

JULY 2023



Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

Reaching Out. Providing Hope. Changing Lives.

IN THIS EDITION:

CCSOMO Annual Day
of Caring

Ken's Column

Upcoming Events

LifeHouse in Cape
Girardeau Update

Picture of Success

CCSOMO Welcomes
New Director of
Advancement,
Suzanne Cronhite

Purpose Home
Repair: A Godsend to
a Veteran

Volunteer Highlights
& Opportunities



CCSOMO PARTNERS WITH UNITED WAY OF THE OZARKS FOR ANNUAL DAY OF CARING

On June 22, thousands of people from all over the Springfield area volunteered for a day of service to local non-profits. Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri was blessed to host 43 volunteers from three organizations and our faithful Garden Friends for the 2023 United Way Day of Caring to work alongside many CCSOMO staff.

Our friends from the City of Springfield Environmental Services Department returned for the third year with a team of thirteen to tackle our most heavy-duty needs. From clearing off the roof and digging up stumps and rockpiles to hauling off our colossal brush pile, they always work until the job is done.

Eleven staff members from TelComm Credit Union painted inside LifeHouse in Springfield. They transformed our dining room and three offices with bright new paint! MSU's Office of Dual Credit sent five staffers who worked in the gardens, along with our Garden Friends. This group labored in the hot sun, pulling weeds, tidying the flower beds, and harvesting vegetables.

Seeing so many give the gifts of time and talent is humbling, and we appreciate their service. (See more about our Garden Friends on back of page).

REACHING OUT | PROVIDING HOPE | CHANGING LIVES
417.720.4213 | WWW.CCSOMO.ORG

KEN'S COLUMN

Renewal...it's an expectation of the spring season as we climb out of the winter doldrums. And as summer arrives making our days longer and growth abounds, God continues providing deep and vibrant color across the Diocese. The Holy Spirit completes this restoration and renewal through love in making things whole once more. Catholic Charities works daily to reflect God's love, no matter the season to restore and renew those in need physically, spiritually, and socially. Often the vulnerable and in need are left to seek their renewal alone and isolated. We are not meant for this—God made us for community. We need one another to experience the fullness of creation and to become what He meant us to be...His likeness.

Approaching its 10 Year Anniversary, LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home continues to offer what the community needs by providing restoration and renewal to those isolated and alone. As of June, 2023, LifeHouse has given wrap around services to mothers as each brought new life into the world, 126 babies to be exact!

When spring, 2024 arrives, LifeHouse-Cape Girardeau will be operational, providing the next chapter for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. Our history with LifeHouse-Springfield provided the impetus for our new location, building on successes and lessons learned. Communities across the Diocese and in the Cape Girardeau area, shared their belief in CCSOMO through their prayers and donations to bring our new building to life. It's there! Rising from the ground, ready to face each season, renewing, restoring, and bringing life forward as God intends.

We could not have arrived at this point without your support. We wish to thank you for every dollar and every prayer for LifeHouse, a ministry of Catholic Charities, serving all!

Peace, Blessings, and Courage!

Ken

BOARD PRESIDENT, STEVE FRYE & LEADERSHIP TEAM

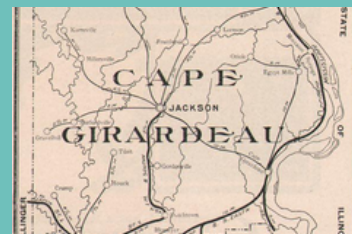
CCSOMO Board President, Steve Frye, spent the day with Executive Director, Ken Palermo, touring the Springfield locations and getting to know some of the members of the CCSOMO Leadership Team.



Left to Right: John Lunardini, COO, Cindy VanBuskirk, Dir. of Housing, Ken Palermo, Exec. Dir., Suzanne Cronkhite, Dir. of Advancement, Steve Frye, Board President, Jeff Wiskur, Dir. of Finance, Cindi Kopel, Dir. of Maternal & Family Programs, Claudia Baer, Dir. of Human Resources; Not pictured: Susan Cox, Dir. of Grants and Compliance & Jeremy Rowland, Regional Dir.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Mississippi Mingle August 12, 2023

Join us in Cape Girardeau on the banks of the mighty Mississippi for a day filled with activities for the whole family. Enjoy the Knights' famous barbecue, fare from local food trucks, adult beverages, inflatables for the kids, live entertainment, games, and more. Proceeds from this event will help the many programs of CCSOMO.



Dinner for Life: Light the Night September 23, 2023

Join us for our annual Dinner for Life: Light the Night to support LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield. This will be an evening of dinner and entertainment. We will have DUELING PIANOS, silent auction items, and a live raffle! We cannot wait to see YOU there! For information visit our website under the Events tab.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF LEAVING A PLANNED GIFT TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI? OUR TAX ID IS 80-0455890.

REACHING OUT | PROVIDING HOPE | CHANGING LIVES
417.720.4213 | WWW.CCSOMO.ORG

JULY 2023



YOU DID IT! LIFEHOUSE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS COMPLETE IN CAPE GIRARDEAU...THANK YOU!

Your kindness, generosity, and support have raised over \$9,300,000 for our newest project: LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau! The capital campaign is complete with donations, pledges, and grants to make this incredible dream a reality! Thank you to our Capital Campaign chairs, Rick and Rhonda Cuba and Tedd and Laura Powers, for their remarkable work on this project.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield and the year of construction in Cape Girardeau. A huge thank you goes to all the donors who helped raise the necessary funds to bring LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau to southeast Missouri!

The construction of our newest LifeHouse is no longer in its infancy. The underground plumbing and utilities are complete, the foundation and floors are poured, and the framing has begun. The administration offices, community room and classroom for LifeHouse are taking shape. It's exciting to watch LifeHouse going vertical! The construction team is making significant progress daily and is on track to finish by the end of February.

LifeHouse will be a safe place for homeless pregnant women with no place to call home and little hope for their babies' futures. They will come to LifeHouse with backgrounds of abuse and neglect, addiction, trafficking, and poverty. They will be cared for and loved, connected to healthcare and mental health counseling. Infant care, parenting, and other life skills are all a part of the program. A woman who comes to LifeHouse will have access to the education she needs to bring a healthy baby into the world whom she can love and care for and raise in a safe and loving home.

Just like LifeHouse in Springfield, every aspect of LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau is carefully designed to give women the best chance to be self-sufficient and successful. The LifeHouse program has had ten years to grow into a proven model with 126 healthy babies born and saving the Springfield community an estimated \$1,000,000+ in healthcare costs alone. The same thing will happen in southeast Missouri when LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau opens in early 2024. None of this would have been possible without your help. THANK YOU for your generosity...you have made LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau a reality!

GOING VERTICAL

SPRINGFIELD | CAPE GIRARDEAU | JOPLIN | SIKESTON | POPLAR BLUFF | VAN BUREN

REACHING OUT | PROVIDING HOPE | CHANGING LIVES

417.720.4213 | WWW.CCSOMO.ORG

PICTURE OF SUCCESS

The picture of success looks different to everyone. Success for the Housing Team at CCSOMO is a client settled safely into their home. Recently, Case Manager, Gabby Rolon, received a referral for Sarah, a woman in Taney County fleeing a domestic violence situation with her young son. This mother and child were staying in a shelter but only had a few weeks left before their time was up, and they would either be homeless or return to their abusive situation. At first, Sarah was scared to even be enrolled in our program for fear of not being able to succeed on her own, but after lots of talking and encouragement, she took the necessary step, and Gabby quickly enrolled her in our Rapid Re-Housing program. Within two weeks, Gabby found housing with a new property manager in Branson, which is extremely difficult in the current rental market. Their move-in day was scheduled but fell after the family's original exit date from the shelter, but thanks to Gabby's advocacy for her client, they received an extension to allow them to remain sheltered until they could have a smooth transition to their new home. On move-in day, Gabby said, "Sarah cried during the process and thanked me repeatedly for helping her find housing and even gave me a big hug." While her apartment is only a studio, Sarah said, "Living in a small studio is better than being hurt every day." She is grateful and relieved to be safely away from her abuser. Gabby will continue to work with this family to provide case management and rental assistance to achieve self-sufficiency. For this sweet family, success is looking better all the time.



CCSOMO WELCOMES SUZANNE CRONKHITE AS NEW DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT



Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is pleased to welcome Suzanne Cronkhite as Director of Advancement. "We are extremely excited to have Suzanne join the Executive Team and lead our advancement and communications operations," said Ken Palermo, Executive Director. "As the agency moves into its next chapter of serving the vulnerable and those in need, Suzanne's nearly two decades of development experience will serve well in meeting the goals of our mission."

In this position, she will be responsible for developing and implementing annual and capital campaigns focused on strategies for ongoing and future program needs. "Advancing the agency will be driven not only through our relationships with supporters and constituents but through timely and impactful sharing of our many stories of Reaching Out, Providing Hope, and Changing Lives," adds Ken.

Suzanne most recently served as Director of Development for Springfield Catholic Schools and has worked in development for Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph and the Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri.



USE THE QR CODE PROVIDED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI, HOW TO SUPPORT US, OR HOW TO JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS.

SPRINGFIELD | CAPE GIRARDEAU | JOPLIN | SIKESTON | POPLAR BLUFF | VAN BUREN

REACHING OUT | PROVIDING HOPE | CHANGING LIVES

417.720.4213 | WWW.CCSOMO.ORG

PURPOSE HOME REPAIR: A GODSEND TO A VETERAN

Ralph Beaver joined the Navy in 1957 and served as a Signalman on a Minesweeper in Korea, China, the Philippines, Alaska, Japan, and Thailand. He said of his stint in the military, "It is an experience you will remember for the rest of your life." After the military, Ralph spent 30 years as an over-the-road truck driver. It was the dream of Ralph and his wife, Anne, to have a house on a small acreage, and 25 years ago, their dreams came true. Ralph and Anne enjoyed their home on 10 acres near Diamond, MO, until Anne passed away three years ago after a year-long battle with brain cancer.

It was then that Ralph's daughter, Shyra, began noticing problems in the house. The bathroom floor was weak, and there was an apparent leak. Social Security was his only income, so Ralph didn't have extra money for repairs and was afraid he would have to sell the property where he and his wife had spent so many happy years together. Fortunately, he learned of the Critical Home Repair Program through the Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity. Ralph fits the criteria for the program, which targets older, physically disabled veteran households. That's where Catholic Charities' Purpose Home Repair Program stepped in to help. Joplin Habitat for Humanity contracted Purpose to complete significant repairs for qualified homeowners in need. When the project inspectors came, they found more critical repair issues than just his bathroom. Purpose put on a new roof and gutters, installed new windows and a new kitchen stove, completely rehabbed the bathroom, relocated the hot water heater to the garage, replaced the old plumbing with upgraded lines, and painted the house's exterior. All of this is "a Godsend to me," said Ralph. Kirk Brewer, Director of Construction for CCSOMO, called Ralph Beaver "an amazing client to work with."

Ralph knew he could never afford all the work himself; he summed up his feelings, saying, "I keep thinking that I'll wake up one day, and this is a dream, that I'm so thankful for all the blessings I received from this."



Left to Right: Bryan West, Community Development Manager, Ralph Beaver, Home Owner, Scott Clayton, Exec. Director Joplin Habitat for Humanity, Kirk Brewer, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri Director of Construction

SPRINGFIELD | CAPE GIRARDEAU | JOPLIN | SIKESTON | POPLAR BLUFF | VAN BUREN

REACHING OUT | PROVIDING HOPE | CHANGING LIVES

417.720.4213 | WWW.CCSOMO.ORG

PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

Consumer Credit
Counseling Service of the
Ozarks (CCCS)

Developmental Disability
Services

Disaster Response &
Preparedness

Homeless &
Homelessness
Prevention Services

Homeless Veterans
Reintegration Program

Home Repair &
Rebuilding

Housing & Financial
Counseling

LifeHouse Crisis
Maternity Home &
AfterCare Program

Healthy Moms, Healthy
Babies & Dedicated Dads

Prison Re-Entry Housing
Assistance

Purpose Home Repair &
On-the-Job Training

SNAP Enrollment
Assistance

Support Services for
Veteran Families



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

The Garden Friends started working on the grounds before CCSOMO moved into St Anne's Monastery in 2013. A few Holy Trinity garden ministry members ensured the flower beds, shrubs, and trees looked nice. Year after year, the garden and the Garden Friends grew, and today we have 21 raised beds for vegetables, fruits, and herbs, fruit trees, and a greenhouse; the team has grown to 50! The garden provides fresh organic food to the women and children of LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home.

The Garden Friends hold monthly workdays from March through October, but several volunteers can be found a few days every week planting, harvesting, watering, and finding inventive ways to succeed. They crafted an irrigation system, built squirrel and rabbit-proof enclosures for the tomatoes and strawberries, and bird-proofed the berries.

In 2022, the gardeners worked over 900 hours caring for the garden and beautiful flowers, most of which were planted and tended by the Carmelite Nuns, for whom the Monastery was built in the early 1960s. The grounds cover more than 11 acres, and with dozens of big trees, there is a volunteer job for everyone. They say that if one needs something cut down, they only need to lean out their door and yell, and eager chainsaw wielders will come running. True or not, several men are eager for chainsaw duty every time! These wonderful volunteers find what they like to do, and they excel. Whether it's flowers, vegetables, shrubs, or engineering, they put their heart and soul into the job. Often the most unlikely person takes on a task. Some might call her a little old lady, but the Garden Friend who weeds and mulches the berm is a mighty warrior!

The volunteers are the only reason our garden exists, our LifeHouse residents have access to fresh organic food, and this nearly 60-year-old Monastery looks so good. One would think we have gardeners. They would be right.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Transportation for LifeHouse Residents

Cook meals in LifeHouse

Volunteer at Mississippi Mingle

For information on volunteer opportunities please call
Jill Guise at **417.720.4213**

