

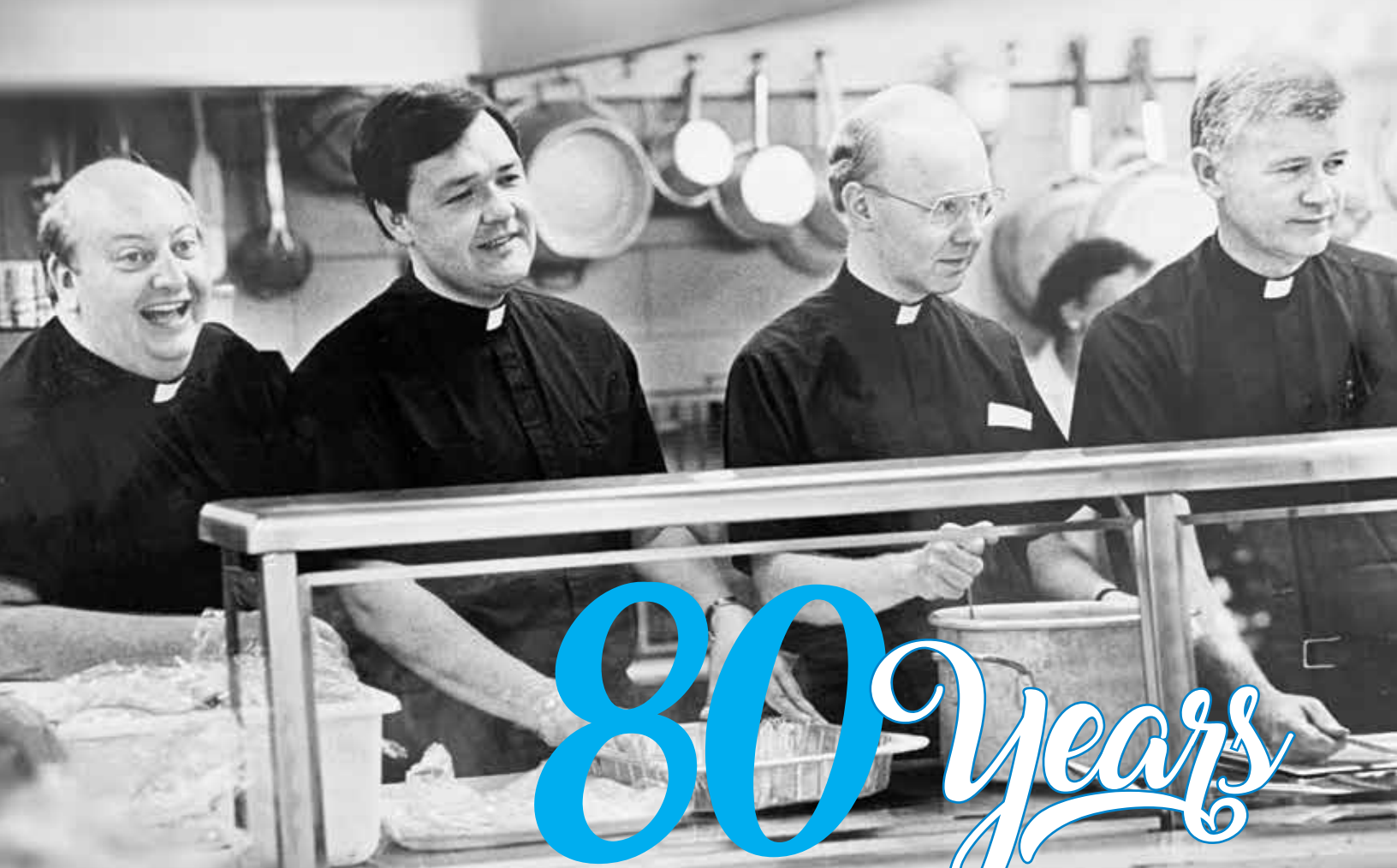


The

Hopeliner

February 2021

A PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES



80 Years

Providing Help & Creating Hope
in Genesee County since

1941



Soles with Soul

How St. Nicholas of Myra inspired one young man to donate over 1,500 pairs of shoes

Gone but not Forgotten

Celebrating Ethel Hooker, a life dedicated to those in need.

God is Calling

COVID-19 Has left us struggling to get enough volunteers

Catholic Charities

of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties

The Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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Meal Programs
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Foster Care and Adoption
810.232.3418

www.ccsgec.org

email: givehope@ccsgc.org



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Most of us, when asked to reflect on 2020, will quickly respond with “good riddance!” There’s no doubt it was a difficult year. The economic losses, not to mention the personal ones, have been epic. It’s difficult to remember much more than COVID-19, civil unrest, divided U.S. politics and the frustrating, ever changing and uncontrolled conditions that altered how we work, socialize and worship.

As we face 2021, the New Year promises to be one of reinvention and hope. Among all the conditions that upset our world in 2020, there were many lessons learned, advances in technology, and examples of collaboration, generosity and kindness here at home and around the globe.

Here at Catholic Charities we never lose heart and we never lose hope. This year marks our 80th Anniversary and we are so proud to have been here, walking side by side, with the community to face what ever challenges come our way!

Mark your Calendars for our 80th Anniversary Celebration at our Annual “Chair-ity” event on September 25! As we face this new year of possibilities, we will continue to be a beacon of hope for so many in our community.

Vicky L. Schultz, President & CEO



St. Michael's A New Era

St. Michael's Parish has long been a mirror, reflecting the history of the city of Flint, intimately intertwined with the highs and lows faced by our beloved city.

The parish itself dates back to the early 19th century, when Irish school teacher Daniel O'Sullivan organized his first school and began teaching religion classes. It was through the effort of this devoted layman, along with two circuit riding priests, that it was decided to build a church in Flint. Michigan had only been a state for six years and Flint was a small village along the Flint river, home to an estimated 300 families.

Three churches have been built on the

site over the years to meet the needs of the parish as it grew. Construction began on the first church in 1845, but by 1880, the community had outgrown it and an imposing, red brick edifice served the parish for 81 years until the current church was built in 1966.

It was a sad day for the Catholic Community in Flint when the decision was made to sell the church in 2019, leaving the fate of Flint's oldest Catholic Church unclear.

We are excited to announce that Catholic Charities has recently acquired the church and has big plans for the future, which will be unveiled at our 80th Celebration in September.

“We are very pleased that St. Michaels will join the Catholic Charities Campus as the site moves into a new era!” said Father Thomas Firestone, Catholic Charities Board Member.



Soles with Soul



his campaign to donate shoes at Christmas for the ninth year in a row.

This year he delivered around 300 pairs. By our calculations he has donated at least 1,500 pairs of shoes to help those in need in Genesee County.

Of course now instead of flyers he uses social media to get the word out and it's just continued to grow from year to year.

Next year he will be a senior in high school and has no intentions of stopping. "Even when I go off to college, I plan to still collect shoes to donate at Christmas. Every year it has gotten bigger without me even trying that hard, which I believe means it's what God wants me to do," said Francisco.

"Before you judge my life, my past or my character, walk in my shoes, walk the path I have traveled, live my sorrow, my doubts, my fear, my pain and my laughter."

It seems to us that Francisco and St. Nick are kindred spirits. "Doing this helps remind me that Christmas is about helping those in need," he says.

Time will tell how collecting shoes will impact the rest of his life

but it is certain that he has impacted the lives of many!

Francisco is already collecting shoes to donate for Christmas next year. If you would like to help him make his 10th year the biggest yet please email kpardi@ccsgc.org for more information about how you can get involved.

He may not wear a red suit or arrive in a sleigh, but we always know it's Christmas when Grand Blanc native, Francisco Dionne visits the Center for Hope.

It all started in December of 2011 when he was just seven years old. Family friends from Germany were celebrating Saint Nicholas Day.

The feast day of St. Nicholas of Myra, the Patron Saint of children, one of the oldest Christian traditions in Europe, takes place on December 6th. Children leave their shoes out overnight in front of the fireplace, on the windowsill, or outside their bedroom door so that St. Nicholas can fill them with special fruits, candies, and other small gifts and treats.

The tradition grew from the story of when St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra, threw bags of gold, either through a window or down a chimney, into the home of an impoverished family to rescue their daughters from being sold into slavery. In at least one case, the gold apparently landed on some winter shoes and stockings that had been laid out near the fire to dry.

This was just one of the acts of kindness bestowed by St. Nicholas and eventually the figure of jolly ole' St. Nick morphed into the modern-day Santa Claus, which of course became affiliated with Christmas. But in many European countries they still celebrate the Feast Day of St. Nick.

When he learned about this tradition, Francisco only had one question: what about kids that don't have shoes?

He immediately set to work making sure that everyone had shoes to put out on the eve of St. Nicholas Day. The first year his mom helped him put together a flyer and his dad drove him around the neighborhood letting people know when he would be back to collect any lightly used shoes they would like to donate to the cause. That first year they donated around 15 pairs of shoes.

Most kids might leave it there and move on to other things but not Francisco. "We have never pushed him to keep doing it, we want it to always come from him," said his dad Tom.

Francisco is now 16 and has continued



Tribute Gifts

What ever you're doing keep it up! Someone thinks you're pretty awesome and has made a donation in your name!

Ann Donnelly
Arthur Tinetti
Brendan Kelly
Corky Bohlen
Dan Chatterson
Debbie M. Chambers
Debra Henige
De'shondria Bedenfield
Earl & Kristina Carlson
Edmond Paquette
Elizabeth Ireland Curtis
Florence Collier
Fr. Thomas Firestone
Garry and Kathleen Wilson
Helen Opre
Jeff House
Jim and Rosemary Brown
Josh Smith
Kathy M. Stewart
Kevin Kelly
Maria Isaguirre
Marie K. Brian
Mark Spender
Marvin Henige
Mary Stevenson

Mary Virgilio
Matt & Amy Olsen
Matt & Mary Anne George
Michael & Kay Kelly
Michael T. & Betty Kehoe
Monica Dottei
Naveen & Sachin Thompson
NESK Volunteers
Nicole Zbiciak
Pat and Sandi Dowd
Patricia Crooks
Redonna Riggs
Rev. David Howell
Richard Hurd
Rita Crandell
Rob & Andrea Brown
Rob & Kathy Giguere
Sam & Lisa Costanza
Sean Kelly
Shirley Kozloski
St. Mark the Evangelist Parish
Steve & Vera Keim
Susan Myers Askins
Susan Stony
Tony & Carrie Owen

Tony & Jennifer Fernandez
Tyler, Bridgit, Taylor & Keagan
Ursula Kadadu
Visnja Toth-Fejel
William & Stashia Nicol
Dave Burton
Judy LeBeau
Lauretta Montini
Mae Harp
Melinda Brawner
Nate Fowler & Rice and Fowler
Insurance Agency
Salvador Isaguirre
Travis Snider
Amber Taylor
Katherine Daugherty

Would you like to show your appreciation for someone awesome in your life? Visit www.ccs gc.org/donate to make a donation in their name.

Why Monthly Giving Helps us Plan for the Future!

While 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. It ensures we can better plan our future support 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, and sometimes the funds raised are lower than expected.

"When you give \$50, we don't know if that is all you intend to give for the year or if you are going to send another \$50 in a few months. The

predictability of your giving is just as important as how much you give," says Theresa Hurley, Director of Development.

This is especially crucial when we are faced with unexpected circumstances such as the Flint Water Crisis or COVID-19. With recurring donations we have the certainty of a regular amount of support coming in.

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



To set up a monthly donation plan please visit www.ccs gc.org/donate or contact:

**Theresa Hurley
810.232.9950 ext. 710
email thurley@ccs gc.org**

In Memory Of...

When you give a gift in memory of a loved one you are not only honoring your loved one but your contribution will carry their legacy forward and help us continue to provide vital help to those in need in our community. Thank you for this meaningful gift. We feel privileged to be able to honor the memory of so many wonderful people, and their commitment to helping others.

To those who have joined our heavenly Father, we thank you for the blessings you continue to bestow on those in need.

Alex & Grace Kennedy
Amanda Wolfbrandt
Amelia Urbeck
Andrea "Andy" Bidwell
Angelo Branoff
Anibel Borges
Anthony Virgilio
Arthur Puzycki
August, Anne & Mark Madaras
Barbara E. Helms
Berlin Dobson
Betty Jubenville
Beverly Maurer
Bill & Joan Beutel
Bill Flick
Bina Bell Pocius
Bob & Bobby Gibson
Bob Benson
Carol Jackson
Carol VanNorman
Carole A. Jozwick
Cherry Joseph
Clara Atchison
Clifford Gauthier
Crystal Ahmed
Curtis Harp
Dale LeBeau
Dale Lucas
Dan Wysowaty
Daniel Zaroff
David H. Buick
David McCarty
David Stechschulte, Sr.
David Sutton
Dean Wilson
Deborah L. Anderson
Deborah Murphy
Deborah R. Telesz
Delores Benore
Dennis Duehring
Dennis Martin
Dennis Ringlein
Diane Ghattas
Dianne K. Martinus
Dorothy Gale
Earl Lindgren
Edith Stableford Levene
Edna Day
Edward Dymowski
Emma Atkinson

Eric Averill
Ernie & Evon Perry
Ethel Hooker
Florence Bradish
Florence Lajewski
Frances Chrastek
Frances Lindgren
Freda Farone
Frederick S. Ruhala
Gage L. Elkins
Gary Coleman
Genevieve Spolarich
George, Rose & Tom Lamberson
Gerald & Geraldine Washington
Gerald J. Belanger
Gerald McCarty
Gertrude Gilbert
Gloria Lammy
Gordon Dobis
Harold & Consuelo Holzer
Harold & Mary McAlindon
Harriet LaVoy
Hazel Bradish
Henry A. Bergeron
Ida Fontana
Jack & Dolores Temple
Jack Martin
Jacob Spolarich
Jeffery & Peggy Myers
Jerome Graham
Jerrolyn Hurd
Jesse LaVoy
Jill L. Bruckman
Joan Lemere
Joan Voorheis
Joe and Vicki Hartsoe
Joe Hartsoe
John & Irene Niziol
John & Margaret Howko
John Lewis
John Pearson
John Smith
Josef G. Werner
Joseph & Sylvia Trombly
Joseph E. Mansour
Joseph Ingot
Joseph J. Weibel
Joseph Madras
Judy Martin
Judy Sienko

Julia A. Teahen
Katherine Keehn
Katherine Kelly
Larry A. Turner
Larry Almassy
Larry Meleski
Leland Kennedy
Lester Bowman
Lester Pappas
Lillian Riendeau
Lincoln Yaklin
Lois M. Foerster
Lora Danek
Lorraine D. Morgan
Louis Stornello, Jr.
M. Gaye Rau
Margaret A. Berry
Margaret and Lloyd Haddix
Margaret Butrie
Margaret Lucky
Marie Killion
Marie Pettigrew
Marie Yokobosky
Mark Hilliker
Mark Hilliker, Sr.
Marvin Crooks
Mary E. Newberry
Mary Joan McGee
Mary M. Cady
Mary Madras
Mary Milne
Mary Paradis
Mary Stechschulte
Mayine R. Daniels
Michael Atkinson
Mary Trebby
Matthew Westerberg
Michael William Viviano
Mike Edington
Mildred Hearsch
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond H. Peltier, Jr.
Nancy Ward
NancyPefley
Neil D. Graham
Nellie Florence
Nicholas Butrie
Nora Crego
Norman & Irene Manssur
Orville & Mildred Straith
Owen Dorff

Patricia Hanifin Clifford
Patrick King
Patrick McCarty
Patty Greene
Peter Stonk
Rachel Scott
Ralph Sargent, Jr.
Ray Seidel
Raymond & Gloria Krupp
Raymond & Katherine Zbiciak
Raymond Estrada
Raymond Kelly, Jr.
Richard "Dick" Daly
Richard A. Brian
Richard R. Wagner
Robert & Virginia Smith
Robert Dailey
Robert G. Lobdell
Robert J. Rhyne
Robert Owen
Robert Zbiciak
Ronald Krencicki
Rose M. Christopher
Rosemary Waters
Rufus Brewington
Ryan Boudreau
Scott Dickie
Sharon Ingot
Sheryl Dianne Lewis
Shirley Gartland
Steven Payne
Terry Johnson
Thomas D. Goyette
Thomas Edwards
Thomas Forncsi
Thomas Garbulinski
Thomas K. Hyde
Tom Neitling
Tony Pileri
Vicki Hartsoe
Viola MacDonald
Virginia Hill
William Martin
William McLaren
William Rocco
William T. Duso
William Wheeler
Wm. & Lila Howard

Holiday Giving

The Gift of Hope

*Christmas is a special time at Catholic Charities because we see human kindness in all its glory! Christmas during COVID-19 meant that families were separated and many struggling to even afford gifts for their children. We witnessed countless acts of service and compassion which helped us distribute gifts to 1,100 children through our Adopt-A-Family program, including 107 Foster Children in our care. Even though it had to be drive thru, on Christmas Day, we fed 284 people a Christmas feast at the North End Soup Kitchen. There are so many people to thank that we ran out of room, but please accept our heartfelt gratitude. We couldn't do any of this without your support! **You brought so much joy to so many this Christmas!***



Kathi and her friends collected toys & Christmas items for the community closet.



Loretta & Lary from St. Patrick in Brighton brought tons of donations & Christmas goodies.



Eastside Mission brought tons of hats, coats, & blankets.



Scott from Holy Redeemer arrived with socks.



Jean from Perry dropped off handmade blankets and gifts.



Denise and the cookie crew from St. Pius X dropped off goodies.



Denyetta and friends from McLaren dropped off gifts.



Joe Goggins brought fresh Christmas trees for anyone who needed one.



Denise, the Slipper Lady brought slippers of course!



Leo from St. Magdalen in Brighton brought us a truck load of donations.





Karen Church, CEO from ELGA Credit Union provided hundreds of socks.



Kim & Kayla from Holy Rosary School delivered gifts from their students for our clients.



ServPro did a blanket drive and dropped off hundreds of blankets.



Frank from St. Marks in Goodrich brought pizza for staff and volunteers.



St. Johns Elementary in Fenton collected diapers for the Community Closet.



Harper & her mom stopped by to bring toys for children who visit the Community Closet.



Linda from UBaked dropped off blankets from their very successful blanket drive.



For the ninth year in a row, Francisco brought shoes. Over 300 pair this year!



Powers Catholic High School dropping off gifts for the Adopt-A-Child Program



Tom & Eileen Landry from St. John the Baptist Howell, Lisa Moses and Mary Schade brought snacks for the Warming Center.



Melinda & Diane of the National Giving Alliance dropped off festive handmade items.



Anonymous donors gave warm blankets and winter wear.



Michel brought personal needs and winter items from Rowe Engineering & United Way.

Thank You!



Celebrating 80 Years of Providing Help & Creating Hope



In 1941, Father Earl V. Sheridan, a young priest with a new Masters Degree in Social Work from Catholic University, under the direction of Bishop Joseph Albers, formed the Catholic Social Service (CSS) Bureau.

Father Sheridan was joined by three nuns from the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor. They operated out of a small house on the corner of Fifth Avenue, offering family counseling.

From the beginning, the Agency was committed to helping the residents in any way they could. By 1945 they had earned respect from the community and the Community Chest of Flint awarded the Bureau \$11,800 (a substantial amount at the time) to allow them to expand their services. 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.

In 1982, Sister Claudia Burke, a Franciscan Sister of the Poor, and a group of dedicated volunteers established the North End Soup Kitchen (NESK) located on Stewart Avenue just down the road from the main office.

In 1990, CSS started a drug and alcohol dependency, prevention, and education programs after being

awarded grants from both the Genesee County Commission on Substance Abuse Services and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

In 1997, the Agency relocated to the Sheridan Center on Chippewa Street (its current location) where there was more space to expand services. In that same year, Catholic Social Services of Shiawassee County merged with the Genesee County Agency. In 2001 the name was changed to Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties.

In 2007, Vicky Schultz was appointed President and CEO of Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties and over the last thirteen years has continued to transform the Agency into what it is today.

"Serving those in need is at the heart of everything we have done over the last 80 years, so our programs have grown and evolved to address the ever changing needs of the community. As time goes on we will continue to look for ways to be better servants of Gods love," says Vicky.

Catholic Charities Programs

- Mental Health & Substance Counseling
- Foster Care and Adoption
- North End Soup Kitchen
- Center for Hope Soup Kitchen
- South Flint Soup Kitchen
- Center for Hope Community Closet
- Center for Hope Personal Needs Room
- Center for Hope Warming Center
- Community Closet and Food Pantry, Owosso
- St. Christopher Medical Transport Program, Flint
- EastSide Ride to Hope, Flint
- Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA)
- Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse
- Prevention Services
- Offender Success Program
- Women's Specialty Programs, Owosso
- Outreach Assistance
- Mr. Gaines Gardening Program PLUS
- NESK Kids Summer Camp

Save the Date!

We hope you will save the date to join us for our 80th Anniversary Celebration at our Annual "Chair-ity" Event!

September 25, 2021

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2019-2020
October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

Resources and Support

		% of Total
Contributions	\$788,282	10%
Foundation Grants	\$ 864,354	11%
United Way	\$197, 738	2%
Grants & Contracts	\$1,646,633	20%
Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse	\$264,632	3%
Adoption & Foster Care	\$2,288,635	28%
Other Resources	\$255,956	3%
Counseling Fees & Contracts	\$872,450	11%
Diocese of Lansing	\$171,048	2%
Offender Success	\$784,936	10%
Total	\$8,134,664	

Expenses

		% of Total
Counseling & Prevention	\$2,011,391	23%
Adoption & Foster Care	\$1,795,328	22%
Mid-Michigan Resource Warehouse	\$211,729	3%
Meal Programs & Community Services	\$1,268,539	15%
Housing	\$1,531,087	19%
Management & General	\$374,942	5%
Fund Development	\$232,725	3%
Offender Success	\$790,799	10%
Total	\$8,216,540	

*Unaudited Figures

North, South & Center for Hope Soup Kitchens

Hot Meals	107,916
Sack Lunches	37,137
Warming Center Meals	8,235
Food Pantry (Owosso)	<u>26,989</u>
Total Meals	180,277
Food Boxes (Owosso)	3,701
Food Boxes (Flint)	3,296

Community Closet

	Genesee	Shiawassee
Number of People Served	18,474	2,988
Personal Items Distributed	50,601	5,966
Clothes Distributed	296,257	7,325
Household Items Distributed	56,082	2,845

Center for Hope

Work Ready Room Clothing	3,392
Work Ready Room Steel Toed Boots	173
Laundry	1,311
Showers	1,123
Warming Center Overnight Stays	14,087
Annual Coat Giveaway	593

East Side Ride to Hope

Number of Rides Provided	2,462
Total Miles	16,830

Housing Programs

Eviction Diversion Program (EDP)	\$1,340,461
Clients Served	723
Homelessness Prevention Program	\$118,622
Clients Served	108
Rapid Rehousing Program	\$40,708
Clients Served	92

Outreach Assistance

Rent/Utilities Assistance	\$139,491
Number of People Served	464
St. Christopher Medical Transport Clients Served	214

Volunteering

Volunteers	10,330
Volunteer Hours	41,301

Adoption & Foster Care

Number of Adoptions	23
Total Days in Care	33,296
Children in Foster Care	123
Total Home Visits	1,476

Counseling

	Genesee	Shiawassee
Service Hours	9,763	3,245
Clients Served	844	645

Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)

	Genesee	Shiawassee
Service Hours	1,976	736
Clients Served	274	83

Prevention & Education

	Genesee	Shiawassee
Service Units	4,783	3,467
Clients Served	1,588	1,214

Kinship Caregivers

Seniors Served	93
Training Service Hours	67
Respite Recipients	14
Respite Service Hours	445

^{CG} Genesee Co. Staff laid off for 6 months d/t COVID

^{CS} Shiawassee Co. Staff laid off for 3 months d/t COVID

*Kinship Caregivers Program was only a 6-month program

Mr. Gaines Gardening PLUS Program

Youth Employed	19
Garden Sales	\$973

Offender Success Program

New Enrollments for Housing	143
Total Days in Housing	19,486
Enrollment for Job Placement	118
Participants in Full Time Employment	45

Thank You to our Community Parnters!





Gone But Not Forgotten



Ethel Hooker was a pretty unforgettable woman. We were saddened when we learned of her passing. She was one of our most amazing and dedicated volunteers over the years. She left us for heaven on November 26th, at the age of 90. Ethel's life was celebrated on December 4th at a Mass of Christian Burial at Saints Charles & Helena Catholic Church in Clio.

Ethel served on the Board of Directors at Catholic Charities between 2013-2019 but her dedication to the agency as well as the community spanned decades.

So many of us here at Catholic Charities, remember meeting her for the first time in 1995 in the

basement of Sacred Heart Church where she served as the Pastoral Manager for many years. It was at Sacred Heart (closed in 2008) that she began, what is today, the Community Closet at the Center for Hope in Flint.

In the early 80's the Catholic Committee of Concern was searching for ways to address the exploding poverty in the north end of Flint. Ethel was on the Committee and in 1982, along with Sister Claudia Burke, a Franciscan Sister of the Poor, (also on the Committee), they started the North End Soup Kitchen located on Stewart Avenue just down the road from our main office.

By 1986 the North End Soup Kitchen had grown too large and Catholic Charities was approached to take over operations of the kitchen. Since that time, it is estimated that Catholic Charities Meal Programs have served in excess of 5,000,000 meals to those in need in the community.

In the 1980's Ethel and her husband James moved from Flint to a county house in Clio where she began growing organic produce, much of which she brought to the Food Pantry at Sacred Heart.

Mother to 14 children, she was also a Hospice volunteer, part of the St. Mary's Prayer Group and volunteered at the Food Bank in Flint.

When Sacred Heart closed she was heart broken but she was never one

to miss out on an opportunity to help others. She began volunteering at the Community Closet and came in faithfully every Monday and Friday to assist.

Kitty Kelly, a long time friend of Ethel and Catholic Charities

volunteer since 2008 said "I always wanted to be like Ethel. She never had a bad word to say about anyone. If you were a friend of Ethel's you were a friend for life."

"Ethel never had a bad word to say about anyone. If you were a friend of Ethel's you were a friend for life."

After the closure of Sacred Heart, she was a Eucharistic Minister at St. John Vianney Catholic Church and would take the Eucharist to patients at McLaren Hospital.

"She was on our Board until she was 88 years old," says Bob Sibilsky, current Catholic Charities Board Member, "she was sharp as a tact and never let us forget why we were there. I admired her a great deal." Ethel was on the Board for Catholic Outreach before their programs merged with Catholic Charities in 2013.

Ethel was a tiny in stature but she made up for it in spirit. Her daughter Theresa said, "My mother was 100% a Women's Lib supporter. So much so that she demanded women carry the casket at her funeral."

Ethel was always ready for a challenge, always kind – caring for those in need, caring for Catholic Charities. We know Ethel is watching over us and guiding as we continue her work. She was a blessing and an inspiration to everyone she met.





St. Christopher

Medical Transportation for Children



St. Christopher is the Patron Saint of Transportation. As the story goes, one day, a child approached him by the river and asked for help to cross. As St. Christopher carried the child across, the river rose and the child's weight grew and became extremely heavy. It was only by great exertion that St. Christopher safely delivered the child to the other side.

When St. Christopher asked the child why he was so heavy, the child

explained that He was the Christ and when St. Christopher carried Him, he also carried the weight of the whole world on his shoulders. The child then vanished.

Parents of children with life threatening conditions have a lot to worry about, but we never want them to worry about getting to medical appointments. That's why we transport children all over the state to get the treatments they need.

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.

Carolyn Cox, a parent who's child Bennie has transported for over 15 years, said, "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."

If you know a child who is facing challenges getting to their medical appointments please call Bennie on 810-397-9924.

**Free
3rd Thursday of
Every Month!**

Foster Parent Training 2021 5pm-7pm

March 18
Secondary Trauma and selfcare

April 15
Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

May 20
The Impact of Trauma on Foster Children

June 17
Catholic Charities Foster Parent Handbook

July 22
Parenting for Effectiveness

August 19
Cross Cultural Fostering

September 16
Navigating the Court System

October 21
Positive Discipline Methods

November 18
Determination of Care (DOC)

Children's Center, 575 Louisa St., Flint

My story is filled with broken pieces, terrible choices, and ugly truths. It's also filled with a major comeback, peace in my soul and a grace that saved my life.

Help is Waiting!



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COUNSELING PROGRAMS

WWW.CCSGC.ORG

Getting Help in Hard Times

Covid Emergency Rental Assistance

Designed to keep Genesee County residents who fell behind on rent during COVID-19 in their homes.

Meet the Team!



Sheilya Hudson, Tamara Chambers, Ardelia Mincey

When COVID-19 struck last year it left many not knowing how they were going to pay their rent. In July, we received federal funding to help avoid evictions and keep people in their homes. Since then, our team has been working diligently to keep up with the demand for rental assistance in the community.

As of December 31, we facilitated the disbursement of \$5,302,463 to those facing eviction due to loss of income because of COVID-19.

While the release of the vaccine has provided a light at the end of the tunnel, many continue to struggle to pay the bills.

You may have heard that beginning in March, Genesee County is slated

to receive an additional \$33,800,000 in federal funding to further assist families facing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Catholic Charities, will receive a portion of these funds, along with other community partners. This new program, the Covid Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) will include assistance with unpaid utilities.

Please follow us on Facebook or Instagram to get further information about this program as we receive updates about when this new funding is available.

If you or someone you know is facing eviction or utility shut offs please contact our Housing Team on 810.600.4525.

Highlighting the risks of e-cigs and vape pens while providing healthier coping strategies.



E-Cig & Vape Education Class

SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH 3-5 PM
1480 N. M52 STE. 1
OWOSSO, MI 48867

To register or for more information please contact Barb Botke or Josie King at 989-723-8239

GOOD NEWS!

\$600,000,000 Settlement for Flint Residents Affected by the Water Crisis

The latest updates and frequently asked questions are on the website. If you feel you qualify to make a claim please visit the website below!

Registration forms must be completed by
March 29, 2021

www.flintwaterjustice.com/registration





Volunteers Needed!

Will you answer the call?

Volunteers boost our power, lighten the load, and exponentially increase our impact.

When COVID-19 struck, the need for our services increased but unfortunately the number of volunteers helping us in the Soup Kitchens and Community Closet decreased - **DRAMATICALLY**.

It's understandable, many of our volunteers are elderly, putting them at high risk for catching the virus. We also heavily relied on church and school groups, which, of course, have been closed for much of the last 12 months.

However, at Catholic Charities, the show must go on. It's been difficult and we've had all hands on deck to make sure that, in a time of

of increased financial hardship, no one goes without essential services.

As the vaccine gets distributed and the number of cases continue to decrease we are hopeful that people will be able to rejoin us to help with the back log in the Community Closet as well as giving some much needed relief to our Soup Kitchen staff.

All of our volunteer opportunities meet safety guidelines for social distancing, increased sanitation, and masks are supplied. Meals also continue to be served as drive-thru to limit the number of individuals inside the building.

If you are able to help us do God's work we would be eternally grateful!

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with this years St. Patrick's Day Boxed Lunch Sale. Volunteers are essential to the success of this fundraiser!

Volunteers Needed

**March 15th & 16th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
North End Soup Kitchen**

If you would like to sign up to volunteer, please visit www.ccsgc.org/stpatricksdays

HOLY MOLEY



**BEEF OR CHICKEN \$10
CHEESE \$8**

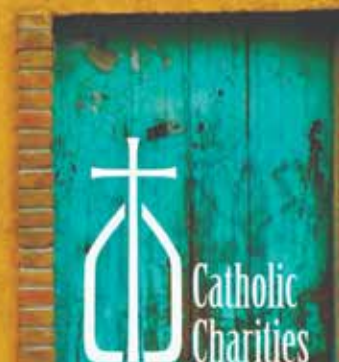
**PICK UP YOUR LUNCH
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5TH
DRIVE-THRU
11 AM - 1 PM
LOCATED AT:
901 CHIPPEWA ST., FLINT**

Every heavenly
bite helps
someone in need!
Deadline to order
April 30th



These enchiladas are divine!

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER:
VISIT WWW.CCSGC.ORG
EMAIL KPARDI@CCSGC.ORG



The Future

The future of our ministry will be built on today's planned and deferred gifts.

Since 1941 we have shared the love of Christ by providing support to anyone who comes to our door. Together, with our most faithful donors, we can continue to be a lifeline to the most vulnerable in our community for many years to come.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving serves a dual purpose. On the one hand, planned gifts help support worthy causes. At the same time, they can be useful in helping individuals make more substantial gifts, as well as address their own financial needs.

Planned gifts make use of legal and tax strategies and/or financial products to maximize the benefits both to the charity and the donor. In contrast, a charitable donation made from a person's cash flow is not defined as a planned gift.

Planned gifts take a number of forms. Some planned gifts are payable upon the donor's death such as a life insurance policy where the beneficiary is a charitable organization. Others are paid during the lifetime of the donor, the choice is yours and you have a lot of options! Here are a few more ways to donate:

- Donor Advised Fund
- Memorial Gift
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust

We welcome the opportunity to assist you as you create philanthropic objectives into your estate plans. If you have included Catholic Charities in your estate plans, or would like more information on how to, please contact us so we can welcome you as a member of our Legacy Society.

*Please consult your financial advisor as tax laws change frequently.

Theresa Hurley
Director of Development
Phone: 810-232-9950 ext. 710

Charitable Giving Annuity

There is a way for you to support Catholic Charities and feel confident that you have dependable income in your retirement years. You can do this with a charitable gift annuity. This popular planned gift can provide you with secure lifetime payments and allow us to further our work on behalf of everyone we serve.

Charitable Endowment

An endowment is a type of donation where the principal amount is invested so that a nonprofit organization can benefit from the income on a long-term basis. If structured correctly, endowments have the ability to make organizations more sustainable, better able to plan, and to enable them to move away from survival mode to a steady revenue source.

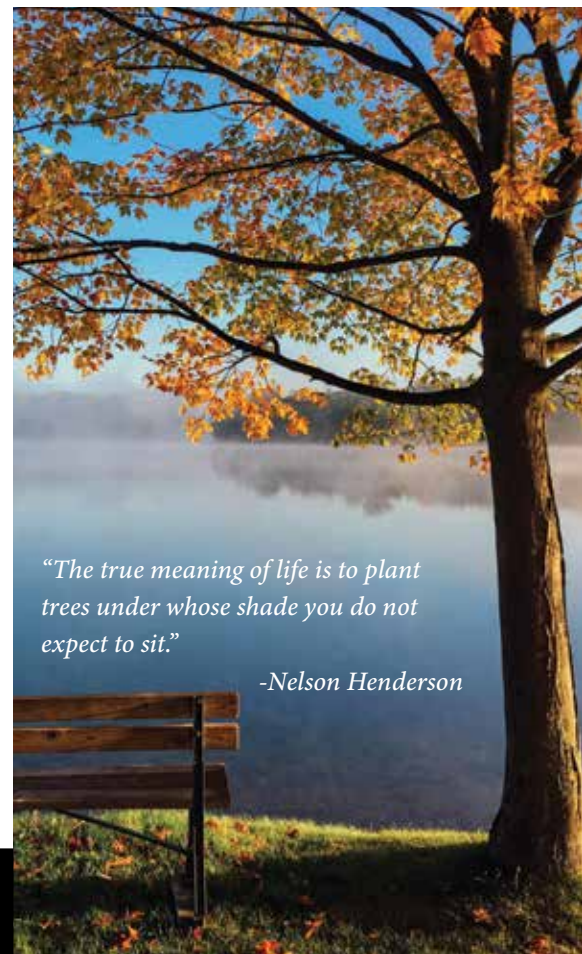
Beneficiary Designations

A beneficiary designation gift is a simple and affordable way to make a gift to support Catholic Charities. After a person's death, retirement accounts are exposed as income, and in some cases estate taxes. The best way to avoid these taxes on your retirement plan is to give those assets to a charity. You can designate us as a beneficiary of a retirement, investment or bank account or your life insurance policy. By designating Catholic Charities as your beneficiary, you will ensure 100% of the value of your account benefits those we serve.

IRA Distribution

Did you know you can make a tax free contribution to Catholic Charities directly from your IRA? Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts are required after age 70 1/2, and the penalty for skipping a Required Minimum Distribution is 50% of the amount that should have been withdrawn. However, if you are in the fortunate position of not needing your distribution for living expenses and are charitably inclined, you can avoid income tax on your required withdrawal by donating your money directly to a qualifying charity.

*Please note that due to COVID-19 temporary changes have been made to RMD payments. Please consult your financial advisor.



"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

-Nelson Henderson

To learn more about our services visit www.ccsge.org

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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Expert service for all your home & office needs!

Logos for: Bryant, HealthyAir Specialist, MSCA Green Star, and Goyette Mechanical.

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.

ELGA CREDIT UNION

(810) 715-3542 • www.ELGACU.com

Thank you to our Silver Sponsor



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



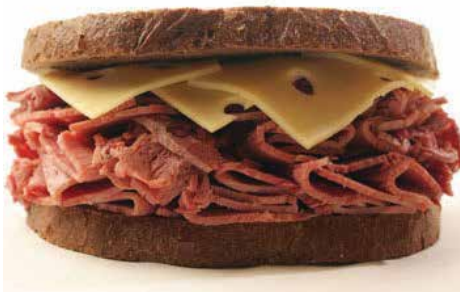
Catholic Charities
of Shiawassee and
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Catholic Charities
901 Chippewa Street
Flint, MI 48503

Non-Profit
Organization
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Flint, MI
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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Boxed Lunch Sale

In 2020 Catholic Charities served 180,277 meals through our 3 Soup Kitchens, Sack Lunch Program and Warming Center. By Purchasing your lunch with us this St. Patrick's Day, you are literally putting food on the table for someone in need.



For only \$8 you can get a great lunch and help someone in need!

PICK UP YOUR LUNCH ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY
DRIVE-THRU 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.
LOCATED AT 901CHIPPEWA STREET, FLINT

Sponsored By



Lunches include a corned beef & Swiss on rye, chips, coleslaw, pickle and a treat!

Order Today!

CatholicCharitiesFlint.org/stpatricksday

