



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

MARCH 2026



INTRODUCING BRIDGES: EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR MOTHERS AND NEWBORNS

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is proud to introduce our new Bridges Program, an expansion of our Maternal and Family Services designed to support mothers and newborns during the critical transition after leaving the hospital. The Bridges Program provides short-term housing and stabilization support for mothers who have recently given birth. Through safe housing at one of our LifeHouse locations and individualized case management, mothers receive help connecting to community resources, building stability plans, and preparing for long-term housing and independence. Bridges is available in both Springfield and Cape Girardeau.

This program fills a service gap for mothers who may not need long-term residential programming, but still need immediate, safe housing and structured support during the postpartum period. As LifeHouse Program Manager Dana Morton explains, "Bridges fills an important gap in services. We can now offer the same case management, housing support, and stabilization services LifeHouse is known for to mothers immediately after delivery, when safe housing and support are most critical."

For Elizabeth, Bridges became a turning point: "In 120 days, Bridges helped me trade chaos for clarity. I got to keep my daughter after leaving the hospital with a safe place to live. I am healing my relationship with my son, and we are in the process of reunification with him. I am moving forward every day. I went from addiction to achievement, from instability to stability, and I'm proudly sober for six months."

Bridges is more than a program, it is a pathway to healing, stability, and hope for families when they need it most.

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KEN'S COLUMN

Faithful Stewardship in Service of the Gospel

To the teams at CCSOMO, stewardship is a moral responsibility rooted in Catholic Social Teaching. Every gift entrusted to us is an act of faith; your faith in action, and we honor that trust with transparency and care.

Financial transparency reflects our belief in honesty and accountability. You expect and deserve confidence that resources are managed responsibly and aligned with our mission to uphold human dignity and serve those in need. Clear oversight and responsible reporting strengthen trust and ensure integrity in all we do.

We receive every dollar with care, prioritizing intentions, ensuring each is met, and documenting impacts. This discipline enables us to serve more people effectively while respecting the sacrifices behind every gift.

As a business, we invest in efficient systems, reduce unnecessary overhead, and continuously evaluate ministries to ensure they are effective and responsive to community needs. Stewardship sometimes requires making difficult choices, prioritizing what delivers the greatest impact, and adjusting when circumstances change. We approach those decisions with prayer, data, care, and compassion.

Through these efforts, your Catholic Charities is better prepared to adapt to changing needs and growing demand. This ensures our mission remains strong today and sustainable for the future.

As I enter my fourth year leading CCSOMO, I'm humbly reminded every day of the many blessings you provide through your time, treasure, and talent. Thank you for placing your trust in Catholic Charities. Your generosity makes our work possible, and together, we can continue serving across the Diocese with compassion, today and for years to come. For any questions, comments, and critiques, you should always feel free to reach out to me directly at kpalermo@ccsomo.org or 314-882-2410. Also, please know that you can always see our updated financials on our website and the QR code below. I would be grateful for the gift of your time and interest in Catholic Charities.

In His Service,



Ken Palermo
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

Fiscal year 25
financials



UPCOMING EVENTS

BISHOP'S MASS FOR CCSOMO

March 28, 2026

Join Bishop Rice in Springfield for a special Mass for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 9:00 am.

SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS

May 28, 2026

CCSOMO is hosting Catholic Night at the Springfield Cardinals baseball game at 7:05pm.

MISSISSIPPI MINGLE

June 6, 2026

Enjoy a day of good food, live music, and family fun in Cape Girardeau from 11:00 am–3:00 pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 22, 2026

Tee off at Fremont Hills Country Club to benefit CCSOMO's LifeHouse in Springfield. Start assembling your team!

CAPE CATFISH NIGHT

June 28, 2026

Enjoy Catholic Night at the Cape Catfish game at 4:05pm in Cape Girardeau.

LIFEHOUSE GALA SPRINGFIELD

September 19, 2026

Spend an evening celebrating LifeHouse in Springfield with dinner, entertainment, and more at the White River Conference Center

LIFEHOUSE GALA CAPE GIRARDEAU

November 7, 2026

Enjoy a special night of dining, auctions, and fun at the Drury Plaza Hotel Conference Center in Cape Girardeau.

CATHOLIC NIGHT AT THE BALLGAME

Visit ccsomo.org/events for more info

Springfield Cardinals
Thursday, May 28 | 7:05pm | Hammons Field
Springfield, MO

CCSOMO is hosting a special Catholic Night at the Springfield Cardinals baseball game at 7:05 pm, with \$10 stadium tickets available for general admission.

NEW THIS YEAR: Taste of CCSOMO at the Ballpark!
You can buy a special "Taste" ticket and attend Taste of CCSOMO in the Executive Suite with food for all attendees!



Cape Catfish--BRAND NEW THIS YEAR!
Sunday, June 28 | 4:05pm | Capaha Field
Cape Girardeau, MO

Catholic Night with the Cape Catfish starts at 4:05pm. A limited number of Home Run Party Deck tickets are available for \$45 per adult and \$25 for kids ages 6–12 (kids 5 and under are free). Located behind right field, this all-inclusive area includes food, beer, seltzers, water, and soft drinks — or you can purchase general admission tickets for \$10.



For tickets and sponsorship information, visit ccsomo.org/events or scan the QR code.

MISSISSIPPI MINGLE

Saturday, June 6 | 11 AM | 318 S. Spanish St.
Cape Girardeau, MO

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is excited to host the 5th Annual Mississippi Mingle on Saturday, June 6, 2025! This family-friendly afternoon, held in collaboration with Knights of Columbus Council 1111 and Knights of Columbus Council 11205, will take place from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the KC Hall (318 S. Spanish St.).

Spend the day on the banks of the mighty Mississippi enjoying:

- Live music
- Delicious food and adult beverages
- Games and family-friendly activities
- And plenty of summer fun

Tickets are just \$10 and include a drink of your choice. Children under 5 are free.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 22 | 12 PM | Fremont Hills Country Club
Nixa, MO

Play a round of golf to support LifeHouse in Springfield! Sponsorships, team registrations, and individual player spots are available now for this year's tournament. Last year's event completely sold out, and we're looking forward to another incredible day on the course in 2026 so start building your team early!

Find out how to become a sponsor at ccsomo.org/events or scan the QR code.

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For tickets and sponsorship information, visit ccsomo.org/events or scan the QR code.



BISHOP'S MASS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

Saturday, March 28 | 9:00 AM | Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Springfield, MO

On Saturday, March 28, Edward M. Rice will celebrate the annual Bishop's Mass for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. Together, we will lift up prayers for the at-risk veterans, pregnant women with nowhere to turn, individuals with developmental disabilities, homeless families, and all those served each day through our ministries. Join us in person at Holy Trinity Catholic Church or watch live on the CCSOMO and Diocesan Facebook pages.



A WORD FROM BISHOP RICE

“Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service ...”

With these words from the opening Collect for Ash Wednesday liturgy, we enter into the 40 days of the Lenten Season. In that first line of the prayer we notice the connection between fasting and service. The traditional works of Lent; prayer, fasting, and works of charity are all connected, drawing us into a deeper relationship with Christ.

In prayer, we are invited to intensify our baptismal promises where we rejected Satan, and all his works and all his empty show. In prayer, we intensify our walk with Jesus through the stations of the cross, holding vigil with him in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, reflecting on the sorrowful mysteries of his life in the rosary or simply in praying the Scriptures. In fasting, we recognize our hunger for Jesus. We create a sacred emptiness through fasting from food or entertainment, recognizing in that emptiness the reality that only Jesus can satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart.



In our works of charity, we recognize the outward expression of our faith. Prayer and fasting are deeply rooted with one's inward attitude while charity extends itself to the neighbor. That is the work of Catholic Charities: extending a helping hand to the neighbor. And who is my neighbor? Jesus tells us the neighbor is anyone who is in need. It might be the person next door who is my actual neighbor, but it might be a total stranger that I come upon who I can help through an act of kindness and charity.


Have you ever noticed at the Penitential Rite of the Mass, when we confess our sins, “... what I have done and what I have failed to do”? That is a rather sobering thought. Yes, I am responsible for my actions, and I am also responsible for the actions that I don't undertake. I'm responsible for those times when I could have made the difference and because of my selfishness, blindness, or laziness, I let that opportunity for charity pass. It is “my fault.”

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is the official charitable arm for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Could you make a commitment to skip that white chocolate mocha or iced-caramel macchiato and make a donation to Catholic Charities? Could you forgo the French Ciabatta Dipper or toasted Italiano sandwich and make a donation to LifeHouse? During the 40 days of Lent, could you possibly skip your entertainment's streaming subscription this month or another cost and direct that money to the Veterans Program sponsored by Catholic Charities?


As you continue through the 40 days of Lent, I invite you to join me on Sat., March 28, at 9 a.m., in Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, for the annual Bishop's Mass for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. If you are unable to join us in person, the Mass will be Live-streamed. I hope to see you there, and be assured that I will be praying that this be your best Lent ever!

OUR 2025 NUMBERS ARE IN

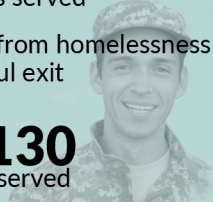
The 2025 numbers are in, and they reflect the incredible impact happening across Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri every single day. Because of strong community support, dedicated staff, and mission-driven programs, hundreds of individuals and families found safety, stability, and hope this year. From veterans and families securing housing to moms and babies receiving life-changing support, and individuals with developmental disabilities gaining services that help them thrive. These numbers represent real lives changed, and we are grateful to you. You helped make this work possible.

 **Veteran Services**
Supporting those who served our country and their families by providing case management to navigate healthcare services, overcome homelessness, and find employment for long-term success.


267 veterans served

 62% entered from homelessness
88% successful exit


130 family members served



16 families gained safer homes with critical home repairs


 **Construction Services**
Providing essential home repairs for low-income families, seniors, and individuals with developmental disabilities facing financial barriers, as well as repairs for homes damaged by natural disasters.


1,200 volunteer hours turned compassion into lasting impact




392 people were assisted

63% households entered the program with children

Provided 9,000 safe nights in a home
82% successful exit 

 **Housing Services**
Helping individuals experiencing homelessness achieve stable housing and long-term financial stability through case management services and temporary financial support.



 **Domestic Violence Support Services**
Restoring safety and stability for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence through crisis intervention, advocacy, and compassionate case management services.

115 survivors helped

 137 hotline calls

73 safe bed nights



 **Developmental Disability Services**
Connecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to resources that meet their unique needs and strengthening their independence.

1,300 people and families with disabilities served

32,482 total hours in case management

 50% increase in employment services



 **Maternal and Family Services**
By strengthening the entire family through individualized services for each member, with the goal of building healthy, self-sufficient families.

61 people served

39 Babies born

 48% were victims of domestic violence



VETERAN SERVICES EMPLOYEE TESTIMONIAL

“When I first met this client, she had been homeless for over a year and was struggling with addiction. We were able to help her get housed, but her addiction led to her losing that housing just a few months later. After losing both her mother and her brother, she hit rock bottom. From there, she made the decision on her own to get sober and started rebuilding her life. She now works two jobs and, in December, we were able to help her get housed again, furnish her apartment with furniture and help with rental assistance. Today, she’s sober, stably housed, and doing really well. Watching how far she has come has been so rewarding.”

– **CARRIE HALL**
CASE MANAGER, VETERAN SERVICES

LIFEHOUSE IN THE SPOTLIGHT: MOLLY SHARES HER STORY

During a live broadcast of *Real Talk with Riggins*, listeners heard from Molly, a LifeHouse mom, about how safe housing, case management, and daily support helped her achieve sobriety, regain custody of her child, welcome a new baby, and begin building a stable future. Educational Care Coordinator at LifeHouse, Karly Seifried, also shared how LifeHouse walks alongside moms as they move from crisis to independence and hope.



CCSOMO EXPANDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

Our Domestic Violence Support Services help restore safety and stability for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence through crisis intervention, advocacy, and compassionate case management, serving Carter, Iron, Reynolds, Shannon, and Wayne counties. In addition to our 24/7 hotline, we now offer non-residential services including case management, outreach, and emergency shelter support. Last year, we served 115 individuals, helping them access safe housing, essential resources, or with just the support needed to begin rebuilding their lives.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: TRANSPORTATION AND CHILDCARE HELP

Transportation volunteers at LifeHouse are urgently needed. Reliable rides help residents get to medical appointments, counseling, classes, childcare, work, and essential errands—key steps toward stability and independence. Even a few hours a month can make a meaningful difference for families working toward a stronger future.

Respite childcare volunteers provide important support by giving our moms a break while they attend meetings, classes, or appointments at LifeHouse. Volunteers spend time caring for babies or toddlers through play, reading, or soothing care in a safe, supportive environment. Moms remain at LifeHouse during this time, offering peace of mind for everyone involved. Even a small amount of time can make a meaningful difference for a mom working hard toward stability and independence.

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



Scan the QR code to hear the full interview.

PROGRAMS

Construction Services

Developmental Disability Services

Housing Services

Maternal & Family Programs

Veterans Services



STAY CONNECTED!



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





BISHOP'S MASS

for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri



Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

The season of Lent is a time for Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. On March 28, 2026, Bishop Rice will lead us in the annual Bishop's Mass for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. We will lift our prayers for the homeless families, at-risk veterans, pregnant women with nowhere to turn, 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.



You're invited! Please join us to celebrate this special Mass with Bishop Rice on Saturday, March 28. Mass begins at 9 am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Springfield and will be live streamed on Facebook.



This Lenten season, please keep our clients, volunteers, and staff in your prayers. We invite you to send your special intentions via the enclosed envelope for Bishop to pray over during Mass on March 28.



Please prayerfully consider Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri in your Lenten Almsgiving. Your donation of any amount can directly support clients in our five program areas: Construction, Veterans, Housing, Developmental Disabilities, and Maternal and Family.

Thank you for helping us continue *Reaching Out, Providing Hope, and Changing Lives.*

Gratefully,

Ken Palermo, Chief Executive Officer

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



Veteran Services



Maternal & Family Programs



Developmental Disability Services



Construction Services



Housing Services

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES?

1. HOST A FUNDRAISER FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

Organizations such as PCCWs, Knights of Columbus councils, youth groups, and other ministries can make a powerful difference by organizing a fundraiser to benefit Catholic Charities. Community-led fundraisers play an important role in helping us serve individuals and families throughout southern Missouri.

Fundraiser ideas include:

- Pancake breakfasts or parish dinners
- Dinner with mission testimony
- Trivia nights or game tournaments
- Fish fries or Lenten meals
- Bingo Night
- Baby bottle campaigns
- Golf tournaments or Walks
- BBQ or Chili Cook-off



2. ORGANIZE AN IN-KIND DONATION DRIVE

Donation drives for all of our programs are a simple and effective way to support our mission and help get much needed items to our clients. We can provide a current **“Most Needed Items”** list and promotional materials to make your drive easy to coordinate. Donation drives are ideal for youth groups, service clubs, confirmation classes, and parish-wide efforts.



- Hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant)
- Diapers and wipes
- Cleaning supplies
- School supplies
- Clothing items
- Gift cards
- Seasonal items (coats, blankets, fans, etc.)
- Baby Detergent

3. VOLUNTEER AT OUR LIFEHOUSES

Our mothers and babies thrive because of a strong, caring community, and we need compassionate volunteers to help in meaningful ways. Whether you have a few hours a week or just one afternoon a month, your presence can make a world of difference! Opportunities include:

- **Transportation** – Help residents get to vital appointments and job interviews.
- **Childcare** – Give our moms a break by caring for her baby or toddler.
- **Kitchen Volunteer** – Lend a hand in preparing meals that nourish both body and soul.
- **Garden (Springfield)** – The LifeHouse in Springfield gardening team helps with grounds maintenance, raised vegetable gardening, and other projects as necessary.



To get started contact Cameron Borders, Development Officer, at 573-450-5186 or cborders@ccsomo.org.

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