

# Branches

Summer 2021

A PUBLICATION OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY CATHOLIC CHARITIES



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## OUR MISSION

The Mission of Livingston County Catholic Charities is the work of the Catholic Church, to share the love of Christ by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

## VISION STATEMENT

Livingston County Catholic Charities aims to provide human services to Livingston County residents regardless of race, sex, religion, age, disability or financial ability.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
**CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES**  
HELPING LIVES GROW

## Telehealth is Here to Stay

Telehealth has been a life-line and has kept us connected when we needed it the most. "Joe" said he would prefer to meet with his therapist in-person but his wife has health issues. *"I cannot afford to bring Covid into the house, so in that sense, it has been a necessity for me to do the Zoom sessions. Another factor earlier was that I did not have a driver's license because of my alcoholism."*

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a major shift in the way mental health interventions are being delivered. We are **SO THANKFUL** for our donors and funders who made it financially possible to rapidly transition to telehealth delivery to ensure continuity of care to our patients and families.

Clinical Director, John Furey, says, "I believe that telehealth is definitely here to stay. 75-80% of clients are still doing video sessions for convenience." Drug court clients have transportation issues as they do not have a driver's license, so no-shows and cancellations are down substantially.

For some, being able to have sessions from home lowers their anxiety. Telehealth, though, can be a challenge for therapists to read body language and for clients to find private space, free of interruption. Many children benefit from the use of play therapy and props when in-person.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Pandemic Launches New Collaborations

Volunteer Caregiver Program (VCP) volunteers took clients grocery shopping prior to the pandemic, but for safety reasons during COVID-19 switched to delivering their groceries. This initiated a new collaboration with Gleaners Community Food Bank. Seniors who have qualified, more than 50 people a month, have had their Gleaners allotments delivered to them during this time by VCP volunteers. Each person is receiving approximately 100lbs of food each delivery. Recent clients have said, *"God bless you for bringing this food"* and a veteran stated *"I am so grateful for all you folks do for me!"*



Another collaboration formed was with the Livingston County Health Dept. (LCHD) to make sure at-risk seniors all had the opportunity to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. LCCC staff made calls to all clients to see if they wanted help getting vaccinated. We made sure everyone either had a ride to an appointment or had LCHD provide in-home vaccinations. Ninety-nine seniors received this service in one day!

This pandemic has strengthened community bonds in a way we never imagined. We are forever thankful for the generosity of our donors and partners within the community that allow us to continue to serve our counties most vulnerable seniors!

# Branches

## Your Donations at Work!

Thanks to all of our donors, new supporters and local foundations who have invested in strengthening LCCC's services! Our clients share their deep appreciation for these services.

- "The staff at Be Our Guest made the transition to the facility very easy and comforting during a very emotional next step phase of care giving."
- "Special Ministries provides a vital source of socialization outside the home. For over 14 years, it has been our loved one's socialization."
- "Special ministries has helped my life so much! It has become my only connection to things outside of my family."
- "I feel so very relieved to have received the knowledge and capable services at LCCC in sorting out the available Medicare Advantage programs..."



These connections and life enhancing services are possible because of each of you! Thank you and God Bless!



### ON-GOING GROUPS & MEETINGS

#### Dementia Specific Caregiver Support Group

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:00-6:00 pm

#### Elder Abuse Recovery Support Group

3rd Tuesday of each month, 3:00-4:00 pm

#### Foster Parent Informational Meeting

3rd Monday of each month at 5:00-7:00 pm

#### Special Ministries Parent/Caregiver Support Group

For info email [brook@livingstoncatholiccharities.org](mailto:brook@livingstoncatholiccharities.org)

#### Substance Abuse Engagement Groups

Mondays 5:00-6:30pm & 6:30-8:00 pm, Wednesdays & Fridays 10:00 am-11:30 pm

Go to [LivingstonCC.org](http://LivingstonCC.org) for more information.

## Program News

**Be Our Guest Adult Day** had to get creative when the State and CDC guidelines limited the number of Guests LCCC could serve. Removing the wall between our two largest group rooms allowed us to serve more Guests while maintaining social distancing. THANK YOU to the Livingston County Planning Dept. and County Commissioners for the special COVID-19 funding along with Schafer Construction and Oakland Commercial Construction for the professional and speedy work!



It has been a year like no other! We were so happy to be able to return to supporting the caregivers with needed respite and the Guests with meaningful interactions. One Guest says, "Love Be Our Guest! It's a wonderful antidote to loneliness and isolation."



**Special Ministries** is overjoyed to be offering in-person activities to our clients again. These activities are a critical part of the lives of our clients and their families. One caregiver said, "Special Ministries provides a vital source of socialization outside the home. For over 14 years, it has been Patti's socialization. Bowling, dance, and haircuts are fantastic! Lining up the LETS bus allows her with a sense of independence. May God Bless all you have a part in operations and organizing."

**Senior Community Liaisons** through generous donors and funder support, haven't missed a beat this year providing much needed services and resources to their clients. When residents at a senior living facility were able to sign up for tax credit assistance, Francis C. signed up at the encouragement of her friends. She had stopped filing taxes when her husband died because she was just receiving Social Security. This meant that she was missing out on the tax credits available to renters. Beth Newman, Senior Community Liaison, helped her to get \$1,397 by filing her 2019 taxes and an additional \$895 for 2020. Initiating this process meant she could also receive her uncollected stimulus payments. **In total, Francis received \$5,492!**

### FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

#### Do you have room in your HEART for one more child?

Livingston County Catholic Charities seeks loving stable Livingston County residents to become Foster Parents and temporarily open their lives and home to a child in need.

We would love to hear from you at 517-545-5944 or [Fostering@LivingstonCC.org](mailto:Fostering@LivingstonCC.org)





## Telehealth is Here to Stay (Continued from page 1)

John Furey says "maybe in the next 6 to 12 months we will be back to seeing the majority of our clients in the office, but I see telehealth remaining an option." For some people the positives outweigh the negatives.

The Substance Abuse Engagement Groups have seen similar benefit from the opportunity to join via Zoom. According to Jessica Buckner, Clinical Case Manager, "the convenience of meeting this way has increased attendance at the Groups by up to 20%. Over 50% relapsed in their substance use early in the pandemic lock-down. The worst thing for people who are already vulnerable is to be isolated." An additional group was added to accommodate the need.

One client said, "For me, as I already spend much time alone, it's better to have in-person human interaction. Zoom is awesome though, it's allowed me to access meetings anytime, and I am not driving now, so it is a convenience thing too."

## A Lasting Legacy

Considering making a Charitable Bequest in your will to LCCC to strengthen our ability to serve future generations?

Wondering what other Planned Giving opportunities are available to you as you plan for your favorite charity's future?

Please feel free to contact Julie or Mark with any questions or desires regarding your interest in leaving a lasting legacy to LCCC. Additionally, please discuss your decision with your financial advisor or attorney.

*Leaving a Bequest makes it easy to help without dipping into your income or savings!*



## LCCC Services

### Mental Health Counseling

Nationally accredited family service agency offering counseling for individuals, groups, couples, families and children. Most insurances are accepted and a sliding fee is offered for the uninsured.

### Volunteer Caregiver Program

Volunteer services designed to assist older adults to remain independent and in their own homes with grace and dignity.

### Community Liaison (formerly Resource Advocacy)

Connecting seniors 60+ years of age to local, state and federal resources and services to aid in living independently.

### Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

Providing outreach and education campaigns to increase public awareness of elder abuse and how to prevent it.

### Substance Abuse Prevention

Communities Mobilizing for Change in Partnership with the Livingston County Community Alliance and the Livingston Community Prevention Project. Activities include: Big Red Barrel, Safe Homes, Project Sticker Shock and more.

### Substance Abuse Treatment

Individual and group therapy provided following an initial assessment and determination of appropriate level of care. Free drop-in Engagement Group offered several times a week for those struggling with addiction. Most insurances are accepted, along with government contracts and a sliding fee scale for the uninsured.

### Parish Ministry

A Lasting Promise Couple's Communication, Catholic Council on Aging.

### Foster Care and Adoption

Providing temporary care for children while working toward reunification with the biological family. If reunification is not possible, LCCC will seek adoptive parents for the child(ren).

### Be Our Guest Adult Day

A supportive and caring environment for memory impaired adults who would benefit from a structured day setting. Our goal is to provide meaningful services that enrich the lives of older adults, families and caregivers.

### Special Ministries

Providing quality programming for adults living with cognitive and physical disabilities.



Visit Livingston County Catholic Charities on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram



## The Giving Tree

I want to Help Lives Grow by supporting LCCC!

Please designate your gift as indicated below:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Services Programs  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Counseling  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Substance Abuse Prevention  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Foster Care & Adoption  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Livingston Co. Catholic Charities Endowment Fund  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Special Ministries  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ One-Time Charge or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Charge for 12 months

\*\*Ask your employer if they have a MATCHING GIFT FORM and mail it in with your donation.

Please charge my gift to: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ American Express

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to your email list: \_\_\_\_\_ email

☐ I wish to be remain anonymous

Please detach and send in with your generous donation.

Please make checks payable to:  
**Livingston County Catholic Charities**  
 2020 E. Grand River Ave., Suite 104  
 Howell, MI 48843



Thank you!

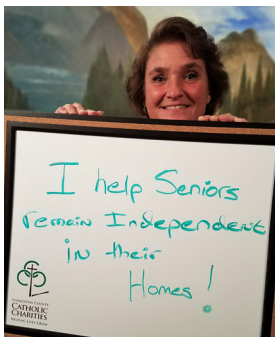
Donations can be made on-line through  
[LivingstonCC.org](http://LivingstonCC.org)

## Family Caregiver Activities Coming...

Thanks to generous grant funding from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan – Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund, LCCC will be scheduling a number of great FREE family caregiver activities to help enhance your skillset in caring for your loved one with dementia and other memory related diseases. Some planned activities we are working on scheduling are:

- Paula Duren presentation on Communication & Dealing with Common Dementia Related Behaviors
- Teepa Snow: Care Partner Support – 5 session series
- Anthony Cirillo zoom webinar: Educated aging – physically, emotionally & financially in relation to dementia
- And more...

Watch our Facebook page and web site for information as programs are scheduled. Registration will be required as space is limited.



**Turning 65 this year?** Need help navigating the Medicare/Medicaid insurance system?  
Please contact Melodie or Beth at 517-545-5944 for assistance.

**Medicare Part D Sign-up**  
(Oct. 15 - Dec. 7, 2021)