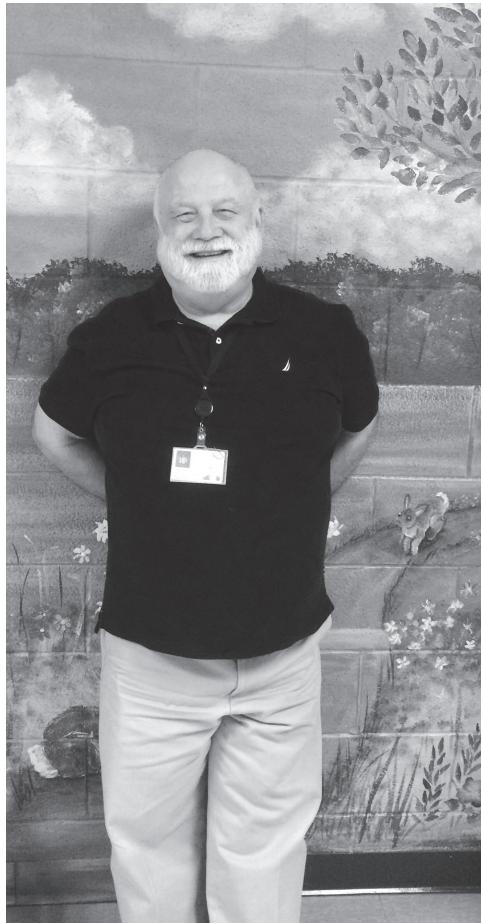




New Heights

DECades of Dedication



Desmond Tutu once stated, "You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them." At the St. Vincent Catholic Charities Children's Home, we strive to create a sense of family amongst our children and staff in order to provide a safe, welcoming home that brings stability that many of our children have lacked.

One individual has been an integral part of our work family for nearly 35 years - Dr. Andrew J. Homa, MD, one of our two clinical psychiatrists. Along

with his partner Dr. Louis Anstett, MD, these psychiatrists specialize in providing medical and psychiatric services to the children at the STVCC Children's Home and in our Child Welfare programs. To new residents at the Children's Home, Dr. Homa is one of the first faces our children see when they arrive.

"Kids aren't admitted by virtue of diagnosis; kids are admitted who need psychiatric and counseling care," said Dr. Homa. "These children have needs that are unable to be cared for simply by outpatient care. To put in perspective how great their needs are, usually kids have been in three to ten foster care placements over a two-year period before arriving at the Children's Home."

When the children arrive, they see a kind, soft-spoken, welcoming man who originally became a doctor with the simple intent to help children. Two days a week for 35 years, Dr. Homa has provided the initial medical and psychiatric evaluation for over 2,000 children. For kids who have experienced trauma and abuse, Dr. Homa provides the foundational help that creates hope in their lives.

Being a psychiatrist is more than just prescribing medication. It's talking to each child and listening to their stories. It's asking about their emotions, their happiness, anger, anxiety and sadness. It's learning more about their family,

their hopes, dreams, and the important people they value. All to help remove any pain the child is feeling.

"The most rewarding part of my job is any sense that the stress and suffering from a kid is alleviated," said Dr. Homa. And sometimes years later Dr. Homa is reminded of those he's helped.

"A very pleasant thing that happens occasionally is when we have a graduate come back. Last year a graduate came back here in uniform with his wife and daughter. He was in the infantry and had served our country with several tours in Iraq. It was amazing to see the success he's made in his life."

Much of what stands out to Dr. Homa about his career are the staff who have been like family to him.

"For a number of us, it's unlike any other work place."

"At Catholic facilities, it's more than a job for those people who stay for a long time. There is a sense of community among the co-workers, shared mission ideals, a concern for the kids and each other. So for me, it's the staff and family-type atmosphere. For a number of us, it's unlike any other work place."

Speaking for all members of the St. Vincent Catholic Charities family, we agree. Thank you Dr. Homa for your continued service to our agency.



A planned gift or memorial gift is a great way to share the compassion of a lifetime with those in need. Contact Cindy Herfindahl to learn more at herfinc@stvcc.org.

(517) 323-4734
2800 West Willow St.
Lansing, MI 48917





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women." – Pope Francis

Dear Friends,

It was just a short while ago that we witnessed Pope Francis' action to name this past year the Jubilee Year of Mercy. As we wrap up this special year, it has never been more important to remember our mission of sharing the love of Christ by performing the corporal and spiritual acts of mercy. We are so grateful for everything that you have done to support our efforts in helping those with great needs in our community; in welcoming the stranger, and healing the physical and spiritual hurts.



In this letter it is my pleasure to acknowledge Dr. Homa, one of our clinical psychiatrists, who for over 35 years has ministered to children coming to us in great mental and spiritual pain. You'll read about his dedication in our feature story. This also puts a fine point on this issue's infographic which attempts to quantify the depth of service that the children in residence at the Children's Home receive from all of us, including donors and volunteers, here at STVCC.

I am often asked to distinguish how St. Vincent Catholic Charities is different from other organizations, especially other church-based programs. The best answer I can give is that every charitable effort evolves from the needs of its community, its history and the organization's capacity. In the case of STVCC, we have a long and rich history of caring for children, families and refugees. So while we may serve fewer individuals than some organizations, we take on the cases which require a depth and breadth of service that distinguishes STVCC from all the rest.

Thank you to all of our faithful volunteers, donors, and our incredibly gifted and committed staff members for making it possible for us to Provide Help, Create Hope, and Transform Lives!

You have my sincere best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Andrea E. Seyka
Chief Executive Officer

MISSION

The mission of St. Vincent 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

The vision of STVCC is with faith in God and love for all we aspire to create a healthier community.

VALUES

STVCC's Core Values:

- Compassion
- Service
- Faith
- Stewardship
- Integrity

YEAR IN REVIEW

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathleen M. Braunlich, *Chair*

Michael Maddox, *Vice Chair*

Joseph D. Sambaer, *Treasurer*

Kevin J. Neugent, *Secretary*

John Coscarelli

Dr. Mitchell R. Dobrzelewski

Deacon David Drayton

Anthony Klisch

James C. Kurt

Jose A. Lopez

Bruce Maguire, III

Patricia Munshaw

Michael Rhodes

Lindy Smith

Brig Sorber



RECORD YEAR IN REFUGEE SERVICES

The staff and supporters of our Refugee Services program took a brief moment to reflect on their accomplishments in fiscal year 2015-2016.

The numbers told a story that was simply amazing. In the last 92 days alone, ending September 30, 326 refugees were successfully resettled! This was 42% of the 776 total individuals from 14 countries we helped this year, the most we have ever served in a year. This remarkable feat was accomplished through the dedication and willingness of staff, volunteers and community partners.

We are blessed to have the love and support of many individuals and organizations in the Greater Lansing area. Our gratitude extends to:

- Our staff of case managers, case manager assistants, our employment

team, our health team, our housing specialist, interns and supervisors who tirelessly went above and beyond their normal duties to welcome all of those in their care.

- Our facilities team who carried beds and sofas up long flights of stairs during an intensely hot summer.

- Landlords and property owners who responded quickly and kindly to our high demands for housing.

- The over 40 volunteers who have assisted with housing setups and served as mentors to newly arrived refugee families.

On September 30 our Refugee Services program completed a trying, but record year. During the 2015-16 fiscal year, St. Vincent Catholic Charities resettled 776 individuals from 14 countries, the most our agency has ever resettled in one year. In fact 42% of our arrivals came between July 1 and September 30, a remarkable feat accomplished by the dedication and willingness of our agency staff, volunteers and community partners.

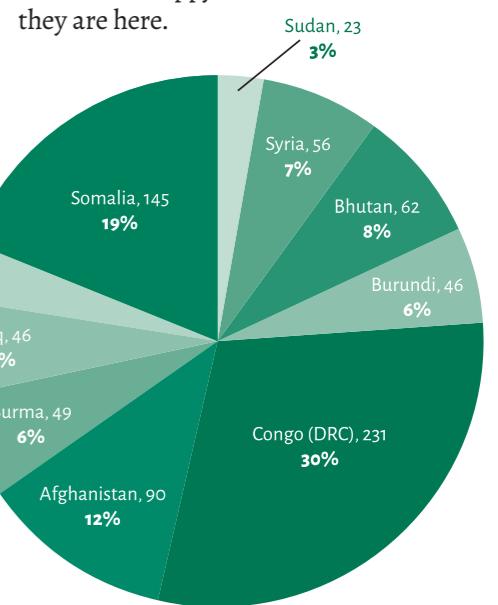
- The Ingham County Health Department and the Department of Health & Human Services who have accommodated each new arrival in establishing their essential needs and benefits.

- The Lansing School District for welcoming each new refugee child and providing special assistance English language learners.

- Our countless employers who recognize the commitment and selflessness that refugees display in their work.

- Our donors who have contributed funds to help with the purchase of furniture, supplement rent payments for families, and bridge any budget shortfalls.

As we move into 2017, it is apparent that conflicts across the globe will continue to make our program necessary in order to help the most vulnerable. In 2016 our Refugee Services program and community was tested with an unprecedented amount of arrivals. Together we answered God's call to welcome the stranger. As a supporter of STVCC, please join us in telling each refugee that we are happy they are here.



**2016 Lansing Resettlement Numbers
St. Vincent Catholic Charities
Total: 776**



To get involved with the Children's Home, visit stvcc.org or call (517) 323-4734

Providing education for nearly 100 kids every year requires the help of:

3 Full-time teachers

3 Teacher aids

6 Weekly volunteer tutors

Generous donations of backpacks and school supplies from the community



Over 5500 hours of volunteer support by groups that include:

Mentors

The Book Club

Teens Growing in Faith

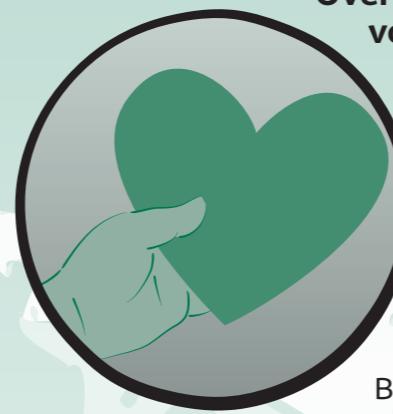
MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine

MSU WorkLife Office

Lansing Diocese Deacons

Building Twentyone

Michigan Abstinence Program (MAP)



Donations valued at over \$100,000 represented by:

New pavilion

Holiday Giving gifts

New coats and bathing suits

Guardian Society contributions

Rich-Ro Dairy Farms

Dean Transportation for group outings

LEPFA



Therapy Support:

Yoga

Promise

Sensory Integration

Worry Stones

Duct Tape flowers

Art Group

Movie with a Purpose



Over 5200 hours dedicated to over 50 outings and activities each year:

Mackinac Island

Michigan Adventure

Swimming

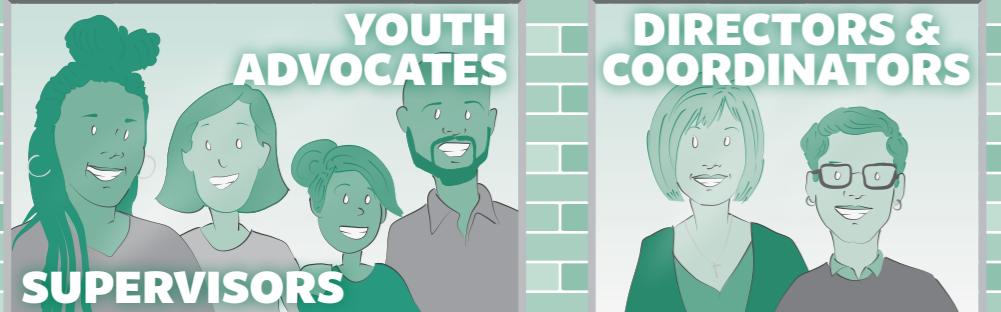
Dairy Farm

Camping



Events:
Baseball & Football games
Prom
Poetry slams
Wharton Center plays
Kiwanis BBQs
Trunk-or-Treating

IT TAKES MORE THAN A ROOF



KITCHEN STAFF



CASE MANAGERS & THERAPISTS



THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Become a mentor or tutor
- Donate items from our Wish List
- Join the Guardian Society



SEASON OF GIVING

IN THE NEWS

IF WALLS COULD TALK

In our Service Center are comfortable rooms for children to spend time with their birth parents. These visitation rooms provide a gathering place for those children and families who seek guidance in situations of adoption, foster care, or other family needs. There we provide toys for children, changing tables, books, and seats for families to spend time with one another. Yet, over the years with an average of over 40 visits each week, our visitation rooms were in need of some serious repair and restoration in order to continue to provide that comfortable, family environment for our clients.

At STVCC, we understand the importance of a welcoming place for families to come together. That's why we are so grateful to the people of Mount Hope Church who donated funds and time to redecorate our visitation rooms for children and their parents.

Volunteers from the **Mount Hope Church** congregation recently completed a full renovation of our visitation rooms by repainting the walls and replacing furniture, counter tops, and flooring. "It's so important to reach out when you know the need is great," said Mount Hope Pastor Dave Williams. "I hope our simple contributions help the families who use these rooms to grow in love."

Because of their generous contributions, STVCC can continue to provide a welcoming environment for those in need. "The goal of foster care is family reunification," CEO Andrea Seyka said. "This donation



provides a nurturing setting where birth parents can share their love for their children as they seek to overcome the struggles affecting their lives."

If our walls could talk, they would whisper countless tales of love, laughter, and service...plus a warm thank you to Mount Hope Church.

PEBBLES IN THE POND

One small weight can tip the scales, and a single pebble thrown into a still pond creates ripples that extend to the far shore. No matter how insignificant a change appears, each action has a consequence. Small steps lead to bigger steps. Gifts given with a generous heart continue to multiply.

This past year STVCC received two large gifts from the Lansing insurance community, which made a big splash in our pond!

JACKSON NATIONAL MAKES GIFT FROM BIRTHDAY ADVISORY GROUP

Jackson National Life generously donated \$45,000 to benefit the kids

living in the Children's Home. These funds came from Jackson's Birthday Advisory Group, which regularly donates funds to help kids continue to heal and succeed in life.

AUTO-OWNERS COMMEMORATES 100TH YEAR WITH GIFT

Auto-Owners Insurance donated \$30,000 as part of their 100th Anniversary celebration to support the Children's Home and other agency services.

The Children's Home provides clinical treatment and care for children who have suffered neglect and abuse. Additionally, it provides residential

living for children who have nowhere else to turn. This home provides a place where kids can understand what it means to be cared for, supported and regain a sense of hope. In the words of one of the residents, "...I will always carry you guys in my heart...you gave me hope."

STVCC is eternally grateful to our corporate sponsors for their continued generosity which allows us to provide the best care we can for our children. With the help of community partners like Auto Owners and Jackson National, STVCC can fully invest in our mission to share the love of Christ by serving those in need.

JACKSON®

**Auto-Owners
INSURANCE**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: SHERRY DUNN

From the moment she began to volunteer, Sherry Dunn knew she wanted to make her service long-term. The success of any non-profit depends on the support of volunteers. At St. Vincent Catholic Charities, we receive immeasurable help from a community made up of people like Sherry who support our passion to serve those in need, particularly children who have been neglected or abused.



In 2015 alone, 750 volunteers served in various capacities as board members, mentors, or one-time event volunteers. Each of these men and women deserve our gratitude because they inquired about

ways to serve and responded with incredible generosity. Sherry Dunn deserves recognition for stepping out in faith and receiving an answer to her prayers through service at our Children's Home. She has blessed the children she serves and selflessly given her time and skills to help our kids build confidence and find hope.

Two years ago, Sherry reached out to her friends who already led book clubs at the Children's Home and inquired about ways to serve. Her passion for working with kids quickly translated into a personal goal to reach out to the children who are often reticent to trust adults. "I really try to look for the kids who don't seem to want your attention, because sometimes they're the ones who need it most," said Sherry. As a mother of three, Sherry knows the importance of helping children establish goals and build hope. To share that with the kids in the Children's Home, she decided to lead monthly art classes to help them creatively express themselves.

No matter what the project Sherry hopes to engage in at the Children's Home, book club, art classes, or one-on-one mentoring, her service always comes back to the kids. Her initial curiosity about her friends' work at the Children's Home has developed into an overwhelming desire to love those around her. Sherry knows that each small breakthrough with a child provides an opportunity to be a positive role model to children in need.

WHY JOIN THE GUARDIAN SOCIETY?

Members of our Guardian Society strongly believe in our mission of service. Here are reasons why three of our Guardian Society families joined.

"STVCC serves many needs in our community, but we have always been particularly appreciative of their work with children. STVCC has the organization, expertise, and 'heart' to provide badly needed services for kids who have had some rough spots in their young lives. May God bless their work, as we have been blessed with the ability to help support that work." ~ Sandy & John Wilson

"We are proud to play a small part in helping STVCC provide help for those in greatest need in our community.

STVCC is a tremendous organization that is dedicated to truly serving the needs of the 'least of these.' STVCC provides hope and help to children, refugees, and the mentally ill. We can think of no higher calling and no organization more deserving of our support." ~ Mike & Anna Maddox

"One of the reasons why our family supports St. Vincent's is unconditional love and a safe home. It's something most of us take for granted and yet there are so many children in our community who don't get to experience either of those basic human needs. The staff at STVCC have committed themselves to finding stable and loving homes for some of the most vulnerable

children in our community and we believe that is a basic right that every child in our community deserves." ~ Greg & Amanda Kruger



Greg & Amanda Kruger



2800 W. Willow St. Lansing, MI 48917
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DECades OF DEDICATION

A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

Online
www.STVCC.org
Convenient
Safe and Secure

SHARE

 When you **LIKE** our Fan Page and share our posts, you help us spread the good news about **STVCC**.

As the holiday soars to a feverish pitch are you joylessly going through the motions? Is it busyness over joyfulness? We've got a solution for that!

This year we have been blessed to help a record number of individuals and families. While our Holiday Giving campaign is drawing to a close, there are still families and children whose Christmas could be brighter because of you.

Will you take the time to take an Angel Tag off one of our Giving Trees and use this opportunity to put the joy back into your Christmas with a selfless act to help out a worthy child or family.



LIKE ALL OF OUR FAN PAGES ON FACEBOOK • facebook.com/St.VincentCatholicCharities
facebook.com/STVCCAdoptionandFosterCare • facebook.com/ImmigrationLawClinicSTVCC • facebook.com/STVCCRefugeeServices