

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

OCTOBER 2024



## LIFEHOUSE GALA, SPRINGFIELD: A RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS

Once upon a time...the 2024 LifeHouse Gala, Springfield was truly magical! Not only was the event sold out for the first time ever, \$400,022 was raised for LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield.

A special thank you to the LifeHouse Gala, Springfield chairs, the event committee, and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the event. We could not have done this without your help!

We'd also like to recognize the anonymous donor who made the matching gift. The \$65,000 matching gift for Fund Our Mission donations was not only met but surpassed. We feel incredibly blessed by the outpouring of support from our community. We hope you'll join us next year for the LifeHouse Gala, Springfield on September 20, 2025!

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# KEN'S COLUMN

Odds are that you are reading this newsletter from the comfort of your home, surrounded by familiar items, furniture, décor, family members, and perhaps pets. You are blessed to feel the warmth of that familiarity, a home, and the life-sustaining stability it offers. Yet, no matter where you call home, someone in your community struggles to keep their home or is already on the street.

Your Catholic Charities is at the forefront of combatting homelessness across the Diocese. Eliminating homelessness is not just a moral imperative—it is an investment in the well-being of our neighbors and communities.

Homelessness strips people of their dignity and basic human rights, promoting cycles of poverty and inequality. When people are without stable housing, they face higher risks of mental illness, substance abuse, and physical health problems, placing a greater burden on community support systems, including healthcare.

Combatting homelessness isn't only about providing shelter. It's about Catholic Charities teams threading services across the already limited social safety net while seeking to address the root causes of homelessness—affordable housing, mental health support, and job opportunities.

A home is more than shelter—it's a foundation for stability, safety, and a chance to build a better future. In early 2025, we will participate in the opening of Mountaintop Homes in Mt. Vernon. Through a strong partnership with O'Reilly Development, Catholic Charities' team members will provide on-site supportive services in a new community of 42 townhomes, complete with a playground and community center. Eight units are destined to give housing stability to veterans and their families. This is your Catholic Charities at work, serving the vulnerable and in need.

By tackling homelessness head-on, we don't just provide shelter—we provide hope and change lives.

Peace, Love & Courage!



Ken Palermo  
Chief Executive Officer



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LIFEHOUSE GALA, CAPE GIRARDEAU

**November 2, 2024**

Mardi Gras is now the LifeHouse Gala! Held at the Drury Plaza Convention Center in Cape Girardeau, the event will feature dinner, exciting auctions, dueling pianos, and more to support LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau.

### WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

**November 17, 2024**

A day to recognize the importance of the fight against poverty. Please give prayerful consideration to a donation to Bishop's Collection.

### BISHOP'S COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

**November 23-24, 2024**

Diocesan-wide collection. Stay tuned for more information from your parishes.

### GIVING TUESDAY

**November 26, 2024**

Consider a gift to Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri in honor of Giving Tuesday this year.

### TASTE OF CCSOMO

**December 2024**

Join us for a Christmas concert at St. Anne's Monastery in Springfield! The Springfield Catholic High School choir will perform a holiday arrangement, followed by a social hour with Christmas treats.  
*Date to be determined.*

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF TOURNAMENT

**June 23, 2025**

Join us for a round of golf at Fremont Hills Country Club to support CCSOMO and LifeHouse.



# WE ARE THERE. We are the Catholic faith at work.



**THE BISHOP'S COLLECTION**  
for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri  
**NOVEMBER 23-24, 2024**



The Bishop's Collection is the annual appeal for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. Each year, this collection takes place in commemoration of World Day of the Poor.

During Bishop's Collection, we ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to support ALL of the programs and ALL of the clients served by CCSOMO. One-time and monthly donation options are available.

## WAYS TO GIVE



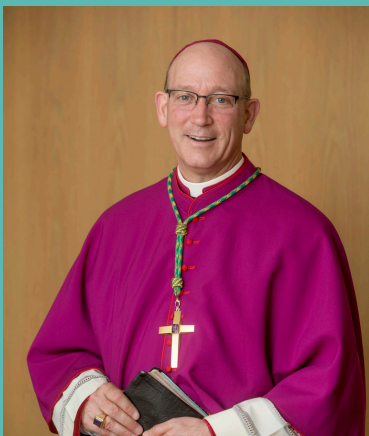
Envelope in this newsletter.



Scan the QR code with your phone to make a donation online.



At Mass on November 23-24.



## A WORD FROM BISHOP RICE

*"Dear friends in Christ, I begin with words of thanks, looking out and seeing all of you here today. I see the zeal, perseverance, and the love that drives your commitment to the pro-life cause."*

Those words above were spoken by Bishop Michael Burbridge at the National Prayer Vigil Opening Mass for Life on Jan. 18, 2024, at the National Basilica, in Washington DC. I echo his words as I too, see the zeal, the perseverance, and the love that drives your commitment to support the efforts of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri day-in and day-out.

As people of faith, we believe that "God is in the details," and that is certainly true when you discover the many resources provided by CCSOMO to the most vulnerable among us. The happy work of promoting the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the human person joyfully continues, and we can't do it without many hands and hearts.

Celebrate with us the culture of life! Put your faith into action through the annual Bishop's Collection for Catholic Charities, November 23-24, 2024.

# EMBRACING GRATITUDE: A WAY OF LIFE

In a world that often feels fast-paced and demanding, embracing gratitude can serve as a powerful antidote to stress and negativity. By cultivating a mindset of appreciation, we can transform our perspectives, enhance our well-being, and foster deeper connections with others. Gratitude is not merely a fleeting emotion; it can become a way of life that enriches our daily experiences.

Gratitude encourages us to focus on what we have, rather than what we lack. When we consciously acknowledge our blessings—big and small—we shift our attention away from stressors and challenges. Research has shown that individuals who practice gratitude regularly report higher levels of happiness and lower levels of depression and anxiety.

When we express appreciation, we strengthen our relationships and foster a sense of belonging. This connection can lead to more supportive and fulfilling interactions, enhancing both our personal and professional lives. Gratitude creates an environment of trust and understanding, allowing us to thrive together.

Embracing gratitude as a way of life invites us to live with intention and appreciation. It encourages us to recognize the beauty in our everyday experiences and fosters deeper connections with ourselves and others. By integrating gratitude into our daily practices, we can cultivate a more positive, resilient, and fulfilling life.

Gratitude is a vital aspect of our spiritual journey. In Catholic teaching, recognizing God's gifts leads to a deeper relationship with Him. Catholic Charities encourages reflection on our blessings and the blessings of those around us, helping individuals grow in faith and commitment to serving others. This spiritual connection inspires us to live out our values in practical ways, embodying the love and kindness that we receive.

As we navigate the complexities of modern living, let us remember the transformative power of gratitude. It is a choice we can make every day, a practice that can illuminate our paths and enrich our journeys. *God Bless You and Remain Blessed!*

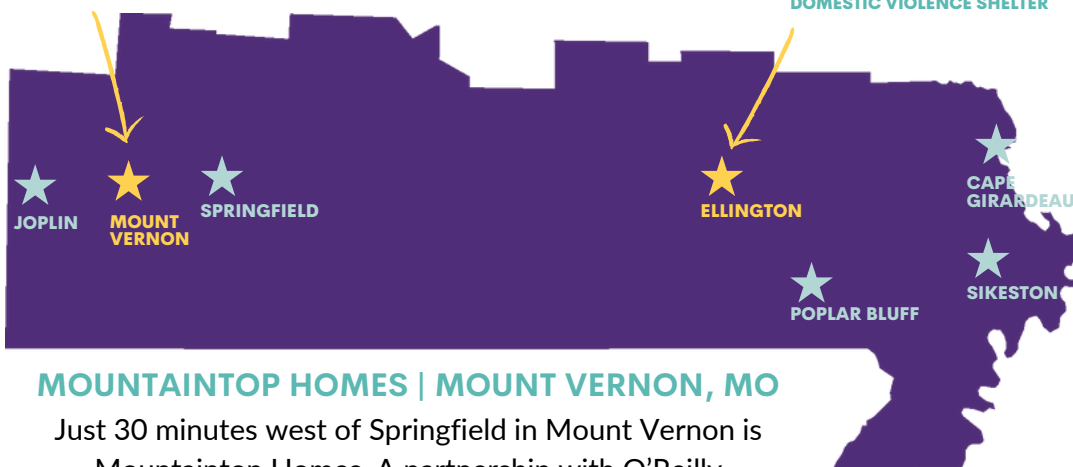
**The Very Rev. Shoby M. Chettiyath, V.G.**  
CCSOMO Chaplain



## CCSOMO PROJECTS & SERVICES UPDATE

**MOUNTAINTOP HOMES**  
MIXED-INCOME HOUSING

**WHOLE HEALTH OUTREACH**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER



### MOUNTAINTOP HOMES | MOUNT VERNON, MO

Just 30 minutes west of Springfield in Mount Vernon is Mountaintop Homes. A partnership with O'Reilly Development, the mixed-income community will have 42 townhomes, a playground, and a community center. Eight of the units will be reserved for veterans and their families. Move-ins are expected to begin in early 2025, and Catholic Charities will have an on-site case manager to aid residents with housing, budgeting, area resources, and more.

### WHOLE HEALTH OUTREACH ELLINGTON, MO

Last month, the CCSOMO Van Buren office relocated to the Whole Health Outreach location in Ellington. Founded by Sister Rita Schonhoff in 1991, Whole Health Outreach is a Catholic social services agency with two missions: to serve seniors in the most rural parts of southern Missouri and provide shelter for those fleeing domestic violence. Catholic Charities will envelop these programs in the next few months.

# NAMING LIFEHOUSE IN CAPE GIRARDEAU

LifeHouse in Springfield is beautifully named “St. Anne’s Campus,” after the mother of The Blessed Virgin Mary. To distinguish the two LifeHouse campuses, we wanted our Cape Girardeau LifeHouse Campus to have a more personal name as well, reflecting another pertinent saint. The new name came to mind rather quickly, “St. Therese of Lisieux, France,” better know as “The Little Flower.” Thus The Little Flower Campus was born.



St. Therese of Lisieux, often referred to as “the Little Flower of Jesus,” was a French Carmelite nun who lived from 1873 to 1897. She always imagined herself as a little flower in God’s garden of love. Known for her simple, practical approach to spiritual life which she called the “Little Way,” she wrote that one does not need to make a difference in grandiose ways, but in little acts of holiness. She felt that one can find peace and holiness by becoming more like that of little children.

St. Therese’s wish was to “spend her Heaven doing good on earth.” ”Roses always signal to us that St. Therese is listening and offer a sweet reminder of Jesus’ love for us. Whether it is an actual rose or a scent of roses, St. Therese has answered many prayers through her intercession.

At the Little Flower Campus, the spirit of St. Therese is alive and well. We already have three “little flowers” born since our opening in May. We have six moms living there now, learning how to transform their lives in “little ways.” Many volunteers are devoting their time and efforts by performing little acts of holiness in their unselfish devotion to these moms and babies. We have a dedicated staff working diligently in our little garden of love we now proudly call the “Little Flower Campus.” And the rose bushes planted in front of our building are blooming profusely. St. Therese is definitely spending her time in Heaven doing good on earth!

**Rhonda Cuba**

*LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau Capital Campaign Chair*

**LifeHouse Gala**  
cape girardeau

*Music of the Night*

NOVEMBER **2** 2024

A decorative chandelier with multiple lights and ornate details.

**LIVE AUCTION | BEACH HOUSE RAFFLE | FUND OUR MISSION**  
**ONLINE AUCTION | PURSE RAFFLE | BOURBON PULL**

There are so many ways to support the LifeHouse Gala Cape Girardeau! Sponsorships, tables, and tickets are available now, and the online auction opens on October 18. Don’t miss out on the Fund Our Mission, which has a \$100,000 matching gift thanks to an anonymous donor!



# MAKE A MONTHLY DIFFERENCE

Making a monthly donation to Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri will support those that need it most. Join one of the NEW monthly giving societies and receive a lapel pin, dedicated newsletter, and prayer intentions at monthly Mass at St. Anne's Monastery in Springfield.



**Saint Rose Philippine  
Duchesne Society**

Supports *all* programs  
of CCSOMO.



**Saint Anne  
Society**

Supports LifeHouse  
in Springfield.



**Little Flower  
Society**

Supports LifeHouse  
in Cape Girardeau.

**DONATE NOW!**



## PROGRAMS

Construction Services

Developmental Disability  
Services

Disaster Services

Housing Services

Maternal & Family Programs

Veterans Services

## VOLUNTEER BBQ:

### THANK YOU CAPE GIRARDEAU VOLUNTEERS!

LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau welcomed its first resident just months ago in late May. Since then, the house population has grown to six moms and three babies. With a growing house comes a growing need for volunteers. And there are no shortage of them in Cape Girardeau!

We have an incredible team of volunteers that jumped in from the moment the doors at Little Flower Campus first opened. LifeHouse truly wouldn't be the same without them!

Last month, JR Dougherty, Nutrition & Food Services Specialist, teamed up with Rick and Rhonda Cuba, LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau Capital Campaign Chairs, to host a volunteer appreciation barbecue at Little Flower Campus. Featuring a spread of JR's mouthwatering creations, the event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Thank you to all volunteers who make a difference in the lives of our clients and staff each and every day!



**To become a volunteer, please contact the Advancement Team at 417-720-4213 or [volunteers@ccsomo.org](mailto:volunteers@ccsomo.org).**



**STAY CONNECTED!**



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

