

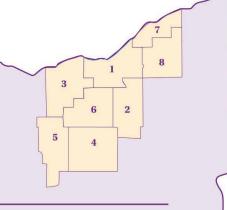


A time to heal. A time to help.

Catholic Charities continues to be the best means we have to do what Jesus desires of us: to take care of those in need. By participating in the mission of Catholic Charities, you can share God's love for the world.

The 2023 Catholic Charities Appeal relies on your donations as the principal support for critical social services offered throughout all eight counties of the Diocese - Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain, Lake, Geauga, Medina, Wayne, and Ashland. Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Cleveland is one of the largest diocesan social services in the world, serving people of every race and religion, providing help and creating hope for nearly 400,000 people each year.

Your gift to Catholic Charities will ensure that food pantries are stocked, shelters remain open, mental health and addiction services are accessible in every county, urban family centers continue vibrant program offerings, the elderly receive compassionate care, and people with disabilities are treated with respect and enjoy activities that enrich their lives. Every gift and every prayer you offer makes a difference.



As one of the largest comprehensive health and human services organizations in the region, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, continues the work of Jesus by serving the least among us.



A time to grow.

At the St. Martin de Porres Family Center, De'Shawn, an 11th grader at St. Joseph Villa Angela High School, worked a paid summer job supervising other teens serving meals or playing games with senior citizens. "It helped my social and leadership skills," said De'Shawn. Under the supervision of the site administrator and director, he grew in confidence listening to the perspectives of an older generation. Kayla has been in the Teen Leadership programs since 8th grade, helping younger kids with homework, producing podcasts, and researching for presentations. "In the leadership program, students treat each other like family. I'm introverted, and this helped me grow socially," says Kayla.

A time to love.

After the birth of their first child, Ava, and struggling to conceive, Christie and her husband, Josh, considered adoption. They met with a private adoption agency - but it felt like a cold business transaction. "Catholic Charities Adoption Services was a whole different experience," says Josh. "They were supportive of the birth mom, the adoptive family, and the child. They want the best match for everyone." Christie describes their social worker as caring and dedicated. "We were thrilled when she called to say a baby girl had been born, and the birth mother chose us." And Ava – she's just happy to be a big sister to Charlotte Rose.

A time to listen.

As a child, Brianna suffered trauma due to abuse. By age 11, she showed psychological symptoms, from hearing voices to lashing out in anger. Her mother took her to a counselor at **Catholic Charities Medina County Mental** Health Services, and healing began. "At first, I defended myself and didn't want to be there. But my counselor listened. She didn't say I was wrong or blame me." At 19, Brianna's anger issues are gone. "Catholic Charities counseling is the reason I'm the person I am today. I needed someone who'd listen and give helpful advice, even when I was filled with hurt. I had no faith or hope, but she made sure I knew I had love."

A time to care.

Kita worked at Holy Family Hospice as a nursing assistant and later advanced into management. But seeing her own parents receive hospice care truly revealed the beauty of compassionate care for the dying. "After my mom had breast cancer and received chemo, Holy Family nurses helped with her symptoms and medications. She was very spiritual, so the nuns brought communion and prayed with her. That was so important to her." Kita is proud of the compassionate team at Holy Family. "We care for people and families facing a transition to death. That is a sacred responsibility."