

NEW HEIGHTS



St. Vincent Catholic Charities
PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.

*Falling
Back
into
School*

Inside

*Join us for
our Guardian
Society breakfast!*



An Autumn Message

From our CEO

Dear Friends,

I can't believe the start of the school year is already here! It's been an incredibly busy spring and summer; there's never a dull moment at St. Vincent Catholic Charities – and that's what we live for! Thanks to people like you, our supporters and volunteers, for keeping the kids busy at the Children's Home during the summer with extremely generous, lively outings and trips. You are keeping hope alive in their minds and hearts as they get ready for the start of the school year!

Our 15th Annual Guardian Society breakfast is quickly approaching on September 26 at Eagle Eye. At our one hour fundraising breakfast, it is our mission to provide stories of hope, healing and transformation and how you can be a part of helping us make a difference. We will have moving testimonials representing our programs and services, and you will witness the way our agency has been enriched because of how we provide help to children and families.

I can't wait to share the morning with you. I hope you can attend to learn how you are impacting the lives of the most vulnerable children and families in our community for the past 70 years – and how we will continue to do so for the next 70 years and beyond. From all of us at St. Vincent Catholic Charities, we hope you had a lovely summer and are ready to fall forward into another exciting year with us.

With grateful appreciation,

Andrea Seyka
Chief Executive Officer

Save the Date!

St. Vincent Catholic Charities 15th Annual
Guardian Society
Fundraising Breakfast **2019**

Thursday, September 26, 2019

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Eagle Eye Banquet Center

To RSVP, please contact the Development Team at donate@stvcc.org.

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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LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE DOCS!

At St. Vincent Catholic Charities (STVCC), we are grateful for two child psychiatrists that make our mission of providing help and creating hope possible. Combining 82 years of practice in psychological and psychiatric support, Dr. Andrew Homa and Dr. Louis Anstett go beyond expectations in their work for the counseling services of the agency, each respectively responsible for the Children's Home and the Foster Care programs.



BOTH DR. HOMA AND DR. ANSTETT GREW UP IN Downriver Detroit, attended Michigan State University (MSU) and followed a similar career path that led them from MSU to STVCC. Dr. Homa began working at STVCC in 1981 and Dr. Anstett followed four years later.

"Now that I am retired, STVCC was my first place and it's going to be the last!" said Dr. Homa.

Most of the children arrive at STVCC's Children's Home with anxiety and depression from the abuse and neglect they've experienced that lead to behavioral problems, which can be a challenge for the staff.

We know we can't erase everything from the child's history, but what we can do now is help the kids cope. We can help them prepare for the future.

"It's important to be mindful of the regrettable tragic experiences a lot of the kids have and use that understanding when dealing with their emotional turmoil and disruptive behavior," said Dr. Homa. "We have to continually try to remember there is a good reason for that. We know we can't erase everything from the child's history, but what we can do now is help the kids cope. We can help them prepare for the future."

Dr. Anstett added, "If not most of the kids that come here, not only in residential, but also in foster care, this is the first time they have been with an adult that is not abusive. That's impactful and really important to have these good people in these positions working with the kids."

Dr. Homa and Dr. Anstett meet regularly with the staff to discuss cases, treatments, consultation and supervision. Gina Snoeyink, Director of Children's Services, expresses her admiration for the quality of work and the two psychiatrists' dedication to the children's well-being.

"We are so lucky to have them. Both Dr. Homa and Dr. Anstett are very open to the staff coming in, bouncing cases off of them and talking through things. You don't always have that luxury at other places that do child welfare work. It's really a team effort." said Gina.

"If we did not have Dr. Anstett to see our kids, they would be waiting a significant amount of time to receive psychiatric services," explained Gina. "Most residential facilities have a psychiatrist they are connected to, but we are especially fortunate because Dr. Homa is more involved than most facility psychiatrists."

Mental health is essential for everyone's overall health and well-being. The children we serve deserve attention, love, patience and care to grow and embrace life with confidence, especially those who lived with neglectful parents or haven't been in touch with an influential role-model in their life.

"There was this one girl, a little older, that was here for several years and was never adopted. She was acting out and was in different placements. The adoption staff never gave up on her. The therapists did not, I did not," recalled Dr. Anstett. "She was finally adopted last year, she is doing great and has a good family. For me, that was a successful case."

For Dr. Homa and Dr. Anstett, the need for psychiatric support continues to grow. "The need is ever growing, it's not slowing down. Services need to expand in this community and without St. Vincent Catholic Charities, the community would really be hurting in this area," said Dr. Anstett.



Thank You, Dr. Homa and Dr. Anstett, for your service and commitment to St. Vincent Catholic Charities!



St. Vincent Catholic Charities

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2800 W. Willow St., Lansing, MI 48917

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RSVP for our Guardian Society Breakfast!

stvcc.org • (517) 323-4734

Coming up this Fall at St. Vincent Catholic Charities

August 22 — Dine and Donate at Panera in Frandor!

Show an electronic version of our flyer (via Facebook) on your phone when you dine at Panera in Frandor from 4 - 8 PM! A portion of proceeds from your purchase will benefit St. Vincent Catholic Charities!

Holiday Giving begins in **November!**

Stay tuned for more information!

You don't want to miss our **Giving Tuesday crowd fundraiser** on **Tuesday, December 3**, in support of our **Immigration Law Clinic!**

Follow us on facebook to participate!!

Save the Date for our **Community Thank You Open House** on **Friday, December 6** in our Children's Home Gymnasium!

Follow STVCC online:  St. Vincent Catholic Charities  st.vincentcc  @STVCC  stvcc.org