

## 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: CaritasConnections@gmail.com

## Tributes

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

### In Honor Of:

Father Bryon  
Cay Sullivan

### In Memory Of:

Dan Bruns  
Dan Huddleston  
Gordon Hafenrichter  
Mick Goyda  
Larry Doerr  
Jerry Hogg  
Douglas Flavin  
Mary Anne Manning  
Ray Mandle  
Marian Kramp  
Eberle & Vatterott families



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## 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:

Britt's Bakehouse, Bello's Bakery, Costco, The Daily Bread, The Donut Palace, Elite Cuisine, Great Harvest Bread, Jimmy John's (Des Peres), 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, Criminal Justice Ministries, Dutchtown Care Center, East St. Louis Heart and Home, Federal Probation Office Family Program, Ferguson Senior Resource Center, Father Dempsey's Charities, Grace Hill-The Patch Center, Guardian Angel Settlement, John Paul II Apartments, Our Lady's Inn, Our Little Haven, Room At the Inn, Rural Parish Workers, St. Agnes Nursing Home, St. Augustine-Wellston Center, St. Francis Xavier SVDP, St. John Neumann Apartments, St. Louis County Probation Office, St. Louis Crisis Nursery, St. Mary Magdalen SDVP, St. Nicholas SVDP, Sts. Teresa and Bridget SVDP 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.

## Heartfelt Thank You to Gina Bauman

Caritas President steps down, sets sights on Kansas City

It was about six years ago when Gina Bauman volunteered to become President of Caritas Connections in addition to her duties as acting CFO/Treasurer.

Under Gina's leadership, Caritas Connections has greatly expanded—both in the number of the clients we serve and the many volunteers who help serve them.

Today, Caritas volunteers minister to more than 30 different clients throughout the metro St. Louis area. There are over 100 volunteers serving in a variety of capacities so that the work of Caritas seems rather seamless. But of course, it's not.

Thanks to her leadership, Gina leaves the organization on very solid ground. Even with all the growth, we continue to spend 95% of every dollar collected on purchasing the items we give away. Gina's belief in always doing what's right, and her willingness to donate so much of her time has inspired others to do the same.

The annual Caritas volunteer appreciation party tradition was begun by Gina and her husband, Dan who also served on the Caritas Board. This spring Gina assembled a Caritas Operations Manual describing all aspects of how Caritas works—collections, pickups and deliveries, board position responsibilities, key client contacts and an ever-expanding volunteer contact list before she even knew their move to Kansas City was a distinct possibility!



You know someone is doing a phenomenal job when it takes two people to fill her shoes. Tom Blood, who has been on the Caritas Board for several years will be the new president of Caritas and Mary Jo McLaughlin will be taking on the financial duties.

So, on behalf of the entire board, all the volunteers of Caritas as well as the clients we serve and ultimately, the recipients of our work—thank you, Gina. Best of luck to you, Dan, and all your family as you begin your new adventure in Kansas City—but please, remain loyal to the Cardinals!

### 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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SUMMER 2022 ISSUE

### SAVE THE DATE! Volunteer Mass and Appreciation Dinner

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 1 at 4 pm for the annual Volunteer Mass and Appreciation Dinner. This year, it will be held at the home of Tom and Chris Blood. This is a great time to celebrate the many volunteers who help Caritas help others! Stay tuned for more details via email later in the summer.

# Seeing the Big Picture with Caritas

*When you see a Caritas Connection van drive by, you know that good is being delivered.*

*Caritas Connections is blessed to have so many volunteers doing such a wide variety of tasks on different days, at different places. These activities take place throughout the year, seven days a week, with different people stepping up to pitch in—all committed to helping provide much needed food, personal care products and items to those in need.*

*One is reminded of the blind men trying to describe an elephant, each not really able to see the sum of the parts of what makes an elephant, an elephant! With that in mind, we'd like to share with you a brief overview of just what goes on every week with Caritas Connections.*



**Monday** Volunteers in the garage are busy sorting, organizing and labeling items for the Tuesday morning pickup. Pickups of bread, pastries and other items take place at five different locations. Meanwhile, items stored in the Fenton warehouse (that is so graciously donated space for us) is picked up and delivered to the garage.

Every week, items are labeled and stacked in the garage by volunteers with more volunteers doing the job of delivering all these items to our different clients.

**Tuesday** Volunteers gather early in the morning, loading vans and personal vehicles that all head out, fully loaded with deliveries, dropping off food items at nine clients. Pickups from donors are also delivered by volunteers and delivered to the garage.

The Caritas garage located at Saint Gerard Majella is continually stocked and re-stocked.

**Wednesday** This is a day when both pickups and deliveries are in full swing. Deliveries are made to some of our North side clients while pickups take place from multiple teams of volunteers at multiple locations.

**Thursday** Another team of volunteers gets to work in the garage, sorting, organizing and labeling items while volunteers who oversee collecting and storing items in our Fenton warehouse make deliveries to the garage in preparation for Friday client deliveries. Meanwhile, volunteers pick up items from six different clients and deliver them to the warehouse.

Volunteers regularly pick up and deliver items to our Fenton warehouse where space is donated, allowing us to expand the items we keep on hand.

**Friday** Another big delivery day, this one primarily to our south St. Louis clients as both vans head out to different destinations, one of which also makes pickups of food items that are brought back to the garage. Meanwhile, other volunteers are making pickups from our generous donor base.

**Saturday** A team of volunteers take turns with our Saturday deliveries,

making stops at two different client locations. And another team of volunteers take turns in making pickups from four different retail donors

**Sunday** More pickups take place at two different donor locations, delivered by a team of volunteers.

That's just a brief weekly overview. There are also regular monthly pickups and deliveries to a variety of clients—and not just food orders, either. Personal care items, laptops that have been wiped clean of information and prepared for use as well as occasional clothing items are also delivered. Add in our dedicated shoppers who deal with our clients direct, buying and then delivering specific items directly to the client they serve allows us to bring a whole new level of service to our client base.

Then, throughout the year, there are countless drives and special activities that take place where contributions from volunteers have continued to help Caritas Connections in our mission to serve those in need. Backpack collections, canned food drives, socks and winter coat collections—the list goes on—and so does our gratitude to each and every volunteer as well as our many donors—both individuals and our corporate sponsors.

So whatever part you may play in making Caritas Connections what it is today, thank you. Our work is far from done. There is so much good we can do.

If you have an idea of new ways to help the poor and underserved, please let us know. And if you'd like to volunteer in any way, we'll find a way.



# Sun Shines on Caritas Golf Tournament

A rainy May gave way to a day where the sun was shining and golfers came out in force for the Caritas Golf Tournament on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Aberdeen Golf Course.



*A winning foursome: Bill Myers, Mark Miner, Chris Grove and Tim Heidenry.*

Overall, about \$45,000 was raised on behalf of Caritas Connections, making it our largest fundraiser of the year. Special thanks go out to Brian and Libby Billhartz, members of the golf committee and the many volunteers who always go out of their way to ensure that even though the golf may not always be good, the fun and friendship certainly are!

There were three winning foursomes in three different flights: longest drive and closest to the pin winners for both men and women; and for the first time in several years, someone actually won the longest putt contest and walked away with a nice 50/50 payout.

In the end, everyone who participates in this tournament walks away a winner as each individual participant is helping us continue to carry out our mission of connecting those who have with those who need. Thanks to everyone who gave their support—especially to our corporate sponsors. Save the date for next year: May 19, 2023!

# Caritas Helps Make Mother's Day a Little More Special

The St. Louis Crisis Nursery was looking to do something special for Mother's Day and were in the midst of planning an event in Forest Park for the many moms at their City Outreach Center. So, they asked Mary Lou Zlatic, their dedicated shopper from Caritas for help.

Mary Lou did some research, looking into an initial request for bath gift sets which are rather expensive. Mary Lou then found a better way, recommending that the items in the gift sets could be purchased individually and then assembled. She then purchased clear gift bags, ribbons, toiletry packs, deodorant, and bath scrubbies, along with baby bath and shampoo wash.

The items were delivered and then a volunteer at Crisis Nursery along with some students put together the custom-made gift sets and all those Moms were happy to receive their special gift on Mother's Day. Just another way that the dedicated shoppers who serve our Caritas clients go out of their way to serve!

# Volunteer Spotlight

## RON SCHALLER

Ask Ron Schaller how long he's been making deliveries for Caritas Connections and you won't get a definitive answer. Maybe it's five years, could be six—could be more than that. What he does know is that he's truly honored to serve.

"The people are so appreciative whenever we arrive," said Ron. "That is enough right there to keep me coming back every week to help."

Ron often pairs with his long-time friend, Terry McDermott to make deliveries. They usually arrive on Friday mornings around 7 am at the St. Gerard garage to load up the van and their deliveries are done by 10:30 or so.

Their stops include St. Mary Magdalene, The Patch, Our Lady's Inn and the Dutchtown Community Center for the elderly. They also make a stop at St. Anthony's of Padua to pick up food items that they bring back to the garage for later distribution to other clients.

"It's amazing how much we can deliver in that short period of time," said Ron. And even more amazing how much it's needed. There are so many people in need," he added. "I'm happy to do what I can to help—and know the people we're helping are always glad when they see the Caritas van unloading. There's one lady who has even treated us to some of her homemade jam—talk about rewards of the job—it's delicious!"

