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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

SERVING MILWAUKEE, WAUKESHA, SHEBOYGAN, RACINE, FOND DU LAC, KENOSHA,  
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# MAKING AN IMPACT: GENESIS' STORY



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Werner*

This year, with your support and the partnership of A.O. Smith Foundation, Ed & Carol O'Connor, and The Catholic Community Foundation, we have expanded our Supported Parenting program into the city of Milwaukee, where we serve clients like Genesis. Our Supported Parenting Program is an in-home education and parent

advocacy program to help parents experiencing challenges keep their family strong and together.

Genesis recently moved to Milwaukee from Boston in the beginning of 2018. Unfamiliar in a new city, away from her support system, with a little one on the way, she connected with Catholic Charities. Genesis knew the responsibility of being a mother was important, and found comfort, counsel, and guidance from Sarah, our Family Support Worker. Sarah has walked step by step with Genesis and her boyfriend as they enter this new chapter in life. "I've never had this kind of help before and someone who listens to me the way she does," Genesis reveals.

Genesis cherishes every moment with her son; they recently celebrated his 3-month birthday. "I love having him by my side and sharing this bond with him. I wake up every morning and I look at him and I'm so happy." Genesis is excited to continue to work with Sarah through Catholic Charities, make Milwaukee her home, and raise her son in a happy and healthy environment.

**ON THE COVER:** This summer our Child Welfare staff put on some fun events for clients and family members including a cookout and our annual adoptive family picnic. Staff celebrate successes with their families and build a supportive community of friends for parents and children.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: LAURA MARTINEZ



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Werner*

Dedicated to serving the Racine community, Laura Martinez is one of our bilingual Outreach Case Managers. Through a partnership with United Way of Racine County, she is providing a new program for Latino families in Racine. Read on about Laura's perspective on serving people in need.

### **What is the Outreach and Case Management program, and why do you believe in the program?**

Every person and family has the strength to improve themselves – they just need the right tools and resources. If we can be the ones to provide them what they need to help them move forward, we are called to do everything we can to help. Through the Outreach and Case Management program, we help individuals and families who are impacted by poverty develop a plan, coordinate services, and provide advocacy to ultimately improve their quality of life.

### **Tell me a little bit about the AFA program you've been working on.**

Advancing Family Assets (AFA) is a program of United Way of Racine County. With support from United Way, we are introducing AFA for Hispanic families in Racine. For families with low-income who enroll in the program, I follow the AFA model and coach them on

education, finances, and healthcare. We will also provide English as a Second Language classes, because language greatly impacts a person's experience trying to better their lives for themselves and their families. Our main goal is to help our clients get to a higher level of self-sufficiency.

### **Why do you serve here at Catholic Charities?**

I love that question. I love helping people in need. It's my calling in life; if it wasn't I don't think I'd be here. This is my passion, and I believe in what we're doing and that we have the strength to do even better things. I also love the families I work with, and their strength; no matter what, they always pull through. It's a great feeling to see the changes in the client when they become independent and self-sufficient; to know that you've done something to help enrich someone's life.



## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Dear Friends,

After 42 years of providing refugee resettlement services, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is ending its Resettlement Program for newly arriving refugees. Catholic Charities will maintain its commitment to meeting the needs of refugees living here in southeast Wisconsin through cultural orientation programs, legal services and ESL classes.

We received the news in July from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) that, due to the low arrivals in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, along with closures of other affiliate programs across the U.S., the USCCB would be discontinuing our Refugee Resettlement Program as of September 30, 2018.

The Refugee Resettlement Program has been in place at Catholic Charities since 1976 and has helped thousands of refugees to make the Milwaukee and Sheboygan areas their homes. Putting the needs of the poor and vulnerable first, is the core of Catholic Charities' mission. As an archdiocese, we are called to reach out and to build relationships of love and justice among all of God's children, including welcoming the stranger.

Working together, as neighbor helping neighbor, we can work through these difficult times and help those who need us most.

Thank you for being a part of our mission to serve those in need.

In peace,  
Fr. David Reith  
Vicar for Catholic Charities

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

EJ and Annegret Paas are both retired special education teachers, who have recently moved here from Michigan. While familiarizing themselves with their new community, they learned about several volunteer opportunities, including teaching English as a Second Language and Cultural Orientation for refugees at Catholic Charities. "Although most refugees come with a wealth of knowledge, their skills, abilities, and talents have been developed in countries that are very different than our own. We really enjoy helping our new neighbors increase their English language skills." Years ago, EJ was diagnosed with End Stage Renal Failure, but through the kindness of complete strangers, they donated their deceased loved one's organs and saved EJ's life. Annegret and EJ have been given the opportunity to raise their family together, and are committed to giving back. When asked about why they serve at Catholic Charities, they responded, "In Matthew 22:39, Christ commands us to 'love your neighbor as yourself.' Catholic Charities gives us a wonderful way to be that love in our community. Our little bit that we do will join with the work of many others, and the great effort of our students, in helping them become more comfortable in their new communities."



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Werner*

## GSS COOKOUT EVENT



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Werner*

Laurie and Bruce Arnold hosted a cookout at their home, inviting friends and neighbors to join them as supporters of Catholic Charities and become members of the Good Samaritan Society.

# PLANNING TO GO FULL CIRCLE: DIANE KNIGHT

From her life's work to her life's passion: helping people meet unmet needs in their lives is Diane Knight's mission. This commitment to others may have started when she was adopted through Catholic Charities, and her connection doesn't end there. Read more about Diane's story:

## **Tell us about yourself:**

I grew up on the East Side of Milwaukee and remember riding my bike down Lafayette and just having fun in my neighborhood. As a young woman, I joined a convent but felt called to Social Work. I eventually left the convent and started working for Milwaukee County's Children's Services and Child Protection Agency. Eventually I started working for Catholic Charities and served as the organization's first woman Executive Director for 7 years.

## **Why do you think it is important to have a will or an estate plan in place?**

I view leaving a gift after I'm gone as an extension of my life's work. I will be helping meet people's unmet needs even when I'm not here.

## **Why are you choosing to support Catholic Charities?**

There are layers of meaning for me. I was the Executive Director here and I know the good work you do. I was also placed by Catholic Charities as an adoptee and without Catholic Charities, I never would have been my brother's sister, who I cared about very much.

## **According to AARP, over 60% of Americans do not have a will or estate plan. Are you one of them?**

Having a will in place is your opportunity to decide how your life's work and passions will live on. By remembering Catholic Charities in your will, trust, or insurance policy, you can continue to help our clients and our mission to serve those most in need in our communities. If you would like to talk to someone about including Catholic Charities in your charitable giving plan, please email Jackie Rekowski at [jrekowski@ccmke.org](mailto:jrekowski@ccmke.org) or call 414-769-3524.



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Werner*

## BEFORE YOU GO.... VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for a Hoarding Support Volunteer to work with our Home Coaches and our clients who suffer from Hoarding disorder. Volunteers will be able to spend one-on-one time socializing with the client, work directly with the Home Coach and assist with de-cluttering the client's home.

If you would like to help out or have questions please call Jessica Brandt at 414-769-3414.

For more volunteer opportunities visit: [www.ccmke.org/Volunteer-Opportunities](http://www.ccmke.org/Volunteer-Opportunities)

## SAVE THE DATE! 2019 LENTEN LUNCHEON

Catholic Charities is proud to present the 2019 Lenten Luncheons in Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Sheboygan this upcoming year. With Archbishop Listecki presenting the "Treasures of the Church" Awards, you have an opportunity to celebrate service within your community and support our mission.

**KENOSHA/RACINE: MARCH 14**

**MILWAUKEE/WAUKESHA: MARCH 19**

**SHEBOYGAN/FOND DU LAC: MARCH 25**

Look to our website for more information on registering and sponsorships!

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

