

# WORKS OF *Charity*

FALL 2021



CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES

SERVING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

**INSIDE:**  
Annual Adoption  
Picnic

**Volunteer Feature**

**Eagle Scout  
Garden Project**

**Community &  
Parish Partners**

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SERVING MILWAUKEE, WAUKESHA, SHEBOYGAN, RACINE, FOND DU LAC,  
KENOSHA, WALWORTH, DODGE, WASHINGTON, OZAUKEE COUNTIES  
CCMKE.ORG | 414-769-3536





## Together Again

This summer, our annual Adoption Picnic brought families together to reconnect in an afternoon filled with sunshine, laughter, food, and the familiar ease of friendship. Families and staff reunited, sharing stories and creating fun memories. *“It is such a joy to see our families together,”* Erika, our Pregnancy Support case manager continues, *“It is such a blessing to be a part of their adoption journey!”* Catholic Charities’ staff provide support and guide the family triad of child, birth mother, and adoptive parents to make the best, loving choices for the child. Since opening our doors in 1920, the foundation of our mission continues to be caring for the needs of children and families.



## Our Mission Through Generations with Volunteer Jen

When COVID first reached the U.S. in early 2020, Jen looked for a place where she could help others in her community. She found our website, [ccmke.org](http://ccmke.org), and signed up to volunteer. Talking with Jessica, our Volunteer Coordinator, she said, *“Whatever you need, just ask me.”*

**This began Jen’s Catholic Charities volunteer story.**

We were looking for more volunteers to work with refugees from different countries who speak other languages including Karen, Swahili, and French. Jen volunteered to help refugee parents learn English to help their children navigate school, understand health needs during the pandemic, and feel more connected at work and in the community. To keep families and volunteers safe in the pandemic, the Refugee & Immigration Services (RIS) mentoring program transitioned to virtual tutoring sessions. Jen connected with her refugee partner through Zoom and WhatsApp.

**Getting involved led to new opportunities.**

As the pandemic continued and community needs deepened, Jessica asked Jen for her help with the Catholic Charities Coat Drive. An anonymous donor provided thousands of warm winter coats. Volunteers were needed to sort and prepare the jackets for families in need and when asked to help Jen said, *“yes.”*





## Part of the mission of Catholic Charities is to “call upon others to do the same.”

Jen’s Catholic faith was a leading force in her childhood. “*Service to others is what we are meant to do as Catholics,*” she said. Jen and her husband involve their children in volunteer efforts with Catholic Charities and other organizations as a living example of generous volunteering. When Jen



asked what more she and her family could do, she learned about our Adult Day Center and the sprucing up needed in the walking garden that members enjoy. Having a parent with Alzheimer’s, Jen related to the needs of the ADC members and wanted to see something special happen. She suggested the garden project to her son, Michael who, searching for his Eagle Scout project, took the lead. This spring, Michael, his family, and Boy Scout troop improved the outdoor space at Catholic Charities’ Adult Day Center. Over two weekends the group constructed a new aluminum fence, cleaned up debris, added mulch and assembled two new gliding chairs. “*I cannot begin to thank Michael enough for choosing us for his Eagle Scout project. It will bring joy and happiness to our members for years to come,*” remarked the director of our Adult Day Center.

*“People don’t realize how much Catholic Charities does for the community. Just reach out and keep asking what you can do. Look outward and spread love. There’s a world that needs you.”*



### Surprisingly, Jen’s Catholic Charities story does not begin with volunteering.

What led her to Catholic Charities? Jen and her three siblings were adopted by their parents through another Catholic Charities in Wisconsin. Jen and her siblings grew up knowing they were adopted; she believes that it’s a very exciting and proud piece of who they are. She said her siblings have always valued and cared for their birth mothers and she expressed her gratitude by saying, “*what a wonderful gift, love chose us.*” Jen shares that her life is a blessing and there’s not a day that goes by when she’s not thankful. She once participated in an adoption panel and recognized how fortunate she is to live the life she leads. “*There are a lot of different adoption stories and journeys. The foundation comes down to love. Just love them and show them what love is.*”

### Impacting Generations

A special memory from Jen’s childhood was attending a fun adoption gathering at Christmas time with 50 plus adoptive families. As a volunteer at Catholic Charities she is helping others make new friends and cherished memories. This summer Jen and her children volunteered at our Adoption Picnic; talk about a full circle moment!





# Community Partners

Grants and awards of \$500 or more since January 1, 2020.

## UNITED WAY PARTNERS

Fond du Lac Area United Way  
United Way of Dodge County  
United Way of Greater Milwaukee  
and Waukesha County  
United Way of Kenosha County  
United Way of Sheboygan County  
United Way of Walworth County  
United Way of Washington County

## PARISHES & CATHOLIC PARTNERS

Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
-Catholic Stewardship Appeal  
-Emergency COVID Relief Fund  
Catholic Business Forum  
Catholic Campus Ministry  
at UW-Whitewater  
Catholic Charities USA  
Christ King Parish, Wauwatosa  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary  
Good Shepherd Parish, Menomonee Falls  
Holy Family Church, Fond du Lac  
Holy Name of Jesus, Sheboygan  
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis - USA, Inc.  
Knights of Columbus  
-No. 4520  
-No. 6448  
-Michael James Feider Council 7048  
-Wisconsin State Council  
Pere Marquette Jesuit Community  
Racine Dominican Mission Fund  
Sacred Heart, Racine  
Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida Inc.  
Society of the Divine Savior  
St. Charles, Hartland  
St. Dominic, Sheboygan  
St. Joan of Arc, Nashotah  
St. John Vianney, Brookfield  
St. Katharine Drexel, Beaver Dam  
St. Leonard, Muskego  
St. Mark Parish, Kenosha  
St. Martin of Tours, Franklin  
St. Mary's, Menomonee Falls  
St. Patrick, Elkhorn  
St. Patrick, Racine  
St. Paul, Genesee Depot  
St. Peter Claver, Sheboygan  
Three Holy Women Catholic Parish, Milwaukee  
UrbanInitiativeMKE Inc.  
Wheaton Franciscan Sisters

## CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

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Bader Philanthropies, Inc.  
Boy Scout Troop 125  
The Catholic Community Foundation  
-Robert T. Bautch and Randi L. Bautch Fund  
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-Milwaukee County Circuit Judges Children's Fund  
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The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger Zero Waste Foundation  
Marshall's  
Mitchell Bank  
Motor Castings Foundation, Inc.  
Mutual of America  
Pieper Electric, Inc.  
PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PwC)  
Racine Community Foundation  
Riptide Technology  
Sargento Foods Inc.  
SC Johnson & Son, Inc.  
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Town Bank  
Trio Engineering, LLC  
United Way Worldwide  
Wallace Family Foundation  
Western Snowplows  
Wisconsin Right to Life  
Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, Inc.

