



CATHOLIC
CHARITIES

WORKS OF CHARITY

*Neighbors, Partners, Friends:
Bringing Hope to Life*

FALL 2025

With your help:

A family finds kindness and relief
after flooding

A neighbor's life and home is
transformed

A parish encourages
compassion for all migrants

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

Rising Above the Flood: How your support brings relief

Marlon was the first to call Catholic Charities after flooding caused a river of water to pour through his basement for days. A single father of three, living on Milwaukee's north side, one of the areas hardest hit by severe flooding in August, he felt overwhelmed by the devastation.

Calling United Way's 211 help line, Marlon was referred to our outreach program and spoke with our case manager, Moira. His most urgent need was a bed for his son and replacement furniture destroyed by flood waters.

With the generosity of friends of Catholic Charities, we were able to coordinate the donation and delivery of beds, a couch, a kitchen table and chairs, and other household essentials. Marlon was moved to tears. He thanked God and the kindness of everyone who helped, including the movers from Schroeder Moving, who donated their time and service.



After receiving disaster relief funds from individual donors, Catholic Charities USA, and United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County, Moira followed up with Marlon and others to provide some financial assistance and guidance on applying for FEMA aid.

Our case managers in Waukesha, Washington and Milwaukee counties are grateful for the outpouring of support from partners and the community. One flood survivor repeated over and over, "You didn't forget me, thank God!"

"If you want peace, work for

Fr. Arul Ponnaiyan of Holy Apostles Parish in New Berlin asks his parishioners, "How do we treat migrants?" In a recent homily, he reminded them that people are often forced to flee because of war, violence and hatred. "We are called to show unconditional love, mercy and compassion. Listen without judgment to the stories of a stranger. Have courage. Be like Jesus. We are supposed to be the keepers of our brothers and sisters. Treat everyone with dignity and respect."

Leading a series on Catholic Social Teaching and immigration, Fr. Arul invited Barbara Graham, our Director of Refugee and Immigration Services, to help parishioners understand the legal realities immigrants face on their path to legal status and citizenship.



The power of compassion and encouragement

Annette treasures the keepsakes she's collected through her life – gifts from family, childhood mementos, reminders of special moments. But over time, the “stuff of life” piled up. With loved ones living far away and her health making it harder to manage on her own, Annette needed some guidance and a helping hand.

A friend who had benefited from Catholic Charities services encouraged her to call. Still, Annette was nervous. “It’s not easy to have a stranger come in and see all your stuff,” she admitted.

Her worries faded when she met Dalia, a Catholic Charities home coach who understood her struggles and offered gentle guidance. With patience and encouragement, Dalia helped Annette create simple habits for deciding what to give away, what to keep for memories and what to let go. She also taught Annette how to organize her home in ways that felt manageable. “She taught me how to organize things,” Annette said. “Put things where they should go.”

Today, Annette has made great strides. Dalia now stops by only every couple of months to check in. “I always look forward to her visits,” Annette says. “While we worked together, I like to think we developed a friendship.”



Thank you, Bader Philanthropies. Together, we've helped Annette and more older adults like her.



"In most cases, we are the only service that is keeping individuals living safe in their home."

— Carla Alejo
Director of Hoarding Intervention
& Treatment

Insights for hope and healing

- Hoarding disorder affects 1 in 17 Americans
- The biggest barriers to getting help are the stigma and misunderstanding
- The first step to successful treatment is accepting help and being open to change

justice.” – Pope Paul VI

More than 120 people from at least 10 different parishes gathered on a Saturday morning in September to listen, learn and ask questions. The response was overwhelmingly positive — a sign of the hunger for understanding and compassion. To see Barbara's presentation, visit the Holy Apostles website and their YouTube channel.

Together, we can meet urgent needs, advocate for justice and foster communities of welcome, love and hope.





To our community partners, thank you.

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St. John the Evangelist Congregation
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St. Jude the Apostle, Wauwatosa
St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Beaver Dam
St. Mark Parish, Kenosha
St. Mary's Springs Academy
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Oak Creek
St. Matthew, Oak Creek
St. Patrick Parish, Elkhorn
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United Way Fond du Lac County
United Way of Kenosha County

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United Way of Racine County
United Way of Sheboygan County

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