

# Faithfully *Forward* »

A Publication of Catholic Charities

Spring 2025



## COMMUNITY **LIVING**

### Home, heart, and hope in Marquette County

Catholic Charities' Community Living Program (CLP) is committed to enhancing the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Marquette and Green Lake counties. Through two licensed

four-bed adult family homes, a three-person home, and personalized drop-in support, we nurture an environment that champions independence, dignity, and personal growth.

CLP is built on a consumer-directed approach, tailoring

support to each person's unique talents, preferences, and aspirations. We help develop daily skills, foster social connections, and open doors to meaningful community

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## Our Mission

To demonstrate Christ's love and justice by caring in faith for the human family.

## Our Vision

We envision a community where individuals and families thrive, nurtured by our unwavering compassion rooted in faith.

## Our Values

Compassion • Respect • Humility  
Stewardship • Community

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## Board of Directors

### LEADERSHIP

Bishop Donald Hying  
Fr. Tait Schroeder  
Michael Wick

Shawn Carney, Executive Director

### OFFICERS

Megan McDermott, Chair  
John Feller, Vice Chair  
Kyle Schwarm, Secretary

MaryJo Steeber-Higgins, Treasurer  
Patrick Flesch, Immediate Past President

### DIRECTORS

Tina Ahedo • Richard Bennett  
Mike Jacques • Rosario Perez • Vicky Thelen  
Michele Trewitt • Fr. Michael Wanta  
Paul Wrycha

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## Recent Grants Awarded

Aidan Sweet Isintu Foundation  
5 Door Recovery

Oakwood Foundation  
Care Team Ministry

## FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# We need your help to sustain The Beacon

**F**aced with a surge in demand and a space that's simply too small, The Beacon is working tirelessly to support our brothers and sisters who are experiencing homelessness.

In 2024, our daytime homeless shelter in Madison saw unprecedented demand, with 1,596 new individuals seeking help – many confronting a housing crisis for the first time.

Our guests need comprehensive assistance across housing, healthcare, mental health, and employment services. Over the past year, we coordinated more than 3,600 referrals to trusted partner agencies.

Every day, our dedicated staff and volunteers served an average of 243 guests in a facility designed for just 150.

The Beacon was founded on a shared funding model between Dane County, the City of Madison, and Catholic Charities. However, as demand for our services has grown, expenses have outpaced this original funding structure. Catholic Charities now covers 55% of The Beacon's operating costs, but maintaining this level of support is becoming increasingly difficult. Your financial gifts and volunteer hours power our work – from providing nutritious meals and safe showers to forging pathways toward stability. Please join us in our work by donating at [www.ccmadison.org/donate](http://www.ccmadison.org/donate).

Your support provides a safe space and vital connections for our guests as they pursue lasting stability.

Peace,



**Shawn Carney**  
Executive Director



# Supporting students, strengthening families

Every child deserves the opportunity to thrive both in school and beyond. Yet emotional and mental health challenges can hinder success. This is where our Building Bridges program makes a real difference.

Since its launch in 2013, Building Bridges has offered early intervention and short-term support to students in grades 4K-8. In partnership with Dane County Human Services and nine local school districts, the program provides up to 90 days of wraparound services to help families address emotional, behavioral, and social challenges before they escalate.

Our dedicated team works closely with students, parents, teachers, and school administrators to develop individualized support plans that bridge the gap between home and school. This collaborative approach not only helps students overcome personal and academic hurdles but also fosters a more supportive school environment.

"Our clients are faced with a wide array of challenges," said Catherine Brock, Manager of Family Programs for Catholic Charities. "For the families, it is a lack of foundational resources (ex. housing, food, transportation, employment, child care, respite, health care, dental care) in addition to the inability to navigate the systems around insurance and county/state/federal programs. There is generally a mental health component as well, with family members struggling with underlying undiagnosed mental health conditions."

Beyond providing direct support for students, Building Bridges trains school staff on mental health and trauma-related issues.

"Our Building Bridges teams do a great job of assessing every family's needs, formulating a plan

to address the deficits, and working alongside the parents and guardians to move the family in a positive direction," Brock said.

In 2024, Building Bridges served 281 students and 595 parents and guardians across Dane County. Your generosity makes this vital work possible, ensuring that every child has a strong foundation for success. Thank you for being a champion for our children's future.



“The most helpful part was being able to get assistance and guidance to things for me and my children. It was a wonderful experience working with Building Bridges. My voice was heard and they were always there to help with everything.”



# Our 2024 Mission in Numbers

**A**s we reflect on the past year, we celebrate the lives changed and the supporters who made it all possible. Here's a look at what we achieved together - because behind every statistic is a person, a journey, and a brighter future. Thank you for supporting our work.



### 17,306

people were served  
by Catholic Charities  
programs



### 12,434

people were fed  
by our mobile food  
pantries



### 3,128

people received  
assistance at our  
homeless shelter



### 1,042

students received  
mental health  
support



### 968

volunteers gave  
their time to support  
our mission



### 284

older adults received  
monthly visits in  
their homes



### 213

people received  
substance use  
treatment



### 184

people were served  
by our adult day  
centers



### 21

adults with  
disabilities received  
in-home care

# Two join Board of Directors

Catholic Charities is pleased to announce the appointment of Mike "Jocko" Jacques and Vicky Thelen to its board of directors. In addition, Megan McDermott, who has served on the board since 2021, has been named chair of the board.

Jacques is an award-winning and Emmy-nominated journalist with more than 20 years of experience, currently serving as the sports director at WMTV in Madison.

Thelen is a registered nurse and licensed nursing home administrator with 17 years of



**Mike Jacques**



**Vicky Thelen**

healthcare experience, currently serving as the director of nursing at Ingleside Communities in Mount Horeb.

The Catholic Charities Board of Directors plays a crucial role in guiding and supporting the organization.



**MONDAY, JUNE 9**

## 29th Annual Catholic Charities Golf Outing

**Blackhawk Country Club  
Madison, Wis.**

*Enjoy a day of golf, camaraderie, and making a difference in the lives of those in need. Don't miss this opportunity to tee up for a great cause!*



[ccmadison.org/golf](https://ccmadison.org/golf)

### SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Contact Ashlyn at  
(608) 607-4697 or  
[fundraising@ccmadison.org](mailto:fundraising@ccmadison.org)

## Welcome aboard, Ashlyn!

We are also pleased to welcome Ashlyn Mehlhaff to Catholic Charities!

Ashlyn began her role as Director of Development on Feb. 24. She comes to Catholic Charities with a breadth of experience in the non-profit arena including roles in New Orleans, Knoxville, and Pittsburgh before settling in Madison in 2015.

Ashlyn and her husband, Taylor, are blessed with three daughters, Bennett, Hollyn and Teaghan, and are members of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish. She can be reached at [amehlhaff@ccmadison.org](mailto:amehlhaff@ccmadison.org) or (608) 607-4697.



**Ashlyn Mehlhaff**

## MARQUETTE

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experiences, empowering every individual to reach their fullest potential.

Feedback from clients and families shows that our

services enhance quality of life, independence, and overall satisfaction. This success is made possible by our dedicated staff and support from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and our generous donors. While government and managed

care funding cover part of the costs, every donation is essential to sustaining our services and expanding opportunities where resources are limited.

Together, we ensure that our community members with disabilities can live with dignity and a sense of belonging.





## OUR MISSION

To demonstrate Christ's love and justice by  
caring in faith for the human family.

### Support Your Values – Make a Long Term Impact

We are compelled by faith to care for those in need of food, comfort and support. Please consider supporting Catholic Charities by leading with your values.

#### Act Now

##### **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):**

Individuals 70½+ can make tax-free gifts from their IRA, lowering taxable income.

##### **Donor Advised Fund (DAF):**

Request a grant from your DAF.

**Monthly Donation:** Set up a monthly donation online at [ccmadison.org/donate](http://ccmadison.org/donate)

#### Support in the Future

**Will:** Simple way to leave a charitable gift that supports your values beyond your lifetime.

**Life Insurance:** Name Catholic Charities Madison as a beneficiary to maximize impact and avoid estate taxes.

**IRA:** Designate Catholic Charities Madison as a beneficiary to reduce taxes while leaving a meaningful legacy.

**Contact Sandy Lampman**  
(608) 826-8096 | [fundraising@ccmadison.org](mailto:fundraising@ccmadison.org)

Catholic Charities Diocese of Madison EIN 39-0807067

## FROM THE BOARD

### Building brighter futures through faith

Over the years, my faith has shown me the importance of serving others. I've served on various boards in the past, but none of those boards were for organizations as impactful as Catholic Charities. I'm honored to be part of an organization that allows me to live out the values of my Catholic faith while working with dedicated leaders and staff who impact so many lives.



**Kyle Schwarm**  
*Board Secretary*