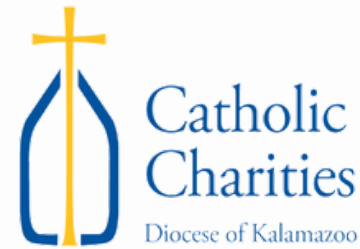


Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo



2023

Annual Report



*Dedicated to serving those in
need in all nine counties of the
Diocese of Kalamazoo.*

Bishop's Message



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Each day across the diocese, Catholic Charities is improving the life of someone in need, whether that be through providing parenting resources for a mother-to-be (Caring Network), a safe haven for teenagers in crisis (Ark Services for Youth), nourishment for those experiencing food insecurity (Bread of Life), mental health counseling for those in need (Bridges), or a place to call home for the elderly (Baraga Manor). Each of Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo agencies makes known the love of Jesus.

In meeting the needs of our sisters and brothers through this life-saving work, we are answering Jesus' invitation to love one another. Your support through prayer and sacrificial gifts to Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo contributes to building the Kingdom of God here in the nine counties of our diocese and makes a significant difference in the lives of the people we are called to serve.

Thank you and God bless you, now and always.
Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Edward M. Lohse

The Most Reverend Edward M. Lohse, JCD
Bishop of Kalamazoo

Mission and Vision

Moving Forward to make the Mission Possible

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

We envision respect for human dignity and ever-increasing stability and independence for individuals, families, and communities we serve.

Engaging the Community -- Our Volunteers

At Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo, it takes great collective efforts from dedicated staff and volunteers to live our mission. In 2023, approximately 139 volunteers provided 5,361 hours across the nine-county Diocese of Kalamazoo.

"We are beyond grateful to our engaged, enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers for seeing an opportunity to serve, and for acting upon it." says Jeannine Boehm, Volunteer Coordinator.

An hour of volunteer time is valued at \$31.80*. Volunteers play an essential role in strengthening our mission and delivering services to our clients across the Diocese.
*(*per the US Independent Sector and the Do-Good Institute.)*



Executive Director's Message



Here at Catholic Charities, we carry the mission of being God's hands providing housing, health, and hope to His children. We do not take this mission lightly. When our brothers and sisters come to our doors seeking assistance, they do so because they know we are there to work with them on their journeys, no matter who they are or how dire their circumstances are. At Catholic Charities,

they are not a number or just a client to us; they are a part of our family as we are all children of God. That family not only includes our staff but also each and every one of you who support Catholic Charities. We hope through this Annual Report, you learn more about the good work you have helped foster for people throughout the Diocese. Through your support, you have created the foundation on which we stand as we look to expand our services throughout the Diocese.

From all of us here at Catholic Charities, thank you for all you do to serve our community!

Toni Newell

Toni Newell, Executive Director

Key Accomplishments --

Supporting Mental Health

BRIDGES held over 900 counseling sessions in 2023, 67% of those sessions served low income/marginalized populations. Bridges successfully:

- Assisted over 30 clients achieve their goals and complete therapy in a better place than where they started; all reported decreased depression and anxiety.
- Provided on-site counseling in 3 diocesan schools, serving 17 students.
- Supported Ark Shelter youth residents over 60 counseling sessions.

Safe Housing for Homeless Youth

The **ARK SERVICES FOR YOUTH** continues to serve homeless, runaway, and in-crisis youth in Southwest Michigan, by providing 631 days of care to 59 youth in 2023 and ensuring all found safe and stable housing. The Ark program also:

- Completed community-based case management for 233 youth; connecting families to long-term resources, developing and achieving goals while building stability and self-sufficiency.
- Responded to 411 crisis-intervention calls.
- Presented 200 hours of community education about the Ark Services.

Healthier Moms and Babies

CARING NETWORK helped 222 families with loving support, case management (goal setting/achievement), safe sleep education and community resource referrals. In 2023, Caring Network:

- Provided over \$67,000 worth of material items such as clothing, diapers, car seats, baby items and diapers to our clients.
- Educated 392 participants through our community Childbirth, Mama Academy, and Parenting classes.
- Child Passenger Safety Technician inspected and educated 78 families on car seat installation, ensuring child safety in vehicles.



Helping Families Succeed

The **IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE** program specializes in domestic violence and victims of crime cases. In 2023, 342 intakes were conducted, and 266 full cases were opened serving individuals from 33 countries. The program completed:

- 98 DACA renewals
- 37 Green Card Renewals
- 36 Naturalizations

Reducing Food Insecurity

The **BREAD OF LIFE** food program fed more than 24,400 individuals (8,100 households) in our nine-county service area in 2023.

- Volunteers gave 2,400 hours to sort, pack and deliver 19,249 boxes of food for distribution.
- Partnered with the South Michigan Food Bank for 35 fresh food distribution events, providing fresh, nutritious food to families.
- 82,192 lbs of donated food was provided to clients through store rescue, community food drives and donations of seasonal produce from area farmers.

Connecting to Community

The **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTER**, located in Benton Harbor, is focused on providing a "hand-up" to those in need, to assist with very basic needs, such as food and utilities and emergency situations. Because of the support from generous donors, in 2023, the center:

- Fed 3200 people,
- Provided utility assistance for 700 households, and emergency services for 35 households.

HISPANIC/MIGRANT MINISTRIES reached over 12,905 migrant farmworkers in 2023 through spiritual, pastoral, and material support while they live and work in the Diocese. The program also:

- Trained 10 parishes consisting of 80 individuals to provide camp visits and activities.
- Offered 6 quinceañera retreats to 57 young ladies and their 107 parents/guardians.
- Coordinated Diocesan Fiesta Mass for 518 adults and 60 youth.

SANCTITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON continued its ministry for the dignity of human life through the quarterly gathering of diocesan pro-life leaders and participated in the March for Life in Lansing.

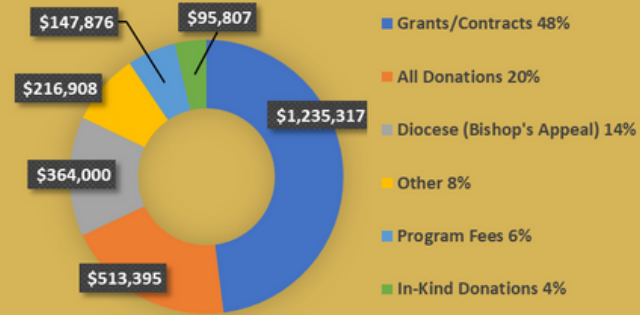
Highlights for the year included:

- Hosted the largest Advent family gathering for persons with disabilities and their families/caregivers with 41 people participating.
- The Catholic jail ministry teams returned to the state prison and county jails offering Mass, communion services, weekly bible studies, and walk-through visits to cells.
- CRS Rice Bowl grants were awarded to six food pantries serving people across the Diocese.

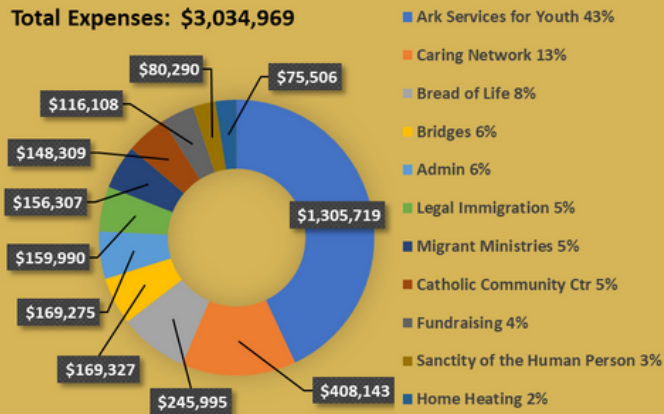
The **HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE** program provided \$73,487 of emergency utility assistance to 272 households (755 individuals) in nine counties.

-- Our Impact in 2023

Total Revenue: \$2,573,303



Total Expenses: \$3,034,969



CCDOK hosted the 2nd Annual St. Nicholas Raffle event which raised \$55,000 and brought together over 130 supporters for an evening focused on being "Givers of Great Gifts" to our community.

The first Bread of Life Trivia night was held, that not only sharpened our minds but collected food donations and funds for feeding those in need in our Diocese.

We received \$86,000 worth of in-kind/material donations that directly benefited our clients in the form of food, clothing, diapers, baby items, and household goods.



*Because of You...
the Mission is Possible!*

The Staff of Catholic Charities would like to thank all those who supported our work in 2023 and look forward to expanding our reach in the future together.

Connect with Catholic Charities:



website: www.ccdok.org
 email: info@ccdok.org
 phone: (269) 381-9800



Connect with us via
[FaceBook.com/CCDOKalamazoo](https://www.facebook.com/CCDOKalamazoo)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- David Scott

Our active and diverse Board of Directors are proud to support the Lord's work that the amazing staff provide in our community every day. We have formed a powerful and robust strategic plan to strengthen and expand our services throughout the nine county Diocese. We encourage you to join us in implementing this vision - through sponsorship, partnership, or volunteering - "to be God's hands in providing housing, health and hope to all of His children".

Jeff Brennan,
 CCDOK Board President

Answer the Call...Change a Life!