



WORKS OF CHARITY

*Helping families every step of the way
to grow, heal and thrive*

SUMMER 2026

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Serving neighbors in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Sheboygan, Racine,
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Family Begins —

A Family Story, Generations in the Making

Nearly 40 years ago, Catholic Charities helped write the first chapter of Mac's story. This spring, the agency helped write the first chapter of his son, Amari's, story.

Mac was adopted through Catholic Charities as an infant and grew up in a family of six adopted children. Adoption was always part of his family's story and one of the many reasons he and his wife, Amy, hoped to build their own family through adoption one day.

"When we began exploring adoption ourselves, we wanted to work with an organization whose values aligned with our own," Amy said.

As they began the process, Catholic Charities case managers Jen and Carrie supported them through every step from the home study and licensing process to education, paperwork and preparing for parenthood. "Jen and Carrie walked alongside us through every stage of our adoption journey," Amy said. "The level of care we received was exceptional."

When Amari's birth mother chose Mac and Amy to be his adoptive parents, they experienced the joys and uncertainties that often accompany adoption. Catholic Charities cared for both Amari's birth family and adoptive family with compassion and dignity. "Jen and Carrie are genuinely passionate about the work they do and about the families they serve," Amy said. "We never felt like just another case file."

On May 8, 2026, surrounded by family, friends, fellow parishioners and loved ones, Mac and Amy finalized Amari's adoption. "Quite simply, we would not be the family we are today without Catholic Charities," Amy said. "Our son, Amari, is the greatest gift we have ever received."

For their family, there is something especially meaningful about this journey. The same organization that helped write the first chapter of Mac's story decades ago has now helped write the first chapter of Amari's. Amy says, "It is a beautiful reminder of God's providence and the lasting impact Catholic Charities has across generations."



Mac, Amy, and baby Amari
(Photos courtesy of Meghan Bowers)

Families Heal —

Helping Families Heal and Find Hope

When families are hurting, every member feels the weight of those struggles. At Catholic Charities, our therapists work with children, parents and caregivers because healing often happens best when families heal together.

Wanting to support her son's well-being, Rosalina reached out to Catholic Charities for counseling services at the recommendation of school staff. Her son began meeting with therapist Marisabel, and over time, Rosalina began to see improvements.

"Marisabel is a very good person who has helped me a lot with my son," Rosalina said. "I'm very happy and grateful to have found good people."



Marisabel T., MS, LPC-IT, ATR-P
Bilingual Mental Health Therapist

Her son's teachers noticed the difference, too. "He has shown significant improvement since beginning therapy," she said. "His teachers are very happy with how much he has improved."

As her son's progress continued, Catholic Charities supported the family in other ways. Providing Rosalina with clothing for her son, diapers for her baby, and a grocery gift card helped ease some of the stresses her family was experiencing.

"I am very happy with the community at Catholic Charities because they have helped me a lot with my son," Rosalina said. "Without you, I wouldn't be where I am."

Today, Rosalina says her family is stronger and feels more supported, hopeful and better prepared for the future. "Catholic Charities is very good at helping those in need," she said.



Families Belong — *Building a New Life Together*

Rahim needed assistance applying for citizenship for his two children. After friends encouraged him to reach out to Catholic Charities, Rahim and his family received guidance through the citizenship process and found additional support along the way.

"Catholic Charities support has meant a lot to our family," Rahim said. "The services we received were free, and throughout every interaction, we were treated with respect, care and dignity. The agency has helped us overcome challenges, access important resources and feel supported as we build our lives in Milwaukee."

Rahim says Catholic Charities is unique because of the wide range of support his family has received.

"My wife has gained confidence through tutoring and educational opportunities, while my children have received academic support that helps them succeed in school," he said. "Catholic Charities regularly shares information with me about available community resources. Staff have also helped us complete important paperwork that we found difficult to understand and complete on our own."



Today, Rahim says his family feels connected to something larger than themselves.

"I would like the greater community to know that Catholic Charities has been a trusted source of support for my family," he said. "The staff treats people with kindness, respect and dignity, and they genuinely care about helping families succeed. Through these experiences, we now feel like part of a larger community that works together to help one another grow and succeed."



Amaidani M.
Immigration Attorney

Families Care for One Another — *Caring for the Whole Family*

For three years, John has looked forward to his days at Catholic Charities Adult Day Center. Living with multiple sclerosis brings many challenges, but the Adult Day Center offers something equally important: friendship, laughter and connection.

"The people here are great," John said. "We laugh a lot and have great conversations. It gives me something to look forward to." After a period of spending much of his time at home alone, John's sister helped him find the Adult Day Center. Today, he has become a beloved member of the community.



One volunteer describes him this way: "John brings a special kind of life to the Adult Day Center family. In spite of his physical challenges, he inserts a wry humor into conversations that always makes me laugh." The friendships around his table have grown into something special – a reminder that everyone needs a place where they belong.

For John, the Adult Day Center is more than an activity program. It is a community that helps him stay engaged, connected and hopeful. "It keeps my mind off all the other things I have to go through," he said. "You get to know people, and you just go from there."



Families Give — *Learning to Love Their Neighbor*

This spring, middle school students at St. Alphonsus School in Greendale spent a night sleeping in cardboard box shelters.

The experience was part of the school's second annual Box City project, an overnight educational program designed to build empathy and raise awareness about the challenges faced by our unhoused neighbors.

Through activities and conversations, students learned an important lesson: loving our neighbors means more than caring about them – it means showing up for them.

The students put that lesson into action by donating proceeds from their Box City project to Catholic Charities. Their gift will help provide compassionate support and critical services to vulnerable neighbors and families throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

By opening their hearts to those in need, these young people are already helping build a stronger, more caring community – one that reflects the Gospel call to love and serve one another.

