

Catholic Charities

Connections

May-June 2025

Services

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Hello Catholic Charities,

We need to kick off this edition by saying THANK YOU to everyone who made our St. Patrick's Day Box Lunch Event a huge success! We couldn't do it without the generosity of our sponsors who underwrite the event, our partners to make sure we have what we need, and our volunteers who put it all together. (You can read more about it below.)

With the holy celebration of Easter behind us and the joyous Easter season underway, we know we all have blessings for which to be grateful. The news of Pope Francis' death sorrows so many people around the world, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. But we know God is good and his Church will always be guided by the Holy Spirit. We also know God is guiding our work at Catholic Charities - we can see it every day as we serve those in need. During this season, we ask you to please keep our agency, staff, clients and volunteers in your prayers.

Happy and blessed Easter season!

News



Remembering Pope Francis

We join the world in remembering Pope Francis. At Catholic Charities, we recall the great emphasis the late Holy Father placed on Catholic Social Teaching, and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, which are at the core of our mission. In his words, "Be attentive to the needs of the poor, the suffering, the lonely, for whoever has chosen to love Jesus cannot but love his neighbor." May he rest in peace.



Shayne Meets a Milestone

Our therapy dog Shayne has reached a milestone in his service at our Child Advocacy Center. He has participated in 500 forensic interviews, supporting victims of abuse.

You can help support Shayne's care by typing Shayne in the note with your online [donation](#).

We would like to say thanks to the [Blackman Animal Clinic](#) for helping care for Shayne by providing his medical checkups.

Way to go, Shayne!

Earned Recognition

Once again, we have earned our Gold Transparency Seal from Candid (formerly known as Guide Star) for 2025. This designation demonstrates our commitment to ethical fundraising and openness to the public regarding our non-profit status. Candid monitors non-profits to ensure your donations are going to reputable organizations. You can find out more by viewing our [Candid profile](#).

**Gold
Transparency
2025**

Candid.

Box Lunches Wrap Up

We Did It!

We cannot say thanks enough to everyone who helped make our St. Patrick's Day Box Lunch event a success. From our sponsors and partners to our



volunteers and staff, we all worked together to help surpass our goal and raise over \$13,000 for our agency's work.

With the help of the Campus Ministry student group, **Siena Heights University** served as a critical secondary pick up location. We already have plans for expanding next year to reach more of our community with our delicious lunches. We are also looking into options to address dietary needs for some lunches.

Say THANKS to our **sponsors and partners** when you are in the community and looking for businesses to support. They make a difference every day!



**THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY BOX LUNCH
IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT
OF OUR PARTNERS.**



Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to see what else is happening and to watch for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Child Advocacy Center News

Child Advocacy Centers Recognize Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

The month of April is recognized as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, a problem our staff addresses each day. Through our Children's Advocacy Center of South Central Michigan (CAC) program, children who have disclosed abuse are cared for during the process of investigation and beyond. Our highly trained staff work collaboratively with community partners to ensure Jackson, Lenawee, and Hillsdale County children who have suffered the unimaginable will have the best care possible through our CAC.



The blue pinwheels seen across the country during April signal organizations, businesses and individuals who support child victims and stand up for their protection.

The staff at our Children's Advocacy Center of South Central Michigan (CACSCMI) does outstanding work every day, helping children as they navigate their journey to healing.



We proudly display the blue pinwheels throughout April to recognize the important work we do at our three CAC locations.

Start a New Adventure With Us

We are always looking for amazing people to join our team. Maybe you know a Counselor looking for a change, or someone suited for our Executive Director position. Send them our way! Check our listings at the link below and remember to check back often. Current openings are also posted on LinkedIn. Share our listings with others who may be interested and help us spread the word.

Board of Directors Highlight

Deacon Todd Dahlberg

Deacon Todd joined our Catholic Charities Board of Directors in 2022 and serves on our Development Committee, helping guide our fundraising and marketing efforts.

A note from Deacon Todd:

"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope, and Love. And the greatest of these is Love." These famous words from St. Paul remind us of what is most important in life. In many translations of this verse (1 Corinthians 13:13) the word 'Charity' is substituted for 'Love'. Said another way, the main purpose and central priority of life is Charity!

For me, as a Catholic, serving on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities gives me an amazing opportunity to help provide ministry and comfort to the less fortunate in our communities. Serving those in need, protecting children, providing for the elderly – this is great stuff!



And to be able to share these opportunities with the parishes and parishioners in the area, so others can get engaged and involved, adds blessing to blessing.

Catholic Charities – may we live up to our name!

Fostering Hope



We Need You!

We say it in every newsletter - we need you to consider becoming a foster parent. Want to know why? **Tracey Ventola, Child Welfare Director** tells us this:

Every child should grow up with the love and protection of a family. There are approximately 10,000 children placed in foster care in Michigan with a critical shortage of foster homes to provide a safe and caring home. There has been a steady decline in foster homes over the past several years and children coming into care are having to be split from siblings at placement, placed outside their community or in residential or group home settings when there are no foster homes available. As the director of the foster care and adoption program at Catholic Charities, I ask:

"Do you or anyone you know have it in your heart to help children in need?"

We are desperate for foster homes to help us provide for the children entering foster care daily. [Read more...](#)

Coming Soon

Our **2024 Annual Report** will be coming soon. Watch your mailbox or online at CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org/about to find your copy.

Donate Today





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