



Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

**PRESS RELEASE.
FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.
January 11, 2024**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI ANNOUNCES SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM CHANGES

(Joplin, MO) – Pregnancy and parenting support to expectant families are coming to the Joplin area. A full-time case manager has been hired for the family-focused Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Program (HMHB), which works with families experiencing pregnancy to promote self-sufficiency within the family unit.

“I am excited to bring HMHB to Joplin.” said Cindi Kopel, Chief Programs Officer. “HMHB is a financially sound, grant-funded program that allows case managers to meet a family’s needs where they are.”

HMHB gives personalized attention through home visits and brings wrap-around services, including pre-and post-natal education, parenting and life skills training, and referrals to clients as resources.

“Our Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies program provides direct assistance to families in need, of any faith, leading to better maternal and infant health outcomes,” said Ken Palermo, CEO. Any questions about HMHB should be directed to Nikohl McKee, Maternal and Family Programs Administrator at nmckee@ccsomo.org.

Other program changes involve the closure of the agency’s Joplin-based, social enterprise endeavor, Purpose Home Repair.

“While challenging to traditional construction companies, higher materials and labor costs pose even greater hurdles as a social enterprise,” said Ken Palermo, CEO. “When considering available resources and our capacity to ensure the program remains viable into the future, it became apparent this change was required.”

CCSOMO extends its gratitude to its dedicated staff, community partners, and clients for their support over the last five years of its social enterprise effort.

Agency construction services, to serve those in need, will continue at CCSOMO through both the HERO Grant and the Senior and Developmental Disability Build Programs. Questions about such programs can be directed to bwuerdeman@ccsomo.org.

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