

Catholic Charities Connections

July 2026

A Quarterly Newsletter from Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

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



Home Heating Program Nominated for the 2026-2027 Lumen Christi Award

Each year, bishops are asked to nominate one individual, group, or institution from their diocese for the Catholic Extension Society's Lumen Christi Award. The Lumen Christi Award is Catholic Extension Society's highest honor. Since 1978, it has been presented annually to people who radiate and reveal the light of Christ present in the communities where they serve.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo's Home Heating Assistance is one of this year's 46 nominees!

"The Lumen Christi Award is a real-time window into the incredible impact of people of faith in America," said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension Society. "Born out of their love for God, the dedication of these nominees to the good of the Church and the good of their neighbors should make us all proud to be Catholic."

From these outstanding nominees, a group of finalists will be announced later this summer, followed by the selection of a national honoree in the fall. Award finalists will receive \$15,000 each, and the national honoree will be awarded \$100,000 to support their ministry.

Learn more about each of the 46 nominees [here](#).

The Heating Assistance Program provides emergency heating assistance (up to \$300 per household), to anyone in need residing within the nine counties of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Donations from participating Catholic parishes contributed to the Heating Assistance Fund are for "emergency" heating needs only.

The program has been in existence since 1982. Since then, we have aided 14,400 households with over \$2,485,000 in utility assistance!!

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**

Become a Sponsor for our 5th Annual St. Nicholas Fundraiser Event!

We are looking for sponsors to support the event or individuals to donate items (large or small) to be raffled off at the event.

It's a great way to give back and gain exposure for your business. It helps Catholic Charities to raise more funds for our services and show community support of our agency!



Save the Date St. Nicholas Fundraiser

Friday, December 4, 2026

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Kalamazoo Country Club

Dinner · Drinks · Music · Auction · Raffle

\$5,000 Grand Prize Drawing

www.ccdok.org/stnicholas/

Sponsorship Levels:

The St. Nicholas Giver - \$5,000

The Great Giver - \$2,500

The Golden Coin Giver - \$1,000

Donate an Auction Item or Raffle Item



Benefits of the above sponsorship levels can be found on the website along with the application form.

Go to: www.ccdok.org/stnicholas/

Join us on Monday, August 31, 2026

D.L. Gallivan will be hosting their 3rd Annual Golf Event, "United for a Cause". A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Catholic Charities.

Join us for
The Third Annual
D.L. Gallivan Office Solutions
UNITED FOR A CAUSE
GOLF OUTING

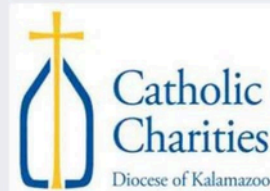
SPONSORED BY:


Monday, August 31, 2026



Registration Info On Back Angels Crossing Golf Course
\$500 / Team
Registration Closes August 24th
Vicksburg, MI

All proceeds go to:



18 Hole Scramble

Raffle Grand Prize

Check-in 8:15 a.m.
Shotgun Start 9:00 a.m.
Lunch Provided by Our Sponsors



For More Information Or To Become A Sponsor Contact
Jim Gaugier Jim@dlgallivan.com www.copykalamazoo.com
Tony Clark Tony@dlgallivan.com 269.349.1581



[Click here for details:](#)

(Photos are from last year's event!)



Partner Organizations

We want to congratulate Lynn and Charles on their Ellis Island Medal of Honor awarded last month! We feel blessed to partner with individuals being recognized nationally for their philanthropy and thank you again for including us in your local giving. Your gift has already impacted 13,000 individuals who have received food in 2026 in our community in southwest Michigan. In early May we distributed an announcement to all of the parishes in the diocese of Kalamazoo to announce your renewed financial commitment to the Bread of Life food program and were excited to see the news published in multiple Sunday bulletins. We hope others will follow your generous example.



Staff Spotlights

Each week, we highlight one of our dedicated staff members at the Ark Shelter. Check out our FaceBook page at facebook.com/CCDOKalamazoo/ or Ark Services for Youth FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/search/top?q=ark%20services%20for%20youth

The Ark services for youth **STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

Jay

- How long have you worked at the Ark?
 - 3 months
- What's your favorite thing about working at the Ark?
 - Getting to connect with the kids who come through, seeing them become more confident and start to look forward to the future.
- What's a fun fact about you:
 - I'm currently studying sociology at Kalamazoo College!

The Ark services for youth **STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

Ms Tamica

- How long have you worked at the Ark?
 - 11 months
- What's your favorite thing about working at the Ark?
 - I love that we are a safe haven for youth during uncertainty. My favorite thing to do for youth is cook for them.
- What's a fun fact about you:
 - I have been a servant of youth my entire adult life. Even as a teen I was a well regarded baby sitter for neighbors and friends.