

Branches

Summer 2022

A PUBLICATION OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY CATHOLIC CHARITIES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Burns-Coral, *President*
Heather Aeschliman, *Vice President*
Charles Aberasturi, *Treasurer*
David Nantais, *Secretary*

Thomas Beindit
Ann Bollin
Darcyne Foldenauer
Thomas LaRose
Scott Nist
Kathleen Oemke
Sandra Radtke
Michael Sage
Shannon Scherba
Rev. Sharon Smith
Annette Staley
Ted Zahrfeld

Deacon James Kasprzak, *Ex-Officio*
Mark Robinson, *Executive Director*

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

Special Ministries Enriches Lives

Special Ministries enriches participants' lives by providing socialization and a sense of purpose, along with inclusion and friendships by providing quality programming for adults living with cognitive and physical disabilities. The program has been an integral part of Kelly Cline's life for over 20 years. Living with Asperger's, Kelly says, "I like the opportunity to meet other people and join in some of the planned activities. Because of my autism I am pretty isolated and I enjoy the companionship."

Kelly has held receptionist/office positions, done some light assembly work and volunteered with the Humane Society and the United Way. After Kelly volunteered with some Special Ministries events, Brook Sporer, Program Supervisor, officially hired her. This opportunity has further enriched Kelly's life.

Kelly said, "I LOVE putting supplies together for the different activities and helping Brook with other office work. I love that my boss and I work so well together! We make a good team!"

Brook said, "I would like to think the best part of the program is the inclusion, but I'm sure that in fact it's the socialization, hanging out with everyone and most definitely the relationships. Special Ministries is one of the only group activities some have to look forward to." The participants have expressed an interest in giving back, so we are currently looking for new opportunities for them in the community. "These guys are amazing, each in their own way. No two are the same, but every single one of them just light up the room when they walk in."

To learn more about Special Ministries go to www.LivingstonCC.org.



Brook Sporer & Kelly Cline



Second Chances are Priceless

LCCC has been working with people in the felony portion of the Livingston County Drug Court for a number of years. John Furey, Clinical Director, does assessments and one-on-one counseling and Holly Carter, Therapist, administers the groups. Clients go before the court twice monthly for questioning by the judge.

This program accomplishes two important things: it saves taxpayers money by keeping people out of prison

and helps keep people sober so they stop committing crimes. Most clients do not have any criminal activity that is not drug or alcohol-related. The thought is that if they get clean they won't offend again. The program helps people to stay sober long enough that their brain clears, and so they are capable of change. People learn how to ask for help and lean on others for support; it is important to know they are not alone.

Two major incentives for participating are the ability to get a driver's license back as well as the

(Continued on page 3)

Branches

Your Donations at Work!

Your donations through the Loaves & Fish Appeal, memorials, bequests, gifts and grants, help individuals and families to rebuild their lives whether they are struggling with depression, divorce, anger issues, alcohol or drug addiction, or have other needs. With your help, most of LCCC services and programs are provided on a sliding fee/cost-sharing basis to any community member struggling with financial hardship while the two senior outreach services are offered at no cost (donations requested if able).

- "All the services I have used at LCCC have helped me a great deal!"
- "The honesty and sincerity of the staff are comforting, I love it. The engagement groups have been very helpful to me."
- "You provide a much needed interactive and safe environment for your guests, as well as much-needed respite for their loved ones."
- "Right from the start, I never felt like I was being judged. That was important to me because I already felt so ashamed about my drinking and how it hurt me and my family. I felt comfortable talking to people here right away. That made a big difference to me."

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



Salute To The Stars

On March 26, after a two-year hiatus, our signature annual fundraising event was back! It was a wonderful night of fellowship, food and great music!

2022 Honorees



Teri & Miguel Cancel
Foster Care



Preston Sporer
Special Ministries

Mark
your calendar
and
join us on
April 1, 2023!

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@LivingstonCC.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.

Senior Program News



A woman whose husband has Alzheimers and attends **Be Our Guest Adult Day** started attending the Caregiver Support Group meetings. Connecting with others in similar circumstances made her feel less alone. In the group she learned of the Volunteer Caregiver Program and started getting additional respite at home once a week.

Volunteer Caregiver Program volunteers provide friendly visits and transportation at no cost to our seniors in need, thanks to donors like you. Last year, 574 individuals were provided transportation and 405 hours of friendly visits occurred. Inevitably friendships are formed and the visits can become just as valuable to the volunteer. A wonderful thing happens when these relationships form—people find other ways to help each other.



The **Community Liaison** staff have stepped in when other services are needed. Situations that are unsafe in the home can be addressed, as can food deficiencies, by setting up Gleaners food deliveries. Additionally, the complex process of understanding options and enrolling in Medicare can be addressed by the Senior Community Liaison.



Many of our seniors are also recipients of **Christmas Blessing** boxes. Last year this project provided help and love to 211 Livingston County low-income and homebound senior citizens. We are deeply moved by the overwhelming generosity of our community through donations to support this heart-warming project.



These investments in our community make Livingston County stronger and healthier, enabling older adults to age in place.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

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



We would love to hear from you at
517-545-5944 or Fostering@LivingstonCC.org

Second Chances are Priceless (Continued from page 1)

possibility of a shortened probation. It is a hardship living in Livingston County and supporting a family while not having a license due to the limitations of public transportation. Clinical Director John Furey reported that "85-90% of all the people who are admitted, graduate from the program. They feel that the people involved really care and want them to succeed."

The time spent immersed in counseling, and with others in the same boat, opens peoples' eyes to the fact they actually have a problem. Holly Carter said, "You really get connected to the people and it can be hard to let them go, but you see them meeting their goals and moving forward with their lives. I love being on this team, it is my favorite part of my job!"

LCCC offers Substance Abuse Engagement Groups three times per week. All persons with substance abuse issues, past and present, are welcome to attend these FREE groups. Call Jessica at 517-375-1652 to register.

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 Ryan 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 is provided following an initial assessment and determination of appropriate level of care. Free drop-in Engagement Group is 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 and 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 children.

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

Stepping Up for County Seniors

Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (PEANE) began in 2017 when LCCC staff applied for a grant to educate the community on the exploitation of seniors. Livingston County had seen a huge increase in the number of seniors being financially exploited, most commonly by scams relating to the IRS, romance, and false donations to law enforcement. A Publishers Clearinghouse scam caused one senior to have \$400 a month taken out of her account for magazines that she never received.

Currently, the main issue facing seniors is being exploited by their family members. Loans are being taken out in their names and cash is being requested for services like being driven to appointments. Now, due to education provided by PEANE, the community is more aware of such exploitation. This is due in large part to our amazing partners in the Livingston County Elder Justice Coalition: LACASA, DHHS, Foguth Financial, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, Livingston County Prosecuting Attorney, Ombudsman of Michigan, South Central Legal Assistance and the Livingston County law enforcement agencies.



Mona Shand & Beth Newman



The Many Faces of Elder Abuse seminar was held on June 15, 2022

Additionally, seniors have seen hoarding and self-neglect become a significant problem since COVID. Beth Newman, LCCC Senior Community Liaison/PEANE, is the Chair of the Livingston County Hoarding Task Force. On April 9, 2022, a Harm Reduction Cleanout took place that helped a woman pass her rental inspection and avoid eviction. She said, "Thank you so much, you have given me the spark to go through my bins. I feel good about myself again!"

In 2021 a Proclamation was signed by Mona Shand on behalf of Representative Elissa Slotkin declaring June 15 to be Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Livingston County. Older people are vital, contributing members of American society and their maltreatment diminishes all of us. "My goal is to let elders know they have people advocating for them and to give them a voice," says Beth Newman.

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

Medicare Part D Sign-up
(Oct. 15 - Dec. 7, 2022)