

## Tributes

Donations to Caritas Connections have been made in recognition of the following family and friends:

### In Honor Of:

Marie Mansfield  
Father Bryon  
Susie Haywood  
Mike Haywood

### In Memory Of:

Steve Rayhawk  
Kevin Buchanan  
Pete Rallo  
Mary Arslanian  
Greg Stevens  
Mary Ann Howley  
Bob and Jean Carmody  
Irvin Milde  
Tom Hoeber  
Raymond Weis  
Stephen Felz  
Doug Flavin

## Did You Know...

Caritas Connections is eligible for **matching gifts**. We are also now set up to receive **automatic monthly gifts via PayPal** or to take **stock donations**. Gifts of stock can be directly made from 401(k) plans or IRA accounts without needing to pay taxes on distribution—a big help if you no longer itemized because of recent tax changes. To learn more or to volunteer to help, call 314-225-2605 or e-mail: Friends@CaritasConnections.com



PO Box 31072  
St. Louis, MO 63131

NON-PROFIT MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PRESORT INC.



### Who We Are

Caritas Connections, Inc. is a faith-based organization dedicated to “connecting those who have with those who need”. Many members of our community are eager to share their blessings. Many of our less fortunate neighbors desperately require their help. The challenge is linking the gifts with the needs. We provide that vital connection—transforming compassion into charity. Members of St. Gerard Majella Catholic Church in Kirkwood, MO serve as the primary coordinators and volunteers.

**Donations may be sent to:**  
Caritas Connections, Inc.,  
PO Box 31072  
St. Louis, MO 63131

## Donations Always Welcome

Non-perishable food items, personal care needs, coats and hats are just a few of the items that we’re always happy to receive. If it’s in good shape and you’re wondering if we could use it, contact **Mary Kempa** at [marykempa2@gmail.com](mailto:marykempa2@gmail.com)

## Every Week at Caritas Connections

*Caritas Connections volunteers make over 40 pickups and deliveries every week in order to reliably connect surplus food and personal care items from our donors to those in need.*

### Our Donors:

Amighetti’s Bakery and Cafe, Bello’s Bakery, Costco, The Daily Bread, The Donut Palace, Elite Cuisine, Flowers Foods, Great Harvest Bread, Jimmy John’s (Des Peres), McArthur’s Bakery, Merb’s Candies, Panera Bread (Des Peres), Pizza Hut (Des Peres), Raterman and Associates, Sara Lee Outlet Store, Schnucks (Des Peres), Small Cakes, and Starbucks

### Our Clients:

Biddle House, Caritas Normandy, Catholic Worker Karen House, Dutchtown Care Center, East St. Louis Heart and Home, Father Dempsey’s Charities, Ferguson Senior Resource Center, Grace Hill–The Patch Center, Guardian Angel Settlement, John Paul II Apartments, Little Sisters of the Poor, Our Lady’s Inn, Our Little Haven, Rural Parish Workers, St. Agnes Nursing Home, St. Augustine–Wellston Center, St. Francis Xavier SVDP, St. John Neumann Apartments, St. Louis Crisis Nursery, St. Mary Magdalen SVDP, St. Nicholas SVDP, St. Stephen–Richwoods, Sts. Teresa and Bridget SVDP, U.S. Federal Probation Office Family Program and more....

# STAYING connected

The newsletter of Caritas Connections, Inc.

## Rain Fails to Dampen Spirits at Annual Golf Tournament

### Our Mission

*Inspired by the compassion of Jesus, Caritas Connections, Inc. continues His mission to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and help the sick, suffering and homeless.*

### Inside

- 2 Robinson Food Pantry
- 2 Caritas Cleans Up
- 2 Volunteers Needed
- 3 Appreciation Dinner Update
- 3 Client Profile: U.S. Probation Office
- 3 Volunteer Spotlight
- 4 Tributes
- 4 Every Week at Caritas

Rain had never been in the equation at previous Caritas Connections golf tournaments. That was not the case on May 18th as rain was falling early in the day. Still, 32 of the scheduled 33 groups showed up at Aberdeen Golf Course and as tee time approached, it seemed like there actually was going to be a break from the rain.

That wasn’t meant to be as rain resumed on about the 4th hole and never relented the rest of the day. At times, there were actual downpours as one group after another gave in to the elements. In the end, 13 of the 33 groups finished and the winning score of 10 under par achieved by Mark Hoff, Will Lackey, Mike Brown and Doug Stephens was remarkable given the playing conditions.

Even though the golf was for the most part, rained out, the dinner went on as scheduled though the guest speaker was sacrificed in lieu of getting all the golfers home so they could escape their rain-soaked gear. The tournament raised more than \$32,000, a little under the budgeted amount but all things considered, there was still a sense of joy and gratitude for all that this organization does.

Special thanks to the golf committee members—Brian and Libby Billhartz, Barbara Auberry, Mike Haywood, Jan Glunt and Bill Wittenauer for all their time and effort. Plans are already underway for next year’s event which Libby assures us will be rain-free, start to finish.



a note of thanks

## Robinson Food Pantry Re-Stocked Courtesy of Caritas

### lend a hand

#### VARIETY OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE

Caritas Connections is an all-volunteer organization—and we need help for a variety of tasks and endeavors.

**Back@You** is an event that takes place on Sunday, **September 16**, that needs help stuffing backpacks. To volunteer, please contact Terri Harell at [theresa.a.harrell@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.a.harrell@gmail.com) or 314-496-0725. Also, please contact Terri if you'd be willing to pick up baked goods every other Friday from Great Harvest in Kirkwood. We're still in need of more personal shoppers and volunteers to help in the garage two or three times a month. For either of those needs, email Mary Kempa at [marykempa2@gmail.com](mailto:marykempa2@gmail.com)

All of our volunteers and all of our efforts receive 'thank you' messages throughout the year. Sometimes, it's nice to recognize those who pass on those messages so we're sharing this recent email and photos from Julie Cohen, a school counselor at Robinson School in Kirkwood, Missouri.

*Here are a few pictures of the pantry. There is a before and after of the freezer from our last open pantry night. Yesterday we had someone shop and she was in tears of gratitude as she left. Thanks for all you do!*

There are so many groups, organizations and places in need of support throughout



the metro St. Louis area. We're always happy to help whenever, wherever and however we can.

## Caritas Cleans Up With Soap Donation

Two thousand bars of soap were distributed to a variety of organizations that Caritas Connections serves thanks to a generous contribution from the Keefe Group that was coordinated by Paul Scherer, Vice President at the company. The Keefe Group is the nation's leading supplier of food products, personal care products, electronic items, clothing, technology, telecommunications and software solutions to the correctional market.

When Scherer heard that a shipping container full of bars of soap had been damaged by water, donating them to a worthy organization seemed to be the best possible outcome.

"I knew exactly where the bars of soap would be put to good use," said Scherer. "I knew the boxes holding the soap were bad and couldn't be sold. But the soap, which is individually wrapped, was definitely good. So I contacted Caritas Connections."

"Father Bryon and six volunteers came out to Earth City and we loaded as many bars of soap as we could into four vans," said Scherer. "I knew when they drove off that every single one of those soap bars would be put to good use."

And indeed they were.

client profile

## U.S. Federal Probation Office—Helping Ex-Offenders Get Back on Their Feet

Many times, when ex-offenders are released from prison, they re-enter society with literally nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Many have no resources to help support them—which is where the Family Program run by the U.S. Federal Probation Office, Eastern District of Missouri tries to help.

Vashell Anderson, who helps coordinate the program, knows firsthand how important donations are to everyone involved. "Caritas Connections has been a blessing in assisting our ex-offenders and their families," said Anderson.



The U.S. Federal Probation Office keeps clothing, food and household items on hand to assist ex-offenders who are making the transition to life after prison.

"Every third Thursday in the month, Caritas brings us clothing and hygiene supplies that we distribute in a variety of ways," said Anderson. "We send items to Mers Halfway House, Dismas Halfway House and the SEMO halfway house in Cape Girardeau."

But that's just the beginning of how Caritas Connections helps assist. "Caritas has donated books and computers to our Education Department," said Anderson. "They've been a part of our Back to School drive donating educational supplies and personal shoppers have really helped out with our annual Christmas party by buying presents for the kids."

The original connection to the U.S. Probation Office came about through Judge Rodney Sippel. "From there, things have just blossomed," said Anderson. "Caritas has been very beneficial to our program and we are grateful every day for all that they do."

*The U.S. Federal Probation Office is just one of many organizations, groups and places that benefit from the many works of Caritas Connections. The more people who volunteer their time as well as donate to the organization, the more people Caritas Connections can help. The need is great. The good you can do is immense.*

## volunteer spotlight



#### GATHERING THE GOODS

Every month, six to eight pallets of groceries are delivered to the Caritas garage for distribution. They come from the Arnold Shop n' Save, where **Matt Riley**, who is the nighttime Manager of the store, gathers the items and arranges the delivery.

Matt has been coordinating these deliveries going on seven years now, helping to save Caritas hundreds, if not thousands of dollars on purchases. "I'm always on the lookout for deals and specials," said Matt. "If I can find some of our needed items on special, we can deliver a lot more for the people who need it."

Matt, who has been a parishioner of St. Gerard Majella for more than 15 years, first learned of Caritas Connections via Father Bryon. "Father Bryon used to buy groceries here and he asked me if they'd save money by buying in quantity. When I learned more about where these items were going, I was eager to help."

So a routine began that has grown as Caritas Connections has grown. Every month, Matt sets aside items like toilet paper, laundry, soap and non-perishable food items. With the growing list of personal shopper items, Matt has taken on even more responsibilities coordinating the effort.

But it's all worth it, according to Matt. "I really enjoy helping Caritas save money on items they need. And as a night manager, I'm kind of used to staying behind the scenes."

For all of his continued work, though, we want to shine the spotlight on Matt and also thank Shop n' Save for their on-going donations of soda and water for the Caritas Golf tournament.

## Volunteer Event to Return

We'll be recognizing all of the wonderful Caritas volunteers with a special event that will take place on **Saturday, October 6**, at the home of Dan and Gina Bauman, 13319 Kenroyal Drive, beginning with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Bryon at 4 pm and concluding with fellowship. Mark your calendars now!

