

FALL 2025

your Works of Mercy

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

EXCLUSIVE DONOR NEWSLETTER



St. Leo's Soup Kitchen, Waterford Encore
Adult Day Program, Annual Celebration
2025, the Residences at St. Matthew Update
and Video Testimonial, and *More!!!*



Annual Celebration 2025: Giving Love and Support to our At-risk Neighbors in Detroit

PRESENTED BY:



More than 450 guests and volunteers gathered at St. John's Resort to honor outstanding friends and partners, celebrate our new Center for the Works of Mercy, and raise more than \$300,000 in support of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan programs and services... **YOU made the difference!**



Above: Presenting Sponsor Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council representatives pose with Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger.

Right: 2025 Outstanding Organization Award winner Ladies of Charity (Oakland County) co-Presidents Maria Hewson and Mia Materka are honored for more than 10 years of volunteer service and support at La Casa Amiga in Pontiac.



Above: St. Matthew's Church Pastor, Rev. Duane Novelty, staff and parishioners, celebrate their 2025 Outstanding Parish Award.

Right: Emcee Chuck Gaidica engages donors in a "lightning round of support" providing essential resources and services for more than 10,000 at-risk and vulnerable neighbors at the Center for the Works of Mercy this coming year.

Photo Credits: Tim Fuller



Above: CCSEM trustee Sean Jagels and Board Chair Msgr. Charles Kosanke present the 2025 Leonard R. Jagels Award for Outstanding Individual to Pat and Bob Mincel.



During the event, attendees supported the new Center for the Works of Mercy in Detroit, raising more than \$80,000 to provide essential resources and critical support.

Scan the QR code to view our new Center for the Works of Mercy video.



Front Cover: Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger blesses the new Center for the Works of Mercy in Detroit.



New Community Programs in Focus

Working together to provide help and give hope in difficult times

St. Leo's Soup Kitchen, after operating independently for several years at the Center for the Works of Mercy (CWM), has joined Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan's (CCSEM) food programs and moved across the street to a more generous space in the basement of the historic People's Community Church (8601 Woodward Ave.). **Thanks to YOU**, volunteers are now serving **more than 2000 meals monthly** each Wednesday through Friday.

Thank YOU for providing food to the hungry. St. Leo's Soup Kitchen is now part of a coordinated approach by CCSEM, providing food to people in need throughout the tri-county area. The Mercy Market at the Center for the Works of Mercy is a client choice pantry sponsored by Alliance Catholic Credit Union where people can shop as if they were in a store. This location also serves as a hub for receipt and distribution of food in Wayne County, including hundreds of home deliveries monthly to vulnerable seniors and families.

Earlier this summer, the **Encore Adult Day Program** was at risk of closing when the Waterford Senior Center became part of the township's Parks and Recreation Department. The community rallied around Encore, and Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan stepped in to save the program with the support and encouragement of **donors like you!**

Erin Asdell, senior coordinator and former Catholic Social Services employee said, "The community was just really devastated, and the reaction was a lot of people not knowing what they were going to do." That is when Catholic Charities CEO Paul Propson saw an opportunity to leverage resources.

Thanks to you, CCSEM is an experienced adult day services provider. CCSEM forged an agreement with Waterford township ensuring no interruption in care for clients. Catholic Charities' efforts have ensured that Encore will remain in its current location, with the same trusted staff and hours of operation that families have come to depend on; all while striving to maintain reasonable fees to support families struggling to allow their loved ones to age at home with dignity. After 40 years of operating in Waterford, **the Encore Adult Day Program quite literally has a new lease on life.**



Volunteers from Archdiocesan parishes prepare BBQ chicken, corn on the cob, peas, and cornbread for hungry and grateful clients... **thanks to YOU!**



St. Leo's Soup Kitchen transforms a basement into a clean, well-lit, and welcoming place for hungry and vulnerable neighbors in Detroit.



Waterford Encore adult day program became a valued partner this summer, providing support for vulnerable seniors and their families in Oakland County.

Below: Seniors benefit from social engagement and mobility sessions at Waterford Encore Adult Day.





The Residences at St. Matthew:

The impact of essential support, encouragement and stability for residents

Meet Brian (above), a resident at The Residences at St. Matthew (RSM). **Brian says, *Thank YOU!*** He is 63. RSM is a treasured place, a dream come true, a new beginning for Brian. Five minutes after we met, he invited me to see his home. His apartment is immaculate and meticulously cared for. Brian told me part of his story. He is a life-long native Detroit from southwest Detroit. He came to RSM from a shelter in southwest Detroit. He considers Mariners Inn treatment and recovery center in Detroit his “Alma Mater”. He recently celebrated being four-years-clean of alcohol and cocaine.

Brian feels the weight of lost years, lost family and friends, lost love, but has grown to have enormous faith in God and, recently, in himself. Brian shared that, before Mariners Inn, he last graduated from the 5th grade. He would like to graduate for real and cross the stage in a cap and gown one day like the 83-year-old woman he saw on TV. He would like to achieve more in life. After a year at RSM, Brian will be eligible for a low-income housing voucher and could choose to move on. ***Thanks to YOU***, RSM has provided Brian a stable place to begin to heal and the support to transform his life. Brian says, “narrow is the way.” The dream is big; narrow is the way.

Brian can stay at the Residences at St. Matthew and benefit from supportive services for as long as he wants. Residents have their own apartment lease along with rental assistance and have the option to take advantage of any and all supportive services. Food, clothing, and household goods are available. Support navigating benefits like social security, Medicaid/Medicare, primary health care and dental, Bridge Card, rental assistance and behavioral health is provided on-site. Illness Management and Recovery meetings take place weekly in a mutually supportive environment at RSM. Brian has clearly benefitted from much of the ***support provided by YOU***.

Carol (pictured right) shared her story with us, too. Carol first came to us at the Center for the Works of Mercy in Detroit, near the bus stop she was sleeping in at the time. Carol was provided with food, clothing, and case management services. She was then taken into one of the many shelters for those experiencing homelessness throughout the city of Detroit. By the grace of God, we were reunited with Carol when she had the opportunity to lease an apartment at The Residences at St. Matthew.

To learn more about Carol's journey, see the video QR code on page 2 or find us on YouTube @catholiccharitiesofSEMichigan.



Fr. Duane Novelly (Pastor, St. Matthew Church) and case manager Oluchukwu with Carol.

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SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

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Scan for more info!

