

2016 STVCC ANNUAL REPORT



St. Vincent Catholic Charities
PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.

Dear Friends & Supporters,

Every year presents a unique set of challenges and 2016 was no different. Our Refugee Services program resettled a record 908 individuals. Yet our community rose to that challenge, as hundreds of supporters graciously gave their time, talent, and treasure to help us meet that need.

Such displays of giving can be seen across all of our programs. In our Foster Care program, 48 licensed families welcomed 79 children into their homes. Our counseling therapists counseled 1,090 children and adults through difficult times in their lives. Our two immigration attorneys helped 963 foreign nationals navigate the United States immigration process. And our Children's Home became a place of coping and healing for 105 children who have experienced trauma and abuse.

Lending support to the vulnerable is the reason we give. Yet the underlying reason behind those financial gifts are the relationships you've forged at STVCC. Relationships built through volunteering, mentoring, or taking a Journey of Hope. In some way, the Holy Spirit has guided all of us to come together and help the most vulnerable.

I am humbled to be surrounded by so many individuals and families who act as the hands and feet of Jesus. I am inspired by families like the Sorbers and their infectious passion for our programs that fuel others to get involved. I am touched when I hear the stories of mentors like Pastor Kevin Berry of Mount Hope Church and how he selflessly gives his time to our children and teens. Lastly, I am proud to see our Catholic parishes, led by spiritual leaders like the Kasprzaks, take ownership of STVCC as their Catholic Charities agency in our community.

On behalf of the 4,494 clients served and over 200 staff at St. Vincent Catholic Charities, I'd like to thank each of you for making it possible to provide help, create hope and transform lives.



Yours in Faith,

Andrea E. Seyka

Andrea E. Seyka
CEO, St. Vincent Catholic Charities

St. Vincent Catholic Charities annually provides services to thousands of people of all beliefs, in need, living in this community.

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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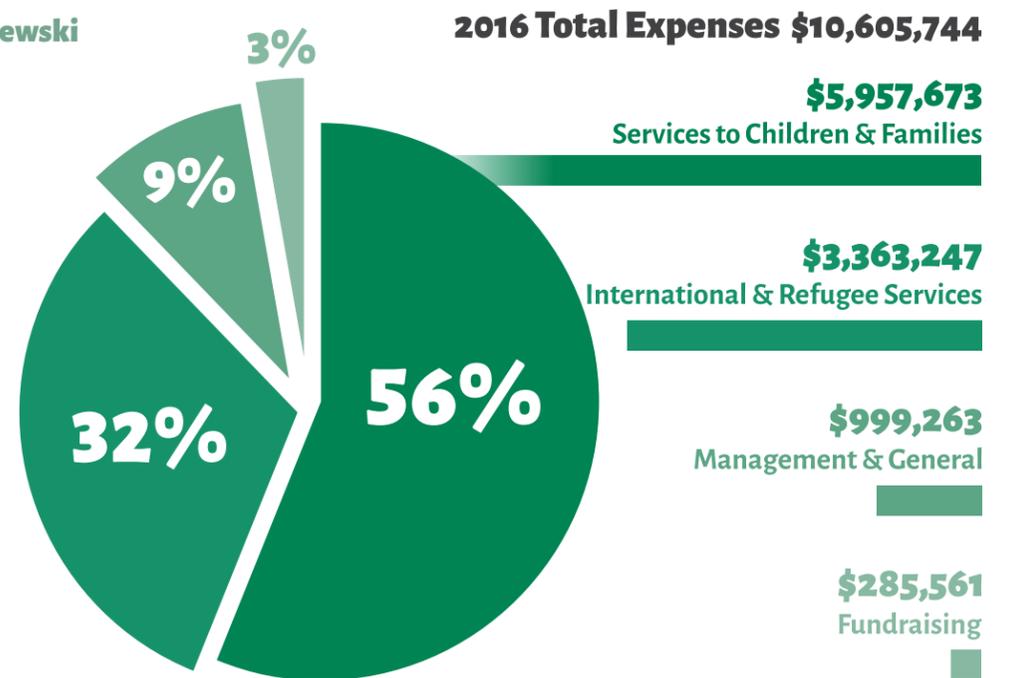
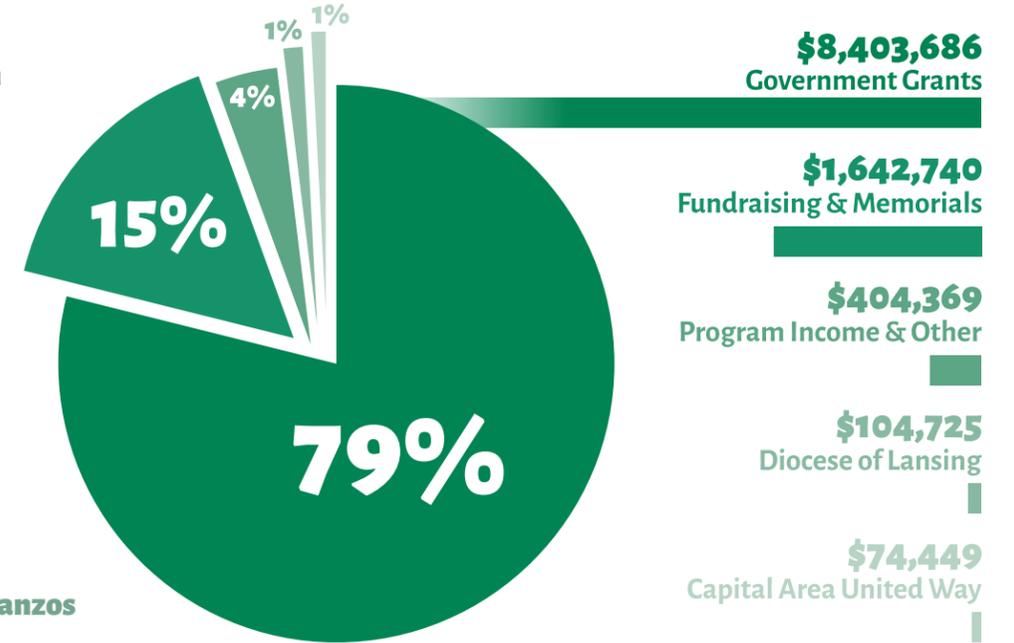
Bruce Maguire, III

Patricia Munshaw

Michael Rhodes

Lindy Smith

Brig Sorber



Clients Served
4,494



Volunteers
711



Staff
203



IT FEELS GOOD TO GIVE

Brig and Fran Sorber are St. Vincent Catholic Charities (STVCC) Guardian Society members, but their relationship with the agency encompasses much more than simply sharing their treasure. Each graciously shares their time and talents as well. Fran has been an active volunteer for eight years, while Brig has lent his leadership and business acumen to campaigns such as the Children's Home gymnasium renovation and Operation Backpack. Under Brig's direction as CEO and now executive chairman at TWO MEN AND A TRUCK, the company has become STVCC's corporate 'big brother,' sponsoring multiple STVCC events each year.

FAITH LEADS TO NEW BEGINNINGS

Brig and Fran Sorber were originally drawn to STVCC by their faith.

"What we believe is the giving back, or giving of yourself to do something for others, because that's what you believe is what God wants and it is our responsibility to help," Fran said.

Yet it wasn't until they attended a Journey of Hope that they fully grasped the importance and need for STVCC in the Greater Lansing community.

"It's more than just [writing] a check," Brig said. "When you walk in and you see how these children are taken care of in the home, you start envisioning your own child in there. You start thinking to yourself maybe a few bad decisions or a few bad breaks, one of our children could be in here. Picturing your own child in here was a game-changer for me."

The Sorbers became Guardian Society members eight years ago. "All you've got to do is go to one St. Vincent breakfast and hear from these children, what they've been through and you are convinced," said Fran.

Fran volunteered for adoption, as a mentor at the Children's Home, and currently with the Book Club. To Fran, the gift of time and caring can be even more impactful than a financial gift.

"You just want to go there and give them some positive energy, ask about their day. Each time I try to give them a hug when they leave, if they want one. Anything that can make them feel like somebody cares about them."



Brig & Fran Sorber at TWO MEN AND A TRUCK world headquarters

Brig joined the STVCC Board of Directors in 2016. "We go to St. Martha in Okemos and they are a huge supporter of St. Vincent's," said Brig. "I went to talk with my priest when I was asked to be on the board and he said 'That's a calling from God, you have to do that!' When you hear your priest say that, you have to do it."

The Sorber's passion for the Children's Home continues to be a motivating factor in their work. "Jesus expects us to take care of the least in our communities," said Brig. "I can't think of any least than these kids. They deserve that shot. We want all people to help out, to help out these kids. These are all God's children, these are our children too."



PAYING IT FORWARD

Brig's message to others are the mutual benefits that giving to STVCC provides.

"It feels good to give. When I walk through and I look into that gym and I see those crazy little kids running all over, being kids, that's cool and that makes me feel good. That's what drives me to be more involved."

The Sorbers exhibit humility, aware that they are just a speck of sand in God's overall plan.

"We may never see all the good works, but somebody will - down the road when these kids become working adults," Brig said. "I truly feel that they will take a look back on their past and understand the importance of a place like St. Vincent Catholic Charities and they will be part of taking care of that problem too."

To St. Vincent Catholic Charities and the children they serve, families like the Sorbers are the Guardian Angels to the agency.



EVERYBODY NEEDS HOPE

The faith community is a critical partner in St. Vincent Catholic Charities' vision of a healthier community.

One church that provides hope to many vulnerable children through STVCC is Mount Hope Church and their pastor, Kevin Berry.

At Christmas, Pastor Kevin gave a gift to a boy he mentors at the St. Vincent Children's Home.

Pastor Kevin recalled, "He instantly felt the need to give me something back. He gave me a book that was in his hands and he said 'HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU!'"

I didn't look at it until I got home and it was called, 'The Puppy Place – Where Every Puppy Finds a Home.' It just melted my heart. Here this little boy is reading about a place where a puppy, every puppy, has a home. I thought, my goodness, there needs to be a place where every child has a home."

The need to help the least in our community has inspired members of Mount Hope Church to volunteer at STVCC and the Children's Home for over 20 years. In addition to serving as mentors, they've assisted on numerous facility projects and collection drives, including recent renovations of the Child Welfare visitation rooms and providing gifts for each Children's Home child last Christmas.

"We've always had a deep appreciation for what St. Vincent's does," Pastor Kevin said. "We love kids and believe that God's word says we're responsible for taking care of orphans and widows. A great expression of that in Lansing is obviously right here."

Yet it wasn't until the 2015 Guardian Society Breakfast that Pastor Kevin learned of the financial need at the agency. "I never knew there was a Guardian Society, so when I found out about that opportunity, of course that is something we wanted to be a part of," said Pastor Kevin. Mount Hope Church joined at the Gift of Charity level, a decision driven by the relationships Pastor Kevin has forged during his four years as a volunteer mentor.

"These kids are really close to God's heart, He cares a lot about them," reiterated Pastor Kevin. "It's a thrill that I get to, in a very small way, represent His kindness to kids that I know matter so much to Him."

With the help of Pastor Kevin and Mount Hope Church, STVCC can continue to work tirelessly to find a home for each child in their care.

"What I'd like to accomplish is providing a home for every child. If only half the churches in Michigan would just come up with one family, every child really could have a home. To me, that goal is so realistic. It's what we're commanded to do."



Staff of the STVCC Children's Home receiving Christmas gifts for the kids from Pastor Kevin Berry (right) and Mount Hope Church

COMMUNITY GENEROSITY IS BUILDING HOPE

One of the highlights from 2016 was the completion of the Children's Home Pavilion last April. Providing a valuable gathering area for children and staff, the addition of the pavilion is yet another piece of the facility that helps set St. Vincent Catholic Charities apart as a valuable resource to helping the least in the Greater Lansing area.

"We now have a safe gathering place outside for our children that we can utilize for most of the year," said Children's Home Program Director Alysia Christy. "More importantly, it helps to create memories, like the summer formal dance that we hosted last year for our kids. A value can't be placed on creating those types of experiences. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it possible."

Some of the events already hosted include:

- **Summer Formal** – This formal dance was held at the end of the school year to offer a Prom styled event to the older teens at the Children's Home. The kids dressed in their best as they enjoyed a formal evening into the summer twilight.
- **Poetry Slam** – Poetry is another outlet that helps our children cope with their experiences. Last summer each child was able to share their works in front of their peers.
- **Kiwanis Club BBQ** – Each summer the Kiwanis Club of Delta Township organizes a BBQ at the Children's Home. This year the pavilion provided the perfect amount of shelter and shade during a hot day.
- **Field Day** – Barnes Aerospace put together their yearly Field Day for the Children's Home, with the pavilion serving as a great meeting space and staging area for breaks and refreshments.
- **Guardian Society Thank You Event** – Besides playing host to our annual Guardian Society Thank You Event, the pavilion was dedicated and blessed by Father John Klein of St. Gerard Catholic Church.



TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO DESERVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MAKING THE PAVILION POSSIBLE ARE:

DR. MITCH DOBRZELEWSKI
St. Vincent Catholic Charities Board Member and member of the Stotenbur Knight of Columbus, Mitch saw the need for the Children's Home Pavilion and mobilized support with local Knights of Columbus councils.

NANCY PASSANANTE
Out of the goodness of her heart, Nancy made a significant contribution to the project that provided the necessary funds to make it happen.

Jim Sigmon, Jim Kurt, STVCC CEO
Andrea Seyka, Gene Russell, Mitch Dobrzelewski and Nancy Passanante at the 2016 Guardian Society Thank You Event



IT STARTED WITH A WEDDING

Deacon Jim and Karen Kasprzak's first involvement with St. Vincent Catholic Charities (STVCC) started with a wedding. They have been part of the Marriage Ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in East Lansing, helping engaged couples with marriage preparation in the Catholic Church. However their ministry was expanded in 2009 when they were asked to work with a family from Burundi who wanted to become Catholic.

The mother, father and six children (with another on the way) came to Lansing through the STVCC Refugee Services program. STVCC asked the Kasprzak's to assist with marriage preparation and to catechize the children.

"The mother had been baptized in her youth, but the husband and children had not been because they were constantly moving in their refugee status," said Karen.

"We got to help arrange for them to be married in the church and witness the baptism of all their children."

Dcn. Jim continued: "Their wedding was right here in St. Thomas Aquinas and it happened that the archbishop of Burundi, who has been working with St. Jude Parish [DeWitt] in terms of supporting an orphanage in Burundi, was visiting and celebrated their wedding mass and baptized their children. That was very special to them because he spoke their language [Kurundi]."

The image of the mother in her wedding dress, a donation that Karen and Dcn. Jim were able to secure, is something she'll never forget.

"She was so excited because she got to wear a beautiful, white wedding dress," said Karen. "She was there with all of her children, with the bishop. Talk about the Holy Spirit at work!"

Karen's nearly 20 years as a middle school teacher at St. Thomas and Dcn. Jim's professional career in state government uniquely equipped them to serve this family. After working with all different types of assistance programs, working with the Burundian refugee family provided an opportunity to learn more about a new area.

Dcn. Jim has been serving the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and St. John Church and Student Center since he was ordained as a deacon in 2009. Following his retirement in 2015, he was also appointed as the Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Lansing. The combination of his professional background, familiarity working with the Catholic Charities agencies and their personal experience with the Burundian family is what ultimately led to the Kasprzak's joining the Guardian Society.

"This momentum built-up and since this is where we live, this is the local agency we decided we wanted to make a significant commitment financially," said Dcn. Jim. "Everything done by the agency is done in the spirit of Jesus Christ."

Karen agrees. "We're all parts of the body of Christ and they [STVCC] assist me in being the arms and legs of Christ for those that I can't reach."

For a family that is so involved in the Church, they recognize the importance that Catholic Charities play in the lives of all Christians.

"Christ called all of us who are baptized to be missionary disciples," said Dcn. Jim. "As Saint Teresa of Avila said, 'Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on Earth but yours.' We are the arms and legs, hands and feet, the voice of Jesus to and on behalf of those who are vulnerable and in need of services."



Karen and Dcn. Jim Kasprzak at St. Thomas Aquinas parish in East Lansing

2016 CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL



St. Thomas Aquinas



Resurrection



St. Gerard

Pope Francis declared 2016 as the Jubilee Year of Mercy. One of his messages was...

"Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved, and forgiven." St. Vincent Catholic Charities serves as the charitable arm of the Catholic Church in the Greater Lansing community.

As a part of the Diocese of Lansing, a large amount of support comes from the local parishes. During the Jubilee Year, Lansing parishes answered the call of mercy in many ways. One such example was the outpouring of participation in the Catholic Charities appeal, where STVCC exceeded their goal of \$59,000.

In total, almost \$76,000 was raised! A most sincere thanks goes to all the parishioners that contributed to St. Vincent Catholic Charities and Cristo Rey Community Center in 2016. Their support allowed STVCC to exceed its financial goals. The contributions provide help and create hope for clients of the agency's six programs. Without their faithful partnerships and belief in STVCC's message of hope, much of what the agency does would not be possible.



St. Casimir

"In total, almost \$76,000 was raised!"



Students from St. Martha

19 community events raised over \$45,000

The feeling of being part of something bigger than yourself is one of the best feelings in the world. Every year, there are a multitude of events within the Greater Lansing area that give people the opportunity to experience that feeling.

In 2016, people in the Lansing area community had some amazing opportunities to help raise money for St. Vincent Catholic Charities.

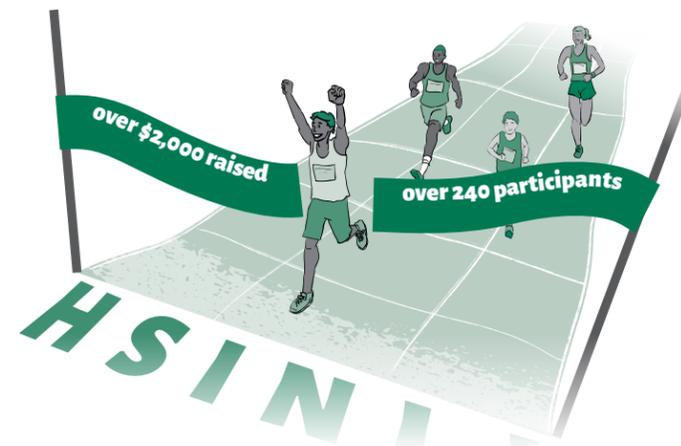
WENDY'S CHARITY CLASSIC:

Wendy's Charity Classic LPGA Pro-Am and Super Heroes Pairings Party is a golfing event that has taken place at the Country Club of Jackson in Jackson, MI for 16 years. A portion of the proceeds benefit our Wendy's Wonderful Kids program that helps "unadoptable" children find their forever homes.



RELLI'S MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING:

The Relli's Memorial Golf Outing is a team golfing event hosted by Relli's Italian Restaurant in DeWitt, MI. The annual event takes place at the Prairie Creek Golf Course in DeWitt. Additionally, Jackson National Life Insurance matches the proceeds raised for this incredible event. The golf outing has been benefiting STVCC for over 18 years.



CAMINO OF ST. JAMES 8K/5K:

The Camino of St. James 8k/5k Walk & Run has been benefiting STVCC for the past 6 years. As a part of the annual event, participants are rewarded with a breakfast following the race. The run in downtown Mason helps older children find permanent homes.

Partnerships such as these events are a crucial part of fundraising revenue. We are extremely thankful for everyone who hosted a fundraiser in 2016.



♥ GIFT OF CHARITY

Anonymous
David and Connie Donovan
Van and Marci Fox
Ralph and Pat Hepp
Mount Hope Church
Nancy S. Passanante
Mary Ellen Sheets and Tom Amis
Brig and Fran Sorber

✚ GIFT OF HOPE

Anonymous
Ted and Maureen Buda
Chris and Lori Conner
Kellie P. and Marilyn Dean and Family
Larry and Mary Hennessey
Greg and Amanda Kruger
Robert and Mary Marek
John and Mary Beth Pirich
Ronald and Mary Simon
Lindy and James Smith
Craig and Stephanie Stiles
Donald and Debra Stoner

✚ GIFT OF FAITH

Patricia L. Abood
Pat Andrews
Patty Ballentine
James and Elizabeth Bolger
Christine Bourque
Kathi M. Braunlich
Robert and Marie Brown
Larry and Mary Brya
Doug and Jean Buhler
David Buick

Scott and Lynne Burnett
Jim and Rosemary Buscetta
Thomas and Denise Carr
Jose Carrera and Barbara Fredal
Joe and Michelle Chahine
Pete and Trudy Chiaravalli
Alonso and Stefani Collar and Family
Mary Conklin
Mark and Charlyn Cosgrove
Gerald and Ann Crane
Patrick and Allyson Dean
Kevin and Bernice DeMarco
Mitchell and Martha Dobrzelewski
Joseph and Sherry Dunn
Ronald Emery and Sherry Bond
Mary Farr
Glen and Jill Feldpausch
Carlos and Stacy Fernandez
Norbert and Carmen Fernandez
John and Ruthanne Finn
Mike and Cathy Flaga
Frank and Janet Freund
Michael and Preeti Gadola
Bob and Beckie Graham
Glenn and Trish Granger
John and Sandra Grettenberger
Mr. and Mrs. Janis Grigans, Sr.
Lynn and Mary Harvey
Paul and Mary Lou Heberlein
Cindy Herfindahl and John Melcher
David and Frances Herring
Barry and Carol Hintz

Peter and Sandra Hinz
Chris and Louise Holman
Anne House
Bill and Kim Hufnagel
Impact Solutions, Robert and Elaine Rabideau
Catherine Jacobs
Steven and Katherine Japinga
Deacon James and Karen Kasprzak
Ken Klein, Gallagher, Flintoff & Klein
Pete and Terri Kuhnmuench
Jim Kurt
Ronald and Joan Lenz
C. Michael and Angela Liberato
Jose A. Lopez and Berta Betanzos
Mike and Anna Maddox
Bruce and Claudia Maguire
Joseph and Jeanne Maguire
Kevin and Sharon McGraw
Brian and Kelly McVeigh
Larry and Gail Meyer
Holly Moltane
Robert and Katherine Mooney
Patricia Munshaw
Brian F. and Colleen Murray
John D. Nakfoor
Kevin and JoAnne Neugent
John and Melissa Newman
Bob and Lynna Nieman
Janet O'Brien
Patrick and Amy O'Brien
John and Carrie Pence
Dr. James and Geri Potchen

Tom and Martie Repaskey
Michael and Kathleen Rhodes
Jeffrey B. and Karen R. Ring
Lee Rodgers
Steve and Anita Russell
Joseph Sambaer and Susie Perna Sambaer
Timothy and Melissa Sambaer
Ruben and Sandra Saucedo
James and Monica Schafer
Robert and Margaret Schneider
Matthew and Michelle Selby
Ronald and Andrea Seyka
Bill and Norma Sheathelm
Stuart Sleight
Daryl and Ella Smith
Maria Smyka
Frank and Linda Spica
Bill Spielman and Lori Nelson Spielman
Bill St. John
Kenneth and Lori Stewart
Dr. William and Cheryl Swords
Eric and Adelita Theis
Elizabeth Thomas
Scott H. Tobey and Patty Farhat
Dave and Kathy Turzewski
Robert and Mary Von Poppelen
Thomas and Anne-Marie Voice
Victor and Elaine M. Weipert
Bill and Linda Wesley
Jeff and Jody Wesley
Jerry and Catherine Wilhm
Maria A. Zdybel
Jon and Roseann Zumbrink



▶ **A proud supporter of St. Vincent Catholic Charities**

As a nonprofit hospital with deep roots, McLaren Greater Lansing has been at the center of our community for more than a century. While we pride ourselves on our legacy of providing compassionate, expert care, we're just as proud to partner with local organizations to support our neighbors in need.

McLaren Greater Lansing is honored to support St. Vincent Catholic Charities.



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