My Co-Ministers,

I really enjoy the summer months. The warmth of the sun and the longer times of light. It tends to bring out a bounce in my step as my energy seems to be rejuvenated.

As I look around and watch the volunteers and staff at Catholic Charities, I cannot but feel a similar warmth of gratitude in all that I see being done and the witness of so many I encounter. There is an energy toward the mission that propels them to work so diligently in their positions.

We are truly blessed and I realize how truly interconnected we all are in this journey. How without each of us, the journey would be so different.

Thank you for journeying with me as we spread the Gospel of Life wherever you go.

With Gratitude,
Sr. Laurie Sullivan, fspa
Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers encourage empathy, compassion, and community building.

~Author Unknown

Getting to Know Catholic Charities Staff

Meet a staff member who enjoys and appreciates the work of volunteers.

Steve Burnette is the Director of Disability Services.

“I believe that serving others is the greatest thing a person can do, and I am very fortunate to be able to serve others by working at Catholic Charities.” Steve has been with Catholic Charities for 10 years and works with our wonderful staff and volunteers in coordinating programs for adults and teens with developmental disabilities. He has worked with children and adults with various levels of needs and abilities for over 25 years.

Steve is the father of 3 amazing children whom he “shares the importance of treating others with dignity as well as pizza and a video on Friday nights.”

Steve feels one of the best things about working at Catholic Charities is the great people he has the fortune of meeting on a daily basis. He appreciates the efficiency of the volunteers and their communication with him as they work to fill the needs within the program.
Recognizing You! Our Volunteers!

Joseph Znidarsich has volunteered at the La Crosse Warming Center for four years. He finds the staff is mostly friendly and makes the volunteers feel very appreciated and important. Deacon Richard Sage and Tristine Bauman are two people who have influenced him the most by being cheerful and friendly with the guests. Joseph says people would be surprised that he has a degree in biology and chemistry and had lived in his car for a week. Joseph would like to encourage participation in the centers orientation to learn a few of the situational concerns one is involved in and then just volunteer, spend an evening, the experience is fulfilling.

James Quinn has volunteered at the La Crosse Warming Center for seven years. He says he is most surprised by the number of people that volunteer, but wishes that people knew that Catholic Charities still needs volunteers. He states that Bob Powell, a once homeless gentleman has had a great influence on him.

Debra Morovits began volunteering at the La Crosse Warming Center in 2017. She was surprised by watching some clients working toward a better way of life and gaining confidence. She wished that other people knew that there are many ways to volunteer at Catholic Charities such as donating clothing and pantry items to giving your time.

Brady Scafe has volunteered at Sojourner House for about two years. Brady is surprised that so many people know about Sojourner House, including her grandmother who lives in Sparta. Brady wishes that other people knew that with the help of volunteers, Catholic Charities assists many people in reaching their goals. Brady tells people who are thinking about volunteering to go for it. It makes you feel good to be able to help others, and it’s a way to be able to give back to your community.

Sarah Hennessey has volunteered at the Franciscan Hospitality House (FHH) for three years. She is committed to ending homelessness and feels FHH is an important way to give dignity and a safe place to our friends who are on the street. She is most surprised about how the guests at FHH are a community of people who really look out for each other and the unique story of each person. She wishes people knew the dignity and humanity of people on the streets as well as the huge diversity.

A New Volunteer Opportunity in the Wausau Community!

Our Wausau Community Day Center is open to our homeless population and those at risk of becoming homeless. We are open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, from 12:30-4:30. We offer our guests shower facilities, an opportunity to do their laundry, companionship, and of course some amazing hospitality. Light snacks will also be available. Tracy, our Wausau Warming Center Coordinator will be available to meet with guests, but she is looking for 2-3 volunteers to assist with daily operations. If you would like to learn more or are available to volunteer contact Tracy at 608.519.8069 or email trieger@cclse.org.