

Summer 2014 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

Dancing for a Cause...

This year's Salute to the Stars showcased our first Celebrity Dance Competition! Over \$11,800 was raised to support Be Our Guest Adult Day Service and our two senior outreach programs.

After 4 exciting dance routines, the judges awarded the Dance Competition trophy to Kathie & Tom Janego. Their dance routine was a mix of the waltz, polka, chicken dance (yes I said the chicken dance!), and moves to the YMCA! Congratulations also to Carol Griffith and Mike Murphy, who received the Fan Favorite Award for receiving the most votes through a combined on-line and event night voting. Each celebrity couple was unique and talented!

Celebrity dance teams were:

- Kaitlin Fink (LCCC Prevention Specialist) & Dan Maloziec (KPMG)
- Rev. Mike & Angela Harris (Crossroads Church of God)
- Michael Murphy (Liv. Cty. Undersheriff) & Carol Griffith (Liv. Cty. Commissioner & Griffith Realty)
- Tom (Talmer West Bank) & Kathie Janego (Love INC.)



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I Met A Friend Through Dementia

Dementia is a disease that steals a loved one away from their family and friends – piece by piece, leaving family with the unanswerable question "Why our family?"

As a caregiver at Be Our Guest Adult Day Service (The Club) for almost 10 years, I'd like to share an experience with those coping with dementia.

On "The Club's" first day, the supervisor shared her vision of our purpose, "if we can offer stimulation, activities, and socialization to our Guests so they may be able to stay at home with their families for another year, then we have done a good job." Little did she realize that this atmosphere would allow some families to stay together for as long as 4-5 years.

For those who have had a loved one at Be Our Guest, please know that a level of trust develops between your loved one and the staff as they participate in daily activities and socialization. Over the years, guests have taught me many things about dementia through trust and friendship.

I became very close to one Guest in particular, Norma, who I am proud to call my friend. Norma was a Guest for almost

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Turning 65 this year? Need help navigating the Medicare/Medicaid insurance system? Please contact Linda Bauby or Penny Jones at 517-545-5944 for assistance.

Your Generosity at Work...

Your *donations* along with funding from various sources allow LCCC to be “the lap of support to climb upon” for our poorest. When we speak of the poorest, we refer to our friends and neighbors who are poor in spirit, mind or body. Individuals and families turn to LCCC as they struggle with emotional and psychological disorders; the aged as they struggle with health concerns that limit their ability to continue to remain independent; and the poor in spirit who need a support system to help them move through their struggle.

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.

“I would be lost without your help – God Bless you all.” – T.W.

“The level of care, professionalism, respect and just plain kind good people here is pretty amazing –Thank You All!” -anonymous

“We are so grateful to be able to support the mission of your work...Your continued offering of the critical services for the community is more than enough!”- Margaret

“There are no unwanted children...just unfound families” author unknown

We are just closing out our second year providing Foster Family Care and Adoption as we work closely with the Livingston County Dept. of Human Services (LCDHS). While we have successfully placed 40 children in Foster Care and 14 children have been adopted, Foster Families are still needed. We continue to focus on developing foster homes to serve Livingston County children. LCDHS has 125 or more children in their Foster Care program during any given month that need a safe place to live.

With your support of our fundraising efforts through the Loaves & Fish Appeal and on-line donations, we continue to meet the growing needs in Foster Care and in the community. During the past year, we have hired two new Child Welfare Specialists to support the demand for case managers to oversee the growing number of children in foster care. This brings the number of employees in our Foster Care and Adoption department to 4.

If you would like to explore the opportunity to become a foster parent, please attend one of our monthly Foster Care Orientation meetings to learn more about foster parenting or call Bev at 517-545-5944.



Mark Your Calendars!

- **Caregiver Support Group** – 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:30pm at Be Our Guest Adult Day.
- **Foster & Adoptive Parent - Public Orientation & Information** – Thinking of becoming a Foster Parent? Join us for an informational evening the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:00pm at the LCCC offices.
- **Catholic Council on Aging Mass & Picnic** – August 7, 2014 at Holy Spirit.
- **Senior Appreciation Mass & Lunch** – September 18, 2014 at St. Mary Magdalen.
- **Divorce Support Group** – September 12-November 14, 2014 at St. Mary Magdalen.
- **Medicare Part D Sign-up** Oct. 15 – Dec. 7, 2014. Information on the different plans available beginning in October.
- **SAVE THE DATE** – March 21, 2015 –Annual Salute to the Stars featuring a Celebrity Dance Competition & celebrating the agency's 30th year of service in Livingston County.

For more information on any of the above events or classes, please see our website Events Calendar at www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org

Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts in Livingston County...

The Livingston County Community Alliance's Big Red Barrel program, with support from Livingston County Catholic Charities, other community organizations, and generous funders and donors has now expanded into 11 counties throughout the State of Michigan. To date, the barrels have collected over 1.25 tons of pills throughout the State.

In June, 2013, the LCCA partnered with Walgreens to provide special take-back opportunities in all of its Livingston County stores. Once a month, a barrel traveled to a different Walgreens location and provided the local community a chance to dispose of their unused or unwanted medication without having to go to a police station. These take back opportunities will resume this summer.

The LCCA's 11th annual Run Against Drugs 5K run/walk, was on May 10, 2014. In sponsorships alone, the run generated approximately \$8,000. All of this money will be put back into the community in the form of mini-grants. These grants fund drug prevention projects and activities designed and implemented by Livingston County youth.



A LASTING LEGACY

Considering making a Charitable Bequest in your will to LCCC to strengthen our ability to serve future generations? Wondering what other Planned Giving opportunities are available to you as you plan for your favorite charities' future? Please feel free to contact Julie or Mark 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.

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!

Dancing for a Cause...

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Judging the event were Michelle Marzejon of Michelle's Academy of Dance, Linda Lee of 99.5 WYCD's Edwards & Lee Afternoon Show, and Fr. James Mangan of St. Patrick's Parish.

Attendees also helped to celebrate 2 local volunteers that give so much of their heart and soul to serving Livingston County's citizens: Heather Wise and Gerald Munsell.

Thank You to our generous sponsors and donors: St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital, Dr. Edward Loniewski, Garrison Enterprises, A-1 Rental, Gerry & Beth Munsell, Pinckney Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Corrigan Oil Inc., Mary & Peter Battle, Tom & Kathie Janego, Old Oak Financial Inc., Mark Robinson & Anne Pavlic, Micro Works Computing Inc., Bredernitz Wagner & Co. PC, F.A.O. Jewelers, Matuszak & Associates DDS PC, Thomas Matthews of Neal D. Nielsen Attorneys at Law, Richard Lim Photography, The Detroit Red Wings, The Detroit Tigers, Triple Diamonds Alpaca Boutique, Stillwater Grill, Whispering Pines Golf Club and all of you!

I Met A Friend Through Dementia

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4 years. Our friendship taught me a valuable lesson in human interaction that I didn't realize until she left the Club. She showed me that as dementia was taking her away, I could still connect with her.

I found that by calling Norma by name and getting good, clear eye contact, I could reach her. She responded best to a gentle tone of voice and simple "yes" and "no" questions, which allowed me to affirm her feelings of her immediate situation. She often laughed and understood that I would help her. We then happily moved along to wherever that was taking us.

Our seniors are a precious generation. At The Club we strive to give them dignity, humor, respect and friendship. My co-workers and I meet each guest where they are at every day as the disease continues to progress and change their daily needs.

So, Dear Families, may you know that in this difficult situation you face, your loved one is touching other's lives. Thank you ever so much for allowing us at Be Our Guest the privilege of caring for your loved one! – Kathy Boyda

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.

Volunteers Keeping Current with the Latest Trends & Resources

The training “*exposed me to things I’d never known,*” said one volunteer. Another noted that it is great to learn new techniques, aides and resources that will help the seniors they assist.

Twice a year LCCC gathers their volunteers who assist in the senior service programs and offers training on the latest trends, techniques, gadgets, etc.

During the March training, volunteers were introduced to the Gate Belt by LCCC’s RN, Marjorie Chouinard. The Gate Belt is a great aid to support an unsteady senior when walking or to help lift a senior who has fallen. Marjorie showed the group how the belt is used and offered different techniques on lifting a senior and assisting them to a secure location.

Home Oxygen Basics was covered by Mark Davis of Advanced

Medical. Volunteers learned more about the use and care of portable oxygen systems and assisting the senior in its use when they are transporting the individual. For instance, there is no smoking allowed in the presence of the pressurized tanks and they should not be stored in trunks or closed-in areas.

Other presentations included Guardian Medical Monitoring with aids and devices that are new and helpful and a local senior food program presentation by OLSHA.

LCCC volunteers aid community seniors to stay independent

with dignity in their own homes for as long as possible. Volunteer opportunities include (but are not limited to): friendly home visits; transport older adults to appointments; errands; and respite care for family members. If you’d like to brighten a senior’s day and put a smile on their face, call Linda or Suzi today at 517-545-5944 **to see how you can join our team!**



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Howell, MI 48843

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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 the 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.



A special visit from Franklin, the therapy dog!

