

Deacon Lucio Caruso

CCL: Director of Mission, Mission Department

During this most unprecedented time, I find myself looking for silver linings even in the midst of the challenges and suffering COVID-19 has brought.

My work as Director of Mission for our agency has become more **focused on checking in on our 110 parishes of the Archdiocese**, along with the many outreach organizations we work with to see how all are doing during this difficult time and how our agency can help.

I have been amazed at what so many are creatively doing around Kentucky. Above all, I feel **I am actually doing some concrete good when one can feel so overwhelmed and helpless.**

“A gentleman came to our food pantry explaining that **he and his family usually donate to our food pantry; however, he had lost his job due to COVID-19** and had not received his unemployment benefits yet. He had three children and they had run out of resources for food. It was a blessing to him and us to be able to assist his family,” said Lisa Boswell, director of Bowling Park Community Food Pantry.

Stories like these really struck me, as ***it could be any one of us.***



Bowling Park Community Food Pantry in Edmonton, KY. ▲

Austin Anderson

AmeriCorps VISTA, Common Earth Gardens

Farmers and gardeners are working hard during these early weeks of the growing season, and I've been so grateful for the patience and kind energy of growers and co-workers as we talk on the phone or see each other while maintaining distance at a site.

We've been working on safety measures at community gardens, **adapting to new ways of selling produce**, and even installing drip irrigation at the Incubator Farm.

Soap on a rope! At sites around the city, washing your hands in the garden is more convenient than ever. ►



Look inside for more impact stories and statistics about CCL's COVID-19 response.



Our Mission: Catholic Charities of Louisville serves people in need, advocates for justice in social structures, and calls the entire church and others of goodwill to do the same. We welcome, strengthen, and empower families and individuals to change the world for good, one relationship at a time.

Dear friends,

At Catholic Charities of Louisville, we remain dedicated to serving the needy across Kentucky – even as we have adapted our services to meet unprecedented circumstances.

Change is constantly present in our work, but it has been at the forefront in all our programs this year. With public health restrictions affecting our ordinary in-person interactions and community activities, we have found some incredibly creative ways to form connections with our clients and with one another. I've never been more proud of our staff than in observing their dedication to serving clients while working at home.

Each department has made unique adjustments to continue our mission. Long-Term Care Ombudsmen are in daily communication with residents, families, and facilities, providing critical advocacy services over the phone. Family Support Services is offering Mother-Infant Care classes online through our YouTube channel. In April and May, Sister Visitor Center provided over 3,200 prepared lunches to community members in West Louisville.

We know the pandemic has affected everyone, regardless of background. We want you to know that we hear you and we see you.

Do you hear and see the families we serve?

Whether it's the \$25 you saved on your weekly coffees before work, the \$100 you would have spent on gas this month, or a tithe set aside from your stimulus check – we will make good use of any contribution you can make. If you are able to make a gift at this time, please visit our website at cclou.org/donate or return the enclosed envelope.

Please continue your prayers – we feel them! And know we are praying for you as well.

My best to you,

Lisa DeJaco Crutcher

Lisa DeJaco Crutcher
CEO, Catholic Charities of Louisville

Social Distancing Staff



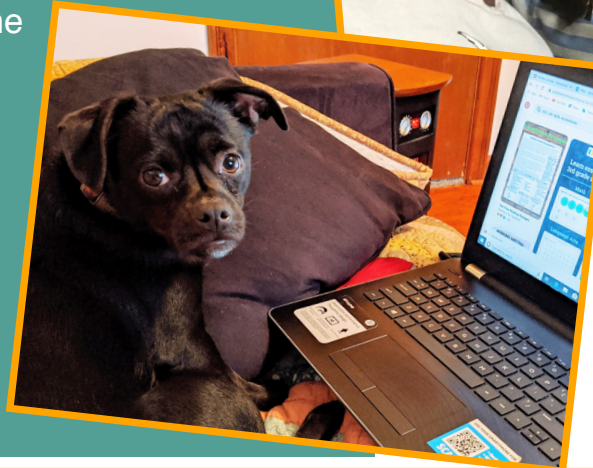
Laura's daughter is ready to take over as Common Table Director.



Sr. Shellie and Tony are six feet apart at Sister Visitor Center (open M-F).



Bakhita Empowerment Initiative's Amy and her new office mates take a photo break.



Migration and Refugee Service's Rayanne's dog Nala is ready for work.

Your support is vital to providing help and creating hope for those in our community.

We are so grateful for the many donors, partners and resources that have enabled us to connect and serve our community. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Louisville's One Louisville Fund, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities USA and various other grants, we have been able to **provide funding for programs throughout Kentucky, working hard to meet current needs.**

Hope Burke, Elizabethtown

Helping Hands of Hope

Recently laid off work because of COVID-19, a restaurant worker never saw this coming, therefore she was not prepared. She hadn't stocked up on food or supplies of any kind.

She headed to the grocery with a limited amount of cash. Her hope was to buy food items that she could make stretch. Her list contained: peanut butter, tuna, hamburger, milk, bread, a few cans of fruits and vegetables and toilet paper. To her surprise, the only things on her list she could find were canned fruits and vegetables.

She came to Helping Hand of Hope. We were able to provide her with a food box and personal hygiene items to get her by. She was so grateful. She said, **"I was not worried about myself, but I have a child that was away at college and has returned home due to campus shutdowns. This will definitely help us deal better with this situation."**



National Guard helps stock shelves, ▲ prepare food boxes and make deliveries for Helping Hands of Hope

The National Guardsmen have been such a blessing helping us make food boxes and hygiene products. They have also been able to help us with pickups and other things about the building.

Since we have had limited staff due to COVID-19 **this has been a blessing with so many people needing extra assistance with this pandemic.**

A Prayer of Community

O Loving God, thank you for living and loving in us and through us.

May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings.

Let us not forget to stop and take a breath so as to be more attentive and present to you and to our sisters and brothers.

Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens and each other's joys.

Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world, and may our Catholic Charities agency be an effective instrument for that healing.

Amen.

"Thank you for all that CCL has done to help us to continue to serve."



THANK YOU

Sondra Mehler

CCL: Administration, Office Manager

I have found great comfort in seeing the positive and reflecting on how times of uncertainty can truly bring us together. **The amount of generosity in the CCL community has been so heartwarming and motivating.**

Thank you to all those who have given so much of themselves and been a bright light during a dark time.

Thank you to...the staff dedicated and working diligently every day to provide food and essentials to some

of our most vulnerable; who have come together to request grants to be able to provide financial relief to individuals and families; who show up to work and support one another, clients and community partners; who are working meticulously with senior facilities to ensure proper resident care.

And to the donors...who have so open-handedly given to strangers in need even with the uncertainty they themselves are possibly facing.

Thank you for answering the call of the gospel by giving so much of yourself and your time.

Knowing that we have so many individuals who care enough to step up to help others is truly inspiring. I am truly proud to be a part of this amazing community.

Sr. Isa Mary Garcia, SCN & Deacon Lucio Caruso, Louisville

St. Rita Parish

A woman, working in the service sector, had recently lost her employment because of COVID-19. To make matters worse, her 56-year-old husband contracted COVID and passed away.

The woman was not only without work, but without the means to bury and say goodbye to her husband.

St. Rita was doing what they could to provide for the family, but needed a little extra help. **Catholic Charities covered all of the costs so they could lay him to rest** as they wanted to.

"You never think these things could happen so close to home, but we're so glad CCL could help in some small way," said Deacon Lucio Caruso.

"You never think these things could happen so close to home... so glad CCL could help."

\$13,387

of COVID relief funding administered through CCL to other nonprofits doing great work in the community, many outside of Jefferson County.

Your support is vital to providing help and creating hope for those in our community.

Mary Ann Hale, Springfield

St. Dominic, Vincent de Paul

We provided a food voucher and food from our pantry to a family of four. **The father was a part-time maintenance worker for the board of education. He was laid off.**

They have one disabled adult child whom the mother takes care of. The other child is a senior in our local high school. The dad also does part-time odd jobs and farmwork for the neighbors.

St. Dominic preparing food bags for delivery during pandemic. ►



100

LaCasita families have been provided with weekly food baskets through Catholic Charities COVID relief funding.

92%

of COVID-designated funding has been used for direct programming throughout our community whether through our programs or other nonprofits.

Beverly Broadus

CCL: Ombudsman

Our ombudsmen have been advocating in unique ways. We **identified and filled the gap when staff realized routine vendors were no longer servicing clients at long-term care facilities in terms of comfort items** (vending machines, etc.).

Recently, I made my rounds to deliver the hand sanitizer donated by Boundary Oak Distillery in Radcliff. I went to Brandenburg N&R in Meade County, Grayson Manor in Grayson County, and Cedars of Lebanon in Marion County.

Grayson Manor Social Services Director, Alicia Butler, Activities Director Sydney Horton and CCL's Beverly Broadus. ►



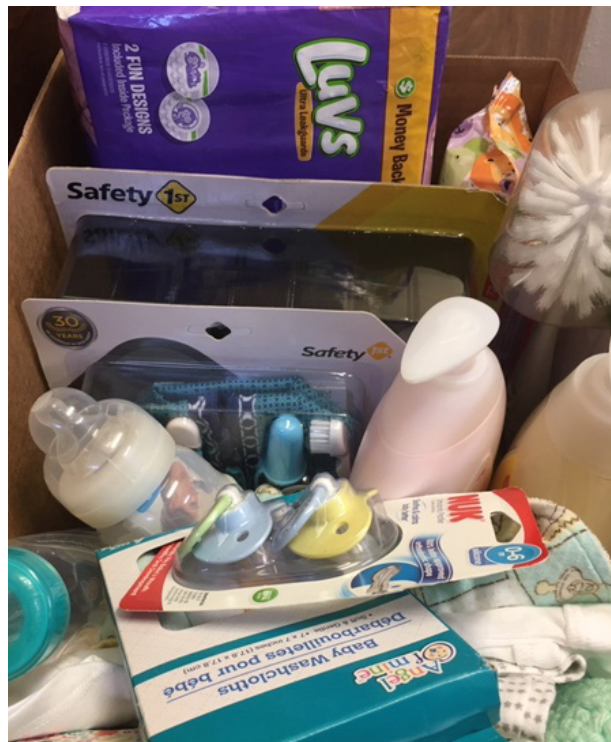
Cydnei Dean

CCL: Program Coordinator, Family Support Services

Working from home has definitely been an adjustment, but it has forced our department to think of creative ways to engage and serve our clients. We have created an online curriculum for our Mother-Infant Care program to allow us to **continue to provide education and resources to pregnant women in the community.**

We also continue to engage the moms from our Mama Matters support group through emails, phone calls, and text messages. I am so grateful that we are able to maintain these connections, and **many of our moms have expressed how grateful they are to be able to access resources for their small children through us at a time when many stores struggle to stay stocked.**

Many of our programs are delivering essential items to families' homes in order to follow CDC and Kentucky guidelines. ►



Christine Hovan, Bardstown

St. Joseph, Vincent de Paul

We helped a young woman get her household items out of storage. **She was in the process of moving when COVID-19 shut things down. She lost her job, and was unable to move.** Meanwhile, with no job, her household goods were stuck in storage because she could not pay the fee. We paid the storage charge and she was able to move into her parents' home with her items.

4,000+

meals were provided by Sister Visitor Center and Common Table's *Table of Plenty* in April and May to community members of West Louisville.

Thank you Brown Forman, Wiltshire Pantry, Good Shepherd and St. Agnes parishes.



"I was laid-off and CCL helped me pay two months rent. I was terrified of losing my home and had no idea what I would have done without CCL's help."

Leah, Sister Visitor Center client

► Volunteers and staff safely putting away a large Dare to Care food delivery at Sister Visitor Center.

Your support is vital to providing help and creating hope for those in our community.

Maria Koerner

CCL: Assistant Director, Kentucky Office for Refugees

We've been busy figuring out how to implement changes our federal funder has made in response to COVID-19. This includes emergency assistance funds available to refugees impacted by the pandemic and extending the length of time clients can receive Refugee Cash Assistance.

We recently received reports from agencies, and it was **inspiring to read the creative and innovative strategies our partners across the state are utilizing** to continue providing remote services, including our own Migration and Refugee Services.

ESL teachers across the state have come up with creative strategies such as mailing packets of assignments, virtual classes through Zoom for higher level students, utilizing WhatsApp to send instructional videos, and individual tutoring over the phone.

MRS recently started a YouTube ESL Lesson Page. Weekly video lessons are uploaded by instructors along with vocabulary and pronunciation.



At Jeffersontown Rehab - one of the Long-Term ▲ Care facilities we visit - a staff member walked her horse around the facility to visit residents through their windows. It's the small acts of kindness that shine a light for our clients.

\$37,000

funds provided by Community Foundation of Louisville were used for direct service for individuals and families in the community.

Claudia Anderson, Bardstown

Bread for Life Community Food Pantry

We had a new client come to the food pantry on her riding lawn mower! We had heard that transportation in the south part of Nelson County was an issue. This proves that at least in one case, that assumption was true! We secured her food boxes to the back of the mower, and she waved and motored on home.



In early May, The Bread for Life Community Food Pantry ▲ opened in New Haven as an extension of the Bread for Life Community Food Pantry. The program was funded in part by COVID-19 relief funds administered through the Mission Department of Catholic Charities. During their first day open, they served 32 families.

www.cclou.org/donate

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In their own words!

Staff and community partners share hopeful stories and photos of helping others during the COVID-19 crisis.

