Catholic Charities Connections

OCTOBER 2026

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 5th Annual St. Nicholas Fundraiser event on Friday, December 4, 2026. 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

Raffle License #R88756

St. Nicholas Raffle Tickets
Raffle drawing December 4, 2026

Purchase your tickets today!

You do not have to be present to win!

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

Join us for the St. Nicholas Fundraiser Dinner
Friday, December 4, 2026 - 6:00-9:00pm
Kalamazoo Country Club
Tickets $125 per person includes: dinner, drinks, dessert, music raffle drawing and auction

For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.ccdok.org/stnicholas/ or scan the QR code.

Our Sponsors:

Cole Automotive Group
TE Innovative Solutions | ThermalTech Engineering
Congregation of St. Joseph
D.L. Gallivan Office Solutions
John and Sarah Braganini
townsquare media southwest michigan
Southwest Michigan Dermatology
Diocese of Kalamazoo
Knights of Columbus
Warner
BUDAY'S HOME ELECTRONICS SIMPLIFIED
the UNIFORM OUTLET
Mark & Toni Jones
John and Angela Martin
Tim and Sarah Harding

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

Rocker to the Rescue Radiothon!!

107.7 WRKR and Catholic Charities are teaming up this holiday season for the 3rd Annual Rocker to the Rescue Radiothon! **Join us on November 20** at **Presidential Brewing** in Portage where we will be broadcasting LIVE all day. Stop in anytime from 6am to 6pm to enjoy great food, drinks and fun while supporting our agency! We will be collecting financial donations and material items:

- **Ark Services for Youth**: Hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo/ conditioner, toothpaste, bodywash); and adult winter gloves
- **Bread of Life**: Canned tuna/chicken, high protein soups, and peanut butter
- **Caring Network**: Baby food and formula

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.

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 to inspire and support generosity, raising as many charitable dollars as possible for Catholic parishes, schools, and ministries in participating dioceses.

When is IGIVECATHOLIC?

iGiveCatholic is a 24-hour celebration from midnight until 11:59pm on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2026, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Advanced Giving starts November 16th!!
Donations will be collected online at www.diokzoo.igivecatholic.org/
(search "Caring Network - Catholic Charities")
Monday, November 16th through December 1st.

Home Heating Assistance Program 2026-2027

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 21 and 22, 2026** or click here to DONATE today.

HOLIDAY SPONSORSHIPS

We are preparing for another holiday season at Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo! We've had an overwhelming number of responses for sponsors this year for our Christmas Holiday basket event. Thank you for your participation to help a youth, mother, or a family ~ **all clients of CCDOK**!

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/ and direct your support to Bread of Life.

Christmas

We will begin matching sponsors with individual clients and client families again this year. We appreciate all of the sponsors who have graciously agreed to sponsor clients this year and bring added joy to their holiday season!

Thursday, December 10

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

If you have questions, please contact Melissa Centofanti at
269-381-9800 or melissacentofanti@ccdok.org

Community and Parish Partners!!

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!

The Caring Network Fundraiser held by St. Catherine of Sienna’s Parish family was a wonderful success! They raised over $9,000 in funds and over $5,000 in items to give to Caring Network to support our clients, mothers and families, in need. Also, a special thank you to St. Catherine’s youth (grades 7-8) who assisted with counting and tracking donations. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your love and compassion, and for being *“God's hands providing hope to His children”*.

For the second year in a row, the St Catherine Knights of Columbus Council 6980 purchased coats for the Ark Shelter (left) and Caring Network (right) which are agencies of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Knights of Columbus St. Ann Council 1633 also provided coats for those we serve. The Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" program began in 2009 and provides approximately 200,000 coats each year across the U.S. and Canada.

St. Mary’s Parish in Kalamazoo partnered with us to collect items for our Back-to-School Event. We served over 250 individuals giving out ALL the backpacks, school supplies, food packs, and a good portion of clothing!! Thank you to our staff, the student volunteers, and volunteers from Willis Law that showed up to help sort and distribute the items. We are truly grateful for all the hard work that went into this event and we appreciate everyone who helped out in one way or another.