Focus on Volunteers

Ruth Terry

Ruth Terry was recently honored at Daybreak Center’s 2018 Volunteer of the Year event. She has been volunteering at this location 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 years, Ruth met a client who was pregnant and living on the street. This young woman needed a warm place to stay away from the cold and one she was wearing too small for her growing gums. The next day, Ruth arrived with a new winter coat for the expectant mother. She is always a great advocate for those who are new 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 had no resources for help. Ruth helped with the man gain peace during his final days and she recorded his last words after he was laid to rest. Thus, 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 lived. The staff at Daybreak Center is forever grateful for the work she did for him during a very difficult time.

Marly Knight

Marly is a treasure 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 assessor, and as an enc-collections officer for disaster relief efforts. Marly’s sense of humor helps staff and clients get through tough days or circumstances — he’s known for keeping everyone laughing. Marly 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.

A night of charitable gaming
Playing for Miracles

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 in good condition, and toiletries must be new/unopened.

Locations

WILL COUNTY
1665 S. State Street
Lockport, IL 60441
Phone: (815) 961-1480
Fax: (815) 961-1200

GRUNDY & KENDALL COUNTIES
9915 Larkin Rd, Suite 200
Morris, IL 60450
Phone: (815) 961-2560
Fax: (815) 961-2583

DUPAGE COUNTY
16555 Weber Rd, Suite 120
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: 620-495-8008
Fax: 620-495-8051

KANKAKEE, FORD & IROQUOIS COUNTIES
249 S. Schuyler Ave, Suite 300
Kankakee, IL 60901
Phone: (815) 933-7701
Fax: (815) 933-7702

For more information or to inquire about volunteer opportunities at The Giving Tree, contact Michelle Horvat at 815-214-2674 or mhorvat@cc-doj.org.

The Connection

Eagle Scout Project

For his Eagle Scout Project, Kevin Knutkrugh (from Boy Scout Troop 263 in Lockport) 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,

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 45 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 seniors 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. We 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 Housing 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,

Amanda Rodriguez
Executive Director

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 tireless 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 the 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).

DuPage Human Race

Catholic Charities participated in the 5th annual Chicagoland DuPage Human Race 5k run/walk to benefit more than 30 non-profits that serve DuPage County. The weather was beautiful for the fun event on April 28th in Downers Grove. 682 participants registered to benefit Catholic Charities and the Agency received a check for $6,867.10.

We Love 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!

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 biked in the amenities of Catholic Charities’ private hospitality suite. The same former delicious food, drinks, and professional photos.

This was Catholic Charities 15th year as a beneficiary of this elite auto-fundraising event. Thanks to everyone who spread the news to join us for this wonderful evening!

Thank you to our event sponsors!

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.

Catholic Charities has been blessed with a very special angel.

For every dollar you donate, our angel will match it – up to $50,000.

Angel Fund

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Thousands of local families are in crisis right now. Mothers of young children are on the verge of homelessness. Seniors look forward to building additional affordable housing communities throughout the Diocese of Joliet.

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.

We love 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!
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. Ave Parish in Channahon and is the new home to seniors (62 and older) who live on low incomes.

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Please join us for a Housing and Street-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.

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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 Nazarenes, 2020 W. Enterprise Ave., Kankakee IL.

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

DuPage Human Race

Catholic Charities participated in the 5th annual DuPage Human Race 5k run/walk to benefit more than 30 non-profits that serve DuPage County. The weather was beautiful for the fun event on April 28th in Downers Grove. 612 participants registered to benefit Catholic Charities and the Agency received a check for $6,387.10.

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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!

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Upcoming Events

The Giving Tree

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3016 S. State Street
Lockport
(located behind Norm’s Café)

DONATION DATES / 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 Michelle Horvat at 815-214-2674 or mhorvat@cc-doj.org.

Focus on Volunteers

Ruth Terry

Ruth Terry was recently honored at Daybreak Center’s 2018 Volunteer of the Year. She has been volunteering at the center 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 place to stay, and the one she was wearing was too small for her growing newborn. The next day, Ruth arrived with a new wagon for the expectant mother. She is always a great advocate for those who need 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 had no resources for help. Ruth bonded with the man over a game of chess during his final days and she recorded his part even after he was laid to rest. Thus, 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 during a very difficult time.

Sr. Mary Ann Hotel

Sr. Mary Ann Hotel is a ministry 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. Sr. Mary’s sense of humor helps staff and clients get through tough days or circumstances – he is known for keeping everyone laughing.

Sr. Mary Ann provides care and companionship to Dorothy, an older adult living in a senior living home in DuPage 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 senior living home, reached out to Catholic Charities needing help. She had recently lost her husband and was in an emotional and difficult time adjusting to life without him. Sr. Mary Ann agreed to travel over 60 miles round trip to become Dorothy’s Senior Companion. After the past year of the first time, Sr. Mary Ann was concerned that Dorothy was depressed and rarely talked. Instead, she started to keep her home clean. 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.

Marlene Tate

Marlene 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 hesitation, go beyond the call of duty and contribute their time and talent for the good of the community and its citizens.

Marlene is a vibrant and energetic woman who was eager to keep busy after she retired from her career in culinary arts. She knew that she wanted to continue to give back to the community, so she began volunteering with Catholic Charities.

Over the years, Marlene has volunteered whenever and wherever she was needed, providing guidance to shelter clients, assisting with disaster response, or providing care and companionship to Dorothy, an older adult living in a senior living home in DuPage County.

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