

## Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Through the good work of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, we try to respond to people in need in a way that shares God's love with our neighbors. Our network of agencies in southern and central Indiana extends a helping hand to homeless individuals and families seeking shelter, individuals and families struggling with addiction and those with mental illness seeking support services. We help newcomers become self-sufficient and productive members of American society by offering a combination of legal immigration consultation, English-language instruction, workforce development training, naturalization assistance, bilingual community education and refugee resettlement and assistance services. We are committed to providing transformative services to individuals, couples and families whose lives are impacted by an unplanned pregnancy, parenting in a crisis situation and/or those whose lives have been touched by adoption. We support our seniors struggling with loneliness and depression while trying to deal with the financial struggles that often cause them to choose between food, paying their rent and providing for ongoing medical needs.

Catholic Charities takes great pride in doing much more than simply providing a handout. Every day, compassionate and skilled staff members extend a hand to communities in need. Our dedicated staff helps so many get back on their feet, back on track and back on a path of independence and self-sufficiency. In doing so, we are helping residents retain their dignity and confidence, which is a vital component of an independent lifestyle.

As we move into a new year, our Board of Advisors, Agency Council members, administration, staff and volunteers are prepared to cope with the challenges that lie ahead and meet the needs of the people we serve. Catholic Charities has aided its community for over 100 years, and we are confident we will continue to build upon that tradition in the coming years.

Thank you for your continued support of our work and for enabling us to live out our mission of outreach, service and care as we change lives and build communities.

Sincerely,



*David J. Bethuram*

**David J. Bethuram**

Executive Director

Secretariat for Catholic Charities

## Senior Programs

**A Caring Place Adult Day Service** – When Sam and his sister moved to Indianapolis, they were looking for a day program where Sam could socialize and engage. Sam suffered a gunshot wound to the head in 1979, and his life has never been the same. He enrolled in A Caring Place where his joy and enthusiasm were welcomed. Sam currently benefits from our transportation service, meals and exercise program. We have seen his self-esteem grow through our programming and socializing with his friends. Our nurse keeps his sister informed of any medical concerns, so she no longer worries about his safety and happiness. Sam celebrates his 8th year anniversary at A Caring Place in February. For more information about A Caring Place contact Lisa Sperry at [lsperry@achindy.org](mailto:lsperry@achindy.org) or 317-466-0015.

**“They had a safe place to sleep, and their basic needs were met.”**

**Senior Companion Program** – The Senior Companion program teamed up with the Crisis Office to provide much needed care packages for all the Senior Companion volunteers. The care packages included clothing (pants, shirts, socks and underclothing), bedding and a bag of personal items for each of the 69 Senior Companions. The Christmas Store volunteers put together the packages and personally helped to distribute them. After the event, Senior Companions expressed appreciation for all that they received and were especially grateful for the new outfits.

**RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)** – Retirement can be a time to take on new challenges and embrace life in a new way. John Kordes, an Army veteran, was ready and was looking to incorporate the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program into his retired lifestyle. A St. Christopher parishioner, John’s lifestyle while employed already included a monthly volunteer commitment at Midwest Food Bank. When he retired, John knew he wanted to expand his volunteering and was aware that Catholic services help people put faith into action both nationally and locally. He reached out to Catholic Charities Indianapolis and was connected to AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP, a program that works as a volunteer clearinghouse for people 55+.



RSVP offers both ongoing and one-time commitments to volunteer from home or in the community. John knew this was exactly what he wanted. In less than a year, John has helped distribute food from Gleaners Food Bank to help people combat food insecurity, provided medical transportation to seniors through Perry Senior Citizens Services and helped low-income families celebrate Christmas by volunteering with the Catholic Charities Christmas Store. John's plan for retirement is being fulfilled, and he's enjoying and appreciating meeting new people—people he serves, other volunteers and staff running the programs. As he continues exploring volunteer opportunities, he wants others to know about RSVP so they, too, can understand that sharing your time both improves the lives of others and impacts your own life. For more information contact Monica Woodsworth at [mwoodsworth@archindy.org](mailto:mwoodsworth@archindy.org) or 317-261-3378.



**Holy Family Shelter** – Sarah\* and her two children came to Holy Family Shelter after the dumpster they were sleeping in was emptied, causing Sarah serious injury. During their time at Holy Family Shelter, they had a safe place to sleep, and their basic needs were met. This allowed Sarah the time she needed to heal from her injuries. Working diligently with her case manager, Sarah was able to search for and move into safe, affordable housing. For more info on Holy Family Shelter, visit [holyfamilyshelter.net](http://holyfamilyshelter.net) and find us on Facebook at Holy Family Shelter.

*\*Name changed for privacy*



## Christmas Store

The Christmas Store had another great year of helping families in need. The store served 883 families (3,873 individuals). The store was organized as a drive-up this year, as volunteers pulled gifts for families and loaded them into cars. Thank you to the staff, volunteers and donors that make the Christmas Store possible.



## Helping the Afghan Evacuees at Camp Atterbury

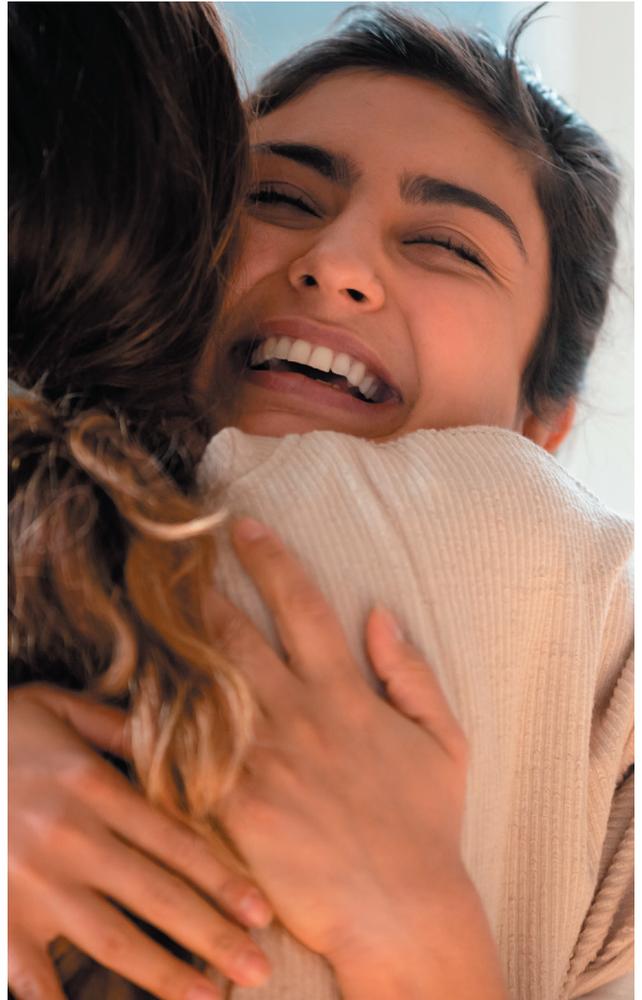
Catholic Charities Indianapolis Refugee Resettlement program has assisted Afghan evacuees at Camp Atterbury since their arrival in October by offering the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Program. This program provided mental health and recreational activities for the children, families and adults, such as art and play therapy, mental health support groups, women's groups and various sport and recreational activities to encourage physical health. We wrapped up our work at the camp at the end of January. In addition to the work at the camp, we have helped to settle several evacuees who already had ties in Indiana.



## St. Elizabeth|Coleman

We are thankful for all the generous donors and volunteers that helped St. Elizabeth|Coleman provide our neighbors Christmas gifts for their family. Every year we are blessed with the opportunity to help mothers and their families at this special time of year. This Christmas, we helped 26 families with a total of 50 children. These families were overjoyed and thankful for the assistance they received. One individual commented, "You all are amazing. Thank you so much, we are beyond blessed. What a relief I feel this year! From the bottom of my heart, I am truly thankful!" Many clients expressed that they have been working hard throughout the year, but continuing pandemic complications have presented difficulties. They expressed their thanks in many ways, many with smiles and tears.

For more info on St. Elizabeth|Coleman, visit [givingbirthtohope.org](http://givingbirthtohope.org) and find us on Facebook at St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy & Adoption Services.



## Grant Allows Counseling Program to Serve More

Thanks to a grant from the Kendrick Foundation, our counseling program continues to provide Morgan County residents affordable access to mental health services. CCI received \$75,000 to support the continued placement of mental health personnel in Morgan County three days a week to serve adults and children struggling to get diagnostic assessment, counseling and referrals to community resources. There are currently three master's level mental health therapists, a licensed clinical supervisor, a supervising psychiatrist and a front office administrator serving clients using two confidential therapy rooms at IU Health Morgan. Additionally, funding from this grant has allowed us to hire a part-time mental health case manager to provide education, referral, follow-up and case management to those at high-risk for poor health outcomes as part of our integrative health care approach. We have been able to serve over 480 people in Morgan County between October 2020 and September 2021 thanks to the Kendrick

Foundation grant. To learn more about our mental health services visit [helpcreatehope.org](http://helpcreatehope.org)



## Crisis Office

The Crisis Office has seen a significant increase in the amount of people requesting help with rent and utilities. The office receives an average of 50 calls a day seeking our assistance. Over 30 percent of those calls are people who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Crisis Office continues to connect clients with community resources and help to fill in gaps where they can.



## Immigration Services Program

In October, Catholic Charities Indianapolis was awarded a Department of Homeland Security grant to implement a two-year program that provides programming and services to LPRs (Lawful Permanent Residents) who arrived in the United States as refugees, asylees, SIVs (Special Immigrant Visas) or Cuban and Haitian entrants. The grant allows us to provide a three-pronged program: civics and English instruction to aid in citizenship exam preparation, an integration plan to connect participants to community resources and provision of legal services to help participants file for naturalization.

The program will run through September 30, 2023. As a part of the program, we need volunteers to help as citizenship tutors or instructors for those in the educational portion. Those interested may contact our citizenship instructor, Julie Wakolbinger, at [jwakolbinger@archindy.org](mailto:jwakolbinger@archindy.org). An

additional volunteer opportunity is serving as family support, including working with participants one-on-one to aid them in addressing needs.

Those interested in volunteering in this capacity may reach out to Mbarka Belkassim at [mbelkassim@archindy.org](mailto:mbelkassim@archindy.org). Both opportunities will involve training and a background check.



## School Social Work Codirector Recognized as Indiana School Social Worker of the Year



We are pleased to share that Patrice Uminski, codirector of our School Social Work program, was recently named School Social Worker of the Year by the Indiana School Social Work Association. Patrice has had a passion for school social work, whether working with and advocating for her students, collaborating with and informing teachers or providing guidance and support for parents. Patrice credits the great work her colleagues are doing in receiving this award and was recognized at a small banquet in mid-November. Congratulations again to Patrice on this great honor!

## IRA Giving

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), through an individual retirement account (IRA), have become a very popular method of giving. Donors 70 ½ and older may use qualified QCDs to donate up to \$100,000 per year to the charity of their choice, and receive unique tax benefits. At age 72, these donations count as required minimum distributions. QCD gifts can be made to benefit annual funds or appeals, capital campaigns and endowments.

For more information on how you can utilize QCDs in your giving plan, please contact the Catholic Community Foundation at [ccf@archindy.org](mailto:ccf@archindy.org) or 317-236-1482.

*Tax or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice. Always consult with your legal, tax or financial advisors before implementing any gift plan.*



## Annual Report

Did you miss seeing our 2020-2021 Annual Report? You can view the full annual report on our website at [www.helpcreatehope.org](http://www.helpcreatehope.org)





Community Partner



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America*



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*The Church in Central and Southern Indiana*

## Upcoming Events

### **Crisis Office Simple Soup & Bread Luncheon**

**Date:** Thursday, April 14

**Location:** Catholic Center

Stay tuned to our website and Facebook for additional information.

### **Caregiver Support Groups**

Virtual and in person support groups are hosted for caregivers of older adults. The groups are not disease specific. Registration required. Contact Monica at [mwoodsworth@archindy.org](mailto:mwoodsworth@archindy.org) or 317-261-3378. If you are not able to attend, feel free to call for caregiver information.

**3rd Thursday** from 5:30 – 7 PM in person at the Catholic Center, 1400 N Meridian Street.

**3rd Tuesday** from 5:30 – 7 PM in person at St Jude's, 5375 McFarland Road.

**4th Thursday** from 4:15 – 5:30 PM virtually. Registration required to receive Zoom link.

### **Donate Online**

Did you know you can contribute to Catholic Charities online? It's easy and secure. Visit [helpcreatehope.org](http://helpcreatehope.org). Donations can be set up as a monthly or one-time gift. 92 cents of every dollar is used to provide critical support, genuine care and gentle relief for those who seek our help.