



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES CONNECTIONS

### WINTER 2020

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

GET INVOLVED

DONATE

#### Greetings!

Greetings and best wishes for 2020! As we turn the calendar once again, Catholic Charities' Board of Directors and Staff would like to begin on a note of gratitude. We are very grateful for all of our generous supporters who made our work possible in 2019. Whether you served as a volunteer, shared a one-time gift, or committed to an ongoing pledge of support as a member of our St. Teresa of Calcutta Giving Society, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

Check out some of the things we've done lately and watch us in 2020. As always, we appreciate your prayers and donations as we work to meet the needs of our neighbors.

#### News and Updates

##### Holiday Happenings

November and December are always busy months for every family, and the family of staff, volunteers, clients, and donors of Catholic Charities was no different. Between Foster Care and A.D.A.M. events, our annual Christmas Appeal, holiday gatherings, and more, we finished 2019 in exciting ways!

Our **Foster Care and Adoption** programs note that, although it can be a fun and exciting time of year, it can also be a sad and difficult time for children placed in foster care. Catholic Charities is sensitive to the needs of our children and we try to assist our foster families in providing gifts for the children and by offering fun activities.

##### *Operation Good Cheer*

gifts are provided for children in foster care through a partnership between Catholic Charities and Child and Family Services of Michigan. Each fall, foster children in need of support are identified and our agency pays a small fee for each child to receive toys. They are flown or driven in from the sorting headquarters to the local airport, for distribution to local participating agencies in time for holiday events.



This  
year,  
our



amazing staff organized a Christmas party for the foster children, foster parents and adoptive families. At the party, there were several craft activities for the children to pick from, where they were able to make Christmas presents for the biological parents, foster parents, friends, and even themselves. There was even a gift wrapping station where the children could wrap their treasures to put under the Christmas tree when they got home. A very special guest arrived at the party - Santa Claus! Each child was able to visit with Santa, have their picture taken with him, and receive a special wrapped gift from him.



**Catholic Charities' staff** also helped fill the handcrafted Christmas stockings (made by the Morenci Methodist *Crafty Ladies*) for the children in foster care as a special service project.





Our **AD.AM. (Another Day. Another Memory)** program participated in the worldwide candle lighting event, which serves as a remembrance of our loved ones who have passed. Started as a commemorative event for pregnancy and infant loss, this event is held each year with candles being lit as the loved ones name is announced or whispered.



The candles burn for one hour (7:00-8:00 pm local time) and are joined with others around the world, forming a beautiful, moving memorial of traveling light.

## Annual Christmas Appeal

Because of you, we were able to surpass our \$50,000 goal for our annual Christmas Appeal by more than 25%. Our dedicated group of volunteers showed up (some for multiple days) to help stuff and seal envelopes, enabling us to drop them off at the post office before Thanksgiving. Catholic Charities cannot say **THANK YOU** enough for the generosity of our donors. You make it possible for us to continue serving the most vulnerable in our communities. We are blessed to be the hands and feet of our Lord across Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale counties and beyond. Truly, thank you!

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*Did you know?*  
We sent out  
**12,000 Christmas cards**  
for our 2019 campaign. With the generosity of  
our local Catholic parishes, we were able to  
include all registered parishioners in our  
mailing.

Again this year, we were able to use the  
beautiful **artwork from a child in our Foster  
Care program** to create our unique Christmas  
card. Want to view the whole card?  
Click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

## Foster Parents Needed

As more foster children are adopted, families sometimes leave the foster parent role. This opens up the possibility for YOU to become a foster parent. We have upcoming informational orientation meetings (see below) and more information can be found on our website [HERE](#).

***Is God calling you to serve as a Foster Parent?***

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF JACKSON, LENAWEE & HILLSDALE COUNTIES  
NEEDS YOU TO

## BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Attend an upcoming Orientation to find out more!

### Why Foster Care?

- There are 13,700 children currently in the foster care system in the State of Michigan
- There are only 6,300 licensed foster homes available in the State of Michigan
- Please consider opening your home and your heart to a foster child in need!

Orientation is the first step to becoming a foster parent.  
It is an informational meeting that includes:

- What is foster care
- Qualifications to become a foster parent
- Information on foster parent training

### What is Orientation?

### When is Orientation?

#### JANUARY:

Tuesday January 7th @ 11am  
Tuesday January 28th @ 5:30pm

#### FEBRUARY:

Tuesday February 11h @ 11am  
Tuesday February 25th @ 5:30pm

#### MARCH:

Tuesday March 10th @ 11am  
Tuesday March 24th @ 5:30pm

#### APRIL:

Tuesday April 7th @ 11am  
Tuesday April 21st @ 5:30pm

#### MAY:

Tuesday May 5th @ 11am  
Tuesday May 19th @ 5:30pm

RSVP to an upcoming orientation by contacting:  
Veronica Bresnay, Foster Care/Licensing Supervisor

**Call (517)740-1731 to RSVP**

### How Do I Attend Orientation?

Make a  
difference in  
a child's life  
today!

**Orientations are held at:**  
123 East Maumee Street  
Adrian, MI 49221

\*Orientation dates are subject to change



## Career Opportunities

Catholic Charities is searching for great candidates for open positions. You can find our listing on our [Careers](#) page. Please share it with your friends looking for a rewarding career opportunity.

## Volunteer Corner

Every year, the **volunteers from the Chrysler Proving Grounds in Chelsea** pick a big project for us and make it happen effortlessly. This fall's project was the repainting of the main office in Lenawee County, in downtown Adrian. They came out over the course of a few weeks and had the whole project done, without interruption to our services. They always do a great job. Thank you, Volunteers!





Some of their help came from our two main go-to fix-it volunteers, father and son team of **John and Mike Springer**. Mike happens to be the husband of Catholic Charities Human Resources Director and a local firefighter. These two men do whatever we need around the office, from changing light bulbs, hanging blinds, repairing and repainting, putting together furniture, and moving things. They make our lives easier and our staff thanks them for always being there for us. We are grateful, John and Mike!



## Upcoming

### Donation Statements

If you need a copy of your giving history for 2019 taxes, please contact us at (517)879-0599 or email [bcuthbertson@CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org](mailto:bcuthbertson@CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org).

*Thank you for your support of our work in 2019!*



### St. Patrick's Day Box Lunches

It's going to be here before we know it! If you are a business owner interested in sponsoring our Box Lunch project, contact us today at (517)262-0466 or email [mfedewa@CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org](mailto:mfedewa@CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org). And, watch for order forms coming soon! Don't miss your chance to help support our work while enjoying a delicious corned beef sandwich meal.



Follow us on [Facebook](#) for our latest news. We encourage you to share our newsletter with your friends and family. Learn more about our Programs and Services at [www.CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org).

Please pray for us as we carry out our **mission - to share the love of Christ by performing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.**

May God bless you!

**DONATE**



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