It is official! As of January 1, 2013, Catholic Social Services of Oakland County (CSSOC) was merged into Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM). CCSEM is a new, six-county regional agency that was called for by Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron in 2011.

When I began my position as CEO in October of 2012, I witnessed a talented, committed staff who has been willing and able to step up to the challenges of providing services in Oakland County and throughout the Archdiocese. I was impressed by the dedication of our staff to serving families and individuals by providing quality services and support. In the coming months, we will continue many of the services we have been offering in addition to expanding some of our services such as: adoption and foster care, mental health services, and services for seniors. During this Year of Faith, called for by Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, we seek to move forward in faith motivated by love (Porta Fidei, 6) during this exciting time for CCSEM.

I sincerely hope that you will continue to support the exemplary work begun in Oakland County under the spirited leadership of Marge Huggard. Marge gave many years to CSSOC before her retirement last fall. We thank Marge for her expertise, her guidance, and her compassion, which touched many and served the agency so well. I would like to thank the Oakland board for its steadfast and committed service. I also thank you for your support and would ask for your continued help in challenging lives. There are many ways you can get involved such as volunteering, taking part in one of our drives, or by hosting a fundraiser/networking opportunity in your home. Your support is essential to allowing us to provide quality services and programs to those in need in our community.

You will find within this newsletter the 2011-2012 Annual Report for Oakland County. On behalf of the CCSEM Board, I thank every individual, group, company and parish listed for their generous support of our efforts.

As has been tradition, the annual Spring Gala will still be held this year on April 27th. Thanks to a group of long-time and dedicated volunteers, “It’s De-Lovely!” will be an exceptional experience. I hope to see you there.

Above all, let us keep our eyes fixed on Christ since “only in him is there the certitude for looking to the future” (Porta Fidei, 15) and so we will move forward in faith excited for the growth the Lord will bring to this organization.

Jason Shanks, CEO

Mission Statement
Compelled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan provides professional and volunteer services to people in need throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit without regard to race, religion, age, gender or socio-economic status.
Thank you

Happier Holidays

We have been blessed over the last several years to receive abundant support for our Christmas Giving program and Holiday Appeal. Support for 2012 remained strong. Through the generosity and kindness of 14 companies and organizations and 20 individuals, 97 families with children were able to enjoy a beautiful, bountiful Christmas.

Special thanks to: Alliance Catholic Credit Union; Ashley Capital; Girls Scouts of America Troop #30093; Immersion Graphics, Inc.; ipaper; Ladies of Charity; Meijer #260; San Marino Ladies Auxiliary; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; St. Gerald Parish; St. Hugo; St. Joseph Parish; University Liggett; World Class Landscaping and RY&M Recycling of Michigan.

The Guardian Angels who responded to our Holiday Appeal gave nearly $25,000. We are grateful to each and every angel watching over us and those we serve. Thank you so very much! ■

By the truckload

Volunteers and staff pick up donations collected by the Ladies of Charity at St. Hugo of the Hills Parish.
Get ready for a decidedly De-Lightful Spring Gala on Saturday, April 27! Hosted by Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, the 2013 Spring Gala will take place at the San Marino Club in Troy at 6 p.m.

This year’s theme—“It’s De-Lovely!”—is borrowed from a Cole Porter song from the 1930s and is intended to evoke the glamour, sophistication, art and vitality of the era. The planning committee has ordered a De-Licious meal, acquired De-Luxe live and silent auctions items, and created a divine experience just for you.

Like Galas of the past, this year’s event is our opportunity to bring together friends and supporters under one roof to celebrate recent successes, highlight key programs and raise funds to help support our mission through the end of the fiscal year. All proceeds will benefit programs in Oakland County.

New elements include our venue, an Afterglow at Tre Monti, and dancing to the big band sound of Ron Kisuch and the Masters of Music! Instructors from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio will teach a one-hour Swing Dance Class on Gala night at the San Marino and judge a 10-minute Swing Dance contest during the evening. A prize will be awarded to the winner!

Auction devotees will find new and exciting items, from a private dinner for eight prepared in your home by Chef Jimmy of the renowned Fox Grille in Bloomfield Hills to a family pack of Walt Disney World Park Hopper tickets and an official NASCAR Racing Experience! Favorite items like restaurant gift cards, gift baskets, jewelry, sports memorabilia and event tickets also will be included. Visit the event Facebook page (Cssoc Annual Spring Gala) to preview auction items.

Tickets are $125 (Early Bird, through March 27) and $150 and are available online at http://springgala13.eventbrite.com or by calling (248) 537-3300 x 3317.

We are grateful to our sponsors, auction donors and advertisers—both returning and new—for their generous support. If you would like to sponsor, donate or advertise, please call Deb Patrick at (248) 537-3300 x 3304.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gala!
It’s grand to be grandparents, ready and able to shower one’s grandchildren with the time and attention they deserve. Most expect to spend quality time with their grandkids and relish treating them to ice cream cones in summer and hot chocolate on cold winter days. They anticipate taking them on picnics and trips to the zoo and look forward to birthdays, holidays and the occasional sleepover. But for some, caring for grandchildren is an everyday commitment.

More than four years ago, (Joseph and Mary) Donahue became foster parents to four children—three of them their paternal grandchildren, and the fourth, a sibling of the children. The Donahues cared for the two girls and two boys with unmatched devotion, taking each child to his or her medical, dental and mental health appointments and seeing to their special educational needs. All of the children received mental health or special educational services initially but, over time, and with the love and support of the Donahues, they made great progress.

The Donahues facilitated parent/child visits between the children and their parents, even as the birth mother mounted an almost two-year appeal to have the children returned to her. They wanted only what was best for the children and that, to their thinking, meant adoption—not just of those biologically related to them, but all four. “We were committed to keeping the children together,” they said. And so, they started the process.

“True credit needs to go to these grandparents,” says Steven Kalbfleisch, LMSW, an adoption and foster care specialist at the St. Francis Family Center. “They have spent the last four years getting these special needs children back on track and have always put the children’s best interest before anything else.”

On December 20, 2012, the adoption of all four children was completed, uniting this family in the only way they were not before—legally.
With gratitude, we thank you for your generosity and kindness.

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Continued on next page
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Allegra Network, LLC
Annapolis Marriott Waterfront
Ashley Capital
Astute Artistry
AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign
Beaumont Hospital
Beverly Hills Grill
Bodman PLLC
Bordine’s Nursery
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Jalapenos Mexican Restaurant
Jax Kar Wash
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Kohl’s
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Meadow Brook Theatre
Meijer #260
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MGM Grand Detroit
Michael’s Lamp Shop
Michigan Catholic Credit Union
Michigan Design Center
Michigan Opera Theatre
Michigan Parkinson Foundation
Michigan Surgical Center
Mike’s Party Store
Minnesota Title Company
Motor City Casino Hotel
Nehim Marcus
Newton MFG Company
Nino Salvaggio International Market
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St. Anne Parish  
St. Daniel Parish  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish  
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Every attempt has been made to acknowledge accurately all who support us. Please accept our sincere apologies if your listing in this annual report has been omitted, misspelled or represented incorrectly. We would appreciate your notifying the Development Department of any needed corrections by calling (248) 537-3300 x 3304.
Financial Overview for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

**REVENUE**

- Contributions & Non-Government Grants: 13%
- United Way Community Services: 5%
- Investment Income: -5%
- Program Service Fees: 17.5%
- Government Grants & Funding: 65%
- Government Grants & Funding: $3,904,511
- Program Service Fees: $1,048,423
- United Way Community Services: $291,736
- Contributions & Non-Government Grants: $754,689
- Investment Income: ($27,362)
- Total Support & Revenue: $5,971,997

**EXPENSES**

- Management & General: 18%
- Fundraising: 1.5%
- Programs: 80.5%
- Management & General: $888,325
- Fundraising: $53,503
- Total Expenses: $4,846,249
- Programs: $3,904,421

**PROGRAMS**

- Counseling & Mental Health: 18%
- Senior Volunteer Programs: 15%
- Family Education & Support Services: 11.5%
- Foster Care & Adoption: 38%
- Hispanic Outreach: 7.5%
- Sheltering Arms Adult Day Centers: 10%
- Senior Volunteer Programs: 15%
- Family Education & Support Services: 11.5%
At 15, Latrina Conley struggled with her mom’s substance abuse. She became a temporary ward of the court and was placed in foster care. In a protective, supportive and stable home, Latrina thrived, made good grades, graduated from high school and was accepted to college. At 18, Latrina could have become a sad statistic when she “aged out” of foster care. Instead, with support from Catholic Charities’ Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program, she is living a success story.

Teens who leave foster care unable to transition safely into a permanent home do not do well. According to statistics, within four years after leaving foster care without a permanent home:

- Less than 50 percent had graduated high school
- 25 percent had endured a period of homelessness
- 65 percent did not maintain employment for a year
- 40 percent had become parents

The SIL program, offered by the St. Francis Family Center in Southfield, helps teens live independently with the help of a structured support system or places them with host families who do the same. Through SIL, Latrina was able to secure her own apartment, find and keep employment and purchase a car while she works toward her college degree. She is currently enrolled at Oakland Community College but has been accepted at Wayne State University where she plans to study Criminal Justice.

“Latrina is a very independent young woman,” says Kristie Hardin, foster care and SIL worker. “She was always compliant with the rules and policies and just a joy to work with.”

Supervised Independent Living services are provided to youth ages 16 to 20, male and female, including home approvals, youth placement, youth supervision, referrals to other services, Youth In Transition (YIT) funding assistance, college entry assistance, and independent living skills training. SIL currently assists 18 to 20 youth annually.

The need for host families is great. Host families teach teens how to maintain a home and model good housekeeping, budgeting and financial management skills. They help to ensure that participants get to school or to their jobs, help them prepare resumes and for job interviews and even model good parenting skills for participants with children. Prospective hosts undergo a criminal background check and attend a meet-and-greet with the participant to determine if they are a good fit.

To learn more, contact Becky Wellman, licensing supervisor, at (248) 552-0750 or wellmanb@ccsem.org. St. Francis Family Center is located at 17500 W. 8 Mile Road in Southfield.

Hundreds of new and gently used winter coats were donated during Catholic Charities’ Share the Warmth Winter Coat Drive. They filled large cardboard boxes in five counties, from Macomb to Monroe—arriving in nine CCSEM locations and a dozen Alliance Catholic Credit Union branches. There were coats for children and for adults—coats of sturdy fabrics and in many colors. We thank each and every donor for these gifts from the heart. Special thanks to: St. Fabian Parish, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish, the Knights of Columbus, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, and ABC Warehouse, Southfield.
Citizen Diaz

Last November, Samuel Diaz, 68, voted for the very first time as an American citizen. It was his first opportunity to vote. For many years, Diaz struggled to learn English. And although he worked hard to achieve his dream of citizenship, he was rejected because his English proficiency was not strong enough. Undaunted, he attended a Citizenship Class and Immigration Clinic offered by Catholic Charities’ Hispanic Outreach Services program in collaboration with Cooley Law School and an English as a Second Language (ESL) course offered by HOS in partnership with Oakland University. With their help, and spurred by a need to bring his wife of 45 years to this country from El Salvador, Diaz made great strides and successfully filed the N400 naturalization application to become a U.S. citizen just in time to vote.

Signs of Love

Rita Golden, parent educator liaison, HOS, attended American Sign Language (ASL) classes last year—with a client. The client worked several jobs to be able to pay her bills and give her deaf son a good life. Working so hard meant she had little time to give to other priorities, including learning ASL so that she could communicate with him on a higher level. With support from Golden, who advocated for in-home learning for her, the client now is able to communicate with her son in ASL. She is receiving ASL instruction at her home on the weekends and has received a DVD so that she can practice at home.

Will to Work

HOS hosted two workshops in collaboration with nine pro bono immigration lawyers and Justice for Our Neighbors during which staff and volunteers assisted 68 young people to apply for work permits through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers this program to individuals who came to the U.S. as children, who pose no danger to national security or risk to public safety and who meet other stringent guidelines.

FAMILY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES (FESS)

Andrea Foley, former director of the Family Education and Support Services program has been named director of Behavioral Health for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. Foley joined the staff of Catholic Social Services of Oakland County in 2003, bringing with her a wealth of experience as a clinician, supervisor and director of residential, intensive outpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse programs for children, adolescents and adults. She became FESS director in 2010. Foley earned her master’s degree in social work from Wayne State University where she is currently an adjunct professor, teaching advanced graduate courses in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Her role for the agency will be to manage all Behavioral Health programs and to oversee the expansion of these programs into underserved CCSEM communities. CCSEM is accredited by CARF (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities).
A New Role

Herschell Masten, former director of RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), has been named director of Senior and Volunteer Services for Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. In this expanded role, Masten will oversee the foster grandparent program, senior companion programs, RSVP, and the adult day care programs, known as Sheltering Arms in Oakland County and A Friend’s House in Macomb. Masten is charged with expanding these programs (and potentially others) into all CCSEM counties, which are committed to providing quality services to seniors, respecting their dignity, and providing opportunities where they can continue to give of their time and talent to others. Look for more about this program in upcoming issues of Connections.

Foster Grandparent Program

Andrew Grimes, 74, has been a volunteer in the Foster Grandparent Program for eight years. He assists three young people, all 20 years of age, who have severe physical challenges and attend the Wing Lake Developmental Center in Bloomfield Hills. Wing Lake serves students with severe cognitive and physical impairments. Grimes gives 20 hours per week helping “Brian,” “Mark” and “Larry” with educational lessons and physical activities designed to improve their fine motor skills. He also assists in preparing meals and helping “his” students learn as many daily living and self-care skills as possible to increase their independence. Although he lives on a fixed income, Grimes takes the bus Monday through Friday to work with the young men and help them realize their fullest potential.

Adult Day Care

One CCSEM Adult Day Care location received a beautiful letter in January from the family of a woman who had been in day care but who had passed away at the age of 93. The letter read:

“My family and I are writing you today to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for providing a warm, comfortable, safe and fun place for our Mom to go to a few days a week for a few hours. … A Friend’s House was really and truly a Godsend and an answer to a prayer. … We never thought that at 93 years of age our Mom would develop a new and exciting social life with lots of interesting and fun friends in her age bracket. The days that Mom went to A Friend’s House were some of the happiest days of her life. And we are not exaggerating. She beamed and spoke with great fondness as she told us about her day and showed us the projects that she had worked on. … Words cannot fully convey our deep gratitude for such a wonderful program for seasoned citizens that respects and encourages their autonomy and dignity and mental faculties....”
Please mark your calendar and save the dates below for the following CCSEM events, projects and volunteer opportunities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Oakland County</td>
<td>CSSOC Spring Gala</td>
<td>San Marino Club, Troy</td>
<td><a href="http://springgala13.eventbrite.com">http://springgala13.eventbrite.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>St. Clair County</td>
<td>Best Dessert Contest</td>
<td>Alexander’s, Port Huron (Marysville)</td>
<td><a href="http://bestdessertcontest.eventbrite.com">http://bestdessertcontest.eventbrite.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August – September</td>
<td></td>
<td>Back-to-School Drive</td>
<td>Backpacks and school supplies for elementary and high school students</td>
<td>Call (248) 537-3300 x 3317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October – December</td>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Giving</td>
<td>Adopt a child or family for Christmas</td>
<td>Call (248) 537-3300 x 3317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>