



CATHOLIC
CHARITIES

WORKS OF CHARITY

Thank you for the hope you create.

Inside:

Making a difference
for families and
seniors amid
Wisconsin's ongoing
housing crisis



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

Working through homelessness

Seeking better care for their son, Adán, and employment opportunities, the Segura family moved to Wisconsin. Rosa was pregnant with their second child, and Luis began a construction job, but paychecks didn't arrive for more than two months. As their resources dwindled, they found temporary housing at a shelter.

The Seguras needed help to find a home. Staff at the shelter reached out to Catholic Charities. The priority for Nancy, one of our bilingual case workers, was to help Luis and Rosa secure stable housing. Working with community partners, Nancy assisted the family with moving into an apartment. She reached out to St. Vincent de Paul and Adullam Outreach who provided household items. Nancy also ensured that Rosa received medical care for baby Luisa's safe delivery.

With a new job and more reliable income, Rosa says, "I don't know what we would have done without Catholic Charities. When we were without a home, they somehow helped us. We are so thankful."



Rosa, Luis and their children have hope for the future thanks to your compassion.

Helping seniors impacted by evictions



At 81, Roy enjoyed living in the same neighborhood and apartment for over forty years. Everything he needed was within walking distance. Even when his health forced him to slow down, he could still walk to the grocery store.

Then in 2023, he received a notification from his landlord giving him 60 days to move out of his home.

Roy reached out to his church where they helped him contact Catholic Charities. Sue, our Outreach director, could see on her first visit that Roy needed a few things that would make him more comfortable and ease some of his pain. She ensured those needs were met; then they began to explore resources online for apartments and submit applications. "It's all done on the computer now," says Roy.

Just before his 60 days were up, Roy learned that his apartment search was a success! Sue coordinated help for his moving day and continues to check in on him. Roy is feeling independent again and occasionally sends cards to Sue expressing his appreciation for her and all of Catholic Charities support.

Roy moves into a new apartment — just in time.

For six years, Timothy lived alone in a shelter. His life wasn't always like this. A proud and loving father, Timothy had lived in a home with his wife and children.

It was a happy home, bustling with laughter. Then one night a house fire changed everything. Devastated by the loss, Timothy tried to rebound but had a tough time finding housing. He reached out to a number of organizations and struggled to find help.

Eventually, Timothy found Catholic Charities and the path forward he so desperately needed. His Outreach case worker helped him apply online for senior housing, assisting with uploading all the necessary forms and information. Within a few weeks, he learned that his application was accepted, and he would have a new apartment of his own.

"The day he signed his lease, he was so happy," says his case worker. She remembers he couldn't stop smiling when he talked about hanging pictures on the walls of his new home.

Your generosity helps
Timothy find a home.



The Housing Crisis



"Across Wisconsin, homelessness is on the rise. The Milwaukee area has some of the fastest-growing rents in the nation. Many seniors can't afford it. They're being forced out. We've never seen this before.

"Fortunately, Catholic Charities staff adjust to meet the ever-changing needs of the community."

— **Sue Howland**
Director of Outreach & Case Management



Seniors who have lived in the same apartment for 25-30 years are being forced to move



Most housing applications are done online, and many have limited digital literacy & access



Some individuals & families are paying 40-60% of their income for rent



A home visit saves a life.
Thank you, Dalia!

Heroes are real!

When Dalia, a Hoarding Intervention case worker from Catholic Charities, walked through Jane's front door for the first time, she said, "I smell gas." They immediately called We Energies emergency hotline. A technician arrived within minutes, located the gas leak and repaired it.

Had it not been for Dalia's quick observation, Jane may never have discovered the leak on her own.

Overwhelmed with gratitude, Jane not only called Catholic Charities to find a way to thank Dalia for her prompt action and comfort, she also wrote a message to We Energies including her thanks, saying "DALIA SAVED MY LIFE!"

We are so grateful to Dalia for her prompt and compassionate care.

Supporting youth mental health

Since the pandemic, more of our young people are experiencing stress, anxiety and depression.

Recognizing the critical need for more local mental health services, United Way of Washington County is partnering with us to provide counseling services for youth and families. To reach even more young people, United Way provided funds for us to assemble self-care kits. Local schools and organizations are working with our therapists in West Bend and Hartford to put this resource in the hands of young people who need our support.

The kit includes instructions on the importance of each item with ideas on how to use them.

One youth worker shared her experience of giving the backpack to a girl. They talked about how painting could give her a break when she is feeling upset; the physical and mental health benefits of drinking water; how a fidget toy could help her focus; and how she could write and draw her feelings in her journal.

Thank you!



Self-care kits help young people take control of their mental health thanks to support from United Way of Washington County and you!



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