

NEW HEIGHTS



**CELEBRATING
70 Years of
Creating Hope
for Children
and Families**

*Photo courtesy of
Carrie J. Malik Photography*



Partners in Hope Thank you for giving!

Dear Friends,

This year is special as it marks 70 years since St. Vincent Catholic Charities (STVCC) opened its doors to serve the community's most vulnerable. STVCC was founded in 1948 to meet the adoption and child placement needs of Michigan's capital city and surrounding communities.

Today, STVCC continues to meet the ever-changing needs of the community through our programs and services: adoption, foster care, our Children's Home, counseling, refugee resettlement and immigration legal services.

As STVCC embarks on its 70th year of service, we are proud to announce a community campaign entitled **Creating Hope for Children and Families, Building on Excellence, Ensuring Sustainability**, with a fundraising goal of \$1,500,000*.

The campaign will address funding for the following:



Innovative Clinical Services: Strengthening current programs for the Children's Home, Foster Care and Adoption, and Counseling Services



Facility care: Ensuring high-quality maintenance and stewardship of current facilities



Sustainability through Debt Reduction: Providing funding to address critical community needs rather than debt service

**Funds raised in excess of \$1.5m will be allocated to debt reduction*

The past 70 years would not have been possible without the incredible support of our donors, volunteers and staff. We need your help in order for us to continue to serve children and families in our community. With your generous support, we are committed to providing help, creating hope and transforming lives.

Together we are making a difference.

Andrea Seyka
Chief Executive
Officer

Michael Maddox
Board Chair

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.

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OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE TRANSFORMING LIVES, ONE BOOK AT A TIME

Clutching a stuffed polar bear and wearing galaxy pajamas, a 6-year-old resident at St. Vincent Catholic Charities' (STVCC) Children's Home explains why Monday nights — when a group of dedicated volunteers conduct "Book Club" — are so special.

"I really like the nice ladies and the snacks they bring us. My favorite snack is when they bring their homemade cookies. I like reading out loud when the ladies are here!"

Book club at the Children's Home is a weekly ritual that began seven years ago when Stefani Collar, a volunteer and Guardian Society member, took on the initiative after a grant was given.

With the help from family and friends, Stefani and her husband, Dr. Alonso Collar, began to reconstruct an unused room at the Children's Home and built beautiful, hardwood bookshelves. Stefani and Alonso set up an endowment fund in their late son's name, Alonso "Bonz" Stornant Collar, and donated funds to purchase cozy additions to the room.

Today, dedicated volunteers facilitate three book clubs a week, a story-time for the youngest residents of the Children's Home



L to R: Ginger Carrigan, Lynne Burnett, Stefani Collar, Sandy Hinz, Colleen Murray, Terri Kuhnmuach, Sherry Dunn // Not pictured: Andie Creamer, Sharon McGraw, Jean Merrill, Kitty Mooney, Kathy O'Leary, Mary Beth Pirich, Fran Sorber, Peggy Spitzley

on Monday nights and two, one-hour sessions on Tuesday nights for the teenage residents.

Sherry Dunn, another volunteer and Guardian Society member, participates in both Monday and Tuesday night book clubs. "I used to read to my own children while putting them to bed," Sherry explained. "I got a lot out of reading to my kids, the same way I do with these children. They are incredibly receptive, loving and appreciative."

In addition to learning the joy of reading, the children build their self-confidence and have another opportunity to interface with adults who treat them with respect and provide a consistent presence.

"Book club is already a great compliment to the work being done with therapists and staff members," said Josh Lown, Volunteer, Outreach and Training Coordinator at the Children's Home. "Being shown genuine

care, love and interest in their lives leads directly to their own ability to begin trusting and respecting themselves."

The volunteer experience has been equally rewarding.



"Book club has been an answer to my prayers," Stefani said. "My son, Bonz, really wanted to be a mentor here. When I lost him I thought, 'What is it that's going to fill my heart and soul?' This has been it."

To become involved, please contact Josh Lown at lownj@stvcc.org or 517-323-4734 ext. 1356.



2018 STVCC WISH LIST

Our current wish list includes items that support recreational outings, celebrate special occasions and provide personal needs.

For more details, please contact **Rhonda Abood** at (517) 323-4734 x1205 or aboodr@stvcc.org.

- Diapers and wipes
- Large duffel bags
- Full size personal hygiene products
- Laundry baskets and detergent
- Restaurant, retail outlets and generic VISA/Mastercard gift cards
- Birthday wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper and decorations
- Passes to Potter Park Zoo, EL Aquatic Center, Impression 5, and painting or pottery classes



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

Check out our new look!

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Connect with STVCC!

Stay up-to-date with current events and happenings around STVCC by visiting our website, www.stvcc.org, and connecting with us on social media!



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and Facebook

Our cover models, Lola and Xander Densmore, were adopted through STVCC, on September 19, 2017 and January 28, 2016, respectively.