

Connections

Providing Help. Giving Hope.

SPRING 2014

CCSEM BOARD

PRESIDENT

The Most Reverend
Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

CEO

Jason Shanks

CHAIR

Msgr. Charles Kosanke

TREASURER

Karen Mersino

SECRETARY

Barb Britz

Beth Collison

Chris J. Liparoto

Daniel C. Maher

Msgr. Robert McClory

Dr. Ike McKinnon

Carolyn A. Morrin

Dr. Yobany Pardo

Rita Rinner

Michael Trueman

A Chain of Love, Faith & Family

Spring Gala underscores our
strengths

On Saturday, May 10, 2014 – the day before Mother's Day – Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan will hold its annual Spring Gala. Invitations are in the mail, auction items are arriving, and the script is being written for a wonderful program at the Westin Book Cadillac Detroit. Won't you join us?

Love

In keeping with our mission to provide loving service to those in need, the theme for this year's Gala will be "Stronger Together: A Chain of Love, Faith & Family." Proceeds from the event will help to support CCSEM programs serving children, adults and families in six counties.

Faith

A few months ago, Pope Francis spoke of the continuous "chain of faith" from parents to children. Through our Adoption & Foster Care, Family Counseling and Family Preservation programs, Catholic Charities helps to

heal and strengthen family relationships in an environment that supports faith and prayer. Many of our locations have held Enthronement Ceremonies led by the Men of the Sacred Hearts, blessing our efforts, while all offices display crosses or crucifixes and offer prayer cards. In Pontiac, Hispanic Outreach Services has created a chapel within its walls for client and staff use.

Family

This year, the Gala will spotlight our Foster Care program and celebrate the caring men and women who step up to provide stable, nurturing homes for children when they most need them. Last year, we set a goal of recruiting one new foster family in every parish of the Archdiocese. We continue to work to achieve this goal.

What's New?

Several silent auction items will be available for online bidding starting April 10! Go to www.biddingforgood.com/CCSEM to view items and bid! We also will raffle off six high-end items at the Gala,

continued on page 2

Providing Help. Giving Hope.

www.ccsem.org



Photo of Faith@Work auction donation of statue of angel with children



continued from page 1

including jewelry and gift baskets – great Mother’s Day gifts! And, plan to bring your Visa or MasterCard with you – we’ll swipe it when you register for a quick and easy checkout at the end of the night!

Our Sponsors: (to date)

- St. John Providence Health System
- St. William Catholic School, Walled Lake
- Bodman PLC
- Susan and Clark Durant
- MGM Grand Detroit
- Dawda Mann Mulcahy & Sadler
- GreenPath Debt Solutions
- Lourdes Senior Community
- Alliance Catholic Credit Union
- St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
- St. Regis Parish
- Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C.

Emcee:

Glenda Lewis
WXYZ Action News Anchor

Entertainment:

The Chris Codish Trio

Staying Overnight?

Call 1-800-WESTIN1 to reserve your room (\$139) in the Catholic Charities block (Group #5613) by April 18.

Tickets/Tables

Online: www.ccsem.org
Call: (248) 537-3300, ext. 3304
Email: patrickd@ccsem.org

Spelling Bee Sponsors & Advertisers

- Arrow Awards
- Cooley Hehl Wohlgamuth & Carlton, PLLC
- Fifth Third Bank
- Mercy Memorial Hospital System
- Monroe Plumbing & Heating Co.
- Prudential Hudkins Realtors
- Ready, Heler & Ready, PLLC
- St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish
- St. Michael the Archangel Parish
- Schafer Agency Inc.
- Sieb Plumbing

Bee Prize Donors

- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Gerweck Nissan
- Groulx Automotive
- Joy’s Bring Home the Goodness
- La-Z-Boy
- Meijer
- Mindful Massage
- Monroe County Community Credit Union
- Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau
- Monroe Dodge
- Mugsy’s
- St. Mary Catholic Central High School
- St. Pierre Ace Hardware
- Susie’s Sweets & Eats

AND THE WINNER WAS...

State Representative Bill LaVoy took home the Bee Bobblehead Trophy as the winner of the second annual Celebrity Spelling Bee presented by Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan in Monroe County. The winning word for LaVoy: “reconciliation.” This year, the celebrity spellers could choose from several categories of words, including LaVoy’s favorite, Catechism, Up Words and Spectator Sports, among others. They dared to test their skills before an audience of about 200, who cheered their efforts and were forgiving of their mistakes. The evening also included a light buffet, engaging raffles and prizes.



State Rep. Bill Lavoy

Our thanks to all the celebrities, including Jenny Biler, Judge Joe Costello, Fox Handler, Mary Kapp, Dave McNew, Molly Moore, Dr. Kojo Quartey, Kaye Lani Rafko-Wilson, Josie Stephens and Cheryl Wassus.

Special thanks to Monroe Advisory Board Members Carolyn Morrin, Greg Schafer, Joe Theisen and Bill Sunderland, and to planning

committee members Crysti Esper and John Patterson for their energetic and creative efforts. We also thank the judges, Amy and Ian Cooke, State Senator Randy Richardville, Sean Jorgensen and Joe Bellino, for their expertise and wit, and the DTE Energy volunteers who gave their time. This event raised more than \$13,000 for programs serving Monroe County.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

“Sharing the Mission”

At issue in the debates over the HHS mandate and religious freedom is whether an organization that is associated with a church, can be religiously exempted from the law. A wedge is being created between a “house of worship,” a church, and a faith based organization that serves many outside its religious beliefs.

Religious cannot just mean the worship we do in our churches, nor should religion be defined as what exclusively happens inside their walls. And it certainly should not be determined based on the faith or lack thereof of those we serve or who we might employ. And defining if an organization is religious should not be based on where funds come from. Furthermore, the ministry of service should not be viewed as an addition to church activity, nor viewed as being on the perimeter of the church. Catholic Charities does not serve alongside the Church nor is it just a “partner” with the Church. We share in the very mission of the Church!

The ministry of service is at the very core of who the Church is. If the Church, as defined by the Second Vatican Council, is “missionary in nature,” then love of neighbor, through the social service ministry of the Church must, and indeed is, a part of that missionary nature. Pope Benedict said that charity is “an indispensable expression of her [the Church’s] very being.” (cf. *Deus Caritas est* no. 25). The Church is continuing on the work entrusted to her and the mandate given to her by Christ. Christ pours out his love for us on the cross, and we in turn, continue that work, by pouring out love for others. We work to manifest this love of Christ in our world everyday through the work of Charity. Under the Archbishop, Catholic Charities is the “organized” expression of that love for others.

For Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan operating in the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Catholic faith is at the very foundation of who we are. We recognize that the Catholic

faith should not just be how we are identified. Rather the faith of the Church should be infused in everything we do – from answering the phone, to giving counsel to the troubled, to welcoming the stranger, to serving the poor. We recognize that our work cannot merely be to ease some distress – physical poverty – found in the other, but a recognition that we need to serve the whole person, including the spiritual dimension. We know that lives change when they encounter God!

“The most tragic hunger and the most terrible anguish is not lack of food. It’s much more about the absence of God and the lack of true love, the love that was revealed to us on the Cross.” – Robert Cardinal Sarah, President of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum

Please join with us in this ministry of service through your prayers, through your gift of time, or by contributing to our work financially. You can do so by using the enclosed envelope or by attending our upcoming gala on May 10. Go to www.ccsem.org for more information. Finally, I would ask you to pray for religious freedom, so that together we can continue to serve others as modeled by Jesus Christ.

May you have a Blessed Easter.



Jason Shanks



For more information:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/>

<http://www.micatholic.org/advocacy/advocacy-issues/religious-liberty/>



Find a Physician
(888) 664-4968

mercymemorial.org



HISPANIC OUTREACH SERVICES

Shout out to OU

Hispanic Outreach would like to give a shout out to Oakland University for their tremendous support of HOS clients all year round. For the past several years, that support has included providing the mentoring program with tickets and food vouchers to two university basketball games - Go Grizzlies! In addition, the OU Multicultural Student Group annually hosts a fall clean-up day and luncheon at HOS; adult ESL classes are coordinated and taught by OU staff and students; several OU students assist in the After-school Tutoring and Youth Mentoring programs; and OU staff members have made presentations to HOS clients about preparing for college and seeking financial aid. The most recent partnership has Oakland University-William Beaumont School of Medicine students providing health education and health screenings to some HOS clients. The OU black and gold pairs well with the CCSEM blue and green!



Oakland Advisory Board Member Rita C. Rinner finds her name on the G.E.D. Center donor tree with CEO Jason Shanks.



G.E.D. Center Open House

On Monday, March 10, HOS held an Open House for donors, students, friends and staff in its new G.E.D. Testing Center. The event included a tour, remarks by CCSEM CEO Jason Shanks and a representative of the Mexican Consulate, who presented scholarship awards to students. Housed in the HOS Building, La Casa Amiga, in Pontiac (76 Williams Street), the G.E.D. Center is open to anyone wishing to take the exam. Our thanks to the generous people who helped make the G.E.D. Center a reality: HOS Appeal Chair Dr. Miguel Lis-Planells; Christ the Redemeer Parish; Chrysler LLC; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Daly; Chip & Mary Jo Dawson; Mr. & Mrs. Gene Fava; Gina & Gale Forbes; Mr. & Mrs. Terence Hamilton; Margaret Huggard; Anne Mervenne; Dr. & Mrs. Yobany Pardo; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Peters; Rita C. Rinner; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tracy; and Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Zurbriggen.



G.E.D. Center Open House reception

ADMINISTRATION

Catholic Charities welcomed **Jim Janetzke** as our new Chief Financial Officer. Janetzke comes to CCSEM from Everest Academy where he spent four years as Business Manager. Previously, he was Controller for the Cranbrook Educational Community for 10 years. Janetzke earned his MBA at Oakland University and his bachelor's degree in Accounting from Eastern Michigan University.



CCSEM By the Numbers:

Clients served by CCSEM Programs in 2013:

4583 Senior & Volunteer Services

4068 Hispanic Outreach Services

1121 Behavioral Health Services in Oakland County

1065 Behavioral Health Services in St. Clair County

983 Immigration & Refugee Services

753 Behavioral Health Services in Monroe County

710 Adoption & Foster Care program

703 Behavioral Health Services in Macomb County

13,986 Total Number Served*

**Does not include those served through our Back to School Drive, Winter Coat Drive, Christmas Giving or Crisis Navigator Program*

“FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS!”

The St. Clair County Advisory board is planning a big event in Port Huron – “Food, Fun Friends!” The event will take place Wednesday, August 27, at 7 p.m. at Alexander’s and will feature an array of food and dessert stations, and live entertainment. Proceeds will benefit Family Counseling programs serving children and families in St. Clair County.



2014 Spring Gala
Saturday, May 10, 2014
Location: Westin Book Cadillac Detroit

PARISH/COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Overwhelming generosity

Donations to Catholic Charities 2014 Share the Warmth Winter Coat Drive more than tripled in number those received last year. An estimated 1,000 coats were donated – more than half brand new – from infant and toddler snowsuits to men’s size XXXL. After meeting the needs of our clients, coats were shared with the Pontiac Academy for Excellence, South Oakland Shelter, the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, and in Detroit, St. Stephen’s, Alternatives For Girls and the Detroit Public Schools’ Early Childhood program.

Coats came in abundance from Catholic parishes and from individual donors, including CCSEM staff members. Coats even came from clients donating to help other clients.

“It was a warm response to the frigid temperatures this winter,” says CCSEM CEO Jason Shanks. “People understood the need and gave more, and gave often!”

Alliance Catholic Credit Union, a partner for the second straight year, collected coats in all nine of its branch locations and at their administrative offices in Southfield.

We are especially indebted to:

- St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Detroit (St. Cecilia and St. Leo sites)
- St. Kenneth Parish, Plymouth
- St. Joseph School, Lake Orion
- Alliance Catholic Credit Union
- Meijer #260

Joyce Janowski (l) delivers coat drive donations from Our Lady Star of the Sea to Development Associate Belinda Hughes.



Donation pickup at Alliance CCU.



St. Joseph students present donated coats. Back row: Diane Leier, Kaye Chervenak (Alliance Catholic Credit Union), Grace H., Kalan H., Michael R, Daniel H., Charlie H. Front: Kora G., Angelina B., Graysen H., Luke M.

Restoring the warmth

This year, CCSEM partnered with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) to provide energy assistance to individuals and families struggling to pay their bills during a long and brutal winter. CCSEM helped people file 62 applications for assistance; 55 were approved and received more than \$44,224 in relief, says CCSEM Crisis Navigator Belinda Hughes. Here's what one thankful recipient had to say...

"I am writing this to express my gratitude for the help I received with my energy bill. ... To have peace of mind knowing that with all of the subzero weather we have been having my two children and myself will have heat in our home. I would also like to express how professional, helpful, and prompt Belinda Hughes of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan was in returning my phone call, setting up my appointment, and filling out the application. To have someone to follow up with you during this hard time is wonderful. It is hard to ask for help (if) you are speaking to someone that is so cold and judgmental. But Belinda was very kind and understanding and reassured me that everything was going to be okay and not to be ashamed to ask for help. The process was very smooth. This is a great service to have for families in need and I pray that St. Vincent De Paul and Catholic Charities will be able to continue to help families just like mine was in the future."

To Detroit, with love

Our heartfelt thanks to the Christian Service Committee and all parishioners of **St. Genevieve Parish**, Livonia, for their capacity building gift of \$15,000 towards our efforts in Detroit and Wayne County. Gifts like these encourage us in our mission and deepen our determination to make a meaningful difference. St. Genevieve joins a growing list of donors to specifically designate their gifts to Detroit and Wayne County. As Catholic Charities works to expand programs in the county, it is gratifying to know that our supporters appreciate the need and are stepping up to be a part of the solution.

Crafting fun days and better lives

In January, Catholic Charities' Adult Day Health Services program in Auburn Hills received a huge donation of craft supplies from the parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Grosse Pointe Woods. In February, OLSOS delivered diapers and Pull-ups to Project Hope, which provides free services to pregnant mothers and moms parenting young children (infant to age 3) in Macomb County. These monthly donations help to fill ongoing needs and provide for our clients' well-being. Thank you Debby Veltri, Christian Service Coordinator, Joyce Janowski, and all who gave.

Volunteers needed

Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers to help facilitate support groups for the recently divorced. We will be using Ascension Press' *Catholic Divorce Survival Guide*. Training will be provided in August. Volunteers will have to be willing to facilitate group sessions in various locations throughout the year.

In addition, we are looking for Catholic married couples who would like to volunteer with our ENCORE retreats. These retreats are for couples where one or both individuals are looking to remarry. If you have a heart for marriage ministry, please contact shanksj@ccsem.org for more information.



"Like" us on Facebook



Connections is a publication of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, Marketing & Communications, 3300 S. Adams Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Jason Shanks, CEO

Deb Patrick, editor and director, Marketing & Communications

Art Direction, Lynne Dorando Hans

Please direct questions or comments to the editor at patrickd@ccsem.org.

We invite you to learn more about CCSEM at www.ccsem.org and "Like" us on Facebook.

Toll-free: 1-855-88-CCSEM (22736)

April 6 - 12, 2014	National Volunteer Week
May 10, 2014	Spring Gala Westin Book Cadillac, Detroit Contact: patrickd@ccsem.org
June 20 - August 25, 2014	CCSEM Back to School Drive
August 27, 2014	"Food, Fun, Friends!" Alexander's Contact: patrickd@ccsem.org
September	September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. If you or someone you know needs help, call 1-855-88-CCSEM (22736).

From the CCSEM photo album...



Clockwise from top left:
Vicente Colmenares Sumano, Deputy Consul of Mexico and HOS Director Luz Gayon-Telleria present scholarships to graduates of the Adult Basic Education program.

HOS Chapel

Group of Ladies who completed their IN HOME CHILDCARE training, part of our Job Skills /Entrepreneurs Programs at HOS

GED students visiting The Henry Ford Museum as part of their Social Studies class

