

SUMMER 2025

# your Works of Mercy

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

EXCLUSIVE DONOR NEWSLETTER

"Compelled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) provides compassionate, quality, professional services and support to people in need. CCSEM strives to be the organization of choice for people in need, transforming lives, encountering Christ, and mobilizing hope in our community."



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

How *YOU* transform lives:  
the poor, the marginalized,  
the vulnerable among us.



# Rebuilding Lives with Dignity and Compassion

*Now OPEN...*

*The Residences at St. Matthew  
Peter and Connie Cracchiolo Campus*



**Dignitaries, donors, and partners in mission** gathered on May 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the opening of The Residences at St. Matthew. Mayor Mike Duggan joined in, saying “...a lot of folks are homeless because they have mental health issues, and then they have a bad financial run... When you put people in permanent supportive housing for six months or longer, you can give them help with those things, and it makes a huge difference.” Bishop Arturo Cepeda blessed the building and it’s 46 apartments ready for new residents.

(Below:) A new resident unlocks their door to a brighter future.



Lunch was provided as residents received their apartment keys and supplies, and a general sense of well-being began to fill the new residents. **Perhaps for the first time in a long time, many new residents felt cared for, regarded, and empowered.** Smiles and names were exchanged: Jeff, who is elderly and hard of hearing; Kevin, who walks with the help of a cane, and his daughter Crystal; Derek, a younger man who sat alone all morning, introduced himself to everyone.



(Above:) Residents complete required paperwork and wait with their belongings in the gym of the former St. Matthew School.

May 28<sup>th</sup>, our first day of on-boarding new residents, was a day of new experiences for everyone... **Thanks to donors like YOU!** People who had experienced chronic homelessness used the computer lab to navigate leases with the help of CCSEM staff, many waiting with their belongings loosely packed in bags. Donated home goods, hygiene products, telephones, and food items were ready at stations nearby.



(Above:) A door opens and a new resident searches for the light.

(Left:) CCSEM CEO Paul Propson, Bishop Cepeda, and CCSEM Chair Msgr. Charles Kosanke celebrate the difference YOU make!

**Thanks to donors like YOU,** 25 permanent supportive housing and 21 affordable units along with support services are now being provided to those most in need on the east side of Detroit. “These apartments are very nice!”, Jeff told me loud enough for many nearby to hear. Kevin thanked me for helping him find his apartment. I got the sense that he was really **thanking YOU for the difference you make.**

Throughout the day many of the residents took time to stop and read the list of supporters displayed in the new community center (former gym) area.



# The New Center for the Works of Mercy

## Expanded Resources for Neighbors in Need of Essential Support...

Above: Volunteers keep the shelves stocked at Mercy Market.

Below: Mercy Market provides clients a dignified shopping experience with their choice of nutritious food items.



Because of **YOU** and your commitment to the works of mercy, today the Center for the Works of Mercy offers more help and hope, more dignity and compassion, more services and resources, to those in need throughout Detroit. New to the center is Mercy Market, which offers monthly support to **individuals and families experiencing food insecurity or financial hardship**. The new Market is a larger food pantry where clients can shop and choose their ingredients from clean, organized, shelves and coolers... just like at a real grocery store. Shoppers even experience a check-out lane where their selections are reviewed by a "cashier". *You feed the hungry with dignity!*

Below: Archbishop Weisenburger officially opens the Center for the Works of Mercy along with dignitaries, donors, and friends.



**Works of Mercy:** v. Charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily need; n. Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan's new Center located at 10301 Woodward Ave. in Detroit near the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**Thanks to donors like YOU**, CCSEM has expanded services and resources at the Center for the Works of Mercy. Now, more people in need of essential support, especially those experiencing homelessness, in the City of Detroit can find tangible help. Essential things like food, clothing, baby supplies, case management plus services offering referrals to resources like housing, job placement, and counseling all take place in a welcoming and accessible space.



Above: A young mom selects a special dress from the expanded Mercy Closet for her daughter.

**You also clothe the naked! Thanks to YOU**, eligible low-income individuals may now shop the expanded Mercy Clothes Closet by appointment for clothes and shoes. Today, **job seekers referred by their case managers** at the Center can find professional attire in a well-lit and organized clothing store. Additionally, **expectant and new mothers** can find support and shop for baby items donated to Walking with Moms in Need, while our Project Hope case manager helps them connect to other resources like health care and housing.





## Recurring Donor Society: *The "Circle of Mercy" Puts a Floor of Support Under Those In Need*

The back page is usually reserved exclusively for our volunteers; however, we want you to know that... **our monthly and quarterly donors are amazing!!!** Recurring donors provide the basis for keeping our doors open and our lights on, especially in challenging times. **They give selflessly, generously, and repeatedly.** In return for their loyal support, we have created The Circle of Mercy: a recurring donor society with benefits like...

- 1) Tours and invitations to special events (like our recent ribbon cuttings ceremonies at the Center for the Works of Mercy and The Residences at St. Matthew)
- 2) A Circle of Mercy annual update providing the impact "The Circle" makes along with your personal annual giving statement for the past year (each January)
- 3) Promotional and discounted offers on Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan branded items, and
- 4) Prayer and intention opportunities at CCSEM gatherings, Masses and special events

Additionally, Circle of Mercy members will continue to receive our donor exclusive newsletters (three times a year), our annual impact report ([www.ccsem.org/impact](http://www.ccsem.org/impact)), and tribute opportunities. However, Circle of Mercy members will no longer receive regular appeal letters or other mailings, so more of your money goes directly to those in need. It is a budget friendly way to be involved... monthly or quarterly, any amount that *you* feel is significant is enough.

**To join the Circle of Mercy, simply become a recurring donor...** online, by mail, or give us a call.

### TESTIMONIALS... *from those clients our volunteers serve*

"...what I truly received went far beyond material (support). In a time where I felt lost and vulnerable, they gave me hope, dignity, and a sense of being seen and cared for." -Center for the Works of Mercy Client

"I appreciate all of your hard work. You've been so helpful with being compassionate and kind. My words cannot express how much you have helped me." -Adult Day Program Client

"If it were not for Meals-On-Wheels delivery, I would not have a hot meal each day and live in my own home..."  
-Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)/Meals-on-Wheels Client, Oakland County

"It's good to know that someone cares." -RSVP/Meals-on-Wheels Client, Macomb County



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It's easy!

[careasy.org/nonprofit/ccsem](http://careasy.org/nonprofit/ccsem)

844-952-8227



*Annual Celebration*

**September 18 | 6:30 PM**  
Saint John's Resort, Plymouth

**Buy Your Tickets Now!**

[ccsem.org/ac25](http://ccsem.org/ac25)