

# Catholic Charities Connections

January 2024

A Quarterly Newsletter from Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

**We are God's hands providing housing, health, and hope to His children.**



We are excited to report that our 2nd Annual St. Nicholas Raffle Fundraiser was a big success! We raised \$55,000 for Catholic Charities programs and our clients. The live event at Fieldstone Grill in Portage was well attended and gave us the opportunity to connect with many of our sponsors and donors. Thank you to all who helped to promote the fundraiser, sold tickets for the raffle, and also contributed by purchasing tickets. If you missed the event, visit our website page to take a look at all of the fabulous prize packages and photos of the event. At CCDOK, our work to serve the most vulnerable doesn't end when the holiday season is over. Please donate at [www.ccdok.org](http://www.ccdok.org).

Ark Services staff were presented with a donation of \$14,353 from TowerPinkster Architectural firm, Kalamazoo location, to support the life changing work for homeless, precariously housed, trafficked youth and youth in crisis and their families. "For more than seventy years, TowerPinkster has been committed to supporting the communities where we live, work, learn, heal, and play. Each year during the holiday season, our office locations choose a local organization to support. This year, our Kalamazoo team members proudly supported the Ark Shelter, recognizing its significant contributions to the community and beyond," said Jill Overacker, M.A. Manager of Marketing and Communications for TowerPinkster.



## Our Locations:

### Administration

1819 Gull Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

### Caring Network/Bridges

1441 S. Westnedge  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

### Ark Services

990 W. Kilgore  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

### Catholic Community Center

346 Catalpa  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

### Bread of Life Food Distribution Center

551 Romence Road  
Portage, MI 49024

### Baraga Manor

301 Washington Street  
Otsego, MI 49078

## CONTACT US AT:

(269) 381-9800

or [info@ccdok.org](mailto:info@ccdok.org)

## Holiday Sponsorships Benefit Many of Our Clients!

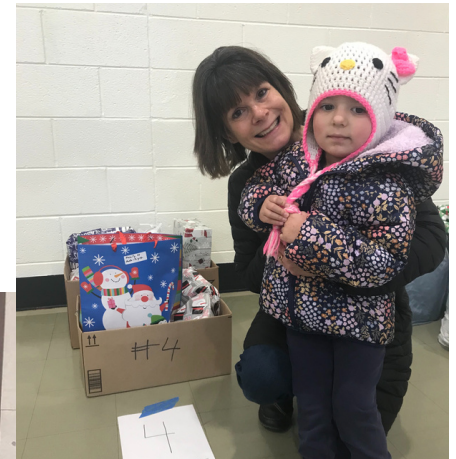
Generous sponsors, energetic volunteers and dedicated staff from Catholic Charities delivered Christmas cheer to 64 families involved with CCDOK programs and services. Individual sponsors or businesses were matched and asked to purchase and wrap gifts from a “wish list” for each family member. “Our sponsors are incredibly generous,” says Jeannine Boehm, Volunteer Coordinator, “So many of our participants ask for basic necessities. Parents with children are often moved to tears when they



see the gifts their children are receiving.” Christmas Giving Trees coordinated by diocese churches and schools provided additional support. It’s a magical time of year for both the giver and the receiver. To all those who donated and prayed for our clients, thank you for being Givers of Great Gifts and supporting our mission to serve those in need!



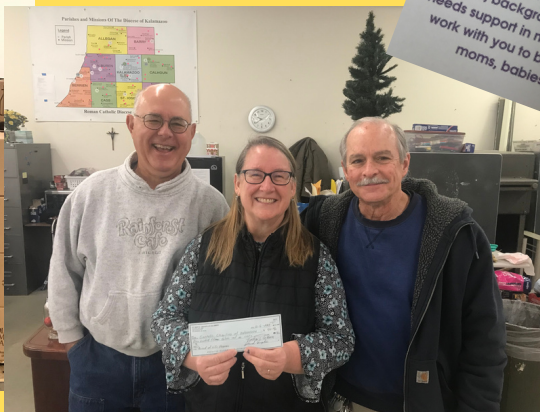
*A client opened their Christmas gifts early and the father was in tears because he received new shoes and a coat from a generous sponsor. The dad couldn't wait to try out his new attire when he walked to work later that day.*



*thank you!*

## Knights of Columbus Give Generously!

At Catholic Charities, we are grateful to service groups that help us live our Mission, "We Are God's hands providing housing, health, and hope to his children." Service Groups like the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Kalamazoo generously supported CCDOK programs and services in 2023! We're grateful for every breakfast you hosted on our behalf, the donation drives you organized to collect needed items for our programs, and for selling raffle tickets to our St. Nicholas Fundraising event in December. Thank you for partnering with us to help pregnant/parenting women and children, thank you for helping us feed the hungry and thank you for reaching out to serve all with compassion. You are an inspiration and witness to Jesus' command to "love one another as I have loved you." (Jn. 13:34).



## Home Heating Assistance 2024



The 2024 Home Heating Assistance Program has started. Volunteers throughout the diocese are available to assist those with emergency heating needs. Thank you to all who so generously donated to the program to keep families warm this winter.

For more information visit our website [www.ccdok.org/home-heating-assistance/](http://www.ccdok.org/home-heating-assistance/) or email us at [homeheating@ccdok.org](mailto:homeheating@ccdok.org)

Thank you to 107.7FM WRKR Radio Station and Townsquare Media for highlighting Bridges Mental Health and the Ark Shelter during the Holidays!



We hope you had an opportunity to hear our staff share their stories about the great services we provide to our clients!

## Catholic Schools are always giving...



Light of Christ Academy held a food drive for Bread of Life.



St. Monica students raised money to purchase Christmas gifts for Caring Network families.



St. Augustine students volunteer regularly at Caring Network and help with donation drives.

**Celebrate Catholic Schools Week  
January 28 through February 3, 2024**