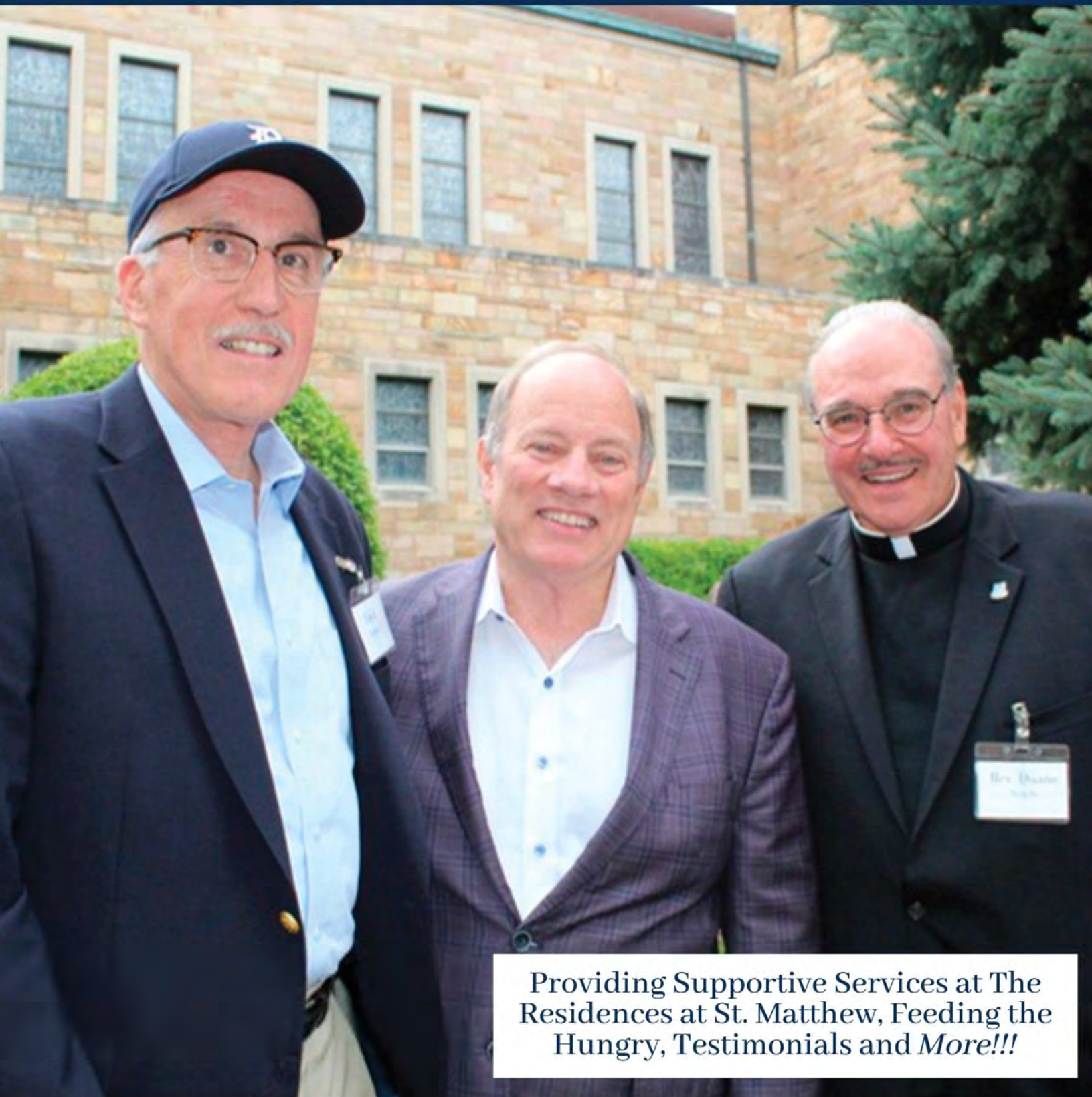


FALL 2024

Your Works of Mercy

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

EXCLUSIVE DONOR NEWSLETTER



Providing Supportive Services at The Residences at St. Matthew, Feeding the Hungry, Testimonials and *More!!!*



Annual Celebration 2024: Giving love and support to our chronically homeless and at-risk neighbors

PRESENTED BY:



ANNUAL CELEBRATION 2024

Nearly 400 guests and volunteers gathered to honor outstanding friends and partners, celebrate our works of mercy, and raise nearly \$300,000 in support of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan programs and services... **YOU made the difference!**



Above: St. Vincent Ferrer Pastor, Rev. John Esper and Evangelical Charity Director, Deborah Tourville, celebrate their 2024 Outstanding Parish Award with Catholic Charities Chairman Monsignor Charles Kosanke.



Above: 2024 Leonard R. Jagels Outstanding Individual Award winner, Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, and Annual Celebration event Chairperson, Dr. Mable V. Jones. Below: Representatives of Alliance Catholic Credit Union, the 2024 Outstanding Organization Award recipient, pose with The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit.



Donors supported *The Residences at St. Matthew*, raising more than \$125,000 to provide supportive services for 25 future residents. **Scan the code to view *The Residences at St. Matthew* video.**

Front Cover: Parish Council Member David Smydra, Mayor Michael Duggan and Fr. Duane Novelly, Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish in Detroit.



Above: Presenting Sponsor Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council representatives pose with Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron. (Left to Right: Christopher and Julie Kolomjec, Charles and Pamela McCuen, and Daniel and Kara Fuller). Right: Emcee Chuck Gaidica engages donors in a lightning round of support to provide healthy housing services and programs at *The Residences at St. Matthew*.

Photo Credits: April Mae June Photography



Catholic Charities Community Programs

Helping families thrive and communities grow strong!

In August, our La Casa Amiga office in Pontiac held their annual Back-to-School event for families. More than 250 families enjoyed games and refreshments while you provided them with financial literacy, prevention, and workforce development programs information, and backpacks and school supplies. **Thanks to YOUR support**, the La Casa Amiga team continues to help families thrive and build community. Last month, Director of La Casa Amiga Community Programs, Luz Acosta-Barbolla, received the 2024 Ohtli Award from the government of Mexico for her dedicated efforts to aid, empower and promote the well-being of the Mexican community abroad. "This recognition is deeply meaningful to me, and I believe it is a testament to the collective efforts and support of our organization. The work we do at La Casa Amiga and across Catholic Charities has a profound impact on the lives of those we serve, and this award serves as an acknowledgement of that," said Luz.

As a work of mercy, **YOU answer the call to feed the hungry**. Our network of food pantries and soup kitchens serve as a gateway for those in need to access many other services. In 2023, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan provided more than 80,000 meals (a 33% increase over 2022) through food pantry programs in Detroit and Pontiac, plus more than 34,000 meals through our Senior Outreach Program.

Recently, Director of Food Programs, Mark Johnson conducted a study of our network and centralized pantry food distribution at our Center for the Works of Mercy in Detroit to leverage efficiencies and meet the increased demand for assistance. Additionally, we can more readily track and report **YOUR impact!**

The Center for the Works of Mercy in Detroit, which has long been a model of efficiency and collaboration in serving the community, is moving! The new, larger, Center for the Works of Mercy will be located at 10301 Woodward Avenue... **Thanks to donors like YOU!**

Thanks to the support of **donors like YOU**, this past summer our Saint Joseph Center of Hope was invited to partner with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in an effort to bring awareness of resources available to those struggling with substance use issues and won 1st Place for their parade float at the Monroe County Fair.



The La Casa Amiga Back-to-School event equipped 435 young students to succeed in school with backpacks and school supplies... **thanks to YOU!**



La Casa Amiga provides program information to more than 250 families at their annual Back-to-School event in August.



Our food pantries serving Detroit are on the move and in demand. The Center for the Works of Mercy will relocate across from The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament this fall and become the distribution hub for all of our food programs in Southeast Michigan.



Saint Joseph Center of Hope crisis intervention and recovery center (pictured above) recently received The Monroe Community Mental Health Authority Annual "Going Above and Beyond" Award.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Foster Grandparent Volunteer Spotlight: Classroom Assistants

Essential support, encouragement and stability for students

In 2023, Foster Grandparent volunteers gave more than 18,000 hours of service to students throughout Oakland County. You might ask, *how is that possible?* Mostly through dedication and an enthusiasm for making a difference in the lives of young students. Our most dedicated Foster Grandparent volunteers contribute up to 20 hours each week, year-round (with school holidays and most of August off!). And while 18,000 hours may seem like a lot, the impact these dedicated classroom volunteers have in the lives of their young students and the blessings that each student imparts on a Foster Grandparent volunteer, is immeasurable!

TESTIMONIALS... from classroom volunteers

"I stress the importance of education, developing academic skills, and the ability to relate to all people."

"I share patience, empathy and a generous spirit... which are the best gifts a volunteer can give."

"Mentoring young students makes me feel young and connected to the younger generation. It's amazing what I learn from my students!"

"I am able to improve (students) social skills and increase (their) self-confidence."

"Mentoring students is a work of the heart. It offers personal rewards: making a difference, building community, inspiring young people, providing hope and sharing success."

"Volunteering makes a difference in my life. Sharing my time and attention, life experiences, and knowledge while reducing my stress improves my brain function and outlook on life."

"Where I am volunteering is perfect since I am a former elementary school teacher."

"Volunteering makes me feel that I am in a way fulfilling the commands of The Beatitudes."

If you are interested in becoming a Foster Grandparent volunteer, other AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteer opportunities, or to volunteer with one of our many programs throughout Southeast Michigan, please contact Michael Jones, donor relations manager, at 248-469-0643 for further information.

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844-952-8227



LA CASA AMIGA
CENTER FOR THE WORKS OF MERCY

Tour one of our four Food Pantries! Available most days by appointment.

SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

