



*The*

# Hopeliner

September 2022

A PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF  
*Shiawassee & Genesee Counties*

St. Claude Burke

CENTER FOR HOPE



*Congratulations*

Vicky Retires After  
Fifteen Years as CEO of  
Catholic Charities.

*Charity*  
Event 2022  
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

### RISING FROM THE ASHES

The story of how one man lost everything  
in a tragic fire, including his freedom.



# Catholic Charities

of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties

**The Most Reverend Earl Boyea**  
Fifth Bishop of Lansing

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email: givehope@ccsge.org



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is bittersweet to say that this is the last time I will be writing this *Message from the President*. I will be retiring on December 30, 2022.

Wow! How has 15 years gone by so quickly is the question I keep asking myself. But, like they say "time flies when you are having fun". Yes, my last 15 years here at Catholic Charities have been FUN!

Everyday has been a new challenge, opportunity, disappointment, but all worth the time and effort to know that we are serving God's people – with love and respect; hoping to brighten their day and bring them the message of God's love through our hands and works.

I returned to Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties, after 6-1/2 years at Catholic Charities in Jackson, Michigan. I had previously been the Fund Development Director in Flint and always dreamed of *coming home* to serve as CEO.

When I returned in 2007, the start was rough...we were in the midst of a recession, we had a deficit budget, and the 3-year union contract was up for re-negotiation.

Despite a challenging start, I can truly say that my tenure as CEO has been the honor of a lifetime. When I look around me and see what we have built, I am so touched to have been privileged to work with so many amazing and talented people over the years.

On a daily basis my staff shows up, ready to make a difference in the life of someone who is struggling. Whether they need food, clothing, shelter from the cold, counseling or just a smile, I

staff treats them with respect, kindness and love. Every person who walks through our doors, leaves knowing they have somewhere to turn when times get tough.

Flint has seen more than it's fair share of struggles, but I can say that no city has more heart than ours! Every time we have needed something, YOU have stepped up to volunteer your time, donate money or items we needed, and together we have persevered!


Of course I must thank my Board of Directors. No one can do this job alone and I appreciate every one of you who volunteered your time to serve this community. Please let me express my heartfelt gratitude for the support, guidance and faith you placed in me. I couldn't have done it without you.

I have had a fulltime job since I was 17 years old and I can honestly say I have no idea what retirement will be like or what my plans will entail. I only wish my husband was still alive to enjoy the next chapter with me.

I have six beautiful grandchildren (3 boys and 3 girls) who I adore and I am looking forward to spending more time with them as they grow up. I am also blessed, at 67 years old, to have both of my parents still living so I look forward to spending some quality time with them while I still can.

While writing this, so many memories have flooded back and my heart is filled with so much gratitude. Thank you for supporting me and Catholic Charities. Your generosity will not be forgotten!

Blessings to you and

 , President & CEO



@CatholicCharitiesFlintOwosso



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@CatholicCharitiesShiawasseeandGeneseeCounties



Catholic Charities Presents...

# Chair-ity Event 2022

Thursday, October 27, 2022

You are invited to pull up a chair and join us for the

## 3rd Annual Chair-ity Event!



Catholic Charities' Conference Center  
609 E. 5th Avenue, Flint  
(the former St. Michael Church)



5:00 pm Drinks & Hors D'oeuvres  
6:00 pm Short Presentation & Live Auction  
7:30 Closing Remarks from Vicky Schultz, CEO

Join us for a Pre-Game celebration that will include wonderful hors d'oeuvres brought to you by Redwood Lodge, drinks, raffles, and silent auction items. The live auction, presented by Fr. Joe Krupp (MSU Fan) & Jesse Ortega (U of M Fan), will spotlight unique, custom designed chairs created and donated by area artists! Come as you are to enjoy good company, light hearted banter and lots of fun as we celebrate another year of

*Providing Help & Creating Hope.*

*Join us...*

\$55 per person  
\$65 at the door  
Sponsorship opportunities beginning at \$1,000

To purchase tickets or become a sponsor visit  
[www.ccsge.org/chair-ity](http://www.ccsge.org/chair-ity) or scan the QR code on the right!

Make checks payable to:  
Catholic Charities, 901 Chippewa Street, Flint, MI 48503





# Rising From



Dewey Lorick was born in Flint in 1955. He had a good life. He was the second oldest in a family of nine siblings; five boys and four girls. He was close to his mother. His parents split up for a time, but got back together. His aunt was a teacher and doted on him, encouraging him to go to college. His grandmother always made sure they were at church every Sunday.

One night in 1972, when Dewey was 17, he was out with his girlfriend. When he went home that night he was greeted with the most tragic news of his life. His family home had burned to the ground, taking with it his mother, two sisters, three brothers, a cousin, his cousin's girlfriend, and a baby that one of his sisters was babysitting.

At 17 years old, he was asked to go to the morgue and identify the burned bodies of 9 of the people he loved most in this world. The cause of the fire is unknown to this day.

He was devastated, in shock and unimaginable sorrow. His surviving siblings were fostered with family members but Dewey was confused and angry and in his grief made a decision that would determine the course of the rest of his life.

He went to stay with a friend and recalls, "I should have never went

there. That was when I started down the wrong path. I was mad at the world. I dropped out of school, started using drugs...weed, heroin, alcohol, anything to numb the pain."

As a teen, he didn't know how to express his grief. He felt left behind, betrayed and abandoned. In the wake of the fire, churches, community members, businesses, family and friends came to his aid but he turned down every offer of help.

"A lot of people wanted to help me, but I didn't take it. I started hanging out on the streets of Flint. If only I would have accepted some help," says Dewey.

For three years he lived on the streets. He was a messed up, grief-stricken, street roaming kid who needed food and money. He was always hungry, looking for drugs, using drugs, and owing guys money for drugs.

He turned to robbing people at gunpoint. On June 30, 1975 he walked into Jones Bros. Party Store on Saginaw Street, high and with the intention of robbing the store with a friend.

"I went there to get some wine," he said, "the clerk left to go do something and that's when my friend pointed out the gun taped under the cigar counter. I grabbed the gun and announced that

we were robbing the store. The clerk took off running to the back and I shot him." He and his friend took more than \$2,000 from the safe and went straight to the dope house.

He was arrested on July 8, 1975. "A girl from the dope house told on me. I was half expecting it. Everyone in the area knew what had happened. They arrested me right outside my house," he said.

He was 21 years old when he was sentenced to life in prison. Despite living, what would be a pretty scary lifestyle for most people, he admits he was terrified. He was sent to Jackson State Penitentiary, known for its dangerous inmates.

Over the years Dewey survived his sentence moving from prison to prison. He stayed out of trouble and worked many jobs, from the laundry department to an assembly line making license plates. "Jackson prison," he recalls, "is like a city within a city. At that time, every prison grew their own vegetables, had a dairy farm, raised pigs, cows and chickens." Inmates worked hard on the farm. They took pride in providing their own food.

Ironically, after 44 years in prison, when he was released, he was feeling the same emotions as the day he entered, "I was scared to death, I didn't know what I was coming out to." he said. He worried nonstop about how people would perceive him. Who would welcome him?

He was released on October 20, 2021. On top of his thoughts of inadequacy, he had no money, no car, no job, no



# From the Ashes

## The Story of Dewey Lorick

home, no food, no clothing, no cell phone, and no idea what to do with his freedom.

Those are the moments when an ex-convict thinks going back to prison might not be so bad.

He was scheduled to be dropped off on Dort Highway, an area of Flint long known to be host to adult bookstores, strip clubs, and prostitution.

Thankfully his parole officer intervened and they brought him straight to Catholic Charities where he worked closely with Dennis Weinand, Offender Success Employment Resource Specialist. Dennis is also Executive Director of Re-Connections.

Catholic Charities' Offender Success Program works closely with Re-Connections engaging community groups as vital partners, laying out clear expectations for parolees, and holding them accountable for their behavior through enhanced supervision, ultimately leading to a successful returning citizen and safer community.

Offender Success is a public safety program based on 20 years of research of what works to help prisoners succeed when they return home. It strives to provide seamless services to prisoners from the first day they are released from prison until they complete parole.

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

Dewey found himself on the receiving end of a team of people all cheering for his success, and this time he is not turning the help down!

After leaving prison at 67 years old, he is not only surviving, but thriving! He completed the program and now works in the Center for Hope Soup Kitchen at Catholic Charities.

He works every day. He shows up ready to give back to others. "I feed the homeless and work in the kitchen, and I'm really thankful I get the chance to do this," he says, "The ride I'm on now is unbelievable!"

Dewey is working on finding independent housing and admits it is hard, "They run a background check on me, they don't want me living there," he said.

In the meantime, he's welcome to stay with us. In the spring of 2021, Catholic Charities acquired the former St. Michael Church and since then has been preparing to turn the former rectory into a haven for returning citizens. "We are so excited to finally be able to provide a safe place for returning citizens to live while they are transitioning back to life at home," says Robert Esselink, Offender Success Director, "It's not just a place to sleep, it's a place where they have peer support and close access to all the resources they need."

The former rectory used to house a number of priests and has been converted to transitional housing and Dewey is happy to be one of the first residents to live there.

Thanks to the kindness of an anonymous donor, the Needlework Quilters in Davison and Howell, and the hard work of Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church in Flint the bedrooms are welcoming and ready to be filled!



**If you are interested in learning more about our programs to help returning citizens please contact Robert Esselink at [resselink@ccsgc.org](mailto:resselink@ccsgc.org)**





# Volunteer to Valued Employee

AARON RICHARDS WAS STRUGGLING WHEN HE FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE CENTER FOR HOPE. HE REMEMBERS ASKING HIMSELF, "WHERE WILL I GET MY NEXT MEAL?"

Mary Stevenson, Volunteer Services Coordinator. "We are so sincerely grateful to have him with us."

His personal struggles have not disappeared, but Aaron has discovered that helping others is a great way to manage his own challenges. "It took me a while to get into the swing of things," remembers Aaron. "It was an eye-opening thing to be selfless."

"If there's one thing my great-grandmother instilled in me, it was to have a heart for those in need," he says. "I look at it as good karma. I want to see people have a smile on their face. If it comes from the heart, it is definitely something you should be proud of."

Aaron has learned it is possible to overcome mistakes and turn your life around. He can care for others because he has learned to care for himself.

His great-grandmother encouraged Aaron when he was young, and the staff of Catholic Charities encourages him today. "Just do what God wants you to do," Aaron says. "Be a good-hearted person as well as a selfless person. Everybody needs somebody – even a stranger."

After being such a dedicated volunteer, in 2022 we were able to show him how valuable he is to Catholic Charities and hire him to work part time in the Community Closet.

"Catholic Charities is a blessing," says Aaron, "Miss Mary and Miss Rae are a blessing for taking me in and treating me as one of their own. This place has made me glow inside."



Aaron, a life-long resident of Flint, is now a volunteer at our Center for Hope, but not so long ago he was a person in need.

In 2017, "I reached out to Miss Mary and Miss Rae and asked if I could be part of the team," Aaron says. "They definitely welcomed me with open arms. I was grateful. It kept me out of a lot of things and kept me away from people who weren't good for me."

Aaron became a welcome addition to the volunteer staff. "He was always looking to help everybody," says



Jackie Walser, Judy Fulkerson, Mary Ann Kalka, Sharon Davis, Judy Verdier, & Jim Niemiec

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10*

As a team, they have transformed the Closet and the Pantry. They are creative with little resources and together, they turned what was a disorganized mountain of donations into a well oiled and efficient resource center for those in need.

We can't thank you enough for your commitment to helping those in need and we applaud you for all of the hard work you've done over the last few years! You are amazing!

Pantry in our Owosso office. We did a plea on social media for help so that we could continue to provide essential services to those in need and slowly but surely our prayers were answered.

Each one of these wonderful individuals: Jackie, Judy, Mary Ann, Sharon, Judy and Jim come in every week, without fail, to organize donations and help clients find what they need.

We are grateful for every volunteer, no matter how much time they are able to give, but our Shiawassee Volunteers deserve some well earned praise for their dedication! Thank You just doesn't seem to be enough.

When the pandemic hit, we had virtually no volunteers to help us run the Community Closet and Food

**Visit Our  
Community Closet & Food Pantry**

Mondays 12 pm - 3 pm  
Wednesdays & Fridays 9 am - 12 pm

**Interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities in Shiawassee or Genesee Counties? Text "Volunteer" to 810-255-3053 or scan the QR code.**





# Volunteering

## Empathy in Action

Volunteers are an essential part of what we do at Catholic Charities. Each year, we celebrate National Volunteer Week to recognize their contributions. Thousands of volunteers pass through our doors, from church and school groups, to individuals and families, to previous clients who want to give back. We value *every minute* all of you give to help those in need and want to recognize a few remarkable individuals who have shown incredible dedication to Catholic Charities. We thank you for your service to those in need!



### Special Recognition

Hilda McShane  
Also pictured: Theresa Hurley,  
Vicky Schultz

### Catholic School in Action

Holy Rosary Catholic School Also  
pictured: Theresa Hurley,  
Vicky Schultz

### Ethel Hooker Heart of Hope

Kathleen (Kitty) Kelly Also  
pictured: Vicky Schultz, Mary  
Stevenson

### Volunteer of the Year

The A Team  
Sandy Grades, Sue Palma,  
Don Dienko Also pictured: Vicky  
Schultz, John Manse

### Golden Soup Bowl

Patty & Scott Barr Also pictured:  
Vicky Schultz, John Manse



### Spirit of Hope

Iris Woodring, Connie Doerr,  
LeeAnn King Not pictured:  
Constance Maxim Also pictured:  
Vicky Schultz, Mary Stevenson,  
ReDonna Riggs

### Youth in Action

Nick Pobocik & Mission Flint Also  
pictured: Vicky Schultz, Mary  
Stevenson

### St. Michael Service Award

Jean Herron, Doug & Lynn  
Stanley, Ted Lau, Terry Naderhoff  
Not pictured: Frank Chrastek, Jim  
Antonageli Also pictured: Vicky  
Schultz, Mary Stevenson, Dan  
Ray, ReDonna Riggs

### Heart of Service

Bill Bradburn Also pictured: Vicky  
Schultz, Mary Stevenson

### Hands of Hope

Karen Downs, Paula Clarambeau,  
Jan & Bill Campeau, Gretchen  
Polzin-Ridley Not pictured:  
Marie Cavanagh, Jan Dean,  
Autumn Gooch Also pictured:  
Vicky Schultz, Mary Stevenson,  
ReDonna Riggs

## In Recognition of Service and Support of Returning Citizens

### Second Chance Month 2022



WGS Global Services, LLC  
Also Pictured: Vicky Schultz,  
Robert Esselink

Charles Johnson  
Also Pictured: Vicky Schultz,  
Robert Esselink

GST Michigan Works  
Also Pictured: Vicky Schultz,  
Robert Esselink

Extraordinary  
Service and Dedication  
Ronald Jones Also Pictured: Vicky  
Schultz, Robert Esselink

Extraordinary  
Service and Dedication  
Dewey Lorick Also Pictured: Vicky  
Schultz, Robert Esselink





# Congratulations on your Retirement!

When Vicky started as CEO, the agency was already well established, in fact it was bursting at the seams. There were 103 employees crammed into two small buildings in Flint and one in Owosso. A recession was in full swing and demand for services was on the rise.

With a budget deficit, it was hard to know where to start, but her primary objective was to share the love of Christ by offering programs that fulfilled as many of the Corporal Works of Mercy as possible. That is; *Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Clothe the Naked, Shelter the Homeless, Visit the Sick, Visit the Imprisoned and Bury the Dead.* As long as she held that goal close, she knew God would help with the details.

In 2008, the Agency expanded services by securing contracts with Genesee County Community Mental Health to incorporate a Women's Specialty Program, Role Induction, and Intensive Outpatient Therapy. Contracts were also added with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) to provide substance abuse and sex offender treatment.

That same year, it became apparent the need for clothing and personal hygiene products was increasing. At the time, we offered only little bags with a few items at the North End Soup Kitchen. We worked with the Church Coordinator of Sacred Heart, Ethel Hooker to open the doors of the lower level and serve those needing personal care items, clothing, household items, linens, etc.

Within a few short years Sacred Heart announced they were closing, which meant we needed a new location for

for what had expanded into the Community Closet. Unfortunately, the School of Choice held in the former St. Michael school closed after 37 years. It was a sad day for Flint, but it presented the agency with some exciting possibilities.

We acquired the school from the Diocese of Lansing in 2010. "I was really excited about the possibilities when we got St. Michael's School," said Vicky, "but the Board Chair, Dr. Gary Lipe, Retired Superintendent from Grand Blanc Schools, thought I was crazy. He had been through many renovations of old schools and warned me I was buying a "dead horse". So, the long journey to make Vicky's vision a reality began.

First, we moved the Community Closet into the school classrooms. That winter, we were able to allow people with no place to go, a chance to get out of the cold. "We had no idea what we were doing back then, I just knew I couldn't let people stay outside in the cold while I sat in my warm office," said Vicky. It was then that the Warming Center was born.

The following spring after the Warming Center closed it was very apparent that the community would also benefit from a second Soup Kitchen, so the former school cafeteria began it's conversion.

Vicky wasn't wasting any time, she had big dreams for the school. In 2011 she recruited a team and they began a Capital Campaign that raised \$6,000,000 for renovations.

By the end of 2015, the City of Flint was once again facing a crisis - the Water Crisis. Everyone was scrambling







to find places to store water donations - the Food Bank was full. We had an entire building almost empty, so the trucks began to arrive. At one time, there were nine semi-trucks waiting to unload, they were literally lined up around the block.

"We didn't have a hand jack, forklift, or anything," remembers Vicky, "We relied on volunteers and staff to unload. Eventually someone donated a used forklift and we purchased some hand jacks for maneuvering. It was all hands on deck! My staff were amazing, everyone pitched in. We distributed water by the case five days a week for the next two years."

All the while, Vicky had to consider how the crisis was affecting staff, the facilities and the services the agency provided. Foster Care was delivering water to foster families; we had to have bottled water for staff; we had to have clean water available for cooking in the Soup Kitchens.

That fall the Agency celebrated 75 years of *Providing Help and Creating Hope*. Clients, Community Partners, Board Members, and Staff enjoyed a well earned and joyful celebration!

By March of 2017, there was reason to celebrate again! The Owosso office had completely out grown their tiny, inconvenient office on Exchange Street and relocated to it's current location on North M-52.

By spring, Vicky's vision of a campus in Flint, where clients could come and get all of their needs met in one place was becoming a reality. The Agency

broke ground on the renovations in April and on October 17, welcomed Bishop Earl Boyea for the Grand Ribbon Cutting and Blessing. The Sister Claudia Burke Center for Hope was officially open to the public!

One day, out of the blue, Dennis Weinand, Founder and Executive Director of Re-Connections walked into her office. He wanted to work with parolees and wondered if a partnership was possible.

"I couldn't believe my ears," said Vicky, "A businessman who had not done any time in prison wanted to work with parolees. I thought - God is Good and has been listening to my prayers. Dennis was given free space on the second floor of the school, and he got started with his program."

One would think at this point Vicky would put her feet up and enjoy a few years of peace and quiet, while dreaming about retirement on the horizon... but as the saying goes, there's no rest for the weary.

In early 2020, COVID-19 became a global pandemic and the community was once again in crisis. People were losing jobs and falling behind on rent and utilities. All of our services are considered essential so we had to pivot on a dime to figure out how to serve meals; distribute clothing and hygiene products; provide much needed counseling; keep our foster kids safe; and figure out how to keep visitors to our Warming Center healthy. All while losing the lions share of our volunteers and keeping our staff safe.

On top of that, at short notice, we became Genesee County Housing Assessment Resource Agency (HARA) and had to create a Housing Department from scratch. It was a massive undertaking at the best of times but during COVID, with more and more people needing help with housing, it was a small miracle we were able to pull it off!

"Let's just say I did a lot of praying in those initial stages of the pandemic," said Vicky, "My staff were incredible and I'm very proud to say we did not close our doors for even one day during the lock down."

In the wake of the pandemic we are now facing high inflation with potentially another recession looming, but at 67 it's time for Vicky to enjoy the fruits of her labor and spend more time with family and friends.

It's taken a lot of blood, sweat and tears but the dream of a Catholic Charities campus, that was just a twinkle in Vicky's eye fifteen years ago, has become a reality. She has set the wheels in motion for even more growth in the coming years, but is happy to let someone else take the helm. "I know with such amazing staff and volunteers, and a supportive community, Catholic Charities is in safe hands," said Vicky.

***We here wish her the best & a very happy retirement!***



*Please join us to wish Vicky farewell!*

**December 15, 2022**  
**4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**Catholic Charities' Conference Center**  
**609 E 5th Ave, Flint, MI 48503**



# Jesse Ortega

takes over as  
*Chairman*  
of the Board

**Catholic Charities is excited to welcome Jesse Ortega as next Board Chair, beginning on October 1, 2022.**

Jesse was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He is the fifth of eleven children. His family immigrated to Stockton, California in 1964, where his Grandparents lived. They came in search of better opportunities.

After High School, Jesse attended UC Berkeley where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1981 and began his career at General Motors, starting at AC Sparkplug in Flint.

During his career, he held a number of Engineering leadership roles, including the global development of the 2016 Chevrolet Malibu. In 2016, he was assigned as the Architectural Chief Engineer for the BEV2, Innovation, and Defense Projects. Jesse retired in

August 2021, after 41 years at GM.

Jesse is a member of St Robert Bellarmine Parish in Flushing, where he and his wife Barb were married in 1981. They have 9 children and 12 grandchildren. His children attended St. Roberts Bellarmine school and are graduates of Powers Catholic High School.

He has served on many school and church committees. Currently, Jesse is also a Board member of Walhalla Shore Association.

Jesse knew as he approached retirement, he wanted to serve in the community. He is committed to the Flint area, and has seen the goodness that Catholic Charities brings to Genesee and Shiawassee Counties.

He has volunteered in the soup kitchen and tried to instill giving back in his children by

“

*As someone who benefited from social services while growing up, I believe I have a moral obligation to give back. I hope to work closely with the Diocese and local parishes, and to build on the great work done by those who served before me. I ask for your prayers to guide me while I serve as Chair.*

”

taking them with him when they were in elementary school.

"It has been a difficult few years for our community, first with COVID-19 and now with high inflation," says Jesse, "I see the growing need and am committed to maintaining, and strengthening Catholic Charities' role during these times."

We hope you will join us in welcoming Jesse as Board Chair. He is generous with his smiles and we look forward to his leadership and the joy he brings to the agency!







# We Will Miss You!

to return the call...but something made him change his mind. "When I accepted the position, I felt like everything I had done in my working life had been leading me to that moment," said Coulter.

When Coulter joined the Agency, the maintenance department was virtually non-existent. Similar to many nonprofits, they did the best they could when things went wrong. Greg's experience was exactly what the agency needed.

Just when he thought he had all he could handle, the Water Crisis hit in Flint. "I was on vacation when the news broke, by the time I got back, the gymnasium in the old St. Michael's School had been filled with semi loads of water. The floor was starting to sag under the weight of it," he said, "and we had no forklifts. We had to unload and distribute all of the water by hand."

Throughout his tenure at Catholic Charities, Greg has overseen the renovation of St. Michael's School, now the Center for Hope; and despite all of the obstacles and difficulties that go along with a project of that magnitude, he can always be found with a smile on his face, ready to do what needs to be done.

Greg's ability to fix just about anything and hard work keeping the facilities and grounds clean and in working order has been outstanding! His leadership has been vital to the success of the Agency. He has always been a servant leader, rolling up his sleeves to work next to those he leads.

We are going to miss him when he is gone! May he accomplish everything on his retirement list and more, as he moves into this next chapter.



There might have been a few angels guiding Facilities Director, Greg Coulter, through the doors of 901 Chippewa Street, when he first arrived at Catholic Charities in 2012.

For most of his life, Greg had owned a maintenance company, and later a construction company.

When the recession hit in 2008 and the building industry began to decline, he started to feel the pinch. Little did he know that his wife had seen the job posting at Catholic Charities and submitted an application on his behalf.

When he heard the interview request in his voicemail, he wasn't going

## Greg Gaines Retires for the 2nd Time!

Greg Gaines didn't want the job. He already had a job. No. Nope. Not interested. He turned it down three times. He was almost done putting in 30 years at General Motors and he wanted no part of teaching kids.

However, "Something was bothering me," Gaines says. He couldn't sleep. Finally, he called Catholic Charities and five minutes later, Mr. Gaines was hired into the program that became his namesake: the Mr. Gaines Gardening Program PLUS. That was 32 years ago and now 73, and it's time for him to finally hang up his rake.

Back when it all started, "I didn't know a green from a weed," says Mr. Gaines with one of his quiet laughs. And, well... it grew beyond my expectations." The students learned to plant, grow, and harvest the vegetables; they sold their produce at the Flint Farmers' Market; and they learned some cooking skills, too, so that they can each make a family dinner. His kids walked away from their experience with job skills, personal finance lessons, nutrition information and a paycheck.

"Greg has been a positive role model for a tremendous number of young people, he was a phenomenal leader who worked hard to build future leaders in Flint," says Vicky Schultz, CEO, "We always joked that we would retire together, he beat me to it by just a few months!"



## A TRULY Amazing COUNSELOR IS HARD TO FIND, DIFFICULT TO PART WITH AND IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET!

Tammy Burgess started working as a counselor for Catholic Charities in 2008. At one point she carried the largest caseload in the agency. She was asked to become a supervisor in 2012 and has continued to maintain a client caseload while playing a supervisory roll since then.

"I was very honored when I was asked to become a supervisor, I never intended to become one. It demonstrated the level of respect and trust the agency had in me and I hope I have lived up to those expectations," said Tammy.

"Tammy is a very skilled and professional Therapist – she has been in the field for many years," said Vicky Schultz, CEO, "I have known her since she worked at General Motors in the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) where she impressed me more than 30 years ago. She has been a great mentor for those entering the field. I only wish there were more Tammy's in the world!"

Tammy will be retiring on December 15, 2022 and plans to finally get to some projects done around the house. She loves to garden. She is a weaver and spins her own yarn so she is also looking forward to getting creative with her newly found free time. She also hopes to do a world cruise, in segments over the next few years.

"I will miss all my coworkers and my clients. It's been such a pleasure to work with so many talented therapists over the years, they truly have a heart for the people we serve," said Tammy.







# I Love My Kids!

***But I don't always love parenting, and sometimes I feel so alone.***

Let's get real for a second. Being a parent is hard. Heck, being a person is hard, let alone being a person in charge of the wellbeing of a little person (or multiple little people.)

Being a parent can make you act in ways you are not totally proud of from time to time. It is pretty certain, if you are a parent, at some point you have lost it with your child while simultaneously having a flashback which makes you realize you have become your own mother or father.

Parents wrestle constantly with worry, fear and shame and no doubt COVID-19 hasn't made it any easier!

Kids enter the world without a manual. They have their own unique personality that may be complementary to, or totally the opposite of yours. You may have one child who is easy to parent and

another that makes you question your ability to be a parent.

If we surveyed 100 people on what parts of parenthood are hard, we're sure we'd get thousands of reasons. Parents are pulled in many directions. The tears, tantrums, and sibling fights all contribute to the noise that can make your head feel like it's going to explode. Constantly correcting behavior and making sure kids are making good choices can drain a person.

## **We get it!**

Parenting can feel ridiculously hard. So hard it leads to pure mental and physical exhaustion. And yet, parenting is also one of the most amazing gifts. When you can take a step back, and shift the way you view parenting, things can start to feel more joyful, easier and not so draining.

## **What if there was a tool that could help you finally exhale and feel more in control as a parent?**

Well you might not know this but Catholic Charities' Prevention & Education Team might just be the answer to your prayers!

Think about it...teachers, counselors and day-care providers have had years of training to do their jobs, yet the notion that parents need to learn effective parenting skills is not widespread!

Our Prevention Specialists provide support for parents struggling with the challenges of being a parent through the S.T.E.P Program (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting).



*Meet the Team!*  
Rochelle Gasso (Supervisor) Rashelle Eubanks, Robert Botke, Cassandra Coleman, Barbara Botke, and Brittany Jones.



# S ystematic T raining for E ffective P arenting

Held at Catholic Charities' in both our Flint and Owosso offices (or online), this 7 week program will help you develop better parenting skills. Best of all, it's completely FREE!

The S.T.E.P. parenting program is an effective, seven-session planned training curriculum that focuses on topics important to parents today. This course provides valuable tools which improve communication among family members and lessens conflict.

The next in person class will be held in Flint beginning Thursday, October 20, 3:30-5:00 pm. Email Cassie at [ccoleman@ccsgc.org](mailto:ccoleman@ccsgc.org) to register.

## Understanding Yourself and Your Child

- Your job is to guide - not punish or do everything for your child.
- You can expect your child to cooperate.
- Your child's behaviour always has a purpose.

## Listening and Talking to Your Child

- To have a good relationship, talk together using special skills.
- You can listen to hear how your child is feeling.
- You can talk about problems without blaming.

## Helping Children Cooperate

- Children can be responsible for some of their own problems.
- You and your child can talk together and solve problems.
- Family meetings help families enjoy each other and solve problems together.

## Discipline That Makes Sense

- The purpose of discipline is to help your child learn to become responsible.
- Discipline is a way to guide your child to learn to make choices.
- Consequences can help your child learn to cooperate and be responsible.

## Encouraging Your Child and Yourself

- You can use encouragement to help build your child's self-esteem.
- Encouragement can help your child to feel loved, accepted, respected, and valued.
- Praise and encouragement are not the same thing.

## Understanding Young Children's Behavior

- Your child has beliefs about how to belong.
- Your child's behaviour comes from these beliefs.
- Children's misbehavior has one of four goals: attention, power, revenge or displaying inadequacy.

## Choosing Your Approach

- With schoolwork, your job is to help your child be ready and able to learn.
- You can expect your children to get along together and solve problems among themselves.
- You can use your STEP skills and approaches to help your child avoid serious safety problems.



# The Bike Man Going God's Speed



Dennis Revard didn't have a lot growing up. He was one of twelve children and they all shared one big bike. He can still clearly remember the day his grandfather bought him a 24" red and white *J.C. Higgins* bike all of his own! As a kid, having a bike was a big deal to him and he remembers how excited he was like it was yesterday!

These days he has made it his mission to make sure Flint's children get to experience the exhilaration he felt as a kid riding that bike!

About five years ago, Dennis started collecting bikes to donate to the Center for Hope. "I pick them up where ever I can find them, sometimes at Goodwill, sometimes at garage sales," said Dennis, "I fix them up so they look shiny and and new before I donate them."

He hasn't been keeping close track but he believes he has donated around 400 bikes over the last five years. Of course they leave the Center for Hope as fast as he can bring them in!

"It is easy to see that Dennis puts his heart into his work. He can tell you a little something about every bike he brings in. What he really brings us is joy. The excitement you see on the face of a child taking one of Dennis's bikes home brightens the day," says Mary Stevenson, Volunteer Coordinator.

Its not just the children that leave happy, bikes are often not in the budget for a family struggling to put food on the table, so the parents are just as grateful.

*Thank You*  
For your kindness.







# 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.

Adeline Bickersteth  
 Adlawan family  
 Anna May Gavin  
 Annamary Fox Waldon  
 Arthur Tinetti  
 August, Anne & Mark Madaras  
 Beatrice Beldyga  
 Bender & Bade Family  
 Bethany J. Montney  
 Beverly Cords  
 Bob Hurley  
 Bob Stork  
 Carole A. Jozwick  
 Carole Timm  
 Dale, Ray & Bob Owen  
 Delbert Murphy  
 Donna Brother  
 Dorothy Boudreau  
 Dorothy J. Magee  
 Earl and Frances Lindgren  
 Earl Whaley  
 Echo Yvonne Brunell  
 Elizabeth Lea  
 Esther Marie Jaksa  
 Father Paul Schwermer  
 Father Philip Breen  
 Florence McCrandall  
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 Tom Carter  
 Viola MacDonald  
 Virginia Landaal  
 Virginia Washington  
 Marilyn Lee  
 William F. Ward  
 William Wheeler  
 Wm. & Lila Howard  
 Yvonne Trogan Snyder

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

**From heaven you raised \$24,916!**

# Tribute Gifts

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

Carol Cornillie  
 Dan Czmer  
 Diane Walsh  
 Dr. Janice Kay Shimoda  
 Duane Church  
 Friends  
 Genora Goyette-Halligan  
 Gerald Durand  
 Hugh Welsh  
 Jacob Clements  
 Michael Anderson  
 Padma Raju and The Flint Temple  
 Pastor Bobby Blade  
 Patricia Taljonick  
 Phyllis Jones  
 Robert Taljonick  
 The Ukraine  
 Wayne Knecht

You Raised \$3,666.80 Just for  
*Being Awesome!*

Would you like to show your appreciation for someone awesome in your life?

Visit [www.ccsgc.org/donate](http://www.ccsgc.org/donate) to make a donation in their name!



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

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 regular incoming support.

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 visit [www.ccsgc.org/donate](http://www.ccsgc.org/donate) or email Theresa Hurley at [thurley@ccsgc.org](mailto:thurley@ccsgc.org)**



# Thank You!



# Community Partners

*Without the support of you, our impact wouldn't be as far reaching.  
Please accept our heartfelt Thank You for everything you do!*

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Founded in 1928, this year marks the 94rd 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!"

**GECS**  
 Genesee Education Consultant Services

Since 2012, Genesee Education Consultant Services has established itself as the premier **School Staffing Company** for over 30 districts and 2,500 employees in Mid Michigan. GECS provides all Human Resources Services, especially recruiting and hiring. GECS strives to be a competitive NON-PROFIT for client districts and gives back to the community in many ways to enhance the lives of the children our employees' serve. GECS is a proud sponsor of Catholic Charities and their mission to meet the needs of families in our area.

**GECS**

# GECS

Genesee Education Consultant Services



Genesys PHO  
HAP

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](mailto:thurley@ccsgc.org)**



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THIS SEASON

*remember* to *unwrap*

THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TO HELP,  
EMPOWER, SUPPORT AND GIVE  
TO THOSE HE LOVES.



*Whether you need a  
little help or want to help  
others, we are happy  
to connect hearts at  
Christmas!*

## HOLIDAY GIVING SEASON

at Catholic Charities' North End Soup Kitchen (NESK)!

**DO YOU NEED A LITTLE  
HELP THIS CHRISTMAS?**

October 17-21, 2022  
10 am to 1 pm  
North End Soup Kitchen's  
735 E. Stewart Ave., Flint

Please Bring:  
\* Your Michigan I.D.  
\* Each Child's Birth Certificate  
or DHHS Verification Form.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO  
HELP SOMEONE THIS  
CHRISTMAS?**

Everyone who comes for Christmas Dinner  
receives a gift! Your donation of toys for  
children and towels or socks for adults will  
help us make sure everyone  
receives a gift for Christmas!

For more information, contact John Manse at 810.785.6911 or [jmanse@ccsgc.org](mailto:jmanse@ccsgc.org)