

Tributes

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

In Honor Of:

Deacon Tim Dolan
Father Bryon
Mike Haywood
Blake Stabler

In Memory Of:

Pat Howley
Mary Ann Howley
Mark Elliott
Beatrice Fitzler
Chuck Van Camp
Pat Blanford Armstrong
Ann Proscino
Thomas Erbs
Ann Gahn
Richard Weinrich
Rob Songer
Raymond Newsham

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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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.

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....

STAYING connected

The newsletter of Caritas Connections, Inc.

Sun Shines Brightly on Annual Caritas 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.

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Blue skies and golfers galore combined to help make the 7th Annual Caritas Golf Tournament a fun-filled success, helping to raise approximately \$37,000 for Caritas.

The round began as attendees held their favorite club high in the air and had it blessed by Father Huber who is the Associate Pastor at St. Gerard Majella. In all, 34 groups teed off. Once the round was over, there were three flights of winners with the overall winning score going to a quartet of Twellmans—Mike, Tom, Scott and Adam. Another name worth noting was Pat Britt who at age 82 now ranks as the most senior winner of the Closest to the Pin contest for men.

Golf was followed by a great dinner capped by Jo Curran from The Patch who spoke about how much Caritas supports them at the food pantry and thrift store as well as providing laptops for a pilot program they are launching for computer programming.

Caritas volunteer Kathy Jones and her husband Mike enjoyed a great afternoon of golf at Aberdeen.



With Growth Comes Responsibility

Many of our readers don't know the full history of Caritas Connections. That story simply hasn't been told very often and there simply isn't room for it here!

What began in 1976 when Fr. Tom Bryon was on sabbatical from the priest-

hood and asked Flowers Bakery if they might have some leftover bread that he and his father could deliver to various St. Vincent De-Paul locations in the city has grown into an all-volunteer organization that is more than 100 strong and now helps provide a variety of items to more than 20 different charitable organizations.

Every week, we still perform a variety of 'runs'—picking up food or clothing from a variety of sources and delivering those items to a variety of charities. Our Directed Shopper program allows us to further help our clientele by delivering

specific items that simply aren't available through food stamps.

We've donated laptops to help ex-offenders better pursue their educational pursuits. We've partnered with other organizations to provide backpacks filled with everyday essentials for the homeless. We are always open to new ways to help and ready to embrace new ways to serve.

Going back to 2011, we had cash donations of \$8,716 and cash expenses of \$4,429. Compare that to a projected total of more than \$240,000 in donations for 2019 with cash expenses projected to be more than \$270,000 and you can see the dramatic growth of the organization that has occurred over the past few years. With that growth comes responsibility.

Through the years, we have never lost sight of our core mission: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and help the sick, suffering and homeless. How we do that continues to evolve. With an aging population and the gap between those who have and those who do not continuing to increase, the need for what Caritas provides is perhaps more important than ever.

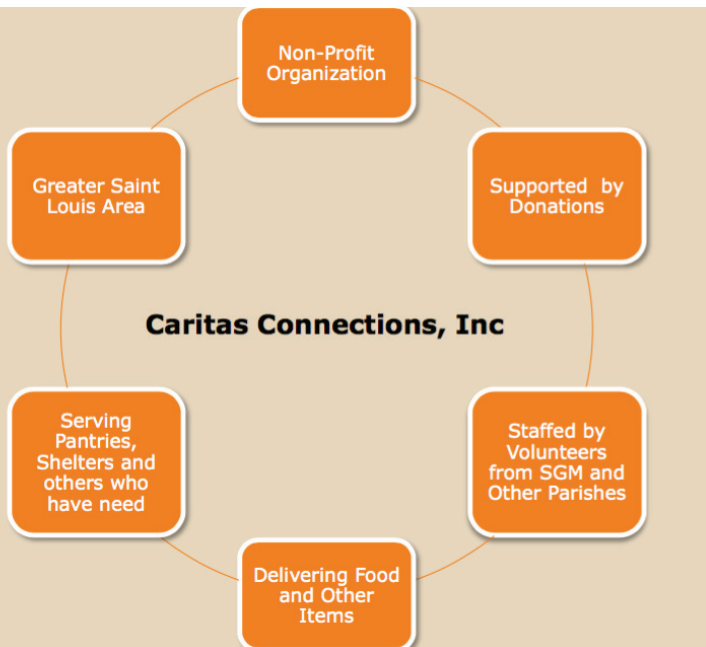
Our thanks go out to the many people who contribute to Caritas Connections in so many ways. Together, we are doing great things. But we also know there is so much more we can do.

well over two thousand items of canned food and toilet paper were donated directly to Caritas Connections. According to Ann Clayton, Student Council Moderator at Ursuline as well as an SGM parishioner, the young women of Ursuline have donated as many as 10,000 items to Caritas in less than a week over the last few years. Now that's what we call making a splash!

Ursuline Academy Makes Another Splash with Caritas

Every year, Ursuline Academy holds a 'Splash Week' where students of this all female high school design and sell their own clothing. For every sale made, two canned food items are donated as part of the transaction. Each Splash Week concludes with their annual Bubble Dance - where part of the cost of admission includes bringing in either a single roll or pack of toilet paper.

Those two items may not sound like much, but when it's all said and done,



The way Caritas Connections works is the same today as it was when this chart was created in 2012.

FCSLA Challenge Grant Met

FCSLA has supported Caritas Connections in the past with challenge grants. This year, they created a \$600 challenge grant tied to our May donations. **Any donations made to Caritas Connections in May were matched up to \$600 by FCSLA.** Thanks to all who donated and helped us meet the challenge!

Fr. Dempsey's Charities—Helping Men Transition

Since 1906, Father Dempsey's Charities has provided transitional housing and a safe place to give a fresh start to men without a home. By offering affordable room and board, men seeking a stable environment during a time of personal change receive support in their transition to independent living. What makes Fr. Dempsey's Charities special is the sense of community that the residents share with each other and staff. As Office Manager Donna Kestler described it, "We worry about our guys

twenty-four hours a day!" Residents look out for each other and provide support. "There's always someone there to help," stated resident Charlie Bean, referring to the full-time staff as well as residents who work part-time at the front desk on nights and weekends and volunteer to maintain the facility.

Donna Kestler is the primary contact for Caritas Connections and is grateful for the assistance provided. She explained that the facility is financially self-sufficient and donations help

improve the quality of life for the men. Charging for room and board assists in two ways—it is the primary source of the facility's funds, and it also provides a sense of responsibility to the residents as they transition to becoming self-sufficient. Donations from Caritas include toiletries to assist new residents when they arrive, and food which helps the facility provide healthier meals. "More meat and less starch is a blessing, especially for many dealing with diabetes," says Kestler. "Caritas always asks 'What do we need?', and then finds a way to deliver it! I don't know what we would do without them."

This Client 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.



Pictured are Charlie Bean, resident and front desk receptionist, and Donna Kestler, Office Manager, for Fr. Dempsey's Charities

Volunteer Appreciation Date Set

Gina and Dan Bauman will once again be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation get-together on **Saturday, October 12th** beginning with Father Bryon celebrating a Mass followed by food and drink afterward. Remember the date and more details to follow!

volunteer spotlight

GIVING BACK ONE SHOPPING CART AT A TIME

"I hate to shop!" confesses **MARY HUSKY**. That's not exactly the response you would expect from someone volunteering as personal shopper. And that's not the impression she gives while she describes finding a great deal on an item needed for Fr. Dempsey's Charities, the client organization she supports. The excitement in her voice causes just a bit of disbelief about her statement.

JOANNE TUREK is another Caritas Connections volunteer that shops for Fr. Dempsey's. But Joanne flat out admits that she has a "passion for shopping" and enjoys putting it to good use.

Caritas makes an extra effort to provide our client organizations with items they specifically request, and items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. Every month a liaison works with our clients to create a custom shopping list. And that's when our personal shoppers go to work to find these items at the best prices.

Both Mary and Joanne have been volunteering as personal shoppers for several years and enjoy the flexibility of working on their own schedule. Like many Caritas volunteers, the time required for their role is just a few hours each month. This follows Fr. Bryon's mantra of "Many hands make light work."

Joanne says "I'm delighted to be part of an all-volunteer organization that does such great work. It's too easy to not help!" Mary feels blessed in so many ways and volunteering for Caritas is her way of giving back. She dedicates her volunteer work to honor her three brothers.