

WORKS OF CHARITY

SHARING LOVE FOR THE JOURNEY

SUMMER 2022

INSIDE:

Helping Strong
Families Thrive

Supporting
Local Students

Kathy's Piñata
Parties!



**CATHOLIC
CHARITIES**
SERVING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

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

In Good Hands: Tiana's Family

Tiana shares, "I met my pregnancy and parenting support case manager, Erika, when I was pregnant with my 3rd child. **From the very first day, she called with so much joy and happiness in her voice.**"

"I immediately knew I was in good hands. Everything from bringing baby essentials, household essentials, to giving great references, and just being a great ear to listen. Ms. Erika not only did, but did with happiness!"

"I have a 10 year age difference in children so having a newborn was like being a first time mother all over again. Honestly, I don't know how I would have made it without God and Ms. Erika."

"Even now, that my newborn is becoming a toddler, I still find myself needing her support. I will forever be grateful and appreciative of her, Catholic Charities, and all they have done for my family."



A Volunteer Brings Joy: Thank You Kathy Paulin!



Three times a year, on Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and Christmas, Kathy Paulin funnels candy into piñatas for the daily attendees at Catholic Charities' Adult Day Center. Known as Piñata Days, this was one of the first activities Kathy implemented when she started volunteering six years ago. After years of donating, she made it her goal to give back in new ways with the gift of time and immediately knew the Adult Day Center was the right place, commenting on her first time at ADC, "I think they saw my face light up."

Kathy's commitment of a few hours every Monday for the last six years has provided her with countless memories of her time at the ADC. Just as her treats and games inspire smiles from those at the center, their kindness and delight can't help but motivate Kathy to return every week. She understands the impact that Catholic Charities has for our neighbors with special needs and has formed lasting relationships with both members of the Adult Day Center and staff. Whether its personalized bags of candy or a competitive game of Farkle, Kathy's laugh lights up the room and brings joy to those around her.

School Partnership: Fondy CARES

Children's mental health has been declared a national emergency. While students throughout southeastern Wisconsin are on summer break, "the need for therapy doesn't stop just because school is over," says Taylor, Catholic Charities Community Counseling Therapist.

Catholic Charities "acts as a safety net for those falling through the cracks," says Taylor. Students she serves can reach out to her over summer break to continue counseling virtually or in-person at our office in downtown Fond du Lac.

Through the Fondy CARES program, during the school year a Catholic Charities therapist serves one day a week at Fond du Lac High School as a resource to students, whether it's through appointments or walk-ins.

"Having somebody who is genuinely interested in what they are doing is so important, I am happy to be there for them," explains Taylor.

Catholic Charities' partnership with the Fond du Lac School District began in 2019 when they launched Fondy CARES to increase critical access to school and community based mental health support with the help of local agencies.

Your charitable support and the partnership of Fond du Lac Area United Way allow families with low income to receive needed counseling services through Catholic Charities at no cost.



Therapist Taylor Bufton, MSW, CAPSW

Program Spotlight: Pregnancy Support



Pregnancy Support Coordinator
Erika McDade

At 15, LaToya had her first baby. She met our pregnancy and parenting support coordinator, Erika, through a community school partnership at North Division High School in Milwaukee. LaToya had little family support and little knowledge of how to care for herself or a newborn. She began meeting with Erika both in school and at home. Erika provided guidance and support for a healthy pregnancy.

When LaToya was in the hospital alone with baby ready to arrive, she called Erika. Due to pandemic restrictions, Erika was unable to be with her, so she cheered and comforted her through text and phone calls. LaToya delivered a beautiful, healthy baby girl with Erika as her virtual coach. Even when the schools closed, Erika continued to walk with LaToya as a new parent teaching her the skills she needed to show her baby girl how much she is loved.

"Young moms need a warm and comforting, 'I'm here', because a lot of the time, they're not getting that support," says Erika. "I love being accessible to them, to reach them where they are."

Now 18, LaToya is a loving mother to two little ones, a one- and two-year-old. She is a young mother with dreams and ambitions. The support and encouragement she receives from Catholic Charities helps her enjoy the good days and have hope in difficult days.



Catholic Charities' Waukesha Area Staff Receive Peacebuilder Award for Local Impact

Plowshare Fair Trade Marketplace's 2022 Peacebuilder Award recognizes Catholic Charities' efforts to provide healing and comfort in the Waukesha community during the aftermath of the heartbreaking parade tragedy there.

Thanks to your charitable support, people in the Waukesha community receive much needed counseling and support.



You help us do what we do best, serve neighbors in need. Thank you!



Get involved today!

Do you have a passion for serving others and enjoy working collaboratively to help meet the needs of people in our community?

Volunteer to serve neighbors in need.

Visit www.ccmke.org or contact Marie Honel at (414) 769-3402 or mhonel@ccmke.org



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