One Body
Many Parts

2015 Annual Report
Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

– Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)

In the course of one year…12 short months…365 days…Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo receives literally thousands of requests for help. Some are homeless, living on the street. Others are victims of human trafficking and those who are supposed to protect them are actually causing their dire situation. Some are pregnant and scared, lacking options, resources, and support. Others need help with mental health and have nowhere else to turn.

We answer the phone, the door, the e-mail, and the text message each and every time we are contacted. We strive to meet the needs of those who come to us, no matter how complicated or overwhelming they are. We have many talented and compassionate staff who give their lives to this work. We are blessed with dedicated volunteers. Many offer their time, and their resources to support our work.

We are blessed in many ways to be able to respond to these cries for help – and it’s only because of the “many parts” in the “one body” that we succeed. Saint Paul knew that we belong to each other, that we each have a special function, and that these many parts must come together to do Christ’s work. Our 2015 Annual Report highlights just some of the many parts that make up the CCDOK body – each enabling us to do the work of Christ – together.
Pope Francis issued the call to the world to enter into an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, his very first words were: “Jesus Christ is the Face of the Father’s Mercy”. (Misericordiae Vultus, Pope Francis). Every time we look upon the Face of Jesus, we see the Compassion—the Mercy—the Love of God in Jesus. That means that every one of us in the Body of Christ have as our primary challenge to imitate Jesus, and to also help all those around us to see the “Face of the Father’s Mercy” in us.

The many ministries and services offered by Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo are expressions of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy being provided to people of all ages and at all stages of life. The compassionate service made available to vulnerable youth through Ark Services shelter the homeless; the Bridges Counseling program offers counsel to the doubtful; the life-giving and life-saving services provided by the Caring Network help instruct young mothers and protect the dignity of human life; and the Home Heating Assistance program helps those in need of basic necessities of life.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the many wonderful ways Catholic Charities extends God’s loving mercy to so many people in our diocese. Each act of social outreach and loving charity is an act of mercy which builds up God’s Kingdom in our midst now and for years to come in the future. When people see Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo, they are seeing the Face, the Hands, the Body of Christ, who is indeed the Face of the Father’s Mercy.

Message from Timothy J. Lieser, President/CEO

“One body, many parts.” We all are called to share our unique and varied talents that God has given us with the larger body of humanity. We are provided a clear framework for carrying out the social action of our faith: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25: v35-36

Often times in the busy and demanding world that we live in, we can’t imagine how we can find any spare time to put our Lord’s teaching into action. Please know your prayers, volunteer efforts, donations and support have helped CCDOK to carry out the social action the Lord called each of us to fulfill. During 2015, with that support, we are grateful to have had the opportunity to provide help and hope for hundreds of our brothers, sisters, children and infants in need. “Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did to me.” (Matthew 25: v4) Together with your support, CCDOK will continue to work hard to provide for our brethren in need. God’s blessings!

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

– 1 Corinthians 12:27
The Journey to Safety and Hope: Ark Outreach

I met her when I gave a presentation at her school about Ark Services. She was 36 weeks pregnant and school was the only stable thing in her life. She was living in an abandoned trailer in Allegan county – with no support system, no transportation, no electricity, and no running water. Her bathroom was the woods nearby. We literally gave her gallon jugs of water and rolls of toilet paper to meet her needs at the start. We met her at her home or school several times a week and helped her develop a plan which gave her hope. We helped her get to the doctor and find safe housing. We celebrated with her after the birth of her son, brought her the baby supplies she needed, and even helped her get and decorate her first Christmas tree in her new home. I am so blessed to walk this journey with her – through the big and little things – and am so proud of her!

Equipping Staff to Excel: Training Specialist

Learning is like food for our bodies; it nourishes and energizes us. When we learn, our brains expand, our energy rises, and we feel more prepared for challenges we face. This year, CCDOK made an enthusiastic commitment to learning. We already see the results: our dedicated staff are nourishing their mind, growing their knowledge and energizing their work in new ways. This ‘food’ sustains us as we answer thousands of requests for help. Staff are stronger; the new skills and ideas they have learned fuel their minds. In 2015, staff completed over 820 hours in online learning courses.

Confidence and Hope: Helping Moms Thrive

She was a new mother . . . but she didn’t feel ready to be one. She had so much love, but she was so unsure how to share it and care for her baby. She came to Caring Network asking for supplies and learned we could offer so much more. I offered to come to her house a few times a month to help her learn about her baby and how to care for her – knowing how to keep her safe and be a mom and a teacher to her. We’ve been meeting for a few months now and she has grown so much. She has gained confidence and skills. She’s a great mom!
"Behind The Scenes" Is Valuable: Renee

At Catholic Charities, we’re thankful to receive material donations for the homeless youth, mothers and babies in our programs. These donations are given directly to our clients and include diapers, wipes, clothes, blankets, and toys...but managing them in an organized fashion isn’t always easy. Enter Renee Dowdy, an organizer extraordinaire. Though she never sees a client, she has given each a gift just by using her talents. Renee revamped congested spaces into functional and welcoming rooms for the youth to choose needed items from. “I volunteer because I want to help homeless youth. I knew my organizational skills and prayers while doing the work would help the youth and agency.” She uses her talents behind the scenes to bless those in need.

Building Trust & Changing Lives: Caring Network

She came to Caring Network almost 4 months pregnant. During our first visit, she told me it was, “only a matter of time” before they made some money, enough to get an abortion. I wondered why she came to me if that was her plan and I prayed for the wisdom to help. It typically takes two weeks to start the program, but I extended it to a month. This gave me the opportunity to spend time with her and show her love and compassion in a “safe place.” We built trust. Fast forward to today... her due date is approaching, she is back in school (soon to graduate), and she and the father bursting out of their seams, ready and excited to be a parent.

No Blame, Just Solutions: The Ark Shelter

We met The Ark in August 2015. We had exhausted our options with our 17 year-old adopted son, working with lots of different professionals. Nothing seemed to help until we met with Ark staff who brought our family together to work on communication, respect, and rules. For the first time, there was no blame; we all needed to change and they gave us tools to do so. Life isn’t perfect now, but we have hope. That makes all the difference.
We are blessed with many donors and supporters and we gratefully acknowledge everyone who has generously made a donation over the past year. Without this support we simply could not do the work we do each day. Catholic Charities’ Caritas Donors gave at the very highest levels of support in 2015:

Steven J. Borchert
Matthew Early & Mary Hentschl-Early
Robert J. Ferguson
Patrick & Judith Gipper
Drs. Thomas & Colette Gushurst
Jill Harris
John & Mary Hendrickson
Chuck & Kathleen M. Hess
Koert & Kathleen Howland
John Jones & Karrie Kranz
Ian & Sarah Kennedy
Charles & Barbara Kincaid
John R. Light
Keith & Hope Marotti
Brian & Anne Mullally
Nancy A. Ray
Greg & Linda Root
Lawrence & Joan Root
Thomas & Jean Runge
Steven & Kathleen Waldron
Todd & Kristen Wolf
Peter & Maureen Yanik
Charlie & Leslie Young
& Many Anonymous Donors

The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide people with compassionate social services in the manner of Jesus Christ, to advocate for justice and to cultivate caring communities in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

– St. Augustine
Together We Impact Lives

**Ark Services for Youth**
208 youth sheltered, 2,920 days of shelter care provided
49 youth provided 7,268 days of transitional housing
11 youth provided 3,190 days of permanent supportive housing
7,115 community members educated about youth homelessness

- 96% of sheltered youth discharged to safe and stable housing
- 88% of youth in transitional housing exited to safe and stable housing
- 58% of youth demonstrated improved family relationships
- 81.3% of youth demonstrated improved overall well-being

**Bridges Outpatient Mental Health**
479 sessions of counseling provided, improving mental health

**Baraga Manor Apartments**
17,260 days of housing provided to seniors and mobility impaired adults

**Caring Network**
297 pregnant & parenting women served to promote life and family stability

**Home Heating Assistance**
321 households with 525 adults and 363 children assisted with $70,396

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**CCDOK Incomes 2015**
$2,033,680

- Contributions 19%
- United Ways 12%
- Fees 1%
- Diocese 9%
- Other 1%
- Contracts/Grants 59%

**CCDOK Expenses 2015**
$2,084,011

- All Other 24%
- Salary/Benefits 66%
- Client Assistance 10%
- Other 1%
Call To Action: John Jones, Board Chair

It has been such a joy to serve CCDOK as a Board member and then as Board Chairman over the past two years. CCDOK is ever changing and evolving, and now we begin to look at the exciting transformation and strategic planning that will take CCDOK into the next five years.

Our future is bright but we need all of our supporters to help us continue to serve God’s people. As dollars from traditional sources become fewer, we will need the financial support of our donors. We will need to find additional sources of revenue to support our work. CCDOK will also need to expand the ranks of the many dedicated volunteers that serve our mission. We are blessed by our many parishes throughout the diocese and Bishop Bradley who provides the leadership to help us navigate an ever changing environment. I ask for your prayers for CCDOK and I ask for your continued support.

Office Locations

Administration | Ark Youth Independent Living & Outreach
1819 Gull Road, Kalamazoo MI 49048

Ark Shelter
990 West Kilgore, Kalamazoo MI 49008

The Van Domelen Center | Caring Network | Bridges
1441 South Westnedge, Kalamazoo MI 49008

Baraga Manor Apartments
301 Washington Street, Otsego MI 49048

To learn more about CCDOK or to join us in our work, please:
visit www.ccdok.org | call 269-381-9800 | email info@ccdok.org