

Blessings



Newsletter of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio – an agency of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Refugee Resettlement Cultural Orientation Day

On March 22nd, Catholic Charities led a cultural orientation day for over 30 of our refugee resettlement clients who arrived to the U.S. in the last 6 months. The day included an opportunity to learn more about Catholic Charities, resettlement in the U.S., housing basics, as well as our employment placement program. It also included a social adjustment workshop exercise and a health care system explanation by UC medical students. The event took place from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM and childcare was included.

To learn more about Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement program, visit ccswoh.org/services/refugees.



Opioid Addiction Crisis Event at Good Shepherd



On February 19th, over 300 Catholics and Lutherans gathered at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Cincinnati to unite in a faith-filled response against the addiction crisis ravaging our communities. Along with Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis Schnurr and ELCA Southern Ohio Synod Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt, parish clergy and lay leaders learned to promote healing for those suffering from addiction and for their families in our parishes.

The event was organized by Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, Lutheran Social Services Disaster Services, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, ELCA Southern Ohio Synod and Glenmary Home Missioners. Keynote speakers, Fr. Mark Hushen and Sis Wegner provided a powerful overview of addiction, its impact on families and the road to recovery. In addition, 12 county and statewide drug, addiction and mental health boards led breakout sessions and connected participants with resources in their respective localities.

The energizing day concluded with a heartfelt singing of "Here I am, Lord," a hymn of hope and commitment sending us forth to the challenging work awaiting in our communities.

CEO Message



Ted Bergh, CEO of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio

Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio serves local families. Many Catholic agencies serve the poor and vulnerable. Catholic Relief Services does great work with serving people with needs in other countries. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development's annual special collection primarily distributes funds through a national office to local groups who are not limited to Catholic Agencies.

Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio is part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and under the direction of the Archbishop who appoints our board. All of the charitable works performed by Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio are local. All the funding received is to serve local Cincinnati families.

This edition of Blessings is devoted to illustrating the Works of Mercy made possible by your sharing in the work that we perform. Our focus includes working in support of parishes and in collaboration other local charities. An example is the story in this edition of Blessings about dealing with the Opioid Addiction crisis at the parish level. We are working with Catholic Parishes, other denominations and human service agencies to address these issues at the parish ministry level.

Catholic Charities' mission is to lift up families threatened by adverse situations. The story about Laura's success in saving her her family through the Parent Project/loving Solutions program is one to achieve this goal. It is always important to remember that is occurs one family at a time. Another example is the Moving Beyond Depression program. This program enables mothers to experience precious time with their

children and it vital to child's early development.

Our Food for All program, in five rural counties East of Cincinnati (Adams, Brown, Clinton, Clermont, and Highland), strengthen families to weather hard times with nutritious meals. We also work with UC Medical Students to inform family meal providers on providing the most nutritious meals to their families. Please take a moment to see these stories included in this edition of Blessings.

Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio provide services through many partners in addition to UC Medical Students. There are over 100 agencies and service providers locally who collaborate with Catholic Charities in providing services to local families. In April, there were two health fairs to connect families to health services. This story describes these health fairs and a few of the partners that participated in these events. These partnerships avoid expensive duplication of services and more effectively deliver services.

All our work is in partnership with local churches, parishes and agencies to provide services with local families. Please continue to pray for our mission to be God's mercy to the poor and vulnerable. You may learn more or volunteer at our web site CCSWOH.org. We are also on social media. Please share this edition of Blessings and contact me, or David Taylor if you have any questions.

With peace,

Ted Bergh

LEADERSHIP

Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr,
Archbishop of Cincinnati

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Parent Project/Loving Solutions Program

Laura was referred to the Parent Project/Loving Solutions program by the drug court liaison after asking for help with her daughter's challenging behaviors. Her five year old daughter, Krista, would only listen to her father and not Laura.

Since attending the program and utilizing the strategies she's learned, Laura has reported many improvements at home. She now sees her relationship with her daughter as a mother-daughter relationship rather than a "friend" relationship.

Before the program, Krista would often cry and throw temper tantrums when she did not get her way. This would lead Laura to "give in." Now that Laura is utilizing the tools that she learned in Loving Solutions – such as creating routine, and standing her ground when enforcing house rules – she has noticed significant change in Krista's behavior. She feels that Krista now sees that her mom will not change the rules or "give in" to stop a temper tantrum.

Laura has two other children who do not currently live in her home and plans to implement the tools and strategies she has learned from Loving Solutions when she is reunited with her additional children.

Since attending the program and utilizing the strategies she's learned, Laura has reported many improvements at home.



Moving Beyond Depression Program™



Did you know Catholic Charities is certified in the Moving Beyond Depression™ Program in Butler County?

Do you know how the program works?

Home visiting is a widely used, voluntary service for new mothers and their young children and the focus is to optimize child development. Moving Beyond Depression™ gives mothers suffering from depression the treatment that they need to function optimally and support their child's development.

The program is a comprehensive, evidence-based and integrated approach to identifying and treating depression in mothers participating in home visitation programs. It is a systemic program of In-Home Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (IH-CBT) developed by researchers at Every Child Succeeds® and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Catholic Charities has served 15 clients in this program since January 2018.

20th Annual Su Casa Awards Dinner

This year's Su Casa Awards Dinner took place on May 10th at the Cintas Center on Xavier University's Campus. The event featured a silent auction, dinner, awards ceremony, live appeal, and after party. This year's awardees were:



OneSight

OneSight
Organization
of the Year



Dr. Marc Alexander
Immigrant Health
Advocate Award



Marina Garcia
Latin American Child and
Arts Advocate Award



Ruth Holtel
Su Casa's Education Award



Sue Ventura
Volunteer of the Year



Joe Wanderski
Exemplary Community
Service Award

Over 330 people attended the event. Catholic Charities and the Su Casa Hispanic Center would like to thank all who sponsored and volunteered this year!

MARCC ID Program

In August of 2016, Catholic Charities and Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) started the MARCC ID Program in Greater Cincinnati.

So many ask — what is a MARCC ID? It is a community identification card recognized as a valid form of identification within the city of Cincinnati, Hamilton County and other jurisdictions by police officers and city agencies where state and/or federal law requires another

form of identification. It was created to support a safer, more inclusive and welcoming community.

It improves the potential for individuals to be recognized and provided with equal protection and due process under the law and receive government services in Cincinnati. It's distributed monthly by Catholic Charities on behalf of MARCC and the cards can be renewed annually.

Catholic Charities and MARCC have issued close to 2000 IDs since 2016 and



currently average 50 per month. The hope is to expand the program outside of the migrant community in the future so that others can reap the benefits of the card.

Su Casa Hispanic Center Partners with UC Medical Students

This past February and March, Su Casa Hispanic Center partnered with UC's Medical Department to offer nutrition classes to the Hispanic/Latino community in Greater Cincinnati. The primary objective of the partnership was for UC's Medical Department to develop a relationship with the Hispanic/Latino community and to better understand their needs and barriers to health.

The theme of the classes were Introduction to Nutrition, Healthy Recipes, and Learning to Read Nutrition Facts. Each class had approximately 15 participants, lasted 2 ½ hours and received positive feedback from all who attended. In conclusion, UC's Medical Department found that implementing educational classes for underserved communities may help to prevent chronic disease.

To learn more about these classes and additional health promotion events that the Su Casa Hispanic Center offers, visit ccswoh.org/healthpromotionevents.



Su Casa April Health Fairs

Su Casa Hispanic Center led its two largest health fairs in April. The first took place April 6th at St. Julie Billiart in Hamilton, OH. The event offered mammographies, physical consultations, blood pressure, cholesterol and mental health screenings, as well as eye exams. 386 people attended and we had over 45 volunteers that made this event possible.

The second event took place on April 27th at the AMIS School in Cincinnati, OH. The event offered mammographies, physical consultations, blood pressure, blood sugar and mental health screenings, as well as eye exams. 508 people attended and we had over 50 volunteers that made this event possible.

Both events were supported by UC Health Mammography Unit Mobile, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Crossroad Health Center, TriHealth, Healthy Moms ad Babes, WinMed, Cincinnati Health Department, Cancer Support Community, HOME, Molina Healthcare, American Red Cross, among other great organizations.



Refugee Resettlement Stress Management

Our Refugee Resettlement Program offers a stress management class every 3 weeks as part of the employment readiness classes. A frequent guest facilitator is Arlene DeSilva of Global Music and Wellness. She brings drums, tamborines, and other hand held instruments for the clients. The purpose? "To relieve the stress that our new refugee clients endure adapting to new culture, new food options, new job opportunities, language barriers, and more. And to allow these individuals to celebrate their culture." says Rachel Burgess, Case Management Supervisor for Refugee Resettlement Services at Catholic Charities.



Amal Masto Cincinnatus Scholarship

On Thursday, February 21st, the English Language Learning Foundation, Inc. recognized Amal Masto with the Cincinnatus Scholarship award. Amal began attending English as a Second Language Classes at Catholic Charities when she arrived to the U.S. and became the primary supporter of her family. After time, she convinced her family members to attend the classes. She recognizes the support she has received here has made her journey much less difficult. Amal, now a Senior at Aiken New Tech High School, is on track to be a Salutatorian of her class and Catholic Charities would like to congratulate her for her success!

IN HONOR

The following gifts were made to honor the following individuals:

Toni Gallo

Larry and Jayne Fronk
Michael and Caroline Welsh

Allana Sarell

Dan Sarell

Margaret Singer

Pat and Sue Keefe

Sarah and Lucas McGuire

Sylvia Pacheco McGuire and
Josh McGuire

IN MEMORY

Gifts to Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio have been made in loving memory of the following individuals:

Thelma Gallo

Sr. Mary Ann Trotta

Zachary J. Miller

Project Zachary

Phil Mortensen

Ken and Sherri Mullen

Patricia Verrilli Powell

The Jacobs Family



FOOD FOR ALL: West Union at Adams County Fairgrounds

The first Food for All mobile food pantry in Adams County/West Union was May 24, 2016. It was initially held at the West Union Interfaith House and then moved to the Adams County Fairgrounds. Catholic Charities partners with the local community agencies on this program which includes Interfaith House, Adams County Fairgrounds, Holy Trinity Catholic Church and St. Vincent DePaul.

Every fourth Tuesday of the month, 30-40 volunteers gather around 9:00 AM. Tables are arranged for easy flow of foot traffic, the Freestore Foodbank box truck is unloaded of 10 pallets of food, inventory is counted, the food is organized in a makeshift grocery store, bulk produce is bagged, computers are logged onto, and

community is built.

In the administrative building at the fairgrounds, smiles spread. The large warehouse is full of "Good Mornings", "How is your Mother (or other family member)?" Lively conversations, laughter and collaboration take place. Everyone knows what the goal is on this day — Let's take care of our community. The pantry is open from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

The number of households served per month fluctuates, but the average is 175 households feeding an average of 426 people. At the events themselves, you will hear many neighbors/families served saying, "This is such a blessing", "Thank you so much", "We are so grateful".

**The number
of households
served
per month
fluctuates,
but the
average is**



**feeding an
average of
426
people**

World Refugee Day Celebration



JOIN US

**at the P&G MLB Cincinnati
Reds Youth Academy for
food, games, music and fun.**

**June 22nd, 2019
11:00 am - 3:00 pm**



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to share.*

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"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall
obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

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Southwestern Ohio, please contact Spring
Duncan at 513-672-3736 or sduncan@ccswoh.
org to be removed from our mailing list.*



WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio
welcomes refugees escaping violence
or persecution in their homelands.
Catholic Charities empowers these
individuals and their families for self-
resiliency in Greater Cincinnati.

**JOIN US IN OUR MISSION.
GIVE TODAY.**

**GIVE ONLINE
TODAY AT**
www.ccswoh.org/donate

