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## PRESS RELEASE

Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) is excited to share the receipt of special grant funding of \$25,000 from the Raskob Foundation to help strengthen our Mental Health Counseling program and our organizational ability to serve low-income and underserved individuals and families within Livingston County, Michigan.

LCCC places a high priority on responding to local needs and serving all residents of the county with a focus on the indigent and at-risk. In addition to accepting most major insurances, LCCC maintains a sliding fee scale for counseling services for the unemployed, uninsured and under-insured.

This special grant funding is important as LCCC is seeing a dramatic increase in need for counseling services since the onset of COVID-19. Physical distancing, death, isolation, nationwide turmoil and fear have all vastly increased the number of people struggling with mental health, substance abuse and suicide ideations and now seeking help.

The Raskob Foundation is an independent, private family foundation which was founded in 1945. "The Foundation is proud of its legacy of grant making and philanthropic activity in service to the Catholic Church and institutions and organizations identified with it." LCCC, as a branch of the Catholic Church's social mission, extends the outreach of God's love and care to ALL community residents regardless of race, religion, age, sex, disability and financial ability.

Over 56% of the people we serve through our Mental Health Counseling program at LCCC share through the intake process that they live at or below 150% of the poverty level with many more who reside just above that level and are uninsured or under-insured. Therefore, the Raskob Foundation grant funding will support LCCC's general operations to close the gap in cost to provide counseling services vs. LCCC's sliding fee scale or decrease in insurance reimbursements.

As the needs for counseling services continues to greatly rise, LCCC is also looking to hire additional therapists. For more information on LCCC's counseling programs or to explore a position with LCCC, please contact John Furey, Clinical Director, at john@livingstoncc.org.

