

# Summer 2013 Branches

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 quality human services to Livingston County residents regardless of age, race, religion, gender, disability and financial ability.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES  
HELPING LIVES GROW

## Your Generosity at Work...

Your donations along with funding from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, Washtenaw Community Health Organization, Livingston County United Way, and the Diocese of Lansing support LCCC's Senior Resource Advocacy Program. With all of your support, the services of our Resource Advocacy

Program are free to those we serve (individuals 60+ years of age), though we do ask for a donation if the client is able. Over the years, your donations have supported our ability to serve 700 – 900 seniors annually, without a waitlist.

Two of our Resource Advocates are also MMAP (Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program) trained Counselors. Each year they work with seniors to assist with educating, researching and signing up for Medicare and Medicaid programs, including Medicare Part D – Prescription Insurance. Typically they are able to help the individual save between \$200 and \$2,000 a year.



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## One Year Later

During the late winter and spring of 2012, we were hard at work with the development of our new Foster Family Care and Adoption services. Many of you reading this article have contributed to our first year and we are grateful for this. Your contributions have come through your prayers, your financial support and through sharing the news of our efforts with others.

In February 2012, there were 122 Livingston County children living in out-of-home placements (foster families, kinship families, residential care). Our goal was to build a program to eventually serve about 1/3rd of these children. In July 2012, we began to serve our first children and over the past 12 months have served 18 in total. Of the 18 children served, four children have been adopted, all by members of their extended families; 3 children have returned to their parents; and, quite unfortunately, one child returned to a previous residential facility. As of June 24, 2013, we continue to serve 10 foster children, some with the plan to return to their birth parents and some with an adoption plan. It has been a very busy year for us and it has been a blessing to be able to impact the lives of so many children and families.

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*"The Volunteer Caregiver Program is a blessing, a wonderful blessing!"*



**Eileen Craig, Beverly Tullar, and Erin Deale**  
(Suzanne Snyder not pictured)

## New Co-workers:

LCCC has had many changes in 2013. Help us welcome our new Director of Senior Services and Foster Care and Adoption co-workers.

**Beverly Tullar, MA – Child Welfare Supervisor:** “I was employed by the State of Texas as a Foster Care Supervisor for 11 years. Prior to that I was a Texas Foster Care caseworker for four years. During that time, I was involved in all aspects of Child Welfare but specialized in Foster Care with an emphasis on providing services to families where the children have been removed from their home due to abuse and/or neglect.”

**Eileen Craig, BSW – Child Welfare Specialist:** “I am excited about my new position as a Foster Care and Adoption caseworker. I have been married for 26 years; am the mother of three children; and just graduated, with honors, from college in August of 2012, with a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work. I am the poster child for it is never too late! I enjoy throwing clay pots on the wheel, gardening, and long walks outdoors. I love being a part of the Child Welfare team, working for an agency that shares my Catholic values, and is committed to serving our community in so many multifaceted ways.”

*“I appreciate you guys so much. My life is turning around, thanks to your staff.”*

*“If not for LCCC and my counselor, I would not have stopped using drugs.”*

*“...I am learning to deal with my divorce issues better.”*

**Erin Deale, BA – Child Welfare Specialist:** “Since obtaining my bachelors in social work, I have spent the last fourteen years providing services to children, adolescents and families facing obstacles related to abuse and neglect. Over seven of those years were spent providing child welfare services in Livingston County. After spending one year volunteering with a nonprofit in Romania serving the poor and abandoned, I am pleased to return to the ranks of a child welfare service provider in Livingston County.”

**Suzanne Snyder – Director of Senior Services:** Suzanne earned a BS degree in Health Systems Management from Ferris State University. She worked in a dementia specific assisted living for 4 years and then in home health care for 18 years before joining Livingston County Catholic Charities. Suzanne is our new supervisor for Adult Day Care, Resource Advocacy and Volunteer Caregiver.



## Mark Your Calendars!

- **Caregiver Support Group – 3rd Wednesday** of each month at 4:30 pm at Be Our Guest Adult Day.
- **Senior Appreciation Mass – September 18, 2013** at St. Patrick Parish.
- **SAVE THE DATE – March 22, 2014 – 10th Annual Salute to the Stars.**
- **Divorce Support Group – Will start September 13th.** Check our website or Facebook in August for details.

*For more information on any of the above events or classes, please see our website events calendar at [www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org](http://www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org)*

## Substance Abuse Prevention & Awareness with County Seniors

Through funding provided by the Washtenaw County Health Organization, LCCC Resource Advocates provide Substance Abuse Prevention and Awareness to county seniors.

Why you ask? This is not a population that is normally affected by Substance Abuse issues. There is a growing concern about the number of ER visits in the aging population due to misusing medications, which is related to the increasing number of prescribed medications as we age.

LCCC provides awareness to seniors on proper medication management and the effects of mixing over the counter medications or herbal remedies with prescribed medications or alcohol use and medications. Our Resource Advocates have created a Jeopardy game around this concept to make it fun while informative at the same time. One of the Jeopardy questions: *Mixing alcohol with these may cause excessive dizziness – What are antihistamines?*

Program staff also focus on the awareness of using one pharmacy that will track all medications that a person’s various doctors will prescribe and advise of any interactions; using medication recorders to list all medications (prescribed and over the counter) and herbal remedies for doctors and pharmacists to review; and the Big Red Barrel Project which provides a safe way of removing medications from the home and proper disposal of all household medications that are no longer in use.



## A LASTING LEGACY

Considering making a Charitable Bequest in your will to bestow on LCCC to assist our ability to serve future generations of those who turn to us in their time of need? Please feel free to contact Mark or Julie with any questions or desires regarding your interest in leaving a lasting legacy with LCCC. Additionally, please discuss your decision with your financial advisor or attorney for information on how to add LCCC to your wills.

*Leaving a Bequest makes it easy to help your favorite charity without dipping into your income or savings.*



You can now find Livingston County Catholic Charities on Facebook!

## Your Generosity at Work...

*Continued from page 1*

This past year our Resource Advocate/MMAP Counselors were able to save a gentleman, who was initially not interested in researching or changing his program, over \$18,000! At first there was shock and disbelief on both the part of our MMAP Counselor and the client. After stepping away for several days, he returned to another location our MMAP Counselors were assisting at and they tried it again. The outcome was the same – an \$18,000 savings! He then chose to make the switch.

What a blessing it was to discover the savings! This man lives just above the national poverty level, which is \$958.00/monthly, and that savings means not worrying about choosing between heat in the winter and food on the table or gas in his vehicle, paying the monthly mortgage and more. This rare incident also helped everyone involved to recognize the importance of annually checking your Medicare Part D coverage against your medications.

Thank you to all who support Livingston County Catholic Charities! Your generosity allows us to continue to provide needed assistance to our friends and neighbors in Livingston County.

## One Year Later

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As of May 2013, there were 136 Livingston County children residing in out-of-home placements; thus, the need for foster families has grown. We continue to seek your assistance as we respond to this need for local families to serve local children. Your prayers are very important, as is your ability to help us recruit new foster families. While foster parents are needed for all ages and child needs, the greatest need is for families to serve ages 5 – 14 years and sibling groups. All of the children come in through the Abuse-Neglect system and need patient, loving caregivers who are able to provide assistance as we help the birth parents to change the issues and circumstances that led to the child's removal. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, call Beverly Tullar, Child Welfare Supervisor, at 517-545-5944. We welcome invitations to speak with church, school, neighborhood and other groups that would like to learn more.

*the giving tree*

*yes* I want to Help Lives Grow by supporting LCCC!

**Please designate your gift as indicated below:**

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Services Programs
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Counseling
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Substance Abuse Prevention
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Foster Family Care & Adoption
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Van Deussen Endowment Fund

Please charge my gift to: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Livingston County Catholic Charities**  
2020 E. Grand River Ave.  
Ste. 104  
Howell, MI 48843



*thank you*

*Please detach and send in with your generous donation.*



## An Evening of Celebration and Laughs

On April 13, 2013, LCCC celebrated its 9th annual Salute to the Stars with a mini auction, 50/50 raffle, dinner and comedy show starring Michigan's own Billy Ray Bauer. This year's theme was

*Celebrate Michigan.* The event raised just over \$12,000, which will be used to help support our Senior Service programs.

Attendees also helped to celebrate 3 local volunteers that give so much of their heart and soul to serving Livingston County's senior citizens: Suzanne & Richard Cowdrey and Dennis Flynn.

Thank you to our generous sponsors: St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital, Dr. Edward Loniewski, Garrison Enterprises, Donna England, F.A.O. Jewelers, Gerry & Beth Munsell, Hon. Theresa Brennan & Don Root, Pinckney Chrysler

Dodge Jeep Ram, Dcn. Bill & Pat Sirl, Micro Works Computing Inc., Bredernitz Wagner & Co. PC, and Thomas Matthews of Neal D. Nielsen Attorneys at Law.

Also a big **thank you** to donors for our auction: the Amman's, the Munsell's, Caren Goldstone & Nancy Robinson, The Detroit Red Wings, The Bavarian Inn Restaurant, Donna England, Penny Jones, artist Sue Balk, artist Sviatoslav Kozakov, Detroit Princess Riverboat Cruises, Little Diablo Salsa, Laura Campbell, Paul & Sue Robinson, Senator Joe Hune, author Colleen Gleason & many Michigan authors, Holiday Inn Express, Tom & Kathie Janego, Hunters Ridge Golf Course, Stillwater Grill, The Henry Ford Museum, The Purple Rose Theatre, and Whispering Pines Golf Club.



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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.

### **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.

### **Senior Resource Advocacy:**

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

### **Substance Abuse Prevention:**

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

### **Parish Ministry:**

We Care Marriage Preparation Classes, Catholic Council on Aging, and Divorce and Beyond education/support group.

### **Foster Family Care and Adoption:**

Providing temporary care for children while working toward reunification with 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 enrich the lives of older adults, families and caregivers. Payment is made on a cost-share basis.

### **Special Donations in Loving Memory of:**

- Edward Walters
- Celestie Newton-Sonny

