are required to participate. Cost is \$25 for a one-time assessment and \$25 per group session. In Flint call 810-232-9950 and Owosso, 989-723-8239.

AIM - ATV Domestic Violence Programs

Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties

The Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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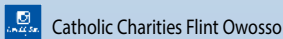
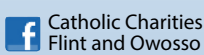
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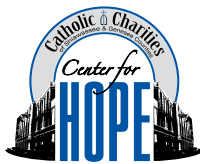
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*Coming to You
in February:*

Center for Hope Campaign and Construction Update

Watch your mailbox in February for a SPECIAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE as we near our goals and BEGIN THE COUNTDOWN TO CONSTRUCTION at the Sr. Claudia Burke Center for Hope. Your prayers, dedication and generosity are moving this DREAM FORWARD, and we want you to share in the excitement as we continue this JOURNEY TOWARD RENOVATION AND HOPE, with a fully refurbished community center designed to serve those in need.



Save the Date! Catholic Charities 75th Anniversary Celebration

2016 marks Catholic Charities' 75th year of dedicated service to people in need in Genesee County. Watch for upcoming details about this historic event in the **Summer 2016 Hopeliner**, due out in May.