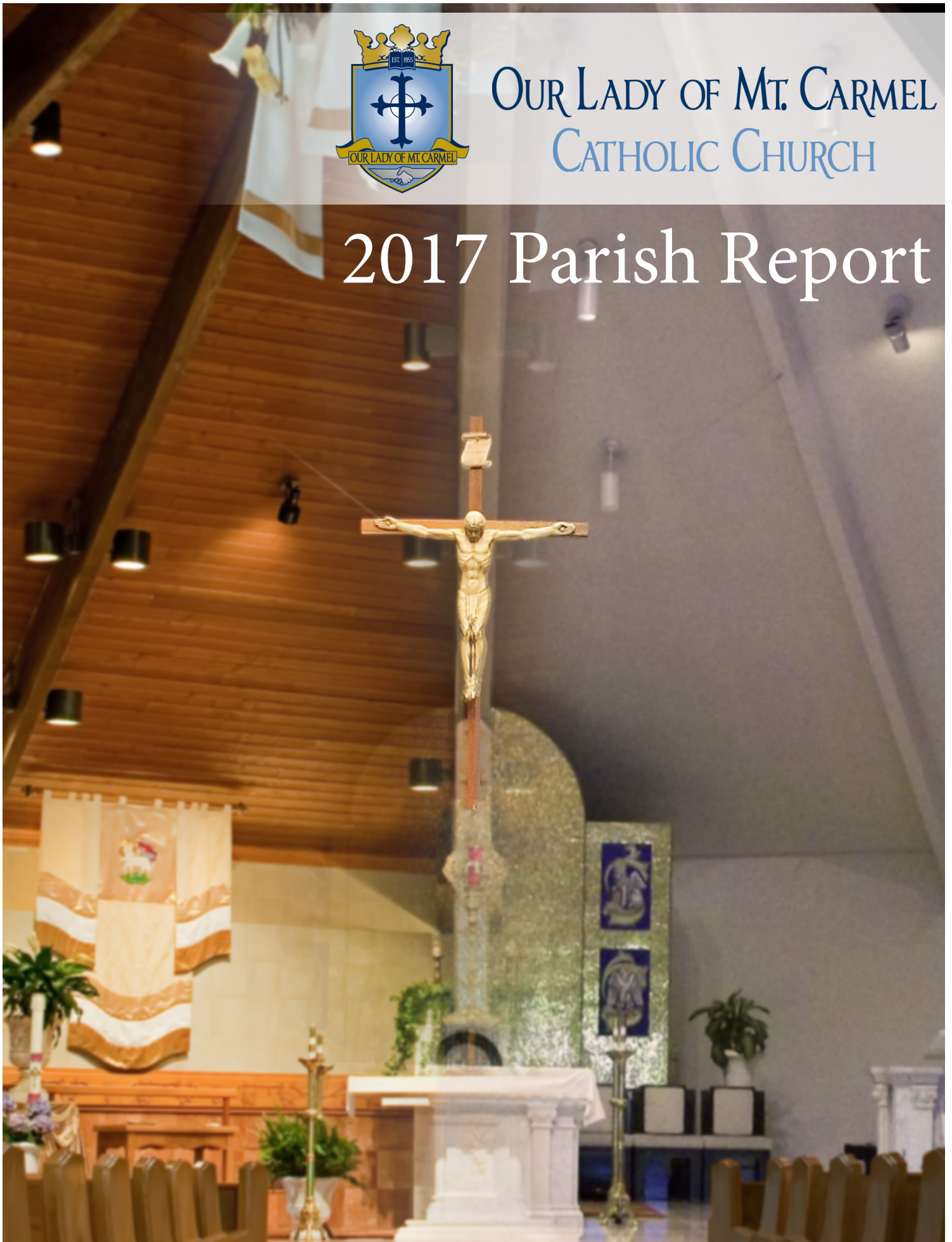




OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

2017 Parish Report





Parishioners | 14,000

Registered Families | 3,935

New Families | 183

Avg. Mass Attendance | 4,586

Hours of Confession | 500+

Hours of Adoration | 8,760

**Preparing for a
Religious Vocation | 8**

Baptisms | 226

Weddings | 26

Funerals | 30

Grateful no matter what.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

A Note from the Pastor

Jean-Marie Lustiger was the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris until 2005. Cardinal Lustiger was born and raised a Jew and was given the name Aaron at his birth. But in 1939 (when he was 10 years old!), he came across a Bible and was introduced to the story of Jesus. It filled him with curiosity about the once itinerant preacher from Nazareth.

During the war, Aaron's parents were forced to wear the yellow badge and eventually died in the Shoah, but Aaron and his sister were hidden away by Christians. Interestingly, the tipping point for Aaron's eventual conversion to Catholicism wasn't our beautiful doctrine and traditions. Rather, it was his experience of walking into a French cathedral and experiencing its beauty. He was mesmerized and soon was baptized when he was 13 years old.

Many years ago when our staff began praying about the 2017 renovation of our church, we became convinced that Christian art plays a key role in evangelization. As Fr. Robert Barron once said, "Once a person is hooked by the beauty found in a Church, people are often more receptive to the idea that such beauty is inextricably connected to a way of life." Put another way, the beauty found in Christian art often leads people to imitate Christ, which leads them to the truth of Christ.

I want to thank you for supporting our pursuit of beauty during our recent church renovation! Your trust has born much fruit and fills many with awe as they see our beautiful Stations of the Cross, our mosaics, our new altar and ambo, and the lighting that draws our attention to them.

I believe that the beauty of our newly renovated church inspires us to greater discipleship. It is truly beautiful to see so many catechists spread the Good News at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It is beautiful to hear coaches on our sports fields not only teach the fundamentals of sports, but also teaching others about Christ. It is beautiful to see so many serving Christ present in the poorest of the poor. It is beautiful to see so many serve at the Sacrifice of the Mass as cantors, lectors, and altar servers.

Your support of our various parish ministries is incredibly inspiring to so many. I pray prayers of gratitude for you each day. May God continue to bless our parish family!

-Fr. Richard



2017 began with a project that's been in the works for years, and for which many have waited with hope and anticipation: renovation of our sanctuary space, including some improvements in the nave. For some people, "Why?" is the first question, "Didn't we just do a major church renovation 15 years ago?" Yes, we did. But that renovation was focused on, to borrow and adapt a real estate phrase: space, space, and space. We added 300 seats to the church, expanded gathering space and overflow seating in the narthex, provided meeting rooms in the lower level, and added a sacristy and the holy prayer space of the Adoration Chapel. Space was our greatest need, and matters of beauty, for good or ill, took a back seat to that priority. Over the subsequent years, other priorities have continued to take precedence over beautifying the church space. Now, it was deemed to be time to return to the unfinished beautification of the worship space. Not in lieu of other works of the church, but rather to inspire us to live Christ's love more and more.

The sanctuary, in particular, had an "unfinished" feel to it after the 2002 project. For example, the back wall behind the altar was done in the same floor tile as is in the narthex and church, hardly setting it off as the "heaven on earth" that the sanctuary is supposed to represent. And the 1970s abstract stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross in our nave, while not badly done, didn't seem to achieve the goal of inspiring one to prayer and awe when entering the church, nor were they easy to interpret which one depicted what.

In the present project, the OLMC renovation committee knew it was important to embrace and accept the building we have. It isn't enough to just "put lots of nice stuff in." The renovation strived to draw our minds and hearts to God a little more vertically, while in no way losing that marvelous sense of community that is so important to us as Catholics. The goal of this 2017 renovation, then, is to provide a worship space that speaks of God's glory and inspires a person to a sense of holiness and reverence from the moment one walks in. Why? Ultimately, to lead to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. That relationship, then, leads to a greater commitment to Christian service, day in and day out.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Stained Glass

- 10 new stained glass windows replaced both the old stained glass and the six clear windows flanked the sanctuary. Each depicts a scene in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patroness.
- The former stained glass will be re-purposed, probably elsewhere on campus.

Stations of the Cross

- The minimalist stations were replaced with more representational ones that inspire prayer and reflection. We chose the Leonard Porter stations: colorful, perhaps a bit daring, and packed with rich symbolism. The original paintings won the 2011 Merit Design Award from the American Institute of Architects' Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture.

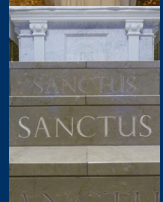
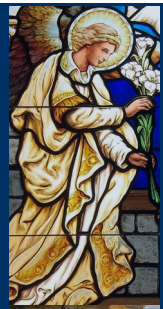
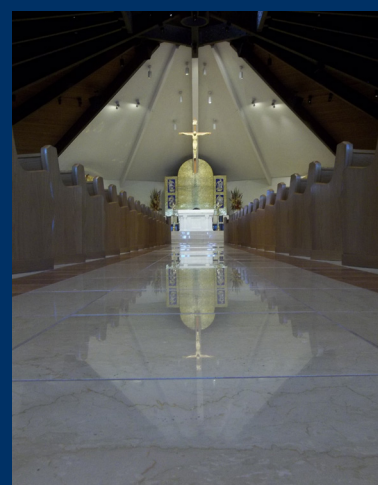
Sanctuary

- The sanctuary was reshaped to provide more space. The back wall of the sanctuary was repositioned and covered with a more noble material than the tile that covered it previously.
- Since the shape of the sanctuary changed, the flooring did, as well. The same marble flooring for the sanctuary extends down the center aisle all the way to the Baptismal font.
- The Tabernacle, Ambo, and presider's chair all shifted location to provide a more worthy place of reservation for the Blessed Sacrament and better liturgical function overall.
- The ceiling decking over the sanctuary was painted a lighter color than the rest of the nave to help set the sanctuary apart and raise the heart toward heaven.

Nave & Lighting

- Many parishioners and visitors commented that our nave was oppressively dark. This project added light, with the dark brick of the outer walls stained a lighter color.
- Light oak (matching the pews) wainscot now wraps the large structural beams in the nave.
- The past lighting was replaced by LED lighting that:
 - Conserves energy and is far more economical
 - Much more effectively and artistically lights the nave and sanctuary
 - Provides different lighting scenes for various liturgical functions

View the Reflecting Heaven: Notes on the OLMC Sanctuary Renovation articles at www.olmc1.org/2017-renovation



MINISTRIES

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel boasts almost 200 active ministries. Throughout the year, they help our parishioners grow in faith and bring their families, friends, and themselves closer to Christ.

CFF* Children | 542

CFF Catechists | 57

CFF Volunteers | 92

EDGE/DIVE | 138

Captured Retreat Attendees | 50

Antioch | 163

Frassati Members | 140

Bible Study | 397

Into the Deep | 450

Misc. Adult Faith Formation | 607

RCIC⁺ | 17

RCIT | 4

RCIA | 32

Child 1st Communions | 233

Confirmations | 184

EMHCs[‡] | 170

Readers | 60

Ushers | 40

Servers | 116

KOOL[§] Servers | 43

Musicians | 225

Sports Participants | 1,500

Coaches/Volunteers | 200

CYO Sports Offered | 11

*Children's Faith Formation

+Rite of Christian Initiation for Children/Teens/Adults

‡Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

§Knights of Our Lady (teen servers)

2017 Timeline

A Few Highlights

WINTER



Destination Jesus
518 high school students from around the diocese came to grow in faith and fellowship, primarily through Eucharistic Adoration



CommUNITY Care Day
Over 240 volunteers served the Anderson community by giving donations from our Angel Tree Tags.



Church Renovation
The bulk of our church renovation was completed around Easter

SPRING



Haiti Ministry
Through generous tithing, we helped complete a new chapel for our sister parish in Haiti, as well as a new roof for their church, which had been taken off by Hurricane Matthew

SUMMER



Vacation Bible School
VBS attendees learned that they are created by God, built for a purpose

FALL



Frassati Summerfest
Almost 100 young adults spent time away resting and growing in faith



Parish Office
We opened up our Parish Office space to create a more welcoming environment



Bible Study
2017 Fall Bible Study began a look into the Bible timeline



Bl. Stanley Rother Relic
We received a first class relic of the newly beatified martyr in time for All Saints Day



Thanksgiving Baskets
Hundreds helped put together and deliver food and items for the needy

WINTER



Captured Retreat
7th and 8th graders learned that they are captured by God's love



Sapphire & Gold Gala
OLMC's hidden treasures were celebrated at this first-time event fundraiser



Sacred Heart Statue
Our beloved Sacred Heart Statue was dedicated in its new center narthex location



Christmas
Fr. Aaron decorated our Parish Office for the season



Cassock Classic
This event drew a large crowd to see the priests play the seminarians in basketball

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

All numbers shown from July 2017 - June 2018 unless noted

Total Donations: January - December 2017				
Amount Donated	Number of Donors	Total Dollars Donated	Annual Avg Per Household	Weekly Avg Per Household
\$50,000 +	3	\$210,000	\$70,000	\$1346
\$15,000 - \$49,999	40	\$848,949	\$21,224	\$408
\$7,500 - \$14,999	114	\$1,137,996	\$9,982	\$192
\$3,000 - \$7,499	379	\$1,799,121	\$4,747	\$91
\$1,000 - \$2,999	717	\$1,252,570	\$1,747	\$34
\$1 - \$999	1381	\$453,147	\$328	\$6
\$0	1228	0	0	0
Totals	3862	\$5,750,783	\$1,489	\$28



It is through the generosity of parishioners that our parish is able to continue to grow in faith, community and service.

We ask that each parishioner prayerfully consider Proverbs 3:9-10: "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine."

Operating Revenues	
Contributions	\$5,784,213
OLMC School (book fees, registration fees, misc.)	\$308,221
Investment Income	\$257,577
Other	\$16,537
Total Operating Revenues	\$6,366,548

Program Costs (net of fees charged)		
Adult Faith Formation	\$114,558	1.8%
Antioch	\$107,039	1.7%
Children's Faith Formation	\$55,862	0.9%
EDGE	\$62,138	1.0%
Frassati	\$96,538	1.5%
Liturgy & Music	\$239,299	3.8%
OLMC School	\$3,256,957	51.1%
Sports	\$26,633	0.4%
Other Operating Costs	\$2,407,422	37.8%
Total Costs	\$6,366,445	100%





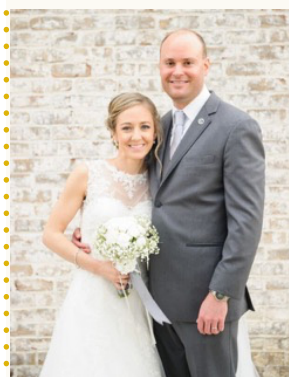
Expenses	
Salaries, Benefits, and Taxes	\$4,629,297
Repairs & Maintenance and Depreciation	\$774,818
General operating Expenses (utilities, supplies, insurance, etc)	\$559,324
Liturgy & Music (salaries and benefits not included)	\$63,287
Faith Formation (salaries and benefits not included)	\$6,343
Other Programs (salaries and benefits not included)	\$333,375
Total Operating Expenses	\$6,366,445
Net Revenues from Operations	\$104
Unrealized appreciation on investments	\$159,573

Other Financial Information	
Assets	
Cash and Investments	\$3,193,753
Building Fund	\$655,471
OLMC School Endowment	\$6,179,970
Buildings, Furniture and Equipment (net)	\$10,232,393
Liabilities	
Restricted Donations	\$451,377
Other Liabilities	\$2,354

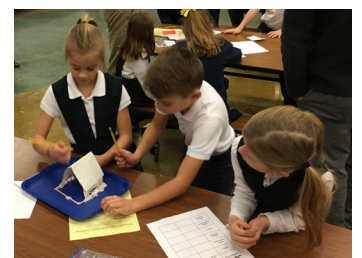
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is a large parish and can sometimes overwhelm new parishioners. That is why every other month we invite new parishioners to attend a Newcomers' Dinner at the rectory. Families are encouraged to bring their kids, and everyone enjoys the fellowship and meeting other new members of OLMC.

Our priests and staff encourage these newcomers to become involved in the parish, as meeting others in the OLMC community is often times how you make our church seem smaller. Dan and Lysaa Mette became parishioners in September 2017, and they certainly listened to their advice.

Very soon after Dan and Lysaa attended the Newcomers' Dinner, Dan became an usher. When asked why, he quickly said, "If Ed Wiseman using his walker can be an usher, I can certainly get my butt out of the pew and be one, too!" But the Mette's involvement at OLMC did not stop there. In less than a year's time, Dan and Lyssa have both gone through Christ Renews His Parish (now Welcome); are both scheduled for one hour each week in our Adoration Chapel; volunteer on the Merciful HELP Center Furniture Committee; and Dan is member of the Knights of Columbus.



"After we got married and moved to Westfield, we knew OLMC was rich with opportunities, so we jumped on board," said Dan. Although they are both hard working, you can find them at our parish making a home for themselves in their free time, while welcoming others to the large church and making it feel smaller for them, too.



Does God proclaim Himself in the wonders of creation? No. All things proclaim Him, all things speak. Their beauty is the voice by which they announce God, by which they sing, "It is you who made me beautiful, not me myself but you." - St. Augustine of Hippo

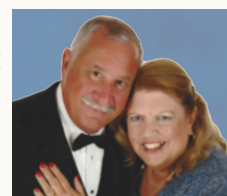


As Catholics, we all adore our Lord in a most intimate relationship as we receive His glorified body in Communion, but this encounter with Christ does not have to end after Mass. We know that his Real Presence - the body and blood, soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus, exposed in the Monstrance - is Jesus truly and substantially present. This means that you have personal audience with our Creator in adoration! Truly incredible, and frankly the greatest gift in the universe. So, I invite you to experience the joy of adoration by spending time with our Lord in our Adoration Chapel, where you enter into prayer, perhaps say the rosary, or read scripture. You may want to just sit quietly and 'look at him' as he 'looks at you', as Jesus is there truly present as he was 2000 years ago. What a unique, joyful, and personal way to connect with God!

I invite you to be in the company of Jesus in adoration in times of suffering, perhaps a dark time. Through Adoration, Jesus has carried me through everything life can throw at you...from the loss of one of our children, to a job loss, to diagnosis with pancreatic cancer. You may feel as though you have nowhere to go or no one to talk to – But you do! Go see him! He is right over there, in the Chapel, truly present waiting to see you! Tell him your sorrow, complain to him, ask him for help, but then – listen to him. In times of suffering, there is no better place than in the real presence of our Lord Jesus, who is the best counselor in the universe.

I invite you to come adore our Lord when things are going tremendously well for you! This is a perfect time to see him! Thank him for all your good fortunes, because you see, a relationship also includes giving thanks.

So, wherever you are in your journey, I can testify that your relationship with Jesus will deepen in a personal and unique way as you pray and share your life events with him, but more importantly as you spend time with Jesus in Adoration. May God bless you!



Bob & Brenda Berding



Merciful HELP Center *by the Numbers*

CommUNITY Care Day

**198 Families;
895 People**

Volunteer Hours

30,000+

Food Pantry

**9,127 Families;
25,872 People**

Tools for School

**786 Families;
3,736 People**

Thanksgiving Baskets

**465 Baskets;
1,298 People**

My daughters and I had been through quite an ordeal. When I called the Merciful HELP Center, we had been living in a domestic violence transitional living facility in Southern California for three months. Previous to that, we had stayed in the DV shelter for 45 days. Seeking safety, I made the decision to move my family back to the Midwest to escape from my ex who was still actively looking for me and was pending a criminal trial for the violations against me. I hesitated to move back to an area where I had very little to no support. I had to leave everything behind and we had to start completely over. Knowing this, Kiki's compassion and the warmth of her voice when I called helped us pave a path back to Indiana.

Upon our arrival, Jayne was at the office when I came in the Monday of the week we arrived. She assured me that we were in good hands and helped us get food, household items, and school supplies for my girls. The young men that helped me that day were wonderful; they were so sweet and understanding.

Then we started working with Tom and Jerry. What a wonderful pair of Godly men. Coordinating with Judy and her team was effortless. When the team arrived to deliver my furniture, they were also amazing. One by one the items came in to fill my home, and it took everything I had to hold back the tears of joy. Everything delivered was beyond expectation. We were just looking for the basics, and they delivered *our home*.

We are now settled and loving our new space with our new-to-us furniture. Most importantly, we are all safe and loved on by the MHC and the staff. We have truly been blessed by this ministry and cannot thank you all enough for the hard work and dedication you commit to the families in need. I cannot say enough that despite everything I have been through, not once did you ever make my girls and me feel "less than." You loved and cared for us as if we were part of your own family.

Your community has helped strengthen not only my faith, but my children's, as they were witness to your kindness. And now, we can move forward. We look forward to working with you in the future as we would like to give back to you, your team, and the community, and do for others as you have done for us. We love and appreciate everything you have done and cannot thank you enough.

- Patricia

**name changed for safety purposes*

