



January-February 2026

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Reflections from the Director

Greetings!

Hoping this newsletter finds you well-rested and renewed after this Advent and Christmas season. The New Year is always a natural time for reset and reflection, but Advent offers something uniquely special – an invitation to pause spiritually as we await the coming of the infant Jesus. It is truly a sacred season, and my hope is that you were able to experience some of that grace this year.

I write today with a heart full of gratitude and awe. As we reach the tail-end of our Christmas Appeal, we are blessed to share that we have already surpassed our goal. *What a tremendous blessing!* This achievement would not have been possible without the thoughtful and generous support of our communities – and of you. Many of our programs operate solely through grants and donations, and this additional support allows us to continue providing help and creating hope for those we serve in the year ahead.

Many of you may have seen me, or one of our Board members, at Mass recently where we shared more about our Christmas Appeal. We were deeply appreciative of the opportunity to be present in our parishes and look forward to returning in the future to share the fruits of this work. While our Annual Report is traditionally released in the summer, I wanted to offer a brief preview of the impact we have seen so far this year (with some December data still being finalized).

- Our Children's Trauma Assessment Center, located adjacent to Holy Family Parish - St Mary Campus, performed 39 assessments.
- Our Children's Advocacy Centers, located in Adrian, Jackson, and Hillsdale, conducted nearly 400 forensic interviews.
- Our mental health and substance use disorder programs, serving all three counties, provided over 6,000 visits.
- Our transportation services in Jackson provided more than 700 rides to medical appointments.

These numbers represent just a small portion of the work being done each day. We look forward to sharing the full scope of our impact in our Annual Report this summer. As we reflect on this season and the message shared during our Christmas Appeal, we are reminded of Christ's words: *whatever you do for the least of my people, that you do unto me.*

Thank you for walking alongside us in this work. May God bless you always.

Christmas Appeal Success

We cannot say **thank you** enough to all of our generous donors who helped make our end-of-year campaign a success once again. Each year, we come to you to ask for support and you never cease to amaze us! You are helping serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in our community by providing our agency the financial backing to make our work possible. Our Board of Directors, dedicated staff and clients all appreciate your generous hearts.

Every time we put out a call for volunteers to help stuff envelopes for this appeal, we have amazing response, helping the task go smoothly and quickly. Thanks, in a special way, to our "Queen's Ladies" who show up time after time to help out. This year, they helped stuff nearly 11,000 envelopes, reaching out to our local parishes and beyond.



Students from Lumen Christi High School pitched in to help as part of their annual day of giving.



SHU Campus Ministry Steps Up

The Siena Heights University's Campus Ministry group ran an independent drive to collect items for the children in our foster care, counseling and more. Their generosity made a brighter holiday season for many of our clients. **THANK YOU** for making a difference for those we serve, right here in our community.

Interested in running your own fundraiser or donation drive? Contact our Development staff to find out how to help. Email Development@CatholicCharitiesJLHC.org or call **517-260-0718**.

Adoption is a Perfect Option

Our Child Welfare department helped facilitate 10 adoptions throughout 2025, including three in December. The dedication of our staff means each child has the best home possible and the

family has the tools they need for success.

We are always on the lookout for loving adults interested in becoming foster parents for a child in need. Fostering can serve as a great step toward adoption.



Share your love by starting your fostering journey [**HERE**](#).

Join Our Team

We are always looking for amazing people to join our team. Current openings can be viewed by clicking the Careers button to the right. They are also posted on [Indeed](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Share our listings to help us spread the word!

[**Careers**](#)

Board of Directors Highlight



Deacon Patrick Gorzcyca

Deacon Pat has served on the Board of Catholic Charities since 2023. Get to

children and 7 grandchildren. I have a degree in veterinary medicine and, after working for a practice for 11 years, I began my own practice as Blackman Animal Clinic in 1984. I worked as a veterinarian for 50 years but am now retired and my daughter has taken over the practice. In 2017, I was ordained as a deacon in the Diocese of Lansing and have served at Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Jackson since that time.

I have always loved taking care of my community both as veterinarian and now as deacon. This love of community and of God has led me to want to become an integral part of Catholic Charities and being on the Board now has helped fulfill that desire. Both the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy are demonstrated in the activities of Catholic Charities. I believe they embody the slogan FAITH IN ACTION. I

know Deacon Pat with this brief introduction:

"I was born and raised in Jackson and returned after graduating from Michigan State University in 1972. I have been married to my wife, Maria, for 57 years and we have three grown

feel privileged to be part of the mission to provide compassionate service to those in need, to advocate for social justice, to uphold the dignity of all people and to aid in providing them the means to go forth to a positive and productive future based on Christian values."

Upcoming Event

This is the time of year we are deep in the planning for our **St. Patrick's Day Box Lunch event**. This year, we are planning to grow this fundraiser by extending into Lenawee County, but we need your help to make this a success. We are looking for additional Sponsors to help cover our costs of making our delicious box lunches. Maybe you own a business or manage an office - sponsoring helps get your name in front of potential customers and neighbors. We rely on our Sponsors' generosity to offset the costs of running this project, leaving more funds to support our work in the community.

Can you help? Contact us to find out more about becoming a Sponsor for this important - and FUN - event! Call Brian at **517.262.0466** today!



Donate Today

Be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** to see what is happening and to watch for upcoming **volunteer opportunities**. We appreciate the

support!



Catholic Charities

of Jackson, Lenawee & Hillsdale Counties

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