

FALL 2023



CARING FOR NEIGHBORS

Inside:

A Mother's Journey - "I'm in a much better place."

Family friendships help our little ones

A community partnership helps students be ready for school

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



Bringing families together

This summer, our annual Adoption Picnic again brought together families with a unique shared experience to reconnect and celebrate, to share stories, make new friends and create memories.

It was a beautiful summer day where a little boy who just started walking was on the move. A tiny two-month-old was drinking from his bottle. The toddlers and kids were running on the playground – playing pretend and make believe. One little girl watched contently from a folding chair, drinking her juice.

Thank you to all who joined us. We love seeing your families grow!



Late last year, Catholic Charities offices in both Waukesha and Milwaukee became United Way Diaper Hubs.

Since November 2022, Catholic Charities was able to provide 370 children in 300 families with diapers and wipes, totaling 11,623 diapers and 379 packages of wipes.

We are excited to be able to continue meeting this need for families across Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Washington counties!

From foster care to motherhood

Growing up, Sierra was in foster care, faced mental health challenges, and experienced homelessness on-and-off since entering adulthood. All these adversities shaped what kind of parent Sierra knew she wanted to be: she promised herself that her daughter would not go through what she had.

Earlier this year, when Sierra connected with Catholic Charities' Supported Parenting program, she was quick to boast about her newborn daughter, Samaya. With Catholic Charities' help, Sierra secured housing in a safe neighborhood, connected with resources to furnish the new home, and was provided with much-needed baby care items and clothing.



Perhaps most importantly, her family support worker helped her connect

with her childhood therapist in order to reinitiate therapy. This has helped decrease the severity and regularity of the unpredictable mental health episodes she still experiences. As Sierra has grown to be more confident in herself and as a parent, she made the courageous decision to ask Catholic Charities to help her sign up for school and apply for financial aid.

Fast forward to now: Sierra is attending community college and is ready to enter the workforce. Samaya is a healthy and happy baby who is on track developmentally. *"I'm not sure where I or my daughters would be if not for my Family Support Worker and this program,"* Sierra says. *"I'm in a much better place and want my daughter to be proud of me."*



Helping students be ready for school



With 97% of the people we serve being impacted by poverty, excited back to school shopping just isn't the reality for our families.

When Baird was looking to support the community with a back-to-school drive, our board member, Sharon deGuzman, directed them to Catholic Charities.

A group of our volunteers came together and stuffed backpacks with the supplies donated. Notebooks, pencils, highlighters, glue sticks, and more!

Thanks to this partnership, children in our community went to school ready with everything they need.





Thank you to our community partners!

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