

THE GIFT OF *Giving*

Winter 2024



A CSSW Publication for Donors

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Peg Bravo | President and CEO

Dear Friends,

February is often the coldest month in Michigan and brings forth a time in which activities slow along with connections that we enjoy when the weather is friendlier, and daylight stretches a bit longer. With each passing year and a bit more wisdom, I have learned to appreciate this time of dormancy as vital for restoration and renewal. It is also a time of prayer, planning and preparation for the great mysteries of Holy Week.

I am truly grateful for the efforts my mother made when my siblings and I were children to teach all of us the importance of sacrifice, giving and holding Lent as a sacred time. I recall her personally collecting donations for the March of Dimes, taking us to Scouts to raise food and money for those less fortunate and faithfully attending Church to worship and to give a bit more of what we earned in chores and babysitting. It's not surprising that one of her favorite bible verses was "Whatever you do to the Least of My Brothers you Do unto Me". Matthew 25:31-46.

I hope you join me this year in considering a gift to the agency as we face the challenge of reduced funding. Just think about what a dollar a day for 40 days would mean to those in need of our safety net services.

As Easter approaches this year, I will be retiring from my role as President and CEO of CSSW. These last six years have been such a wonderful highlight of my career as a nurse and an executive. Although I am embarking on another part of my life, I will always be committed and dedicated to the Agency. For years, I have seen firsthand the kind and compassionate work of our staff and the dedication of our outstanding Board of Directors. The clients we serve are truly top of mind.

On behalf of those we serve, my deepest gratitude for your support of CSSW. I wish you all of God's blessings.

Warmest regards,

Peg Bravo
President and CEO

President and CEO Peg Bravo and staff present CSSW's Mission, Vision, and Core Values at Brunching for a Cause event in October.



IN THIS ISSUE

On the Cover
President's Corner

Page 2

The Gift of Love

Page 3

Volunteer Spotlight: Sally Guindi |
Our Board | A Season of Giving

Page 4

Ann Arbor Thrift Shop

Page 5

On the Horizon | Where Needed Most

Pages 6-7

2023 Event Photos: Brunching for a Cause

Pages 8-9

Our 2023 Donors

Page 10

Parish Partners: St. Thomas

Page 11

With Change Comes Opportunity:
Meet Rebecca Ferru

Back Page

12 Months of Giving

THE GIFT OF LOVE: A MESSAGE FROM FR. BRENDAN WALSH

This year the Sacred Time of Lent begins on Valentines Day. A day when we begin 40 days of prayer, fasting and alms giving. An opportunity to, once again, remember the life and love of Jesus.



Fr. Brendan Walsh

This sacred time calls us to remember the great work, the great ministry, the great responsibility of our church to live the principals of Catholic Social Teaching. These nine principals guide the mission and ministry of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County (CSSW). It is how we live our faith in Love and Service.

These nine principals challenge us and remind us of our faith mission, our love mission: to care for all people, to care for those most in need, to seek equality and justice, to protect the earth, to see that our Government truly serves people, to make sure all people have enough to eat and a place to sleep, to make sure all people are respected and cared for as human persons.

For more than 60 years, the ministry and work of CSSW has made these principals their focus and mission. To care for people, to help people, to serve people. They daily live out the ministry of feeding the hungry, of giving counseling to the hurt, to help children find safe homes, to care for the elderly, and to protect children from abuse.

Our agency makes a difference. It touches hearts, it brings healing, it helps babies know love. It makes the face and voice of Jesus alive and real in the words and actions, the care and concern of the counselors, servers, and leaders.

The season of Lent is when we remind ourselves of our responsibility to support the ministries, programs and services which bring the love of Jesus to those most vulnerable. We make sacrifices by giving alms, to support those most in need in our community. Our focus is to touch the hearts of the hurting, with acts of compassion and kindness.


Lent is when we remember how Jesus comes to teach us and inspire us to be people of great love. We pause to pray and to embrace his example of loving service first in how he washes our feet and then dying on the cross for our sins and rising on the third day to give us new life.

The ministry, the witness, the sacrifice, and the service of CSSW is to live the Gospel Call to be people of Charity with acts of Love. To make the Teaching of Jesus real, when we serve the least in love, we serve Jesus in love.

As we begin these 40 days of Discipline of going without and doing more, let us prayerfully consider making a gift of love and sacrifice in support of the programs, ministries, and services of CSSW. Let us practice our Solidarity with an act of kindness and compassion made with Love. Let us remember Jesus' great commandment when he said to Love God by Loving our Neighbor. Let us make a difference with a gift of Sacrifice, with a gift of love.

Shalom,

Fr. Brendan J. Walsh
Pastor, St. Joseph Dexter and Board Member, CSSW



PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

- *Life and Dignity of the Human Person*
- *Call to Family, Community and Participation*
- *Rights and Responsibilities*
- *Option for the Poor and Vulnerable*
- *The Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers*
- *Solidarity*
- *Care for God's Creation*
- *Role of Government*
- *Promotion of Peace*



Sally Guindi
CSSW Board Member

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Sally Guindi

A career in health care law laid a foundation for caring for others and giving back to the community for our newest member of the CSSW Board. Sally Guindi, who retired in 2022 from her role as General Counsel for Trinity Health Michigan, joined the CSSW Board soon after.

“I’ve known Peg Bravo for many years and have admired and valued her leadership and the outstanding work of the CSSW team. Being invited to join the Agency’s Board is an honor and big responsibility and I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Agency’s continued impact in the community. The needs in our community are enormous,” shared Ms. Guindi.

Ms. Guindi wore many “legal” hats during her tenure with Trinity Health and its Michigan hospitals. Sally served for 15 years as Regional Chief Division Counsel for Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, followed by 5 years in the role of General Counsel for all of Trinity Health’s Michigan hospital and health system ministries, in addition serving as a managing counsel within Trinity Health. Ms. Guindi has been recognized for her accomplishments over the years, most recently being named a Notable Woman Lawyer in 2017 by Crain’s Detroit Business.

Continued on page 5.

OUR BOARD

PEG BRAVO
CSSW President | CEO

JAY HUGHES
Chair

JIM BIRCHLER
Treasurer

MARTY BODNAR
Secretary

SARA ATWELL
Chair of the
DeVine Foundation

LINDA
EDWARDS-BROWN

MARILYN GEIGER

AIMEE GODFREY

SALLY GUINDI
FR. BRENDAN WALSH

A SEASON OF GIVING

In 1964, award-winning author Shel Silverstein wrote and illustrated the children’s book “The Giving Tree,” a loving tribute to the friendship between a boy an apple tree, and a poignant and moving tale about love, sacrifice, and the importance of appreciating the things we have in life.

It is no wonder that during the blessed season of Christmas, “giving trees” find a place in parishes and businesses throughout Washtenaw County, demonstrating the love of community and a willingness to sacrifice to benefit others.

Each year, CSSW is fortunate to be the recipient of the gifts made possible by way of the giving trees of many local churches and community businesses during the holiday season. Christmas trees adorn vestibules and lobbies with “decorations” of angels, stars, and the like, each listing an item needed by a local charity.

For our Agency, gift cards for Meijer, Target, and Walmart have proved to be the most helpful items – both for donors to purchase and for recipients to shop for their children and pick up any other necessities their family may need.

Thanks to the support of our parish and community partners, more than 370 “giving tree” gift cards and many items from the on-line “Wish List” were provided to make the holiday brighter for those in need of assistance. These contributions were valued at more than \$9,000!

Our thanks to:

FAITH Magazine

St. Andrew the Apostle
Ann Arbor

St. Francis of Assisi
Ann Arbor

St. Joseph Catholic Parish
Dexter

St. Mary Catholic Church
Chelsea

St. Mary Student Parish

St. Thomas the Apostle
Ann Arbor

ANN ARBOR THRIFT SHOP

Volunteer Operated for More Than 90 Years

Since the early years of The Great Depression, an inspired group of women has been providing emergency assistance to individuals and families in the Ann Arbor community. In just the last five years, their donations to local non-profit agencies, including CSSW, totaled \$1.5 million and surely changed countless lives.

The Ann Arbor Thrift Shop (AATS), founded in 1932, is a well-known, local retail shop offering gently used clothing,

housewares, and other needed items for sale at highly discounted prices. This solely volunteer-run organization of 335 women, is led by 25 directors including 2023 President Bonnie Brickett. “Many of our volunteers have been members for decades – a pretty rare achievement among volunteer non-profit organizations,” remarked Ms. Brickett.

Until 2021, AATS

volunteers operated a telephone hotline by which agency social workers could request emergency aid and shopping vouchers for their clients.

Today, AATS uses a competitive grant model for providers of emergency assistance, which totaled nearly \$450,000 in 2022/2023. To apply for an Emergency Grant, an agency must be a 501(c)(3) organization and be able to make direct payments to vendors of services on behalf of individuals and families. This reflects AATS’s membership’s focus and priorities. In addition, Thrift Shop volunteers seek funding requests for their Anne M. Hayes program and Community Impact Grants, which distributed \$18,000 in grants last year.

“Our ultimate mission is to help meet the emergency social services needs of our community, including housing, utilities, medical care and food security,” remarked Ms. Brickett.

“Beginning with the 2022 grant cycle, we were pleased to redefine “community” as all of Washtenaw County, ensuring that more people can benefit from our support.”



The Ann Arbor Thrift Shop has given more than \$1.5 million to the Ann Arbor community in the past five years.

As a grant recipient in the past two funding cycles, CSSW is grateful for the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop’s support. “When we receive a call from a frantic mother whose electricity is being shut off, we can help, thanks to our grant support from the AATS,” shared Liz Borener, Senior Clinical Operations Director. “As one of 17 agencies that received funding this year, we know that the AATS

volunteers are making an enormous impact in our community and we appreciate their dedication and commitment.

In addition to emergency funding for utilities, CSSW is able to utilize grant funding to provide security deposits to acquire housing, most commonly for behavioral health clients in need of assistance.

“I like the wide range of services CSSW provides in behavioral health, family and children’s services and senior services and we are pleased to offer our financial support,” said Ms. Brickett. “I also appreciate the Agency’s connections with other organizations that allow them to link people in need to resources that they don’t provide. These synergistic relationships help non-profits work together to meet people’s needs.”

The Ann Arbor Thrift Shop is located at
3500 Washtenaw Avenue, Suite K.
For more information, visit
www.annarborthriftshop.org.

“When we receive a call from a frantic mother whose electricity is being shut off, WE CAN HELP...”

ON THE HORIZON

For more than 64 years, our donors and community have known CSSW and the many ways we have worked together with great care to meet the needs of the least of us. And for some time, the Board of Directors has been reflecting on how we continue to serve our neighbors *and* benefit from an identity that aligns with other Catholic agencies.

When it is finalized, we will share details of our name change that the Board views as both positive and advantageous for the Agency. Thanks to your generosity and partnership, *we will always be who we are today!* Please stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

Peg Bravo, President and CEO
Jay Hughes, Board Chair

Volunteer Spotlight: Sally Guindi | Continued from page 3.

In her professional life, Ms. Guindi was fortunate to have wonderful experiences and mentors, all of which enabled her to develop important leadership skills; she looks forward to bringing these to bear in her role as a member of the CSSW Board. Throughout her career it remained critical for her to serve organizations whose missions aligned with her values and she is thrilled to be able to continue in this manner to support the CSSW mission.

“The needs in our community are enormous.”

Ms. Guindi obtained her bachelor’s degree from Albion College in 1975 and her law degree from Wake Forest University in 1984; she is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

Sally and her husband Nate Branch have called Ann Arbor home for many years and they have 3 adult children, 2 sons and 1 daughter. And, we’re over the moon to have her onboard!

✓ WHERE NEEDED MOST

When determining how to apply donations that are given to use ‘where needed most’ we base decisions on programs that have gaps in coverage to meet the needs of clients. For example, we may allocate funding to the Food Pantry if additional resources are needed to distribute enough food each week. This is how we put our vision into action: “Creating better everyday life for all people we serve.”

Laura Regan,
Finance Director
Catholic Social Services of
Washtenaw County



Laura Regan
CSSW Finance Director

Family/Children | 52%

- Adoption
- Foster Care
- Food Pantry
- Pregnancy Counseling and Case Management
- Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center

Behavioral Health Services | 33%

- Counseling
- Domestic Violence Intervention
- Marriage Preparation
- Offender Success
- Substance Abuse

Senior Services | 15%

- Senior Resource Guide
- Resource Advocacy
- Home Maintenance and Safety Services
- RSVP (Senior Volunteers)
- Volunteer Caregiver Respite (VCR)
- Medicare/Medicaid Assistance

2023 EVENT PHOTOS

Now in its third year, donors and guests enjoyed a lovely Sunday brunch at beautiful Travis Pointe Country Club in support of CSSW. Thank you!



Judy and Richard Eisner kicked off “Pause for a Pledge” that raised \$15,000 for CSSW programs.



Jim Brandstatter and Robbie Timmons are joined by CSSW President and CEO Peg Bravo.



Guests Dr. Alan Dumont and Ms. Joy Jilek with CSSW Parish Outreach Coordinator Cheryl Ankenbauer.



Stephanie Nishioka and Underwriting Sponsor and Board Member Linda Edwards-Brown.



Dr. Kim Eagle and Darlene Eagle enjoying their eighth “. . . For A Cause” event for CSSW.



Gold Sponsors Jay and Diane Hughes.
Jay serves a Chair of CSSW's Board of Directors.

Brunching for a Cause



2023



Silver Sponsors Margot DeVine-Mumby and Alan Mumby
make BFAC a regular fall function.



Guests Carl and Charlene Herstein
take a moment for a photo.



Event Sponsors and past Board Members Judy Johns and
Dottie Farhat (l-r) – a dynamic duo!



Honorary Co-Chairs Chris and Herb Black with
Emcees Jim Brandstatter and Dr. Kim Eagle (from left)

OUR 2023 DONORS

The following list includes donor gifts and pledges of \$100 and more in 2023

\$25,000 - \$50,000

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Community Foundation for SE Michigan

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sarns

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Ann Arbor Thrift Shop
Food Gatherers
Herrick Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Hughes
J. Ferrantino Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Patton

Mr. Thomas Sidlik and Ms. Rebecca Boylan
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Dexter

Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Stanich
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
WEINGARTZ

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mrs. Janice A. Austin
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Black, Jr.
Mr. Joseph Borneo
Mr. Nathan Branch and Ms. Sally Guindi
Dr. Dennis Capozza and Mrs. Lisa Saaf

Capozza
Dynamic Edge, Inca
Mrs. Dorothy Farhat
Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Herstein
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Morgan

Mr. Alan C. Mumby and Mrs. Margot DeVine-Mumby
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Platte
Trinity Health
Mr. Ted Volz and Dr. Kathryn Volz
Ms. Judith L. Wojnowski

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Mr. and Mrs. William Atwell
Dr. and Mrs. James R. Baker, Jr.
Bank of Ann Arbor
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore B. Barnes
Dr. and Mrs. Howard N. Bockbrader
Mr. and Mrs. Guadalupe Bravo
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Brown, Jr.
Mr. Edward Buczkowski
Mr. Daniel M. Burns and Ms. Smilka Zdravkovska
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Butman
Chelsea Milling Company
Mr. and Mrs. David Corrigan
Ms. Carol DeMar
Mr. and Mrs. Jack DiGiuseppe
Mr. and Mrs. James Driscoll
Dr. and Mrs. James J. Duderstadt
Dr. and Mrs. Kim A. Eagle
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Edwards
Mrs. Linda Edwards-Brown
Mr. Joseph Eggleston
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Eisner
Mr. Douglas W. Elser

Dr. and Mrs. Mark H. Falahee
Mr. and Mrs. Alan K. Fellhauer
Dr. Michael S. Fitzsimmons and Dr. Hope Haefner
Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Flynn
Fran Coy's Salon and Spa
Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Geiger
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Goff
Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Griffin
Mrs. Kathleen S. Griffiths
Dr. Cyril M. Grum and Ms. Cathy Strachan
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Harvey
Mrs. Ann Marie Heise
The Helen McCalla Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoffman
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Holmes
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hume, Jr.
Dr. Allen Dumont and Ms. Joy Jilek
Mrs. Judy Johns
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Kelley
Mr. Stephen Klein
Knights of Columbus Council 2959
Mr. and Mrs. Ken W. Kollman

Mrs. Mary Laidlaw
Mr. and Mrs. Dave LaMoreaux
Mrs. Anne Laurance
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Lavender
Drs. Valdis and Austra Liepa
Mr. John K. Lilley
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Litzler
Mr. James T. Low
Mr. and Mrs. Leivenik Lundberg
Mr. John McCarthy
Mr. and Mrs. Paul McCreddie
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. McNamara
Ms. Barbara Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nickodemus
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Niemann
Ms. Linda Opaleski
The Honorable Steven D. Pepe
Dr. Perry Pernicano
Mr. and Mrs. David Ploucha
Pollock Investment Advisors, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. George Pomey

Dr. and Mrs. Leon J. Quinn
Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Reid
Retirement Income Solutions
S&D PJ Housing
Ms. Clare Savaglio
Savas Consulting
Dr. Rachael Schmedlen
Mr. Erik H. Serr
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis G. Severance
St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
St. Mary Catholic Church - Chelsea
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
Ms. Emily Swiss
Mrs. Karen Tasch
The Shrader Family Charitable Fund
United Way of Washtenaw County
Drs. Paul and Marcia Valenstein
Mr. and Mrs. James Varani
Mr. Mark Williams

\$500 - \$999

Ann Arbor Pharmacy
Dr. Anne L. Balazs
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Batteh
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Black
Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Bodnar
Mrs. Patricia Butcko
Mr. John Butwin
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Carriere
Mr. Frederick Clear
Mr. Donald Collom
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Conlin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Conlin, Jr.
Mr. Robert Deacon
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dick

Dr. and Mrs. Sean Donevan
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Fagan
Ms. Jaclyn Hamilton
Ferrantino Charitable Foundation
Ms. Mary A. Fiorina
Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Genthe
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Germain, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Franklin L. Gordon, Jr.
Mrs. Ruth Green
Mr. and Mrs. Kiff Hamp
Dr. and Mrs. Paul S. Harkaway
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Hermann
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Hogan
Mrs. Gaye H. Humphrey

Ms. Mary L. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Kramer
Lewis Jewelers
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Libs
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Messiter
Mrs. Maray Ellen O'Keefe
Old St. Patrick Catholic Church
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peper
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Prior
Ms. Sally J. Pryce
Mr. and Mrs. Mark G. Royce
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Scholl
Schriber Family Foundation
Shaffran Companies, Ltd.
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Short, III

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen K. Shulman
Mr. Francisco Skrobola
Mr. and Mrs. Mohamed Soofi
St. Andrew Kim Korean Catholic Church
St. Mary Student Parish
Ms. Breanne Stuart
Mrs. Samantha Toma
Mrs. Margaret J. Trapp
Mr. and Mrs. James S. Trouba
Mr. and Mrs. Terence A. Vogel
Mr. Edward Vuylsteke and Ms. Kathy Moilanen
Mr. David Wallace
Mr. and Mrs. Russell F. Weid, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Walter M. Whitehouse, Jr.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

\$100 - \$499

Ms. Karen Andruszewski	Mr. William Dunlap	Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Larson	Mr. Mark C. Sercu
Dr. and Mrs. Eugenius Ang	Mr. and Mrs. John M. Eder	Ms. Carol H. Leitch	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Sesi
Ann Arbor District Library	Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Elliott	Leyla	Ms. Heather Shedd
Ann Arbor Housing Commission	EMU - Eastern Michigan University	Mr. and Mrs. Jason F. Lindauer	Ms. Betsy Sheppard
Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels	Ms. Sylvia A. Ertman	Ms. Linda J. Lorenz	Mr. William J. Sienko
Mr. Joel D. Bailey	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ewald	Mr. George B. Lowrie, III	Mr. and Mrs. Mark K. Smith
Mr. Lawrence Baird	Mrs. Claire R. Fernly	Mrs. Theresa B. Maclean	Ms. Emilia Soto Barajas
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Barera	Ms. Carleigh Flaharty	Ms. Louise Malatesta	Spavia
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan A. Baron	Mr. and Mrs. William C. Forgacs	Mrs. Maria Markovics	Mr. and Mrs. James K. Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Hobart C. Bates	Mr. and Mrs. David A. French	Ms. Jennifer Mason	Mr. Theodore St. Antoine
Ms. Elias Baumgarten	Ms. Rebecca Fried	Ms. Bernice L. Mathews	Mr. and Mrs. Bradley W. Stark
Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Bazydlo	Ms. Gail A. Fromes	Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Mattison	Dr. and Mrs. Philip J. Stella
Mr. and Mrs. John Behen	Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Galant	Mr. Michael McGraw	Mr. Tom Steppe and Ms. Cassie Mann
Mr. Kent C. Berridge	Ms. Amby Gallagher	Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. McGuire	Mrs. Dalia Strasius
Mr. and Mrs. Corey D. Bertcher	Mr. and Mrs. August Golden	Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. McIntee	Mr. and Mrs. David F. Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Bertsos	Ms. Lynn E. Grace	Ms. Colleen McNicholas	Dr. and Mrs. David Swastek
Mr. Donald E. Boren and Ms. Eileen J. Slank	Mr. John F. Grucelski	Memory Lane Home	Ms. Janene Ternes
Mrs. Lizbeth Borener	Mr. Charles H. Haas	Ms. Barbara L. Merouse	Dr. and Mrs. Brian Thelen
Mr. Alex Bowman	Ms. Terri Haas	Mr. Andrew Miller	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Tobey, Jr.
Dr. Brian S. Bradley and Dr. Rosalie Tocco-Bradley	Ms. Lisa Hackbarth	Ms. Rita Mitchell	Mr. and Mrs. Ronald J. Toma
Mr. Jim Brandstatter and Ms. Robbie Timmons	Mr. and Mrs. Laurence J. Hagerty	Dr. and Mrs. Bruce S. Moln	Travis Pointe Country Club
Mr. Charles Burke	Mr. and Mrs. Ronald B. Hatlen	Mrs. Barbara Murphy	Mr. and Mrs. Steven H. Trinkle
Mrs. Angela Burns	Mr. and Mrs. Laurence J. Hicks	Mr. and Mrs. Randy A. Musbach	Mr. and Mrs. James A. Turek
Ms. Margaret Cebula	Mr. and Mrs. Hartmut Hoft	Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Nadeau	Mr. Jason Vandeberghe
Dr. and Mrs. William E. Chavey	Mr. Jeffery R. Holden and Ms. Teresa Casey Holden	Ms. Margaret Neaton	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Vella
Christ the King Catholic Church, Ann Arbor	Ms. Kay Holsinger and Mr. Douglas Wood	Mr. and Mrs. Manuel J. Norman	Mr. and Mrs. James C. Vick
Ms. April Clark	Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Howay	Mr. and Mrs. Raymond P. O'Donnell	Mrs. Elizabeth Vuylsteke
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Comeau	Ms. Margaret M. Huang	Mr. Stuart Parker	Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Walker
Ms. Kris Conley	Dr. Ann D. Hungerman	Ms. Cheryl Patterson	Reverend Brendan J. Walsh
Ms. Shelley Coshatt	Immaculate Conception Church, Milan	Ms. Mary Kay Pearson	Dr. and Mrs. John W. Walsh
Mrs. Margaret C. Crandall	Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Jarzembowski	Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Pease	Ms. Sarah Walton
Ms. Carol L. Cross	Dr. and Mrs. F.W. Jeffries	Mrs. Dorinda Porta	Mr. and Mrs. James C. Waltz
Mr. Raymond E. Cryderman	Mr. and Mrs. John R. Johnson	Ms. Hilde Preston	Washtenaw Golf Club
Ms. Betty E. Cummings	Ms. Sharon Jourdan	Ms. Astrida Panches	Ms. Virginia Webb
Mr. and Mrs. John J. D'Addona	Mr. and Mrs. Roger G. Kaliman	Mrs. Bonnie Reece	Mr. and Mrs. William Wells
Dr. Constance J. D'Amato	Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Kantor	Mr. and Mrs. Vince Regan	Mr. and Mrs. John H. White
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Damiani	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Karas	Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Reilly	Mr. and Mrs. Stephan J. Wilcox
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Dehn	Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Kellman	Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Remillard	Ms. Angelica Wilk
Mr. Jeffrey H. Dehring	Mr. and Mrs. John H. Kemner	Ms. Cynthia Reznick	Mrs. Patricia Willett
Ms. Kathy DeVine	Dr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Kinnear	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roehrig	Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Willibey
Mrs. Patricia B. Dobbs	Mr. and Mrs. John R. Knapp	Mrs. Pat Rohrer	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Winsten
Mr. Kevin M. Donahue	Mr. and Mrs. David J. Knesper	Mr. and Mrs. Russ Sackett	YORK Food and Drink
Mr. Robert J. Donnellan	Mr. and Mrs. Jason Korte	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sample	Ms. Rose Ann Yurko
Mrs. Jane Dorr	Mr. Nathan Korth	Ms. Maya N. Savarino	Mr. and Mrs. Nathan A. Zill
Mr. Jeffrey Dowling	Mr. James Kozich	Mr. Paul Schultz	
Ms. Rosemary Downer	Ms. Kay L. Lantis	Mr. Richard Schultz	

You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

John Bunyan

PARISH PARTNERS

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

For nearly three decades, parishioners from St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church have made supporting Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw (CSSW) a regular practice. Families and individuals served through the Agency's Food Pantry benefit from parishioners' generous weekly donations of groceries. Church members have also been long-time supporters of CSSW's Giving Tree program, a holiday effort that provides CSSW with gift cards for children and families at Christmas.

"At this time of year especially, we are acutely aware that so many people in our community are struggling," said Dan Kielczewski. "Thankfully, our Giving Tree donations to CSSW allows us to make Christmas a bit brighter for children of all ages during this blessed season."

Parish leaders, including Chris Russ, Linda Schneider, and Kathryn Muise, visited the CSSW office this summer to meet staff and learn more about the programs we provide. They also toured our Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center in Ypsilanti, hearing first-hand about this program aimed at helping children move through and heal from sexual abuse.

This year, St. Thomas launched an ambitious initiative to reach out into the community in even more comprehensive ways. To set this initiative in motion, Fr. Bill Ashbaugh, Pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle, asked his parishioners to increase their relationship with CSSW by joining in efforts to serve the "least of us" in the community. Their response was remarkable!

Space in the weekly church bulletin allows CSSW the opportunity to educate parishioners about the life-changing services the Agency provides, recruit volunteers, and seek support to meet the needs of those we serve. In just a few months, the response from parishioners has been remarkable!

Here are just a few examples of ways they have supported CSSW and the community:

- Adults volunteered for the Volunteer Caregiver Respite program.
- A Young Adult Ministry transformed the home of a local senior through our Homes Services Program, and provided school supplies and snacks for children in Foster Care.
- The Knights of Columbus and parish leaders invited CSSW staff to the parish picnic, creating an opportunity for church members to learn more about CSSW.
- The Respect Life Ministry invited our Adoption Program staff to share information and current needs at a special adoption event.
- One family has regularly volunteered for years at the Food Pantry.

“...we are acutely aware that so many people in our community are struggling.”

The work of CSSW extends far beyond the walls of our building on Packard Street and our workforce includes far more people than those on our payroll. We appreciate the parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church for helping make our calling, their calling.

We are so grateful for their partnership and look forward to a year full of serving our community together.

Learn more about St. Thomas at www.sta2.org/church.

WITH CHANGE COMES OPPORTUNITY

BHS and Family and Children Programs Introduces New Leader

So much has changed since Liz Borener joined the staff of CSSW in 2021. As Senior Clinical Operations Director of Behavioral Health Services and Family and Children programs, Liz is retiring from her position on April 30th.

“Liz is an exceptional, visionary leader who cares deeply about our staff and the most vulnerable people in our community, and I am grateful for her years of insightful contributions in all areas within the agency. Liz brought over 40 years of expertise in Behavioral Health and Family and Children Services and has served as an impactful mentor and coach to so many of us” remarked Peg Bravo, CSSW President and CEO. “And, while Liz is retiring from her current role, she has graciously agreed to assist in the transition of our new Director of BHS and Family and Children programs.”

Welcome Rebecca Furr, DSW, LMSW, who joined the CSSW staff in early January. Rebecca has her Doctor of Social Work from the University of Southern California, a Master of Social Work from Temple University, and her Bachelor of Social Work from Elizabethtown College. Rebecca comes to CSSW with more than a decade of working across the healthcare continuum, providing direct care services to patients and families.

Rebecca has extensive training in psychotherapy, motivational interviewing, and trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, and has numerous years of experience counseling individuals and families experiencing loss and grief, trauma, and secondary trauma. She has a special interest in continuing to build CSSW’s programming to meet the needs of the population we serve.

Two years ago, Rebecca moved to Michigan from Ohio for a position in Ypsilanti, where she built upon her skills as both a social worker and a therapist. In Ohio, Rebecca worked in the specialty area of outpatient rehabilitation, focusing on clients who experienced spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. She also spent several years volunteering for the Arthritis Foundation.

“In just a short time, I’ve learned so much about CSSW and the people we serve. And I’ve learned about the important role our donors and volunteers play in meeting the needs of the community,” explained Rebecca. “Giving of their resources and time is so meaningful and necessary, and I look forward to meeting many of them in the coming months.”

Rebecca lives in Ypsilanti with her widowed mother and “demon” dog Zoe, a 10-year-old Labradoodle. In her spare time, she continues developing her photography skills, a passion she’s maintained since childhood.

“I am delighted to have Rebecca joining our team,” said Peg. “And I know that our BHS and Family and Children programs will continue to be in good hands.”

Welcome, Rebecca.



Rebecca Furr
*Director of BHS and
Family & Children Programs*

**THE MISSION OF
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY
IS THE WORK OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH;
TO SHARE THE LOVE AND PRESENCE OF CHRIST
IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH ACTS OF COMPASSION
AND MERCY IN A MANNER THAT RESPECTS THE
INHERENT DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON.**

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County
4925 Packard Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1521



US Postage
PAID
Non-profit Org.
Permit 218
Ann Arbor, MI

12 MONTHS OF GIVING

The generosity of our parishes isn't experienced only during the holidays. CSSW clients benefit throughout the year with contributions that include:

- Food and hygiene items for our Food Pantry including expensive and hard-to-get items such as cereal, protein drinks, toiletries, and toilet paper.
- Diapers, wipes, and formula for our Pregnancy Case Management program.
- Winter Coats for children in Foster Care and for the adults in the Offender Success program
- Backpacks and school supplies for children in Foster Care.
- And much more . . .

We are so grateful for the partnership we enjoy with parishes and community agencies and it is through their sacrifice that CSSW is able to serve more people in need.

AMAZON WISHLIST

Purchase items that will go directly to our clients. Just scan this QR code with your phone's camera, and start shopping!



DONATE

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to make a financial gift to CSSW. Thank you for your support!



Please contact us at (734) 971-9781 ext. 385 if you wish to have your name removed from our list used for fundraising purposes.