

CHEF



Coming Home



English as a Second Language manager Zeljana Javorek visits with Catholic Charities' clients at the airport as they await the arrival of their family.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this, some have entertained angels without knowing it.

- Hebrews 13:2



Lisa DeJaco Crutcher, Chief Executive Officer

A Letter from Lisa

I'm grateful for all of the support we receive from our church and our community throughout the year.

Advent here at Catholic Charities was truly inspirational: we collected over \$4,000 worth of holiday gift donations, welcomed energetic new staff members and made community connections to spread the word of our work.

During Lent, our faith calls us to commit ourselves to prayer and fasting. The third piece of our Lenten tradition is almsgiving, where we share God's gifts not only through financial contributions, but through our time and talents as well.

Our Catholic tradition calls us into solidarity with all God's people. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that "the goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."

As you read the stories throughout this newsletter, I hope you are inspired to learn of others who, like you, do so much to support those in need.

Perhaps this Lent you will find a new way to engage with Catholic Charities. For myself, I hope to follow the Heart of Christ in the way in which I approach work and interact with all whom we serve.

My best to you,

Lisa DeJaco Crutcher

Spring brings fresh opportunities

Common Earth Gardens

The 2020 season of Common Earth Gardens' (CEG) Incubator Farm Business Training Program kicked off earlier this year.

The program supports resettled refugees in developing farm businesses in the Louisville area.

One of the first farmers to join the program back in 2012 was Bakar Aden of Bakar Family Farm, who has over three decades of farming experience.

You may recognize his wife Amina Osman and their son Amir Hussein from the St. Matthews Farmer's

Market or St. Francis of Assisi's Sunday Market, where they have sold for several years.

Amir Hussein says, "For us, farming was a guiding light. It lifted us from our refuge in Kenya and brought us to our current place in life where we had been given the chance to meet the amazing people at CEG who opened the opportunity to keep farming in our lives."

Bakar Family Farm hopes to soon graduate from the Incubator Farm Business Training Program and work with staff to find more land where they can farm full-time in future years.



Catholic Charities of Louisville is an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Louisville and member of Catholic Charities USA.

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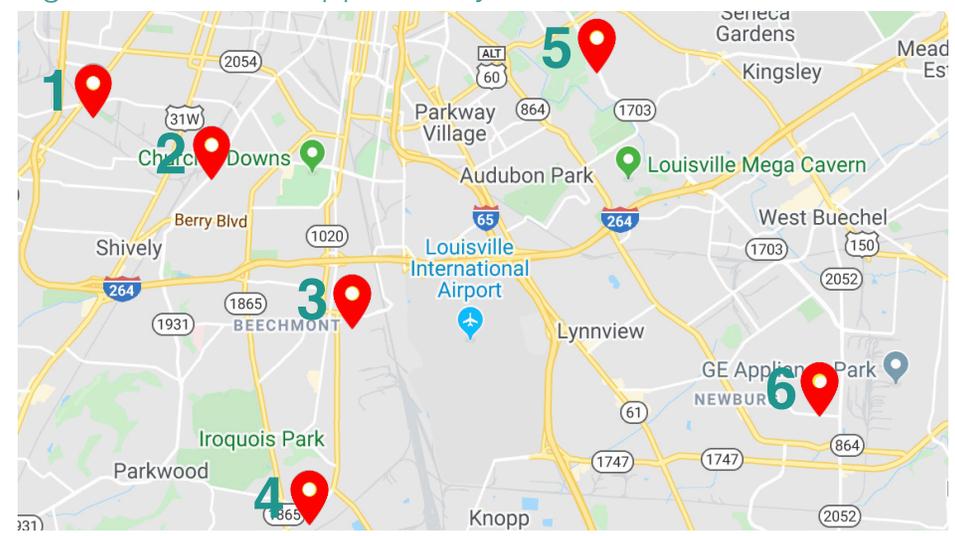
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Agriculture Sites Supported by Common Earth Gardens



Community agriculture gives growers ownership and accountability, manifesting in leadership development, community integration, pride, and independence.

- 1 Incubator Farm
- 2 7th Street Community Garden
- 3 Peaceful Eden Community Garden
- 4 Southside Community Garden
- 5 New Hope International Farm
- 6 St. Ignatius Community Garden

Visit one of our farmer's markets this summer!
Go to cclou.org/common-earth-gardens.

2020 *Roller*

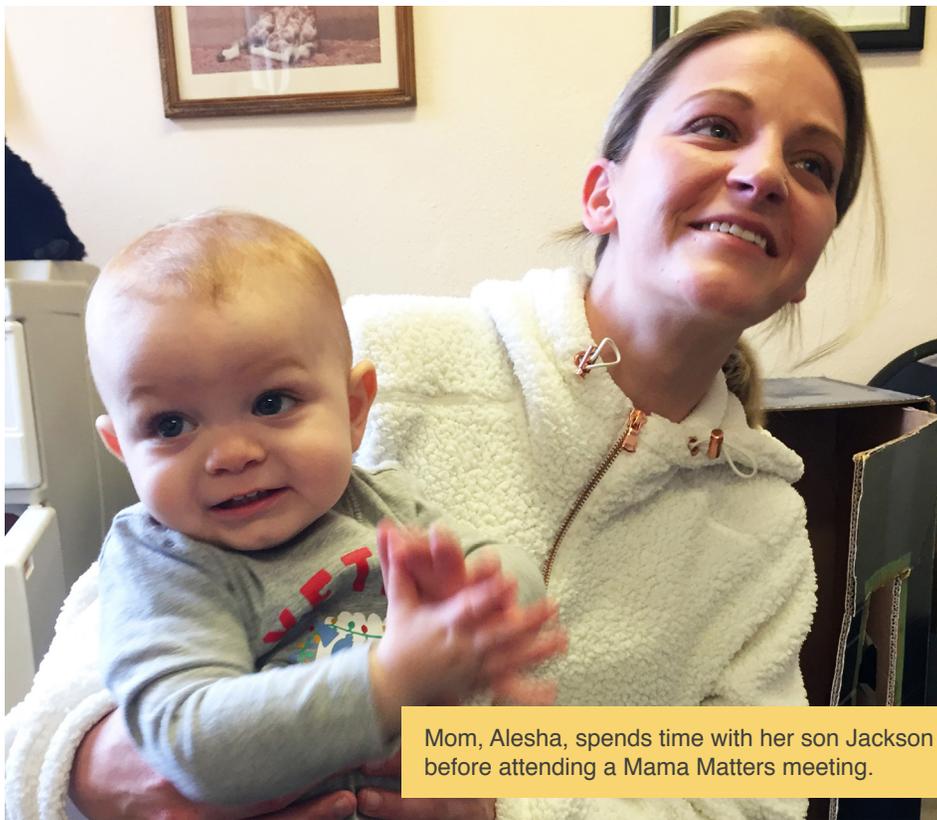
The good times rolled!

We had such a great time celebrating Fat Tuesday with a sold out crowd! There was live music by Lou Orleans and The Waste Band. Guests tried their luck at bingo, casino games, raffles, and prizes. Most importantly, the money went to support all of Catholic Charities' direct services.

Save the date for next year!

**Tuesday,
February
16, 2021**





Mom, Alesha, spends time with her son Jackson before attending a Mama Matters meeting.

Mom finds support and resources

Family Support Services

In October 2018, Alesha came to her first class of Mother-Infant Care. She had just given birth to her second child, a beautiful baby boy, and did not have much support from family members. She was looking forward to learning some new information and receiving much needed baby items.

Although she was eager to participate in the program, life got in the way, so she had to drop out after the first class. Alesha did not give up. She decided to give the program another try. In February of 2019, she completed the Mother-Infant Care program.

More than a year after reaching out to Family Support Services, she is a regular at the Mama Matters Support Group, which meets twice per month.

She shares, "This group is so much fun and valuable. [It] also [has] very helpful and caring people."

Over the last year, Family Support Services staff had the pleasure of watching Jackson grow into a healthy toddler and witness Alesha's compassion and love for her children.

Interested in hosting a drive for baby items?
Contact Emily at ewillis@archlou.org.

Staff assists in moving bill forward

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

In 2019, Senator Tom Buford introduced House Bill 215, to require the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to create a minimum staff-to-resident ratio for nursing homes.

Each facility would have to meet this ratio in order to obtain their license with the state.

Kentucky does not currently have any regulations around staffing for nursing facilities - this is the opposite of what you see in other states, or of what you see with respect to staffing regulations for vulnerable client populations such as at school and day care facilities.

When facilities lack adequate staff, residents experience malnutrition, incontinence, injuries, preventable hospitalizations, loneliness, isolation, lack of valued relationships and loss of dignity.

Initially, Catholic Charities of Louisville's long-term care advocates were seeking a mandate of 4.1 hours of direct care and services per client. The current proposal will allow for a ratio based on residents' different health needs.

If passed, this act should take effect on or after July 30 of this year. We are hopeful that this will increase the quality of care for residents.

Looking for a way to volunteer? Become an ombudsman! Contact Essie at ereilly@archlou.org.

ARTS IN PLAY

Wednesdays 11-12:30

March 25 April 29
May 27 June 24

St. Anthony Gym
2234 W. Market St
502-637-9786
Family Support Services

MUSIC,
MOVEMENT
AND PLAY
FOR
FAMILIES
WITH
CHILDREN UP
TO AGE 5

ALL ARE
WELCOME



Canisius and his family pose for a group photo after finally reuniting.

Seven days turned to five months

Migration & Refugee Services

Canisius came to America from the Democratic Republic of Congo in September with his wife, his adult daughter and adult son.

His daughter Alice, his daughter in law Denyse and Denyse's son Josua were supposed to arrive a week later.

In the meantime, the cap on arrivals from Africa was met nationally, which stopped further refugee admission.

That meant Alice, Denyse and Josua were not booked to join their family.

With the federal refugee limit reduced to 18,000 in 2020, it was highly unlikely that they would be rebooked.

Instead of a week's separation, the family faced an indeterminate time apart.

"Working as a team will bring many changes, which includes better hope of living in future."

- Canisius, Catholic Charities' client

Thankfully, Alice, Denyse and Josua were rebooked and arrived on January 29.

After months of separation, the families were reunited. Catholic Charities' staff members were there along with Canisius and his family - all to give a great big welcome home to their loved ones.

Canisius said the first thing they'd do that night is have a big African dinner as a family.

"I am so happy to be with my family

again because being separated from them has caused much effects."

He said his wife has suffered from depression as they have faced the unknown of seeing their family again.

Now that they are all reunited, they plan to operate family-first.

"We are planning to move forward by working as a team so that we can be able to save money for the future," Canisius said.

Donate to help newly-arrived families.
www.cclou.org/donate



The family takes group photos by baggage claim as they wait for their luggage.



Left: The welcome party visits with Canisius as he awaits his family's arrival. **Right:** Josua holds flowers from his family.

From receiving services to service industry

Sister Visitor Center and Common Table

Catholic Charities provides for an array of needs, but all of the programs are about meeting people where they are and helping them achieve their goals.

Two clients of Catholic Charities started out receiving assistance from Sister Visitor Center. There, they learned about the Common Table

Culinary Arts Training Program and became students.

After eight weeks of skills training, both of them recently graduated and are working with Catholic Charities staff to secure employment. One is also applying to the culinary program at Jefferson Community and Technical College.



Asstnt Director for KOR, Maria Koerner, meets with an advocacy group at the capitol in Frankfort.



A third-grader at Wheatley Elementary works on her art project.

Education encourages youth to think differently

Mission Department

In the winter, Catholic Charities visited Wheatley Elementary School to participate in their learning unit about refugee resettlement.

Alinoti Malebo, Migration and Refugee Services VISTA and community liaison, spoke to the students about his experiences as a refugee when he came over as a teenager.

The students asked empathetic questions such as - are the babies scared? Do they have food? Do you think they're afraid?

The third-graders worked on a lesson unit for several weeks - writing plays, creating powerpoints, developing websites - all to educate them on the experience of a refugee coming to the United States.

Want to host a refugee simulation?
Contact Mark at mbouchard@archlou.org.

Managing resettlement across the state

Kentucky Office for Refugees

Each state that participates in the U.S. refugee resettlement program has a federally designated State Refugee Coordinator's Office.

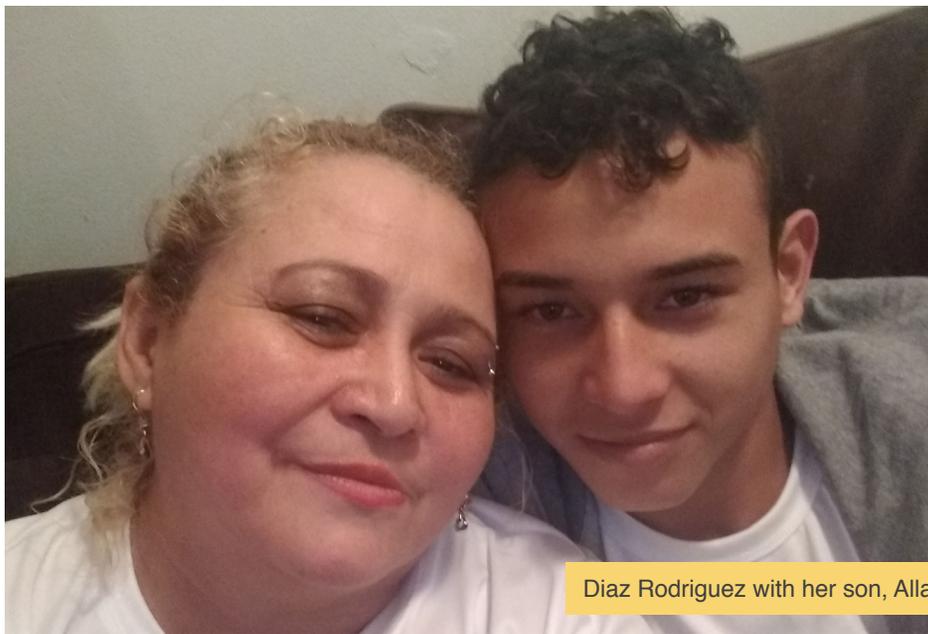
The Kentucky Office for Refugees (KOR) serves in this role in our Commonwealth, from within Catholic Charities.

This department is responsible for coordinating refugee resettlement services across the state and providing grants management and program development to promote self-sufficiency and community integration.

KOR manages grant funding awarded to refugee resettlement agencies, including Catholic Charities, school districts, community colleges, health providers, and non-profits.

Populations Served in Fiscal Year 2019

- 94** Asylee
- 834** Cuban & Haitian Entrant
- 4,822** Refugee
- 81** Special Immigrant Visa
- 3** Victims of Trafficking



Diaz Rodriguez with her son, Allan.

A Mother and Son Reunion

Immigration Legal Services

She ventured out on a difficult journey, without being seen, taking the train bound for a new life.

Wilhdring Jackeline Diaz Rodriguez, a Honduran citizen, came to the US in 2006.

Upon arrival, her goal – like that of many immigrants – was to work hard to provide for her family. To come to the US, she had to leave her 7-year-old son Allan behind with his aunt.

When Wilhdring left, she left her little boy broken hearted, but she promised Allan that she would bring him to the United States to join her one day.

As years passed, Allan began to call his aunt “Mom.” The reunion was taking much longer than Wilhdring could have imagined.

It broke Wilhdring’s heart, knowing that she sacrificed to provide for her child economically, but that sacrifice also meant her absence from his life.

She kept working hard and sending money home, hoping for the day they could be together again.

As time went on, Wilhdring met a man. Though the relationship started promising, it turned abusive after they had a child together. She was beaten and strangled, and she lived in fear.

Wilhdring turned to the police for help and also obtained a protective order. Even so, this abusive man was undeterred and threatened to hurt her son Allan in Honduras in retaliation for her calling the police. By seeking help from the police, Wilhdring took action that led to the man’s deportation.

Wilhdring eventually found her way to Immigration Legal Services (ILS) in 2014. By working with the staff, she learned she could regularize her legal status and also bring her son to the United States.

A U visa is a type of non-immigrant visa set aside for victims of crime and their family members. Wilhdring was eligible to petition because she had been a victim of domestic violence and participated willingly in the investigation.

Although this was her best chance, it would take many years to receive a final answer on her immigration case.

Wilhdring worked hard and prayed her petition would be approved. After more than 5 years, ILS shared with Wilhdring the good news that her U visa petition had been approved.

“After a long journey and teamwork, seeing the happy faces of reunited

families makes our job gratifying,” said Zoila Davis, an accredited representative with ILS.

She said Wilhdring worked with several different ILS staff members and it was a team effort to help her through the process.

By the end of 2019, mother and son were finally reunited. Now, Wilhdring and Allan have the opportunity to apply for permanent residency in just a few years.

They are both on the path to citizenship.

Wilhdring is very grateful to Catholic Charities for assisting her through the immigration process.

She had made a promise to a little boy many years ago that they would be together. Through hard work, determination and support, she kept that promise.

Run and Raise Money for a Good Cause



Sign up for the Derby Festival Mini Marathon and support Catholic Charities of Louisville’s anti-human trafficking program.

1. Visit www.cclou.org
2. Hover over “News and Events”
3. Click “Derby Festival”

The Bakhita Empowerment Initiative provides direct assistance and case management to survivors of human trafficking. It also aims to educate the community about human trafficking, as well as how to identify individuals who are being forced or coerced for the purpose of sexual exploitation or labor.



Language Services' staff and contract interpreters at the most recent gathering.

Equal Access for all Kentuckians

Language Services

Arriving at the age of 12 from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nyamwami Muhoza was sent to an ESL school where she learned English.

After high school, she eventually made her way to Catholic Charities Language Services program where she now works as an interpreter for those speaking French, Swahili and Kinyarwanda.

“As an adult, she is able to serve, as

she was once served, while using this experience to supplement her family’s income and build a life-long career,” Language Services Director Alisa Pifine said.

Nyamwami is attending school, pursuing a career in social services, and she and her husband just welcomed their first child.

Nyamwami’s own life experience allows her to see from both an immigrant’s and interpreter’s perspectives.

Volunteer at our Summer Program

Migration and Refugee Services’ summer program is happening soon! Do you want to volunteer? Contact Kristi Mattingly at kmattingly@archlou.org. Volunteering spots are limited - volunteers over the age of 18 must have a background check and go through Safe Environment Training. This is a great opportunity for service hours - don’t delay!

Volunteers must sign up no later than May 1.

2019 By the Numbers

Need a document translated?
Call 502-637-9786 for services.

436 documents translated

19,924 hours of interpreting

84 new interpreters trained

Give and Get Back Through Reward Programs!

Kroger Rewards

- Sign in or sign up for a Kroger digital account
- Click the “Community Rewards” tab and search for Catholic Charities of Louisville
- Click “save”



Amazon Smile

- Sign in or sign up for an Amazon Smile account
- Go to “Your Account” and select “Change your Charity”
- Select Catholic Charities of Louisville



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Archbishop

Archbishop Kurtz called bingo at the first annual Rouler - a celebration of Fat Tuesday. The event netted more than \$75,000 and sold out at 450 people. See inside for more photos of this sold out event! Save the date for next year's Mardi Gras event: Tuesday, February 16, 2021!