

# Volunteer Voice

Updates of the Community Outreach Programs of Catholic Charities West Michigan  
April 2017

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## IMPORTANT DATES

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



## Muskegon Pulls Together!

Thanks to the generosity of those attending the DeVos 2017 Ultimate Sports Show in Grand Rapids on March 16, we received approximately 10,000 lbs. of food donations within a two day period for our Muskegon Food Pantry!

Current and new volunteers from Muskegon Covenant Academy pulled together to collect, load, unload and organize the mountain of donations. We are happy to report all 18 barrels of food have been emptied and await their turn on pantry shelves!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with this project. Catholic Charities of West Michigan is lucky to have such dedicated and passionate volunteers to help us with life's daily surprises.



Learn more about our recent events on page 2!

## Recent Events:

*Soup's On Along the Lakeshore , Fr. Matt's Fundraiser & St. Patrick's Day Parade*

Thank you to all who attended **Soup's On Along the Lakeshore** on March 8th this year. We raised over **\$31,000** to support our local Muskegon Food Pantry! We hope you enjoyed the band, baked treats and hand-painted bowls!



### Father Matt's Baby & Toddler Pantry Fundraiser

True to his word, Fr. Matthew Barnum got a trim in honor of over **\$24,000** raised for the Muskegon Baby and Toddler Pantry! Thank you so much to all who attended the event at Hennessy's Pub, especially this (now) clean shaven guy and his fellow bartender for the night, Father Chuck Schwartz!



**St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 18, 2017** The Muskegon St. Patrick's Day Parade was a success! Current and new volunteers from Muskegon Catholic came out to push carts next to our donation, or "box" truck as it's called, to collect donations offered by community members.



## Four Practices *which can help make parish social ministry vibrant and effective*

By Jack Jezreel, USCatholic.org

Source: <http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201403/best-practices-charity-and-justice-28549>

### 2. There's a large body of work to be done

It's a big world and there are a lot of needs—and a lot of different kinds of needs. Any parish social ministry worth its salt is going to prepare for and encourage lots of different kinds of responses to the different needs.

In 1 Corinthians Paul writes that the foot is not the hand and the eye is not the ear, but all are important to the body. To make the clear application, those in our parishes who work on issues related to human trafficking, for example, should celebrate—not diminish—the work of those dedicated to issues related to mental illness. Those focused on environmental care should celebrate—not diminish—the work of those focused on reducing abortions. Those who work on domestic issues in partnership with Catholic Charities should celebrate—not diminish—those who work on international issues in partnership with Catholic Relief Services. Charisms are not ranked. Compassion has many faces. The world has many troubles.

Thus, parishes are wise to invite many ministries out of respect for the varying charisms in the community, with the understanding that each ministry should be scaled appropriately, with adequate volunteers and funding, if necessary. Yes, there probably can be too many ministries, if the consequence is that they suffer from a lack of participation and resulting ineffectiveness. More often the problem is that there are not nearly enough social ministry opportunities, so that the great potential in many parishes goes untapped.

*Next Month: Relationship, charity, justice*

### Current Agency Volunteer Needs

**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

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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.



### What hunger do YOU feed?

*Safety. Companionship. Unity. Peace.*

## Program Locations

Administration	God's Kitchen	Lakeshore
Social Justice	Food & Pantry Programs	Food Pantry and Senior Corps Programs
Project Rachel		
360 Division Ave S.	303 Division Ave S	1095 Third Street
Suite 3A	Grand Rapids, MI 49503	Muskegon, MI 49441
Grand Rapids, MI 49503		