

Tributes

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

In Honor Of:

Penny Helmsing
Maryanne Montgomery
Jorge Tumialan
John and Eileen Hedrick
Father Bryon
Mary Kempa

In Memory Of:

Irvin Milde
Kevin Bauman
Anne Sullivan
Robert Forbes
Pat and Mary Howley
T. Pat and Kevin Manning
Tony Nacrelli
Geri Wilmes
Eileen Padberg Lee
Robert Lally
Keith Scott
Richard Rabbitt
Ann Proscino
Pat Dolan
Mark Elliott
Kevin Lamb

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



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St. Louis, MO 63131

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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 **314-504-8717** or **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.

Caritas Connections Reaches Out With Annual Appeal Message

Helping those in need in way that most charitable-based organizations cannot cited as key reason for gift giving

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.

In 2018, Caritas is projected to donate almost \$210,000 worth of food, paper products, clothing, computer equipment, along with personal care and household items. That represents an increase of more than \$30,000 over our 2017 numbers as we continue to donate over 95% of every dollar collected.

Our more than 100 volunteers now serve more than 30 organizations, providing individualized solutions that answer specific needs that aren't covered by food stamps or are readily available to support staffs who struggle to help the poor and underprivileged they serve.

The need is real. Our clients have very limited resources to serve the needy so the range of items we provide on an on-going basis makes a huge difference in so many lives. That is why Caritas is reaching out with an annual appeal message

in the hopes of raising \$50,000 by the end of the year.

To help in this fund-raising effort, Pat and Crista Barrett, as well as another generous donor, have pledged to match all donations of \$125 or more up to \$20,000!

From the beginning, our mission has been to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and help the sick, suffering and homeless. There is so much we can do. But we simply can't do it without the support of our tremendous donor base. Please consider using the enclosed envelope or go to www.caritasconnections.com to donate your gift via PayPal.

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Help Caritas While You Holiday Shop

Amazon Smile is an easy and no cost way for you to help Caritas Connections. A one-time sign-up where you designate Caritas Connections as your charity of choice means that most purchases you make on Amazon results in .05% of the cost being donated directly to Caritas. Key in this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3332934> or use the link on the Caritas website.

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Attracts A Crowd

Dan and Gina Bauman were once again the gracious hosts of a Caritas Connections Volunteer appreciation Mass and gathering that took place on Saturday, October 14th. Father Bryon celebrated Mass for the attendees and then the many volunteers of Caritas got an opportunity to learn more about how others are involved. Thanks to all of the volunteers who help make this organization continue to make a positive difference in the lives of so many people.



Back@You Event Bigger and Better



Volunteers at this year's Back@You stuffing event worked as one to pack 500 backpacks with food, personal care and clothing items that were later distributed to many of the homeless in the St. Louis metro area.

Aging Population Creates New Challenges in Care Giving

In less than two decades, the graying of America will be inescapable. In 2035, the U.S. Census Bureau projects that older adults will edge out children in population size.

Already, caregivers throughout the U.S. are feeling the strain—whether it's in home care or in the many assisted living facilities that continue to expand in number. That's on top of the many senior citizens who choose to live on their own.

Our aging population places new demands on helping those in need. For organizations like Caritas Connections, the number of organizations that could use our on-going support continues to expand. For example, we've been distributing food and personal care items to the Ferguson Senior Resource Center for several years as well as the St. John Neumann Senior Apartments which is an independent living facility.

The items we donate have continued to expand, as personal shoppers have been added to provide items like Depends and Ensure that are tailored to an older audience. Take one look at our current list and you can already see the

number of clients we serve that cater to the needs of the elderly.

The need will continue to increase. But there is opportunity as well because our aging population also means more people will have the opportunity to volunteer. Whether that's becoming a Personal Shopper, a driver, helping out with inventory management or getting involved in any of the ongoing charitable activities that Caritas participates in each year is up to you.

If you or someone you know is retired and looking for ways to get involved and help those in need, please contact Terri Harrell at 314.496.0725 or Theresa.a.harrell@gmail.com. There are a variety of ways we can put your talents to work!

The Ferguson Senior Resource Center 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.



Sock It To 'Em Again

Blue bins will be ready to accept your donations of NEW adult and children's socks at the SGM Christmas tree lot as the Fourth Annual New Sock Collection gets underway this holiday season. Please consider donating several new pairs when you get your tree! If you can't make it by and would still like to contribute or if you have any questions, contact Mark Green at markgreen73@gmail.com.

volunteer spotlight



GIVING BACK KEEPS YOU COMING BACK

When Marge Rich first began donating her time to Caritas she was primarily involved in bread pick-ups from Amighetti's and occasionally helped out with stocking items in the garage.

Each year, her involvement has increased. Currently she serves as a Personal Shopper for Our Lady's Inn and helps coordinate efforts with Lois Etling regarding Caritas' participation in the Back@You program. This year, Caritas Connections contributed 500 bags of snacks and 500 bags of personal care items to the 500 backpacks that were distributed.

"This is the third year we've been involved in the Back@You program," said Marge. "We've now got it down to an assembly line like process as we've developed a logical order for purchasing and packing all the items that go into each backpack."

Caritas Connections joined many other organizations in donating all the items to fill 500 backpacks: hoodies, hats, gloves, regular/thermal socks, flashlights, water bottles, etc., along with hand-made scarves, some of which were made by Caritas volunteers.

Marge plans on staying involved with the program and continues to help Our Lady's Inn by providing often-requested items. "No one would ever expect a new pillow would be on that list," said Marge. "But when you have pregnant women who will be spending six months at the facility, you have no idea how much a new pillow is appreciated."

Volunteers like Marge Rich continue to help Caritas Connections in our mission of connecting those who have with those who need.