

NEW HEIGHTS



St. Vincent Catholic Charities
PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.

Making Spirits Bright



HOLIDAY 2019 • stvcc.org

Bristol, Bryce, Braxton and
Bradley Harrison were adopted
through STVCC on June 6, 2017.
photo by: Shannon Kraiger Photography



Inside

'Tis the Season for
Holiday Giving!



A Message

From our CEO

Dear Friends,

Time flies when you're having fun! We're in full swing with preparing for holiday giving and planning our Community Thank You Open House (CTYOH) to end another amazing year!

Thanks to everyone who attended our Guardian Society breakfast on September 26. A sincere thanks and appreciation to our community sponsors, table hosts and donors, recurring and new, who helped us reach and exceed our goal!

I hope you're able to join us in the spirit of Christmas for our CTYOH on December 6.

We'll be providing hot breakfast and enjoying holiday tunes by 99.1 WFMK's Danny Stewart and Monica Harris, broadcasting live in our Children's Home gym!

I wish you and your family a blessed, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

With a grateful heart,

Andrea Seyka
Chief Executive Officer



HAPPY RETIREMENT, BEVERLY BURNS!

We're celebrating and congratulating Beverly Burns, Food Service Supervisor at our Children's Home, who's retiring on October 31, after nearly 30 years of dedicated service! Beverly's humor shined bright when she planned her last day – on Halloween!

"Beverly Burns has been an extraordinary part of the Children's Home for just months short of 30 years!" shared Bob Graham, Director of Facilities and Information Systems. "Her dedication to ensure the kids receive nutritious meals every day has been her mission in life. Beverly's leadership, weird sense of humor (!) and most importantly, her commitment to the staff and kids will be greatly missed."

Maria Zdybel, Director of Administrative Services, added: "Bev was one of the first individuals to make me feel at home. I think of her as a sister. Always pragmatic, Bev puts the kids' needs first and goes above and beyond to make sure they have the best meals possible. She's engaged in our mission, dependable and incredibly responsible. I'm honored to have met her and I feel privileged that we've connected and worked together. I will miss her fiercely; she's been my rock!"

Beverly, thank you for putting your heart, creativity, magic and mercy into the work for the children. You have earned your retirement! THANK YOU, BEST WISHES and ENJOY!

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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THE SPIRIT OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME



WHAT MAKES UP THE SPIRIT AND HEARTBEAT OF the Children's Home? There are many factors, but today, you'll learn about two of the people who believe in and carry out the heart, soul and spirit of the program.

Alysia Christy was introduced to the Children's Home (CH) 10 years ago as an intern and eventually moved into the role of a therapist. She quickly realized there was a need for continued support and impact to the caregivers of the kids in the CH and swiftly transitioned into her "right fit" role as the Program Director for the past six years.

Now, we bid farewell to Alysia for her devoted years of service to St. Vincent Catholic Charities, as she changes careers and moves closer to her family. With welcoming arms, we're thrilled to announce Dave Matthews as the new Program Director of the CH.

With just over 100 staff and 40 kiddos in the CH, Alysia had the opportunity to expand on the **beauty** and **spirit** of the home.

"My favorite part of the CH is the fact that there is such genuine compassion, grace and interest to care for the kids," Alysia said. "Unfailingly, I observe the efforts and eagerness from our team to continually improve the home.

Alysia added, "The diversity of our experiences shape the beauty of this program. The team of staff each brings different and unique perspectives, life experiences, stories and expertise that creates rich opportunities to continue to improve. The team and the kids make it happen."

Andrea Seyka, Chief Executive Officer, shared gratitude when reflecting on Alysia's departure from the agency: "Alysia was a significant asset to this organization due to her experience, knowledge and balanced approach to leadership. She always reflected the utmost commitment, compassion and dedication for her work, the staff and the kids."

As Alysia transitioned out of her role as Program Director, Dave enthusiastically entered in.

After a year in Chicago, Dave moved back to Flint, MI and began working at Whaley Children's Center for over five years.

"I started off on the clinical side and eventually learned more about the administrative side," said Dave. "I really wanted to try to find a way to bring both of those together – and to also serve my community."

The welcoming kids and staff at the CH and Service Center solidified the fact that this was his right move.

"I am so happy I ended up here!" exclaimed Dave.

When asked what Dave looks forward to the most in his new role as Program Director of the CH, he said: "It's a program that's run incredibly well. Alysia did an amazing job. Trying to fill her shoes is scary – but also being able to pick up a program that has a strong foundation and staff that acts as a team – is comforting."

Alysia added, "Dave bring newness and energy to the program. He has an attunement to the unspoken. He's aware of his surrounding environment – the staff and the kids. It creates great care for the program and most importantly, the ability to move this program forward."

As one can imagine, a day in the life of the Children's Home is not for the meek-hearted!

"The chaos from housing and treating 40 kids means that we have many fires we put out, behaviors we have to deal with ... Dave looks at every situation beneath the surface-level and creates process, awareness and improvement to the CH because he's so accustomed to the program," said Alysia.

"What I hope to sustain as I transition into the Director role is the **spirit** of the program. The **spirit** of what we're doing for the kids. The guiding motivation of the staff is that we're here to serve the kids, we're here to treat them to the best of our ability in a trauma focused way. The kids need to feel safe and loved and in a place where they feel cared for," said Dave.

"I can't speak to what the heartbeat is of other nonprofits, but I can promise you our heartbeat here is always for the kids. I know 100%, that's what we're doing here," said Alysia.

Thank you for your passionate commitment and dedicated service to STVCC, Alysia!





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATES for Holiday Giving, Giving Tuesday and our Community Thank You Open House!

stvcc.org • (517) 323-4734

Save These Dates!

#GIVINGTUESDAY

On **December 3** we're joining in on the **global giving movement** as we crowdfund via **Facebook** and **Instagram** for our Immigration Law Clinic.

Community Thank You Open House

Be our guests as we share our profound appreciation for your support in 2019!

Stop in for our Community Thank You Open House on December 6.

Drop-in anytime from 7am - 10am in our **Children's Home Gym**.

Enjoy a hot breakfast and listen to holiday tunes by 99.1 WFMK.

Holiday Giving

Spread joy, hope and cheer this holiday season!

Holiday Giving begins on December 9 - 13!

If you're interested in **ADOPTING A WISH LIST**, please contact the Development Team at donate@stvcc.org.

More information can be found by visiting our website, stvcc.org.

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