

## 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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## We Need You. Can You Help?

For our volunteer program, it is crucial to continue pursuing donations, potential volunteers and yes, even boxes. Right now, we're in need of **empty boxes**. Size: no larger than baby diaper or paper ream size. Please include lids or flaps that fold. **If you would like to volunteer** to help in the garage, be a Directed Shopper or support us in any other way, email: [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, Criminal Justice Ministries, 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, 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....

### 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

# STAYING connected

The newsletter of Caritas Connections, Inc.

## 2018 Financial Report— Rising to the Challenge

### 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.*

A rise in individual and corporate contributions enabled Caritas Connections to continue to expand our reach and also better serve our existing client base with more customized solutions.

For the year, the total value of aid passed on to our clients was \$228,825—an increase of more than \$50,000 from last year's total. Food and personal care items both had more than \$22,000 increases of aid to our clients.

A lot of those increases are due to us better serving the specific needs of the organizations we serve. Thanks to our Directed Shopper Program, which now features 35 Directed Shoppers making special deliveries to 20 different organizations, we're able to provide a level of service that simply isn't available through other charitable organizations.

Our all-volunteer Directed Shoppers work in sync with our client contacts to provide specific items that fill specific needs. Sometimes, that's in the form of personal care items like Depends. Other times, it may be food items that aren't available through food stamps.

The clients we serve are grateful for our efforts and we continue to add more as the need throughout the St. Louis metro area continues to increase due to our aging population and growing gap in income disparities throughout the region.

Last year's total revenue for Caritas Connections was \$289,879. The income came from three main sources: our annual golf tournament, which grossed more than \$45,000; corporate contributions of more than \$27,000; and individual cash donations totaling more than \$184,000. Among those cash donations, Caritas was grateful for the generous donations made by Pat and Crista Barrett along with another anonymous donor who sponsored our \$20,000 challenge grant.

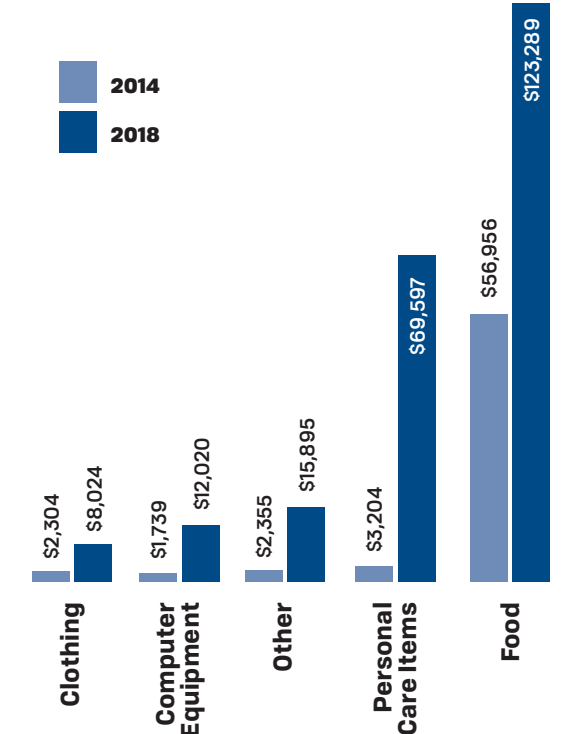
As of now, our 2019 projections show us continuing to increase our donations

of food, clothing, personal care items, computers and other items. Confidence is high that our donor base will continue to expand with both individual and corporate contributions so that we can continue to connect those who have with those who need.

Because Caritas has no salaried employees and because of donations of many required services, such as auto repair and warehouse space, we operate with extremely low overhead.

Caritas Connections' overhead is less than 5% of the total expenditures. That means that for every dollar donated, more than \$.95 goes directly to helping the poor.

### Total Spending Has Increased 343% Over Five Years



SPRING 2019 ISSUE



## Tributes

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

### In Honor Of:

Jack Craft  
Glen Doherty and Pat McBride  
Jan Glunt  
Father Bryon  
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Olderman  
Hefe Family  
Stephen Finney  
Marie Mansfield

### In Memory Of:

Ann Proscino  
Pat and Kevin Manning  
Jeff Patton  
Ollie Goedeke  
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Patton  
Delores Vomer  
Bob Hughes  
Ethel and Charles Robertson  
Carol Buschmann  
Lisa Vienhage  
Mary Jane Turek  
Michael Cronin  
John Olson Sr.  
Catherine Molini  
Paul & Ethel Parisot  
Richard Rabbitt  
Amy Presmeyer  
Blake Stabler  
John Henry Winter, MD  
Dana Burmeister  
Keith Scott  
Martin Flavin  
Mr. and Mrs. S Glamb  
Mary Ann Hess  
Norm and Ken Fitzler  
Mary Ann Walker  
Alvin Fahr  
Wayne Heermann  
Connie O'Hallaron  
Marilyn Steinhardt

## Swing Into Spring

### Seventh Annual Caritas Connections Benefit Golf Tournament Returns to Aberdeen on May 17th

Hopes are high that the storm clouds that hovered over Aberdeen Golf Club last year will be nowhere in sight as the Seventh Annual Caritas Connections Benefit Golf Tournament returns to the links-style course on Friday, May 17th.

The golf tournament is the major fundraiser for Caritas Connections throughout the year. Even though persistent rain showers curtailed some of the planned dinner activities, the tournament still grossed more than \$45,000 with all profits used to support the activities of Caritas—connecting those who have with those in need.

In addition to a variety of on-the-course contests, attendees can also take

a shot at winning a number of specially themed prize packages that will be raffled off during dinner. Tickets can be purchased at \$20 per ticket, 3 for \$50 or get 7 tickets for \$100.

To get involved, you can sign up for the tournament, invite your friends, family and coworkers, consider being a sponsor, volunteer your time or do all of the above!

Invitations were mailed in March with registration information. You can also register at [www.CaritasConnections.com](http://www.CaritasConnections.com), or call Libby at 636-236-5212. Payments can be made through PayPal. If you'd like to volunteer for the event, call Barbara Auberry at 314-497-5120.

## Area Businesses, Schools and Organizations Give Back

Caritas Connections has always relied on the generosity of many individuals as well as area businesses, schools and organizations. We're always honored when people find unique ways to help support us.

Recently, the Charles Meyer Insurance Agency set up a customer referral program where every time an existing customer referred the agency to another potential customer, a donation was made to Caritas Connections on their behalf. The result? A \$500 donation was made to Caritas in December.

Another example involves the Santa Anna Apartment residents who each year, practice their own brand of paying it forward. They take up a collection and present it to Caritas in the form of a grocery gift card.

The full-time students at St. Gerard Majella, led

*Tom Blood, Jr. of the Charles Meyer Insurance Agency presents a check to Caritas Connections for \$500.*



by Principal Chris Guthrie, also made significant contributions by collecting more than 4000 canned goods to Caritas. Eighth grade students then boxed and delivered all the cans to the Caritas garage where they were later distributed to the entire Caritas client base.

These are just three recent examples. There are many, many more. If your business, school, group or organization would like to help us in any way, whether that's through donating time, money or goods, please call 314-225-2605 or e-mail: [Friends@CaritasConnections.com](mailto:Friends@CaritasConnections.com)

## Karen House Homeless Shelter—Welcoming All to a Warm Place

Karen House Catholic Worker is a 13-room homeless shelter located in the former convent of St. Liborious parish. Founded in the 1970's as part of the

treated with compassion and with an understanding of the fears and challenges transgendered homeless face on a regular basis.



Carly Spurlock and Kevin Miller of Karen House. They are both live-in volunteers at the downtown St. Louis shelter.

Catholic Worker movement, its ideals of social transformation and justice have resulted in several unique aspects. It doesn't operate as a typical overnight shelter, with guests coming and going each day. Instead, Karen House's all-volunteer staff views the shelter as a true "home"—not just a roof over people's heads.

Karen House's guests typically stay for one to three months, with a goal that each guest's next move is to a permanent residence, not just to the next shelter. Another unique aspect is that Karen House is the only shelter in the St. Louis area that accepts transgendered guests. At Karen House they are

Caritas Connections supports Karen House via donations of personal care items for the guests, and home care supplies for the facility. Carly Spurlock is the primary contact for Caritas Connections and is one of three live-in volunteers. Often the day-to-day activity of living in, and managing a homeless shelter funded completely by donations can provide challenges and surprises. But one thing she says she can count on is Caritas Connections.

"Caritas is super reliable! No matter what else is going on, I know that on the scheduled date, an e-mail will come from Caritas' client liaison," Carly explained emotionally. "And it is a relief to know that what we request each month will arrive. Caritas is so giving, so amazing! Everyone is genuinely interested in the success of our mission."

*Karen House 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



### TWO FRIENDS HELPING EACH OTHER HELP KAREN HOUSE

It started with a small commitment—picking up bakery goods every Friday night at Great Harvest Bakery and delivering them to the Caritas Garage. Six years and a whole lot of bread later, **Christa Andrew** is still making the trip, knowing her small, but consistent commitment is in line with Fr. Tom Bryon's mantra: "Many Hands Make Light Work!"

Sharing the task with another Caritas volunteer and being able to switch weeks made the job much more manageable, especially since Christa works full time and often travels for her job.

Christa now also serves Caritas Connections as a "personal shopper" for Karen House. Once a month, she shops for personal care and home items that have been specifically requested to supplement other goods provided by Caritas.

Knowing the benefits of sharing a job, and wanting to get her friend involved with Caritas, Christa asked **JoAnn Stoda** to share the personal shopper role with her. JoAnn said yes and the two have been helping each other for the past year.

When JoAnn took on the job, she was happy to have a way to give back, but it has become much more meaningful than she anticipated. "The work is very easy and doesn't require much time," JoAnn says. "But there is something about being physically involved that creates a more emotional connection and also makes me appreciate things I normally take for granted. And seeing just how many volunteers are involved with Caritas to make so much work so easy was very inspiring!"

## Some Special Thank Yous

Thank you to Mark Green for organizing the annual sock collection at the SGM Christmas tree lot. It was overwhelmingly successful.

Thank you to the St. Gerard Majella Tuesday night Walking With Purpose Bible study group for their personal care item collection. These items are always in demand and we're grateful for your contributions.