In April 2013, Project Hope was brought back to life. Originally begun by Catholic Services of Macomb, it was closed due to a lack of funding. Seeing value in this program for pregnant moms and families residing in Macomb County with children age three and under, CCSEM decided to revive it. Project Hope is now funded in part by the United Way of Southeastern Michigan and supported by Catholic parishes and individual donors. Plans are under way to expand it into all six CCSEM counties. Since its reopening, Project Hope has served 32 families and anticipates serving another 100 families from now through June 2014.

“As far as impact, we have been able to help moms feel less stress as they plan for their babies’ births,” says Charlotte Webster, program manager. “One mom said that because we supported her and helped her with baby supplies it helped her make the decision to continue with her pregnancy.”

Through Project Hope, moms and families are able to get infant clothing, baby food, diapers, formula, child care referrals, and Ages and Stages child development screenings. In addition, participants receive education completion support, case management to increase their self-sufficiency and help applying for Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) assistance through MI Bridges. Project Hope is based in the agency's Clinton Township office (15945 Canal Road), which also serves as a MI Bridges application site. There is no age limit to participate in Project Hope; thus far, pregnant and parenting moms from age 18 to 43 have sought and received help.

For more information, call Webster at (586) 416-2300, ext. 4024, or email her at websterc@ccsem.org.
Dear Friends in Christ,

On the night before his passion and death, at the Last Supper in the Upper Room Jesus explained the meaning of what he was about to do: that he was loving us to the end. And he charged us to the same: “I give you a new commandment, love one another, as I have loved you” (Jn 13:34). Belief in the saving love of God the Son must find its expression in acts of love. This conviction is foundational for the Church, part of her very “DNA” if you will, and it explains why I have put such a high priority on the establishment of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM). CCSEM is part of the way we in the Archdiocese are obeying our Lord.

Because Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan is part of God’s work in us, I am very grateful to him for this opportunity to address you through this “Newsletter,” so that you can learn more about this important new initiative. I want to share with you a bit about my vision of CCSEM and how it contributes to the life of the Church in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The mission of this new arm of our Local Church is simply expressed: “Compelled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) provides loving service to those in need in the Archdiocese of Detroit.” Building on the foundation of what the county-based Catholic Social Services have accomplished over the past decades, CCSEM is now the principal way that I, as your bishop, can gather all of us for performing the “Works of Mercy” (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2447). I am confident that through CCSEM the whole People of God in the Archdiocese will be able more effectively to serve those whom God sends us so that we can share his love with them.

In addition to the ways the staff of CCSEM directly serves the needs of others, Catholic Charities will offer support to the efforts of parishes, especially their Christian Service Commissions, to show the love of Jesus to our neighbors. And beyond the parish level, CCSEM will be the way for our Archdiocese to help reinforce the charitable works of other Catholic organizations in our corner of the State.

Such support will involve not only hands-on performance of these acts of love done in the name of Jesus, but also formation for those who are engaged in these acts. This is indispensable, since Christian love always involves at its deepest level a gift of self, personal sacrifice, “paschal love.” And this living out in our lives of the sacrifice of Jesus is impossible without the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is only by the power of the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts that the love of Jesus can live in our actions.

Acting in the love of Jesus means that what happens in a “work of mercy” goes far beyond meeting an immediate need. This encounter unfolds in love, love on both sides, the love of Jesus which finds one receiving a blessing in giving and the other giving a blessing in receiving. This love never demeans, but always ennobles everyone involved. Solid formation in the Holy Spirit, without whom it is not possible to be acting out the Paschal Mystery, is essential if we want to love our neighbors in this way.

So, you see another reason I am grateful to God for the coming to be of CCSEM: by means of Catholic Charities my co-workers and I can better assist God’s People in the Archdiocese in answering their call to holiness, a call which is universal, as the Second Vatican Council reminded us fifty years ago.
Felicidado Graduados!

Ninety-degree weather did not deter them; it was the least of many challenges they had to overcome to complete Adult Basic Education (ABE) courses offered at Hispanic Outreach Services (HOS) in Pontiac. The ABE program, offered in collaboration with the Mexican government and with support from the United Way of Southeastern Michigan, enables adult learners to obtain their elementary and secondary certification from the Mexican Department of Education and their G.E.D. (General Equivalency Diploma) through the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth. Thirteen students were recognized at a graduation ceremony on May 20, 2013. Two achieved their elementary certification, eight completed middle school certification and three finished their G.E.D. Jason Shanks, CCSEM CEO, and Vicente Sanchez Ventura, Consul of Mexico, presented the certificates and $100 scholarship awards to the graduates.

A long-time champion of the ABE program, Ventura was presented the very first HOS Amigo Award for his help in securing funding, providing technical assistance and training, and advocating on behalf of program participants. Other recognitions included a Certificate of Appreciation to Alex Resendez and WSDS La Explosiva Radio for their help in promoting HOS programs, and graduation certificates to 12 students who completed the Citizenship Class. HOS offers this class, legal advice and naturalization application assistance in partnership with Thomas M. Cooley Law School Immigration Outreach.

New G.E.D. Center

The Michigan Department of Education has approved HOS to be a G.E.D. Center beginning January 2014. As a G.E.D. Center, HOS will be able to open its doors to more students, both Hispanics and others, make an impact on literacy in the community, and prepare graduates for gainful employment and higher education. To accomplish this, funding is needed to upgrade the HOS Computer Lab, purchase the necessary equipment and provide program materials. An appeal is underway, led by Oakland Advisory Board Member Dr. Miguel Lis-Planells.

“We are reaching out to people who value education, who appreciate the obstacles many students must overcome to achieve their educational goals, and who understand what graduates give back, ultimately, to our communities,” said Dr. Lis-Planells. “As this year’s HOS Appeal Chair, I ask everyone to join me in supporting Hispanic Outreach Services with a financial contribution.”

The estimated cost to underwrite implementation of this program is $35,000.
Count Your Steps

Catholic Charities’ Behavioral Health program is partnering with the Oakland County Health Department Office of Substance Abuse Services (OSAS) on a program called “Count Your Steps.” The focus is to educate and energize the community about healthy living habits, particularly diet and exercise. OSAS and CSEM are partnering to address the fact that clients of both agencies who misuse alcohol and drugs often disregard their physical health, neglecting to eat healthy foods and engage in exercise. The Kick off Walk on July 30 began at CSEM offices in Royal Oak and ended at the VFW Park on Campbell Road. Free pedometers, log books and information on healthy eating were distributed to walkers to aid their quest for better health. More events are planned during September, which is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

Walkers included Ecole Brooks (bottom, left) and Christina Nicholas, LMSW, chief of Substance Abuse Services (bottom, right), from the Oakland County Health Division.

A Presence in Lapeer

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan now has an office in Lapeer, Michigan, that will serve all of Lapeer County. Once called Catholic Social Services of Lapeer, the agency was renamed Christian Family Services at one time in its history and underwent dramatic changes in leadership and identity. CCSEM stepped in earlier this year to assess the needs of the county and determine how it could provide services as a new regional agency. CCSEM now has two therapists – Ken York, M.A., L.P.C., and Cam Gild, M.S.W., L.M.S.W., A.C.S.W., C.S.O.T.S. – providing counseling with a focus on children and families. Behavioral Health Associate Director Cindy Willey-King manages the Lapeer, St. Clair and Macomb offices.

An Open House event will take place Saturday, September 14, at 700 S. Main Street, Suite 211, in Lapeer. Call (810) 664-4646 for details or to schedule an appointment.

Cindy Willey-King

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan invites you to attend a Free Parenting Education Group

September 9 – October 14
Mondays from 6-8 p.m.
1070 S. Telegraph Road, Monroe

TO TOPICS INCLUDE:
- Understanding Behavior • Improving Communication • Nurturing
- Promoting positive child development • Cultivating Self-esteem
- Increasing Cooperation • Providing Discipline

You can achieve family harmony.

Call 734.240.3850 or email klinskiw@ccsem.org to sign up.

Catholic Charities Services also include:
- Individual counseling for children, teens and adults
- Family counseling • Adoption & Foster Care Services
- Providing Help. Giving Hope.

www.ccsem.org
ADULT DAY SERVICES

Not Just for Seniors

You don’t have to be a senior citizen to utilize Catholic Charities’ Adult Day program. Although many participants are seniors, the program is designed to be of service to any adult with a cognitive disability, or a condition or injury that requires constant supervision during daytime hours when primary caregivers must work, run errands, or fulfill other commitments. Services include: medication reminders; personal care (bathing); health status monitoring by an RN; person-centered activities such as exercise, trivia, art, music therapy and special events; lunch and two snacks per day; and more.

An Open House is scheduled for Sunday, September 22, from noon to 2 p.m., and Monday, September 23, from 6-8 p.m. at the Auburn Hills location: 3300 S. Adams Road, Auburn Hills, 48326. Contact Mindy Rubio at (248) 537-3300, ext. 3803, or rubiom@ccsem.org for more information.

IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICES

Help in 5 Languages

Did you know that CCSEM helps refugees start new lives? Our office of Immigration and Refugee Services welcomes immigrants and refugees, supports their transition to U.S. Citizenship and maximizes their potential for self-sufficiency and success – and they do it in five languages: Arabic, Chaldean, English, French and Spanish!

Last year, hundreds of people received help. This year, the need has doubled, with the program serving as many in six months of 2013 as it did in all of 2012. A storeroom once filled with donations has been depleted and there is an urgent need for new and gently used household items. The program also welcomes financial contributions. Email Program Director Jeralda Hattar at hattarj@ccsem.org for more information. Donation drop-off location: 15945 Canal Road, Clinton Township.

Donations of new and gently used household items needed.
The singular event for many years in Oakland County has been the Spring Gala; that didn’t change in 2013. In the midst of organization transition, this much-loved event drew a sizeable crowd for an evening that included a Swing dance contest, silent and live auctions, and Ron Kischuk and the Masters of Music. Kischuk also was a featured speaker. The well-known jazz trombonist, who had sought help from Catholic Social Services as a young man, shared his story.

“I was 25 years old. My wife had left me, I was struggling to make it as a jazz musician, and I was drinking too much,” Kischuk said. “I started going to counseling. I didn’t want my whole life to fall apart. The therapist kept me focused. She did a great job of keeping me balanced. I returned to school and didn’t repeat the mistakes of the past.”

Twenty-seven years later, Kischuk is remarried, an award-winning musician, and a respected teacher of classical and jazz music at Wayne State University. He received a standing ovation. Stories like his have become an integral part of every Gala, helping guests to see the impact of services on the lives of those we serve.

The 2013 Spring Gala raised more than $100,000 for CCCSEM programs serving Oakland County. Our deepest thanks to all who attended, and to the sponsors, advertisers, contributors and auction donors listed below who made the event possible.

A Tri-county Event in 2014

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan has re-envisioned the Spring Gala for 2014 as a tri-county event. As CCSEM grows across the region, a tri-county Gala is intended to build awareness about programs and services, and to engage more volunteers, parishes and partners in our mission. For 2014, the planning committee is in place and working to create a unique and outstanding experience. Please circle May 10, 2014 on your calendar and plan to attend.

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Top to bottom: Alliance Catholic Credit Union representative Tom Sweetman and Katrina Saunders
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Top photo, left to right clockwise:
Mick and Lisa Brown with Msgr. Chuck Kosanke
Ron Kischuk
Barb and Steve Britz
Trish and David Mervenne, Linda Luchi, Mark and Dawn Hall
A NEW ROOF FOR THE SFFC BUILDING

St. Kenneth Parish in Plymouth has made a very generous donation of $16,000 towards a new roof for the St. Francis Family Center building in Southfield, which houses the Adoption & Foster Care Program’s family meeting and activity rooms, a children’s library and administrative offices. The donation will cover one-half of the cost of replacing the dilapidating roof, which has been near the top of our Wish List for capital improvements. Our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Thomas Belczak, the Christian Service Commission and the parishioners of St. Kenneth’s for this blessing.

A TIME FOR TEA

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish in Beverly Hills hosted a fundraiser April 7 that helped send nine children in foster care to summer camp. Led by long-time volunteers Kathy McGuire and Mae Lyons, and the parish’s Christian Service Commission, “A Time for Tea” featured live and silent auctions, a raffle, and a selection of tasty teas and baked goods.

200 BACKPACKS FOR 200 KIDS

Several donations were made to the CCSEM Back-to-School Drive thanks to notices in Catholic parish bulletins and the generosity of donors. From July 15 through August 19, donations of backpacks and school supplies for elementary and middle school children were collected and dropped off or shipped to CCSEM from all across the region. We reached our goal of 200 backpacks for 200 kids thanks to the following organizations and individuals:

- Family Dollar
- Kerr Albert Office Supplies
- Kids to Kids Program for VBS /Christ Our Light Parish
- Knights of Columbus
- Meijer #260, Rochester
- St. Lawrence Parish
- Theresa Aneiros
- Andrea Anjeski
- Cindy Cobb
- Josephine Connolly
- Linda Danner
- Cindy Gaus
- Andrea Knesek
- Bob & Terri Lesnau
- Barbara Muir
- Delores Norton
- Amy & David Rizik
- George Shaieb
- Steve & Mary Jo Walls
GET TO KNOW…

Chris J. Liparoto is the most recent addition to the CCSEM governing board. A lifelong Catholic, Liparoto was born and raised in Monroe, Michigan, where he and his family were active members of St. John the Baptist Church. He earned bachelor’s degrees in Economics and Sociology from Michigan State University and has spent the last 20 years in various positions with Merrill Lynch in Rochester. Currently, he is senior vice president of Wealth Management and manages the Auburn Hills office as its Resident Director. An active community volunteer, Liparoto serves on the board of Lighthouse Emergency Services and as secretary on the Development Council for St. Andrew Parish in Rochester, where he and his wife and four sons are members.

Sylvia Diver has joined the St. Clair County Advisory Board in Port Huron. Diver is a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Emmett, Michigan and very active in the Daughters of Isabella “an organization of Catholic women to uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church, bring spiritual benefits to (its) members and contribute to the common good of humanity.” She is now retired after working as a Nurse Practitioner for several years. Her specialty was Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The CCSEM Leadership Team consists of nine men and women who with Catholic Charities CEO Jason Shanks meet bi-weekly to share information about the programs they lead, identify and resolve issues that have an agency-wide focus, and develop strategies to grow and improve the agency and deliver quality services in fulfillment of the CCSEM mission. They are:

Edward (Chip) Cieslinski, director, Quality Improvement
Jessica Edwards, Manager, Human Resources
Andrea Foley, Director, Behavioral Health
Luz Gayon-Telleria, Director, Hispanic Outreach Services
Jeralda Hattar, Director, Immigration & Refugee Services
Argie Lomas, Program Manager, Adoption & Foster Care
Herschell Masten, Director, Senior & Volunteer Services
Deb Patrick, Director, Marketing & Communications
Ed Redlin, Chief Financial Officer

CCSEM By the Numbers:

- 6 Counties served
- 15 CCSEM locations
- 173 Special Needs children have Foster Grandparents
- 207 Children served by the Foster Care program in 2012
- 924 Hispanic Outreach Services clients served last year
- 1,000 Miles driven by CEO Jason Shanks for CCSEM each week
- 4033 Clients served by Behavioral Health program last year
- 10,000 Number of steps Behavioral Health clients attempt to walk each day during the Count Your Steps program

“Like” us on Facebook
continued A Message from Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron

And a last aspect of my vision for establishing Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan concerns the New Evangelization to which the Council summoned us. At the Last Supper, just after speaking about the “New Commandment” of love, Jesus said that living his commandment would be the way for us disciples to witness to him and his love: “This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35). The world is crying out for this witness, in painful need of finding the merciful love of Jesus. God’s love in the world is Good News indeed – the healing and wholeness for which all thirst.

I entrust the launch of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan to the Holy Mother of God, the Mother of Mercy, so that by the help of her prayers we will be strengthened to fulfill the mandate to love one other, to grow into the image of her Son and to bring others to know him. And I invite everyone to look to our own local apostle of mercy, the Venerable Fr. Solanus Casey, as an example for how to do all of this to the glory of Jesus Christ.

~ Abp. Allen Vigneron

MISSION STATEMENT:
Compelled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan provides loving service to those in need in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

WISH LIST

Capital Needs:
- Balance of funding needed ($16,000) for new roof for the St. Francis Family Center building

For Project Hope:
- Baby care items (diapers, diaper bags, wipes, formula, toys)
- Infant & toddler car seats
- Children’s clothing (sizes newborn to 6X)

For Adoption & Foster Care:
- New Children’s and Young Adult books and DVDs for the library
- Donations to the Summer Camp Fund for children in foster care

For Immigration and Refugee Services:
- New twin and full sheet sets and pillows; new or gently used dish sets; pots and pans, glassware; and cooking and eating utensils

2014 Spring Gala Fundraiser:
- Silent and live auction items (e.g., gift certificates for restaurants, hotel stays, event and sports tickets, jewelry, unique experiences, etc.)
- Sponsors

Contact Us:
info@ccsem.org
5 Sites to Assist Clients with MI Bridges

Five CCSEM sites are gearing up to become MI Bridges application assistance centers. MI Bridges, also known as the Michigan Bridge program, is a Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) program designed to provide citizens with a quick and easy application process for Food Assistance or State Emergency Relief. Applicants can apply online and check the status of their applications at the CCSEM sites. Staff members or volunteers can help applicants apply, check their application status or appointment times, send a message to DHS workers and upload required documents at agency offices in Waterford, Royal Oak, Clinton Township, Southfield and Pontiac. Training has been completed and, with the help of an AmeriCorps volunteer supplied by the United Way of Southeastern Michigan, the sites will be up and running before fall. This service is being added to the existing Behavioral Health, Adult Day Services and Hispanic Outreach Services programming already offered at these sites.

...from the CCSEM photo album

Clockwise from top left: State Senator Randy Richardville won the Inaugural Celebrity Spelling Bee in Monroe.
Gina Forbes, Kelly McKay and Jessica Patrick whip up a fabulous French-themed meal at Sur La Table event in Troy.
Monroe Behavioral Health staff with Program Director Andrea Foley (top, right) at St. Joseph’s Day Dinner.
Community partners Alex Resendez (WSDS radio), Blanca Mares (Mexican Consulate) and Leisha Evans (Cooley Law) at HOS graduation.
HOS Community Garden in Pontiac.
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Lapeer Open House</td>
<td><a href="mailto:willey-kingo@ccsem.org">willey-kingo@ccsem.org</a></td>
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<td>September 22, noon to 2 p.m.</td>
<td>September 23, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Day Services Open House Auburn Hills</td>
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<td>October 1, 2013</td>
<td>New Fiscal Year Begins</td>
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<td>November 1 – December 31, 2013</td>
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<td>January 13 – February 14, 2014</td>
<td>Share the Warmth Winter Coat Drive</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hughesb@ccsem.org">hughesb@ccsem.org</a></td>
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