

WORKS OF *Charity*

WINTER 2021



Thank you for partnering to serve neighbors in need

**ON THE COVER:
A REMINDER OF
RESILIENCE**

**COMMUNITY
COUNSELING
BATTLES
COVID-19**

**VATICAN II
AWARD
WINNERS**

AND MORE!

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A Reminder Of Resilience



TyRiane just had her daughter Skye and was struggling with balancing her health and helping her 7-year-old son, Zyon, adapt to his new role as an older brother, when COVID-19 hit. Being high risk for COVID and having a new baby created extra challenges to finding work and caring for her family. TyRiane found herself without housing or furniture and was struggling to make ends meet. When the family was referred to Catholic Charities, her Pregnancy Support Case Manager recognized TyRiane's strengths in keeping herself healthy, providing for her children, and creating a support system around herself reminding her and her children that they are loved, and they can get through these difficult times.

Working with TyRiane to establish and meet goals for her family, her case manager helps TyRiane stay motivated by reminding her of the strength she has with all she has already overcome. Her case manager also identifies and coordinates

TyRiane and Family, Pregnancy Support

community resources and any temporary assistance she might need like help finding housing, furniture, winter jackets for Skye and Zyon, and helping her maintain a healthy lifestyle. **“Every time I see the family, I see they are so resilient, and I am reminded I can be that way too and I can help TyRiane recognize these strengths in herself.”**

Tom Mountin, Champion Volunteer



Tom has humbly shared more than just his legal expertise and talents with Catholic Charities since 2016 when he joined our Refugee & Immigration Services team. He shares his contagious humor, unwavering commitment to serving others, and incredibly immense heart for welcoming newcomers. Moreover, Tom even insisted on covering his own training fees to learn more about immigration law. Tom works closely with refugees who have studied long and hard for their citizenship exams, helping to navigate the complex process of applying for citizenship and lawful permanent residency in the

United States. As a Pro Bono Immigration Attorney with Catholic Charities, Tom makes it possible for those with citizenship goals to receive accessible, accurate, and affordable legal advice as they complete the N-400, Application for Naturalization. Since immigration law is ever-changing, multifaceted, and often involves costly filing fees, receiving Tom's Pro Bono guidance is crucial in helping the next generation of Americans succeed in their new home! Through his ALS diagnosis, Tom has a renewed commitment to serving those in his community who are often unable to access the high quality legal services he provides with dignity, respect, and compassion.

**The Archbishop's Vatican II Award honors men and women of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee who exemplify the Catholic Church's vision set forth in the Second Vatican Council.*

Community Counseling Battles COVID-19



Dr. Lucy Angulo, Bilingual Community Counselor

“We all benefit from a strong, emotionally stable community”

In today's rapidly changing world, families and people of all ages in our local communities have increasingly reached out to Catholic Charities for needs that range from isolation, lack of basic necessities like food or warm clothing, homelessness, abuse, pregnancy support, and in-home elder care. Additionally, we have seen increased demand for mental health care

since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. With rising unemployment, people have struggled to pay for their housing, food, electricity, and many other necessities which causes a rise in stress on families. For these reasons and many others, people affected by poverty are more likely to suffer emotional distress and are faced with a lack of access to quality care.

Our therapists provide long-term care and support to help individuals and family members recover from trauma they have faced throughout their lives and cope with the added stresses in our world today.

“We were here for you before the pandemic, we are here for you during the pandemic, and we will continue to be here after the pandemic” Laura Ramos, Behavioral Health Therapist with Catholic Charities in Racine shares.

Jim Pankratz, Honored Staff



Vatican II Award Recipient, Jim Pankratz

Jim has devoted his career to providing compassionate mental health services at Catholic Charities for over 40 years. During that time, he has helped countless individuals and families navigate both the difficult times in life as well as the exciting, beautiful moments. He has trained and mentored students completing therapy practicum each year, sharing his invaluable wisdom that shapes their practice today. Jim's passion is helping people cope with the challenges affecting everyday life to reach a better place of well-being.

Jim shared: **“The pandemic is highlighting immense need, especially among those who were already underserved or experiencing inequity in our communities. The level of trauma so many have experienced, through alcoholism, abuse, racism, sexism, and beyond has created a critical, urgent need. I'm proud of how Catholic Charities has always prioritized mental health and other services for people without access, who are adversely affected by poverty.”** We all have a profound need to connect with others for emotional support and Jim has been an important part of this connection as the people he serves experience loss, isolation, depression, economic hardship and more. Jim said he is “listening deeply to those who have no one else to count on for support, helping families discover safe ways to strengthen their relationships or cope, and working with people to navigate the uncertainty of tomorrow.”

Thank you, Robert!



“I think it is so important for people to donate during a year like this because of the work that has to be done, especially right now during a pandemic to reach those most in need. No matter the situation, Catholic Charities still reaches out to the community and gets the job done.”

Robert and JoAnn Nadeau became dear friends in the Catholic Charities office after we received a letter from Robert. He read through our summer newsletter and decided to write a reply on the closest thing he could find which happened to be a grocery list, that came to us in the mail along with his donation. “Your summer 2020 Works of Charity newsletter was great! You have a knack for finding people most in need of help. More people need to know about the work you do. Note my *top-of-the-line* stationary” he joked “when you are 84 years old, you can get away with it. Keep up the great work you do.”

Robert Nadeau, 2020 Donor

To us Robert and JoAnn’s support and grocery list of appreciation was a reminder that there is a whole community behind us who are passionate about fighting to ensure that the needs of our community are met and are generous, and dedicated to giving back.

2020 LENTEN LUNCHEONS

Treasures of The Church Award Recipients

Individual Recipients:

Kay Redmond

Frank G. & Frieda K. Brotz
Family Foundation

Ann & Christopher Swain

Pauline McTernan

Organization Recipients:

Faith Coalition Against
Sex Trafficking Waukesha
County

Holyland Food Pantry, Inc.

Husch Blackwell, LLP

Shalom Center

Religious Society Recipients:

The Redemptorist-Denver Province

Hospital Sisters of Saint Francis

Saint Francis de Sales Seminary

Father Michael Newman

CONGRATULATIONS

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