



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

MARCH 2025



12 MOMS AND 8 BABIES IN YEAR ONE!

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF THE LITTLE FLOWER CAMPUS: *LIFEHOUSE IN CAPE GIRARDEAU*

April 19, 2025, marks the one year anniversary of LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau! Thanks to the generosity and support of our community, women from southeast Missouri and beyond now have access to the resources and support necessary to build a successful future for themselves and their children.

To date, twelve women have walked through the welcoming doors into the safety and security of the Little Flower Campus, and eight healthy babies have been born. The building is currently home to eight mothers and five babies!

"I feel so much love between me and him," shared one mother who is currently living at LifeHouse with her newborn son. "He's like my little partner."

What a year it's been! We're looking forward with hopeful hearts to the many lives that will be changed in the years to come.

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KEN'S COLUMN

Dear Patron of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri,

In a world where multiple and often misleading sources drive the narratives shaping our perspectives, the call to seek truth with discernment and wisdom has never been more urgent. As Catholics, we are called to be informed citizens, ensuring that our understanding of current events aligns with our faith's teachings on justice, mercy, and the inherent dignity of every person.

The Most Reverend Bishop Rice's February 14th Mirror article eloquently reminds us of the importance of recognizing dignity within our shared humanity, especially for those seeking safety and support. These wise words echo the mission of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO), where teams of compassionate professionals work tirelessly to uphold the dignity of the most vulnerable among us.

At the same time, we remain steadfast in adhering to the requirements and mandates of our funders. Specifically, CCSOMO cannot provide services to those who cannot document their citizenship status. This is a reality we honor daily in our service to others, as our future depends on maintaining these critical funding partnerships.

It is also important to clarify that CCSOMO does not provide immigration or refugee services. There are four independent Catholic Charities organizations in Missouri—one for each Diocese: St. Louis, Central and Northern Missouri, Kansas City-St. Joseph, and Southern Missouri. Each operates independently under the guidance of their local Bishop and, often, a board of directors. Each agency determines its focus based on the needs of its communities. CCSOMO was founded in 2009, and expanded significantly through disaster response efforts following the Joplin tornado. The LifeHouse Program followed shortly after in 2013. Since then, we have stretched our services to address homelessness, support veterans, assist low-income homeowners, and aid individuals with developmental disabilities.

Each of these vital services relies on state and federal grant funding. Recent news about federal funding cuts directly impacts CCSOMO. While we are not currently considering an immediate reduction in services, continued limitations on funding may force us to curtail programming. The ripple effect of service reductions would be felt across our communities, leaving many of our neighbors increasingly vulnerable and needing support.

No matter the headwinds we face or the tailwinds we enjoy, your generosity has been instrumental in allowing us to continue providing for the vulnerable and in need. Now, more than ever, we urge you to seek out truthful, compassionate narratives that reflect our Gospel values and engage in conversations that foster understanding rather than division. I welcome you to contact me directly at 314-882-2410 with any questions about your Catholic Charities.

As we move forward together in CCSOMO's mission, we invite you to reaffirm your commitment to truth and dignity by supporting our work through your prayers, donations, and advocacy.

In Christ's peace,



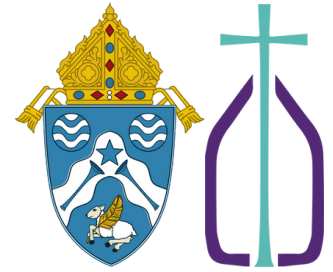
Ken Palermo, Chief Executive Officer



BISHOP'S MASS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

**Saturday, April 12 | 8:30 AM | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
Springfield, MO**

On Saturday, April 12, Bishop Rice will lead us in the annual Bishop's Mass for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. We will lift our prayers for the at-risk veterans, pregnant women with nowhere to turn, developmentally disabled individuals, homeless families, and others whom CCSOMO serves each day. As we reach out across the Diocese with the goal of providing hope to the most vulnerable in our communities, we ask for your partnership, both spiritually and financially.



Please join us in prayer at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton or virtually on the CCSOMO and Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau Facebook pages.

MISSISSIPPI MINGLE

**Saturday, May 10 | 11 AM | KOC Hall
Cape Girardeau, MO**

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is excited to host the 4th Annual Mississippi Mingle on Saturday, May 10, 2025! The family-friendly event, in collaboration with Knights of Columbus Councils #1111 and #11205, will be held from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the KC Hall (318 S Spanish St).

Spend the afternoon on the banks of the mighty Mississippi listening to live music, enjoying delicious food & adult beverages, playing games, and so much more. Tickets are \$10/each and include a drink of your choice. For tickets and sponsorship information, visit ccsomo.org/events or scan the QR code below.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Monday, June 23 | 12 PM | Fremont Hills Country Club
Nixa, MO**

Play a round of golf to support LifeHouse in Springfield. Sponsorships, team, and individual registrations are available now. Last year's tournament was a complete sellout, and we are looking forward to another great event in 2025. Don't wait too long to start thinking about your team!

70% MHTC tax credits are available. Register by May 23 to receive an exclusive tournament cooler. For sponsorships and player registrations, visit ccsomo.org/events or scan the QR code below.



Scan the QR code for event information, sponsorships, tickets, and more!





EMBRACING LENT: A SEASON OF REFLECTION, SACRIFICE, AND SERVICE

As we enter Lent, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri invites you to reflect, renew, and deepen your commitment to serving those in need. Lent is a time for spiritual growth through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, mirroring Jesus' 40 days in the desert as we seek to strengthen our relationship with God.

Prayer allows us to quiet our hearts, listen to God's voice, and grow closer to Christ. Whether through the Stations of the Cross, Mass, or personal devotion, deepening our prayer life equips us to serve others with love and compassion.

Fasting goes beyond food; it is about simplifying our lives and removing distractions to focus on God. It fosters empathy, helping us understand the struggles of those in need and inspiring us to use our resources wisely.

Almsgiving is a visible expression of our faith. Catholic Charities relies on the generosity of individuals like you to provide food, shelter, and support to vulnerable families. Whether through donations, volunteerism, or acts of kindness, your compassion makes a profound difference.

Lent is not only a time for personal reflection but also a call to action. Catholic Charities invites you to walk in Christ's footsteps by serving others. Together, through prayer, sacrifice, and service, we can bring hope and healing to those in need. May this season of Lent renew our faith and inspire us to live out Christ's message of love and mercy.

The Very Rev. Shoby M. Chettiyath, V.G.
CCSOMO Chaplain

CCSOMO MOURNS THE LOSS OF ANGELA WEBB

It is with profound sadness that Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri announces the passing of Angela "Angie" Webb, Housing and Veteran Program Administrator, on January 25, 2025.

Angie was a valued member of the CCSOMO team for nearly six years. She joined the agency in 2019 as a Housing Program Supervisor before moving into the Program Administrator role in 2023. In her time with the agency, Angie made a lasting impact on staff and clients alike through her positive personality, generous spirit, and encouraging nature.

Her compassion for her team members and dedication to her clients touched the lives of countless individuals.

"To know Angie was to love her. Her personality was almost superhuman in the way she lived her life and cared for others," said Ken Palermo, CCSOMO Chief Executive Officer. "As an agency and as individuals, we will take time to grieve, memorialize, and recall what Angie brought to each of us as a coworker and friend."

In Loving Memory of



ANGELA "ANGIE" WEBB
1977-2025

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

DD PROGRAM EXPANDS INTO BUTLER & DUNKLIN COUNTIES

Our Developmental Disability Services (DD) program provides Targeted Case Management to individuals diagnosed with a developmental disability who have been determined eligible for services by the State of Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities. The goal of the program is to empower each individual to live independently, attain employment, and be valued members of the community.



The DD program began in Scott County in 2011 and expanded to Cape Girardeau in 2014 and Mississippi County in 2021. The program currently serves around 1,100 individuals.

CCSOMO Support Coordinators help families meet unmet needs by connecting them to resources, accessing state-funded supports, and managing relevant information. As of January 2025, these services are now provided in Butler and Dunklin counties. New Support Coordinators were hired in these areas, increasing the program's capacity by 175-300 additional clients.

"I am excited to expand into Butler and Dunklin counties and provide the same excellent services that we currently provide in Cape Girardeau, Scott, and Mississippi counties," said Gina Blocker, Developmental Disability Services Director/Program Administrator.

"Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is grateful for the opportunity to expand our Targeted Case Management services for those in need in Butler and Dunklin counties," said CCSOMO Chief Executive Officer, Ken Palermo. "Building on our long history of serving the developmentally disabled, we will continue to impact lives positively."



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

"Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri and their staff are wonderful at helping you navigate special needs services. We've had nothing but positive experiences and they have taken a genuine interest in our son, our family, and any specific needs we may have."

The services provided by the program have helped us learn about additional resources that may be beneficial for our son both now and in the future. The program has also provided financial support for braces and different therapies, such as physical therapy and equine therapy. Everyone we have worked with has always been very friendly, positive, and easy to work with."

– FAMILY OF DD CLIENT

LIFEHOUSE GARDEN OPENS MARCH 25

With the warming temperatures comes the opening of the garden at LifeHouse in Springfield! The garden will open on Tuesday, March 25. LifeHouse is blessed to have the dedicated team of volunteers who make this wonderful resource a possibility. Not only is the garden a beautiful part of our grounds, it consistently produces a bounty of fresh berries, tomatoes, squash, herbs, and more for our chef, JR, to use in his delicious meals. What better way for LifeHouse residents to learn about the importance of nutritious eating than by cooking with home-grown produce! Thank you to all those who keep our garden alive and thriving year after year.



Have a green thumb? The group meets once a month March–October, and weekly volunteers harvest on Mondays or Thursdays during the growing season. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Jana Hukriede at 417-840-4109 or janahukriede@gmail.com.

PROGRAMS

Construction Services

Developmental Disability Services

Housing Services

Maternal & Family Programs

Veterans Services

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

RECEPTIONIST AT ST. ANNE'S CAMPUS IN SPRINGFIELD

Volunteers truly are at the heart of our ministry, and we need you to join our team. Our volunteers say that it's a privilege to be a part of LifeHouse. We view it as a privilege to have you be a part of our mission.

Our Saint Anne's location in Springfield is in urgent need of a volunteer receptionist to welcome visitors, answer the phone, and assist with other office duties. Our longtime volunteer receptionist finished her time with us in February.

If you're looking for a rewarding volunteer gig, we'd love to have you join us! Shifts are M/W/F and can be full or part time.

We have a variety of individual and group volunteer opportunities available. If interested, please contact us at volunteer@ccsomo.org or 417-720-4213.



STAY CONNECTED!



Scan with your phone camera for more information about CCSOMO, our programs, & how to get involved.

