

WORKS OF CHARITY

YOUR GIVING, IN ACTION.

WINTER 2022

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**CATHOLIC
CHARITIES**
SERVING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Milwaukee, Waukesha, Sheboygan, Racine, Fond du Lac,
Kenosha, Walworth, Dodge, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties

Compassion in the Aftermath of a Tragedy



Therapist James Pankratz and Laura Ramos,
Director of Community Counseling

The long journey of healing is just beginning from the heartbreaking tragedy in Waukesha over Thanksgiving weekend. Many of us know someone personally affected, including families we serve through our Waukesha office, staff, and volunteers. Our hearts go out to each and every person impacted by this violent act.

From the first vigil and prayer service, our therapists have been present to offer our support and services. We are working closely with the Catholic Community of Waukesha to identify families who need us most to help with recovery. Nancy, our bilingual Outreach Case Manager, will also work with any family who may be struggling financially and emotionally through this difficult time.

Laura Ramos, Director of Community Counseling shares our sympathy, “I want to extend my condolences to the families of lost loved ones

and those who were physically injured in Waukesha’s community Christmas parade. To those who were not physically injured, we know that seeing and knowing of loved ones being hurt can be extremely distressing.”

“I am touched to see that the Waukesha community continues to mobilize to help those who were affected. I encourage anyone, including Spanish speaking families, who may need someone to talk with to contact our Waukesha office at (262) 547-2463.”

Laura also explained that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a sharp rise in people needing mental and behavioral health services. Families impacted by poverty face a variety of barriers to receiving the care they need. Whether it be financial, language, culture, or complexity of navigating health systems, Catholic Charities goal is to eliminate barriers to service for people affected by poverty.

For you, supporters of the mission of Catholic Charities, Laura adds, “Without you, our Community Counseling program can’t fill these devastating service gaps. It’s thanks to our compassionate donors that we can continue providing important counseling services.”

“My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go to all those affected by this tragedy. I am touched to see that the Waukesha community continues to mobilize to help those who were affected.”

- Laura Ramos, Director of Community Counseling

Expanding Counseling Services to Washington County



Therapist Geoff Malone at Catholic Charities Washington County Office in West Bend.

When calls for mental health services in Washington County increased by over 2000% in 2020, from just 165 calls the year before to 3,857, the United Way of Washington County reached out to Catholic Charities and others to ask for help to begin to meet this need for youth and families.

Partnering with the local United Way, in September 2021, we opened a new office in West Bend with counseling services available Monday through Friday. Our plans include expanding services for the Spanish speaking population in the County with the aid of a bilingual therapist and a case manager.

While our focus is on serving youth and families in Washington County, who are affected by poverty and face barriers to quality mental health services, we will work with

anyone in need. Please share our number to call for services in Washington County, (262) 346-4700.

Olivia Finds Her Forever Home

Meet Olivia, the newest member of the Terselic Family!

In early 2021, an expectant mother reached out to Catholic Charities seeking a loving adoptive family for her child. The Terselic Family, Laura, Mike, and adoptive son Joey were seeking to expand their family from three Terselics to four!

The birth mother found a great match with the Terselics. Laura, Mike, and Joey welcomed Olivia from the hospital and her adoption was finalized just in time for the growing family to celebrate Christmas together.



The Terselic Family: Joey, Laura, Mike and Olivia

Supporting Afghan Refugees

Since the arrival of nearly 13,000 Afghan refugees in Wisconsin, the five Wisconsin Catholic Charities have been assisting with the needs of the newcomers who are guests in our state. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration and Refugee Services, at the request of the U.S. State Department, is coordinating this historic statewide collaboration.

Catholic Charities, locally and across the state, are the primary providers of volunteers on base and are facilitating donations. Volunteers are needed to support social, recreation, and wellness activities for families.

To volunteer or donate, visit our Afghan Refugee page at ccmke.org or contact Andrew Ruesch at aruesch@ccmke.org.





Thank you, Michael and Lucy Bloedorn!

We are so grateful for our dear friends Michael and Lucy Bloedorn, shown left at our 2021 Good Samaritan Society Celebration in Milwaukee. Michael is Vice-President and Chair of our Board of Trustees, and 2022 marks his 13th year of service.

Michael graduated with a degree in social work from UW-Madison, and later earned a Masters (MSW) from the University of Michigan. Michael is retired from Washington County Human Services after 47 years, he served as Deputy Director. His training and professional experience in social work bring much appreciated perspectives to our board.

“I hope we continue to fulfill our mission,” says Michael, “I am always happy to continue exploring new opportunities to expand services and offer new programs in the counties we serve.”

Thank you, Michael and Lucy, for your friendship and service!

Join us at one of Archbishop Listecky's Lenten Luncheons

for a simple lunch and presentation of the
Treasures of the Church Awards

2022 Award Recipients

Lake Country	Greater Milwaukee Area	Quad-Counties North	Tri-Counties South
Marianne Miller	Mary Ann and Art Wigchers	Julie and Rick Leonhard	Heather Conolly
R&R Insurance	Wheaton Franciscan Sisters	Sheboygan Food Bank	St. Vincent de Paul of Kenosha County
Schoenstatt Sisters	Franciscan Peacemakers	Father Matthew Widder	Deacon Rich Stanula

For more information or to register visit : www.ccmke.org/Lenten-Luncheons or call (414) 769-3414

Monday, March 14 Lake Country Luncheon	Tuesday, March 22 Greater Milwaukee Area Luncheon	Monday, March 28 Quad-Counties North Luncheon	Tuesday, April 5 Tri-Counties South Luncheon
St. Anthony on the Lake Parish Pewaukee, WI	St. Francis de Sales Seminary St. Francis, WI	St. Dominic Parish Sheboygan, WI	Bristol Oaks Golf Club Bristol, WI

