



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

JULY 2026

OPERATION OVERHAUL LEAVES ITS MARK ON CCSOMO



Every summer, high school students from the Perryville and Ste. Genevieve area spend a week putting their faith into action through Operation Overhaul, a mission trip organized by Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY). This year, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri was honored to be selected as their service recipient for the 2026 mission. A total of 175 students and adult volunteers traveled to Springfield, dedicating their time and talents to serving local organizations and families in need.

Throughout the week, volunteers worked at LifeHouse and eight homes across the Springfield area. At LifeHouse, students painted throughout the facility, installed new flooring, completed finishing touches on a kitchen remodel, and constructed a new storage shed to increase storage capacity for the program. At the residential project sites, volunteers completed repairs and construction projects that help improve accessibility and safety, including widening doorways, building wheelchair ramps, and making needed repairs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Catholic Charities Construction Program Manager, Rebecca Wuerdeman, helped to coordinate the Operation Overhaul's projects. Reflecting on the week, Rebecca shared, "The impact of their work will be felt long after the week has ended. Their dedication not only improved homes and facilities but also demonstrated the power of faith in action, bringing hope, dignity, and support to individuals and families throughout our community. We are deeply grateful to the students, adult leaders, and Vincentian Marian Youth for their generosity and commitment to serving others."

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KEN'S COLUMN

*What We Decide in August Could Change
How You Give*

Every day at our LifeHouse Maternity Homes in Springfield and Cape Girardeau, we walk alongside women navigating pregnancy amid profound uncertainty. They arrive without resources, often without family support, and they leave with a foundation, parenting skills, job skills, a greater sense of family and community, and the knowledge that they are not alone. That work is made possible, in meaningful part, by the generosity of our donors who utilize Missouri's Maternity Home Tax Credit Program as a component of their giving.

On August 4, Missourians will vote on Amendment 5, a constitutional measure that would set the state on a path toward eliminating Missouri's individual income tax. If voters approve it, the measure would phase out Missouri's individual income tax based on revenue growth triggers, with future lawmakers given up to five years to expand or modify sales and use taxes to replace that revenue.

The question of whether that is sound tax policy is one that Missourians will decide for themselves. That is not my place to weigh in on. But as your CEO, I have an obligation to be transparent about what it means for our mission.

Missouri's Maternity Home Tax Credit currently allows donors to receive a 70% state tax credit on contributions of \$100 or more to qualified maternity homes like LifeHouse. That means for every \$1,000 you give, \$700 directly offsets what you would otherwise owe in Missouri state income taxes. It is a credit, not a deduction; it has the same value as cash and reduces your state tax liability dollar for dollar. It is one of the most powerful charitable giving tools available to Missouri families and businesses.

If Missouri were to eliminate the state income tax, tax credits of this kind would no longer function as intended. There would be no state income tax liability against which to apply them. The Maternity Home Tax Credit, along with similar credits for domestic violence shelters and food pantries, would effectively cease to function as incentives for charitable giving.

Losing that mechanism could significantly reduce donations to this important program at a time when demand for maternity care across Southern Missouri is increasing. For the first time, we have a waiting list at both our Springfield and Cape Girardeau homes.

What I am asking of you right now is simply this: be informed. Talk to your financial advisor or CPA about how Amendment 5 could affect your charitable giving strategy. The women we serve did not choose uncertainty. We can choose, together, to make sure they are never without a home, a community, and a future. Whatever Missouri's tax landscape looks like in the years ahead, that commitment will not change.

In His Service,



Ken Palermo
Chief Executive Officer



UPCOMING EVENTS

TASTE OF CCSOMO: SPRINGFIELD SUMMER COCKTAIL MIXER

July 28, 2026

Enjoy a fun evening of mixology featuring delicious summer cocktails at Brown Derby's location in The Frisco Building (3253 E. Chestnut Expressway, Springfield). This highly anticipated summer event is always a great time!

LIFEHOUSE GALA, SPRINGFIELD MOONLIGHT MASQUERADE

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 STETSONS AND STILETTOS

November 7, 2026

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

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

November 16, 2026

A day to encourage communities to care for the poor.

BISHOP'S COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN MISSOURI

November 21-22, 2026

Diocesan-wide collection. Stay tuned for more information from your parishes. Please give prayerful consideration to a gift to Catholic Charities.

Go to
ccsomo.org/get-involved-events to learn more or scan the QR code here



A GREAT DAY ON THE GREENS

2026 KOC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2026 Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament brought together golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters for a great day benefiting the LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home in Springfield. Participants enjoyed fellowship, friendly competition, and the opportunity to support mothers and babies working toward a brighter future.

This annual event continues to make a meaningful impact. Thanks to the dedication of Knights of Columbus Council #13681 and the generosity of our community, the tournament has become a valued tradition supporting LifeHouse and the women and children it serves.

A special thank you to presenting sponsor The Auto Parlor, along with all of our sponsors, players, volunteers, and supporters who helped make this event possible. Your generosity continues to change lives, and we look forward to seeing everyone back on the course next year.



DAY OF CARING

Each year, United Way's Day of Caring brings together thousands of volunteers across the Ozarks to support local nonprofits through meaningful service projects. The event provides organizations like Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri with helping hands to complete projects that enhance the spaces where we serve our clients.

This year, volunteer teams from 3M Springfield, American National, and the City of Springfield spent the day at St. Anne's Campus tackling a variety of outdoor improvement projects. Volunteers cleaned gutters, completed landscaping work, painted, trimmed trees, and power washed around the property, helping keep the campus safe, welcoming, and beautiful for the mothers and children who call LifeHouse home.

We are continually inspired by the generosity of our community. Whether through Day of Caring, volunteer groups, or individual service projects throughout the year, these efforts make a meaningful difference for the families we serve. We are grateful to everyone who donated their time and talents to support Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri.



A WORD FROM BISHOP RICE

Love is the Object of the Sacred Heart & Charitable Good Works



Prior to the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 12), the Catholic Bishops throughout our country consecrated the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, marking the 250th anniversary of our nation with a rather historic, spiritual moment on June 11. In a nation presently fraught with political divisions and few solutions to the many issues that face us, let us turn to the Heart of Jesus for national healing and to recall our nation's spiritual foundation.

In a powerful, clarifying moment, the Declaration of Independence reminds us that we "are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights ...life, liberty, and ...happiness." The Declaration of Independence appeals to God as the "Supreme judge of the world," and calls upon the "protection of divine Providence." Because of that, it is not a foreign idea for us to call upon Almighty God for the good of our country today. Archbishop Alexander Sample of the USCCB Religious Liberty Committee said, "Our reliance on God...really was the foundation that our Founders placed this nation on."

Pope Francis, and his document on the Sacred Heart, "He Loved Us," proposed the Sacred Heart as the ultimate symbol of God's unconditional love for humanity. Again, picking up on Pope Francis, he reminded the world one October day in St. Peter's Square, "God created human beings to love and be loved. ...God's dream for human beings is that they would know they are loved by Him, that they would love Him in return and that they would love one another."

In a beautiful way, that statement summarizes not only devotion to the Sacred Heart but also quite literally our mission through the variety of services offered through Catholic Charities. For example, properly understood, our dedication to happy, healthy moms and babies at both of our LifeHouses in Springfield and Cape Girardeau is an exercise of love. Through the necessary financial support to Catholic Charities and the crucial role of so many parishioners who serve as volunteers, the people of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau are doing our part to offer those in need both love and support.

Pope St. John Paul II would say that love is a fundamental human necessity. Without love we are strangers to ourselves. True love offers the gift of self to the other, totally, and unconditionally. By consecrating our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and by supporting the work of Catholic Charities and its various services, let us move forward in mutual love and respect, committed to loving our neighbor and working for peace. Life is precious. Life is fragile. We can love with great impact in southern Missouri by supporting Catholic Charities in its efforts to alleviate the suffering and strife experienced by so many of our neighbors.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine.

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.

DONATE NOW!



**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.

MISSISSIPPI MINGLE THANKS!



A heartfelt thank you to all of our sponsors for helping make Mississippi Mingle such a success! We'd also like to thank the Knights of Columbus Council 1111 for hosting the event at the KC Hall and serving all the food for the day. We are grateful for everyone's partnership and support in making this event possible.



**THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR SPONSORS,
MUSICIANS & PATRONS!**



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE LIFEHOUSE GALAS!

Join us in supporting the Catholic Charities' LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Homes by attending one of our 2026 Galas in Springfield or Cape Girardeau. These special evenings bring our communities together to celebrate the lives being changed through safe housing, compassionate care, and opportunities for mothers and children to build brighter futures. Whether you attend, become a sponsor, make a donation, or contribute an auction item, your support makes a lasting impact. Gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to receive a 70% state tax credit while helping provide hope and stability for families in need. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, donations, tax credits or tickets, go to the events page on ccsomo.org or scan the QR codes below.

LifeHouse  **Gala**
springfield

Moonlight Masquerade



WHITE RIVER CONFERENCE CENTER
DINNER, AUCTIONS, AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTED BY:



BENEFITTING:



70% Missouri tax credits are available!



LifeHouse  **Gala**
cape girardeau



STETSONS & *Stiletto*s

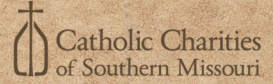
NOVEMBER 7, 2026

DRURY PLAZA HOTEL CONFERENCE CENTER
DINNER, AUCTIONS, & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTED BY:



BENEFITTING:



70% Missouri tax credits are available!



A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE: HEATHER'S STORY

Heather's life had reached a point where she could see no way forward. Years of addiction had cost her relationships, stability, and hope. Pregnant, homeless, and trapped in an abusive relationship, she found herself facing the possibility of losing custody of her baby. "Before this, I really thought that I was just going to be living on the streets for the rest of my life," Heather said. Then, she found LifeHouse. "That was the first moment that I realized I was going to be okay."

When Heather arrived at LifeHouse, she had almost nothing with her. Over the next several months, she worked hard through counseling, classes, employment, and sobriety. Today, she celebrates more than a year of sobriety, has regained her driver's license, secured employment, and is preparing for permanent housing with her son. Reflecting on her journey, Heather shared, "This place has really helped me a lot. It's a huge blessing." Thanks to compassionate supporters like you, mothers like Heather are given the opportunity to rebuild their lives, strengthen their families, and create a brighter future.



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 Cameron Borders at cborders@ccsomo.org or 573-803-5433 ext. 1725.

PROGRAMS

Construction Services

Developmental Disability
Services

Housing Services

Maternal & Family Programs

Veterans Services

Domestic Violence
Support Services



STAY CONNECTED!



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

