



CSS Connections

Catholic Social Services of Oakland County

Fall 2005

SAVE THE DATE

November 18th

1:00-5:00 pm
Open House
at our
new location:
3300 S. Adams
Auburn Hills
on the grounds of
Sacred Heart Parish

Give a Kid a Christmas

Would you,
your family, your club,
your parish, or your office
like to bring joy to
children this Christmas?
Call 248-333-3700 x3302
to find out how you can
connect with
a family in need this year.

Inside this issue...

- **New Board Members Welcomed to CSSOC**
- **Aid to Hurricane Evacuees in Oakland County**
- **Miss Elizabeth, "Ninja-Granny"**
- **Classic Cars Bring Back Memories**
- **Day of Fun for Foster Kids**

New Location for CSSOC Services

Sacred Heart Parish in Auburn Hills has a new neighbor...Catholic Social Services of Oakland County! Opening in November following extensive renovation, the convent building will provide CSSOC offices for counseling services and a new location for Sheltering Arms Adult Day Center. The center is easily accessible to families in Auburn Hills, Troy, Rochester/Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield, and other north Oakland County communities.

"We are grateful to Sacred Heart Parish for welcoming us to their neighborhood," says Margaret A. Huggard, President of CSSOC. "We look forward to serving caregiving families of the elderly and helping individuals and families with the stress and strains of daily living."

The staff at Sheltering Arms Adult Day Center has extensive experience in meeting the unique needs of older adults who cannot be left alone during the day. At the counseling center, professional therapists are available to help address mental and behavioral health issues as well as evaluation and treatment for alcohol and substance abuse.



Gala Celebrates a "Journey of Hope"

"A Journey of Hope," the 2004 Spring Gala fundraiser for Catholic Social Services of Oakland County (CSSOC), was held in May at the Centerpoint Marriott in Pontiac. The festive evening highlighted the work of Hispanic Outreach Services, and included entertainment by "Latino Ambience," fine dining, and a silent and live auction conducted by WCSX radio personality, Ken Calvert. Bids were high for the original art and sculpture, Detroit Lions Thanksgiving Day game tickets, a suite at Comerica Park for a Detroit Tigers game, beautiful jewelry, sports memorabilia, and a last minute donation of Pistons playoff tickets by David and Mary Hines of Bingham Farms.

Gala Chairs Jennifer and John Keegan of Bloomfield Hills and the Gala Committee were thrilled with the nearly \$70,000 raised for CSSOC. The ballroom



Latino Ambience

was filled with beautiful flowers and greenery generously donated by Smoke Bros. Florist in Southgate. Presenting sponsor Standard Federal and Gold sponsors Snethkamp Chrysler-Jeep, Michigan Catholic Credit Union, Ideal Technologies, Performance Springs and St. John Health System were recognized for their generous contributions to the evening's success.



Committee member Linda & Larry Luchi of Performance Springs with guests Paulie and Steve Loe



John Keegan previews the silent auction

2005-06

Board of Directors

Paul J. Van Tiem, Chairperson
Michael Moran, Vice-Chair
Irene Tanghe, Treasurer
Edward M. Murphy, Secretary

Brenda Arbelaez-Nock
Brenda K. Balas
Rick Bialobrzewski
Sr. Barbara Celeskey, SJ
William J. Curry
Annette M. De Lorenzo
John Dennison II
Donna Duffield
Jon P. Everly
Julie Fernandez
Sr. Jane Fox, RSM
Constance A. Franko
Portia Hedgespeth
Mary Hines
Albert T. Hulgrave
Ilene Ingram
John P. Keegan
Otto Kern
Rev. Charles Kosanke
Priscilla Lamb
Barbara Lanahan
Mark McNash
William J. Mott, Jr.
Paula M. Zimmer

Margaret A. Huggard, President

Catholic Social Services of Oakland County partners with:



carf



Catholic Charities USA



CSS Connections is a publication of Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, a 501c3 not-for-profit agency.

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.



Strengthening Families
Protecting Children
Caring for the Elderly
Serving All

Mission

Through its professional services and outreach programs, Catholic Social Services of Oakland County strengthens families, protects children and cares for the elderly, regardless of race or creed.

New Members Elected to Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Catholic Social Services of Oakland County gather every year in June with agency supporters and staff to celebrate the endeavors of the past year and welcome a new year with renewed commitment to serve the people of Oakland County.



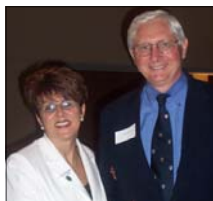
Michael Brennan

As guest speaker, Michael Brennan, President of the newly created United Way for Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM), addressed the group. CSSOC has been a United Way agency for several decades, receiving much needed funds to support programs and services for the people of Oakland County.

Under Mr. Brennan's leadership, UWSEM now has "community impact" as its focus and priority. In partnership with the agencies who provide direct services, UWSEM will involve community organizations, businesses and local government leaders in assessing and addressing the greatest needs in southeast Michigan.

At the annual meeting we also take the opportunity to thank board members who are "retiring" from the Board. Terry Keating, Jim Bobalik and Joe Vindici were recognized for their many years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors. Each one brought special gifts and talents to Catholic Social Services. We also welcome new board members to the agency. New members elected this year are:

Brenda Arbelaez-Nock, owner and president of PALS International in Troy, a company that assists corporations in learning Spanish and the Hispanic culture. Brenda has affiliations with the Michigan Minority



Brenda & Ronald Nock

Business Development Council, the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Asian-Pacific and Arabic Chambers of Commerce. She and her husband, Ronald Nock, live in Rochester Hills. Brenda belongs to Holy Name Parish in Birmingham.

Fr. Charles Kosanke has served as pastor of Guardian Angels Parish and School in Clawson for the past 3 years. In August, Fr. Kosanke was appointed the new rector of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake. A Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit for 19 years, Fr. Kosanke is currently the U.S. leader of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, and spiritual advisor for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Otto Kern, Regional Director of Wells Fargo Bank in Troy, has been in the commercial mortgage banking business since 1977. Otto and his wife, Anne, live in Bloomfield Hills and are members of St. Columban Parish in Birmingham.



Barb Williams & Otto Kern

Portia Hedgespeth is Associate Dean of College Counseling at Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School where she has been employed for the past 12 years. Portia has served as a tutor with the Bound Together Program at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pontiac, where she is a member. Brenda and her husband, George, live in Troy.

John Dennison II is an accountant and serves as Vice-President and General Manager at Wolf Envelope Company in Birmingham where he has been employed since 1996. He has professional affiliations with the Michigan Manufacturing and Envelope Manufacturing Associations, and the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. John and his wife, Gerianne, live in Troy and are members of St. Thomas More Parish.

President's Report —

Challenges & Opportunities

As Catholic Social Services nears its 60th anniversary, we look forward to fulfilling our mission of serving the needs of all families in Oakland County.

Our newest location for Family Counseling and Sheltering Arms Adult Day Center opens this Fall on the campus of Sacred Heart Parish in Auburn Hills. Here we will work with individuals, families, seniors and their care-givers in north Oakland County.



Margaret A. Huggard

After losing a critical grant from the State of Michigan, we are committed to seeking funding which will help maintain our outreach and services to adolescents and young parents. Our goal is to keep them in school, help them avoid risky lifestyles and prepare them with the skills they need to successfully manage their own future. We constantly seek mentors who can help us to help them.

Hispanic Outreach Services is in desperate need of a new facility. As we search for a new home, we are restructuring and refocusing our services to find new and better ways to "mentor" Hispanic families - as families. We want to support the parents in their language and literacy skills and ensure that they are effective in their parenting. But more importantly, we want to help them improve their families quality of life by increasing their ability to become economically self-sufficient through employment.

Child Welfare Services will step up their training for foster families to provide for increasingly difficult children. The number of neglected and abused children that need out-of-home placement is constantly challenging our ability to provide care. Our future lies in expanding our support to extended families and foster parents through training and 24-7 emergency counseling.

We need always to recognize that what we can afford to do needs to be weighed against the justice issues of our Catholic Social Teaching. We continue to reach out to the community for volunteer support, resources, funding, and advocacy with respect to public policy that negatively affects our clients and their ability to cope.

We continue our efforts to collaborate with churches and business leaders; community, civic, and professional organizations; to advocate for the health and well being of all children and families in Oakland County, especially the poor and "voiceless" among us.

Hispanic Adults and Children Earn Education Certificates

On June 16, 2005, the College of Arts and Sciences Linguistics Department at Oakland University and Catholic Social Services of Oakland County hosted the sixth annual reception for graduates of its Hispanic Outreach Services (HOS) education/literacy programs.

For eight years, Hispanic Outreach Services, a program of Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, has provided classes to improve English language skills to Spanish-speaking residents in the Pontiac area, most of whom are from Mexico.

This year, more than 160 adults attended 3 semesters of English (ESL) classes or prepared for the GED, all of which are taught by students from Oakland University. Hispanic Outreach Services provides free childcare, books and supplies, and transportation to the participants.

At the reception, more than 100 Hispanics were acknowledged for their successful completion of ESL classes at either the beginning, intermediate or advanced level, including 9 others who completed classes in preparation for the GED.



Hispanic Outreach Services fills a vital need in Pontiac where the Hispanic population continues to grow. In addition to language classes, HOS also offers parenting skills and pre-school literacy classes, interpretation and translation, and helps Hispanics access health services. Learning the English language is often the first step for families who want to gain self-sufficiency through employment and education.

Volunteers Needed at Hispanic Outreach

- ✕ Tutoring volunteers are needed to help Spanish speaking children with their homework after school.
- ✕ Mentors who will make a one year commitment to a Hispanic family.
- ✕ Adult education volunteers who speak Spanish are needed to help adults obtain their Spanish elementary and middle school certificates.
- ✕ Child care volunteers are needed to help care for children while their parents are learning English.

Please call Hispanic Outreach Services at 248-338-4250.

Meijer Community Rewards

Your purchases from Meijer stores can earn funding for Hispanic Outreach Services! Sign up today for your Community Rewards card. Use the code [865606](#) to designate CSSOC/HOS as the recipient of Meijer funds.

CSSOC Assists Hurricane Evacuees in Oakland County

In collaboration with the Archdiocese of Detroit, Catholic Social Services is offering assistance to Gulf Coast families who have relocated to Oakland County following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

CSSOC can provide counseling to individuals and families suffering from trauma, grief, depression, and substance abuse; adult day care for the elderly; support to pregnant teens; translation and interpretation for Hispanics; and assistance with temporary foster care.

CSSOC service locations and phone numbers are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Fr. Jerry Brzezinski Recognized by CSSOC

An the annual meeting this year, the CSSOC 2005 Leonard R. Jagels Award was presented to Fr. Jerome Brzezinski, Vicar of the Pontiac Area Vicariate and Pastor of St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish in Auburn Hills.

As pastor of St. John Fisher, Fr. Jerry has encouraged and inspired his parishioners to put their "faith into action" by volunteering their time, talent and financial support to help others in need. The parish has supported CSSOC's efforts by generously contributing to the Parishioner Appeal and through tithing and fundraising events.

As Vicar of the Pontiac Area Vicariate, Fr. Jerry believes that lay leadership is vital to the future of the Church and that the Vicariate can play a pivotal role in gathering people and resources to serve our community's most needy. He has welcomed CSSOC's participation in Vicariate planning and activities.



Fr. Jerry receives the Jagels award from President Marge Huggard & Board Vice-Chair Mike Moran

Fr. Jerry led the effort to establish the CCRT – the Catholic Community Response Team – a Christian response to the needs of the poor in Pontiac. In collaboration with Catholic Social Services, the CCRT helps parishes respond to the immediate needs of individuals and families in crisis.

Fr. Jerry has helped us understand that being part of a Vicariate can make a very real difference in what we can accomplish together in the name of the Catholic Church and its care for the poor.



Recycling for Charities

Don't know what to do with your old cell phones, PDA's or digital cameras? You can donate them to "Recycling for Charities" and designate Catholic Social Services of Oakland County to receive a percentage of their value. You can send your old equipment directly to Recycling for Charities or drop them off at any CSSOC location (see back page). Help protect the environment while supporting your favorite local charity! For more information on how your family or company can donate, go to www.recyclingforcharities.com.



Women's Initiative Funds CSSOC's Early Literacy Program



(From left) Rhonda Saunders, United Way Women's Initiative executive committee member and senior vice president, Retail Administration, Fifth Third Bank; Margaret Huggard, president, Catholic Social Services of Oakland County; Suzanne Wilson, program coordinator, Parent-Child-Home Program; and Sue Cischke, chair, United Way's Women's Initiative and vice president, Environmental and Safety Engineering, Ford Motor Co.

At a special reception for United Way's Women's Initiative at the Detroit Science Center, Catholic Social Services of Oakland County was one of four organizations to gratefully accept a \$20,000 grant from the Women's Initiative. The funds will be used for in the Parent-Child-Home Program to improve early childhood literacy rates.

Pontiac Volunteer Receives National Award for Community Service

At the 2005 National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Washington, the Corporation for National and Community Service honored Ms. Willie Jenkins of Pontiac, Michigan, for her outstanding service as a Foster Grandparent with Catholic Social Services of Oakland County and her work with female youth offenders at Children's Village.

For the past 12 years, Ms. Jenkins has been volunteering five days a week as a mentor and role model at Children's Village, a juvenile detention facility in Pontiac. Ms. Jenkins realized that the young women were eager to learn new skills and that by teaching them life skills she could possibly restore their self-esteem.

She determined that the best way to teach life skills was to help them start their own business. A former caterer, Willie worked with them to start the "Believe in Yourself Café." The café reinforces skills in cooking, reading, sewing, cooperation, and many other areas. Children's Village soon saw the value of the program and began providing funding for the café.



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

Classic Cars Bring Wonderful Memories to Older Adults

Beautiful classic cars arrived at Sheltering Arms Adult Day Center in Southfield in late July for a pre-Dream Cruise "Memory Cruise" for clients and friends.

We all remember our first car and where we used to hang out with our friends. Seeing these cars helped several of our Alzheimer's clients recall the "good old days." They shared stories about their cars and cruisin' memories, and recalled pals from the distant past. Some things are hard to forget.

Everyone strolled the parking lot to check out the cool cars close up, and eagerly drank rootbeer floats to round out a day of nostalgic fun.

Joining in the festivities at Sheltering Arms were friends from Beaumont Hospital who brought their own classic cars. A few of the showcase cars were a 1938 Ford Tudor, a 1966 Ford Mustang, a 1936 Buick, a new Chevrolet Crossfire and Chrysler PT Cruiser.

If you own a classic or belong to a club, call 248-557-7373. We'd love to include you next year!



John and Bob share memories of their first cars

2005 Volunteer of the Year

Paul Lyons is a native to the Detroit area and attended the University of Detroit and the University of Michigan. A CPA, Paul and his wife Julie traveled to many cities, returning to the Detroit area in 1984.

Paul served as a board member of CSSOC from 1989 to 2002. During his tenure, he helped the agency become separately incorporated, establish a pension plan and move and grow with new programs and challenges.



Julie and Paul Lyons

Paul has always been willing to take on tasks that helped the agency make a positive impact on the lives of people in Oakland County: He saw us through innumerable strategic long range plans, served on the program committee and served as chairman of the finance, human resource and pension committees. Paul was on the executive committee as Treasurer, Vice-Chair and Chairperson. Our by-laws require board membership to end but Paul has continued to give us his time, his talent and his treasure above and beyond the call. For this, we are very grateful.

The Story of Miss Elizabeth, Our "Ninja-Granny"

One of the things we like to say about Sheltering Arms Adult Day Care is that there are a million stories to be told, if only we could find the time to write them. Every one of our participants has their own incredible story.

Miss Elizabeth was seventy-one years old when she first came to Sheltering Arms in 1998. She suffered from Alzheimer's, but quickly became known for her good nature and ready smile. She also became known for her stealth. Miss Elizabeth's nickname was "Ninja-Granny." She was almost silent when she walked, and an unattended glass of water was fair game. Keeping a close eye on Miss Elizabeth wasn't always an easy task, but it was hardly a chore, either. She enjoyed taking walks, folding clean clothes, and informing staff members with uncanny accuracy that they were pregnant.



Miss Elizabeth

When her family accompanied us on a field trip, they were surprised to see her talking and singing; it was then that they truly understood how much the activity and loving environment were truly a blessing.

Miss Elizabeth died this year at the age of seventy-eight. Her family, together with Sheltering Arms, was able to keep her out of a nursing home and active, despite her advanced dementia. To thank us for the enrichment we were able to provide to her life in these past seven years, her daughter cooked an elaborate (and delicious!) lunch

for staff and participants. The care that Miss Elizabeth received at Sheltering Arms helped keep her active and happy through what can be frightening and unhappy times.

Sheltering Arms Adult Day Care is located on the campus of St. Bede's Parish in Southfield and at our new location at Sacred Heart Parish in Auburn Hills. For more information, please call 248-557-7373.



Catholic Social Services of Oakland County

Administration & Finance Offices
Agency Relations & Development
50 Wayne Street, Pontiac, MI 48342
248-333-3700

Adoption & Foster Care
St. Francis Family Center
17500 W. 8 Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 552-0750

Family Learning Services
Family Counseling Services
53 Franklin Blvd., Pontiac, MI 48341
248-334-3595

Family Counseling Services
1424 E. 11 Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-548-4044

6637 Highland Rd, Waterford, MI 48327
248-666-8870

29475 Inkster Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248-548-4044

Family Counseling Services
Sheltering Arms Adult Day Center **New Location!**
3300 S. Adams Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326
248-537-3300

Sheltering Arms Adult Day Center
248-557-7373

Senior Volunteer Programs
248-559-1147
18310 W. 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48076

Hispanic Outreach Services
295 W. Huron, Pontiac, MI 48341
248-338-4250

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pontiac, MI
Permit No. 42

Foster Care Families Enjoy Day at Greenfield Village

On Friday, August 19, more than 100 adults and children joined St. Francis Family Center at Greenfield Village in Dearborn for a day of fun and exploration.

The event included free admission and a lovely picnic lunch, made with donations from Trader Joe's, Ferndale Foods, and Whole Foods.

Families had a beautiful sunny day and the kids had a great time taking rides on the Carousel and locomotive, playing outside, and learning from the many costumed historical presenters who walked throughout the Village.

It was a heartwarming experience to see foster children visit with former foster parents, as well as seeing them reunite with their own birth-siblings who have been placed in other homes. We hope this will become a tradition every year!



Carousel at Greenfield Village

Mervyns ChildSpree Shopping Day Outfits Local Kids for School

Children from CSSOC's FAST program (Families and Schools Together) had some great preparation for going back to school this fall. Mervyns donated twenty \$100 shopping sprees, each with an extra 10 percent discount on everything, to children in need of back-to-school clothes.

Armed with a list of needs from Mom, each child was paired with a volunteer from CSSOC and given an hour to have the Mervyns store in Pontiac all to themselves for some serious shopping!

At the end of a frenzied hour of power-shopping, the kids and volunteers relaxed with donuts and juice, compliments of Mervyns.

Mervyns went above and beyond when they offered *ChildSpree* on a day that included additional sale prices and discounts, and gave each child a brand-new backpack filled with school supplies.



Joyful shoppers in the check-out line!