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IMPORTANT DATES

- 1st Friday of Every Month: God’s Kitchen (Grand Rapids) is closed.
- March 8, 2017: Soup’s On Along the Lakeshore

Soup’s On Along the Lakeshore is an extension of our original Soup’s On for All and held in Muskegon. This event raises funds for the Muskegon food pantry of Catholic Charities. Guests of this event sample a large variety of locally donated soups, breads and desserts, while enjoying live music. Throughout the year, volunteers hand-paint thousands of soup-bowls. Each guest selects one as a souvenir and reminder that hunger is a reality every day.

Start Time: 6PM
Date: March 8, 2017
Location: Trillium Events Center
17246 Van Wagoner Rd
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456
Ticket Price: $40 per person

For information about volunteering at this event, please contact Rebecca Ryan at ryan@ccwestmi.org or by phone at 616.356.6207

For general event questions, please contact us by e-mail at events@ccwestmi.org or by phone at 616.246.0594
Four Practices

which can help make parish social ministry vibrant and effective

By Jack Jezreel, USCatholic.org


Social ministry is the job of the entire parish community. What are we waiting for?

As the implications of the gospel, baptism, Vatican II, and, specifically, the recognition of the responsibilities that come with being seized by God’s love and Spirit unfold, the American Catholic parish has slowly but surely moved in the direction of being more deliberate about beckoning and organizing its members to engage in the needs of the world, both local and faraway. It’s called parish social ministry. Admittedly, it’s a work in progress.

Those who have been doing the work of charity and justice for many decades have alternated between feelings of impatience and hope. Under the sway of Pope Francis’ remarkable enthusiasm and witness, it is easier to feel hopeful and to expect the numbers of parishioners engaged in the effort to address human cries to grow.

While it’s tempting to offer the quick advice, “Do anything!”—to emphasize that social ministry is not optional and it is urgent—this will simply not suffice. In fact, when it comes to engaging with our sisters and brothers who suffer, it is very important that we not only do something but that we do it with as much care, thought, prayer, and expertise as possible. This is not said to discourage initiative or generosity, but as Robert Lupton illustrates in his book, Toxic Charity (HarperOne), it has too often been the case that, even with a good heart, it is easy to do much damage if we engage with inadequate information or poor judgment.

Check out the next four issues’ installments for excerpts on the following topics:

- All for One
- There’s a large body of work to be done
- Relationship, charity, justice
- Run in packs
Soup’s On for All! 2017: It’s a wrap!

Friends, volunteers, and guests gathered at the BOB in Grand Rapids on Monday, January 30, to raise funds for God’s Kitchen Food and Pantry programs of Catholic Charities West Michigan.

For those who volunteered, thank you for spending your time with us and helping in its success!

Check out more pictures and media coverage on our Facebook page: Catholic Charities West Michigan

Current Agency Volunteer Needs

Soup’s On Along the Lakeshore 2017 Event (March 8, 2017): We are in need of volunteers to fill various roles that evening, including:

- Guest Registration/Coat Check
- 50/50 Raffle Sales
- Soup Runner/Assistant
- Loading the Truck, Post-Event

God’s Kitchen (13+): Most days are in need of additional volunteers and groups, from 11am-3pm.

Food Pantry (Muskegon) (13+): Fridays are currently in need of more volunteers. Tuesday, Thursday and/or Fridays from 9:30AM-12PM. We are in GREAT need of additional volunteer shoppers to assist guests as they make selections from our food pantry, assist with administrative tasks, and greet incoming clients to the pantry.

Host a Bowl Painting Party: We are in need of volunteers to paint bowls that are given to guests at our benefit events that support God’s Kitchen Food and Pantry Programming. We provide all materials (brushes, paints, bowls, etc) This is our most flexible opportunity – do it on your own time!
Community Outreach Programs
Catholic Charities West Michigan

Jeff Hoyh  jhoyh@ccwestmi.org
Program Supervisor, God’s Kitchen Food and Pantry Programs, Grand Rapids

Lisa Johnston, ljohnston@ccwestmi.org
Program Supervisor, God’s Kitchen Food and Pantry Programs, Lakeshore

Beth Scheel, bscheel@ccwestmi.org
Program Director, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs

Maggie Walsh mwalsh@ccwestmi.org
Diocesan Director, CCHD / Program Coordinator, Project Rachel

Jimmy Birney, jbirney@ccwestmi.org
CCHD Intern

Rebecca Ryan ryan@ccwestmi.org
Volunteer and Donor Relations Specialist, Catholic Charities West Michigan

Tiffany Page tpage@ccwestmi.org
Director, Community Outreach Programs Catholic Charities West Michigan

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.

What hunger do YOU feed?

Program Locations

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<th>Lakeshore</th>
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