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The Charity With Care Newsletter

Catholic Charities
of Central and Northern Missouri
Providing Care...Creating Hope

Catholic Charities Awards \$41,000 in Charity and Mercy Grants to Parishes

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri's Charity and Mercy Grants are given to parishes directly serving vulnerable people in need, regardless of their faith affiliation. The grant is designed to expand the capacity of a parish ministry to serve more people or to help develop a new social ministry. It can be used to help purchase items needed for the ministry – i.e.: dishwasher for a soup kitchen, computer, tables and chairs for a food pantry, to purchase supplies – even a vehicle for the ministry, etc. It can be used to start a ministry – i.e.: help pay rent to acquire space for a ministry, begin offering financial literacy services to consumers, start a program to teach independent living skills, start a mentoring program for pregnant women, etc.

We are proud to announce that in 2019/2020 we have distributed \$41,000 in Charity and Mercy Grants to ten parishes throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City:

- **St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia:** Funding to support the Interfaith Garden Project, providing fresh fruits and vegetables to food pantries in Columbia
- **Immaculate Conception Parish, Montgomery City:** Funding to support the basic needs assistance program for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul ministry at the parish
- **St. Bernadette Parish, Hermitage:** Funding to support Helping Hands Abuse and Crisis Center
- **St. Ann Parish, Warsaw:** Funding to support the St. Joseph's Table ministry, addressing emergency assistance needs in the community
- **St. Lawrence Parish, St. Elizabeth:** Funding to support the expansion of the Helping Hands food pantry/thrift store
- **St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Iberia:** Funding to support the expansion of the Helping Hands food pantry/thrift store
- **St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Sedalia:** Funding to support the Social Concerns Commission's Giving Garden, providing produce to local pantries
- **St. George Parish, Hermann:** Funding to support the Ministerial Alliance of the Hermann Area, addressing emergency needs of local residents
- **St. Mary Parish, Shelbina:** Funding to support St. Mary's Works of Mercy, addressing the unmet needs of community members in crisis
- **St. Pius X Parish, Moberly:** Funding to support the parish conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to establish a "beds for kids" ministry

To learn more about Charity and Mercy Grants or to apply, visit our website: ccnmo.diojeffcity.org.



Friends,

Where to begin? What a spring it has been at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri! Like all of you, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic led to major changes in how we operate on a day-to-day basis. I am incredibly proud of the flexibility, resilience, and strength of our team; they truly exemplify the term "essential worker".

Unlike some social service providers, who have limited their hours or even shut their doors completely to those in need during the crisis, Catholic Charities has increased our outreach to the community during the pandemic. While we moved a number of our services online as needed, and have continued to practice diligent social distancing and other safety measures, we also found ways to be creative in our service delivery.

We have connected with the next generation of volunteers, recruiting heavily from our high school and college age supporters to ensure that our services would continue uninterrupted. We have instituted a delivery program for food boxes for seniors in need, allowing them to connect with services while remaining safe at home. We have utilized the latest technology to remain connected to our clients while sheltering in place. Our online relief portal has received hundreds of requests for assistance, and we have been proud to answer the call to assist our neighbors in need.

So what is next? One thing has been made abundantly clear – the need for Catholic Charities services is as great as it has ever been. As we move towards our tenth anniversary in 2021, we are committed to continuing to grow our services throughout the Diocese of Jefferson City's 38 counties. While we may be renovating a new headquarters in Jefferson City (see this issues story on our "Open Hearts, Open Doors" campaign), we are also expanding our outreach to our parishes' charitable services (via our Charity and Mercy Grants – read more on the back cover) and beginning to explore new locations for possible service centers in other communities.

As always, we cannot do this alone. The ongoing support of our grant funders, our donors, and our volunteers is what drives our ministry and allows us to fulfill our mission of "Providing Care...Creating Hope". We thank you for your continued support and prayers, and look forward to continuing to serve our most vulnerable neighbors in need.

Daniel P. Lester

Dan Lester
Executive Director

P.S. – This newsletter is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to happenings at Catholic Charities. Want the full scoop? Visit our website: ccnmo.diojeffcity.org and give us a "Like" on Facebook to stay up to date with our services, news, and events.

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Open Hearts, Open Doors: A New Home for Catholic Charities

How much pain can be soothed, how much despair can be allayed in a place where we feel at home! This requires open doors, especially the doors of our heart.

— Pope Francis

Since 2011, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri has been committed to providing compassionate social services to our most vulnerable neighbors in need throughout Mid-Missouri. From welcoming refugees from war-torn areas around the world to their new homes, to caring for survivors of devastating tornadoes and floods, to providing food to homebound seniors during COVID-19, our essential services have aided thousands of individuals and families during some of their darkest times.

As we approach our 10-year anniversary, we are embarking on our most ambitious project to date: the renovation of the former chapel/gymnasium of the La Salette seminary in Jefferson City into a comprehensive health and social services center. The building, built in the 1950s, is now located at the heart of one of the most vulnerable neighborhoods in the community. Surrounded by subsidized housing, much of which is occupied by seniors or disabled residents, our new neighborhood is the perfect location for Catholic Charities to answer our call to serve those in need. In addition to our current program offerings, the plans for this new center of charity and mercy include:

- A modern, client choice food pantry
- Universal exam rooms for clinic services from various medical providers
- Expansive community/classroom space for group education and training opportunities
- A non-denominational chapel for reflection and renewal
- A community garden for local residents

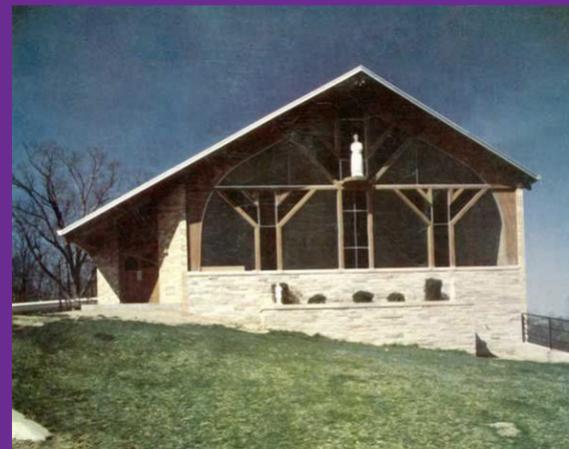
Our vision for this new hub of social services is that it meets the varied needs of our community. We are committed to providing services that work around the schedules of those in need, many of whom work, but may need a helping hand now and then to make ends meet. Evening hours, weekend hours, and the array of services available under one roof will make this space one of the cornerstones of social services in the region.

We invite you to join us in restoring this beautiful piece of Jefferson City history to a space where those in need can feel welcome and loved.

To learn more about the Open Hearts, Open Doors campaign, visit our website: ccnmo.diojeffcity.org



*Renderings courtesy of
Simon Oswald Architecture*



*Photos courtesy of the
Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette*



