

the Connection



Christmas Donations & Events

- Donors provided Christmas gifts to 297 older adults in our Aging and Disabilities division through our Sharing the Warmth Program.
- The Gift of Christmas Program raised enough money to purchase Christmas gifts and household items for 71 families who participate in Catholic Charities programs!
- 478 households in DuPage County were assisted through our Holiday Outreach Program – a 188% increase over the number of households served last year.
- Parishioners at St. Peter Damian Catholic Church in Bartlett provided gifts of clothing, shoes, coats, gloves, and toys to 325 children in our Head Start Program.
- The Adopt a Family Program in Will County brought Christmas cheer to 46 adults and 28 children.
- It's not too late to contribute to the Christmas Appeal to help Catholic Charities' clients throughout 2019! Visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org or use the enclosed envelope to make a donation.



Thank you to all of our supporters, donors, volunteers, and friends. You truly made it a bright Christmas for hundreds of needy individuals and families this year. We appreciate your generosity.



Thank you for finding us a Christmas sponsor. Also, please thank Benet Academy for the generous gifts and food. All of you have made our holiday so special. Thank you again for everything! We are so grateful!

These are just a couple of the beautiful thank you notes sent by individuals who received Christmas gifts through Catholic Charities' programs.

I am a 29 year-old single mother with three young children, ages 2, 3, and 5. Recently, a family member spent the night in our home and left us with bed bugs. It was a struggle as we lost many of our things. I had to get rid of our clothes and toys. I don't have the money to replace these items. These last months have been so hard and receiving gifts from your Christmas program made such a difference. I appreciate it so much that it makes me cry. Thank you so much!



news bites



Turkey Trot

Catholic Charities was honored and grateful to receive \$25,000 from the 2018 Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot 5k fun run/walk. Staff from Catholic Charities volunteered their time in support of the Thanksgiving morning event. Money awarded from the Turkey Trot will be used to help fund Catholic Charities' Community Services in DuPage County.



Undy Sunday

Undy Sunday was a great success again this year, thanks to more than 50 generous parishes and schools that collected underwear, socks, and diapers which are distributed to our clients in need throughout the year. This was the 16th annual Undy Sunday collection.



Employee of the Year

Congratulations to the Catholic Charities 2018 Employee of the Year, Jennifer Wick. Jennifer has served as the Agency's Supervisor of Volunteer Programs for Aging and Disability Services and was recently promoted to the Division Director of Aging and Disability Services!

Dear Friends

Dear Friends,

We need your help. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is facing a funding crisis at Daybreak Center, our homeless shelter in Joliet. With an increasing number of individuals seeking shelter at Daybreak Center in recent years, the expense to operate the shelter is great. Although Catholic Charities relies on many sources of funding, recent shifts in government funding will be devastating. The Agency is predicting a deficit of \$452,000 in 2019 and \$577,000 in 2020.

However, I remain hopeful. I believe in the community partners and donors who recognize the importance of helping the homeless. I believe that there are enough kind and generous hearts in our community that we won't have to let down the men, women, and children who need this program.

Daybreak Center is the largest homeless shelter within the Diocese of Joliet. The program provides emergency shelter for as many as 120 individuals, 365 days/nights per year. The program has witnessed an increase of families with children needing shelter. At one point recently, there were 50 children sleeping at Daybreak; almost three times higher than average.

We must help our homeless and vulnerable neighbors and continue to operate Daybreak Center. Please consider making a gift to Daybreak Center. God bless you.

Sincerely,



Glenn Van Cura
Executive Director



More than a homeless shelter:

- Warming/cooling shelter during extreme weather conditions.
- Shepherd's Table (daily soup kitchen for community members who cannot afford food).
- Homeless prevention and emergency services.

How YOU can help:

- Monetary donations to Daybreak Center:
 - Send a check to Catholic Charities at 16555 Weber Rd., Crest Hill, IL 60403.
 - Call 815-724-1140 to make a donation over the phone.
 - Visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org to make a donation online.
 - Contact Kathleen Langdon at klangdon@cc-doj.org to make an ongoing pledge to Daybreak or to remember Daybreak in your estate plan.
- Volunteer to teach a class on which you are an expert. (examples: budgeting, journaling, parenting, self-care).
- Host a party at the shelter for clients at Daybreak Center.
- Service projects (contact shelter for ideas).
- Organize a donation drive (examples: toiletries, underwear, socks, diapers, feminine hygiene products).
- Transporting clients to important appointments.

For more information on opportunities to help Daybreak Center, please contact Stephanie Ambrose at sambrose@cc-doj.org.

Playing for Miracles

Playing for Miracles, Catholic Charities' annual fundraiser, presented by Hollywood Casino Joliet, was held at Carlisle Banquets in Lombard on November 2.

Hundreds of guests gathered at the Carlisle for a festive evening of charitable gaming. Professional dealers from Harrah's Casino volunteered their skills to ensure that everyone had a great time. Delicious food, charitable gaming, and sensational prizes created a night to remember.

Sponsors

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Hollywood Casino Joliet

SILVER SPONSORS

St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Parish, Hinsdale
BMO Harris Bank

BRONZE SPONSORS

Providence Bank & Trust
M.J. Vandenbroucke, Inc.
First Midwest Bank

Award Recipients



HEART OF CHARITY AWARD
Mr. Rich Paulsen



ESTEEMED PARTNER AWARD
St. Mary Immaculate Parish,
Plainfield



CORPORATE CHAMPION
AWARD
DuPage Credit Union



Save the Date

Playing for Miracles 2019
November 15

Staff You Should Know: Courtney Sanders

Courtney Sanders is an SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) Program Coordinator for Catholic Charities in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. Courtney recently participated in the program Operation Family Caregiver through the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving. This organization coaches the families of newly returning service members and veterans to manage the difficulties they face when they come home. Once Courtney completed the program, she applied for the Mattie J. Stepanek Scholarship and was one of five caregivers to be selected. Courtney said, "They flew me to Georgia to attend the annual summit and gala and to receive my award. It was an absolutely incredible experience."



Love to Cook?

We have an exciting new volunteer opportunity for those who love to cook!

Hope House, our 18-bed homeless shelter in Villa Park needs volunteer groups to prepare and serve meals at the shelter. Volunteers are also welcome to prepare meals offsite and bring them to the shelter to serve. The ingredients will be provided, but volunteers are also welcome to supplement the menu with other spices and ingredients.

This is a great opportunity to help homeless families! Also perfect for students who need volunteer hours for school or confirmation! Please contact Joy Newburn at jnewburn@cc-doj.org or 630-519-6547 for more information.

First Look for Charity at Chicago Auto Show

Catholic Charities hosted a beautiful hospitality suite at the 28th annual First Look for Charity gala at the Chicago Auto Show in February.

Held at McCormick Place the evening before the Auto Show opens to the public, guests of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet were treated to delicious food, open bar, live music, and a private photo booth. The night was a great success!

The black-tie affair raised more than \$2.8 million for eighteen vital Chicago-area charities, including Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet.

DONORS

D'Arcy Buick GMC
Hollywood Casino Joliet
Panduit

MUSIC SPONSOR

Ed and Gloria Dollinger

COAT CHECK SPONSOR

Thomas More Society



COUNSELING SERVICES: NOW AVAILABLE IN MANTENO!

Catholic Charities provides counseling services in Manteno! This office is now accepting clients for appointments on Monday afternoons. There are immediate openings to see individuals with Medicaid. Call 815-723-0331 to make an appointment.

A Swing and a Prayer

Catholic Charities was blessed with beautiful weather for the annual golf outing at Joliet Country Club. A Swing and a Prayer was a fun day filled with golf, games, and great food for a wonderful cause.

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Hollywood Casino Joliet
BMO Harris Bank
BMO Wealth Management

DINNER SPONSOR

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LUNCH SPONSORS

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Busey Bank

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Abt
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Spesia & Taylor
Webb-Hutter Family Fund

GOLF CART SPONSORS

Eat Enterprises
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PWC

HOLE IN ONE SPONSOR

Esser Hayes Insurance Group
ClearStaff, Inc.

Save the Date

A Swing and a Prayer 2019
August 15th



Valentine's Day and Friendship Day

Valentine's Day and Friendship Day are always fun to celebrate with children and our Head Start sites certainly got into the spirit this year!



Myisha created these adorable and creative Valentine's Day treats for her son's Head Start classmates at Rockdale Center!



There was fun around every corner at Rockdale Head Start on Valentine's Day!



Parents joined their children at St. John's Head Start for a Valentine's Day/Friendship Day Dance!

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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

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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



Upcoming Events

The Human Race

Join Catholic Charities for the 8th Annual DuPage Human Race!
This 5k run/fitness walk and fundraiser benefits over 60 non-profit organizations that serve DuPage County.

Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 9:00a.m.

The Esplanade at Locust Point, 1901 W. Butterfield Road, Downers Grove
Register at dupagehumanrace.org

Be sure to designate Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet as the recipient of your race fee!

Catholic Charities Fundraiser at City Barbeque in Downers Grove!

1034 Ogden Avenue
Downers Grove

April 26 - All day!

Catholic Charities will receive
a donation of 25% of your
total bill!



Mark Your Calendar. . .

A Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing: **August 15**

Playing for Miracles: **November 15**

Wish List

Catholic Charities gratefully
accepts donations of clothing,
household items, and toiletries.

The Giving Tree Donation Center:
**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

Questions? Interested in volunteering at The Giving Tree?
Contact Mechelle Horvat at 815-714-2674 or mhorvat@cc-doj.org.

- Men's boxers/boxer briefs (small, medium, and large)
- Women's underwear (size 6)
- Girl's underwear (sizes 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 (size 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)
- Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6)
- Hairbrushes
- Loofah sponges
- Baby wash
- Baby lotion
- Small bottles of medicine (Tylenol, Advil, Aleve, Immodium, Benadryl)
- Travel size umbrellas

