

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

JULY 2025



A NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF MOUNTAINTOP HOMES

We are proud to announce the grand opening of Mountaintop Homes! A partnership with O'Reilly Development, Mountaintop Homes is a mixed-income community that will provide safe, affordable, and inclusive housing. The neighborhood sits north of I-44 and adjacent to the Missouri Veterans Commission in Mount Vernon.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on June 24. Joined by Bishop Edward Rice, the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, a representative of Catholic Charities USA, and other project partners, the grand opening celebration was a culmination of the 18-month construction process.

Eight of the 42 units are reserved for Catholic Charities clients, including homeless/at-risk veterans, mothers in the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies program, and families at risk of homelessness. A CCSOMO staff member will work on site to provide residents with the tools and support necessary to build a stable, self-sufficient future.

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KEN'S COLUMN

When we think of superheroes, our minds often jump to comic books, blockbuster movies, or childhood dreams of capes and superpowers.

At Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, we see superheroes every single day—without the capes and without the fanfare. They walk among us, quietly helping our teams to transform lives and communities with compassion, accountability, and faith. These heroes are our donors, as well as a third-grade class at Springfield's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School.



The class donated proceeds from a class project to our LifeHouse Program. I had the privilege of meeting with them, thanking them, and asking what it meant to donate to the program. From the mouths of the children...kindness, caring, compassion, faith, help, hope, and love. I reminded them they were each superheroes because of the words they used to describe their "why" in donating to our program. They didn't need superhuman strength to lift a struggling family out of poverty. They didn't need to fly to rescue a child from the brink of despair. They simply gave, and they changed everything.

What makes you a superhero isn't just what you give. It's *why* you give. Do the kids' words echo your own? Is your "why" the same? I think yes! You give out of love. Out of faith. Out of a belief that no one should be forgotten or forsaken. And like Christ, you serve "the least of these," expecting nothing in return. That is heroism in its purest form.

You remind us all that goodness exists, that hope is never lost, and that love, both quiet and consistent, has the power to change lives.

So, from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of every life you've touched: thank you. Thank you for standing with Catholic Charities. Thank you for believing in the mission. And thank you for being the superhero someone prayed for.

Ken Palermo, Chief Executive Officer

UPCOMING EVENTS

TASTE OF CCSOMO: MIDSUMMER MIXER July 23, 2025

Enjoy a fun night of mixology with delicious summer cocktails!

*Brown Derby Wine Center | 6:30 PM
2303 S Glenstone Ave, Springfield*

CATHOLIC NIGHT AT THE SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS August 3, 2025

Enjoy a fun afternoon of fellowship and Cardinals baseball with Bishop Rice & CCSOMO!

Hammons Field | 1:05 PM Game Start

TASTE OF CCSOMO: FLORAL DESIGN CLASS August 26, 2025

Craft a beautiful bouquet while enjoying mocktails and sweet treats!

*Shaffitzel's Flowers & Greenhouse | 6:30 PM
1771 E. Atlantic St, Springfield*

LIFEHOUSE GALA, SPRINGFIELD September 20, 2025

Join us at White River Conference Center for *Magnolias & Miracles*. This year, the event will feature live entertainment by the **Get Down Band** and the brand new **Twilight Cocktail Hour**. Sponsorships and tables are available now!

TASTE OF CCSOMO: BOURBON "MIX IT UP" MIXER October 22, 2025

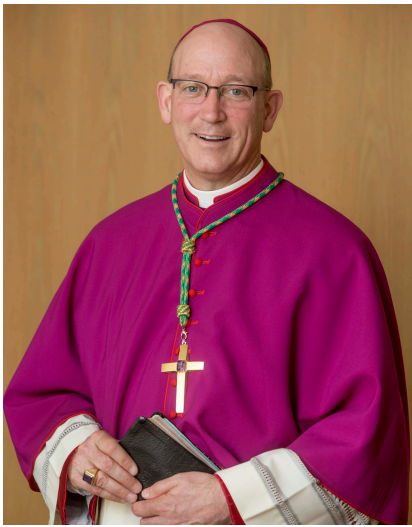
Learn how to craft four delicious bourbon cocktails. Other beverage options available.

*Before and After Brewing | 6:30 PM
2940 E. Sunshine St, Springfield*

LIFEHOUSE GALA, CAPE GIRARDEAU November 1, 2025

Join us at the Drury Plaza Conference Center in Cape Girardeau for *Night of a Thousand Stars*.

Enjoy dinner, exciting auctions, live entertainment by the **Nashville Blue Tones**, and more to support LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau. Sponsorships and tables are available now!



A WORD FROM BISHOP RICE

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri,

We're excitedly anticipating the annual LifeHouse Gala, Springfield on September 20 at the White River Conference Center. To follow will be the equally rousing LifeHouse Gala, Cape Girardeau on November 1 at the Drury Plaza Hotel Conference Center.

Both LifeHouse locations have much to celebrate! At this moment, there are 12 residents and eight babies at LifeHouse in Cape Girardeau on the Little Flower Campus. The Little Flower Campus recently celebrated its first anniversary with eight babies welcomed in year one. At St. Anne's Campus, home to LifeHouse in Springfield, there are currently nine moms, five babies and six toddlers running around the place. In early June, Saint Anne's campus welcomed baby #156!

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has been promoting a parish-based, nationwide initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need, "Walking with Moms in Need". Both of our LifeHouse locations rely upon the volunteer efforts and financial support provided by so many of our parishioners. In fact, in late June, LifeHouse in Springfield welcomed over 80 volunteers to paint, install a new playground, and clean up the grounds of St. Anne's Campus. It was beautiful to see so many come together for such a great cause.

I ask you to please mark your calendar for September 20th and November 1st. We need your financial assistance to keep this good work going. Through the programs offered at LifeHouse, the people of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau are doing our part to walk with moms in need. Life is precious. Life is fragile. Let each of us support women in need.



2025 Catholic Night Day AT THE SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 | 1:05 PM* *UPDATED START TIME

TICKET PRICE: \$12

Tickets purchased before July 25 will be available for pickup at St. Anne's Campus (424 E. Monastery St.) starting July 29. Tickets purchased after July 25 will be available at Hammons Field before the game.

[CCSOMO.ORG/CATHOLIC-NIGHT-CARDINALS](https://ccsomo.org/catholic-night-cardinals)

417-720-4213 | ccsomo.org

GOLF FOR A GOOD CAUSE:

2025 KOC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2025 Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament was a huge success! With a sold-out field of 35 teams, bright blue skies, and plenty of birdies, it truly was a great day of golf for a good cause.

Over the last ten years, this tournament has generated more than \$100,000 in donations. Through the the generosity of the players, sponsors, and other donors, Knights of Columbus Council #13681 has consistently supported Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri and LifeHouse. We are so grateful for our continued partnerships with Knights of Columbus councils across the state!

Thank you to our The Auto Parlor, and all other sponsors, players, and volunteers who showed up in support of Catholic Charities and LifeHouse. We hope to see you out on the greens again next year!



DAY OF CARING 2025: FROM POWER WASHING TO PLAYGROUNDS

Did you know? St. Anne's Campus sits on 11 acres of land in the middle of Springfield! United Way's Day of Caring is one of the most important days of our year, as the assistance of our volunteer groups enables us to keep the property clean and safe for all to enjoy!

This year, we had nearly 100 volunteers join us from Jack Henry and the City of Springfield, along with our monthly garden group. In addition to regular grounds maintenance, this year's projects included staining the grotto, repairing the garden greenhouse, power washing the building, and installing a new playground for all LifeHouse moms and toddlers to enjoy!

We are constantly reminded of the power of teamwork as our hard-working Day of Caring team, garden crews, local school groups, and CCSOMO staff collaborate throughout the year to keep our grounds safe and enjoyable for all!



From power-washing and painting to greenhouse repairs and installing a brand-new LifeHouse playground, this hard-working crew tackled it all and stayed smiling despite the heat!

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE LIFEHOUSE GALAS!

SPRINGFIELD

MAGNOLIAS *and* MIRACLES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

WHITE RIVER CONFERENCE CENTER
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY *THE GET DOWN BAND*

TWILIGHT COCKTAIL HOUR

NEW THIS YEAR! Immediately following the conclusion of the program, enjoy one hour of an **open bar** along with a mouthwatering experience featuring **dessert stations** provided by local confectionaries.

PRESENTED BY:



BENEFITTING:



NIGHT OF A

Thousand Stars

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025



DRURY PLAZA CONFERENCE CENTER

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE NASHVILLE BLUE TONES

PRESENTED BY:



BENEFITTING:



CAPE GIRARDEAU

70% TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR BOTH EVENTS

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 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

Housing Services

Maternal & Family Programs

Veterans Services

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

MARY ETTA DUNAWAY, LITTLE FLOWER CAMPUS

"Volunteering at LifeHouse has been just the right thing at the right time for me! As I began navigating what I should be doing after recently retiring, I started working in the kitchen. It has been a fun and educational way to continue using some of my skills as a dietitian.

Helping prepare the dinner meal and spending time with the women and their babies in a pleasant atmosphere builds rapport, and I feel like I receive more than I give to them. I love when they need help holding their baby so they can eat a meal and enjoy the time at dinner a little more.

I also enjoy helping drive the girls to appointments, work, etc. and hope to do more of this in the future. Getting to know them a little better one-on-one is nice and a necessary help for LifeHouse. I'm looking forward to doing even more at LifeHouse in the year ahead!"



We're always looking for new volunteers to join us at both LifeHouse locations! 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.



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