

Volunteer Voice

Updates of the Community Outreach Programs of Catholic Charities West Michigan
March 2016

Helpful Charity

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IMPORTANT DATES

- ◆ 1st Friday of Every Month: God's Kitchen (Grand Rapids) is **closed**.

At Catholic Charities West Michigan, the **effectiveness** of our efforts to empower the poor is significantly enhanced when volunteers educate themselves on the current needs of our agency. **Before donating or pursuing a new volunteer opportunity, we encourage you to keep the following things in mind:**

- Donating items without checking beforehand can be inefficient or unneeded. Before volunteering, call or email us find out current program needs.
- Communicate with Volunteer Coordinators. Doing so helps cut down on unnecessary duplication. For example: On Thanksgiving Day, God's Kitchen does not serve a lunch meal due to the Banquet at Mel Trotter Mission.
- Holidays are popular service days. Instead of serving on Thanksgiving or Christmas, pick a special day that you and/or your family can serve. (i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)

Read on! *Toxic Charity* by Robert Lupton, 2011.

Helpful Ways to Donate to God's Kitchen

- Hosting a "Pennies for Pounds" drive (Just \$1 can provide 10 pounds of fresh food that we purchase from local pantries at a discounted rate)
- Research CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) near you, and consider donating a share to God's Kitchen
- Growing a garden at your church, club, organization, and donating the fresh produce
- Buy a cow from an approved meat producer (a great need that we have is the purchase of protein—chicken, turkey, or beef— and is our greatest expense aside from fresh or frozen produce.

Social Justice Initiatives



Cullen Larson, Regional Director of Catholic Relief Services, discussed CRS presence in the Middle East.

“Making a Difference in the Middle East”

Cullen Larson, Regional Director of Catholic Relief Services, joined Catholic Charities West Michigan via Skype for the Social Justice Gathering on February 25. Larson discussed the challenges facing Christian and other minority groups in the Middle East, as well as CRS efforts to provide assistance to communities in need.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development Now Accepting Grant Applications

If your organization firmly believes in the two feet of love in action—charity and justice— and are rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, consider applying for a local grant.

To apply: <http://ccwestmi.org/faith-in-action/cchd>

Project Rachel

What is project Rachel?

Project Rachel, a program of Catholic Charities West Michigan, offers opportunities for reconciliation and healing for women, and for all, who suffer emotional and spiritual pain from an abortion experience. Project Rachel tries to reach out to others with the compassion and mercy of Christ encouraging everyone to learn about post-abortion healing and to listen with compassion.

For more information or to donate in support, please contact

Maggie Walsh mwalsh@ccwestmi.org

Coordinator, Project Rachel and Social Justice

Project Rachel Conference, “Pregnancy Loss and Unresolved Grief: A Seminar on Post-Abortion Healing,”

March 18, 2016, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)—Muir, Michigan—\$40/person

This is a full-day clinical training, featuring **Dr. Theresa Burke**, author and founder of Rachel’s Vineyard **Retreats**, and for Mental Health care professionals, Social Workers, Therapists, Counselors, Spiritual Directors, Clergy, Women in Religious Orders, Prison Ministers, Pastors and Priests, Pastoral Associates, Youth Ministers and anyone interested in discerning or exploring Rachel’s Vineyard Ministry Involvement. **Dr. Burke’s workshops will equip you to recognize and respond to the ways that the body and mind reveal unspeakable events which have been hidden in secret.**

To register: <https://resurrectionlansing.wufoo.com/forms/mf9avhe1rmfrwo/>

God's Kitchen Food and Pantry Programs

Current Need: Consistent Volunteer Group Leader

God's Kitchen in Grand Rapids is in need of a consistent leader on 4th Saturdays of the month, who can lead and coordinate volunteers in a group at God's Kitchen, congregate meal program.

Contact: **Rebecca Ryan** ryan@ccwestmi.org, Volunteer and Donor Relations Specialist



Volunteers work alongside our chefs to provide a daily congregate lunch meal to the Heartside community.

Bowl Painting Parties

Host a bowl painting party for Catholic Charities West Michigan! Painted bowls are sold at our Soup's On! Events in Grand Rapids and on the Lakeshore, benefiting our God's Kitchen Food and Pantry Programming. We provide all supplies, you provide the creativity!

Contact **Jeff Hoyh**

616-454-4110 or jhoyh@ccwestmi.org for more information.



Bowls featured at Soup's On For All 2016



Senior Corps: Mayor Day of Recognition

You're Invited!

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM–9:45 AM

Location:

Grant Elementary School
103 S. Elder Avenue
Grant, Michigan 49327

The event, hosted by the local Senior Corps Programs, will thank those who serve and highlight the value and impact of national service volunteer in Newaygo County. There will be opportunity to learn more about national service opportunities, and to meet current national service volunteers.

For more information, contact::

Nicole D'Arcy, Director

Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion Programs

Phone: 231-727-4140 x1

ndarcy@ccwestmi.org

Volunteer Services



The Tardani Family & Friends

Over 10 years of service to Catholic Charities West Michigan!



Sponsored Sites

God's Kitchen is committed to eliminating food insecurity throughout the Diocese of Grand Rapids by partnering with these local parishes to provide local food options:

Our Lady of Consolation, Rockford

St. Charles Borromeo, Greenville

St. Joseph's, Belding

St. Michael, Remus

St. Mary's & St. Paul, Big Rapids

St. Thomas the Apostle, Muskegon

Food Pantry at St. Joseph's, Belding



3rd Annual Honor St. Patrick March 16



at

Hennessey's With Special Guest Bartender Fr. Matt Barnum

All tips benefit Catholic Charities' Lakeshore Baby Pantry

St. Patrick's Day Parade March 12th Downtown Muskegon

We need volunteers to push shopping carts along the parade to collect food for the Food Pantry of Catholic Charities West Michigan

Contact Diane Musk, dmusk@ccwestmi.org

231.726.5341



Community Outreach Programs Catholic Charities West Michigan

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Mission Statement

In the spirit of our Catholic tradition, we lead our diverse communities with hope and compassion by offering innovative, collaborative programs.

Through our team of highly trained employees, dedicated volunteers and generous community, we deliver the highest quality social services.



Program Locations

Administration

Social Justice

Project Rachel

360 Division Ave S.

Suite 3A

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

God's Kitchen

Food & Pantry Programs

303 Division Ave S

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Lakeshore

Food and Pantry Programs
Senior Corps

1095 Third Street

Muskegon, MI 49441

We're on the web!
ccwestmi.org

