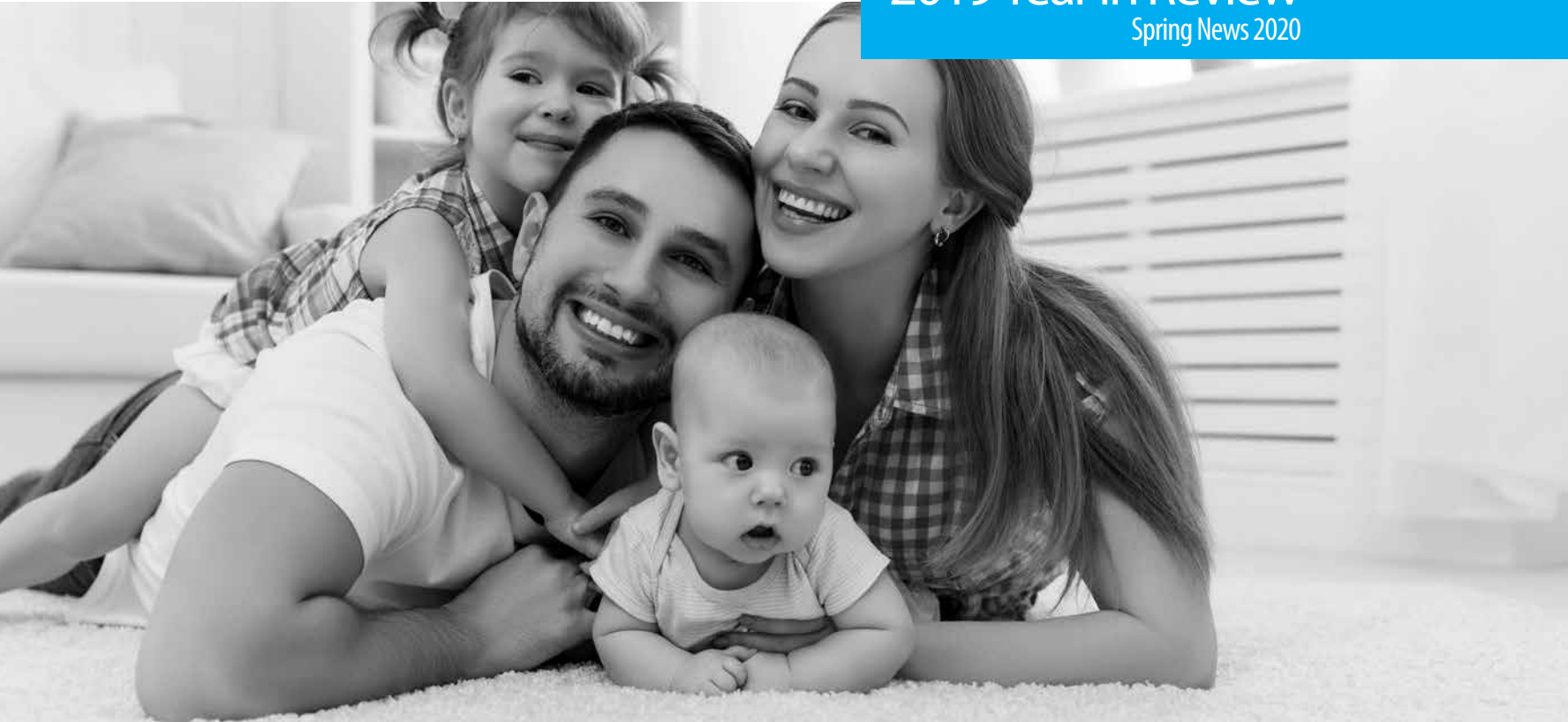


Catholic Charities

2019 Year in Review
Spring News 2020



Dear Friends,

Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

802 Ninth Street • Tell City, IN 47586
cctcin.org

2019 is but a memory at this point. Time continues to march forward and we are called upon to measure ourselves. The new year presents a unique opportunity to look back and forward at the same time. Did we accomplish anything? Where can we improve? If you read this report, you will see that we accomplished much. And yes, we can improve on our efforts. We are constantly reviewing our programs to see where we can do a better job of meeting the needs of our community and the vulnerable people we serve. The year is now a memory and we are well into 2020! Thanks to our many supporters, Catholic Charities can remember a lot of good that happened in 2019. We hope to share just a few highlights of the good things that were accomplished through your support of Catholic Charities.



Joan Hess
Agency Director



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

MARTIN'S CLOAK FOOD PANTRY – The food pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, and is housed in the basement of St. Martin of Tours Church in Siberia. During the calendar year 2019, food was distributed to 566 families (2023 individuals). Of these, 748 were 18 years of age or younger, 934 were between the ages of 19 to 64 years and 341 were 65 years or older. Volunteers from St. Martin of Tours parish lead the volunteer force for this pantry. Each time the pantry is open, a group of people led by St. Meinrad parish prepare a biscuits and gravy breakfast for those in attendance. Martin's Cloak Food Pantry and Catholic Charities are members of the Perry County Food Coalition, comprised of 5 food pantries in Perry County. Catholic Charities hosts the coalition meetings and is the drop-off site for canned good/non-perishable food drives conducted in the county. This food is then shared by the five pantries. Catholic Charities also serves as the fiscal agent for the Food Coalition, and all monetary donations are routed through Catholic Charities on behalf of the five pantries. Monies received through the food coalition are deposited with the Tri-State Food Bank and the pantries use that credit for food purchases.





SERVING FAMILIES

LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES – Lifeline for Families serves as a resource for low-income pregnant women and families with small children. Assistance is given with diapers, formula and connecting to other resources within our area. The Early Years Store, which is supplied with donations from the community, allows families to shop free of charge for maternity clothing, baby clothing (NB to size 2T), baby furniture and other baby items. 160 families were assisted in 2019 through this program. We also serve as a Safe Sleep distributor. Safe Sleep is a state program aimed at providing safe sleeping conditions for low-income families. After some education, they are provided with a pac-n-play with a bassinet for their newborn child. 13 of these were furnished in 2019. Catholic Charities also serves as a distributor of car seats to those in need. Partnering with the Tell City Police Department and the Perry County Memorial Hospital, families in need can obtain a safe car seat from a certified car seat technician, who teaches them how to properly install a child car seat. In 2019, 14 car seats were distributed.





MEETING BASIC NEEDS

SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE – As we seek ways to help people with their basic needs – food, clothing, and shelter, the Specific Assistance program helps those in need with utility and rent payments, prescription medications and gasoline for out of town medical appointments. We are also responsible for the distribution of funds for the Salvation Army and the Ohio Valley Gas Corporation Gas Help Fund.

In 2019, many families were assisted through these three funds. Through Catholic Charities, we provided help to 170 families (447 individuals). The Salvation Army assisted 291 families (796 individuals) and the Gas Help Fund assisted 59 families (178 individuals). With Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army, help is given only once every 6 months and the Gas Help Fund assists those needing help once annually.

We continue to serve as a resource for many people, as we post job openings, encourage education and training opportunities and help to guide individuals through the maze of governmental and social service agencies to get the help they need.

TABLE OF BLESSINGS – We are now in our 10th year of this ministry, which is a collaboration between Catholic Charities and EUCC church. Many area organizations, civic groups, church groups, prayer groups, businesses and individuals come together to provide a meal for those in need in our community. In 2019, 3264 meals were served to individuals seeking nourishment and companionship at our meal table.

Part of the blessing of this ministry is becoming friends with many of those who choose to eat their Thursday evening meal with us on a regular basis. We have watched children grow up, families reconnect and smiles grow ever broader with the fellowship.

During the growing season, we receive fresh produce from many area individuals sharing from their home gardens. Table of Blessings is truly an ecumenical and community-wide effort.



CREATING COMMUNITY

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS—With gratitude to our generous and faithful donors, Catholic Charities is able to continue to provide help and create hope in the lives of many who struggle on a daily basis in our area. Through our 5th Sunday collections, we received \$6409.19. Noble's receipts brought in another \$693.43. Continued support through our appeals and donations has been essential to our work. We strive to use all of our resources that have been entrusted to us as wisely as possible.

Last winter, we distributed a total of 259 coats and 53 blankets to those needing warmth, along with dozens of gloves, hats and scarves, some knitted by the local group known as Knits and Knots (a ministry at the United Methodist Church). A special thank you to Hilger's Laundry in Tell City for cleaning these donated coats for us free of charge.

Our efforts through Strong Families/Strong Community continues to produce results for our area. Perry County has seen a significant increase in CASA volunteers, foster families, as well as a decrease in the number of CHINS (children in need of services). Our local court system attributes this decrease to the enhanced collaboration among the members of the Strong Families/Strong Community coalition. We are working toward becoming a trauma-responsive community to help our vulnerable citizens to thrive.

In 2019, we continued with the Birthday in a Box program. The Birthday in a Box contains items to have a birthday party, such as cake mix, frosting, candles, balloons, a small gift card, etc. Every month a list of foster children who are having birthdays in then

next month is provided by the local Department of Child Services and distributed by the staff of DCS on their monthly visits to each child. A faithful volunteer assembles these items and delivers to DCS on our behalf.

During this past year, we completely revamped our Budget Basics program and will offer it again in 2020. We rewrote the curriculum and recorded it so the client can take it home and listen to the instructions given. This will allow our volunteer educators to meet the clients on a more individualized level to assist them with learning and updating budgeting skills.

Also in 2019, we continued our collaboration with the United Way on a Christmas Angel Store. This project is a revamping of the United Way Holiday Helper program. In the second year of the Christmas Angel Store, 400 children were helped to have a better Christmas.

Catholic Charities continues to serve on the Transportation Advisory Council for Perry and Spencer counties, working on improving public transportation in our area. We are involved with the College Success Coalition, an effort to help all students reach their potential by accessing post-secondary education.

Catholic Charities serves as a facilitator for the Poverty Simulation and stays abreast of new efforts to educate the public about poverty. We continue to find ways to educate ourselves to be better stewards of your donations and make effective strides in our mission's work.



In 2020, we plan to continue with all of these programs and we are making great strides in an effort to address homelessness in our community. This is a very big undertaking and requires much energy to involve the entire community to address the best way to serve the homeless.

Catholic Charities will continue to serve as your agency providing help, creating hope and serving all in need in our communities. Without your support, none of these efforts and ministries are possible and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission. May God bless all of you for your support through donations, volunteerism and prayers. **We look forward to a great 2020!**

To sign up for e-newsletters, find volunteer opportunities, or donate to provide help and create hope, **visit us at [cctcin.org](https://www.cctcin.org)**

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