CATHOLIC CHARITIES
MISSION STATEMENT

Proclaim Christ’s Gospel of Life and promote human dignity by alleviating poverty and strengthening individuals and families.

KEEP YOUR VOLUNTEER INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE

If you are a new volunteer or have volunteered for a while but have moved or changed your email address, please be sure and let us know. Our hope is to have appreciation events, send out newsletters, assessments, or simply connect with you. Without your up-to-date information, you may miss out on things that may be important to you. Let’s stay connected as we strive to alleviate poverty and strengthen individuals and families!

My Co-Ministers,

When I became the Volunteer Coordinator at Catholic Charities in mid-September of 2017 I never imagined the multitude of volunteers who helped to fulfill the mission. Around 2,000 volunteers spread throughout nineteen counties help our staff. We at Catholic Charities are blessed by the many volunteers that minister alongside us.

I have been fortunate to travel to a few of our sites and meet not only the outstanding staff, but also many volunteers. What I have seen and experienced is a dedicated group of people who try each day to live Christ’s Gospel of Life by giving of themselves through sharing their talents and gifts.

This newsletter is the first of what I hope to be many to come. It is an attempt to build the road across the miles and connect with our hardworking volunteers like you. I desire to connect, to recognize, and support each of you. To build a connection which brings life, and empowerment not only to each of us but to those we minister to and alongside.

It is from the depths of my heart that I thank you for choosing to journey with us on our mission.

I hold you in my prayers in gratitude.

Sr. Laurie Sullivan, fspa
Volunteer Coordinator

Coming in 2018…

In an effort to streamline and assist our Program Supervisors and volunteers, we will begin using a new database and scheduling program. This program will assist our supervisors in maintaining proper documentation of volunteers as well as provide them with a streamline scheduling resource and connection with their volunteers on openings and schedule changes. Volunteers will be able to see their monthly schedules, sign up for open slots, and update their contact information. This program will help supervisors and volunteers in all of our offices and homeless shelters throughout the diocese. The conversion to this new program will be done incrementally throughout the year.

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflects a nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.” ~ Erma Bombeck

Sr. Laurie Sullivan, Volunteer Coordinator - 608-519-8043

Visit us at www.cclse.org
Call us at 888.212.4357
Volunteer Appreciation!
Be on the lookout for an announcement at your volunteer site or via email. Join us as we celebrate you and all you have done!

Missing Paperwork
Catholic Charities is in the process of re-accreditation. Volunteer files will be periodically reviewed for necessary forms. We are attempting to update our files with all necessary paperwork. You may be notified and asked to fill out: emergency contact information, acknowledgement of confidentiality policy and ethics policy. Watch for updated forms to complete. Thank you

Trivia Giveaway
What do you know about Catholic Charities? Each newsletter we will feature a question about Catholic Charities. The first person to email Sr. Laurie at lsullivan@cclse.org with the correct answer wins a prize.

Question 1: When Catholic Charities was first established in 1872 what program was it best known for?

Recognizing You!
Our Volunteers!

**Suzie Weibel** has volunteered with us for two and a half years. She states that what has surprised her the most about volunteering at Catholic Charities is the scope of needs in La Crosse. She wished that other people would know that you do not need to be a practicing Catholic or Catholic at all to give of yourself through Catholic Charities. Suzie expresses that if people look at her they see a little gray haired lady, but she has many interests. She enjoys the symphony, riding bikes and even riding a motorcycle!

**Sr. Bernadette Prochaska, fspa** began volunteering at Catholic Charities in October 2017. She states the most surprising thing about volunteering here is that the staff is like family. She wishes people knew that the staff is generous.

**Marian Schiesser** has volunteered with Catholic Charities for five years. She finds the most surprising thing about volunteering here is the number of people in the community who need help, and the people who give time or monetary assistance to help. People are surprised to know that Marian loves to bike the Drift less Area.

Volunteer Highlights
If you or someone you know volunteers with us, please email the volunteer coordinator with your highlights. Let us recognize your contribution and gifts. Email to lsullivan@cclse.org

Volunteer Assessments - How are we doing?
We want your experience of volunteering to be valuable and life giving to you as well as for the agency. In an attempt to assess your needs and ask for your input in improving our ministry, we are conducting monthly random Volunteer Assessments.

Each month a randomly selected group of volunteers will be sent this assessment and will be asked to give us feedback. Your honest and timely feedback will enable us to not only improve the way we minister, but also hopefully improve your volunteer experience.

These assessments will include questions such as your satisfaction, training, staff availability, your sense of contribution, opportunities for growth, and suggestions for the program you volunteer for, and finally volunteer and staff relations.

Once a year we also send out a request to our homeless facilities volunteers to complete a survey via our website. Go to our website www.cclse.org and the volunteer tab to access the survey.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the assessments.

**Volunteer Appreciation Activities**
In 2017, our volunteers worked over 40,000 volunteer hours. Without the dedication and hard work of volunteers and staff we could not do what we do. You, our volunteers make a big difference!

As a way of showing our appreciation to you we will have a variety of appreciation lunches or other activities. Beginning in January and throughout the year we will host one or two activities in each of our office locations. We don’t want to miss any of our volunteers! We hope you are able to attend.