



The

# Hopeliner

WINTER 2018

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## Fostering WITH GREAT CARE

**M**r. Milligan doesn't have much. He has lived on the north end of Flint all his life. He doesn't drive a fancy car or take expensive vacations. But he has become a bit of a legend at Catholic Charities' Children's Center. He is a big man with a warm smile, a mellow disposition, and a deep chuckle. What he

lacks in wealth, he makes up for in heart.

He has been a caregiver for as long as he can remember. No children of his own, his nieces and nephews have always called him first when they were in trouble and he has never failed to answer their call. He laughs when he recalls that, although he has never had kids, he *HAS* kids.

In 2010, at 36, the direction of his life changed forever. His two-year-old nephew Jamell entered into the foster care system. Mr. Milligan wasn't about to let one of *HIS* kids get bounced around the system, so he applied for and received full custody of Jamell.

"At first I was nervous. Being there for your nieces and nephews is different than having a child living in your home full time," recalls Mr. Milligan, "The first day that Jamell officially lived with me I had a moment of panic when I thought.... 'Ok, I'm stuck with a kid. Now what do I do?! And a voice told me... you know what to do...this is something that you've been doing all along. It's real now, so let's get going.'"

While it may have been unfortunate circumstances that found Jamell in his



# Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties

The Most Reverend Earl Boyea  
Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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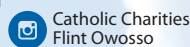
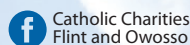
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

For over 77 years, Catholic Charities has been committed to promoting volunteerism and improving our communities by **providing help** and **creating hope**. Our passion for serving the community we live in has never wavered and is even stronger today than it ever has been.

As we approach the first anniversary of the re-opening of our Center for Hope, I reflect on just how far we've come. When the agency began in 1941, I'm sure that Father Earl Sheridan and the three Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, could have only dreamed that one day Catholic Charities would become a fully comprehensive agency. We now provide basic needs such as water, nutritious food, clothing, household and personal care items, shower and laundry facilities for the homeless, foster care and adoption, prevention/education and outreach services, and counseling for a

wide range of behavioral health issues. We welcome Hamilton Health Network mini clinic which offers basic health services and information for our clients.

If you ask me what makes Catholic Charities special, I will not hesitate to tell you it is the employees of this organization. **WE ARE** united in our passion for service, leadership, and strengthening the well-being of the communities we serve.

For the past year we have been settling into the newly renovated Center, implementing new ways to serve the community better with the increased volume who are coming to our doors. As you can imagine, there is still so much work to be done, especially as we approach the holiday season. That is why **I hope you will consider an increased gift this year** to help us meet the many growing needs we have at year's end. We are truly grateful for your ongoing prayers and generous financial support.



Warm regards and blessings to all,

Vicky L. Schultz  
President/CEO



## ST. MICHAEL'S CLASS OF 1968

In the run up to the 1st anniversary of the opening of our new Center for Hope we had the St. Michael's class of 1968 visit us for their 50 year reunion! They loved what we did with their old school and are now busily devising ways to help raise money! Go class of '68! Thank you for coming to visit and continuing to support us!



*Undray Milligan the day he was adopted, and many of his case workers from Catholic Charities who came to see him formerly adopted.*

MR. MILLIGAN CONTINUED

never seemed to work out and he was constantly being pushed back into the system bouncing from foster family to foster family all over the state. By the time he met Mr. Milligan, his parents' rights had been terminated and he was living in a center in Saginaw.

Mr. Milligan went to visit him at the center. "I was very uncomfortable with the situation," said Mr. Milligan, "But was willing to give it a try...I don't like those centers, they feel like a cage. They brought him to the conference room and I asked him if he was ready to move forward and have a family? I let him know, I'm not rich, don't live in a nice home, I live in the hood. But anything I do- I do for the long run. I wasn't there to get a kid and return a kid. I wanted to hear him say that he wanted to be in a home.'

The center started allowing home visits and Undray learned very quickly that Mr. Milligan wasn't going to criticize or put him down, but he was also going to tackle any problems, and they were going to do it together. There are so many things that foster kids don't learn, that we all take for granted. It's takes people who really love them to teach them the little things in life.

On November 24, 2015 Undray was adopted by Mr. Milligan on Michigan Adoption Day at the Genesee County Circuit Court. After 16 years of being placed in no less than 50 homes, Undray finally found his forever family, and he couldn't be happier. "It hasn't been perfect," says Undra. "I was behind other kids my age and I had a lot to learn about being a man, and how to live in a family, but Mr. Milligan taught me all that."

Today, in addition to Undray and Jamall, there are currently three other boys living under Mr. Milligan's roof. Some need refuge for just a few weeks, others come for longer, and while it sometimes seems like a revolving door, his door is always open to children in need of a home. Mr. Milligan chuckles as he considers his life as a foster parent, "Ya, I think I'm gonna need a bigger house."

For more information about Foster Care contact Deborah Pettway, Director of Child Welfare at 810.232.3418 ext. 321 or [dpettway@cscgc.org](mailto:dpettway@cscgc.org) or consider attending a Foster Parent Orientation, every Wednesday, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm, Catholic Charities' Children's Center, 575 Louisa Street, Flint 48503.

home, Mr. Milligan recalls that he always wanted to adopt a child so getting custody of Jamell was just the catalyst that started his journey, and what a journey it's been. When Jamell was three, a second boy called Shikaidan arrived. He chuckles as he paints the picture, "I'm a single guy, never had kids of my own and now I have two toddlers to feed, bathe and get off to daycare in the mornings! Shikaidan had long hair, so here I was you-tubing how to braid hair. It was like a scene from Mrs. Doubtfire!"

Somehow, he managed to settle into a happy, all-be-it chaotic, routine with the boys until eventually Shikaidan had to go back to his biological parents. "It was hard when he went back. I had grown to love that child, but being a foster parent is a calling, and you must look at it that way. I had to learn to let go. I had served the purpose I needed to serve in that child's life. It's still hard to see them go sometimes, but I am much better at dealing with it now," says Mr. Milligan.

Over the years Mr. Milligan has seen many boys come and go. Being a foster parent isn't easy, but the ultimate goal is to provide a safe haven until they can be restored to their biological families. "You have to go into it with your heart open to anything," says Mr. Milligan. "These kids have a lot of trauma, but you have to be able to listen and make sure their needs are supported ...at ALL times. Many of the older boys have attitudes but I let them vent. They are angry and justifiable so. Everyone they depend on has let them down. After they get done venting they will come around and often apologize. You have to give them space and time

to digest the hurt and damage they have undeservingly experienced. You can't be gung-ho to get something out of a kid. You can't pressure a kid to explain why they are upset, sometimes it takes time for them to work it out and you need to let them do it in their own time."

Catholic Charities first opened its Child Welfare Center in 1955 and has been recruiting, training, and licensing those interested in becoming foster parents ever since. "I wish I had 100 more just like Mr. Milligan," says Deborah Pettway, Director of Child Welfare, "Ideally we want to place children with foster parents in the community where their biological parents reside. But it's so hard to place children these days. I get calls from agencies all over the state looking for homes for infants! We never used to have problems placing babies, the need for foster parents is that great."

Despite the challenges of working with children in foster care, Mr. Milligan has never been daunted from what he considers his calling. "The best part about fostering is seeing the smiles on the kids' faces. Seeing that they appreciate you and what you are doing for them. Even if they don't appear to appreciate it, they do, and I get a great deal of satisfaction out of knowing that I have protected and supported a child. Knowing that they have someone that loves them. Some of these kids have never had what most of us take for granted every day."

Undray was 16 when he came to Mr. Milligan's house. Originally from Detroit, Undray had been in the foster care system since he was one month old. He was sometimes with family members but that



# Chairman of the Board ED BENNING

What can you say about Ed Benning... he is a tall, unassuming, soft spoken man with an open, approachable smile. Despite being the CEO of the Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) (a \$40 million public corporation serving the residents of Genesee County with an annual ridership of six million passengers), his humble disposition leaves you assured that he genuinely cares about Flint and that he is a man of his word. Ed has been a member of the board of Catholic Charities for six years and is the current Board Chair. He is an advocate for leadership, employing those affected by disabilities and building community partnerships.

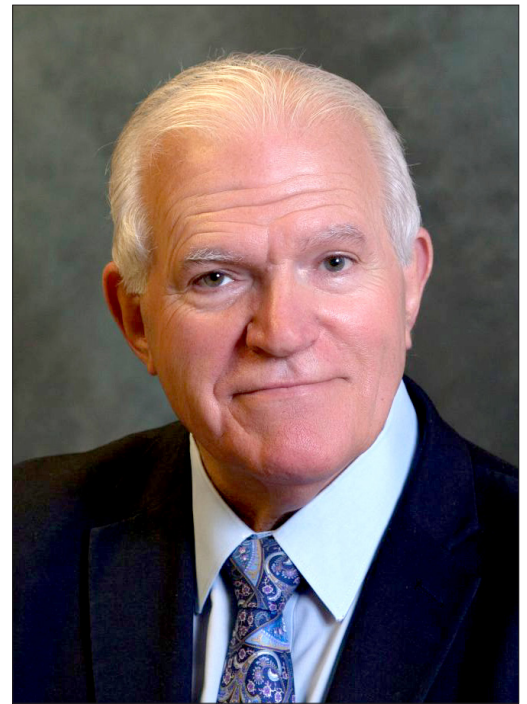
Born and raised on the east side of Flint, he has watched the ebb and flow of the community and is passionate about giving back and making a difference where he can. During his tenure at MTA, he has led the effort at the local, state, and federal levels to provide non-emergency medical transportation for seniors in the region. He has worked to develop the strongest, most diverse alternative fuel program in the Midwest. He has implemented "theme buses" which have received national recognition and raise awareness of issues. (You may have seen the Pink Bus in memory and honor of those lost to breast cancer, breast cancer survivors and those fighting breast cancer today.) More recently, he established *Rides to Groceries* to help those in the community have access to food after a number of grocery stores closed in the Flint area.

He has held a seat on the boards of 22 organizations over the years, including Salvation Army and The American Red Cross, and in 2015 was nominated for the

White House Champions of Change, which highlights citizens across the nation who are leading projects and initiatives that move their communities forward. If that weren't enough, every year he takes his grandchildren to volunteer at a soup kitchen on Thanksgiving Day.

We could go on and on about the things Ed is doing to help make Flint a better place, the list seems to be endless, but you won't find him tooting his own horn. He just quietly goes about changing the undercurrent and planting seeds where he thinks they are most likely to grow.

One of the issues that is close to his heart is homelessness. His passion for the work that Catholic Charities does is unwavering, "I've watched the evolution of this city and at one time people had places to go... many of those opportunities went away and so did the resources. All too often people misunderstand issues of poverty and homelessness. Many homeless have mental illnesses but I myself have witnessed people in the business world become homeless. The Center for Hope represents a refuge for people, whatever their background, to seek help when they need it," he said. Flint has come a long way in the last few years alone, but we have a long way to go. Ed believes that the key to future success is to rebuild neighborhoods and he is currently working with members of the community to see what can be done about turning the tide of urban decay in Flint. "My philanthropic focus hinges on programs that see the value in community involvement and bringing economic development that works for the people of Flint. It is up to each one of us, as members of the community, to realize it's time to take back our power to create change. I believe in the value of all people - everyone has something to offer, whether it be dollars, expertise or volunteering."



Most people don't realize the scope of what Catholic Charities does here in Flint. "I admire the working poor, they are some of the strongest people I've ever met. They barely make ends meet yet they get up every day and they keep at it, no matter how many 'no's' they get. They don't need a hand out, they just need a hand up and Catholic Charities offers exactly that. People often find themselves at Catholic Charities for the Soup Kitchen or the Community Closet, but the agency is about much more than that. It's about helping people with their immediate needs [food, water and clothing], but then through our outreach, counseling, offender success and work ready programs we empower people to get out of their current situation."

"I would like to take this opportunity, as Chairman of the Board for Catholic Charities to personally invite all of you to visit the Center for Hope and see for yourself just how much the agency manages to do, with such little resources... it's truly a miracle." To learn more about the services we provide visit [www.ccsge.org](http://www.ccsge.org). To arrange a tour of our campus contact Joan Clarke at 810.232.9950 ext 710 or email her at [jclarke@ccsge.org](mailto:jclarke@ccsge.org).

[LEFT] Dropping the Puck at Stuff the Truck fundraiser to benefit Catholic Charities [MIDDLE] Launching the Pink Bus in for of Cancer awareness [RIGHT] Vicky Schultz, Jim Hall, Ed Benning, Robert Sibilsky, Virginia Landaal







# 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](http://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](http://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 Owosso, MI 48867 • (989) 723.8239

For answers to your questions about giving, contact Joan Clarke,  
Director of Development at (810) 232.9950 ext 710 or [jclarke@ccsgc.org](mailto:jclarke@ccsgc.org)



of Shiawassee and  
Genesee Counties





Most people find themselves receiving awards and accolades when their heroic deeds save lives, but Felton found himself on the receiving end of an eviction notice. When he fell from the second story window he had shielded his neighbor from the fall and in the process, broke his hand badly and lost two teeth. With no extra resources and no way of working until his hand had healed, things spiraled quickly. Within a few weeks he had lost his job at the Texas Road House and his land lord was not willing to work with him regarding his rent. Within the space of about 6 weeks Felton's options had run out.

Homeless and jobless, Felton didn't know where to start. He went to his sister's house for a short time, but he explained, as he pulled a photo of his mother out of his wallet, "Once my mother passed away in 2008, the family began to dissolve, and they weren't in a position to help me."

By late fall Felton had become a regular at Catholic Charities' North End Soup Kitchen (NESK) on Stewart Street in Flint. Winter was well on its way and it was at NESK that he learned that the agency offered a Warming Center at the Center for Hope on Root Street. He had been staying at My Brothers Keeper, a homeless shelter in Flint,

# THE STORY OF A Homeless HERO

**A**ugust 27, 2015 started out like any other day for Anthony Felton. It was around 7am and he was getting ready for work. He heard a distant beeping, but assumed it was a delivery truck for the meat market next door. When he opened the door to his apartment, the hallway was filled with smoke. Without hesitation he shouted to his girlfriend to get out of the building. His apartment was in the basement, so the flames had not reached them yet, but he knew there were people in the rest of the building and there wouldn't be much time to get everyone to safety. Following the sound of the fire alarm

up three flights of stairs, he forced his way into the apartment of an elderly neighbor. She was 79 years old, had taken her medicine, started breakfast and went to sleep. To his alarm, when he woke her, she didn't want to leave the apartment. "She was prepared to die there but I was having none of it. I forced her out the second-floor window and we fell to the bushes below," says Felton, "I got her to the parking lot and went back in because I knew there were children inside". Ultimately, Felton entered the building three times saving nine adults and three children before he collapsed from the smoke and was rescued by firefighters.





however spaces were limited. He was eventually able to find employment but when you are homeless it's a difficult balancing act. Finding employment is difficult enough in Flint, but when you don't have an address, employers are reluctant to hire you. Shelters often have early curfews forcing residents to make the difficult decision between maintaining a job or having a warm, safe place to sleep. Felton found it difficult to maintain employment due to his living situation and spent the next year bouncing from one job to the next.

"Catholic Charities was able to meet my needs in ways that no other agency in town could," said Felton, "Not only could I get my meals in the soup kitchen, but Miss Mary (Mary Stevenson, Director of Center for Hope) arranged for me to get packed lunches and let me in the Warming Center after hours so that I could still work. She even helped me with bus passes. I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't found Catholic Charities".

While Catholic Charities is not a homeless shelter, every year between December and April they open their doors to anyone needing a warm, safe place to sleep. In November 2017, the newly renovated Center for Hope also began offering shower and laundry

facilities for the homeless. Felton had lost everything due to the smoke damage in the fire so he relied on the Community Closet to replenish his wardrobe.

"There is a huge misconception around issues of becoming homeless," says Vicky Schultz, CEO of Catholic Charities, "not everyone who utilizes our services are lifers, the reality is that anyone- at any time- could find themselves in need of help. When you support Catholic Charities, you could literally be supporting your neighbor."

For almost three years Felton has been trying to put the pieces of his life back together. As he reflects on his experience he admits that once you find yourself in the cycle of homelessness it is extremely difficult to get back out but he has never lost heart. When many of us would be broken by what he has gone through since the fire, he has never let his situation dampen his spirits. "I'm a believer," says Felton with a broad grin, "I know that it's a higher power that put me in this situation and what keeps me joyful is the Lord, because he's working in me. I don't feel bad about my situation, I didn't make a bad choice, I helped twelve people out of a burning building. So whatever God's process is, I feel that he has a plan in my life, and this is where he wants me to be. You have to be prepared to learn whatever it is God is trying to teach you. If I've got God, I'm good."

It's hard not to be infected by Felton's optimism. In March 2018, with the help of Catholic Charities' Outreach department, he was able to get his Section 8 and will finally get back into an apartment of his own. Perhaps his grin is especially large these days because he has also finally been able to

replace the teeth he lost in the fire. "You never know who you're going to meet and you have to always be prepared! The Lord introduced me to this man recently who makes teeth in a dental lab. I told him my situation and he told me to come by one day. I don't make much money but I had managed to save \$100 and he agreed to make me some new teeth if I promised to pay him another \$100 when I get the money! I

had never lost my smile but his kindness restored my self-esteem and for that I am blessed."

Felton, now 51, has not wasted his time with Catholic Charities or ignored the lessons God was trying to teach him. In September he began his final year at Mott Community College to earn his degree in Business Management after a 10-year hiatus from school. He intends to go into retail management after he graduates and is

looking forward to everything that life has to offer- with a skip in his step and a VERY contagious smile.

## // FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS FELTON HAS BEEN TRYING TO PUT THE PIECES OF HIS LIFE BACK TOGETHER //



### *Leave a Legacy*

You can provide a brighter future for vulnerable men, women and children by naming Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement account or insurance policy.

For more information contact Joan Clarke  
810.232.9950 • [jclarke@ccsgc.org](mailto:jclarke@ccsgc.org)





*When it seems  
there's no hope...*  
**THERE IS HOPE**

**E**gypt Cox was born at Hurley Hospital on August 15, 1995. Her mother Carolyn was 44 when she was born. She knew she was a high-risk pregnancy because of her age, but the amniocentesis had shown nothing unusual. When Egypt was born her body was slightly twisted with one shoulder higher than the other, but the doctors said she was fine... and for almost 3 years she had been fine.

When Carolyn says it was *fine*...all things are relative. She lived on the North End of Flint, in the mid-90's where even when life was good... life was hard. Her husband left her within 6 months of Egypt's birth- claiming that in *his* family they didn't have deformed children. Carolyn was a single mother of two girls, at one of the worst economic times in Flint's history.





For months she had been trying to find out why Egypt wasn't developing normally. Until finally, she was sent to McLaren Hospital. It was then that every mother's worst nightmare unfolded. "When Egypt was taken to McLaren, the doctors started examining her," recalls Carolyn, "and then more doctors came rushing in the room. There was standing room only and that's when fear grabbed my heart. I found out that day that Egypt was born with Poland Syndrome."

Poland's Syndrome is malformations, present at birth involving the underdevelopment or absence of the chest muscles on one side of the body. Many people who suffer from Poland's Syndrome live very normal lives, but as Egypt grew, it became increasingly apparent that her life was not going to be normal. She suffers from the most severe form of Poland's Syndrome. The ribs on one side of her body were completely undeveloped and fused.

That day in McLaren Hospital began the most difficult struggle of Carolyn's life. Her first daughter Eyndia was only 5 years old when Egypt was born. Carolyn was working at Beecher Schools as a bus aid. "I had another child to feed and get to school. I had to get to work. I didn't know what was wrong with my child and money was so short. I should have been home looking after Egypt, but I had to work for the insurance," says Carolyn, "I was angry, and I was broken. I'm a hard worker but I was low on food...I was low on everything. They were getting ready to turn my lights off. Where was help for people like me. I was working. I didn't want to live on public assistance, but I was sinking and angry and my babies were hungry."

Then one day, she was walking down Grand Traverse on her way to a doctor's appointment. She passed a white, fenced in building, on the corner of Third Avenue and Grand Traverse with a small, nondescript sign that said Catholic Outreach... "I saw a lot of people in a long line and I decided to see what was going on there. I am not the type to get in line... I

don't take if I don't need- but walking into that building was the beginning of my life.

Carolyn didn't know it at the time, but she was about to encounter Sister Claudia Burke, a Franciscan Sister of the Poor, who made a name for herself as the Mother Theresa of Flint. She was a feisty nun who walked the picket lines during the Great American Boycott, she pestered Genesee County until they got a Food Bank in the 1980s, confronted the City Council when she thought more should be done to help the poor and butted heads with lottery officials over taking money away from the charities' staple fundraiser, Bingo (she was also known as the Bingo Queen). In 1982, she and a group of dedicated volunteers established the North End Soup Kitchen (NESK), now one of three soup kitchens operated by Catholic Charities in Flint.

"Sister Claudia used to give me scripture and I would look at her and say, I don't want that! I'm hungry!" said Carolyn, "I'd complain but I'd read it anyway. She taught me that sometimes the Lord puts you in situations to teach you something. I didn't want to hear it at the time, but I wouldn't change it now. I can't sit here and say I did everything right because I didn't...it was ugly, and I was messy. Sister Claudia stood up to my anger. She made me take a good look at myself. But no matter how ugly I got I knew she was there, holding me accountable and putting me back on the right track."

During this time Carolyn's life was consumed with fighting to keep Egypt alive. Between 1998-2008 Egypt had 35 surgeries and every time, they would tell Carolyn that there was nothing else they can do. "After a while I told them not to take me to that room anymore, because that room

isn't for me. Going against those white coats based on your faith is hard. I had to stop crying so I could really see what was going on. I had to stop being so angry, so I could hear God speak to me. If you are angry you are going to miss what's for you and if you're crying you're going to miss what you're are looking at."

They flew countless times to downtown San Antonio, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa

**“WHEN YOU ARE FRIGHTENED FOR YOUR CHILD THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IS THE PERSON THAT COMES TO RESCUE YOU.”**



[TOP] Original Catholic Outreach Building.  
[BOTTOM] Sister Claudia Burke, a Franciscan Sister of the Poor, who made a name for herself as the Mother Theresa of Flint.

Children's hospital, the home to the world's first titanium rib implant surgery. Egypt became part of an international community known as the T.R.I.P. Kids (titanium rib implant kids) and Carolyn, despite being scared and exhausted found that the Sisters at Catholic Outreach had rubbed off on her. "For me the best remedy was to focus on helping others. Sometimes I would have to be strong for a lady I don't even know. When we were at the hospital I used to show other parents what to do when they arrived. Even though I was in the mist of it, the Lord had given me a mission," says Carolyn.

By 2013, Sister Claudia's health was failing, and Catholic Outreach began to experience financial difficulties so Catholic Charities took their programs under its wing. "I went to other agencies," admits Carolyn, "but I stayed





*Cyndi McDoniel, Outreach Assistant, Carolyn Cox, Bennie Bell St. Christopher Driver*

with Catholic Charities because they were personal. They knew my kid, and they knew I could be ugly, but they cared what happened to me."

Since that day in 1999, Carolyn has utilized the Community Closet and Food Giveaways at Catholic Charities to help make ends meet, but the real saving grace has been the St. Christopher Medical Transport program, which provides free medical transportation for children. The driver, Bennie Bell is a special man. He may pretend to be aloof about what he does at Catholic Charities, but it is thin pretense. He has been driving kids to

medical appointments all over the state for over 20 years. He has watched hundreds of children grow up with devastating conditions and he cares very deeply what happens to them. "That Bennie..." Carolyn muses, "I don't know what we are gonna do when he retires. When you are frightened for your child the most important person is the person that comes to rescue you. Bennie is like a part of the family. I always know, when he knocks on my door, everything's gonna be ok."

Carolyn has also received assistance with her utility bills through Catholic Charities Outreach program. Without that help she doesn't know how she would have covered all the expenses incurred with the breathing machines and life support required for Egypt's care. The program also provides guidance and support which is empowering to those who just need a step up. "Catholic Charities helped me through a time when I thought there was no hope, but there WAS hope. I had a child that was sick and another child, I was by myself, and I was so scared. But I'd do it again, because now I know there is strength in me. It did not make me pitiful, it made me powerful. Today I know my worth."

The normal life expectancy of kids with the severity of Egypt's condition is 5 years. Today she's a normal bossy 22-year-old, telling her doctors how they could do things better. She has become an advocate for her peers. She has a tracheotomy to help her breath, a compromised immune system and is on oxygen and life support when she sleeps, but she has defied all the odds so far. "I could tell you all kinds of tales about Egypt," says Carolyn, "but that is another story entirely...let's just say I would do it all again because she has been my joy in the midst of the storm."

Today the Sister Claudia Burke Center for Hope, located on 812 Root Street in Flint, continues to support vulnerable families and provide a new path to recovery. Catholic Charities provides basic needs such as water, nutritious food, clothing, household and personal care items, shower and laundry facilities. In addition to prevention/education and outreach services, they offer counseling for a wide range of mental health and substance abuse issues. For more information about any of Catholic Charities programs, or how you can get involved, please call 810.232.9950 or visit their website [www.ccsgec.org](http://www.ccsgec.org)



**5th Annual Charity Drive**

**FIREBIRDS**

**STUFF THE TRUCK**

**C&L Ward has partnered with the Flint Firebirds once again to 'Stuff the Truck' for charity!**

**November 21, 2018—4-7pm**  
**Dort Federal Event Center**

Get a free ticket to that night's Firebirds game (\$16 value) at 7pm against Saginaw Spirit for donating five or more non-perishable food items or toiletries or one new/ lightly used coat or blanket.

All proceeds go to the North End Soup Kitchen and the Center for Hope Community Closet.



**Blessed to be a Blessing**

**Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner**

**Tuesday, November 20, 4-6pm**  
**Catholic Charities' Center for Hope**  
**812 Root Street, Flint**

*We would like to invite you to join us for Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings! Sponsored by local businesses, coordinated by Pentecostal Temple Apostolic Church Flint and hosted by Catholic Charities, it truly is a community celebration!*



# WE *Love* OUR VOLUNTEERS

It's been a wonderful summer at Catholic Charities and after settling into the new Center for Hope we were blessed with so many volunteers who came to give the grounds a bit of a face lift and lend a hand in the Soup Kitchen and Community Closet! Thanks so much for all your help and support!!!



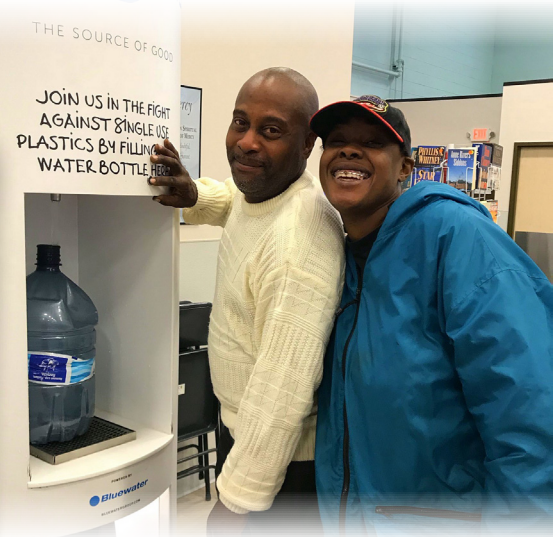
Tiffany Webb and her 6th grade students from Grand Blanc Middle School East as they began the work to create a gazebo in our Mary Garden.



## WATER FILLING STATION

### PROVIDING FAMILIES IN FLINT CLEAN WATER!

To make clean water available to the residents of Flint, Catholic Charities' water kiosk stations are open to the community at NO CHARGE. Fill your containers with clean water using the Bluewater Reverse Osmosis Filtration System. By getting your water with us, not only can you be assured that your water is clean, but you reduce the environmental impact of disposable plastics bottles.



Cindy Schafer, Amy Dennis, Cliff Cohen, Erin Turner, Jeff Streng, Lisa Moore, Mark Drennan, Matthew Bunker, Megumi Durant, Michele Eschtruth, Patricia Yancho, Patrick Manning, Reggie Goldman, Timothy Whitlow and Tony Conklin from GM Customer Care & Aftersales in Grand Blanc for Volunteering at the Center for Hope.



Nick Pobocik, Jessica, Kateri, Brandon, Nicko, Jacob, Joe, Anne, Maggie, Leah, Elizabeth, Mary Grace, Jessica, Leslie, Amber and Kaylee who volunteered their time at the Center for Hope through the Flint Mission Retreat.



Students who came to volunteer from Church of the Holy Family for their Mission Makeover Week 2018!

#### CENTER FOR HOPE

812 ROOT ST., FLINT  
DONATION ENTRANCE  
HOURS: MON-FRI  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
PHONE: 810-265-7025

#### NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN

735 E. STEWART AVE.  
MAIN ENTRANCE  
HOURS: MON - FRI  
11:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
PHONE: 810-785-6911

MUST BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINERS!  
LIMIT 5 GALLONS PER DAY.



NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN

# NESK Camp



It's been another GREAT summer at the NESK Kids Summer Camp which has provided a safe, welcoming environment for the children of Flint for the last 21 years! It all started in 1995 when John Manse, Director of Community Services at Catholic Charities, notices that kids were coming to the North End Soup Kitchen to eat without a parent or guardian. With the help of a few volunteers, Manse decided to let the kids play in the

gymnasium after lunch. In 1996 funds were provided through a grant to hire teenagers. This enabled the North End Soup Kitchen (NESK) to provide a loving and learning environment for kids during the summer months and the NESK Kids Summer Camp was born! We would like to thank all of the organizations who helped make it possible, including the Flint Chamber of Commerce Summer Youth Initiative, the Mt. Morris Township Fire & Rescue, David Zarek and his crew at Horses Heal Hearts, Ross Barkey .....

## Mr. Gaines Gardening PLUS PROGRAM

The Mr. Gaines Gardening PLUS Program is about to begin its 28<sup>th</sup> season! This program has gone from strength to strength thanks in large part to your support. The program teaches youth not only how to grow, tend and harvest, but also how to sell, and even cook a nutritious meal! A big thanks goes out to Ebenezer Ministries and Joy Tabernacle who provided beautiful garden space for the program, which continues to work with at-risk youth, teaching the life skills through positive role modeling and job mentoring. This summer we were on the Edible Flint Urban Garden Tour and of course the crew was at the Flint Farmers Market every Thursday and Saturday! We are so proud of our teens! We need your continued support and appreciate every dollar we receive. If you would like more information about the program or how you can donate please contact Joan Clarke at 810.232.9950, ext. 710









# TAILGATING FOR THE *Homeless*

A big thanks to everyone who helped make 'Tailgating for the Homeless' a big success yesterday! Halo Burger, Philzone, Bella's, Da Smoking Corner, Royal Courtyard Catering, Bessie's Angels, the VTC, Latrice Lucas and the North End Soup Kitchen all served up some great food! All too often the homeless have to sit on the sidelines while everyone else is having fun. Yet for most, homelessness is not permanent. It is not a condition that defines the rest of a person's life.

Catholic Charities and it's partners had a wonderful time spreading the joy, giving those down on their luck an opportunity to join in the celebration, and give the homeless some much needed hope that things will be looking up soon!

## PICNIC IN THE PARKING LOT

On June 5th we hosted our second Picnic in the Parking Lot! Area residents were able to stock up with the support of Blue Cross Complete of Michigan, on milk provided by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), water provided by Haslett High School Black Student Union, and healthy food items from a Nutrition Truck provided through the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Guests were also treated to a cook out with free hotdogs/hamburgers. We would like to thank neighboring human service agencies who helped make the day a success including: Carriage Town Ministries, Hamilton Community Health Network, Molina Healthcare, CRIM Fitness, Reach/Traverse Place, Hurley and OneStop/ Shelter of Flint.





# CONGRATULATIONS JOHN MANSE HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

We are very proud of John Manse, our Director of Community Services. He runs the meal programs at our 3 soup kitchens and much more. He was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year award from Total Life Prosperity at their Community Empowerment Awards Dinner this September. We applaud his dedication to serving others!



*Third Thursday Mass*

Please Join Us the third Thursday of every month for Mass at the St. Michael's Oratory in Flint 609 E. Fifth Avenue Mass begins at 8:45 am

# Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a day to be grateful for what you have and to think about giving back to others. Every year we serve Thanksgiving dinner at the North End Soup Kitchen and a great way to give back is to donate a pie!

If you would like to help us create a homecooked feast by donating a pie, please contact John Manse at 810.785.6911 or [jmanse@ccsgc.org](mailto:jmanse@ccsgc.org)

Catholic Charities is pleased to welcome Hamilton Community Health Network!

Located in our Center for Hope  
They are now accepting new patients!  
Offering Routine Physical Exams & Screenings  
Adult and Pediatric Care  
Flu Shots

**Walk-ins Accepted!**

812 Root Street, 2nd Floor, Flint 48502  
For Appointments Call 810-406-4246  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8am—5pm

[WWW.HAMILTONCHN.ORG](http://WWW.HAMILTONCHN.ORG)

**WORLD CLASS GIVES BACK! BAR-B-Q**

**World Class Bar-B-Q hit it out of the park again this year with another EPIC weekend fundraiser!**

A HUGE thanks goes out to Dave Burton and his crew for all their hard work this year to donate \$13,488.08 from this year's BBQ! Also, THANK YOU to all of our supporters who went to the BBQ and enjoyed Dave's amazing cooking! Your support means that we will be able to serve almost 5,400 balanced, nutritious meals in our soup kitchens! Thanks again Dave!





Catholic Charities  
901 Chippewa St.  
Flint, MI 48503

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Be the difference  
this Christmas to a  
family in need.



NOVEMBER 5 WILL BEGIN OUR  
**HOLIDAY GIVING SEASON**  
at Catholic Charities North End Soup Kitchen (NESK)!



THERE  
ARE TWO  
WAYS YOU  
CAN MAKE  
CHRISTMAS  
SPECIAL!

**1** ADOPT A CHILD OR FAMILY

Make sure no child wakes up on Christmas morning without something under the tree!  
Register to be matched with a child or family then bring wrapped gifts to NESK  
December 17-19, 9am-2pm

**2** NESK CHRISTMAS DINNER

Everyone who comes to Christmas Dinner at NESK receives a gift! Your donation of toys for children of all ages and towels/socks for adults will help us make sure everyone receives a gift for Christmas!

To register to adopt a child or for more information call or email  
John Manse at 810.785.6911 or [jmanse@ccsgc.org](mailto:jmanse@ccsgc.org)