

Catholic Charities

2017 Year in Review
Spring News 2018



Dear Friends,

Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

802 Ninth Street • Tell City, IN 47586
cctcin.org

Can you believe that 2017 has come and gone and we are well into 2018?! I often ask myself where the time goes, and I never have a good answer. I suppose the best we can hope for is to remember some good that was accomplished within that year. Thanks to our many supporters, Catholic Charities can remember a lot of good that happened in 2017. We hope to share just a few highlights of the good things that were accomplished through your support of Catholic Charities.

There are days when we seem to feel we are not making a difference in the lives of those we serve, but then God reminds us of our impact when a success story is brought to our attention. It is a success story shared by all of us as we carry forward by providing help and creating hope for the most vulnerable among us.

In 2018, we will continue with all of these programs and continue to make great strides in an effort to address homelessness in our community. This is a very big undertaking and requires much energy to involve the entire community to address the best way to serve the homeless.

Catholic Charities will continue to serve as your agency providing help, creating hope and serving all in need in our communities. Without your support, none of these efforts and ministries is possible and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission. May God bless all of you for your support through donations, volunteerism and prayers.

We look forward to a great 2018!



Joan Hess
Agency Director



FEEDING THE HUNGRY

- **Martin's Cloak Food Pantry** is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month and is housed in the basement of St. Martin of Tours Church in Siberia. **During the calendar year 2017, food was distributed to 639 families (1,991 individuals).** Of these, 512 were 18 years old or younger; 1,076 were between the ages of 19 to 64 years; and 403 were 65 years or older. Volunteers from St. Martin of Tours parish lead the volunteer force for this pantry. Each time the pantry is open, a group of people led by St. Meinrad parish prepare a biscuits and gravy breakfast for those in attendance.
- Martin's Cloak Food Pantry and Catholic Charities are members of the Perry County Food Coalition, comprised of five food pantries in Perry County. Catholic Charities hosts the coalition meetings and is the drop-off site for canned goods/non-perishable food drives conducted in the county. This food is then shared by the five pantries.
- Catholic Charities also serves as the fiscal agent for the Perry County Food Coalition, and all monetary donations are routed through Catholic Charities on behalf of the five pantries. Monies received through the food coalition are deposited with the Tri-State Food Bank and the pantries use that credit for food purchases.





SERVING FAMILIES

- Lifeline for Families serves as a resource for low-income pregnant women and families with small children. Assistance is given with diapers and formula as well as connecting to other resources within our area.
- The Early Years Store, which is supplied with donations from the community, allows families to shop free of charge for maternity clothing, baby clothing (NB to size 2T), baby furniture and other baby items. 178 families were assisted in 2017 through this program.
- In November, we again conducted some Adoption Awareness activities. For the fifth year, we held a gathering with the high school religious education students of the deanery. The intent of our Adoption Awareness efforts is to educate the public about adoption, asking them to consider adoption as a loving option.
- We also serve as a Safe Sleep distributor. Safe Sleep is a state program aimed at providing safe sleeping conditions for low-income families. After some education, they are provided with a Pack 'n Play with a bassinet for their newborn child. 16 of these were furnished in 2017.
- Catholic Charities also serves as a distributor of car seats to those in need. Partnering with the Tell City Police Department and the Perry County Memorial Hospital, families in need can obtain a new, safe car seat from a certified car seat technician, who teaches them how to properly install it. In 2017 (the first year of this program), 24 car seats were distributed.

- Our efforts through Strong Families/Strong Community continue to produce results for our area. Perry County has seen a significant increase in CASA volunteers and foster families as well as a decrease in the number of children in need of services (CHINS). Our local court system attributes this decrease to the enhanced collaboration among the members of the Strong Families/Strong Community coalition.
- In 2017, we began a couple of new projects: Care Bags and Birthday in a Box.
 - Care Bags are a collection of items that is given to a child if they have to be removed from their home. For example: toothbrush, toothpaste, personal comb/brush, Kleenex tissues, small toy, etc. These items are placed in a plain drawstring backpack and assembled by a local 4-H club.
 - The Birthday in a Box contains items to have a birthday party, such as cake mix, frosting, candles, balloons, etc. Every month a list of foster children who are having birthdays in the next month is provided by the local Department of Child Services and distributed by the staff of DCS on their monthly visits to each child.





MEETING BASIC NEEDS

With gratitude to our generous and faithful donors, Catholic Charities is able to continue to provide help and create hope in the lives of many who struggle on a daily basis in our area.

Winter Coat Drive

Last winter, we distributed a total of 307 coats and 91 blankets to those needing warmth, along with dozens of gloves, hats and scarves, some knitted by the local group known as Knits and Knots (a ministry at the United Methodist Church). A special thank you to Hilger's Laundry in Tell City for cleaning these donated coats for us free of charge.

Specific Assistance

As we seek ways to help people with their basic needs – food, clothing and shelter, the Specific Assistance program also helps those in need with utility and rent payments, prescription medications and gasoline for out-of-town medical appointments.

We are also responsible for distribution of funds for the Salvation Army, and the Ohio Valley Gas Corporation Gas Help Fund. With Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army, help is given only once every 6 months and the Gas Help Fund assists those needing help once annually.

In 2017, many families were assisted through these three funds:

- Through Catholic Charities, we provided help to 238 families (621 individuals).
- The Salvation Army assisted 250 families (634 individuals)
- The Gas Help Fund assisted 72 families (206 individuals)

We continue to serve as a resource for many people, as we post job openings, encourage education and training opportunities and help to guide individuals through the maze of governmental and social service agencies to get the help they need.



CREATING COMMUNITY THROUGH HEALTHY FOOD

- We are now in our 9th year of Table of Blessings, which is collaboration between Catholic Charities and Evangelical United Church of Christ (EUCC). Many area organizations, civic groups, church groups, prayer groups, businesses and individuals come together to provide a healthy meal for those in need in our community. **In 2017 alone, 3,219 meals were served to individuals seeking nourishment and companionship at our meal table.**
- Part of the blessing of this ministry is becoming friends with many of those who choose to eat their Thursday evening meal with us on a regular basis. We have watched children grow up, families reconnect and smiles grow ever broader with the fellowship.
- During the growing season, we receive fresh produce from many area individuals sharing from their home gardens. Table of Blessings is truly an ecumenical and community-wide effort.



In 2017, we held our second annual Taste and Share event and it grew tremendously. The funds raised from this event are providing help and creating hope in our community through many of these programs. **Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Taste & Share event in November 2018.**

WORKING TOGETHER TO END POVERTY

- We continue to be involved in a state-wide effort to reduce poverty in Indiana. Catholic Charities serves as a facilitator for the Poverty Simulation and stays abreast of new efforts to educate the public about poverty.
 - **Budget Basics** continues to help individuals who have never been given the tools to make and abide by a budget. Several different classes were conducted this past year and in 2017 we expanded to include a class at Perry Central Schools to help those in the northern part of Perry County. Class participants are given many helpful tips, including a component on nutrition and grocery shopping on a budget. Participants receive incentives for attending and completing their homework. Graduates of our classes are using their newfound knowledge to improve their life circumstances. Thanks to a gift from United Way, this program has not needed any additional funding. In 2018, we are revamping this program in an effort to reach more people and allow for more one-on-one coaching.
 - Catholic Charities continues to serve on the **Transportation Advisory Council for Perry and Spencer counties**, working on improving public transportation in our area.
 - We continue to work with **Branchville Correctional Facility** to provide clothing to released offenders, helping them get back on their feet and create a new life for themselves and their loved ones.
 - We are involved with the **College Success Coalition**, an effort to help all students reach their potential by accessing post-secondary education.
- We continue to find ways to educate ourselves to be better stewards of your donations and make effective strides in our mission's work. Thank you for entrusting us with your time, talent and treasures to provide help, create hope and serve all in need in our communities. It is truly **together** that we can help our neighbors in need.

To sign up for e-newsletters, find volunteer opportunities, or donate to provide help and create hope, **visit us at cctcin.org**

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