

Branches

Summer 2019

A PUBLICATION OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY CATHOLIC CHARITIES



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OUR MISSION

The Mission of Livingston County Catholic Charities is the work of the Catholic Church, to share the love of Christ by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

VISION STATEMENT

Livingston County Catholic Charities aims to provide human services to Livingston County residents regardless of race, gender, religion, age, disability or financial ability.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY
**CATHOLIC
CHARITIES**
HELPING LIVES GROW

Going the Extra Mile with Your Help

Aging doesn't come with instructions and there is no owner's manual on how and when to get the services you need. It can be overwhelming and the internet can just add to that confusion. Thanks to you, LCCC Resource Advocates served 1,049 seniors last year (the majority were low-income). With an average "client donation" of \$1.39 per client per hour, you are the angels that sustain this program through your generous Loaves and Fish Appeal and other donations!

Retired Resource Advocate, Penny Jones, liked to say the job was "being a conduit for people who can't do it." Advocates never know what they will end up doing during an office appointment, or especially at a home visit. A client may set-up a meeting to get help filing for a transportation program, but it turns out they also don't know how to fill out a recertification form for Medicaid. Your donation provides funding for LCCC Resource Advocates to step in and assist seniors with getting the services they need while protecting their dignity. *(See the box on page 2 that shares Valorie Berryman's story.)*

Seniors are currently struggling with affordable housing. It is a big problem in Livingston County, so keeping our seniors in their homes is a high priority. At times during a home visit, it may be discovered that there are safety/livability issues in the home that need to be addressed. Resource Advocates work with other local programs and resources to get these issues fixed. This critical work is not possible without the support of people like you.

"The LCCC Resource Advocacy Program is widely recognized among my colleagues as the stellar Resource Advocacy program in southeast Michigan. They are rock stars!" said Jim McGuire, Director of Research, Policy Development and Advocacy, Area Agency on Aging 1-B. *(AAA 1-B provides about 51% of the program funding).*

Your compassionate support of LCCC programs is making amazing things possible!



Resource Advocates Beth Newman and Melodie Valvano at the 2019 Caregiver Fair



Clockwise from top, Recovery Coaches: David Dieball, Renee Hillier and & Louis Golob; and Case Manager, Jessica Buckner

The Power of Engagement Groups

"This group is my hope!" "If not for LCCC and my counselor, I would not have stopped using drugs!" However often these words are heard, they are still priceless to hear about the Substance Abuse Engagement Groups. Drug overdose deaths are on the rise and LCCC is dedicated to supporting those who are struggling.

The Engagement Group, under ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care), is free for people struggling with addiction. They are usually directed to the group by the court system, a probation officer or referred by a friend or family member interested in the

(Continued on page 2)

The Power of Engagement Groups *(cont. from pg. 1)*

individual's sobriety and health. Led by a Case Manager and Recovery Coaches, the individual can think about and evaluate their substance abuse issues in a safe, supportive environment, without pressure or judgment.

"They are terrified when they come in. It is a safe place where they can lower their resistance and work on what their goals are. The coach simply walks along with them and helps them to feel worthy, and not so alone," says Renee Hillier, Recovery Coach. "Empowerment is probably the most important part of what I do. Helping them determine what they want and how to get there. I'm not solving any problems for them; I'm just with them as they are problem-solving." The goal is to graduate clients into the AA community to continue their recovery.

According to Brian, a client, "Going to the Engagement Group has changed my life; it has actually saved my life. I've been to hundreds of (other types of meetings) and they didn't work for me, but the Engagement Group at Catholic Charities has helped me a lot – that's why I keep going three days a week."

"The biggest lie they tell themselves is 'I am an addict and I'm not worth anything.' I love watching them develop a new way of thinking about themselves and life. They transition from being a fear-based person, to being more of a faith-based person; going from feelings of unworthiness to feeling worthy, and that they are not alone." said Renee Hillier.

The primary funding source is the Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan.

**Are you or someone you know struggling with addiction?
Engagement Group meets three times a week, please call 517-545-5944.**



Valorie Berryman called LCCC in a panic over the Medicaid waiver program for her mother, Lucy, who has late stage dementia. She had been told that the program was closed and was offered a referral to homeless shelters even though seven months earlier Lucy had been added to a wait list for the program. Penny Jones and Beth Newman, Resource Advocates, made calls, found out the correct information and helped complete paperwork. But before Lucy could gain access to the Medicaid Waiver program, her condition worsened and required a move into skilled nursing care. Beth and Penny put her in touch with various resources and a benefit was discovered that gave Lucy 210 days of skilled nursing care just as it became a necessity. Valorie said, "Beth and Penny assured me it was manageable and it would OK. They have been my angels, guiding my path when I felt defeated and encouraging me along. They are very compassionate and passionate about helping people find services."



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Dementia Caregiver Support Group

3rd Wed. of each month at 4:30-6:00pm, at Be Our Guest Adult Day, 2020 E. Grand River #103, Howell

Foster Parent Informational Meeting

3rd Monday of each month at 5:00-7:00pm, at LCCC Child Welfare Offices, 2020 E. Grand River #101, Howell

Catholic Council on Aging Mass & Picnic

August 22, 2019 at Holy Spirit, Hamburg

Senior Appreciation Mass & Lunch

September 24, 2019 at St. Augustine, Howell

Medicare Part D Sign-up (Oct. 15 - Dec. 7, 2019)

Information on the various plans available beginning in Oct.

Healthy Habits for a Successful School Year

Program in partnership with SELCRA - Oct. 21, 2019

Caring for the Caregiver - Holiday Edition

Program in partnership with SELCRA - Nov. 13, 2019

Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon – Nov. 7, 2019

at St. Joseph, Howell. Bring a gift for a senior shut-in

SAVE THE DATE – March 14, 2020

35th Anniversary Salute to the Stars event

For more information on any of the above events or classes, please see our web site Events Calendar at: www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org

New Program Excitement!

LCCC is excited to share that we have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Special Ministries of Livingston County (SMLC). The Boards of Directors of each agency recently approved the MOU and the effective date is for the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

SMLC provides social, recreation and faith-formation activities for adults with developmental disabilities residing in Livingston County. Activities are varied and include bible study, bowling, arts and crafts, dancing, exercise and others of common interest. SMLC serves about 200 people annually and makes extensive use of volunteers.

During the period of the MOU, LCCC will employ the program staff, screen the volunteers, manage the programs and the budget. For this one year period, the SMLC programs and employees will be LCCC employees. If this year goes well, then this plan will become permanent; the programs and services of SMLC will be fully integrated into LCCC. In corporate terms, this is not a merger or an acquisition. Instead, absorption or integration are terms that provide a better description. SMLC will remain during this year as a separate non-profit, but will not provide services or have employees. Thus, it leaves open the potential that at the end of the year that everything, including both organizations, will return to the status in place prior to June 30, 2019, should both parties choose.

A Lasting Legacy



Considering making a Charitable Bequest in your will to LCCC to strengthen our ability to serve future generations?

Wondering what other Planned Giving opportunities are available to you as you plan for your favorite charity's future?

Please feel free to contact Julie or Mark with any questions or desires regarding your interest in leaving a lasting legacy to LCCC. Additionally, please discuss your decision with your financial advisor or attorney.

Leaving a Bequest makes it easy to help without dipping into your income or savings!

"I have enjoyed seeing the increase in the number of clients that are including charities in their Estate Plans. Your organization in particular has been one that more clients are including. Once people see firsthand all that your organization offers, and the smiles on their loved one's faces when they feel the 'good' from people and organizations like yours, they want to afford others the opportunity to feel the same love they did. Thank you for being there for people when they need you!"

Kimberly S. Lentz
Nawrocki Center for Elder Law, Special Needs & Disability Planning, PLLC



Right at Home at Be Our Guest

On a typical day at Be Our Guest Adult Day (BOGADS) the guests are painting, creating a craft, singing along to special music or participating in an active game of Bunco or balloon volleyball. Whatever they are doing, it is always in a safe place watched over by compassionate staff.

Meals are purchased through Meals on Wheels, but not the desserts and snacks. Those come from supporters like you and are what make BOGADS feel like home. One volunteer, Mary Lou Morris, treats the guests and staff weekly with delicious desserts and treats. In addition to providing treats, your generosity helps us provide the materials for therapeutic and social activities. It also helps offset the cost to families for the care provided to their loved ones.

Funding from the Robert W. and Maxine C. Parker Foundation helps bring the joy of art and music therapy to lives that have become limited. Living with dementia, the guests can't enjoy everything they used to do out in the community. This is hard for the families who miss sharing special experiences with their loved ones. BOGADS is a non-judgmental space where a wife can dance with her husband and singing is done without self-consciousness. These moments make everything we do worthwhile!



Did you know that LCCC offers a Caregiver Support Group on the 3rd Wednesday of each month? Meet others on the same journey and learn new techniques that may help you and your loved one. Respite for your loved one is provided with advanced notice. Follow us on Facebook for weekly Caregiver Tips!

Visit Livingston County Catholic Charities on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram



The Giving Tree

I want to Help Lives Grow by supporting LCCC!

Please designate your gift as indicated below:

- \$ _____ Senior Services Programs
- \$ _____ Counseling
- \$ _____ Substance Abuse Prevention
- \$ _____ Foster Care & Adoption
- \$ _____ Livingston Co. Catholic Charities Endowment Fund
- \$ _____ One-Time Charge or \$ _____ Monthly Charge for 12 months

**Ask your employer if they have a MATCHING GIFT FORM and mail it in with your donation.

Please charge my gift to: _____ Visa _____ Mastercard

Account # _____ Exp. _____ CVC _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please add me to your email list: _____ email

Please make checks payable to:
Livingston County Catholic Charities
2020 E. Grand River Ave.
Suite 104
Howell, MI 48843



Thank you!

Donations can be made on-line through www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org

Please detach and send in with your generous donation.

Turning 65 this year? Need help navigating the Medicare/Medicaid insurance system? Please contact Melodie or Beth at 517-545-5944 for assistance.

Outstanding Dancers Wowed the Crowd!

LCCC's 6th Annual Celebrity Dance Competition at the Salute to the Stars fundraiser on March 9, 2019 was a night to remember! Over \$15,000 net was raised to support LCCC's Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention and other programs. This year's amazing Honorees were: Mary Lou Morris, a Be Our Guest volunteer and Margo and Glenn Gray, LCCC foster parents.

Four teams competed in the judged dance competition: Deb Drick & Rachele Evers, coached by Amy Prochazka; Marnie & Patrick Michel, coached by Sam and Leslie Johnson of Radiant Receptions; Tom & Julie Lin, coached by Melissa Rollins of A BeYOUtiful Balance; and Rose Fodor & Joe Savanyo, coached by Lonnn Hartman of Arthur Murray Ann Arbor Dance Studio.

Team #4 – Rose Fodor & Joe Savanyo won the Dance Competition trophy. A second award, Fan Favorite, was given out to Team #3 – Tom & Julie Lin who raised the most funds through both on-line voting during the weeks leading up to the event and in-house voting at the event.

The event was made possible by our sponsors: Colleen Pryslak, Assoc. Broker, KW Realty Livingston; Garrison Enterprises LLC; K of C Council



#12295 – St. Mary Magdalen; St. Joseph Mercy Health System; Suburban Shipping LLC; Gerry & Beth Munsell; K of C Council #7304 - St. Patrick; Old Oak Financial Planning; Anne Pavlic & Mark Robinson; Sloan & Associates CPA's, PLLC; Corrigan Oil II, Inc.; Don Root; Mary Cole; MATEM LLC Inc.; K of C Council #2659 - St. Joseph; Bredernitz Wagner & CO. PC; Micro Works Computing; Pinckney Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram; Julie & Scott Amman; Mary & Peter Battle.

2020 is our 35th anniversary and the event will be held March 14, 2020 at Crystal Gardens in Howell. We hope to see you there!



LIVINGSTON COUNTY
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
HELPING LIVES GROW

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LCCC Services

Mental Health Counseling

Nationally accredited family service agency offering counseling for individuals, groups, couples, families and children. Many insurances are accepted and a sliding fee is offered for the uninsured.

Volunteer Caregiver Program

Volunteer services designed to assist older adults to remain independent and in their own homes with grace and dignity.

Senior Resource Advocacy

Providing support and information on resources available in the community and state for individual 60 years and older.

Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

Providing outreach and education campaigns to increase public awareness of elder abuse and how to prevent it.

Substance Abuse Prevention

Communities Mobilizing for Change in Partnership with the Livingston County Community Alliance and the Livingston Community Prevention Project.

Substance Abuse Treatment

Individual and group therapy provided following an initial assessment and determination of appropriate level of care. Many insurances are accepted, along with government contracts and a sliding fee scale for the uninsured.

Parish Ministry

A Lasting Promise Couple's Communication, Catholic Council on Aging

Foster Care and Adoption

Providing temporary care for children while working toward reunification with the biological family. If reunification is not possible, LCCC will seek adoptive parents for the child(ren).

Be Our Guest Adult Day

A supportive and caring environment for memory impaired adults who would benefit from a structured day setting. Our goal is to provide meaningful services that in enrich the lives of older adults, families and caregivers. Payment is made on a cost-share basis.



Be Our Guest making Easter baskets for LCCC foster children.

