

THE GOOD SAMARITAN —

Your donations help DCJH care for the needy and the vulnerable

Teaching students can be humbling. I teach parish school of religion (PSR). I feel humbled preparing for class more so than the challenge of keeping students' attention during class. Preparing a lesson on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37) came to mind. Refreshing my memory of parable details, I reflected on the question: Who is my neighbor? Thoughts of people who live in my neighborhood, those in my parish, friends, and co-workers came to mind.

In the parable, it's likely the Good Samaritan did not know the man he helped. The man attacked by robbers was leaving Jerusalem, so he was likely an Israelite. The man who took care of him was a Samaritan. Israelites despised Samaritans, yet the Samaritan helped the Israelite. The Samaritan gave an innkeeper coins to continue caring for the man, and even offered to repay the innkeeper if more was spent while caring for the victim. Jesus identified the one who helped the person in need as "neighbor." Then He gave the commandment to "Go and do likewise." A humbling moment as I think — as a mother, teacher, parishioner, and community member, how do I model the Good Samaritan?

The weekend of Nov. 20-21 we each have an opportunity to donate to the Diocesan Campaign for Justice and

Hope (DCJH). Donations to DCJH are granted to organizations that care for people with low-income and the vulnerable. Every parish takes up this collection because every community has people in need. Within our diocese over 159,000 people live below the poverty line. Neighbors, possibly friends, and people we do not know, are hungry, need clothing or a warm winter coat, need shelter, or need encouragement and education when choosing life for their unborn baby.

The following pages have examples of organizations that help the needy with funds granted from the Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope — organizations serving as that innkeeper in the Good Samaritan parable. Donating to DCJH we have an opportunity to model the Good Samaritan, be a neighbor, and meet Jesus' command to, "Go and do likewise."



Donna Moore is the director of Pro-Life Activities, Missions, and Special Ministries. The Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope is one of those special ministries.

Crisis Nursery installing new flooring, thanks to DCJH

EFFINGHAM COUNTY — The mission of Crisis Nursery of Effingham County is to prevent and protect children from trauma, abuse, and neglect through pro-

viding a 24/7 365 days a year emergency childcare program for children from birth through 6 years of age. All services are free of charge and open to anyone in need. Since 2017 Crisis Nursery of Effingham County has provided care to more than 750 children with nearly 36,000 hours of supportive care to children in need.

How to give to the annual Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope

The DCJH collection will be taken up in parish churches in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on the weekend of **Nov. 20-21**. If you miss the opportunity to help through your parish collection, you can still contribute by mail or by going to www.dio.org/dcjh.

The mailing address is: **Catholic Pastoral Center, DCJH; Pro-Life Activities and Special Ministries, 1615 West Washington St., Springfield, IL 62702**

It is with tremendous gratitude that the Crisis Nursery Center says thank you to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for granting funds from the Campaign for Justice and Hope. The money is being used to install new flooring in the infant space of the childcare area at the Crisis Nursery. “Our infant area is the highest trafficked area in our program, as the most common ages of children we serve are between 0 to 2 years of age,” explained Director Meghan Rewers. “This area was in dire need of new flooring to make the space safer and more accommodating to the children we serve.”

Crisis Nursery of Effingham County could not continue to provide services without support and opportunities such as the DCJH program. They are thankful for continued support in helping keep children safe and families strong in Illinois! ✨

DCJH provides materials to promote life, assist expectant mothers

EFFINGHAM — The Family Life Center in Effingham is using DCJH grant funds to provide parenting and pregnancy education to clients. *Bright Course* materials are being used to teach young expectant mothers the basics of parenting and pregnancy as well as more advanced topics. This material is available in English and Spanish, which is helpful in reaching members of

the Hispanic community.

The Family Life Center is also using grant funds to purchase an educational and texting system to give clients resources to choose life instead of abortion. “We know that eight in 10 women choose life if we can get them



to come in for an ultrasound and provide education against abortion,” said Development Director Linda Spindler. This education texting and video system allows the center to communicate with abortion vulnerable women and share Biblically based principles with clients along with education about the long-term negative effects of an abortion.

Grant funds from DCJH has enabled the Family Life Center to give women hope and encouragement to choose life. ✨

HACSM — not just a food pantry

HIGHLAND AREA — What started out as a food pantry in a local church, has grown into a full-fledged social services agency. Staff and volunteers of the Highland Area Community Service Ministry (HACSM) say that they are still a “food pantry first,” but the range of assistance and services available is quite extraordinary.

The service area for HACSM includes the Highland School District #5 (Highland, Grantfork, Alhambra, New Douglas, Pierron) and the towns of Marine and St. Jacob. From January to September of 2021, an average of 228 individuals from 170 families used the food pantry each month. Households can use the pantry up to twice a month, bringing their total average servings to 317 individuals each month. Volunteers from the community are the backbone of the food distribution detail at HACSM. Fifteen key volunteers fill positions on a weekly basis with an additional four to eight slots filled each week by on-call volunteers from area churches.

Five case managers are on staff part time and available Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Case managers help clients apply for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food stamps), medical benefits, energy assistance (LIHEAP) or rent assistance. During the year, special programs for Easter baskets, school supplies, birthday gifts, and Christmas Adopt-A-Family provide additional support for registered families.

Grants are a major source of income for the agency. The Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope allows HACSM the opportunity to offer unique programs to support their clients. Workshops funded by DCJH funds were a favorite of clients prior to COVID restrictions. HACSM currently uses DCJH funds to purchase ceramic heaters, box fans and cleaning products for distribution to program participants. In the past DCJH funds have been used to fund a core program offered to clients. Vital Records is a HACSM mainstay, helping clients obtain official documents, renew driver’s licenses, and attain GEDs. “Updating a resume, applying online for the license plate discount for seniors and disabled, or decoding paperwork that seems complicated, our agency seems to do it all,” said HACSM Executive Director Diane Williams.

The past 18 months have been challenging to say the least. “COVID has had our agency thinking of creative means to provide for the needs of our community while keeping our volunteers healthy and safe,” said Williams. “A drive-thru pantry was established early on and continues to this day.”

The core of HACSM’s mission is still a food pantry, but as the needs of the community grows and changes, services they provide will do the same. HACSM is very appreciative and humbled by the generous giving of parishioners in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois which enables them to meet the needs of the vulnerable in their community. ✨

Prairie Council on Aging helps seniors

MORGAN, CASS, SCOTT COUNTIES

— Prairie Council on Aging is grateful for funding from the DCJH program. The Council serves over 40,000 meals annually to more than 200 homebound seniors. Prairie Council on Aging is using DCJH funds to purchase food to provide meals to homebound seniors in Morgan, Cass, and Scott Counties.

While delivering food volunteers ensure seniors are not only deliv-

ered a hot, ready to eat meal, but also combat social isolation by visiting with clients. A quick, "How are you?" really helps lift spirits. ✦

Choices Pregnancy and Health Center says thank you

PARIS — For all who serve within Paris' Choices Pregnancy and Health Center, the gift of funding through the DCJH represents tangible confirmation that God is actively "prospering and providing a future" for our community. We are both excited and grateful!

DCJH funding has helped to lay a foundation that attempts to address the challenges of poverty, substance abuse and teen pregnancy that confront our youth. Money received from the diocese has enabled Choices to transform a storage room into a place consecrated to Christian fellowship, mentorship, and educational programming on topics such as abstinence, marriage, goal setting and decision making.

Choices new community room is named "Evelyn's Place." It is dedicated to the memory of Evelyn Ring, founder of Right to Life of Edgar County and mother of Father Joe Ring, a priest of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. ✦

Springfield Right to Life begins sonogram program

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield Right to Life used DCJH funds to start their Two

Hearts Sonogram Program. They offer sonograms to women to show them the life existing in their womb, in the hope that they would choose life for their unborn children. Statistically 80 percent of women who see their unborn child choose life for the baby.

The Two Hearts Sonogram project made great strides thanks to funding from DCJH.

Springfield Right to Life has obtained the sonogram machine and trained four volunteers on its use. These volunteers will in turn train others. They have established a room for privacy and comfort for their clientele to use, along with a supportive friend.

With newly hired Executive Director MaryJean Sheetz, and Two Hearts Sonogram Director Natalie Corbett, Springfield Right to Life will begin establishing contacts with schools and churches, giving presentations to raise awareness, and working with volun-



teers to help pregnant women during their critical time of decision-making. ✦

DCJH helps fund program for hungry children

STAUNTON — The Staunton Helping Hands Center (SHHC) is a food pantry in Staunton that reaches hundreds of individuals every month. This year with funds received from the Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope (DCJH) SHHC focused on a project for "Helping Hungry Kids."

The food pantry partnered with the local school district to identify kids with food insecurity. These are kids that may be hungry after school and may not have an adult at home that can prepare food for them. With granted funds Staunton Helping Hands purchased easy access food items that children can open without assistance and warm up on their own, if necessary. These items are put in "Hungry Kids" boxes for designated families to pick up at the pantry and take home each week.

Staunton Helping Hands Center is appreciative to receive the DCJH grant and works diligently to source food in cost effective ways to stretch every dollar. A trip to the Helping Hands Center is a blessing to many! ✦

How to apply for a DCJH grant

If you have questions about the DCJH Campaign, please call (217) 698-8500 or email DCJH@dio.org. The DCJH guidelines and application can be found at www.dio.org/dcjh.

The 2022-2023 DCJH grant applications must be postmarked or emailed by Feb. 7, 2022. Decisions on funding and notification will be made in May 2022.

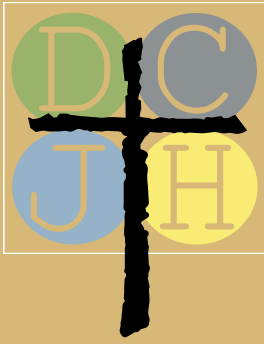
Grants will be awarded in June 2022.

2021 Grant Recipients

A Beacon of Light (ABL) Pregnancy Help Center, **Collinsville**
Collinsville Faith in Action, **Collinsville**
Community Mission Center, **Pana**
Crisis Nursery of Effingham County, **Effingham**
Family Life Center, **Effingham**
Grounds of Grace, **Springfield**
Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County, **Springfield**

Highland Area-Christian Service Ministry, **Highland**
Holy Family Catholic Church, **Granite City**
Mt. Olive Care Center, **Mt. Olive**
Prairie Council on Aging, **Jacksonville**
Society of St. Vincent De Paul of Blessed Trinity and St. Francis of Assisi Conference, **Hardin**
Springfield Right to Life, **Springfield**
St. Aloysius Parish, **Springfield**

St. Frances Xavier Parish, **Jerseyville**
St. Patrick School, **Springfield**
St. Vincent de Paul Society, **Alton**
St. Vincent de Paul / Immaculate Conception, **Mattoon**
Staunton Helping Hands Center, **Staunton**
The Parent Place, **Springfield**
"Thrive" Metro East, **Godfrey**



DIOCESAN CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE AND HOPE



Prayer for intercession of St. Teresa of Calcutta

St. Teresa of Calcutta, we pray for your intercession for our Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope. We are thankful for the generosity of our parishioners which enables organizations throughout the diocese to provide hope and give dignity to the poor and vulnerable. Inspire us to be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve as good stewards and missionary disciples.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.