













#### Dear Friends and Supporters

As I write this letter, I am proud to share the impact displayed in our 2023 Annual Report. This work is a true testament to the compassion and commitment of all 211 of our team members at Catholic Charities West Michigan. This report is also a testament to you – our partners and supporters – who join us in our calling to create a just and compassionate community where all people can achieve their divine purpose. By God's Grace, the work of our team members, and through your support, we have provided help and created hope by:

- Finding loving and safe homes for 34 children through our adoption services.
- Serving 55,857 meals to our hungry brothers and sisters.
- Facilitating 16,190 behavioral health sessions.
- Placing over 1,000,000 diapers into the hands of parents in need throughout West Michigan

The year of 2023 was truly a year of action. We've promised to integrate ourselves deeper into the West Michigan community and reach the populations who need us most. This past year we successfully saw the expansion of our pregnancy counseling services - doubling our staff, opening a brand new no cost boutique in Grand Rapids, and launching our new mobile baby pantry. While making these strides, long term programs like God's Kitchen have continued to remain a constant resource that our neighbors struggling with food insecurity can rely on, as they have for over 50 years. The stability of our critical, longstanding programs like God's Kitchen, and the expansion of programs like pregnancy counseling are only made possible thanks to you.

You are choosing to stand with us; investing in our programs, walking and praying with us. When you chose to give to our programs, you chose to provide help and create hope for individuals and families amongst some of their darkest moments. Catholic Charities West Michigan does this work in many ways, but the first step is always meeting our brothers and sisters where they are at. Our dedicated team members eliminate transportation barriers by meeting clients in the home. Our Community Outreach services have integrated themselves into communities that have little to no resources. Intentional partnerships have been formed with other providers to make it as easy as possible for those in need to access resources.

Our team members are experts in the fields they serve, and know that an individual's basic needs must be met in order for them to flourish. After ensuring food access, housing, and transportation, our team works to wrap around individuals and families, making certain they feel a sense of community. This community looks different in each ministry – at God's Kitchen, it is gathering as a community over a warm, nutritious meal. At our St. Gianna's No Cost Baby Boutiques, it is children from all walks of life playing together while their parents shop. For our seniors in rural areas, it is providing weekly opportunities to break bread together and engage with others in their community. For some behavioral health clients, it is having our Peer Recovery Support Coach walk alongside them through their healing journey. Lastly, for our family programs, it is connecting them with other families who may be going through trials similar to their own. Regardless of the program, CCWM is a constant reminder to individuals and families, regardless of their background, that God did not intend for us to live in isolation. We are our best selves when we go through the highs and lows in life together.

As Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Workers Movement, said, "We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other." These words empowered thousands of foot soldiers of mercy to welcome all with open arms and greet Christ in every cold body, hungry mouth, and weary spirit they encountered. At Catholic Charities West Michigan, we are blessed to do the same, which is only made possible through your support.

Many blessings,

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David Bellamy, CEO

Catholic Charities West Michigan



This year ...

**WE SERVED** 

3,141

CHILDREN AND PARENTS THROUGH OUR BABY AND TODDLER BOUTIQUES,

MOVED THE MARK ON ALARMING SAFETY STATISTICS BY EDUCATING

80

PARENTS IN OUR INFANT CARE SAFETY CLASSES AND

104

IN OUR CAR SEAT SAFETY CLASSES



# Through our Behavioral Health programs ...

- Outpatient Mental Health
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Groups
- Substance Use Disorder Therapy
- Sexual Abuse Prevention Treatment
- Batterers Intervention/Anger
  Management Counseling

we facilitated...

16,190

behavioral health services to...

1,395

individuals.

## Seeing the impact...

In our Substance Use Disorder program...

75%

of clients reported an increase in their social support systems at the end of treatment.

84% of clients reported that they felt that treatment helped them develop skills to help them appropriately manage their relationships.

Similarly, in our Co-Occurring (Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder) program...

75%

of clients reported that they had a decrease in mental health symptoms since the start of treatment.

of clients reported that they had no violations or legal issues related to drugs or alcohol during their time in treatment.



## Family Preservation

Family Preservation programming teaches skills related to positive parenting, communication, access to community resources, ageappropriate discipline, self-sufficiency, and life skills. Our programming increases families' ability to ensure a safe and positive home environment, while keeping the family unit intact.

31

different programs within our family preservation tower provided counseling, training and support to

2,991 individuals



### Child Welfare



321

foster children were cared for in 2023



168

foster parents

in...



84

foster homes



children were placed into loving homes through adoption

This year, our child welfare team worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of 321 children. On some days, this meant overnights in the office, finding last minute home placements for siblings. For some, it meant long days of transporting children to doctor's appointments and school. On others, it was a trip to the store to purchase shoes for a child that entered into care with nothing on their feet. Through these hardships, our team successfully reunified 43 children with their biological parents, and worked with 83 relative homes to find a safe placement with a familiar face.



## AmeriCorps Senior Programs



Served 497 students through our Foster Grandparents program

and 111 seniors through our Senior Companions program







## Mobile Baby Pantry

St. Gianna's Mobile Baby Pantry launched in early 2023, responding to the lack of resources and transportation barriers that prevent families in crisis from accessing critical resources in rural communities.

This service saved families over

\$330,000 and distributed over

1,000,000

diapers as well as wipes and diaper cream to parents in Ottawa, Osceola, Oceana, Newaygo, Ionia, Montcalm and Lake Counties.





# God's Kitchen Food Programs

Served 55,857 noon-time meals at God's Kitchen,

Delivered 9,299 meals to those who are homebound,

Served 10,100 meals to those in need through God's Roamin' Kitchen in Newaygo, Muskegon, Kentwood and Wyoming





# This year, we...

Provided help & created hope for thousands of families and individuals.

Offered 54 programs

Reached 26 counties, in 9 locations



Through...

211 employees

19 board and committee members

600 active volunteers





# Event Highlights

### Raising Hope

Providing help and creating hope with dignity and respect was the focus of our Raising Hope Dinner in 2023. We celebrated our various programs that offer support for those struggling throughout West Michigan. This included the successful launch of our Mobile Baby Pantry as well as our new Creston Heights location for our St. Gianna No Cost Baby Boutique. Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, spoke to inspire guests to advocate for those unable to do so for themselves, as our Catholic Charities West Michigan programs do each day to provide a voice for those most vulnerable and to offer assistance in times of need. This year, we were able to raise over \$190,000 for these vital programs!

#### Soup's On For All

Full bellies and fun were in abundance as 34 soups from area restaurants and artisan breads from Panera took center stage at Soup's On For All! Hand painted commemorative bowls were on display, reminding guests of the bowls we fill each day for those facing food insecurity in our West Michigan communities through God's Kitchen programming. The evening wouldn't have been complete without multiple local bands, a silent auction, and desserts courtesy of Amway. With the help of our incredible community, we blasted through our previous record and raised over \$120,000 for God's Kitchen!

### **Holy Smokes**

The wind may have been a contender, but it did not prevent incredible BBQ from being served and the band from rocking while teams bustled to raise funds for babies and toddlers in need. As five local teams battled it out to see who would receive the Judge's Choice and People's Choice awards for top competitors, guests were able to savor delicious barbeque while competing in yard games, enjoying cold beer, and collecting tickets in an attempt to win the raffle. We wrapped up the afternoon with over \$40,000 raised for our Muskegon St. Gianna No Cost Baby Boutique!

#### Confident Kids

Sunshine, Smiles, and School Supplies were in abundance as we celebrated our foster and adoptive clients and their families at our third annual Confident Kids Back-to-School Event! Over forty area stylists, barbers, and braiders gathered to donate their time and talents to help ensure each child would feel unique, prepared, and confident as they entered into the new school year with a fresh, new hairstyle. Superheroes were on site to guarantee fun as kiddos snacked on cotton candy and snow cones from Kona Ice. Some heavy lifting assistance was provided by local fire fighters as they helped to fill backpacks with school supplies, clothing, and books making the event memorable for all who attended.

### **Finances**

Transparency in financial reporting is very important to us at Catholic Charities West Michigan. On these two pages, you will find assets, liabilities, and net assets as well as the breakdown of our revenue and expenses.

#### Assets

	2023	2022
Cash	\$3,283,551	\$2,778,553
Accounts Receivable	1,502,412	1,223,656
Promises to Give	1,030,582	1,024,543
Prepaid Expenses	221,178	237,039
Property & Equipment	6,712,333	6,927,200
Right-of-use Assets, Operating Leases	900,323	
Beneficial Interest in Assets	1,007,162	1,000,377
Total	\$14,757,541	\$13,191,368

#### Liabilities

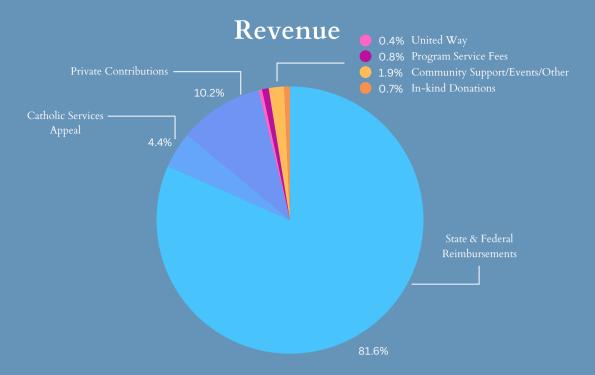
Accounts Payable	\$322,045	\$291,559
Accrued Liabilities	2,309,519	2,039,525
(Compensation, Wages, Other)		
Leasing Liabilities	906,145	
Long-Term Debt	3,283,477	3,427,213
Total Liabilities	\$6,821,186	\$5,758,297

#### Net Assets

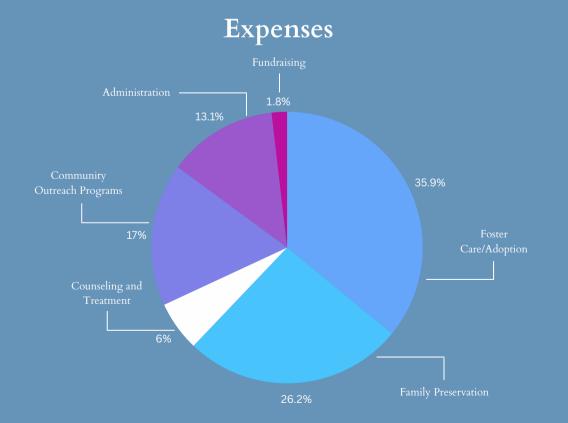
Without Donor Restrictions	\$4,838,147	\$4,822,141
With Donor Restrictions	3,098,208	2,610,930
Total Net Assets	\$7,936,355	\$7,433,071

#### Liabilities & Net Assets

Total \$14,757,541 \$13,191,368



**Total:** \$18,777,596



Total: \$18,274,312



## What's next...

### One Township at a Time

Our One Township at a Time Project launched to reach seniors experiencing loneliness and social isolation in Newaygo county and to connect them with others in their community. Michigan is one of 20 states with townships which are more so rooted in rural and small-town traditions, this project working to revive some of these traditions. This project aims to combat social isolation and loneliness in people aged 55 and older by bringing residents together, building natural helping networks, and forming social support systems within their geographic community.

### St. Gianna's Grand Rapids Safety Classes

After two years of educating and empowering parents through our Muskegon Car Seat Safety and Safe Sleep classes, it is now time to implement these vital courses in Grand Rapids. In 2024, we will be partnering with Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, along with local nursing students, to offer monthly classes for parents, with the goal of moving the mark on the distressing child safety statistics in the Grand Rapids community. By increasing the awareness of the safe use of car seats, safety within the home, safe sleep, and the prevention of traumatic injuries. Thanks to generous grants from the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan and The Towsley Foundation, we will provide safety items such as car seats and pack n' plays to parents as an incentive to attend the classes, ensuring wide community participation, and the use of approved safety items.

### Project Rachel Revamp

We are excited to expand our Project Rachel programing to offer more for women and men who are struggling following an abortion experience. We are growing our list of trained counselors and clergy who will walk with these women and men through their grieving, while supporting their emotional and spiritual healing. Along with our Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekends, we are exploring day retreats for those who struggle with committing an entire weekend, and establishing virtual and in-person peer support groups. Lastly, a new addition to Project Rachel will include education. By partnering with schools and colleges, we will provide training and outreach to prolife groups on school campuses to reach a younger generation.

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Muskegon, MI 49441 1720 Park St.



