Where

“Love thy neighbor”

is real
In a 2015 address to the United Nations, Our Holy Father poignantly stated:

“We are dealing with real men and women who live, struggle and suffer, and are often forced to live in great poverty, deprived of all rights. To enable these real men and women to escape from extreme poverty, we must allow them to be dignified agents of their own destiny.”
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With heartfelt appreciation, I present to you this 2016 Annual Report for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. You will find, in the following pages, stories of real men and women and of their suffering, dignity and hope. I am deeply grateful for our many friends and partners who make this life affirming work, to serve those in need, possible. Through your generosity and the responsible stewardship of resources displayed by our leaders, I am proud to share that the fiscal health and stability of Catholic Charities is the strongest it has been in years.

Each day at Catholic Charities, our team of professional therapists, case managers and care givers help the poor and vulnerable, just as Pope Francis decreed – with dignity, respect and compassion. Troubled individuals receive counseling, families in crisis have basic needs met, pregnant moms find emotional support to deliver healthy babies, older and disabled adults receive assistance to live safely on their own, and refugees fleeing war-torn countries find safety, shelter and jobs.

These are our neighbors – real men and women positively impacted because of Catholic Charities. And we will faithfully continue to help individuals and families in 2017 through our Works of Charity campaign, “Where Love Thy Neighbor is Real.” This is more than a catchy tagline, rather, it’s a tangible response to Jesus’ call to love thy neighbor as thyself.

On behalf of everyone at Catholic Charities, especially the people we serve, thank you for your prayers and generous financial support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listekki
Archbishop of Milwaukee
President of Catholic Charities
Board of Trustees
Dear Friends,

I am honored and humbled to be appointed by Archbishop Jerome Listecki as the first Vicar for Catholic Charities. I’ve been tremendously blessed to serve as a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for 40 years. Although I am concluding my time as pastor of St. Dominic Parish in Brookfield, I will continue to lead with a ‘pastor’s heart’ during my tenure at Catholic Charities.

The Archbishop asked that I become his ambassador for Catholic Charities – his ‘representative voice’ for the agency. I look forward to meeting with donors and parishes, speaking about the mission and ministry of Catholic Charities. I’m also excited to work alongside the dedicated leaders and talented staff who are passionate about providing quality human services to help people of all faiths who are hurting – and do so with great compassion and respect.

My hope is that, together, we engage many more people of good will in supporting this vital mission and respond to the call for help from our neighbors in need. You have my deepest gratitude for your generosity and my prayers for peace, health and happiness.

I remain,

Very Reverend David H. Reith
Vicar for Catholic Charities
Fourteen-year-old Michael was so depressed that it affected his academic performance and social interactions. He was a new student in a large high school, feeling lost in the crowd and struggling to make friends. The school recommended that his family seek therapy for Michael.

Michael’s mother reached out to Catholic Charities. She brought Michael to his first sessions and shared additional challenges in his young life - including a father who seemed distant, conflict between siblings, and lack of structure and healthy expectations. Then, without warning, Michael’s mother left the family. The father, who had been uninvolved, thankfully continued bringing Michael to his sessions. He also started to bring Michael’s younger brother to counseling. The three worked on family goals of processing grief and coping with change since mom’s departure. Over time, Michael’s father grew more confident in creating reasonable expectations for his children, and the family dynamics improved. Michael also showed improvement at school – focusing better on his assignments and establishing a close circle of friends.

96% of behavioral health clients improved their functioning and wellness.
Overcome with financial burdens, Costanza called Catholic Charities for help. She was working part-time and recently separated from her husband. Seeing the fading bruise around Costanza's eye, her Catholic Charities' case manager suspected domestic violence. Costanza began sharing her history of long-term abuse. She was emotionally and physically drained.

Costanza and her case manager developed a plan for recovery. To relieve her emotional trauma, they set an appointment with a Catholic Charities bilingual therapist. To meet her immediate needs, the case manager gave Costanza a list of places to access food, clothing and other personal items. The case manager helped her apply for energy assistance, called to set up doctor appointments, and arranged for interpreters to accompany her. They registered for a pharmacy discount card and community care at a local hospital to help with bills from emergency room visits.

For her long-term self-sufficiency, the case manager helped Costanza search and apply for full-time employment. Today, Costanza has a new job with good benefits. She is living independently, unafraid, and hopeful.

86% of clients progressed toward goals or met their goals.

Catholic Charities’ Outreach staff are true advocates for clients, linking them in times of crisis to both agency programs and available community services to help address their needs. Bilingual case managers are available at all of our primary sites.
At 19, Jayda was diagnosed with mental illness. She had difficulty with relationships and an unplanned pregnancy. Without a job, living at home with her dad and step-mom, she was scared and didn’t know how to care for herself or her unborn baby. That’s when she connected with Catholic Charities. A pregnancy support coordinator met with Jayda in her parent’s home. Over the next few months, her pregnancy support coordinator ensured Jayda had proper prenatal care, linked her to community resources, provided emotional support, and helped Jayda reduce her tobacco use.

The pregnancy support coordinator continued to meet with Jayda after delivering a healthy baby boy – bringing ‘hands on’ practical learning into the home. Together, they worked on nurturing, safe parenting skills to help her baby grow and thrive. With help from Jayda’s parents and continued visits from her pregnancy support coordinator, Jayda has truly become the best mom she can be.

92% of clients carried their baby to term and delivered at a healthy birth weight.
After a year of waiting and anticipation, in 2013 Martin and Sandy adopted their first son, Jared, with the help of Catholic Charities. Hoping to grow their family, they returned to Catholic Charities. They were very close to an adoption that eventually did not happen. Then, the possibility of a new adoption match was presented. The expectant parents found out, in utero, that their son had Down syndrome and a heart defect. They did not feel equipped to give their child the care he needed. They wanted Martin, Sandy and Jared to be their son’s new family. Two weeks later, Martin and Sandy brought baby Daniel home from the hospital.

Daniel has thrived in Martin and Sandy’s care. He’s overcome every health hurdle, surpassing expectations and amazing the doctors with his progress. Jared loves his new baby brother. Martin, Sandy, Jared and Daniel hope to add to their forever family through Catholic Charities adoption service.

100% of children placed through the adoption program achieve permanency within 6 months of placement.
Mark connected with Catholic Charities three years ago because he needed help with parenting skills. He was a single father with a one year old son. Adding the very real challenges of an intellectual disability and Autism, Mark didn’t know how to be a good dad.

He began meeting weekly with a family support worker from our Supported Parenting Program. During their in-home visits, they focus on nurturing skills, developmentally appropriate milestones, establishing a daily routine including a family rules chart, and how to be consistent with positive discipline. Mark enjoys problem solving with his family support worker and learns new skills from her. The family support worker also advocates for Mark with healthcare professionals, teachers and others who can help them.

Mark has become more independent and confident in his parenting. He is an active participant in all aspects of his son’s life, including school now that he is in kindergarten. Mark continues to work with his family support worker and enjoys being the best dad possible.

95% of participants improved their relationships with their children by learning positive parenting skills and constructive ways to deal with stress.
Jan has been a member of Catholic Charities' Adult Day Center for 10 years. She has Down syndrome and, at 62 years old, is developing worsening symptoms of dementia. She lives with her sister and brother-in-law and attends the Center full time, Monday through Friday. Jan is extremely outgoing and loves visiting with everyone she encounters. She is the unofficial greeter at the Center, welcoming visitors with a broad smile and a hug, as she declares, “Hey, I know you!”

Recently, Jan underwent double hip replacement surgery. After 3 months in a rehabilitation facility, Jan is home again with her family. She has returned to the Center where her family can be assured that she is in a safe and familiar environment, with dependable staff who can help her continue her recovery. As part of her care, Jan receives a weekly bath at the Center. Without the consistent, specialized care provided by our Adult Day Center staff, Jan would not be able to continue living with her family.

100% of family caregivers feel less stress, knowing that their loved ones are safe during the day.
Jerry was referred to Catholic Charities’ In-Home Support Program by his county social worker. He suffers from debilitating mental illness and requires medication to help him function. When a visiting nurse asked Jerry if he was taking his medication, he said no; he often forgot.

His situation was continuing to spiral down. He was in jeopardy of eviction because of the condition of his apartment. To keep Jerry from becoming homeless, a Catholic Charities’ in-home support worker was assigned to help clean, organize and maintain order in his apartment. She was patient during the weekly visits and respected Jerry’s initial shyness. Eventually, he welcomed the support worker’s presence and conversation. She not only provided weekly cleaning and companionship, but left notes posted to help Jerry stay on track with his medication.

Several months later, at a follow-up meeting with his care provider team, Jerry’s mood was greatly improved. He maintained eye contact and openly participated in the conversation. He was taking his medication on schedule and the worry of eviction was gone.

99% felt safer and more secure living on their own.
Carmen came to the United States at 16 to escape the chaos that plagued her early childhood. She soon met a man who seemed caring and protective—she felt safe. It wasn’t long after they married that her husband began to treat Carmen just as her father treated her mother. Carmen’s first pregnancy made her husband angry. She withstood humiliation and abuse, never calling the police because her husband convinced her that calling the police was useless. He threatened her with deportation and losing custody of the children. One day, he threatened their daughter, and Carmen found the courage to leave.

A local domestic violence shelter referred Carmen to Catholic Charities’ Legal Services for Immigrants program. She was surprised when our staff said her case was fairly common. Carmen and her legal services attorney prepared an extensive and detailed affidavit. They gathered all the evidence and mailed in an application for protection under the Violence Against Women Act. Today, Carmen has lawful permanent residency. She and her children are safe. Carmen is working and going to school part-time.

100% success rate in submitted petitions of immigrant victims of domestic violence or crime.
In 1996, Zwazita fled her war-torn homeland in the Congo, to a refugee camp in Tanzania, with her husband and 10 children. In 2013, her husband died of cancer while in the camp, and Zwazita was left to care for the children. Two years later, she and six of her children were resettled in Milwaukee through Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement program.

Two of her adult sons had already resettled here and there was great joy when Zwazita and the children arrived. The family thrives, thanks to the committed work of their Catholic Charities resettlement case worker who spoke Zwazita’s dialect and made the transition to a new culture so much easier. Zwazita started to learn English through the agency’s English as a Second Language classes. She takes pride in her younger children who are doing well in school.

Today, she and one of her older daughters are happily employed, and the family is now self-sufficient. Zwazita has two adult children who are married and still in the refugee camp – they look forward to the day when they are reunited.

Since 1976, Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement program has helped thousands of refugees settle into our local communities and assimilate as they adjust to the cultural challenges of a new homeland.

Refugee Resettlement

95% of head of households are able to financially support their families after initial resettlement.
Client Demographics | 43,970 individuals positively impacted in 2016

**Income**
- $0 - $4,999: 21%
- $5,000 - $11,999: 33%
- $12,000 - $14,999: 26%
- $15,000 - $24,999: 15%
- $25,000 - $49,999: 3%
- $50,000 - $74,999: 1%
- $75,000+: 1%

**Ethnicity**
- Caucasian: 27%
- Hispanic: 34%
- African: 7%
- African American: 11%
- Native American: 1%
- Middle Eastern: 1%
- Multi-Racial: 1%
- Native American: 1%
- Asian: 14%

**Age**
- 0-17: 14%
- 18-34: 38%
- 35-54: 31%
- 55-64: 11%
- 65-74: 3%
- 75-84: 2%
- 85+: 1%
- 65-74: 2%
- 75-84: 1%
- 85+: 1%

98% of the individuals and families we serve live at or below the federal poverty level.
The lives of poor and vulnerable people in southeastern Wisconsin are improved thanks to many generous donors to Catholic Charities, United Way, the Catholic Stewardship Appeal, and through public funding.
Agency Leadership

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For questions regarding Catholic Charities 2016 Annual Report, please call 414-769-3536.
Donations may be mailed to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, P.O. Box 070912, Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912 or made online at www.ccmke.org.

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Thank You
In 2016, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

*Unaudited Financial Results
Office & Service Sites

Adult Day Center
1919 N. 60th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
414-771-6063

Central Administrative Office
3501 S. Lake Drive
P.O. Box 070912
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-769-3400

Fond du Lac Area Office
191 S. Main St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
920-923-2550

Fontana Area Office
St. Benedict Parish
137 Dewey Ave.
Fontana, WI 53125
262-215-7989

Kenosha Area Office
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
2224 45th St.
Kenosha, WI 53140
262-658-2088

Legal Services for Immigrants
St. Patrick Parish
731 W. Washington St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-643-8570

Milwaukee Area Office
2021 N. 60th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
414-771-2881

Racine Area Office
800 Wisconsin Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
262-637-8888

Refugee Resettlement Office
6033 W. Lloyd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53213
414-771-5963

Sheboygan Area Office
503 Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 2
Sheboygan, WI 53081
920-458-5726

Waukesha Area Office
717 N. East Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186
262-547-2463

United Way
A Proud Partner Agency

Mission statement
Inspired by Christ’s call to serve, our mission is to provide service to those in need, to advocate for justice and to call upon others to do the same.

Vision statement
Our vision is to improve the lives of those we serve, to empower the most vulnerable, and to help reduce poverty through quality, compassionate, and effective human services.

Member Catholic Charities USA