

Catholic Charities

Fall News 2022



Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

During November, we celebrate Family Stories Month. In this edition of the agency newsletter, we celebrate those we love. For my family, this season is a special opportunity to gather to share special memories and create new ones. My family enjoys learning about the stories of our ancestors. This type of storytelling provides an important function within the family, bringing the tales of our loved ones to life once again.

Children benefit from these stories as well as the day-to-day sharing of stories that help form a sense of belonging and self-esteem. Simply making it a habit to display interest in the well-being of your family members can lead to a willingness to share problems and build mutual respect between parents and children.

When we think about family, we cannot forget God, the Father. When we pray, we often share our own stories with Him, and that has its own benefits. Prayer helps us deal with stress and enables us to focus on shared beliefs and hopes for the future. Family prayers allow us to deal constructively with challenges in our relationships and lives.

The holiday season can be a stressful and difficult time to be alone. We know this because we consistently

see an increase in calls to hotlines for those seeking assistance in mental health counseling and other supportive services. Faith-based programs help fill some of these gaps with the outreach of meals, clothing and support groups. The need appears to be increasing at an overwhelming pace in many communities.

Proverbs 17:6 teaches us "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Our mission at Catholic Charities is to provide help, create hope and serve all who face adversity in our community. For nearly 50 years, we have been a beacon of hope in the stories of so many families in west central Indiana. Our services have helped many in our community to rewrite the course of their family history by finding a new path to success. We invite you to join us in celebrating the stories of some of these families throughout this newsletter.

God bless,

John C. Etling
Agency Director

Did you know?

Family Bonding

Did you know... Spending time partaking in everyday family leisure activities has been associated with greater emotional bonding within families. Simply making a habit of displaying interest in the well-being of your family members can lead to a willingness to share problems and build mutual respect between parents and children.

Academic Performance

Did you know... Children whose parents spend time with them and take an interest in their education tend to do better in school and complete higher levels of education than those whose parents spend their time at home pursuing their own hobbies. Providing essential guidance through studying and assisting with homework, as well as incorporating educational games, can give children a positive influence, lead to emotional well-being and help them strive for higher levels of educational success as they grow.

Communication Skills

Did you know... Children learn how to behave and communicate by watching their parents interact with each other and others. Spending a few minutes together once everyone is home for the day can help families listen to, trust and understand one another and build appropriate behaviors.

Risky Behavior

Did you know... On average, adolescents who communicate and spend more time with their families tend to exhibit lower aggression and antisocial behavior levels than peers with less involved parents. A closer family relationship has also been linked to reductions in acts of violence, delinquent behavior, substance abuse and tobacco use. Communication and spending time together can help relieve feelings of anxiety or anger and reduce urges to participate in risky behaviors.



Brionna's Story

Brionna is 17 years old and has been coming to Ryves Youth Center since she was 5. Brionna's family was chronically homeless. Her mother was a victim of domestic abuse and used drugs as a coping mechanism. Brionna and her younger sister bounced between living with their mother, father and aunts and uncles.

Brionna used to refer to Ryves Youth Center as her "compass."

Brionna is very intelligent and took an interest in the arts and creative writing. She was given a mentor that she respected through the Time for Me program. Although Brionna endured many hardships, she always kept a positive attitude. Brionna graduated high school in June of 2022 and was accepted to Ivy Tech. She is currently working and was offered a leadership position. We are proud of Brionna and her determination to change her life track.

To support youth like Brionna, scan the QR code.



Jerri – A Foodbank Partner's Story



On another buzzing September afternoon at Times of Refreshing International Ministries (Times of Refreshing), police directed four lines of cars ready to receive groceries. For Jerri Russel and her team of volunteers, the first and third Wednesday of every month are days reserved to distribute food to those who need it most through the Terre Haute food pantry.

"Since COVID, we have switched over to a drive-thru process, which the people love because they can stay in their car and we bring their groceries to them," said Russel, who runs the church's food pantry. Located in the heart of the city, Times of Refreshing sees a lot of clients on foot too. "They will bring a wagon or cart; any means they have to carry their food with them." The pantry was started in 2015 by Russel's late husband, who served as pastor. "We are carrying on his vision," Russel stated, "and under the leadership of our new pastor, we are continuing to feed the hungry."

The crew operates like a well-oiled machine as a volunteer at the front of the car line shouts a number for each household inside each vehicle. Russel and the rest of the team work swiftly as they serve each client. Once the last car pulls away, Russel and the volunteers count the households served that day, at times more than 300. "We never [run] out of food," she confirmed. "We are blessed to work with Catholic Charities Foodbank. They always make sure we have enough for the families we serve."

A Christmas (Store) Story

"My son and I are blessed because of Catholic Charities. It's just me and my 13-year-old autistic son, and you guys have helped us out since we moved here to Terre Haute in 2015. Catholic Charities provides warm meals and good food that I can cook for him. Thank you to everyone who puts work in; you are truly appreciated. We also shop at the Christmas Store. When I walk in, I feel truly cared for. When you don't have loved ones to receive any gifts from, it's so nice to have something for myself and for my son. God bless you all. Terre Haute is lucky to have you here in this community."

Christmas Store Wishlist

- Women's medium & large tops
- Boy 2t, 4t, & 6-8 underwear
- Teenage boy & girl items (shave kits, posters, sports balls, curling irons, headphones, cologne & perfume)

- Boys pants 18-20, 14-16, 6-8
- Men's pants in all sizes
- Men's shirts 2x & up
- Pajamas – all sizes
- Christmas items, used or new

Donations of new clothing, toys, household items and personal hygiene products are accepted year-round at the Christmas Store. To arrange a donation, please contact Danielle Elkins at (812) 232-1447, Opt. 1.

Catholic Charities

Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

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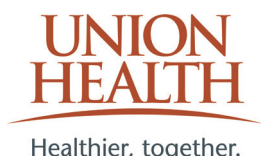


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Interested in volunteering?
Please email info@ccthin.org

This newsletter brought to you in part by:



If you are an IRA owner age 70 ½ or over and you want to support our work this year, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution to us from your IRA. The reason is simple yet important – a direct transfer to Catholic Charities from your IRA avoids income tax and counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) if one is due.

For those eligible, a QCD is a simple, tax-favored way to make an impact. Your account custodian can make the transfer – please contact Jennifer (Buell) Tames for additional information at jtames@ccthin.org or (812)232-1447, Option 3.