

NEW HEIGHTS



Preparing our hearts for Easter

INSIDE

An adoption story





Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul, remind me of the grace and simplicity.

May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen.

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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A SPRING MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear friends,



As the world is still suffering the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as in Ukraine and in other countries weapons are not yet silent, we are called to actively unite with God's "bountiful goodness". As Pope Francis reminds us in his message from Lent 2022, we are called to "sow seeds of goodness for the benefit of others". This means to sow seeds of **hope** even in the darkest moments and putting into practice our **call to love** without exception.

Our faith is a great gift we are called to share through our actions towards others, especially the poor and vulnerable.

As we begin this Lenten season, I am humbled by your outpouring of love and generosity shown to those we've been called to serve.

Thank you for your dedication to helping the less fortunate. You are critical to our success and have shown faith in our efforts.

On behalf of all of us at STVCC, thank you for generously and prayerfully spreading God's call of love, and God Bless,

Andrea Seyka
Chief Executive Officer



CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL 2022

ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC CHARITIES
CRISTO REY COMMUNITY CENTER

GOD IS LOVE

It's not too late to support your faith by giving!

Support our 2022 Catholic Charities Appeal benefitting St. Vincent Catholic Charities and Cristo Rey Community Center

Make a donation online at stvcc.org



AN ADOPTION “LOVE” STORY

“A CHILD BORN TO ANOTHER WOMAN CALLS ME MOMMY. THE MAGNITUDE OF THAT TRAGEDY AND THE DEPTH OF THAT PRIVILEGE IS NOT LOST ON ME.” — JODY LANDERS



Amy, Brian* and Jake*

IN JUNE 2016, AMY KAPP BECAME A LICENSED foster parent through St. Vincent Catholic Charities (STVCC).

“I was initially exposed to STVCC when I was in graduate school and completed my second-year internship as a therapy intern in the Children’s Home,” said Amy. “That experience taught me about the foster care system and gave me the opportunity to work with children and families involved in the foster care system. When I was ready to become a foster parent a few years later, returning to STVCC for licensing felt comfortable because I had spent so much time there in the past.”

From a very young age, Amy always knew she wanted to be a parent.

“Watching my cousin successfully adopt and parent five kids as a single woman showed me that adoption is one way that families are formed and that it was something I was capable of doing.”

In Amy’s work as a professional in an early childhood organization, she was able to witness foster children that were challenging to parent and moved from foster home to foster home due to their behaviors.

“My training in mental health and trauma, as well as my experience working with children, gave me the confidence that I could manage challenging children who might be too overwhelming for some foster parents. I wanted to give those kids a chance to be in foster care without having to move from home to home,” said Amy.

“Brian” was Amy’s first placement in June 2016. Not including respite, “Brian” was her only placement until his infant brother “Jake” was placed with Amy in January 2018.

In 2019, Amy fostered one other child for about 9 months, until she was reunified with her family at the end of the year.

Finally, Amy adopted “Brian” and “Jake” in August 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the adoption hearing for “Brian” and “Jake” was via Zoom.

“It turned out to be a blessing because we were at our cottage with my cousin’s family. My kids, my parents and I – along with my cousin, her kids and her parents – were all there together and lots of other family and friends were able to join us virtually,” explained Amy.

Amy’s oldest son, “Brian” wanted to celebrate his adoption with a “love party.” They decorated the house with hearts and made heart-shaped foods – sandwiches, cookies, cheese, fruit, a cake... and even the chunks of sorbet in the punch were all cut into the shape of hearts!

“I wanted to be sensitive to the fact that adoption is not only a joy for our family but also represents for my children the loss of their biological family,” said Amy.

To those considering adoption, Amy shares her wisdom: “Be thoughtful about whether adoption is the right choice for you. Adoption is a beautiful thing, but at its core, it begins with a loss and that loss must be acknowledged for the well-being of the child(ren) involved.”



Jake* and Brian*

To learn more about our foster care and adoption programs, visit stvcc.org

**Names changed to protect their privacy*



St. Vincent Catholic Charities

PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.

2800 W. Willow St., Lansing, MI 48917

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Your contributions have
made an impact to our
Refugee Services program.
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TOTAL REFUGEES RESETTLED: 17,116

REFUGEE COUNTS BY YEARS

1975 to 1989: 2,455 1990 to 2006: 7,619 2007 to 2015: 5,268
2016 to 2020: 1,498 **+2021: 276**

It's been six months since the US government engaged in an unprecedented airlift of over 120,000 people from Kabul, Afghanistan and resettlement programs such as STVCC's were called to accept those fleeing for their lives.

STVCC responded to the call and accepted almost 300 Afghan evacuees in addition to the 400 refugees our agency committed to resettling this year.

We were able to do this because of your generous support.

STVCC has welcomed 278 Afghans to Lansing, **almost half of them children.**

Our staff provided 59 airport pickups, the majority of them while most of us were asleep for the night. Those seeking refuge include four newborns (12 more are on the way!) a doctor, two dentists, a nurse, a chef, a journalist, and four pilots. Working with our community partners, **we've provided 12,000 meals.**

Every person we've resettled has family in danger in Afghanistan. STVCC's **Immigration Law Clinic is hard at work** filing the legal documents necessary to bring those loved ones to safety and to establish permanence for those already here.

Your generous support is still needed!

Visit stvcc.org to make a financial gift today. You can also help purchase household necessities by visiting our Amazon and Walmart wish lists!

Thank you for your outpouring of love!

