

# Annual Golf Tournament



Friday, May 16, 2025  
Aberdeen Golf Club

Play, be a sponsor or simply join us for dinner. To register or for more info, scan here:



## New Volunteer Coordinator

Long-time volunteer and current board member Paul Roth recently took over the role of Volunteer Coordinator when Mark Guenther stepped down from the position. He can be reached at [proth@caritasconnections.com](mailto:proth@caritasconnections.com)—if you have questions, need a fill-in or want to become a volunteer. We thank Mark for his dedication and all his hard work—as both our coordinator and long-time volunteer.



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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

## Tributes

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

### In Honor Of:

Lois Etling  
Mary Sippel  
Fr. Bryon  
SGM & Royal Acre friends  
Patricia Parker  
Ed & Marcie Wanner  
Dr. Luis M. and Andrea Tumialan  
Jim Sanders  
Joe & Penny Helmsing

### In Memory Of:

James R. Vollmer  
Liz Irby  
Ray Guzman  
Deacon Timothy Dolan  
John Hefe  
Douglas Flavin  
Robert V. Sanderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Patton  
Yvonne Reynolds  
James Pudlowski Sr.  
Charles Clayton  
Julie Carter  
Brian Harrell  
Norm & Bee Fitzler  
Eugene & Dolores Buss  
Carol Baker  
Molly Henroid  
Ann Proscino  
Buschmann/Thomas families  
Pat McBride  
Tom Doerr  
Laurie Ann O’Connor  
Anne P. Turek

# STAYING connected

The newsletter of Caritas Connections, Inc.

## 2024 Financial Report— Expanding Our Impact

### 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.*

As we began 2024, there was great optimism that we could help even more people in need throughout the St. Louis metro area. And indeed, we did.

Thanks to increased donations from current and new donors, several new grant awards and another successful golf tournament, our operating income increased by \$94,541 for the year. As a result, we were able to increase spending levels for our dedicated shoppers who continue to work directly with our clients to get the items their constituents truly need.

Our boost in funding also allowed us to begin providing food and other essential items to the Defiance location of Our Lady’s Inn. We also began serving a new client, Our Lady of Perpetual Help which is a food pantry in north St. Louis.

For the year 2024, our total income was \$396,061, consisting of individual and corporate contributions, Gifts in Kind, our Golf Tournament revenue, plus several awarded grants. For the same year, we spent \$278,713 on food, clothing, personal care items, computer equipment, diapers, pullups and wipes and other supplies that go directly to our clients.

As we began 2025, your Caritas board continues to take steps to assure we can adequately serve the client base that we currently have while always looking to take on new clients in need.

As an organization, we have always kept our expenses as low as possible. 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. Once again, our overhead was less than 5% of our total expenditures for the year. That means that for every dollar donated, more than \$.95 goes directly to helping the poor. That is a formula that we have no intention of deviating from—now or in the future.

We are both grateful and blessed for all the donations we have received this past year. We will continue to pursue funding through a variety of grants—but it is individual donations that are key to the continued success of Caritas which is why we ask that if you have given before, to please give again. Your donations truly allow us to help the poor and underserved—and there are so many more that we could be helping.

So, consider being a sponsor in our annual golf tournament. Tell others you know about the good that Caritas does. Make your donation go further by taking advantage of the Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credit. And if your employer does matching donations, please reach out to them before you donate. With your support, we will continue to connect those who have with those who need.

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SPRING 2025 ISSUE



# Give STL Day on May 8th

Over the past decade, Give STL Day has raised more than \$30 million for over 1000 local nonprofits. Last year, Caritas participated in the event for the first time, raising awareness and getting several first-time donors. This year, we're hoping for even more awareness and more potential donations.

Please consider doing these two things:

- 1. Mark your calendar and visit the Give STL website ([www.givestlday.org](http://www.givestlday.org)) on May 8th to make a donation to Caritas..
- 2. Phone, email or write a letter to five of your friends who may not know about Caritas and ask them to consider donating—it can be as little as \$5.

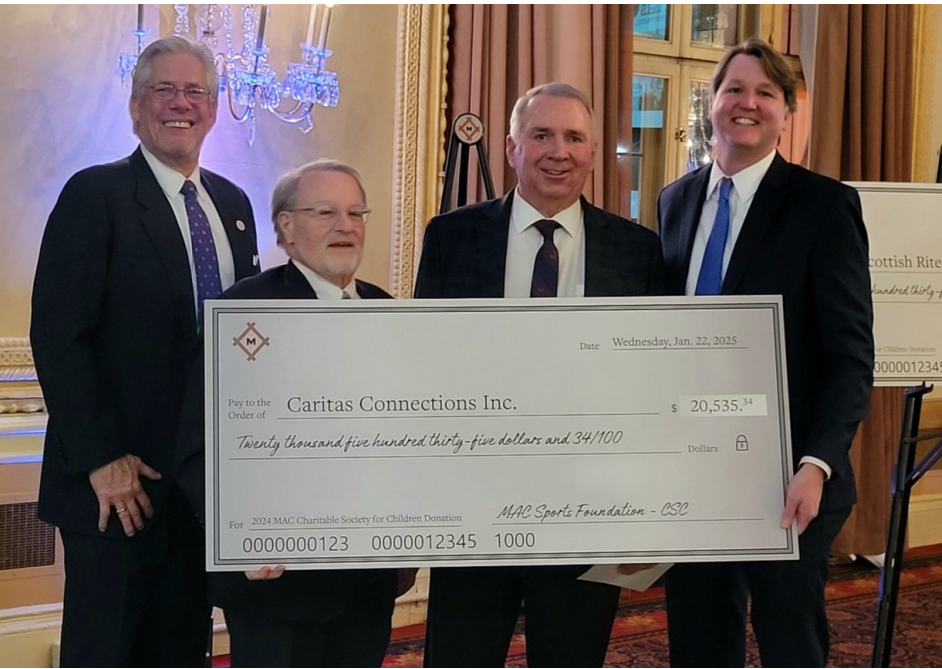


## Caritas Mourns the Loss of Pat McBride

Many people know of Pat McBride, as a Hall of Famer who helped establish St. Louis soccer as a player, coach and athletic director at the community college, college and professional levels. But Pat was also a long-time volunteer with Caritas who went on many early morning bread runs and partnered with Glen Dougherty in delivering items to our clients. Pat died suddenly on December 11. Caritas joins the entire St. Louis community in mourning his loss.

Pat, pictured above in 2013, volunteering for Caritas.

# MAC's CSC Donates Over \$20,000 to Caritas



Towards the end of 2023, the Missouri Athletic Club's Charitable Society for Children named Caritas Connections as one of three charities that it would support by raising money at various MAC events and activities throughout 2024.

The result? Caritas received a check for more than \$20,000—and all of that money will go towards supporting our many clients that provide food, clothing and other items to kids in need.

In addition to their fundraising activities, the MAC's CSC also conducted a kid's winter clothing drive on behalf of Caritas. We also developed several new connections for Caritas resulting in new grants and canned food drives that would have never taken place without our participation with the MAC's CSC.

Special thanks to Michael Gunn (2nd from left) for his work in introducing Caritas to the MAC's Charitable Society for Children.

## Caritas Garage Overwhelmed by Industrial Project Innovation Drive

Christmas came early to Caritas Connections thanks to the IPI team collection drive which resulted in an overwhelming amount of food, clothing and personal care items that were distributed to the clients we serve. Socks, jackets, gloves, diapers, soap, canned goods, bottled water, ketchup—those are just a small sampling of the items they donated that helped make a difference to many people in need this past holiday season. Brian Slimmer, who is a Project Cost Manager at IPI, contacted us in September to see if they could help Caritas with a company collection, as one of IPI's company values is to give back to the community wherever they have new construction projects. On behalf of everyone who received all of the donated items, we extend our thanks to the employees of IPI!



# Client Profile: Peter & Paul Community Services

Our newest client, Peter & Paul Community Services, started over 40 years ago in the basement of St. Peter and Paul Church. Initially a men's shelter providing seasonal and overnight housing, Peter and Paul Community Services has grown to provide year-round shelter, transitional, and long-term housing centers as well. The outreach is extensive in St. Louis—Peter & Paul Community Services coordinates housing services for many, including refugee families and those with mental illness and HIV.

"We are so excited and grateful for our new partnership with Caritas," states Kindie Barber, Development Manager. "The regular donations of food staples to feed our clients help provide consistency to our meal program, and the personal shopper aspect has been transformative in responding to individual needs, from socks to a stroller for a family."

With the recent purchase of the 4.5-acre Little Sisters of the Poor facility in north St. Louis, Peter & Paul Community Services has experienced rapid growth. From previously providing meals for about 60 people three times per day, every day, to over 200 now, food is a very big cost. According to Kindie, "Our partnership with Caritas helps defray the cost dependably and consistently."



Kindie Barber (r) and dedicated shopper, Jenn Martin

The time, energy and monetary support provided has a very direct impact."

"I often hear that our services are life-changing from the clients we serve," said Kindie. "And Caritas has been life-changing for us! Because of their consistent support, we are better able to respond to the ever-changing immediate needs of our clients." Caritas Connections is very happy to partner with Peter & Paul Community Services and expand our support in helping those in need of transitional and emergency housing.

# St. Gerard Majella and Miriam Schools Outdo Last Year's Collections

For the ninth straight year, the students at St. Gerard Majella School took part in a canned food collection on behalf of Caritas Connections, collecting more than 2700 cans, as well as packaged dry goods.

Special thanks go out to all participants and SGM principal Lucy Gintz for their can-do attitude in continuing to coordinate the drives and in helping Caritas Connections.

Meanwhile, students at Miriam School and Learning Center held their second collection to benefit Caritas

and once again, exceeded expectations by donating more than 1600 items to Caritas. According to Emily Manninger, Admissions and Student Life Associate at Miriam, the students really enjoyed participating and the school plans on making it an annual event.

All those items were quickly dispersed to many of our client organizations throughout the metro St. Louis area. We are so grateful for the "can do" attitude of both schools!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MARY KEMPA



As parishioners at St. Gerard Majella for 41 years, Mary and her husband, Dave, were already active volunteers before becoming involved with Caritas. "I was teaching PSR at St. Gerard while Father Thomas Bryon was still associate pastor. My work with PSR linked me to Fr. Bryon's outreach and I began volunteering with Caritas in 2008," said Mary.

Mary took over garage coordination for weekly deliveries and donation drop-offs. She also developed a labeling system for donations by client names and reorganized the shelves to store the donations as well. According to Mary, one of her most impactful roles was starting the Dedicated Shopper program. "Starting the Dedicated Shopper program allowed Caritas to link a volunteer shopper with a client so that every client's individual needs could be better met."

The continued growth of the program means a lot to Mary. "I often describe Caritas as a layer cake with many layers! With the Dedicated Shopper program, we help find meaningful volunteer opportunities for our volunteers, but it also helps our clients by adding more layers to the cake in terms of meeting more needs of each client we serve." Mary adds, "Being able to provide clients with exactly what they need on an ongoing basis is my favorite part of what we do."

Mary has recently stepped down from serving on the Board of Directors to spend more time with her grandkids and husband. "I have come full circle. I am once again the Garage Coordinator on Mondays," Mary says cheerfully. Her advice to potential volunteers? "Find a volunteer ministry that gives you joy."

Thank you, Mary, for being an integral part of Caritas through many years of hard work, dedication and program development.