

Catholic Charities

Connections

Nov - Dec 2025

Services

Get Involved

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Greetings!

We greet you in the thick of autumn and hope you are enjoying the colorful foliage and crisper air of November. At Catholic Charities, we are still counting the blessings and graces received from our 9th annual *Faith in Action* Fundraising Event held in September and wish to express our most profound gratitude for everyone who joined us for the occasion, including our sponsors, speakers, clergy, guests, and donors.

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, we turn our attention to our end of year giving campaign and ask that you consider Catholic Charities in your holiday giving. The hope and help Catholic Charities provides to our communities is even more necessary in this season due to the many challenges people are facing during this time.

Thanks for being one of our engaged community members! We appreciate you. Please continue to keep our agency in your prayers.

Faith in Action Event - Thank You!



Faith in Action begins with Holy Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Michigan Center



Executive Director Sue Lewis receives flowers in recognition of her 21 years of service to Catholic Charities





The Boak family inspired guests with their adoption story

9th Annual Fundraising Event A Success

We are pleased to have concluded our 9th annual ***Faith in Action*** event and want to thank all the attendees, speakers, donors, and sponsors who made our event a success! Once again, over 200 attendees filled Our Lady of Fatima Church in Michigan Center for a night of celebration and action to benefit the many programs of Catholic Charities and most importantly, the children, families, and individuals from Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties who come to us every day for help and hope.

The evening began with Holy Mass and was followed by a wonderfully catered meal accompanied by information and stories about our work. This year featured **Mr. Adam Janke** from **St. Paul Street Evangelization** as our keynote speaker, who emphasized the connection between the mission of Catholic Charities and evangelization. Our Executive Director, Sue Lewis, was also honored for her 21 incredible years of service at Catholic Charities.

Every year, this important fundraiser helps support our work all year long by raising money for our general operations. If you were not able to make it, or want more information on how to support Catholic Charities, click [here](#).



Guest Speaker Adam Janke of St. Paul Street Evangelization



Fr. Mike Newman, OSFS leads the attendees in prayer as the main celebrant



Board President Eric Bauer gives an update on what's going on at Catholic Charities



Fr. Todd Koenigs knecht leads the call to action



Thank you to our many generous Faith in Action Sponsors!

Our sponsors help by underwriting the cost to host our event, ensuring all donations go directly to support our work.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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Trudell's Auto Service
Trudellautomotive.com

St. Teresa of Calcutta Giving Society



St. Teresa of Calcutta Giving Society

November began with the liturgical feast of **All Saints' Day**. We recognize Mother Teresa of Calcutta as one of our patron saints at Catholic Charities and strive to create hope and provide help for those in need in our communities, like Mother Teresa did in hers.

Our *Faith in Action* event celebrates this legacy of hope embodied in the life of Mother Teresa and those who show their commitment to Catholic Charities through membership in our St. Teresa of Calcutta Giving Society. We invite you to **learn more about the Giving Society** and to **discover more about your own patron saints!**

Thank You!



Christmas Update

Thanks to your incredible generosity, our Christmas in July campaign raised enough to enroll *all* of our foster kids in the Operation Good Cheer program.

The Christmas season is always a special — and busy — time for our foster care and adoption team. On December 6th, volunteer pilots will fly in Christmas presents for the kids, and our staff will make sure every gift finds its way to a very deserving child.

Because of you, our kids will experience the magic and joy of the season. **Thank you for helping make their holidays brighter!**

Matching Funds Helps Double Your Donation

Where do you work? Many employers will match contributions to nonprofits like us. If you aren't sure, you can ask your employer's Human Resources department and see if your donation will be matched. Want more information? Email our Development staff [HERE](#).



Join our Team

We are always looking for amazing people to join our team. Current openings are also posted on LinkedIn. Share our listings with others who may be interested and help us spread the word.

Careers

Board of Directors Highlight



Angie Atkin

Angie Atkin has been on the CCJLHC board since 2018 and currently holds the position of Board Secretary. Angie is a Human Resources professional and has dedicated her career to driving people initiatives and workforce engagement. She is employed at Brazeway, where she has worked for 27 years and is currently the Director of People. Beyond her professional pursuits, Angie is passionate about giving back to her community. She provides HR guidance for CCJLHC and also sits on the Fund Development Committee for the agency. Angie, her husband Scott, and children Luke and Emily, live in Manitou Beach and are members of St. Mary on the Lake Catholic Church.

When asked why she is involved with Catholic Charities, Angie responds:

“Volunteering as a board member for Catholic Charities is deeply meaningful to me because it gives me the chance to live out my faith through service. Giving back to my community, through volunteering, allows me to support those who are most vulnerable and to help create hope where it's needed most. The employees and board members of Catholic Charities understand the needs of our community and in return, provide vital programs for individuals, families and children...programs that truly uplift people and change lives.”

Call for Volunteers



As we approach the Christmas season, Catholic Charities can use some extra help for our Christmas fundraising appeal. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Brian Craft for more information. bcraft@catholiccharitiesjlhc.org

Plan Now For the Future

You can [leave a lasting legacy](#) through a variety of ways. It might be a one time larger donation through a will or trust, or it could be a designation as a beneficiary from your stocks, bonds, or life insurance. Maybe you have crypto or tangible property for which you need to plan for disbursement. It is important for your legacy to reflect your faith and values.

Consider including Catholic Charities in your estate planning process so you can continue to [create hope](#) for generations to come.

For more helpful information about wills and estates, read more [HERE](#). You can also visit our Legacy Giving page at: catholiccharitiesjlhc.org/legacy-donations.



November is National Adoption Month

November is #NationalAdoptionMonth!

National Adoption Month is an initiative of the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families. Its goal is to increase national awareness and draw attention and support for the thousands of teens in the U.S. foster care system who are waiting for permanent, loving families.

At Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties, our foster care department is dedicated to recruiting, training, and licensing loving foster homes for children ages birth through 17 years. The children we serve have been removed from their biological homes by the courts because of abuse or neglect.

If you feel called to become a foster or adoptive parent, visit our [website](#) to learn more.



Upcoming: #GivingTuesday!

Every year Catholic Charities takes part in Giving Tuesday, the national day for supporting your favorite charity - known as the most generous day of the year. This year, Giving Tuesday is **December 2nd**, so mark your calendars! Join the millions of people across the country taking part in Giving Tuesday and show your support for Catholic Charities. Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to participate.



Donate Today

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



Catholic Charities
of Jackson, Lenawee & Hillsdale Counties
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