

# NEW HEIGHTS



*St. Vincent Catholic Charities*  
PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.

## INSIDE

**An important update  
on the Children's Home  
from Andrea Seyka, CEO**

SUMMER 2021 • [stvcc.org](http://stvcc.org)



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **HOPE** and a **FUTURE.**”

— Jeremiah 29:11

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.

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# AN IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE CEO

Dear friends,

As one of STVCC’s closest supporters, I want to make you aware of the necessary and important changes taking place at our Children’s Home.

Over the past few weeks, over written updates to our community, I shared that I made the difficult decision to voluntarily suspend hosting children at the Children’s Home. This decision was made to focus on recruitment and training of staff to meet the increasingly demanding needs of children being referred to our care. It was also due to the challenges of our staffing crisis and the way some staff performed that violated policies and protocols set to keep the children in our care safe. I am taking these violations very seriously which is why I made the choice to temporarily pause services at the Children’s Home.

A corrective action plan was set in place and we are working daily with our partners at MDHHS to address the issues we became aware of during the pandemic. While my most sincere hope is to spend the next few months regrouping and rebuilding, it is important I disclose to you that there is a possibility that our Children’s Home license will be revoked.

It is likely we won’t learn of MDHHS’ final decision until mid-summer, but in an effort to be transparent with you, I wanted to share this possibility. I know you likely still have many questions. In all honesty, so do I. I remain committed to keeping you updated as I am able and as this process unfolds.

Additionally, I want to make you aware of serious allegations of sexual abuse from a former Children’s Home employee, who was terminated on March 1, 2021. We continue to fully cooperate with the Lansing Township Police as well as the prosecutor’s office to ensure that all information was made available.

Because this was an active investigation, I could not disclose the allegations earlier. These alleged actions are completely contrary to our mission, as we exist to protect and care for children in crisis. Unfortunately, I recognize this employee’s actions will have a negative ripple effect that will impact the Children’s Home many years to come.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and support which is needed more than ever. **We are continuing to serve the community through our other programs and services; Refugee Services, our Immigration Law Clinic, Foster Care and Adoption and Counseling Services.** Last year, we were able to provide help and create hope for more than 1,700 children and families in our community. We are humbled and thankful for supporters, like you, who recognize the importance of our work and are continuing to contribute, by gifts of resource or time, to our mission. You are a critical part of our team.

Friends, this is one of the most challenging periods of STVCC’s more than 70-year history. Know that I am fighting and praying for the opportunity to welcome children back to our facility and to creating the strongest residential treatment program in the history of our community.

With a grateful heart,

Andrea Seyka  
Chief Executive Officer



# CREATE A LONG-LASTING LEGACY

WHEN YOU THINK OF THE COMMITMENT YOU HAVE HAD TO ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC CHARITIES (STVCC) AND OTHER NON-PROFITS IN OUR COMMUNITY, HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE LEGACY YOU WANT TO LEAVE?

Many of us have been blessed beyond on our wildest expectations, and to think that you can help others in need for not only the current period of time, but in the future is very important.

— John Pirich

While it can be natural to have feelings of unease when thinking about planning a will, it can also be exciting to explore the many significant ways you can impact lives. STVCC's Legacy Society recognizes those who include STVCC in their future plans through either a bequest, will, trust, life insurance, or life income gifts.



(L-R) Fr. Jerry Ploof, Fr. Gary Koenigsnecht, John Pirich, Mary Beth Pirich, Fr. Gordon Reigle and granddaughters Grace, Isabelle, Victoria, Ana and Gabby.

John and Mary Beth Pirich recognize and understand this need, which is why they made the decision to join STVCC's Legacy Society. "By joining Legacy Society, it assures us that an organization we truly believe in will remain viable and continue on," said Mary Beth.

Gift planning to the Legacy Society are acts of hope for the future – and a way for you to be remembered by what matters most to you. Through your thoughtful commitment and generosity, STVCC will be well-equipped to serve our community for generations to come.

"Think beyond your own self and respect the fact that many others need these kinds of benefits, these kinds of contributions, these kinds of programs. That's really the reason to join – to help others who are in need," said John.

The need for our programs and services in the community is constant, and therefore, the need for funding never ends. Not only will the Pirich's contribution to STVCC ensure that our services continue, but their legacy will live on through the success of our programs and the lives of all those STVCC goes on to care for.

"Luke 12:48 says, 'To whom much has been given, much is expected.' We feel it is very important that we are able to share. We are a community, and the best way to help your community is to share the gifts that you have," said John.

For more information about STVCC's Legacy Society and gifts through your estate, please contact our Director of Development, Tamara El-Khoury.

517-323-4734 ext. 1201 • [elkhout@stvcc.org](mailto:elkhout@stvcc.org)

## LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Pat Andrews	Joseph and Shirley Lacchia
Leo L. Arens	Nancy S. Passanante
Rae and Margaret Behren	Mary Lou Phillips
Barbara Boger	John and Mary Beth Pirich
Robert and Marie Brown	Michael and Kathleen Rhodes
Robert Burgess	Rhynard Estate
Florence Chubb	Joseph Sanger/ Marjorie Hahn Trust
David and Noel Closs	Edna Schaefer Living Trust
Curtis Trust	Mary Kathryn Siwek
Marion G. DeWitt Trust	Wayne J. and Elaine M. Thelen
Dorothy A. Doyle	Donna Verleger
Chester and Marie Esch	Russell Wensick
John Forte	Jean S. White
Lynn and Mary Harvey	
Grace Hoffer	
John J. Kelly	



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Save the Date for our  
Guardian Society Virtual  
Event on September 30!**

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram  
to learn how you can get involved:

 @St.VincentCatholicCharities

 st.vincentcc

stvcc.org • (517) 323-4734



# HOPE

**Hope in the Lord.**

*PSALM 147:11*

*Save the Date*

**17th Annual Guardian Society Fundraising Event**  
DIRECTLY BENEFITING ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

OUR VIDEO WILL BE PRESENTED ON  
**Thursday, September 30, 2021**

Watch the video here:

 [stvcc.org](http://stvcc.org)  [@St.VincentCatholicCharities](https://www.facebook.com/St.VincentCatholicCharities)