

# Catholic Charities Connections

OCTOBER 2025

A Quarterly Newsletter from Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo

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

You are invited to join us for our third annual St. Nicholas Fundraiser event on Friday, December 6, 2024. Proceeds raised will benefit the thousands of clients served each year by Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo.

- Pregnant moms and babies
- Housing homeless youth
- Mental health counseling
- Feeding families
- Legal Immigration Assistance



**LIVE Raffle Event  
Friday December 6, 2024**

Raffle License  
#R77329

**Purchase your tickets today!**

*You do not have to be present to win!*

**\$20 each for a chance to win \$5,000 CASH**

**We will also hold a live auction during the live event to bid on some fantastic items, including a 7-day Cabo San Lucas Getaway!**

Join us at Fieldstone Grill in Portage from 6:00 to 9:00 pm

\$100 per person includes:

Food, drinks, dessert, music, raffle ticket, live auction

**For more information and to purchase tickets visit  
[www.ccdok.org/stnicholas/](http://www.ccdok.org/stnicholas/) or scan the QR code.**



**Sponsored by:**



**ThermalTech  
Engineering**

Mark & Toni Jones



## Lisa Irwin Retires after 44 years!

Please join all of us here at Catholic Charities in wishing Lisa Irwin a joyous and restful retirement, which is well-deserved after 44 years of service throughout the Diocese of Kalamazoo!!! Many of you have had the opportunity to interact with Lisa in one of her many Diocesan roles over the years. We were extremely fortunate to work directly with Lisa when her journeys brought her to Catholic Charities in July 2021. Lisa's passion to serve God and her fellow brothers and sisters is an example for all of us. **Congratulations Lisa!**

## 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](mailto:info@ccdok.org)**

## Respect Life Month

Every October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month. We consider more deeply the gift of human life and seek ways to help build a culture that cherishes and protects it. Each day across the diocese of Kalamazoo, CCDOK seeks to improve the life of someone in need ~ whether it be the pregnant mother at Caring Network, a teenager in crisis at the Ark Shelter, a family seeking supplemental food from Bread of Life, the individual seeking mental health support from a Bridges counselor, or legal immigration assistance ~ the efforts by dedicated staff, volunteers, donors and community partners are all answering the call to help, respect, serve the neighbor in need - answering Jesus' invitation to love one another.

During the month of October, we ask for continued prayers for the lives we serve. We also ask for your participation in pro-life activities throughout the diocese, supporting and strengthening the mission of CCDOK, "We are God's hands providing housing, health, and hope to His children."

## CELEBRATION AND PRAYER FOR LIFE RALLY

Celebrating the Sanctity of Life

### Event Highlights

In unity, we are seeking God's blessing on all human life and protection for the unborn.

This is NOT a political event.

Dessert will be served at the end of program.

**Master of Ceremonies:** Pastor Paul Naumann,  
Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School

### Keynote Speakers

**Dr. Robin Pierucci:** Neonatologist, National Speaker and Author, and Co-chair of the American College of Pediatricians (ACPed's) Pro-life Council

**Pastor Zach Dillon:** Pastor of Prayer at Radiant Church Kalamazoo, Conference Speaker, Graduate of Kings University in Bible Theology

### Other Speakers:

Diocese of Kalamazoo Clergy  
Marti Jensen - Caring Network Supervisor  
Cathy Stoner - Executive Director for  
Alternatives Care Centers

Please consider bringing any of the following items for Caring Network and Alternative Care Centers:

Diapers, Pull-Ups, wipes, formula, clothing for newborns and infants (up to 5T), baby lotion, and baby wash.

For More Information:  
<https://bit.ly/3MH395H>

Or scan the QR Code



5:00 PM

**20**

OCTOBER

**SAINT MICHAEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

7211 OAKLAND DR  
PORTAGE, MI 49024



**Dr. Robin Pierucci**



**Pastor Zach Dillon**



**Pastor Paul Naumann**

To donate to Caring Network, the diocese pro-life organization, visit [www.ccdok.org](http://www.ccdok.org).



## CCDOK Provides Assistance to the Portage Tornado Disaster

Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo provided over \$26,000 in assistance to support disaster relief efforts to locals impacted by the May 2024 tornado that devastated much of the Portage area. The funds were a combination of support from Catholic Charities USA and individuals who generously donated locally. Working closely with the City of Portage, the relief funds were used to aid residents whose insurance did not cover all the damage. The donations were used to help purchase a used car, provide furniture, replace roofing, siding and drywall and partner with St. Vincent DePaul USA Disaster Services to purchase "House in a Box" kits that provide families devastated by disasters with new furniture and furnishings.

Catholic Charities also assisted families in the Pavilion Estates Mobile Home Park in Portage after the tornado destroyed 17 homes and damaged more than 100. The Bread of Life food program delivered food and provided referrals to other community assistance for utility support and tornado recovery resources. One family assisted recently reached out to thank our program for our support during a very challenging time where they needed extra help and to let us know they no longer needed the emergency food assistance.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the recovery efforts in Portage through donations, prayers and volunteering their time.

## Rocker to the Rescue Radiothon!!

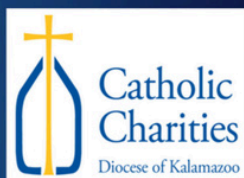
107.7 WRKR and Catholic Charities are teaming up this holiday season for the 1st Annual Rocker to the Rescue Radiothon! **Join us on November 22 at Presidential Brewing** in Portage where we will be broadcasting LIVE all day. Stop in anytime from 6am to 7pm to enjoy great food, drinks and fun while supporting our agency! Do you have a business that is interested in becoming a radiothon sponsor? It's a fantastic way to make a meaningful contribution while gaining significant exposure for your business. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, contact us at 269-381-9800 or [info@ccdok.org](mailto:info@ccdok.org).



## Remember Giving Tuesday this year and iGIVECATHOLIC!!

### What is #IGIVECATHOLIC?

#iGiveCatholic is an annual giving day for the faithful across the nation (and the globe!) to come together and raise as many charitable dollars as possible for Catholic parishes, schools, and ministries in participating dioceses. Last year, #iGiveCatholic raised more than \$20 million for 1,870 organizations in 50 dioceses across the United States!



### Save the Date!

**Nov 18 - Dec 2**

Advanced Giving

**December 3**

GivingTuesday

[diokzoo.iGiveCatholic.org](http://diokzoo.iGiveCatholic.org)

### When is #IGIVECATHOLIC?

#iGiveCatholic is a 24-hour celebration from midnight until 11:59pm on #GivingTuesday, December 3, 2024, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Donations will be collected online at [www.diokzoo.igivecatholic.org/](http://www.diokzoo.igivecatholic.org/) Monday, November 18th through December 3rd.



## Home Heating Assistance Program 2024-2025

The home heating assistance program provides up to \$300 per household to anyone in need residing within the nine counties of the Diocese of Kalamazoo (Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren), which helps households defray heating expenses and obtain heating resources (fuel oil, natural gas, electricity, firewood, etc).

The program is generously funded through a special collection taken in November -- with funds contributed from more than 50 parishes and missions across the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The parishes/missions may keep 20% of the funds collected for local use, serving the poor and vulnerable. The remaining 80% is contributed to the program and given out to families in need.

Please consider giving generously to support our brothers and sisters through the cold winter months ahead. This year's collection will be on **November 23 and 24, 2024** or [click here](#) to DONATE today.



## Holiday Sponsorships

We are preparing for another holiday season at Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo (CCDOK) and will soon begin to match sponsors with a youth, mother, or a family in crisis ~ **all clients of CCDOK!** We are grateful for your past participation and hope you will again consider helping someone in need.

## Thanksgiving

Through our Bread of Life Distribution Program, we will be providing our client families a holiday themed supplemental food basket! If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving baskets, please visit [www.ccdok.org/donate-today/](http://www.ccdok.org/donate-today/) and direct your support to Bread of Life.

## Christmas

To sponsor an individual or family at Christmas and provide gifts, please contact us by November 1! We will match and send you a 2024 Family Information Form that will include the ages, gender and needs of the person(s) you're interested in helping!

**If you prefer, we can Shop for You!!**

**We welcome cash donations and gift cards as well.**

**Please send to: Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo, 1819 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 or Donate online at [www.ccdok.org/donate-today/](http://www.ccdok.org/donate-today/)**

### Dates to Remember:

**Friday, November 1**

**Contact Jeannine Boehm at  
(269) 381-1234, Ext. 114 or  
[jeannineboehm@ccdok.org](mailto:jeannineboehm@ccdok.org)**

**Tuesday, December 10**

**Christmas Gifts drop off at  
St. Joseph Church  
936 Lake Street  
Kalamazoo, MI  
8:00 am - 12:00 noon**

## Community Partners!!

Thank you to our community partners for supporting Catholic Charities! Consider joining these amazing businesses and become a partner today!

A very special thank you to **D.L. Gallivan** who planned and hosted "United for a Cause" golf outing and generously donated proceeds in support of Catholic Charities!

We are very appreciative of **Honor Credit Union**, who shopped and filled the Catholic Community Center pantry with food and personal hygiene items and presented a check to the Bread of Life Food program to support the Dowagiac Holy Maternity of Mary Church pantry.

**D.L. Gallivan**  
**Office Solutions**

(269)-349-1581  
[www.copykalamazoo.com](http://www.copykalamazoo.com)

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