

SUMMER 2024

your Works of Mercy

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

EXCLUSIVE DONOR NEWSLETTER

“To serve those in need is a mutually enriching encounter of persons. It is not only true that those who serve are a blessing to the needy, but those we serve also bless us abundantly.”

-The Most Reverend, Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

How *YOU* improve lives: New initiatives, building forward.
PLUS: *Donor Feedback*



What's New at CCSEM

Responding to the need today... and tomorrow

One of the greatest needs we see today among our vulnerable neighbors throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit is food security. As a work of mercy, we answer the call to feed the hungry **thanks to donors like you.** Further, our network of food pantries, partnerships, and soup kitchens serve as a gateway for those in need to access many other services that provide help. In 2023, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan provided more than 80,000 meals, a 33% increase over the year before, through food pantry programs in Detroit and Pontiac; plus 34,000+ meals through our Senior Outreach Program... **Thanks to donors and volunteers like you!** Thanks to your support of our food pantry programs, we are taking steps to be more efficient and effective in delivering help to those who need it most.

New at All Saints Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry (ASSKFP) in southwest Detroit is a recently formed partnership with Gleaners Community Food Bank to expand services. ASSKFP now provides food Monday-Friday with the addition of drive-through parking lot pantry services two days a week.

Further increasing the impact of your support and our ability to meet the increased demands of those in need, The Center for the Works of Mercy in Detroit is moving! The Center has long been a model of efficiency and collaboration in providing help to the community. Many find their way to the Center for food assistance, and then find additional support that helps them become more stable and on the path to independence once again. The new, larger, Center for the Works of Mercy will be located across from The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Woodward Avenue... **Thanks to donors like YOU!**



Because of donors like you... Mark Johnson, Director of Food Programs, recently conducted a study of our network and has centralized pantry food distribution to leverage efficiencies to meet the increased demand for assistance. Additionally, we can more readily track and report **YOUR impact!**

Beginning in July... CCSEM's Oakland County Behavioral Health Services, located in Royal Oak for more than 50 years and offering a Catholic approach to behavioral health counseling, is moving just down the street to neighboring Madison Heights and can be found at 515 E. 11 Mile Road.



(Left): The Senior Outreach Program has innovated with "pop-up" pantries at senior communities to better provide groceries to our homebound neighbors.

(Above) The future home of the Center for the Works of Mercy on Woodward Avenue in Detroit.

(Top) In partnership with Forgotten Harvest, drive through pantry volunteers load cars with groceries at La Casa Amiga.

Building Bright Futures: *The Center for the Works of Mercy The Residences at St. Matthew and La Casa Amiga*

“Andre” was living in his van parked behind The Center for the Works of Mercy on Woodward. Our professional case manager on staff at the Center worked with Andre to assess his needs, built trust, and helped him connect with resources to create some stability in his life. Having completed an outside treatment program and now ready to move forward in finding employment and housing, additional barriers still threatened Andre’s fragile success. Thanks to the generosity of donors to our Adopt-a-Family program, Andre received one-time financial assistance to help with gas and other expenses related to accessing resources and completing his job search. **Thanks to people like you**, Andre is able to look beyond living in crisis to creating peace and stability for himself.

Director of the Center for the Works of Mercy and Wayne County Programs, Anna Licavoli noted, “The Center is a small place, and folks frequently exchange stories as they sit and wait. It is then that **they share their experiences of hope and gratitude** with others. I’ve seen those struggling with discouragement and apathy shift when they hear directly from those who have persevered.”

Andre is just one example of how together we help people experiencing homelessness. Imagine if you could help dozens of people like Andre by providing housing stability and supportive services. Now, in partnership with you and other generous public and private supporters, Catholic Charities is building toward a healthy housing solution at The Residences at St. Matthew on Detroit’s east side. Currently under construction, and anticipating our first residents in early 2025, The Residences at St. Matthew will offer 25 permanent supportive housing units for the formerly chronically homeless, and 21 affordable housing units. **Because of the long-time loyal support of donors like you**, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan is positioned to tackle this most ambitious initiative.

Find the most up to date information at www.ccsem.org/residences, or contact Tricia Brosnahan at 586-416-2300 ext. 4015 about how you can support The Residences at St. Matthew.



Program Director Anna Licavoli reviews progress at The Residences at St. Matthew's.



LA CASA AMIGA: BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF HELP AND HOPE

Thanks to the steadfast support and perseverance of donors and volunteers, La Casa Amiga in Pontiac celebrated its 30th Anniversary with an Open House on March 20th. More than 50 friends, volunteers, dignitaries and donors like you mingled, toured the facilities, and joined CCSEM CEO Paul Propson in celebrating the vibrant community of help and hope that is La Casa Amiga today.

Above: Volunteers assist during La Casa Amiga's Tax Preparation Day (Left); Volunteer Appreciation Day luncheon (Right). Front Page: La Casa Amiga adult education volunteer tutors are presented with certificates of appreciation.



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Online Donor Survey



SURVEY RESULTS...

Volunteers and Donors Share Their Experiences

We feel that our donors and volunteers are THE BEST! They give selflessly, generously, and repeatedly. Now we know why, in return for their contributions they experience many forms of compensation: from having made a difference in the lives of those in need to satisfying their moral obligation to love their neighbor. **Here are three big insights about YOU, our donors and volunteers:**

- 1) 70% of recurring donors surveyed attend religious services (Catholic or other) on a regular basis AND 30% would be interested in volunteering. Are you? www.ccsem.org/volunteer-opportunities
- 2) About 75% of all donors surveyed said that "knowing their gift **made a difference in the life of someone in need**" would motivate them to support Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan.
- 3) More than 95% of our active donors receive **YOUR Works of Mercy** newsletter and annual impact reports. You appreciate knowing *the difference you make!* Find out more at www.ccsem.org/impact

TESTIMONIALS... *Why YOU volunteer*

"It started as a New Year's resolution since I had some free time and wanted to help."

"I volunteer to make a difference in a young person's life... to let them know that someone cares."

"I am at a point in my life where I am able to give back to people. It is very rewarding to know that I am helping others."

"I like... people. If you help just one person, you have helped for the better."

"I always wanted to do something worthwhile with my time after retirement."

"I am a very social person enjoying meeting new people throughout my time volunteering. I have made a number of friends who have become like family..."

"Me gusta poder aportar un poco de mis conocimientos para ayudar a los demas. (I like to be able to contribute a little bit of my knowledge to help others.)"

"I feel a need to give back as I have been blessed."

"I volunteer because I believe it makes me a better person and I like to be able to help people."

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Annual Celebration

SEPTEMBER 12 | 6:30 PM

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LA CASA AMIGA
CENTER
FOR THE
WORKS OF MERCY

Tour one of our
four Food Pantries!
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SENIOR
OUTREACH
PROGRAM

