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**catholic  
charities**  
Diocese of Joliet  
16555 Weber Rd.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403



For giving opportunities  
and more information  
about our programs,  
visit our website:  
[catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org)

## Exclusive Preview of the 2018 Chicago Auto Show

### First Look for Charity

February 9, 2018  
7:00p.m. - 11:00p.m.



Reserve your tickets at 815-724-1140 or [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org)

First Look for Charity benefits Catholic Charities,  
Diocese of Joliet and 17 other local charities.

### Amazing Cars, Non-Stop Food & Fun, Live Music

Tuxedo required.

By purchasing a ticket and attending the event, you are automatically  
entered to win one of two fabulous new vehicles.

Prize vehicle winners must be present.

First Look for Charity and the Chicago Auto Show are presented  
by the Chicago Automobile Trade Association, representing the  
new-car dealers of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

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**catholic  
charities**  
Diocese of Joliet

## Locations

**WILL COUNTY**  
16555 Weber Rd.  
Crest Hill, IL 60403  
Phone: 815-723-3405  
Fax: 815-723-3452  
Head Start: 815-723-3053

**GRUNDY & KENDALL  
COUNTIES**  
201 N. Liberty, Suite 241  
Morris, IL 60450  
Phone: 815-941-2560  
Fax: 815-941-2563

**DUPAGE COUNTY**  
3130 Finley Road, Suite 520  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
Phone: 630-495-8008  
Fax: 630-495-9854  
Hope House Hotline: 800-941-8681

**KANKAKEE, FORD &  
IROQUOIS COUNTIES**  
249 S. Schuyler Ave., Suite 300  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
Phone: 815-933-7791  
Fax: 815-933-4601



## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree, Catholic Charities' donation center gratefully accepts donations of clothing, household items, and toiletries. Clothing and household items should be new or gently used. Toiletries must be new/unopened. At this time we cannot accept old computers, tube televisions, used mattresses/box springs, car seats, or cribs.

3016 S. State Street in Lockport  
(located behind Norma's Cafe)

### DONATION DAYS / TIMES:

Monday  
9:00 am - noon

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday  
9:00 am - noon

### WISH LIST:

- Deodorant
- Flip flops/shower shoes
- Full size conditioner
- Men's blue jeans
- Men's shoes/boots sizes 10 and larger
- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6) and wipes
- Baby wash and baby lotion
- Full size toothpaste
- Body wash
- Feminine hygiene products
- White towels
- White twin size bed linens

For more information or to inquire about  
volunteer opportunities at **The Giving Tree**,  
contact Mechelle Horvat at 815-714-2674  
or [mhorvat@cc-doj.org](mailto:mhorvat@cc-doj.org)



A Publication of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet

Fall 2017

# the Connection



## Back to School Fairs

**Back to School Fairs: 27 years of  
preparing students from low-income  
households for the new school year.**

On a summer day 27 years ago, a mother walked into Catholic Charities' DuPage County office under terrible stress. She was living on a very low-income and was unable to afford school supplies for her children. This mother was trying to choose between purchasing food for her family and buying the necessary school supplies. Staff discovered that this was an issue that many families were facing throughout the Diocese of Joliet. In turn, the Back to School Fairs were created. Catholic Charities hosts three annual fairs to serve families in DuPage, Iroquois, Kankakee, and Will Counties. Thousands of students attend each fair to receive a variety of goods and services, including haircuts, school supplies, dental exams, and connection to dozens of community resources.

At the DuPage County Back to School Fair in August, a father found Amy Lambert, coordinator of the fair. He expressed gratitude and explained that he initially was hesitant to attend the fair, despite the fact that he needed the services. Like so many others, he was uncomfortable to ask for help. After experiencing the welcoming and festive atmosphere, he said "I'm not ashamed of my situation anymore."

The Kankakee County Back to School Fair (which also serves families from Iroquois County) is sponsored by Bears Care (the charitable arm of the Chicago Bears) and is held at Olivet Nazarene University during Bears Training Camp. In addition to meeting the needs of students, this fair also focuses on fun with a DJ playing upbeat music, a large dance floor, games, face painting, and prizes. One of the prizes this year was a bedroom set donated by a local store. The winner began to cry when her name was announced. She explained that her 11 year-old son didn't



have a bed and the family has been struggling tremendously as the mother is being treated for cancer. "God is taking care of us," she said. As a first time attendee of the Fair, the mother was overwhelmed by the help she received that morning.

After the Back to School Fairs, many parents wrote notes to Catholic Charities to express their gratitude. One mother who attended the Will County Fair with her children wrote, "Thank you for making this possible. May God pour out immeasurable amounts of blessings!"

*Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet coordinates Back to School Fairs to serve students living in low-income households in DuPage, Iroquois, Kankakee, and Will Counties. \*\*\*Each Back to School Fair provides different services and school supplies. These events are made possible thanks to the generosity of donors and sponsors throughout the Diocese of Joliet.*



## news bites



### Daybreak Summer Mini Festival

A generous donation from Sisters of St. Francis funded a late summer carnival for clients at

Daybreak Center. Clients enjoyed games, food, and prizes. It was a beautiful day!



### Project Homeless Connect

Catholic Charities was proud to be a participating agency in Project Homeless Connect in Kankakee

County. In July, 43 community organizations came together on ONE DAY in ONE PLACE to help serve those experiencing homelessness.



### Daybreak Donation

Crane Composites generously donated \$2,500 to Daybreak Center in July.



### Hope House Donation

The Dynamic Cheer and Pom Squad collected and donated pillows, toiletries, and presented a monetary donation to our Hope House Shelter in DuPage County in June. This was an awesome project that is greatly appreciated by the individuals who are staying at Hope House!



Students at Broadway Head Start Center in Joliet had a great time at their End of the Year Celebration!

**OUR MISSION** We are a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.

## Dear Friends



This spring Sr. Linda Hatton, SSCM concluded her term on the Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Board of Directors after 5 years of service. Although retired from the Agency's board, Sr. Linda's presence will have a lasting influence on the Agency and on all those we serve.

Sr. Linda was dedicated to Catholic Charities and took her role on the Agency's board of directors very seriously. Living in Kankakee County, she had a long drive to attend our evening meetings in downtown Joliet. Sister persevered through rain, snow, ice and fog in order to lend her voice to the most vulnerable.

Sr. Linda lived much of her life in Ford, Iroquois, and Kankakee Counties. She provided a powerful and important voice to the needs of the rural and smaller communities in the southern area of our diocese. Sister Linda incorporated the love she had for her faith, her deep commitment to the clients we serve, and her commitment to the success of Catholic Charities into every board decision she made.

Sr. Linda is the Provincial Superior of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary. As a leader of a religious community, she was deeply involved in her sisters' ministries where she always exhibited great concern and compassionate care for those in need of help.

I will always be inspired by Sr. Linda's boundless energy. With a great heart, she continues to help people beyond the reaches of the Diocese of Joliet. Sister Linda, always deeply spiritual, brings Jesus to all she serves everywhere she travels. Her last sabbatical was in Marshall, Alaska where she served as the Prayer Presence to the Yupik Natives. She was even cheerful about the cold temperatures, which reached 53 degrees below zero. She is constantly working on various projects which she always sees through with great vigor and enormous heart.

Sr. Linda recently began another sabbatical, which is why she needed to end her term on our Board of Directors. We wish Sr. Linda well on the next chapters in her life, during which she will undoubtedly inspire others with her great compassion and motivation. We are grateful for the time she spent on the Board of Directors with Catholic Charities and will always consider her a great friend of the Agency's and to all those we serve. Thank you Sister Linda!

God Bless You,

*Glenn Van Cura*

Glenn Van Cura  
Executive Director

If you are interested in joining the Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Board of Directors, please send a letter of intent and your resume to Kathleen Langdon at [klangdon@cc-doj.org](mailto:klangdon@cc-doj.org).

## Hope Floats

Catholic Charities' Board of Young Professionals hosted their second annual Hope Floats: A Cruise for Charity fundraiser on August 5.

Guests enjoyed a beautiful evening cruise on the Fox River with live music, food, drinks, and great company!

The Board of Young Professionals is seeking new members. Membership is open to young professionals, ages 21-40, who are committed to helping the poor and vulnerable in their communities; meeting new colleagues throughout the diocese; and networking with other young leaders. Interested? Email [BOYP@cc-doj.org](mailto:BOYP@cc-doj.org) for more information.

Thank you to our generous event sponsors: St. Michael Parish, St. Walter Parish and Luther Music Studio!



## Free Little Library

Students at Catholic Charities' Broadway Head Start in Joliet are enjoying the Free Little Library outside of the school.



quality literature in their homes and their parents did not read to them when they were younger."

Gillion decided to try to fix the problem. "I knew that putting high quality literature in the hands of kids in our neighborhoods would create print rich environments in their homes," she explained. "I built partnerships with various community members to assist me in my goal." She designed and painted the Libraries to look like Minions based on their dome shape. Gillion also held book drives to help fill her Libraries.

She installed the GSGoldMinions in two locations where she thought they would have the greatest impact. Catholic Charities' Broadway Head Start site was lucky enough to have one installed just outside the school. Gillion recently left for college and has left the Libraries in the capable hands of her mother and Girl Scout sisters. She summed up her motivation for the inspirational project: "I just hope some young readers are beginning to love reading as much as I do and parents are reading to their children like mine did because of my Little Free Library Minions."



## All Eyes on the Solar Eclipse

As the excitement for the August 21st solar eclipse swept through the Chicagoland area, some of Catholic Charities' clients joined in the fun! The young children pictured here (four and five years-old) and their family are clients in our First Light Permanent Supportive Housing Program for chronically homeless families in DuPage County. The family has been in our program for four years and has made tremendous progress during this time.



The children's mother was eager to share the exciting eclipse experience with her young children and made sure they had safe glasses and went outside to view the event. To many, this may seem like a small milestone in parenting. However, just a few years ago, the children struggled with severe behavior challenges and their mother would not engage with Catholic Charities' staff. Now, they enthusiastically participate in "normal" activities. They have worked closely with their case manager over the years and have been very motivated for this success. We are so proud of them!



## Heroes for the Homeless

We proudly hosted our second annual Heroes for the Homeless charity motorcycle ride on June 24. The event drew more than 70 riders for the scenic ride from Shorewood to Ottawa (IL) and back. Following the event, an even larger crowd gathered at Skooter's Roadhouse for an after-party featuring live music from School of Rock Mokena.

THANKS to our generous event sponsors...

Platinum Sponsor: Kozol Bros, Inc.

Gold Sponsors: Conrad's Harley-Davidson and CPMH Construction



## Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide: Offering Hope and Healing for Those Who Mourn a Loss to Suicide

Catholic Charities' LOSS program (in partnership with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago) supports individuals who are grieving the loss of a loved one by suicide.

LOSS offers a safe, non-judgmental environment where survivors of suicide can talk openly about feelings and experiences. This free program helps survivors find community, direction, and resources for healing.

### How LOSS meetings help:

- We provide a warm, nurturing, non-denominational network of survivors.
- We educate members about the grieving process.
- We support your unique struggle to regain hope and strength.

### Join us:

**ST. DANIEL THE PROPHET PARISH**  
101 W. Loop Rd., Room 108, Wheaton  
Fourth Thursday of every month from 7:00pm – 9:00 pm  
Call 630-495-8008 for more information.

**PRESENCE SAINT JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER**  
333 N. Madison St., Joliet  
Third Wednesday of every month from 7:00pm – 9:00 pm.  
Call 815-723-0331 for more information.

**KANKAKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
201 E. Merchant St., Kankakee  
Second Tuesday of every month from 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Call 815-723-0331 for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunity: Money Management Program

Do you enjoy balancing your checkbook to the penny? Do others admire your attention to detail?

Then volunteering in Catholic Charities' Money Management Program may be a great fit for you! We are currently seeking direct service volunteers to serve and advocate for clients in this program. Pre-service training is included. A background check and fingerprinting are required. The Money Management Program provides eligible older adults (in Kankakee, Grundy, Iroquois, and Will Counties) basic assistance with money management tasks. Help may include balancing checkbooks; organizing and keeping track of bill paying; identifying scams; and advocacy with creditors. For more information about volunteering in this program, call 815-523-9921.

## more news bites



From left: Del Koch, DuPage Foundation Trustee; Amy Palumbo and Glenn Van Cura, Catholic Charities; Mary Kay Kluge, DuPage Foundation Trustee.

### DuPage Foundation

Catholic Charities recently received a grant from DuPage Foundation. The \$20,000 grant was awarded to the DuPage Emergency Service and Homeless Prevention program to assist residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through the provision of financial support and case management. We are so grateful for their support!



### New Books for the Homework Help Center!

The generous and compassionate students at Balmoral Elementary School in Crete presented Catholic

Charities' Daybreak Center with books for the Homework Help Center. The Homework Help Center is located within Daybreak Center to assist students who are staying at the shelter with their studies. After learning about homelessness earlier in the school year, the students at Balmoral Elementary School wanted to help kids who were experiencing homelessness with their families. They purchased books with \$680 in proceeds from their read-a-thon. We are so grateful to Ms. Robinson and the 500 students who participated!



### Little Caesars Love Kitchen

Each summer, clients at Daybreak Center homeless shelter in Joliet enjoy a festive pizza lunch courtesy of the Little Caesars Love Kitchen! This restaurant on wheels travels across the United States to feed the hungry 365 days per year. Local franchise owners and employees donate resources and time to make each meal a success. Our clients were so grateful!



The generous students at Forest Park Individual Ed School in Joliet held a very successful toy drive to collect items to donate to our young clients. The students even learned all about Catholic Charities and how we help people in the community.