

Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.
1400 N Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
HelpCreateHope.org



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 86
Terre Haute, IN

Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

Spring 2021 Newsletter



UPCOMING EVENTS

As vaccine numbers across the state continue to increase, we hope to be able to offer in-person events again in the near future. Stay tuned for more information. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Caregiver Support Groups:

Contact Monica Woodsworth for current information on caregiver support programming including support groups for caregivers of older adults, individual consultation and connection to community resources at mwoodsworth@archindy.org or 317-261-3378.

Support Catholic Charities

Leave a Legacy – Donation Information

Have you considered how a planned gift to Catholic Charities can impact lives for years to come? Including Catholic Charities Indianapolis in your will continues your ability to serve our mission of providing help and creating hope to those in need. To learn more about how you can plan a lasting gift through legacy planning, contact Jim Maslar at 317-236-1588 or jmaslar@archindy.org.

Donate Online

Did you know you can contribute to Catholic Charities online? It's easy and secure. Visit helpcreatehope.org. Donations can be set up as a monthly or a one-time gift. Ninety-two cents of every dollar is used to provide critical support, genuine care, and gentle relief for those who seek our help. For more information on giving, contact Cheri Bush at 317-236-1411 or cbush@archindy.org.

HelpCreateHope.org  Facebook: Catholic Charities Indianapolis

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

The past year has been a uniquely trying time for the poor. Our mission to serve those who are most vulnerable and have few resources and options became an incredible challenge during the pandemic. But, as is often the case, the challenge was also an incredible opportunity to discover how, with Christ's grace, our service can triumph over anything.

The accompanying articles in this newsletter demonstrate that as our neighbors' need for assistance grew, so too, did charitable giving by the faithful in our archdiocese. We began serving people who have never had to ask for assistance before. Previously, they may have been Catholic Charities donors or volunteers, but the economic impact of the pandemic hit them hard, and they too needed help. Generous donors - like you - responded to the need. We partnered with community providers to help reduce evictions, provide food to families, offer mental health services for the uninsured and help those seeking employment prepare for and find jobs.

There is still a hard road ahead. But God's grace to assist those in need will enable us to respond. We have been tremendously challenged this year, yet greatly rewarded with the resources to help others. I extend my gratitude to our staff and volunteers, our clients, and people of goodwill who enabled Catholic Charities to offer hope and support to help transform the lives of those who are suffering.

God bless you for your faithful witness to help the least of our brothers and sisters.

Sincerely,

David J. Bethuram

David J. Bethuram
Executive Director
Secretariat for Catholic Charities



Holy Family Shelter

Liz*, a driven 36-year-old mother of 4, was referred to Holy Family Shelter by the school social worker at her children's school. Liz needed assistance after fleeing an abusive and codependent family situation.

Liz was incredibly motivated and ambitious during her time at Holy Family Shelter. With her case manager's assistance, she enrolled in the Community Partners for Child Safety Program through the Children's Bureau. This program assisted Liz in obtaining the necessary documentation for moving into her own apartment, as well as assisting with other parenting-related needs.

Liz was able to budget and purchase a vehicle to overcome her transportation barrier, with her case manager's guidance. **Once her transportation barrier was removed, Liz obtained employment, received a promotion in less than 30 days, and regularly contributed to a checking and savings account. Liz and her children are engaged in mental health services and have recently moved into their own housing.** For more info on Holy Family Shelter, visit holyfamilyshelter.net and find us on Facebook at Holy Family Shelter.



Senior Programs

All Senior Service Programs continue to keep a close eye on the amount of anxiety and/or depression that seniors are experiencing due to isolation resulting from the pandemic.

A **Caring Place Adult Day Services** currently has 8 participants and has room for more. For more information contact Lisa Sperry at lsperry@archindy.org or 317-466-0015.

Senior Companion Program provided 40,000 hours of phone and in-person contact to homebound seniors during the pandemic. We are taking referrals for when Companions can return to providing in-home visits later this year. For more information, contact Joyce Beaven at jbeaven@archindy.org or 317-236-1552.

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) provides volunteer opportunities for those 55 and over both from home and in the community. For more information, contact Monica Woodsworth at mwoodsworth@archindy.org or 317-261-3378.

School Social Work Program

School social workers help create a positive education experience for our Catholic school students. One of our social workers shared the story of Minnie*, a shy kindergarten student who had a significant history of child abuse and neglect and was being cared for by her father.

Because of her trauma history, Minnie struggled with anger outbursts and, at times, had to leave the classroom because of her behavior. She worked with the school social worker to learn strategies to calm herself. Recently, after Minnie was able to calm down, she said "My heart doesn't hurt anymore, can I return to my class?" The teacher and social worker stayed in close contact with her father and worked to create a consistent routine at home and school.

The social worker provided parental support to her father and recommended assistance outside of the school setting. Minnie began working with a play therapist to address trauma and receiving additional mental health care to address anxiety and other behaviors observed by her dad and teacher. **Due to the collaboration of services between home and school, Minnie has been able to control her behavior and focus in school. She has made tremendous progress and has achieved academic and emotional successes.**

**Names changed for privacy*

St. Elizabeth|Coleman

Heather* is a strong single mom to 2-year-old Henry, with her eyes set on a bright future: going to college part-time and working part-time. She wanted to create the best life possible for her little family. When she found out she was pregnant again, Heather felt she wasn't emotionally and financially prepared to parent another child. **She knew immediately that adoption was the solution that would give the baby a life that she couldn't provide.**

After meeting with an adoption specialist from St. Elizabeth|Coleman, Heather felt supported in her decision to choose life and adoption. The counselor provided support and guidance while reminding Heather of her existing strength and courage. St. Elizabeth|Coleman provided Heather with financial and material support to alleviate life's struggles as a single mother. Heather selected a loving adoptive couple, whom she invited to the hospital to witness the birth of their baby boy. After the adoption, Heather continued meeting with her adoption counselor for ongoing support. **Heather feels happy and at peace with the adoption and continues receiving updates from the family and her second son.** For more info on St. Elizabeth|Coleman, visit givingbirthtohope.org and find us on Facebook at St. Elizabeth|Coleman Pregnancy & Adoption Services.

Counseling Program

Our Counseling Program continues to provide accessible and affordable mental health services for adults and children struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Counseling can address physical, psychological, and emotional needs regardless of ability to pay using telehealth (video) and telephone counseling. For more information or to make an appointment visit helpcreatehope.org or call 317-236-1500 option #2.

Catholic Charities Welcomes Anita Jackson

Anita Jackson joined the Catholic Charities Indianapolis staff in April as the new director of Immigration Legal Services. She is taking on the role previously held by Tim Winn. Anita comes to us from Families First, where she served as the Parent and Community Education Coordinator. She has also served the community at Eskanazi Health, YMCA and Brightwood Community Center. You can contact Anita at 317-236-1517 or ajackson@archindy.org.

Crisis Office Virtual Breaking Bread Recap

On Holy Thursday, April 1, Catholic Charities held a Virtual Breaking of Bread in support of the Crisis Office. This virtual event was held instead of the in-person annual Soup and Bread luncheon. The program included updates from the Crisis Office, including a tour of our new space and stories about its impact on those struggling to meet basic needs. Archbishop Thompson and Monsignor Stumpf both offered prayers. **Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and donors, over \$4,500 was raised in support of the Crisis Office.** You can find a recording of the event on the Catholic Charities Indianapolis Facebook page.



HelpCreateHope.org  Facebook: Catholic Charities Indianapolis