



Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

TERRE HAUTE

**"To everything there is a season, and a time
to every purpose under the heaven."**

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Fall News 2023

Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

Here in the Midwest this time of year is typically filled with memories of abundant harvest, fall leaves turning majestic colors and the approaching cold winter months that are sure to come. One season leads to the next and because of our learned experiences, we take time to properly prepare for what the next season has in store for us.

Today, we are facing challenges that greatly concern us and cause us to question how we will navigate these difficult times. Inflation, rising interest rates, medical costs, affordable child and senior care are just some of the things that are causing a tremendous strain on household budgets. Our case managers at Bethany House work with families that have to make the tough choice of paying utilities or paying for groceries. That's where we can make an impact.

Food is our most flexible expense in the household budget. The simple act of providing food to a household also assists with expenses like rent, utilities, and more. There is an interconnectedness of food insecurity with other financial challenges and addressing hunger alone won't solve the problem of poverty until all other financial needs are met.

Inside this newsletter you will read about how staff, through our programs, have partnered with our neighbors in a collaborative way to create something that wasn't there before. Acquiring

knowledge and engaging in educational pursuits through Ryves Youth Center programs helps children build confidence in their readiness for success. Many youngsters in this group come from families residing at Bethany House. When they arrive at Ryves, our staff not only provide them with food but also expose them to educational experiences that encourage them to envision a brighter future. Almost nothing will give you more satisfaction than to see a hungry child enjoying a meal that you helped provide. This sentiment is multiplied when we observe that a single meal can enhance a child's ability to concentrate on homework or make progress in the Champions Reading program. However, the true sense of appreciation emerges when a child shares their report card, reflecting their dedication and the desire for validation from those who genuinely wish to see them fulfil their goals.

This is the type of harvest in which we can all participate and support.

God bless,

John C. Etling
Agency Director
Catholic Charities Terre Haute

A Journey of Transformation Through “TIME for Me” Mentorship



This special mentee and mentor relationship began in 2021 at Ryves Youth Center. This is the journey of a shy and reserved teenager whose life took a remarkable turn, all thanks to the guidance of an exceptional mentor.

The mentee had a strong desire to connect with peers at the Youth Center. Armed with action figures and board games, he hoped to make friends. His usual sedentary nature and distinct preferences often made it difficult for him to become part of the Center's lively activities. His mentor, a retired professor, helped to transform his social life, making him popular among other youth. This newfound attention empowered him to choose his companions and manage his time.

Despite challenges that arose at home, the mentor remained supportive, and the teen's confidence grew. When the mentee began prioritizing peer interactions over mentoring sessions, his mentor allowed him space for exploration while he continued to remain present and available. Eventually, the teen reengaged with his mentor, resulting in a remarkable transformation.

Now, the once-shy teen exudes confidence and has excelled academically and socially. This journey showcases the impact of mentorship, inspiring others at Ryves Youth Center. It highlights the potential for extraordinary change within every mentoring relationship, emphasizing the importance of compassion and connection.

TIME for Me, or Trauma-Informed Mentoring for Excellence, is a program at Ryves Youth Center that matches girls and boys ages 9-17 with approved Catholic Charities' volunteer mentors. This program fosters one-on-one relationships on-site for one hour a week for 12 months using evidenced-based practices.

Juhi Beri, Mentoring Coordinator, writes "It takes one individual to help transform a child's life. Mentoring works! It helps to improve communication within the home, school and with friends. Children have a better chance of pursuing and succeeding in higher level education. For each mentee the successes are relative. Sometimes it truly is over time that the successes are best measured."

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, contact: Juhi Beri, Mentoring Coordinator at jberi@ccthin.org



Summer Sidewalk Extravaganza



When school started in August 2022, Danielle Elkins, Program Director, received many phone calls from families requesting clothes for Back to School from the Clothing Closet. The need could not be met. This year, volunteers planned ahead! For months, new summer and fall clothes was set aside in a variety of sizes, for school-aged children to choose from.

On July 18, 2023, 530 individuals received more than 1600 outfits to get them ready for the new school year.

From Beneficiary to Benefactor

Pamela's life has been intertwined with Catholic Charities, and her journey reflects the transformative power of support and opportunity.

As a young girl, Pamela found solace and growth at Ryves Youth Center, an oasis of resources, mentors, and engagement. The Center provided her with more than just hot meals and resources; it granted her with a sense of belonging and the tools to flourish. From partaking in basketball leagues and chess games to studying, reading, and even exploring the world of computers, Pamela's memories of Ryves Youth Center are filled with moments of empowerment and enrichment.

One memorable moment in Pamela's journey is the Bonus Points Store. This initiative rewards youth for their contributions to the Center's programs. Pamela states "it taught me servant leadership, while servants were leading me." Another memory Pamela shares involves the Christmas Store, allowing her to handpick gifts for her loved ones during the holiday season and experience the joy of giving.

Now an accomplished adult, Pamela recognizes the debt of gratitude she owes to Catholic Charities. She has continued to bring her own children to the Center to volunteer and be involved in the various activities and programs. Her dedication is showcased through her extensive involvement and achievements, including serving as chair of a Catholic Charities committee, the Ryves Community Optimist Club, keynote speaking, tech support, event hosting, program design, grant writing, and active participation in community events like Ryves Family Night and the Christmas Party.

Pamela's story serves as an inspiring reminder that the impact of one's generosity ripples through time, making a lasting difference in the lives of countless others.

Success Stories at Bethany House: Transforming Lives with Your Support

Abby*, a resident at Bethany House, found hope and stability through case management and staff support. Despite challenges, she secured a job at a local gas station. With determination and guidance from Bethany House staff, she will soon be moving into her very own home. Abby has been saving diligently, has learned how to remain calm in the face of adversity and has grown her self-confidence.

This story is just one illustration of impact through your support. Together, we are making a difference in our community, one life at a time.

Preparing for the Christmas Store Shopping Experience

Last year we helped, 457 households (1,634 individuals) experience the magic of Christmas. Our faithful volunteers are hard at work preparing for this year's event, would you like to help? Donate items from the list below:

- Boys and girls underwear 2T-4T
- Boys pants size 5-8
- Boys and girls small socks
- Mens small and medium underwear
- Games
- All types of toys

Let's help make this a truly special Christmas for our neighbors!



Scan the QR code to donate.

50
YEARS

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Upcoming Events

Cheers for Charity

Saturday, November 18, 2023 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

7:00pm - 10:00pm

VIP 6:00pm-7:00pm

21 & older event

VIP ticket holders will be treated to a special cocktail hour beginning at 6pm with exclusive tastings!

General Tickets \$50 VIP tickets \$75

Sample four hand-selected tastings, each paired with a custom appetizer & one delectable dessert pairing. Cash bar, photo booth, live music and more!

To purchase tickets, please scan the code, visit ccthin.org or call (812)232-1447



www.ccthin.org



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