

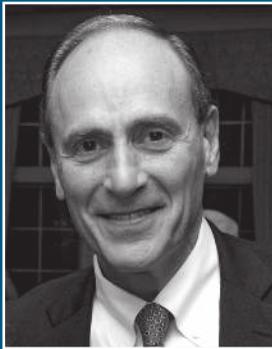


OUTREACH NEWS

A publication of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County & The Marnee and John DeVine Foundation

4925 Packard Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48108 • 734.971.9781 • www.csswashtenaw.org

SUMMER 2017



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER GREETINGS! **Jim Gajewski**

It is truly an honor to serve as the new president of this great organization.

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County has earned a fine and longstanding reputation as a highly collaborative and effective provider of social services. For over 58 years the communities within Washtenaw County have counted on the Catholic tradition of service to help all people live safe, meaningful and independent lives.

I look forward to working with our dedicated staff, community partners, and stakeholders to work with even greater diligence to effect positive change in the lives of those in need of comfort, compassionate healing and self-sufficiency.

It's inspiring to witness our cheerful staff and volunteers arrive each day to roll up their sleeves and re-experience the challenges and pleasures of serving the underserved. Equally inspiring are our financial supporters.

I'm sure there is no need for me to catalogue the many areas of growing need in our midst. Most are all too obvious. These are challenging times to be sure. Yet, we know we can count on your help to effectively tackle these challenges, one precious client at a time.

Nonprofits typically receive fewer financial donations in the summer months, and CSSW is no exception. We have successfully relied upon the generosity of our donors to continue our special mission of service. Though this is vacation season for most, it's heartening to know that our clients and meal guests will not be forgotten.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet many of you in the months to come. I hope you'll join us for our exciting, 3rd Annual, Cooking for a Cause event on October 8th. In this newsletter you'll see more information about this opportunity to have fun while supporting the CSSW mission. I hope to see you there!

Please also consider donating at this very moment to assist with pressing current needs. We can't meet these needs without your continued support. Please know that your generosity is greatly appreciated and encouraging.

And please, continue to remember those we serve in your thoughts and prayers.

Blessings and well wishes to you all during these wonderful, warm summer days!

—Jim

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COA RE-ACCREDITATION!

We are delighted to announce that Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County has achieved national re-accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA). We are especially proud of our programs that went through accreditation for the first time: Family Assessment Clinic, Huron Valley Ambulance, Foster Care and Family Time.



Re-accreditation is a tremendous achievement that demonstrates that CSSW is recognized as a provider that continues to successfully implement high performance standards and, as such, is delivering the highest quality services to all of our stakeholders. It represents the fulfillment of countless hours of hard work and the dedication of our tireless staff, Board of Directors, and leadership. It is truly a testament to all of the hard work that we do year round that we were able to achieve our re-accreditation so expediently.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, nonprofit organization that partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting appropriate best practice standards. COA Standards reflect current best practices in the field as determined through extensive literature reviews and a rigorous, multi-stage development and vetting process. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary,

public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved, or are in the process of, accreditation. Implementing COA standards means our organization is among the best in the field. We are proud to be a part of this community of excellence.

Although the formal accreditation process has been completed, our work is far from over; COA accreditation is not an end in and of itself. Rather, it is a process by which CSSW can consistently strive for and achieve new levels of excellence.

Most importantly, we thank you, our supporters, who make it possible for us to better serve our mission to seek justice, and change lives.

THANK YOU!



Our deepest gratitude to all who gave during our **Lenten Appeal**.

In times of trouble, your support provides strength to those who are falling, healing to those who are suffering, and hope to those in despair.

GET INVOLVED AT CSSW

**Don't you just wish the world was a better place?
Don't just wish. Help us *make* the world better.**

When you share your time and resources with CSSW, you change lives.
Visit our website today to learn more:

Donate Online
csswashtenaw.org/donate/

Make New Friends - Volunteer!

Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver Program

is seeking new Respite Volunteers to work with and engage clients with disabilities in their own homes.
Call 734-712-5730 or email aranusch@csswashtenaw.org to learn more.

The Oaks Adult Day Program

is seeking new Volunteer Activities Assistants to work with participants with disabilities in our Ann Arbor facility at Arbor Bridge Church.
Call 734-662-4001 or email theoaks@csswashtenaw.org to learn more.

Parents Rule



Birth Mother's Day

CSSW hosted its annual Birth Mother's Day celebration on Saturday, May 13th. This national holiday honors the too-often overlooked women who make adoption possible.

Birth mothers, adoptive families, adoptees, and other friends joined together at our Packard building to honor the enormous love and sacrifices of birth mothers. The event consisted of a luncheon, crafts, and an open-mic time for participants to share affirmations.

We are ever grateful to the student interns who assisted in coordinating this event, as well as the many community donors who provided food and dessert for the luncheon.

Foster Care

Every child deserves a loving, supportive, and safe home where their creativity, dreams, and curiosity can take root. Every child deserves to be fed, clothed, and cared for without fear or punishment. Every child deserves to be hugged and told that they are loved.

Unfortunately, this is not what every child receives.

Currently in Michigan, there are approximately 14,000 children in foster care because their own homes

did not provide the security every child deserves. Working one-on-one with birth parents, foster parents, and the children themselves, our case managers work tirelessly to be the voice and advocates for these children.

But to do that, counselors must begin with the birth parents. The problems that bring children into foster care stem from challenges with substance abuse, housing, employment, mental health, and/or medical issues. Our case managers help these parents access community services and resources to help alleviate these problems.

Additionally, case managers work with both birth and foster parents to make sure services are in place for children who are experiencing academic, mental health, and/or behavioral issues. Case managers and foster parents represent the child's interests at school meetings, therapy sessions, medical appointments, and in any other setting where parental input would be needed.

The primary goal of our foster care program is to achieve permanent placement for the child in a timely manner. Ideally, this goal is met through reunification with birth

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Nurturing Families

Mother's Day was extended to Monday this year for the families in our Nurturing Families monthly Play Group and Parent Advisory Council. When parents were questioned about the most popular element of the monthly meetings, a variety of benefits were noted: time for parents to relax and socialize with each other while their children played; opportunities to swap stories and learn parenting tips; access to the 'Giveaway Table' packed with freebies, such as diapers, clothing, and bottles; and last but not least, a delicious pizza lunch.



During this Monday celebration, families, including some grandmothers, enjoyed a special Play Group party to honor the life-changing work moms and caregivers do every day. Each mother was given a beautiful long-stem rose to remind them of how important and special they are.

Nurturing Families is accepting new families! Expectant mothers and/or parents of children up to three months of age, residing in Washtenaw county, are eligible for a screening assessment. Contact Sheila Schaaf at sschaaf@csswashtenaw.org to learn more.

The Marnee & John DeVine Foundation LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dorothy Farhat

On Friday, May 12, the Marnee and John DeVine Foundation honored Mrs. Dorothy Farhat with the prestigious DeVine Leadership Award. The celebration at Barton Hills Country Club was as gracious and



Dorothy and Dr. Sid Farhat

elegant as the award recipient herself. Members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, including Marnee DeVine, joined Mrs. Farhat's family in expressing their gratitude and admiration for a woman who has devoted her life to service and philanthropy. Governor Rick Snyder also honored Mrs. Farhat with a special tribute on behalf of the people of the State of Michigan.

Dorothy's recognition follows a lifetime of achievement in the realm of giving. Building on her professional work as a nurse, Dorothy became involved in the Washtenaw County Medical Auxiliary and the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Medical Auxiliary Groups. In 1982, she joined the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball benefit committee. As Chair for the Holiday Ball in

1990, Dorothy implemented new processes for corporate sponsorship and for underwriting the event's expenses. Thanks to Dorothy's model, the benefit has raised more than \$1 million in funds annually over the past several years. Dorothy also served as the Chair for the Hospital's Special Events Committee; as well as the Vice Chair, and subsequently Chair, of St. Joe's Development Council, where she continues to serve.

Dorothy believes beauty offers medicine of a different kind. In 1972, she became a member of the Friends of the University of Michigan Museum of Art. She was accepted into the first UMMA docent program in 1975, where she worked for 32 years, several of which were spent serving on the docent board. She also served on



Dorothy Farhat and Judy Johns

the UMMA Friend's Board in several capacities, eventually becoming its president. Dorothy continues to support the art museum, and she is presently a Docent Emeritus.

Dorothy has been a member of the Board of Trustees for the DeVine Foundation, the fundraising arm of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County, since its inception in 1992.

She served as the Board's first Vice President from 1992-1998, and she has since served as Board Emeritus. Dorothy co-chaired the Foundation's first endowment campaign, and she co-founded the Fall Festival of Music, establishing a fundraising tradition that has raised more than \$1 million.

The Marnee & John DeVine Leadership Award was created in 2015



Dr. Mark Falahee, Dorothy Farhat, and Karen Falahee

to recognize individuals or entities who, through their leadership and vision, have mobilized individuals, institutions, and causes, significantly transforming nonprofit and philanthropic efforts in Washtenaw County. The Leadership Award is presented bi-annually.

Presenters at Dorothy's celebration emphasized not only her impressive accomplishments, but also the critical nature of the work done every day at Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County. Compassion, devotion, and



The Farhat Family

Dorothy Farhat

generosity took center stage for a community determined to keep building and giving, no matter how bleak the circumstances. As Mrs. Farhat observed during her acceptance speech, the “warmth” in the room was palpable. Indeed, The Marnee & John



Garry and Barbara Faja with Marnee DeVine

DeVine Foundation received more than \$38,000 in tribute gifts and philanthropy to honor this exceptional community leader.

This beautiful evening would not have been possible without the contributions of Event Chair Mrs. Judy Johns, the steering committee, the Farhat family, the Barton Hills Country Club staff, the Paul Keller Orchestra, and Patrick Adams photography.



Dorothy Farhat and new CSSW President, Jim Gajewski

BOARD NEWS

Welcome New Members!

Tom Buiteweg

Mr. Buiteweg is a partner with the Hudson Cook law firm in their Ann Arbor Office. His practice focuses on providing compliance advice on consumer financing and lease matters to financial institutions. Besides being a regular participant in several professional organizations, Mr. Buiteweg is also an active member St. Mary's Student Parish, and previously served on the St. Francis of Assisi Finance Council, and the Lake Forest Lot Owners Association Board. His skills as both a lawyer and a CPA will be a critical asset during his term at CSSW.

Laura Conlin

Both Mrs. Conlin and her husband, Dan Conlin, boast deep Ann Arbor roots and a rich family history of involvement and leadership at CSSW and the Marnee & John DeVine Foundation. Mrs. Conlin also brings her experience as a project manager for Edwards Brothers Malloy, as well as her work with the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop and the Family Learning Institute. Mrs. Conlin has actively helped with event planning at CSSW for many years.



Toni Cotter

Ms. Cotter's work as an advertising director at the TSCADV firm, as well as her extensive experience with non-profits, will be indispensable for promoting CSSW. She currently serves on the Boards of Saline Main Street and Expert Property Management, Inc., in the role of president, and she is a member of St. Andrews in Saline.

Ed Frutig

Mr. Frutig left the world of automotive engineering, sales, and management to devote himself to the beautiful Frutig Farms, a scenic venue for events and weddings in Ann Arbor. He currently serves as the president of Key of David Ministries, and has hosted fundraisers for Mott's Children's Hospital. Mr. Frutig cites his 'heart for giving,' his love of Jesus, and his strong background in business and marketing as his reasons to serve on the Board.

Janice Trouba

Having previously worked as a Chief Financial Officer at a publicly-traded bank, Mrs. Trouba has devoted much of her retirement to volunteering at her home parish, St. Francis of Assisi, as well as at Father Gabriel Richard High School. Mrs. Trouba currently serves on the Board of Directors of LACASA, and has recently joined the Board of Directors of the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop.

Family Time

Family Time is a program which offers supervised parenting sessions in cases where it may not be safe for one parent to be alone with their children. Most of these cases are court ordered and often related to domestic violence.

Tanya's situation was a little different; at 3 years old she lived with her dad and got to see her mom for a few hours each week at Catholic Social Services. Tanya's mother Deana had severe mental health issues and as much as she loved her daughter, was not able to provide a safe environment for Tanya even for an afternoon.



For many families in this situation, Tanya wouldn't be able to have a relationship with her mother. CSSW staff stayed in the room each week while Tanya and her mother played games and told stories. Once in a while, staff might help mom stay on track and avoid conversations or situations that might seem scary to Tanya. Mom gained confidence as Tanya was thrilled to see her every week.

Last week Tanya didn't feel good at all, but came to Family Time and ran right into her mother's arms to be snuggled and comforted. This time of bonding, essential to Tanya's development, might not seem extraordinary to other families, but for this mother and daughter was a profound milestone that nurtured the spirit and psyche of both. What seems as natural and ordinary as a mother caring for her daughter could not have happened without the safe, secure and supportive environment offered by the Family Time program and their skilled staff. The limitations of Deana's ability to safely parent Tanya might never go away, but her influence on Tanya's future cannot be underestimated. This experience at Family Time offers the best chance of instilling it with a positive and rewarding foundation.

Continued from page 3

parents who have successfully met the legal requirements. Failing that, permanent placement is sought through adoption, often with the foster family. The child's well-being and safety guide every decision.

Foster parents play a vital role in lives of children who have suffered significant neglect, abuse, and trauma. They invest in the children as if they were their own, while continuing to work toward reunification with the birth family.

We are always looking for individuals, couples, and families who are looking for a way to help their community and the families within them.

Foster parents have a tough job but they make a world of difference.

Qualifications of a foster parent/family include:

- Good moral character
- Ability to physically, mentally, and emotionally provide for the needs of foster children
- An understanding of the needs of children
- A willingness and ability to work with the child's birth family
- Completion of all required trainings

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please contact us at 734-971-9781 ext 448, or fill out the form at www.csswashtenaw.org/pregnancy-adoption/foster-care/foster-care-orientation-meetings/ to request a spot at one of our orientation meetings.

GRANTS AWARDED

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Senior Services

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

General Operations
Youth and Family Programs

James A. and Faith Knight Foundation

Intentional Communities of Washtenaw

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Offender Success Program (previously Prisoner Reentry)

Victims of Crime Act

Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center

Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention Treatment Board

Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center

Edward F. Redies Foundation

Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center



CSSW is delighted to announce the opening of a branch of the Packard Health Clinic at our main service building in Ann Arbor. Nurse practitioner Katherine Hoffman, FNP-BC, is now providing a variety of primary care services for our clients, as well as for the general public. These services include: physicals, chronic disease management, pelvic exams and pap smears, and acute visits.



Katherine Hoffman, FNP-BC

The clinic schedule is as follows:

Monday 8:30 AM- 4:30 PM
Tuesday 12:30 PM-5:00 PM
Wednesday 1:00 PM-8:00 PM
One Saturday a month, TBD

Our partnership with Packard Health Clinic was devised to create new ways to serve our community. The clinic is especially helpful for our clients, who now can conveniently receive healthcare at the same location they are receiving our other services.

Appointments can be made through CSSW by calling 734-971-9781 ext. 0.

Please welcome Ms. Hoffman and the Packard Health Clinic to our CSSW family!

DIOCESE NEWS

Spread the word: The Lansing Diocese has launched a campaign to encourage more people who need counseling to seek help at Catholic Charities agencies.

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ANGER • DRINKING • DRUGS • GAMBLING

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Event Chair
Judy Turner

Honorary Chair
Steve Garagiola WDIV-TV

Cooking for a Cause

Sunday, October 8, 2017

4:00-7:00 PM

Mark your calendar! The Marnee & John DeVine Foundation's annual 'foodie fest' is just a season away. Local celebrities and leaders will join Washtenaw's hottest cooks in a battle for the coveted Top Chef award.

Want to get involved? Contact the CSSW Development team at 734-971-9781 x313 or development@csswashtenaw.org

