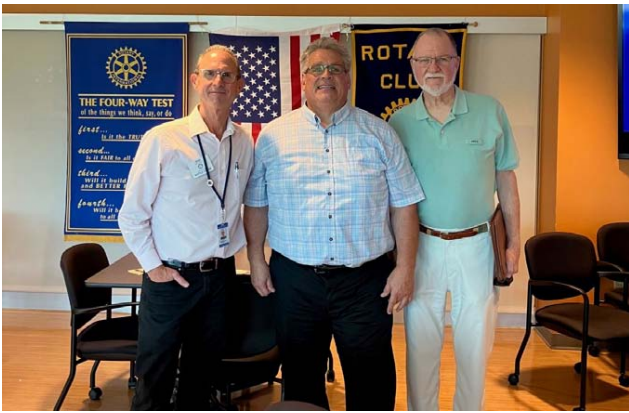




Rotary Club of Battle Creek RotoScoop

August 19, 2024

Mike Hartwigsen, Catholic Charities of Kalamazoo Food Distribution Network



Mike Hartwigsen, Development Director for Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamzaoo, feels his organization is the best kept secret of Southwestern Michigan. He came to this job after a career working with at-risk-youth in the juvenile justice system for the Youth for Christ program. Catholic Charities provides comprehensive, compassionate social services to anyone in its area of nine counties in southwest Michigan. Practicing Catholicism is not a requirement to work at or receive services from Catholic Charities. The charities have a presence, in varying degrees in Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties. Its programs include:

- Ark Services for Youth: A continuum of services for homeless or in-crisis youth ages 10-21, including the Ark Shelter, Youth Independent Living and Outreach program.
- Baraga Manor Apartments; 48-unit affordable housing for low-income seniors citizens and mobility-impaired adults in Otsego, MI.
- Bread of Life Food Program: Weekly food distribution for those in need in all nine counties served.
- Bridges Mental Health Counseling: A wide variety of counseling services regardless of insurance coverage.
- Caring Network: Serves and supports all pregnant and parenting mothers and families through case management, material items and classes.
- Catholic Community Center
- Home Heating Assistance: Emergency utility assistance, no income requirements.
- Immigration Assistance: Low-cost, competent legal representation for the indigent immigrant population.
- Migrant Ministries: Providing creative, postorally sensitive and culturally relevant programs and resources to Migrant residents.
- Persons with Disabilities: Providing support and resources to persons with disabilities, their parents,

caregivers, pastors and parish staff.

- Community Center in Benton Harbor: Providing assistance with utilities and food.

Catholic Charities of Kalamazoo is on the way to feeding over 36,000 people this year through its Bread of Life program alone. It is beginning conversations in Calhoun County on what needs they might meet here as they get a lot of calls for help from Calhoun County residents. You could help by making a financial donation, holding or donating to drives for food, hygenic items, or clothing, or helping with food pickups and deliveries. More information at [Catholic Charities of Kalamazoo](#)

Other News

Guests at Mondays Meeting

Prospective member Augrey Bogdon joined us at this week's meeting. She works in the Senior Services Field. Sponsor: Kathy Gallagher

You Can Pay Your Dues Online Now! Invoices for the first quarter were sent out on July 9th and were due July 31st. By clicking the link included in your email invoice, members may pay online via an ACH transfer or a credit card payment. Please [e-mail](#) or call Kathy Gallagher at 269-209-5949 if you have questions.

Upcoming Speakers and Events

08 26 2024	Community Service at the Food Bank
09 02 2024	No Meeting - Labor Day
09 09 2024	Kimberly Holley, City of BC, Comm Oversight Bd
09 16 2023	Fred Colgrem, Gilmore Car Museum

Contact [Chuck Asher](#), [Talia Champlin](#), or [Chad Kyger](#) if you have any ideas for programming.

Rotary Vision Statement

Together we see a world where **people** unite and take action to **create** lasting **change** across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

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