



Director's Letter

Dear Friends

For a considerable time, I've resisted attributing occurrences to mere chance or luck. I firmly hold the belief that events unfold with purpose. As the Christmas season comes to an end, it's especially important to reflect on the signs and traditions that marked one of the most joyous occasions in our faith – the birth of Jesus.

It's easy to be diverted by the multitude of stories and distractions passed down through generations. The reality, however, is the truth is found in the story of God sending His son to Earth in disguise as a vulnerable child entrusted to two unlikely individuals for upbringing and protection. They were to love Him deeply and, ultimately, release Him to witness His sacrificial death on the cross.

This truly encapsulates the meaning of the Christmas season!

During our journey throughout life, His story becomes our story. We meet so many people that remind us of who we are and what is expected of us. As children and followers of Christ, we are meant to share the good news, care for the sick, pray for healing, and offer forgiveness.

This is what we do every day at Catholic Charities, and we invite you to join us.

Within this newsletter, you'll discover firsthand stories of how our staff, volunteers, and neighbors are transforming life's challenges into positive outcomes. Our neighbors are facing personal challenges and overcoming them, addressing their vulnerabilities while discovering the resilience to heal. In this process, they not only forgive others but also themselves. Forgiveness doesn't necessarily mean forgetting; sometimes, it involves remembering where and what you no longer want to be.

We are grateful for you and your contribution to making a positive impact in our community. Please continue reading to see how your support is yielding meaningful results in the lives of those we serve.

May your new year be filled with joy, love, and good health.

John C. Etling
Agency Director
Catholic Charities Terre Haute

A Season of Giving: Nourished Hearts and Homes in Terre Haute



On November 18th, our team distributed nearly 500 frozen turkeys and Thanksgiving feast essentials at the Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank Monthly Bread and Produce Market. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated volunteers who braved the cold, ensuring families in need had a warm meal. The generosity of Terre Haute South Key Club, Elanco Animal Health, Downtown Terre Haute Rotary, and Friends of Catholic Charities made this event possible. Special appreciation to our sponsors, Downtown Terre Haute Rotary, Elanco Animal Health, and Bill & Sally Stewart.

The charitable spirit continued on December 16th when 321 households received hams and other holiday essentials to prepare a heartwarming Christmas feast. Thanks to the support of Bill & Sally Stewart for providing 300 hams for the twelfth year of this annual tradition. Together, we nourished bodies and touched hearts, embodying the true spirit of the holiday.

"I was assisted by the Thanksgiving and the Christmas food [distributions], and it's made a big difference for my family. The kindness that all the people there giving it to us and being able to cook a holiday meal that we couldn't afford to do otherwise – it just means a lot. I just wanted to say thank you and it makes our lives a lot more steady – knowing that we have something versus being without. We can be at peace. Thank you

Unwrapping the Magic of Christmas Shopping

This year, the Catholic Charities Christmas Store brought joy to more than 500 families, providing gifts that lit up homes during the holiday season. Thanks to the support of local businesses and churches, the store overflowed with toys, bikes, clothes, hygiene products and household goods. For some, it was a supplement to their celebrations, and for others, the sole source of Christmas cheer. The annual coat drive, Coats for Kids, & Adults Too!, sponsored by Midwest Communications and supported by the Knights of Columbus contributed 854 coats, ensuring warmth for the winter. A big thank you to the staff and volunteers who brought soup and cookies to keep our helpers energized! The Christmas Store isn't just a place for gifts; it is a community housing love and generosity.



"Without the Christmas Store, we wouldn't have anything under our tree. That program has been a part of our lives for the last 6 or 7 years that we lived here in Terre Haute, and it's meant the world to us." -from Christmas Store Shopper

Triumph of Hope Over Hardship

While residing at Bethany House, Rachel* acquired a job with AARP which provided her with income and increased her skills. Eventually, Bethany House staff facilitated her transition into public housing at Warren Village, providing her with not just a roof over her head but also the essential furnishings to make her new apartment feel like home.

Together, we are not just providing housing; we are transforming lives, instilling hope, and paving the way for brighter futures.

Celebrating Years of Dedication

We proudly recognize and celebrate the dedication of our employees, Jessica Murphy and Rachel (Tetidrick) Vanatti mark 5 years, and Danielle Elkins achieves a commendable 10 years with Catholic Charities. Their experience and commitment have been instrumental in shaping the success and culture of our workplace. We extend our gratitude for their hard work and look forward to many more years of shared success!

Cheers to Rachel Tetidrick and Curtis Vanatti on their beautiful union! May your journey together be filled with love, joy, and countless memorable moments. Wishing you a lifetime of happiness and bliss as you start this wonderful chapter of life together. Congratulations on your marriage!



Nurturing Growth and Potential at Ryves Youth Center

Presidents' Day is just around the corner. Last year to celebrate, a local orthopedic surgeon organized a Presidents' Day event for mentors and their mentees and all youth at Ryves Youth Center. The event included a unique appearance by a special guest dressed as Benjamin Franklin. The gathering engaged in trivia, challenging the youth to identify presidents depicted on different dollar bills. Additionally, the event encouraged open discussions about each president, prompting the youth to share their knowledge. The participants were also asked to name facts about the Statehood Quarters Series from the US Mint.



Creating gratitude dice, crafting sparkling hair, and exploring positive aspects about themselves and others are among the engaging projects undertaken by the Girls Club at Ryves Youth Center, with a special emphasis on fostering self-esteem, social, and emotional growth.

*Name changed for privacy



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Cheers for Charity

Catholic Charities hosted their third annual Cheers for Charity fundraiser on November 18th at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Guests enjoyed delightful wine and bourbon tastings with hand-selected appetizers, followed by a delectable dessert and drink pairing. The evening also included a silent auction, live music by the Tommy Kelly Band, and fun activities like a wine and bourbon basket raffle and photo booth. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors – especially Ross Elliott Jewelers and Kroger – and volunteers, Cheers for Charity was a resounding success.



Upcoming Events

Soup Bowl Benefit

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 3 | Maryland Community Church

\$30 Ticket: One handcrafted bowl and soup sample from local restaurants and chefs.

Proceeds will benefit Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank.

Click here to purchase Tickets: https://secure.qgiv.com/for/24_01soupbowlbenefit



www.ccthin.org



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