Community CALL
8 Organizations. 1 Cause. A Stronger Community.

Go to Bat for Kids Expanded to Six Games

Since 2001, Catholic Charities Go to Bat for Kids has sent more than 31,000 deserving children to St. Louis Cardinals baseball games. This season, we’re swinging for the fences by sponsoring not one, but six games, so even more children will take part in this often first-time experience.

We still need your help to make these magical nights happen, just as it did for Carlos, who threw out the ceremonial first pitch at Go to Bat for Kids 2018 Game One on April 20. It was an occasion like no other for Carlos and his brother Sterling, who accompanied him to the mound. This magical moment was made possible through the care, dignity, and respect they received from the team at Good Shepherd Children & Family Services — a Catholic Charities federated agency that works to connect children with families and keep families connected by providing the highest quality maternity shelter, crisis pregnancy, foster care, and adoption services — and by generous sponsors like you.

This winning combination of children, charity, and Cardinals baseball is something for which the family of the late Stan and Lil Musial have shown support by allowing us to establish the “Stan and Lil Musial Tribute” giving level, recognizing ticket sponsors of $2,500 or more. We are blessed that Great Southern Bank committed to that level as our lead corporate partner of this season’s expansion to 3,000 tickets. Additional sponsorship levels are still available starting at $250.

You can also step up to the plate by sponsoring individual children for just $26 each. If you can help create these special memories, please send your donation with the attached form. Thank you for your generosity. “Go, Cards!”

OUR MISSION: 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 call members of the Church and community to do the same.
President's Message

Greetings! I hope this issue gives you a snapshot of how Catholic Charities of St. Louis strives to respond to the example of Jesus Christ through the three tenets of our mission: serve people in need, especially those who are poor and vulnerable; work to improve social conditions for all people in the community; and call members of the Church and community to do the same.

Serving People in Need

Last year, we were able to impact more than 110,000 people, providing for immediate needs like food, shelter, and medical care. We also address common barriers to success such as transportation, childcare, education, and job training. Currently, 44 families enrolled in our Pathways to Progress program have committed to long-term plans aimed at achieving economic independence, stability, and a better life.

Working to Improve Social Conditions

Tamarra Kennedy, JD, MSW, our Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement, has been busy communicating our priorities to state lawmakers. She advocates on our behalf for legislation that cares for the poor, strengthens families, and incentivizes charitable giving. In March, Tamara led a half day of employee advocacy training and in April hosted our 10th annual Legislative Breakfast. I also recently joined other Catholic Charities leaders from across Missouri in Jefferson City to lobby for legislation that cares for the poor, strengthens families, and incentivizes charitable giving.

Calling Others to Share the Mission

Our ability to serve people in the Archdiocese’s 11 counties requires continued collaboration with community partners and the generosity of supporters. We are so grateful for the time, talent, and resources you share!

Please consider helping spread our mission message by inviting family and friends to an agency event, interacting with us on social media, or simply sharing with others over a cup of coffee why you support Catholic Charities of St. Louis.

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

GOOD NEWS

From Our Federated Agencies

Cardinal Ritter Senior Services (CRSS)
welcomed new Chief Executive Officer Chris Baechle on May 1. Mr. Baechle most recently served as CEO at St. Luke’s Rehabilitation Hospital/Kindred Healthcare. CRSS recently received funding from the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis to support low-income seniors still living in their own homes. The grant will help continue one-on-one case management, referrals, and in-kind support for at least 35 at-risk senior adults.

Saint Louis Counseling may sound like a new player on the Catholic Charities roster, but it’s the same great agency formerly known as Catholic Family Services that’s been serving the Archdiocese since 1955. “The new name more accurately describes our services and also maintains our Catholic identity,” said Executive Director Tom DuFt, “Saint Louis, King of France was a mediator. He helped the needy by opening his doors and he believed in seeking out right and just individuals to bear his thoughts and problems. These are all core components of counseling. What better namesake?” Saint Louis Counseling offers office-based counseling at eight locations, School Partnership and Employee Assistance Programs, and more.

Saint Martha’s Hall held a fundraiser at the Compton Hill Reservoir Square neighborhood’s historic Magic Chef Mansion. The baseball-themed “Hit & Home Run for Saint Martha’s Hall” event had 130 guests attend, and about $12,000 was raised to support confidential, emergency shelter and ongoing support services for abused women and their children.

St. Francis Community Services
renamed Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services (PPS). One supervisor and two parent coach positions are being added to provide case management and in-home parenting instruction to referred clients. A third parent coach will be added during the program’s first year.

Good Shepherd Children & Family Services
received a Home Visitation Contract that will help facilitate prevention services for families with children from birth to three years old who are at risk of abuse or neglect.

To reflect this added service, Good Shepherd’s Expectant Parent program was renamed Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services (PPS). One supervisor and two parent coach positions are being added to provide case management and in-home parenting instruction to referred clients. A third parent coach will be added during the program’s first year.

Queen of Peace Center employees set aside time for team-building, self-care and reflection at their April 4 Staff Enrichment Day. They gathered at Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Motherhouse wearing shirts proclaiming their mission values: hope, dignity and respect.

One note from QOPC’s recent impact report is that 66% of clients reported heroin/opioids as their primary, secondary or tertiary drug of choice. The good news? 100% of mothers gave birth to drug-free babies!

Good Shepherd Children & Family Services
has launched a new partnership with Lutheran Family and Children Services of Missouri, strengthening the support of at-risk senior adults.

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

Chief Executive Officer Sister Helen Negri has retired after 35 years at Marygrove. Sister Helen was honored at the agency’s three tenants of our mission: respond to the example of Jesus Christ through the three tenets of our mission; serve people in need, especially those who are poor and vulnerable; work to improve social conditions for all people in the community; and call members of the Church and community to do the same.
Go to Bat for Kids 2018

Step on up to the plate and hit a homerun for kids today!

We Remember (continued)
Bertram and Suzanne Sachs
Michael B. Sachs (2)
Joan Schmieder and Poppo
Carol Schmieder
Lois Schmitt
Garth Schmitt
Josh and Kristen Schulte
Kathleen and Evan March
Michael Frank Schumaker, Sr.
The Partners of Brown Smith
Waller, LLP
John Gibbs
John and Anne Jordan
Ployd Sherman
Robert and Rose Sillies
Frank and Marilyn Dohr
Bill Shebe
Terry and Elaine Flieg
Charles Wesley Smith
Anonymous (2)
Sandra and Joseph Lehrer
Ruth Ann Smith
Bonnie Carnen
David Christman
Patrick and Ellen Murphy
Janet Smithgall
Stedle Fleischer
Joseph Steiningen - Birthday
(3-21-30)
Thomas Edwin Tynes
Myrtle E. Sutterer
Joseph A. Sutterer
Jean Sutter
(3-21-30)
Joseph Steininger - Birthday
Charles Wesley Smith
Bill Skellett
Robert and Rose Silies
Floyd Sherman
Michael Francis Shanahan, Sr.
Josh and Kristen Schulte
Lois Schmitt
We Remember (continued)
Katherine Siebert
Renee
Leah, Sandy, Martha, Connie,
Paul W. Leible (6)
William and Patricia Warner
Larry and Sandra Daughtrey
Arthur and Mary Schomaker
Anonymous
William and Charlotte Vignati
Eileen’s children)
California Tochtrops (Earl &
Earl and Dorothy Anderson
Norman Sutterer
(mother)
Deacon and Mrs. Richard Vehige
Theresa Steininger
Estelle Fleischer
Bonnie Cannon
Sandra and Joseph Lehrer
Anonymous (2)
Frank and Marilyn Dohr
Joan Laneman
John and Anne Jordan
Wallace, LLP
Kathleen and Evan Marsh
Michael B. Sachs (2)
Community Call is a
publication of Catholic
Charities of St. Louis, distributed twice a year to
share good news with our community and grow the circle
of support for the mission of Catholic Charities of St. Louis.
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tribute to someone through a
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Planning a new vehicle purchase? Please consider donating your trade-in. Your car, truck, SUV, motorcycle, RV, boat or golf cart – regardless of condition – can help support Catholic Charities. The process is simple, pick-up is free, and your gift is tax-deductible. Call 1-877-575-GIVE (1-877-575-4483) or visit www.careeasy.org to get started!

Thank you to all who helped make Give STL Day our most successful to date. Donors generously designated $22,855 for Catholic Charities of St. Louis and our eight federated agencies. Across the region, 868 organizations participated in Give STL Day. In just 24 hours, donors responded with gifts totaling more than $2.4 million.