

Partners Newsletter

August 2016 | Edition #81



Catholic
Charities
Diocese of Covington



Home, At Last!

By Karen Hogan Kuhlman

Home—a place for which the heart yearns. A place cozy and secure, where we are nourished by our family's love, safely tucked away from the world. God surely intends such a place of peace for each of us, and fortunate are we who are blessed with the gift of home.

Sadly, some families are without this gift. Homeless families have no such refuge, no place of peace. Life on the streets or in shelters is pretty bleak for anyone, but especially for disabled families with

children. Lacking the skills necessary to find work and coping with disabilities, these homeless parents have difficulty seeing a future for themselves and their children.

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington is particularly sensitive to the needs of homeless, disabled families. Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, Catholic Charities proclaims its mission “to promote healing, restore hope and affirm human potential through services that empower, voices that speak for justice; and, partnerships that strengthen communities.” An important component of that mission is Catholic Charities' dedication to respecting the dignity of the homeless through the St. Joseph Supportive Housing Program.

The St. Joseph Apartments consist of two eight-unit buildings located in Elsmere. Rent is calculated on a sliding scale, and all families with income pay something. The maximum rent, which includes utilities, is \$662 per month. Subsidies are funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Prospective tenants must be living on the street or in a homeless shelter, and at least one member of the household must have a disability diagnosed by a physician. Families may consist of married couples with children, single parents with children, or guardians (for example grandparents) raising children.

The families who move into the St. Joseph Apartments have had difficult lives. So when they move in, they have a companion on their journey towards their new lives. Brandy Medaugh is a client care specialist for Catholic Charities and the St. Joseph Apartments case manager. Her role is to help them start over.

At present, Ms. Medaugh shepherds 26 adults and 29 children at St. Joseph Apartments. She works with each family to establish long term goals and helps them develop a plan to achieve them. She provides advocacy and support when needed. Typical goals for adult residents include achieving a high school diploma, GED or college degree; obtaining medical or dental care that may have been delayed for years; and developing money management skills, including paying rent and other bills on time, and developing an understanding of what is affordable and what is not.

All parents want what is best for their children, and Ms. Medaugh helps parents develop the confidence they often lack in advocating for their children so that they can succeed in school. In the last two years eight residents have graduated from high school.

Continued on page 6

Community Compassion healing
Charity Education

A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

"In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Gratitude. In his recent encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis emphasizes the theme of gratitude, reminding us that gratitude is critical to our relationship with the natural world and our fellow human beings. Gratitude enables us to see the interconnectedness of all created things and the sacredness of human life, because all are gifts from God. Simply put, gratitude is the natural response to a gift.

At many of our staff and board meetings, we have adopted a custom of sharing our gratitude for all the ways we have been blessed by our work at Catholic Charities. I am constantly reminded of my gratitude for our staff and volunteers, for our benefactors and for those who call on us for help, who bless us as we serve them. It is an awesome gift to be able to serve, and I am grateful for being given this awesome responsibility and blessing of serving others.

In addition to the generosity of so many volunteers giving of your time, talent and treasure, I think one of the key ingredients in the heart and soul of our ministries at Catholic Charities is our willingness and desire to respond to needs that are presented to us. We cannot be all things to all people, but we do strive to witness the compassion, love and charity that Christ calls us to be, especially when it fits a niche that combines our mission and resources. Over the past year, I have witnessed a wonderful example of this response through our "PAL" group at Catholic Charities.

Our Parents of Addicted Loved-ones ("PAL") support group was started about a year ago, recognizing the pervasive and troubling increase of heroin use and overdoses in our area. We were not equipped to start a treatment program for addicts, but we saw an opportunity to serve the parents and loved ones of addicts who were generally being overlooked by other programs. We felt that our small size was an asset to help us address this need, and the focus of this group fit our niche of helping families.

A few weeks ago I attended the one year anniversary celebration of our PAL support group. Over 75 people attended this celebration and potluck dinner. At dusk we also did a lantern launch as a memorial to those loved ones who have been lost due to their addiction. Most of those in attendance had participated in our meetings over the past year, but we also welcomed a few new participants who could immediately see how welcoming and supportive this group is. Without singling out any particular individuals, suffice to say that this program has witnessed the love and mercy of Christ through the peer volunteers who lead this group, our amazing staff who saw the opportunity, and the many people who have shared their experiences and offered hope to others with the same struggles.

In this issue of our Partners Newsletter, we have highlighted many other aspects of our ministry that we are grateful for. We are grateful for Mary Fleischman who retired from Catholic Charities on June 30, 2016 after working for us since the early 1980's. We are grateful for the new staff who have joined us recently, bringing new life and energy into our ministries—Maria Meyer, Drew Bamberger and Jessica Whalen. We are grateful to our volunteers who we honored at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in June, and for the new volunteers who have joined us recently. And I am grateful for many other gifts—the new laundry facility and basketball court at our St. Joseph Apartments, for the Knights of Columbus, whose annual summer golf outing benefits our Life Line Fund, for the Marketing Committee who helped us launch our new marketing video, and for the efforts underway for our annual CaSSBa celebration in the Drees Pavilion in Devou Park, in August.

I am personally grateful to God for the many blessings I have received working at Catholic Charities, and I am especially grateful to you, who have shared the burden and blessing of ministry with us.

Your partner in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Pickett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Pickett
Executive Director

News and Events



Congratulations!

The Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus 8th Annual Golf Classic to benefit Catholic Charities LifeLine Fund was held on July 23rd and was a huge success. We thank the committee Chairs: Carl Biery and Bill Kopp, committee members: Deacon Bill Theis, Don Ward, Bob Merkle, Wayne Brown and of course all the golfers and sponsors who made this event so successful.

A Light in the Darkness

One year ago, our PAL group (Parents of Addicted Loved-Ones) became the light in the darkness for many families who have addicted loved ones. Celebrating its one year anniversary, members and supporters of PAL came together at Park Place Community Center, Taylor Mill for an evening of fellowship including a Lantern Launch to commemorate those suffering with addictions. An estimated 80 guests participated in the evening which included a meal (blessed by executive director, Alan Pickett), a sharing of family photos and the offering of written messages of hope, inspiration and support. Words of gratitude to Joan Arlinghaus and Kimberly Wright from NKY Hates Heroin for providing Narcan training, Joella's Hot Chicken of Crescent Springs for donating a portion of the meal, all attendees for bringing a dish to share and the Taylor Mill Fire department for supervising the Lantern Launch. A very special thank you to Tony and Tina Garera, PAL's volunteer coordinators, for their generous gift of time, leadership, compassion and inspiration!



Sacred Heart Radio—Son Rise Morning Show

Listen to Son Rise Morning Show at 8:20 a.m. the fourth Thursday of the month to hear Catholic Charities staff member on the show talking about the agency and how it is serving in the diocese of Covington. The podcast are also available on the website at www.covingtoncharities.org

New Agency Video Launches

Catholic Charities Diocese of Covington is both humbled and proud to launch our video about impact—a story about how we offer works of mercy to all we encounter. We also recognize how much work there is to be done in our communities, so we are very thankful to the many people who help us “Extend a Hand, Change a Life,” who help us live our mission! Visit our web site at www.covingtoncharities.org to view the video. Video production generously sponsored by Intrizic Marketing Company, Catholic Charities marketing committee and friends of Catholic Charities.

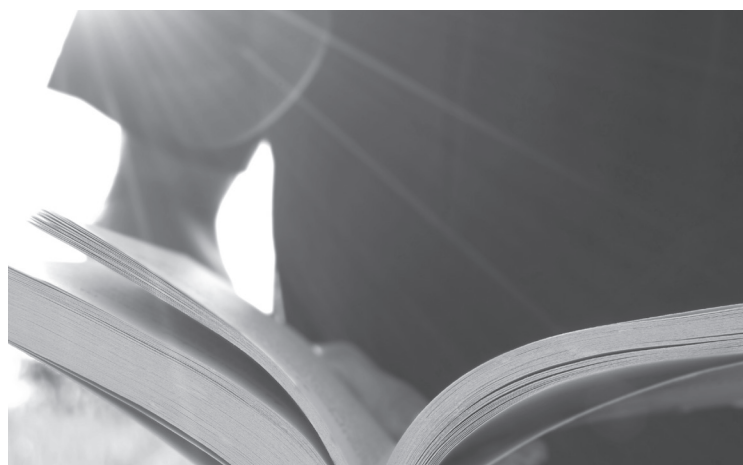
2016-17 Student Challenge: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For students of all ages, the beginning of the school year is the official marking of the end-of-summer, a somber thought for most. It means the beginning of waking early coupled with seemingly, endless nights of homework. It is dreaded or feared by some, viewed as a battle ground of some sort, perhaps by those who struggle academically, experience social anxiety or lack self-confidence. For others, school is anticipated, looked forward to, seen as an opportunity to set and achieve goals, whether it be competitive sporting goals or academic successes. And there are students who find school to be most importantly, a place of security with a guaranteed meal. School, in and of itself, is a unique experience for every student, as each one's personal life and all its circumstances are unique. For students with struggles, help is available in various forms such as teachers, counselors, tutors, clergy, or mentors.

Our own Catholic Charities' school-based counselors are present in both Catholic and public schools in Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties, providing help to struggling elementary and grade school students. Catholic Charities' Reach & Teach Mentoring Program, an added volunteer feature to the counselors' services, strives to provide counselor-identified students with a high school mentor, someone to help promote academic success, self-confidence and positive choice making.

As this school year begins, Catholic Charities' school counselors will be busy identifying students who can benefit from having a Reach & Teach high school mentor. The goal of the Reach & Teach Mentoring Program is to provide each identified student with a high school mentor for a one-on-one mentoring experience. To do so requires a great many high school volunteers who are sophomores, juniors and seniors who are in good academic standings; students who themselves demonstrate the qualities which the Reach & Teach Program strives to cultivate in younger students. Most importantly, students with a willingness and desire to make a difference.

To be a Reach & Teach Mentor requires a commitment of only one hour a week, after school, beginning mid-October through April (approximately 26 one-hour sessions). Sessions take place at the mentee's school under the direction of the Catholic Charities'



E IN THE LIFE OF ONE



“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.”

—John Crosby

school counselor. The first half-hour is spent assisting with homework—promoting academic success. The second half-hour focuses on one-on-one/group activities to build a relationship that promotes self-assurance, positive choices and trust.

The impact and difference that is made through Reach & Teach Program is not exclusive to the one who is mentored but also to the one mentoring. One young, former mentee is now a high school mentor himself. The experience and relationship developed between he and his Reach & Teach mentor helped change the trajectory of his life, and now he is giving back to another young student what he received.

This 2016-17 academic year Catholic Charities will offer the first of an annual Reach & Teach Mentor Scholarship valued at \$500 to be awarded to a graduating Reach & Teach Mentor. One criteria of the scholarship will be participation as a graduating, senior mentor for the academic duration of the program, October–April. The success of the mentoring program, for the young mentee students, lies in the ability to offer a consistent, one-on-one mentor experience with the same mentor. More information regarding the scholarship criteria will be shared at a later date.

So, a challenge is being issued to sophomore, junior and senior students in local high schools to include on their list of goals this academic year, “Make a Difference in the Life of One”, a goal easy to achieve simply by sharing your academic gifts, your listening skills and your own self-assurance. If you are confident and responsible with a desire to do something meaningful this year, become a Reach & Teach Mentor. Giving a few hours of your life can be life-changing for someone else.

Go to www.covingtoncharities.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities to learn more or contact Lesley Duggan, Volunteer Coordinator, at (859) 581-8974 or lduggan@covingtoncharities.org.

It’s Time to Re-Sign Up or Join



If you are involved with Kroger rewards card you have to resign up beginning April 1. Go to www.kroger.com/account/update and go to Community Rewards and use the number 83331. This does not affect your fuel points but Catholic Charities will get money on a quarterly basis for all the purchases that are made under our number. If you are not involved with this program please consider signing up to help Catholic Charities. Thanks for your help!!!!

Continued from Front Page

Catholic Charities has proven through the St. Joseph Supportive Housing Program that when someone has a roof over their head they have one less thing to worry about, so they can achieve success in many other areas. Recent successes include several recent high school graduates who are enrolled in local two and four year colleges, and many residents who now have permanent, full-time work. Among the most significant of the many success stories are the 7 families who are no longer in need of food stamps, and HUD recently gave the St. Joseph Supportive Housing Program a remarkable 93% stability rating.



One of the hardships facing the poor is the inability to access laundry facilities. This is especially challenging for families who lack transportation. Their remaining option is to wash clothing, towels, and bedding in the kitchen sink or bathtub, hanging those items up to dry wherever possible. Ms. Medaugh meets regularly with a board of residents who are learning how to advocate for themselves and their community. A laundry facility close to home has long been high on their wish list.

Donations from many kindhearted folks have helped the St. Joseph Supportive Housing Program accomplish some pretty lofty goals. Now, with the help of a few new private donors, Catholic Charities plans to offer laundry facilities for residents of the St. Joseph Apartments. This will have a huge impact on the lives of these residents.

Don Knochelmann, Director of Buildings and Properties for the Diocese of Covington, is overseeing a construction project that will convert a small brick building, previously used for storage, into a laundry on the property. Renovation work will be completed soon, giving residents a place close to home to do their laundry. The facility will contain two coin-operated washers and dryers, available to residents at a nominal fee. The new laundry will allow them to maintain a clean wardrobe and, therefore, the good appearance necessary to make their way into the job market.

Ms. Medaugh says that a bonus for her will be the inclusion of a small desk and chairs that she can use for meeting with her clients. There is not a private meeting space available at the apartments, so, year round, in all sorts of climatic conditions, she conducts many counseling sessions in her car.

When the laundry opens, residents will be in need of the usual assortment of laundry products such as high efficiency detergents (no pods) and dryer sheets. Residents cannot use food stamps to purchase these products. Catholic Charities is holding a laundry products drive, hoping that generous supporters will respond with love to the needs of their neighbors at the St. Joseph Apartments, supplying them with the means to take those next steps on the path towards their new lives.

Donations to the laundry products drive can be dropped off at Catholic Charities Latonia location at 3629 Church Street. Please call (859) 581-8974 for additional information.



See attached flyer!

CASSBA GOES WILD

Sunday 8.28.16

Catholic Charities
Diocese of Covington

Partners newsletter is published three times a year in spring, summer and winter for friends of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides Child and Family Services; Counseling Services; Housing Services; and Community Outreach Services.

Staff and Volunteer News

Welcome New Staff



We welcome Andrew (“Drew”) Bamberger, who was named Assistant Manager of Parish Kitchen beginning June 1, 2016. Drew is a recent graduate of Northern Kentucky University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work. Drew grew up at St. Pius parish in Edgewood, and he is a graduate of Covington Catholic High School. Drew has a strong faith, an eagerness to learn, and willingness to serve. Drew will be compassionate with our guests, and a creative resource to help our ministry flourish. Welcome, Drew, to Parish Kitchen.



We welcome Jessica Whalen as the new Opportunity For Life Coordinator. Jessica resides in Independence, KY with her husband Ryan, and two sons, Max and Leo. She has a BS in Psychology along with a minor in Mental Health\Human Services and has worked in the social service field for almost ten years. Formerly a Social Service Worker for The Cabinet for Health and Family Services and a Family Resource Center Coordinator for Boone County Schools, Jessica has always had a passion for helping others.



Lastly, we welcome Maria Meyer as the new Jail Ministry Coordinator. Born and raised on the west side of Cincinnati, Maria continues to live there with her husband Joe, four-year-old son Gus, and five-month-old daughter Gretchen. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Dayton and a Masters in Religious Pastoral Ministry from the College of Mount Saint Joseph. Maria brings with her over ten years experience in ministry work and a passion for jail ministry that was sparked as an Americorps volunteer, almost fifteen years ago.



Catholic Charities’ Mercy Mats Volunteer

Ministry creates and distributes sleeping mats for the homeless from recycled plastic grocery bags. Each mat provides not only a cushioned, pest-resistant sleeping alternative to the ground or concrete, it is also a protective barrier against surfaces that are wet and cold. The mats are nonabsorbent, light-weight, clean easily and roll-up for portability. The mats will be distributed primarily through Parish Kitchen in Covington, a Catholic Charities’ ministry which serves a hot lunch-time meal 365 days a year.

Want to learn more?

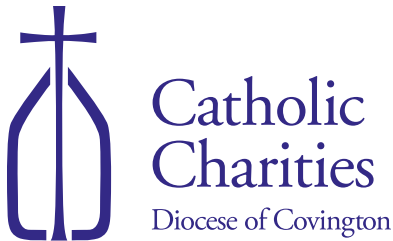
Contact Lesley Duggan, Volunteer Coordinator:
lduggan@covingtoncharities.org
(859) 581-8974 ext. 119

Saying Goodbye is Hard to Do!



Catholic Charities recently said goodbye and good luck to a wonderful staff member. Mary Fleischman spent 28 years at Catholic Charities as Parenting Supervisor and recently adding the Capacity Building Program Director to her responsibilities. Everyone wishes Mary well. She will be dearly missed.

Pictured L to R: Alan Pickett, Executive Director of Catholic Charities; Kathy Danneman, board member, Mary Fleischman and Cindy Hassan, board chair. The board presented Mary with a nice retirement gift.



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Covington

Extend a Hand. Change a Life.

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www.CovingtonCharities.org
www.facebook.com/CovingtonCharities

Serving the community for 85 years

Our Mission:

*“To promote healing,
restore hope and affirm
human potential through
services that empower,
voices that speak for justice;
and, partnerships that
strengthen communities.”*

Bishop of Covington

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Roger J. Foys, DD

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Lesley Duggan, Volunteer Coordinator
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Joe Behler, Counselor
Drew Bamberger, Parish Kitchen Assistant Manager
Sheila Dumford, School Counseling Supervisor
Troy Garrard, Parish Kitchen Director
Bridget Go, Housing Associate
Darryl Humphrey, Parish Kitchen Associate
Laura Jackson, Substance Use Disorder Services
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Katie Martin, School Counselor
Brandy Medaugh, Case Management, Intake Specialist
Maria Meyer, Jail Ministry Coordinator
Donna Moreland, School Counselor
Diane Mushaben, Counselor
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