Nurturing
THE TREE OF LIFE

HOW OUR SERVICES PRESERVE LIFE AND DIGNITY
FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH.

SPRING 2018 EDITION
In 2015 we were startled by the great need we uncovered for a trustworthy Catholic resource for professional counseling. To meet the many needs of our parish priests and Catholic schools personnel, we are undertaking our Hope to Healing capital campaign.

Catholic Charities is uniquely qualified with expertise in both mental-health services and Catholic teaching. We are the arm of the Church that is called upon to respond to physical, emotional, mental and spiritual need.

“Many of our family members, friends, or colleagues will encounter mental-health challenges at some point,” says Hope to Healing co-chair Helen Nill. “So a sustainable counseling program is vital to creating a more mentally healthy diocese.”

We have started by hiring a clinical liaison to help parishioners navigate the mental-health system. In South Bend, we have also hired a therapist who is serving the students and families of three Catholic schools. However, there is much more we need to do.

A FOUR-YEAR GOAL

**2017 PROJECTION**  
80 PEOPLE SERVED  

**2018 PROJECTION**  
350 PEOPLE SERVED  

**2019 PROJECTION**  
550 PEOPLE SERVED  

**2020 PROJECTION**  
775 PEOPLE SERVED

PLEASE SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING PROGRAM.

“With the issues facing our fathers, mothers, children and neighbors, the Hope to Healing Initiative is the start of loving our diocesan family.”

— Paulette Davis, Board President and Co-chair

“Our counseling services offer a way to lovingly support those facing difficult challenges. God bless you for all you do to build up Catholic Charities and bring comfort to all those in need in our diocese.”

— Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**SCOPE OF NEED**

- 13,668 Students
- 52,323 Catholic Families
- 160,317 Catholics
- 1,247,850 General Population

**A FOUR-PART STRATEGY**

**PARISHES** — Many of our priests tell us their most important need is for trustworthy professional counselors. They see many families and individuals every week whose needs exceed their time or professional expertise.

**SCHOOLS** — There are times when there are deep-seeded emotional or psychological issues coming from 13,668 students that are beyond our Catholic educators professional capabilities.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS** — There is a nationwide epidemic of sex and labor trafficking, and our diocese is no exception. Starting in late 2017, we will help freed victims deal with the trauma of their captivity and adjustment back into the community.

**COMMUNITY** — Our ambition is to eventually take our Catholic perspective and professional counseling services to the broader community. There are 1.2 million people in our diocese.
At 19, Ann was single and pregnant with a son. Unfortunately Ann and the boy’s father went their separate ways. After a lot of soul searching and free counseling from Catholic Charities, Ann decided to place her baby for adoption through our agency.

In those days, it was rare to have contact between the birth mother, her child and the adopting parents so neither Ann nor her son had any knowledge of one another. Decades later her son decided to look for her and went to Catholic Charities to begin his search.

We encounter both birth parents and adoptees who reach out to us regularly. Most birth parents want to know if the adoptee has searched for them. Some adoptees want to meet their birth parents, which we can facilitate with permission. Most commonly, adoptees want to know more about the circumstances of their adoption, including whether their birth parents made the choice together and had any kind of meaningful relationship. Losing the records on microfilm as they deteriorate would deny the adoptees the chance to learn this information.

Herein lies our need. Many of our current microfilm records are becoming increasingly fragile with age and will eventually disintegrate. Our hope is to preserve this historic information for our adoptees and heroic birth parents. Please help us with this important endeavor by championing a lead gift of $1000 or a gift of any size to help us reach our goal of $5000.

The machine we need is both a scanner and a printer. The scanner would take a digital image of the original film documents, which in turn we would store on our server, and print documents as needed.

Gifts can be made online at ccfwsb.org/donate, or via mail at: Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc., P.O. Box 10630, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

We are greatly saddened by the passing of Board Member Gregory S. Schmitt M.D., F.A.C.S. We extend our prayers and condolences to his family and friends. Greg passed away at age 63 on Sunday, February 4, 2018. He had recently retired as a cardiac surgeon with Parkview Hospital and was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Greg had been a board member for 3 years, serving on the Board Development Committee. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of St. Joseph Community Foundation.
Louise’s new husband is tragically killed weeks after entering WWII. Soon after he ships out, she discovers she is pregnant, and with no way to support their baby, Louise turns to Catholic Charities to place her daughter for adoption. The child is later named Mary.

1964
Mary, now 22 and living on her own, is planning to get married. Her parish priest refers Mary and her fiancé Jim to Catholic Charities for premarital counseling. The couple are married and, 18 months later, are expecting their first child.

1971
Now pregnant with their second child, Jim loses his job. The family gets temporary help from our Food Pantry while Jim receives assistance with job placement from our case manager.

1982
Mary’s adoptive father has a debilitating stroke and Catholic Charities helps Mary and her mother find good long-term rehabilitation and care at St. Anne Home.

1999
Now grandparents, Mary and Jim’s first granddaughter, Abigail, is pregnant at 16. With the help of our ECHO (Education Creates Hope & Opportunity) program, Abigail chooses life, finishes her high-school diploma, and gets assistance adapting to motherhood.

2006
Abigail has married Tony, the father of her child Chloe, who is acting out in school and, in turn, producing friction in the family. Catholic Charities enrolls Abigail and Tony in Your Journey Together, a family-trauma-focused program designed to improve parent-child relationships.

2012
Wanting to give back to Catholic Charities, Jim, now retired, has become a case manager for our Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which helps seniors find new employment. He now assists other seniors displaced from the workforce.

2018
Mary’s relationship with Catholic Charities comes full circle when she begins working on her genealogy and wants to learn more about her biological parents. She asks Catholic Charities to review her adoption records and learns about her birthmother Louise and the tragic circumstances in WWII that led to her adoption.
"Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (cf. John 1:14), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God, and engage her in their mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life to all the world and to every creature (cf. Mark 16:15)."

St. John Paul II

The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae), no. 3
Case Manager Melissa Grossman, intern Kristin Kline, and supervisor Jessica Hanna (L-R) provided services at St. Anthony de Padua in Steuben County.

Our Mobile Unit is vital to our mission of strengthening families and alleviating poverty in under-served areas of the diocese. Many times people in need do not have transportation to come to one of our three offices in Fort Wayne, Auburn or South Bend. So now we have the means to reach out to rural parishes, understand their needs, and bring those services to them. Please consider making a donation.

- **$25** provides a meal to a family in need
- **$50** provides a family in crisis with supportive mental health services
- **$100** provides a family with a heat in their home

Catholic Charities is now on Facebook. Please like us and check back regularly to see pictures, read success stories and learn about ways to get involved.

Facebook: facebook.com/ccfwsb

P.O. Box 10630 | Fort Wayne, IN 46853
cfwsb.org