

the Connection



Focus on Volunteers



Ruth Terry

Ruth was recently honored as Daybreak Center's 2018 Volunteer of the Year. She has been volunteering at the shelter several times each week for the past three years. Whether Ruth is working in the food pantry, providing guidance to shelter clients, assisting with disaster response, or working with the children in the Homework Help Center, she takes her role seriously and makes connections with everyone she encounters.

Over the winter, Ruth met a client who was pregnant and living on the street. This young woman needed a snowsuit to stay warm and the one she was wearing was too small for her growing stomach. The next day, Ruth arrived with a new snowsuit for the expectant mother. She is always a great advocate for those we serve and eager to help with whatever is needed.

Ruth also provided advocacy, support, and comfort to one of Daybreak's immigrant clients who did not have any friends or family in the U.S.. He was dying and no resources for help. Ruth bonded with this man; gave him peace during his final days and she researched his past even after he was laid to rest. Then, Ruth reached out to a long lost family member of this man (all the way in New Zealand) and shared information about the life he had lived. The staff at Daybreak Center is forever grateful for the work she did for him during a very difficult time.



Marty Knight

Marty is a treasured volunteer in Catholic Charities SHIP (Senior Health Information Program) and Money Management Program. He has a wealth of experience, as a veteran, a volunteer for the Red Cross, his local fire department, his local food pantry, as a Salvation Army tax assistant, and as an on-call responder for disaster relief efforts. Marty's sense of humor helps staff and clients get through tough days or circumstances – he's known for keeping everyone laughing. Marty is an example of patience and kindness when he works with his clients and has great information to

share. He is an asset not only to our programs at Catholic Charities, but to our entire community.



Sr. Mary Ann Hettel

Many older adults need extra support to remain living independently in their own homes. As a volunteer in Catholic Charities' Senior Companion Program, Sr. Mary Ann Hettel provides care and companionship to homebound and frail seniors in Kankakee County. She helps her clients with a variety of tasks including grocery shopping, running errands, meal preparation, and most importantly companionship. Sr. Mary Ann's gentle spirit and positive attitude are a tremendous help to the clients she serves.

Dorothy, an older adult living in a rural area, reached out to Catholic Charities needing help. She had recently lost her husband and was having a difficult time adjusting to life without him. Sr. Mary Ann agreed to travel over 80 miles roundtrip to become Dorothy's Senior Companion. After the pair visited for the first time, Sr. Mary Ann was concerned that Dorothy was depressed; she rarely left her home and kept her house dark. However, after a few weeks, Sr. Mary Ann began noticing small changes; Dorothy began to open the curtains, she smiled more and seemed more cheerful. Weekly visits with a kind Senior Companion truly made a difference in Dorothy's life.



Maralene Tate

Maralene Tate, a wonderful volunteer in Catholic Charities' Foster Grandparent Program, was recently awarded the 2018 Rotary Club of Joliet Silver Eagle Award. This award recognizes individuals who are 65-years-old and over, who without fanfare, go beyond the call of duty and contribute their time and talent for the good of the community and its citizens.

Maralene is a vibrant and energetic woman who was eager to keep busy after she retired from her career in culinary arts. This program was a great fit for the Sunday School teacher who adores children.

Each weekday, Maralene assists students who need a bit of extra help in a kindergarten classroom at Edna Keith Elementary School in Joliet. She tutors them in reading, writing, spelling, and math. But Maralene provides assistance that reaches beyond academics. The young students call her "Grandma Maralene" and line up to give her hugs at the beginning and end of each school day. When the children are feeling sad or impacted by difficulties at home, she lends a supportive ear.

After a decade serving as a Foster Grandparent, Maralene doesn't plan to slow down anytime soon: "I will keep working as long as I possibly can. It brings me a sense of accomplishment when I walk out of the school in the afternoon." Maralene says that she is now fulfilling her purpose in life – "to help these children the best I can."

news bites



Christ the King's St. Joseph Table

Christ the King Parish in Lombard generously donated the proceeds from their annual St. Joseph Table to Catholic Charities.



Watseka Disaster Relief

Catholic Charities' Disaster Relief team provided tireless support to individuals and families in Watseka after serious flooding. Assistance included clothing, food, gas, space heaters, sump pumps, and dehumidifiers.



Eagle Scout Project

For his Eagle Scout Project, Kiran Kimbrough (from Boy Scout Troop #263 in Lisle) collected blankets for our clients. After he collected the blankets, he carefully washed them and delivered the donations to our Giving Tree donation center!

Dear Friends

Dear Friends,

After years of hard work and careful planning, I am proud to announce that our first affordable housing complex has been built and is now fully occupied. St. Elizabeth Residences is located next to St. Ann Parish in Channahon and is the new home to seniors (62 and older) who live on low-incomes.

This community has 48 apartments that offer a safe, clean, and comfortable environment for residents. St. Elizabeth Residences also features a clubhouse with a fitness center, computer center, party room, and management offices. We have Catholic Charities' Aging and Disability Services staff regularly on-hand to answer questions and help connect residence with any programs and social services they may need. A live-in manager is also on-site to respond to any building-related inquiries or concerns.

We are very proud of this community and pleased with the results. I've enjoyed meeting the residents and learning about their lives and experiences. We created St. Elizabeth Residences because there is a lack of affordable housing for seniors in Will County. We also learned that many seniors feel unsafe or uncomfortable in affordable housing complexes that aren't specifically for older adults. Catholic Charities is happy to help meet the needs of our community.

With the success of St. Elizabeth Residences in Channahon, we look forward to building additional affordable housing communities throughout the Diocese of Joliet.

Please join us for a blessing and ribbon-cutting at St. Elizabeth Residences on July 10 at 5:00PM in the clubhouse in the new community. Please RSVP to crodriguez@cc-doj.org or 815-724-1140.

God Bless You,



Glenn Van Cura
Executive Director

Wait list applications for St. Elizabeth Residences are available at www.lamoineproperties.com or by calling 708-428-6417.



Catholic Charities' Head Start Program Receives Vanessa Rich Innovation and Leadership Award

Catholic Charities' Head Start Program was honored to receive the prestigious Vanessa Rich Innovation and Leadership Award in February.

The Vanessa Rich Innovation and Leadership Award, sponsored by the Illinois Head Start Association, is presented annually to an Illinois Head Start/Early Head Start program that embodies the spirit and values exemplified by Vanessa Rich. Ms. Rich was a fierce advocate for children and families and had a long and successful career in early childhood services, which included serving as the Chairperson of the National Head Start Association Board of Directors.

Recipients of this award are programs that initiate and lead the work that sustains the psychological and physical health of the Head Start community. Catholic Charities' Head Start program was honored for its character and achievements. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet operates six Head Start centers in Will County (Joliet, Bolingbrook, and Rockdale).

Doula Program

Catholic Charities recently began providing a Doula Program as part of the Healthy Families Illinois initiative. This program serves pregnant (or new moms) who are between 15 and 25 years-old and live on a low-income. Catholic Charities provides a doula (free of charge) who offers support to the mother and child. The program strives to build confidence, reduce stress, and maximize enjoyment for new parents.

What is a doula? A doula is a non-medical individual who is trained to assist another woman before, during, and after childbirth.

What does a doula do? A doula provides one-on-one support for mothers including teaching Lamaze techniques, advising pushing positions, providing childbirth preparation, aromatherapy, help during labor, and education about newborn care.

Catholic Charities' Doula Program is available in Will County as part of the Early Childhood Services Division.

Angel Fund

Catholic Charities has been blessed with a very special angel. For every dollar you donate, our angel will match it – up to \$50,000.

Thousands of local families are in crisis right now. Mothers of young children are on the verge of homelessness. Seniors don't know how they will afford critical prescription medication. Veterans are struggling with mental health concerns and seek support. These scenarios are reality for so many individuals who reach out to Catholic Charities for help.

Although donations drop during the warmer months each year, the need in our community remains great.

Please donate today so that we can reach our goal and help as many people as possible. Our clients need you!

To donate, please send a check in the enclosed envelope (be sure to write "Angel Fund" on the memo line), call 815-724-1140, or make your donation online at catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Bless you for your support of Catholic Charities and those we serve. Together we are lifting families and communities out of poverty and on a path toward self-sufficiency and stability!



Support Group for Family Caregivers

First Wednesday of every month from noon – 1:00p.m.

Join us for education and support. A light lunch will be provided. To register call Amanda 815-523-9918. All sessions held at Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene, 1000 N. Entrance Ave., Kankakee IL.

Funding provided by a grant through the Northeastern Illinois Agency on Aging.

We ♥ Our MOMS

The Mother’s Day celebration at Broadway Head Start in Joliet included dancing followed by the children serving their moms muffins! Everyone had a great time!



DuPage Human Race

Catholic Charities participated in the 7th annual Giving DuPage Human Race 5k run/walk to benefit more than 70 non-profits that serve DuPage County. The weather was beautiful for the fun event on April 28th in Downers Grove. 65 participants registered to benefit Catholic Charities and the Agency received a check for \$6,587.50.



First Look for Charity

Catholic Charities participated in the 2018 First Look for Charity fundraising event at McCormick Place in Chicago on Friday, February 9th.

Guests enjoyed an exclusive “first look” at the Chicago Auto Show and also basked in the amenities of Catholic Charities’ private hospitality suite. The suite featured delicious food, drinks, and professional photos.

This was Catholic Charities 13th year as a benefactor of this elite black-tie fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who braved the snow-storm to join us for this wonderful evening!

Thank you to our event sponsors!

PATRON LEVEL SPONSOR:
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D’Arcy Hyundai



Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child began on April 16 and each of Catholic Charities’ Head Start locations celebrated in special ways each day. The week is hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families.



Parent volunteers joined the children at Broadway Head Start in Joliet to make tortillas (from scratch!) and smoothies!



Glenn Van Cura joined the fun while children created their own musical instruments and then had a festive parade.



One evening was dedicated to literacy and learning with family. Head Start students and their parents explored the lending library and were introduced to the computer lab. Each family checked out a book or a game to enjoy together!



Experiencing live music was a favorite activity in many classrooms during The Week of the Young Child.



The children at Rockdale Head Start had a great time making and flying kites!

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**catholic
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Diocese of Joliet

16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, IL 60403



For giving opportunities
and more information,
about our programs,
visit our website:
Catholiccharitiesjoliet.org

Glenn Van Cura
Executive Director
gvancura@cc-doj.org

Development Staff

Kathleen Langdon
*Director of Development
and Communications*
klangdon@cc-doj.org

Pete Kinsella
Senior Development Officer
pkinsella@cc-doj.org

J. Gregory McClain
Senior Development Officer
jmclain@cc-doj.org

Maggie Snow
*PR and Communications
Coordinator*
msnow@cc-doj.org

Stephanie Ambrose
*Agency Volunteer, eBay, and
Mobile Food Pantry Supervisor*
sambrose@cc-doj.org

Claudia Rodriguez
*Data Development
Administrative Assistant*
crodriguez@cc-doj.org

Marianne Melcher
Event Coordinator
mmelcher@cc-doj.org

Mechelle Horvat
eBay Analyst/Giving Tree Coordinator
mhorvat@cc-doj.org

Frank Bonacci
Grants Manager
fbonacci@cc-doj.org

Connie Kloiber
*Food Rescue and Mobile Food Pantry
Driver*
ckloiber@cc-doj.org



**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



Upcoming Events



Hope Floats

*An evening cruise along
the Fox River*

Saturday, August 18

Hosted by Catholic Charities'
Board of Young Professionals



A Swing and a Prayer

Golf outing

August 23rd

Joliet Country Club



Playing for Miracles

A night of charitable gaming

Friday, November 3

Carlisle Banquets, Lombard

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.

3016 S. State Street 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

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



These are the items that are currently most-needed by our clients:

- Men's boxers/boxer briefs (small, medium and large)
- Women's underwear (size 6)
- Girl's underwear (size 14 and 16)
- Children's clothing
- Baby clothing
- Flip flops (shower shoes) for men and women
- Men's blue jeans
- Men's shorts
- Men's shoes/boots (sizes 10 and larger)
- Full size lotion
- Full size shampoo and conditioner
- Full size toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Body wash
- Ultrathin pads
- Chapstick
- Toilet paper
- Black garbage bags (30-33 gallon size)
- Adult size backpacks
- Cleaning products (toilet bowl cleaner, 409, Clorox wipes, laundry detergent, etc.)
- Diapers (small sizes)
- Baby formula
- Box fans