## COMMUNITY REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2020 CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ST. LOUIS



Catholic Charities

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT LOUIS

### A MESSAGE FROM THERESA E. RUZICKA

#### President

When reflecting on Fiscal Year 2020, it can be difficult to recall anything prior to COVID-19. Since March, much of our time and other resources have certainly been focused on caring for people struggling from hardship directly related to the pandemic.

While the pandemic increased the depth and breadth of need, and in many cases how we minister to people, our mission – to serve people in need, work to improve social conditions, and call others to these works – stayed the same.

The year 2020 may forever be remembered for COVID-19, hurricanes and wildfires, and political, racial and social unrest that often turned violent. But I hope you will also look back on it as a time when people came together and when Catholic Charities of St. Louis remained a beacon of hope, as it has for more than 100 years, thanks in large part to generous, faithful supporters like you. Both before and during the pandemic:

- Children were connected to loving foster and forever families.
- Senior adults were nurtured, cared for, and reminded that they matter.
- Pregnant women in crisis, including those struggling to overcome substance use disorders, were welcomed and provided resources.
- Women and children fleeing domestic abuse were sheltered, protected, and empowered.

- Families new to our country were embraced and supported in their vulnerability.
- Children scarred from trauma were comforted with counseling, care, and acceptance.
- People experiencing homelessness received compassion, guidance, and housing support.

We also welcomed two new leaders in Fiscal 2020: Saint Martha's Hall Executive Director Jessica Woolbright and St. Patrick Center CEO Anthony D'Agostino. They are wonderful additions to our federation family, who bring great passion and expertise to their roles.

I hope the people and stories in this report inspire you as much as they inspire me. I hope they give you a sense of how important and effective your support has been. Know that you are in my prayers and that I am so grateful that you have responded generously to Jesus' call to care for our neighbors. Together we are building a stronger community, one unique child of God at a time.

With sincere gratitude,

Theresa E. Ruzicka

Theresa E. Ruzicka, CPA
President, Catholic Charities of St. Louis



# EIGHT ORGANIZATIONS. ONE CAUSE. A STRONGER COMMUNIT

In response to the teachings of Jesus Christ, our mission is to serve people in need, especially those who are poor and vulnerable; work to improve social conditions for all people in the community; and to call members of the Church and community to do the same.

CARDINAL RITTER SENIOR SERVICES
GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES
MARYGROVE
QUEEN OF PEACE CENTER
SAINT LOUIS COUNSELING
SAINT MARTHA'S HALL
ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES
ST. PATRICK CENTER

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



### A MESSAGE FROM JAY HOLLAND Board President

Dear Valued Friends and Benefactors,

For the last nine years I have proudly served on the Board of Catholic Charities of St. Louis, the last two years as Board Chair. I have been immeasurably blessed to have served with talented, dedicated Catholics who have lived the Gospel and given their efforts in stewarding the organization to best serve those in need. In keeping with term limits, it is time for me to leave the Board. I am pleased to announce that Ed Puzella will be the new Board Chair. Ed is a man of great character and faith dedicated to the mission and eminently qualified to lead the Board with excellence going forward.

Catholic Charities achieved much in Fiscal Year 2020 thanks to your financial support. While successes were many, the challenges caused by the pandemic were unprecedented. Our mission to assist those most in need and work to break the cycle of poverty, despair and hopelessness continues apace. Catholic Charities serves as a refuge and is often the last resort for abused, neglected and marginalized members of society. We are driven by the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

The greatest satisfaction of being involved in Catholic Charities at any level is seeing the immense joy of former clients who had overcome the toughest of circumstances to lead safe, independent and productive lives. This work and successes could not be achieved without you, our valued friends and benefactors! On behalf of the Board and Staff at Catholic Charities, our volunteers and, most importantly, the clients we serve, we humbly and appreciatively say "Thank You" for your prayers and financial assistance! You are an integral part of our team and mission! With your help we continue to make a difference by changing lives and building a stronger community. Be an ambassador, and please share our story and the mission of Catholic Charities of St. Louis! May God abundantly bless you and your families!

Sincerely yours,

Joseph F. Holland, II Board Chair

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

### AN IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Thanks to you, Catholic Charities of St. Louis is one of the largest social services providers in the metro area and in Missouri, providing help and hope to those who are most vulnerable and in need. 107,119
people benefitted from Catholic Charities
Federation services.

Catholic Charities of St. Louis has been helping people in need since 1912. Organized today as a federation of eight agencies, we serve the 11 counties within the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Together we are working to build stronger communities, one person at a time.

This federation impact snapshot, though by no means meant to reflect every service we provide, illustrates our two-pronged approach to care: first providing for urgent basic needs and then addressing longer-term barriers to economic independence.

**52.8**%

of people we served lived below the federal poverty line (\$25,750 for a family of four). 16,287

children were served directly through foster care, residential placements, counseling, after-school programs, and other services.

770

clients were assisted with employment services including job preparation, job search, job training. 4,391

older adults were housed, fed, counseled, or received some other services. 1,162

veterans received legal counseling, housing, and other supportive services.

21,938

individuals received interpretation or translation services.

127,651

meals were served to people who are poor and hungry. 5,611

volunteers shared their time and talent.

94.2%

of clients reported satisfaction with services received.

Impact figures are measured by calendar year. The above reflect the last calendar year figures available, 2019.

## COMING TOGETHER TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19

The arrival of COVID-19 presented a complex set of challenges to social services providers. It required, and continues to require, continual monitoring of health officials' recommendations to protect the people in our care and in the community at large. With caution and creativity, we have adapted how – and sometimes where – we provide our services, always with the goal of maximizing our ability to minister to those who need us.

We echo now-retired Archbishop of St. Louis Robert Carlson's message to the faithful during the early weeks of the pandemic: "In this time of uncertainty, God has given us an opportunity to come together and show the strength of our community – and as Catholics, to deliver a message of hope, courage and faith."

Here is a glimpse of Catholic Charities of St. Louis' early COVID-19 response activity (March through June, 2020). But the work of providing pandemic-related aid continues and will likely continue well into the future.

### LARGE FOOD DONATION ARRIVES FOR FOUR CATHOLIC CHARITIES AGENCIES

On April 22, a refrigerated truck filled with more than a ton of donated fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products, and other food essentials arrived at Marygrove in Florissant, one of four Catholic Charities agencies that benefited from the large donation. Representatives from Good Shepherd Children & Family Services, Queen of Peace Center, and St. Patrick Center were on hand at Marygrove to receive portions of the donated items.

The large donation was organized by top chef and restaurant consultant Rex Hale in cooperation with STL Foodworks; Jack Whisnant of Rain Crow Ranch in Doniphan, Mo. and Lanter Distributing.

The food was used to prepare meals for residential clients at the four recipient agencies, as well as walk-in clients at St. Patrick Center.

### DRIVE-UP FOOD & SUPPLY EVENT SERVES 450-PLUS FAMILIES

On May 16, more than 450 families were served at the first of two food and supply distribution events held at the Catholic Charities Central Office, 4445 Lindell Blvd.

Catholic Charities provided nearly \$13,000 in gift cards and 500 bags of household cleaning, personal care, and personal protection items. Sysco St. Louis contributed fresh produce, dairy, cheese and juice. Operation Food Search provided meat, cheese, sandwiches and cleaning supplies. Representatives from the Gateway Grizzlies professional baseball organization also stopped by to drop off food.

About 40 volunteers from Catholic Charities, Operation Food Search, and the National Guard helped make the day run smoothly, as did members of the St. Louis Police Department who assisted with traffic control. Catholic Charities volunteers included employees and their families, donors, board members, and members of the Catholic Charities Young Professionals group.

According to Kristen Wild, Executive Director at Operation Food Search, the rate of food insecurity in Missouri was 14 percent just before the pandemic; at the time of the distribution event the rate had risen to 41 percent.



Chef Rex Hale and Catholic Charities of St. Louis President Theresa Ruzicka load donations at STL Foodworks in the heart of the Central West End.





#### **Look for the Helpers**

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" – Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers

Every day our eight agencies provide help and hope for people in need. While the COVID-19 virus continues to present personal and professional challenges, we are all working hard to minister to the growing number of people who need us. Here are photos showing just a few of our 1,500-plus employees rising to the challenge of caring for others, making them feel less alone, during this time of social distancing.



Mobile Outreach Worker Tiarra Young (left), Client Services Monitor Christopher Briggs (right) and other St. Patrick Center team members follow COVID-19 protocols while distributing sack lunches to community members in need.



St. Francis Community Services Bilingual Therapist Martha Piñones checks in with clients via teleconferencing and phone while sheltering in place.

(Left) Event & Communication Manager Kate Fletcher, Chief Program Officer Clara Stevenson, and Administrative Manager Elizabeth Moore demonstrate social distancing at Queen of Peace Center.



Property Supervisor Billy Lowry places signs of encouragement on Cardinal Ritter Senior Services' main campus.



### CALL CENTER OFFERS PANDEMIC-RELATED FINANCIAL RELIEF

On May 4, Catholic Charities of St. Louis launched a dedicated Call Center to address the growing number of requests for COVID-19 related assistance.

Call Center representatives process incoming calls to the Catholic Charities Central Office from people seeking assistance for hardships attributable to the pandemic crisis. Additionally, City , County, and United Way callers seeking COVID-19 related assistance – including rent, mortgage, utilities and other direct aid – may also be referred to the Catholic Charities Call Center.

At the end of fiscal year 2020, Call Center representatives were processing 75-plus referrals per day and in just two months had already distributed \$239,000 in aid.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ST. LOUIS RECEIVES, DISTRIBUTES 2,000 MASKS

Representatives from Catholic Charities visited the St. Louis County
Department of Public Health's John C. Murphy Health Center on Friday, June
5, to pick up 200,000 3-ply disposable masks purchased by the Public Health
Department with Federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
Security) Act funding.

The masks were quickly delivered to all eight Catholic Charities federated agencies as well as to Archdiocese offices at the Rigali Center; Regina Cleri residence for retired priests; the Catholic Charities Central Office; and Operation Food Search.

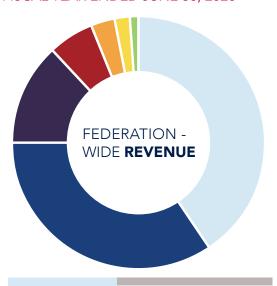




Community Report

### FEDERATION-WIDE REVENUES & EXPENSES

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020



41% GOVERNMENT

35% PROGRAM SERVICE FEES & PRIVATE CONTRACTS

13% CONTRIBUTIONS AND BEQUESTS

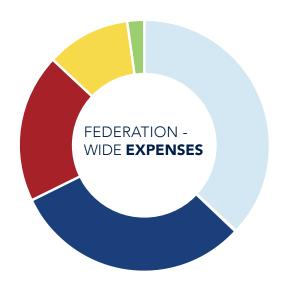
6% RELEASES FROM TEMP. RESTRICTED

3% UNITED WAY

2% ACA

<1% REAL ESTATE AND OTHER

TOTAL: \$92,975,599 A YEAR EARLIER: \$103,910,879



37% FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

31% SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS

19% CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

11% MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL

2% FUNDRAISING

TOTAL: \$98,604,639 A YEAR EARLIER: \$93,981,723

Net assets of our federation totaled \$37,091,120 at June 30, 2020, compared to \$42,124,787 a year earlier.

Operating expenses increased 5% from year prior, primarily due to additional costs associated with COVID-19, including staff and overtime at residential facilities, PPE, and cleaning/disinfectant products.

Management and Fundraising costs were 11% and 2% respectively, of total expenses, from 9% and 2%, respectively in the preceding year.

The remaining 87% of expenses were dedicated to programs that improve the quality of life of our community. The split among family and community (37%), senior adults (31%) and children (19%) is almost unchanged from the preceding year (37%, 33%, and 19%, respectively).

Unrestricted contributions and bequests increased 2%. Releases of restricted contributions decreased 14%. Fees from program services and private contracts decreased by 1%.

A revenue decrease of 10% was primarily due to a significant net gain realized in preceding year on real estate sales.



### PATHWAYS UPDATE

Pathways to Progress is a holistic, evidence-based poverty-ending program that seeks to strengthen communities, one family at a time. It is a collaboration between Catholic Charities of St. Louis and St. Francis Community Services, a Catholic Charities agency that provides the program's highly individualized case management and legal services.

Pathways to Progress members determine their own paths to economic stability, knowing their advisors will accompany them on the journey. The journey includes long-term, intensive support through direct connection to Catholic Charities agencies and other community resources. Focus areas may include employment training and retention; financial literacy; life skills; health/mental health; and legal assistance.

Pathways Member JT, for example, is now working fulltime at Amazon, earning

\$15 per hour, and double for overtime. After a year of having to move her family from one temporary place to another, she was able to rent a house. With help from her Member Advisor, JT connected with community resources to help secure furniture and other basic items to help make the house their home.

Pathways serves families residing in North St. Louis County who have annual household incomes at or below 130 percent of U.S. poverty guidelines and are facing numerous barriers to attaining economic stability. Plans are underway to expand the program to North City in fiscal

As of fiscal year-end 2020, more than 100 households have participated in Pathways to Progress. Currently, there are 60 active member families, including 165 children.

#### Congratulations, **Pathways to Progress Graduates!**

On Sept. 17, 2019, family, friends, staff members, and community partners gathered at the Savoy Banquet Center in Florissant to celebrate nine Pathways to Progress members, the program's inaugural graduating class. Several graduates were among Pathway's first members when the initiative launched in 2016.

Graduate Tyra praised Pathways to Progress for teaching her to be accountable. She credits her Member Advisor with helping her acquire life skills she uses daily to stay on a good financial path. She has altered her spending habits, purchased her first car, and is building assets.

"When you accomplish something you set out to do, it feels amazing," said Tyra.

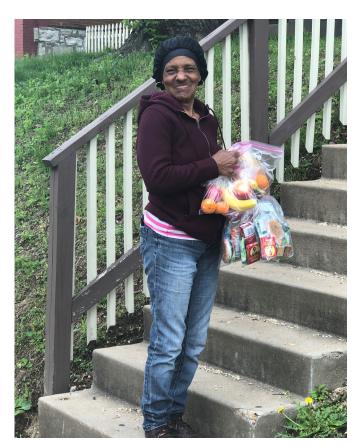
Congratulations to all nine graduates - Tyra, Rosetta, Lynnette, Kathy, Loddie, Thomas, Bridget, Jacquline, and Nicole – and their families.

The next Pathways graduating class will be celebrated after health officials' advise it is safe again to hold large gatherings.

"When you accomplish something you set out to do, it feels amazing."

- Tyra, Pathways to **Progress Graduate** 

### **OUR AGENCIES**



### CARDINAL RITTER SENIOR SERVICES

Cardinal Ritter Senior Services (CRSS) provides compassionate care for senior adults through a continuum of high quality residential, healthcare and supportive social services. In Calendar Year 2019, nearly 7,000 people benefited from CRSS programs. Of the 2,500 people directly in the agency's care,72% live without adequate means.

Senior Adults who age in place without adequate means are among the most vulnerable and underserved people in our community. With the added challenges associated with the pandemic, they are at increased risk of illness, isolation and depression. The CRSS Social Services Department provides seniors with access to extensive support services, information, and referrals. During the first four months of the COVID-19 crisis, Social Services helped 70 seniors gain access to emergency resources to help with utilities and other bills, medical supplies, and personal care products. They also provided counseling, assistance with applications for aid, stress relief activities, food, cleaning products, and other necessities.

In 2019, 527 volunteers donated approximately 14,544 service hours to CRSS. This included support from approximately 51 school, church, corporation, and leadership council groups.



### Be ready to grow for the better in all areas and have a sense of humor during the difficult times. It's hard work but so worth it.

- Jake & Desirae's advice to future foster families

### GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Good Shepherd connects children with families and keeps families connected by providing the highest quality maternity shelter, crisis pregnancy, adoption, and foster care and treatment foster care services. In fiscal year 2020, the agency served 148 children with foster care related services, 58 families with adoption services and 300 Pregnancy & Parenting Support clients.

#### **A Foster Family Story**

A Foster Family Story: Jake and Desirae were parenting their almost two-year old daughter when they also began caring for a boy almost their daughter's age while his mother, a friend of a friend, worked to stabilize her life. The couple had no experience caring for a child going through the trauma of separation or working with a biological parent. But with time and patience, they formed a strong bond with the little boy and his biological family, to whom after 15 months he was able to return. After the experience, Jake and Desirae went through training and became licensed foster parents. They have since had another child of their own and fostered two siblings.

Jake and Desirae believe in the power of prayer and have strong support from their church family. Their advice for aspiring foster parents? Have a sense of humor, be ready to grow for the better, remember it's not about you, and know that it is hard work but worth it.

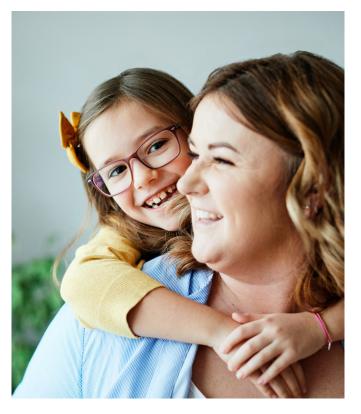
#### **SAINT MARTHA'S HALL**

Saint Martha's Hall offers emergency, confidential shelter and support services to women who are victims of domestic violence and their children. In calendar year 2019, the agency provided shelter for 126 women and 152 children who were forced to flee their homes to escape abuse; offered support and information to more than 2,200 hotline callers; and provided follow-up services to 47 women.

A Life Story Changed: Like many women who experience domestic abuse, \*Molly said the fun, playful man she fell in love with changed soon after they were married. He prohibited her from continuing her education or leaving the house without permission. He dictated who she could see and where she could work. Although he did not work, he spent freely on himself while denying Molly's requests to purchase even basics for herself and their children.

Molly spent two years battling cancer while with her abuser, who called her names, threatened her with a gun, and forced her to walk miles to work and cancer treatments. But she was determined to overcome, to beat cancer, break free from abuse, and provide a better life for the children.

Molly found her way to Saint Martha's Hall and flourished during her stay. She was able to earn money without the fear of it being taken away; access family-centered counseling; return to school; and receive the support she needed to move into a safe new home. Today, Molly is cancer free, violence free, and enjoying this bright new chapter with her children!



\*Named changed and stock photo to protect privacy.

### **SAINT LOUIS COUNSELING**

Saint Louis Counseling serves individuals and families of all backgrounds through professional counseling, school-based services, training, and psychiatry services throughout the 11 counties of the Archdiocese.

Just as Saint Louis Counseling was launching its new School Partnership Program (SPP) Teletherapy service for a local school district, daily life in St. Louis City and County came to a screeching halt. The COVID-19 quarantine forced the agency to close its doors, catapulting it from an all in-person counseling agency to an entirely remote form of counseling in just a matter of days. Teletherapy quickly became the go-to counseling for clients of all ages, including those at the 110 contracted SPP schools across the Archdiocese. Thanks to grants awarded to the agency for HIPAA-compliant Zoom licenses, and thanks to the cooperation and guick-learning of the agency's nearly 80 therapists, more sessions than ever were held in April 2020, giving children, teens, and adults the skills and strategies they needed for existing and new mental and emotional health conditions that COVID-19 rapidly intensified. The agency re-opened June 1 to offer clients the option of either virtual or in-person therapy.



School Partnership Program Director Chelsea Link, LPC, and her team adapted to pandemic restrictions in spring 2020 by connecting with students, parents, and teachers via teletherapy sessions.

Community Report

### 8 Organizations. 1 Cause.

### A Stronger Community.



#### **MARYGROVE**

Manygrove provides therapy and support for children, youth and families impacted by abuse, neglect or other trauma through therapeutic residential treatment and foster care, transitional and independent living, and crisis care.

A Family Reunited: It is always cause for celebration at Marygrove when children can be reunited with their families. This was certainly the case this spring when a mother arrived to bring home her two sons. During and after the boys' extended Marygrove stay, the entire family received the guidance and support they needed to begin moving beyond their past struggles and towards a promising future together. Their resiliency and determination to become a family again inspired them to work hard and stay focused. Preparing to leave, the mother rejoiced, "Our wolfpack is finally back together again." Marygrove is one of the few agencies in Missouri that can accept siblings due to their ability to serve and house clients from birth to 21 years.



### ST. PATRICK CENTER

St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals and families build permanent, positive change in their lives through safe and affordable housing, sound mental and physical health, employment, and financial stability.

Hospital to Housing is St. Patrick Center's new partnership program with Barnes Jewish Hospital, BJC Healthcare, Foundation for Barnes Jewish Hospital, and Behavioral Health Network of Greater St. Louis. The primary purpose of Hospital to Housing is to identify frequent emergency department users who are homeless and provide them with housing and support services.

Hospital to Housing Success Story: Vondell said he hit rock bottom after his mother died, causing him to lose his marriage, daughter, job, and home. He also dealt with mental illness and lack of medication. "Some days I didn't want to live," said Vondell. "I tried to kill myself multiple times." He would seek safety at the hospital and spend time in the psychiatric ward until he felt better after being re-medicated. Vondell went to St. Patrick Center for food and clothes, and was eventually placed into housing. Today, he enjoys his home life, continues meeting with case managers, and recently had a visit from his teenaged daughter. "St. Patrick Center means I got my life back 100 percent," said Vondell. "They did so much for me."

Cardinal Ritter Senior Services  $\cdot$  Good Shepherd Children & Family Services Marygrove  $\cdot$  Queen of Peace Center  $\cdot$  Saint Louis Counseling  $\cdot$  Saint Martha's Hall St. Francis Community Services  $\cdot$  St. Patrick Center

### ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY SERVICES

St. Francis Community Services staff saw how immigrant clients experienced the brunt of economic, health, and emotional consequences of COVID-19. With 70% of immigrant clients losing employment early in the pandemic, many families reported depleting their savings to pay for housing and food.

Recognizing the inherent dignity of all people, St. Francis was there to ensure these families were not alone, providing food and \$62,500 of direct aid to prevent families from being evicted. Responding to the many barriers that keep immigrant clients out of housing assistance programs, St. Francis initiated the Immigrant Housing Justice Project, providing the only immigrant-focused eviction-prevention services in our region. The Youth Program combated emotional distress and loss of academic skills through 765 check-in and tutoring sessions. The Bilingual Mental Health team worked with clients to develop coping skills for longterm isolation and financial distress. One mother who received rental assistance wrote to her case manager, "Thank you very much Silvia and each and every one of you. I am, and we are so blessed and thankful for the huge, huge help that you give us. May God bless you all."



Immigration Managing Attorney Kristine Walentik and Client Support Coordinator Katherine Meola assist a family as they begin the process of applying for a permanent residency card, one of the first steps in the process toward citizenship.

### QUEEN OF PEACE CENTER

Queen of Peace Center provides family-centered behavioral healthcare to women with substance use disorders, their children, and their families. In Calendar Year 2019, more than 1,250 women and their families received QOPC support.

Like our other agencies who provide mental health care, Queen of Peace Center responded to COVID-19 restrictions by swiftly making virtual intake services and tele-therapy sessions available for new and existing clients. Because most care plans include a combination of therapy and medication, QOPC also worked to ensure clients continued to have access to prescriptions and medicine. To protect women, children, and staff members, the agency implemented strict social distancing, hygiene, quarantine, and shelter-in-place protocols at their office and residential care sites.



After using substances on and off for 15 years, Tonya came to Queen of Peace Center for help creating a safer and healthier environment for her newborn son. She continues to thank God and QOPC for her recovery.

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### THE SAINT LAWRENCE SOCIETY

The Saint Lawrence Society recognizes major contributors in our longstanding Good Samaritan Guild, those whose annual gift to Catholic Charities of St. Louis is \$10,000 or more, or who have pledged a \$10,000 annual gift through participation in a graduated gift plan.

#### The Saint Lawrence Society Story

During his reign of Christian persecution, Roman Emperor Valerian ordered Archdeacon Lawrence to turn over the Church's riches. Lawrence quickly distributed church property among the poor and then brought before Valerian the indigent, sick, and disabled, declaring that they were, indeed, the true treasures of the Church. For this defiance, Lawrence was sentenced to death. This sacrificial love for the poor makes Saint Lawrence a fitting namesake for this giving society.

It was, however, another Lawrence that first inspired the creation of this giving society. In 2017, Lawrence and Delores Beinecke donated their entire estate to Catholic Charities. We still marvel at their generosity and unconditional love for those in need, entrusting us with the fruits of their family's labor — perhaps for generations — to help serve those that Saint Lawrence deemed the treasure of our Church.

In gratitude for their tremendous support, Saint Lawrence Society members receive invitations to special events throughout the year, a mix of social, spiritual, and educational opportunities to engage in our mission with other charitable-minded St. Louis area Catholics. If you would like to learn more about supporting our mission through the Saint Lawrence Society or other Good Samaritan Guild levels, please reach out to Alisa Goessling at 314-256-5904 or agoessling@ccstl.org.

Oh, glorious Saint
Lawrence, cheerful
giver in the service
of the poor, by your
prayers, may we be
purified by the cross
of Christ, that we
may die to ourselves
to bear the fruits of
true justice. This we
ask through our Lord
Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Saint Lawrence Society | \$10,000+

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We could not help people without the support and generosity of our donors. Thank you!

#### Benefactor | \$5,000+

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## Donor Spotlight: Mary & Ken Bower

Mary and Ken attribute their hearts for charity to their Catholic upbringing and schooling, two things they feel blessed to be able to now provide for their own children who attend St. Louis Priory School and Visitation Academy. Catholic Charities of St. Louis' focus on relieving suffering and restoring dignity, they say, resonates with the entire Bower family.

"In our city, like in too many places, you don't need to travel far to witness human suffering," said Ken. "Catholic Charities helps our fellow St. Louisans, no matter their religious affiliation. From the unborn to the sick, from the impoverished to countless children in need, Catholic solace is essential."

For Mary, the Catholic Charities mission calls to mind a favorite phrase often spoken by the school principal when Mary taught at St. Ambrose: We all need to take on the mind and Heart of Jesus.

"That's what Catholic Charities and its agencies do every day and we are proud to support their hard work," said Mary, who also finds inspiration in Saint Teresa of Calcutta's words, It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.

"We are honored to co-chair the 2020 Christmas Campaign and hope to set a small example of serving others," said Ken and Mary, "We invite everyone to join us in this critical year-end effort."

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Carlton Prince and Dr. Alice Prince (board member) were among our many food & supply distribution event volunteers.



Staff and volunteers helped pack 500 bags for the first Catholic Charities drive-up food supply event. Left to right are: Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement Tamara Kenny; Sr. HR Director Les Lexow; Peggy and Pat Sly; Charlotte Slankard; and Donor Engagement Manager Alisa Goessling.

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