

NEW HEIGHTS



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM
JOE GARCIA
STVCC & CRCC CEO

*Grow in
Grace and Knowledge*
— 2 PETER 3:18 —





Grow in Grace and Knowledge.

— 2 Peter 3:18

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.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steven Japinga, *Chair*

Elizabeth Fisher, *Vice Chair*

Kenneth Klein, *Treasurer*

Patricia Hepp, *Secretary*

Joseph Becsey

Stephanie Becsey

Mark Cosgrove

Deacon James Kasprzak

Krista Krause

Bruce Maguire, III

Brian Murray

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Friends,

It is with great honor and privilege that I became Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of St. Vincent Catholic Charities (STVCC) on May 1, 2023.

For the past 75 years, STVCC has been a pillar of strength and hope in our community with its notable programs and services: Refugee Services, Foster Care and Adoption, and their Immigration Law Clinic.

In addition to becoming the CEO of STVCC, I am also the CEO of Cristo Rey Community Center (CRCC) since 2013. CRCC offers safety-net services, including primary medical care, substance abuse disorder counseling, financial education services, a food pantry, a community kitchen, a clothing room, and a personal needs pantry.

I am humbled and passionate about leading both agencies, with over 120 years of combined experience assisting our community.

With this responsibility, I also want to acknowledge the many changes over the last year. Emotions have been widespread – including excitement, apprehension, and anticipation – from me, our staff, and our Board of Directors from STVCC and CRCC.

That said, I wanted to share a biblical passage with you that recently resonated with me and what I feel embodies the next steps for these agencies: **“Grow in Grace and Knowledge” (2 Peter 3:18)**. While it’s been a year of change, it’s also been a year of growing in humility, grace, and knowledge.

It is my vision, along with the Board of Directors from STVCC and CRCC, that we lead the effort to officially combine agencies to create one cohesive Catholic agency to serve Lansing and greater Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties.

STVCC and CRCC’s missions, visions, and values align with the common goal of Providing Help and Creating Hope. By joining into one Catholic agency, the combined organization will create an opportunity to serve more individuals and families seeking assistance with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

While there is no specific timeline, in the months to come, our STVCC and CRCC agencies will take steps to begin collaborating to enable our combined agency to expand the following services:

- Expansion of the existing medical practice;
- Opening of a dental practice;
- Re-opening of the Children’s Home under Cristo Rey Community Center

As we look forward to this collaborative effort, my focus and commitment will continue to provide life-changing services to our community through STVCC and CRCC. Both teams have already begun working together as a part of this thoughtful integration process.

I need to note that combining our two agencies will not happen overnight. Additionally, our names and branding will not change until all legal and regulatory requirements are complete.

I hope you join in celebration with me as we progress with this wonderful opportunity to grow in grace and knowledge to serve our community. I promise to keep you updated as the progression to expand our services occurs.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me at jgarcia@crstoreycommunity.org.

Abundant blessings to you all,

Joe Garcia
STVCC and CRCC CEO



Save
the
Date!

ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC CHARITIES
19TH ANNUAL GUARDIAN SOCIETY
FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
TO DONATE@STVCC.ORG OR CALL
(517)323-4734 EXT. 1207



WITH SPECIAL GUEST
FR. RYAN RILEY
Pastor, St. Martha Parish

SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF PEACE

IN THE SPIRIT OF TRADITION, ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC CHARITIES (STVCC) HELD A PEACE POLE DEDICATION CEREMONY ON JUNE 20, WORLD REFUGEE DAY, TO SHOW THEIR IMMENSE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO **THE DAVIES PROJECT** FOR PROVIDING RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION TO STVCC'S REFUGEE FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY EXPECTING MOTHERS, AND FOR REPRESENTING THE WELCOMING FACE OF THE LANSING COMMUNITY.



L to R: Ben Cabanaw, Joe Garcia, Pamela Miklavcic and Veronika Parsamova

THE PEACE POLE IS A MONUMENT

displaying the message: May Peace Prevail on Earth. On each of its four sides, eight different languages are represented, providing a reminder for the community to visualize and pray for world peace.

The languages reflected on the Peace Pole this year are English, Spanish, Ukrainian, Swahili, Arabic, French, Dari, Burmese, representing the languages spoken by the majority of STVCC's clients this year. Every year, STVCC's Refugee Services looks forward to recognizing the contribution of community partners by awarding a Peace Pole.

In celebration of World Refugee Awareness Week and World Refugee Day, STVCC dedicated their 2023 Peace Pole to The Davies Project for Mid-Michigan Children, led by Pamela Miklavcic, Founder and CEO of The Davies Project.

At the dedication ceremony, Veronika Parsamova, STVCC's Refugee Services Community Outreach Coordinator, began with an opening statement, followed with remarks by Ben Cabanaw, State Refugee Coordinator, Joe Garcia, STVCC and CRCC CEO, Pamela Miklavcic and Shukriah, a client of STVCC's Refugee Services and a new mother who benefited directly from the services provided by The Davies Project.

STVCC paid tribute towards The Davies Project and their dedicated volunteers for providing reliable, safe, and trustworthy transportation to their refugee families and, its especially noteworthy to mention, how The Davies Project assisted pregnant refugee women to and

from their medical appointments. The Davies Project undoubtedly stands by STVCC's mission to "welcome the stranger" and STVCC couldn't be more appreciative to Pam, her staff and their volunteers! The Davies Project has shown our newcomers a warm-hearted welcome as they have integrated into the Lansing community, and STVCC could not have thought of a more deserving agency to receive this year's 2023 Peace Pole.

"This is an organization whose volunteers help people in need get better access to medical services by transporting them for free," said Veronika. "It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a community, like Lansing, to show the great promise of the American dream. We continue to celebrate The Davies Project and their volunteers for their dedication and passion in supporting our mission."

Pamela remarked, "Receiving this year's Peace Pole from St. Vincent's Catholic Charities is a humbling recognition that carries with it a lot of weight and responsibility. On behalf of everyone who works for, or volunteers at, The Davies Project, and on behalf of the hundreds of families—including many refugee families—whose seriously ill children we serve with free rides to medical care, I offer my heartfelt thanks for this recognition.

We all have family histories—some known to us, some unknown—that have contributed to this messy yet lovely place we call home. Our country is a patchwork of ideas, beliefs and customs that make us truly unique and beautiful. It is why we must always welcome newcomers, just as our country welcomed our ancestors. We now join the Greater Lansing Food Bank, Lansing City Hall, St. Casimir Parish, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Forest Community Health Center with Peace Poles awarded by STVCC. We join 200,000 other Peace Poles across the globe (in 200 countries). What a beautiful tradition, and a lovely way to spread peace and kindness," said Pam.

Mahatma Gandhi famously said, "The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems." Welcoming faces and devoted hearts, as shown to us by The Davies Project, are doing just that – demonstrating just what we are capable of.



2800 West Willow Street
Lansing, Michigan 48917

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Introducing STVCC's New CEO, Joe Garcia

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

 @St.VincentCatholicCharities

 st.vincentcc

stvcc.org • (517) 323-4734

WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP!!

PLEASE CONSIDER HOSTING A COLLECTION DRIVE FOR OUR REFUGEE FAMILIES ARRIVING IN LANSING!

***Twin bed sheet sets**

***Bath towels**

***Pots & pans**

***Silverware sets**

***Cereal bowls**

***Blankets**

PLEASE NO THROWS

***Trash bags**

***HIGHEST NEEDS**

TO COORDINATE
a local pick-up,
contact STVCC
Facilities Team.

CONSIDER SHIPPING
items directly to
STVCC via Amazon.

For any questions,
contact **517.323.4734**
ext. x1050

Laundry baskets
Toilet plungers
Drinking glasses
Toothpaste

Mop buckets / mops /
brooms
Body lotion
Serving spoons/spatulas

Shower curtains
Pillows
Hangers
9x13 baking pans

DELIVERY ADDRESS: 2800 West Willow Street, Lansing, MI 48917