

# Parish Social Ministry Initiatives

## In the Diocese of La Crosse

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: "A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first." United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*



### ***Diocese of La Crosse***

***Office for Ministries and Social Concerns***  
[ministries@diolc.org](mailto:ministries@diolc.org) or 608.791.0161

***Catholic Charities***  
[info@cclse.org](mailto:info@cclse.org) or 888.212.HELP (4357)

***Mission Office***  
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# Parish Social Ministry Initiatives

## In the Diocese of La Crosse

### Introduction

This directory is the fruit of a collaborative effort on Parish Social Ministry between the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns, Catholic Charities, and the Mission Office, all of the Diocese of La Crosse. It is an ongoing project, one which seeks to open a window onto the vast and ever-growing vineyard of love in action in our diocese. We want it to be a source of shared inspiration and ideas, as together we seek to embody the loving heart and hands of Jesus Christ in reaching out to our neighbor in need.

The directory (online @ [diolc.org/psm-directory](http://diolc.org/psm-directory)) is broken into:

- Diocesan-Wide Efforts
- Projects Common to Many Parishes
- Specific Parish/Deanery projects, by Deanery

There are many ecumenical efforts throughout our diocese in which our parishes collaborate with people of other faith traditions. This directory seeks to include these as they are reported.

To keep the directory up to date, we need regular input from the parishes and deaneries of the diocese. For the social ministry initiatives of your parish or deanery to be listed, the pastor or someone authorized by him should complete and submit the online form found at: [diolc.org/psm-directory-form](http://diolc.org/psm-directory-form). For corrections or deletions, please contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at [ministries@diolc.org](mailto:ministries@diolc.org) or 608-791-0161.

“Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.”

Pope Francis,  
*The Joy of the Gospel*, no. 187

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>Diocesan-Wide Efforts</b> .....	5
40 Days for Life.....	5
Catholic Campaign for Human Development .....	5
Catholic Charities.....	6
Catholic Relief Services .....	6
Project Milk.....	7
Project Seed .....	7
Catholic Charities .....	7
Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II .....	8
Jail/Prison Ministry.....	8
Service Mission Trips.....	8
Pilgrimage for Life .....	8
<b>Projects Common throughout the Diocese</b> .....	10
Mother’s Day Rose and Father’s Day Carnation Sales .....	10
Food Pantries .....	10
Giving Trees and Gift Baskets.....	10
Hospital/Nursing Home/Homebound Ministry.....	10
Baby Showers, Diaper Drives or Baby Bottle Collections.....	10
Community Meals .....	10
Spiritual Adoption .....	10
<b>Projects by Deanery</b> .....	11
Arcadia Deanery.....	11
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission .....	11
Immaculate Conception Parish Food Shelf.....	11
Immaculate Conception Parish Mobil Pantry.....	11
Chippewa Falls Deanery .....	11
Bloomer Clothes Closet.....	11
St. Francesca Resource Center.....	12
Friends of Jesus.....	12
Stitched With Love.....	13
St. Paul’s Catholic Church Thrift Sale.....	13
Durand Deanery.....	14
St. Henry Watermark Mission.....	14
Book Club/Jail Ministry.....	14
Sacred Heart Quilters.....	14

Little Dresses for Africa.....	15
St. Vincent de Paul Social Resource Center & Thrift Store.....	15
Eau Claire Deanery.....	15
Beacon House .....	15
Bolton Refuge House.....	15
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic.....	16
Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity.....	16
The Community Table.....	16
Family Respite Care.....	17
Feed My People Food Bank.....	17
Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope.....	17
Advancing Hope Fund.....	18
Sojourner House Volunteers.....	18
St. Francis Food Pantry.....	18
Literacy Chippewa Valley.....	18
Apple Pregnancy Care Center .....	19
We All Love Our Pets Program of Eau Claire County Humane Association.....	19
Sacred Heart Hospital Volunteers.....	19
Sister Parish: San Jose, Luquillo Puerto Rico.....	20
Immaculate Conception Homeless Ministry.....	20
La Crosse Deanery.....	20
Front Door Ministry.....	20
Warming Center .....	20
Place of Grace .....	21
Causeway Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc.....	21
New Horizons.....	21
Gerard Hall.....	21
Quarters for Kids at Aquinas Catholic School (St. Pat's).....	21
Habitat for Humanity.....	22
Holmen Area Food Pantry at SEAS.....	22
Marshfield Deanery.....	22
Gifts of Love .....	22
St Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store .....	23
The Hannah Center - "Where New Life Begins" .....	23
NIGHT TO SHINE PROM - For Special Needs Adults.....	24
Birthright of Marshfield.....	24
St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Services.....	24
Spencer Area Sleep In Heavenly Peace.....	25
Prairie du Chien Deanery.....	25

Roads to Life Tanzania, Inc.....	25
JWalkers.....	25
Faith in Action.....	26
St. Wenceslaus PCCW Charitable Works.....	26
Knights of Columbus Disaster Assistance.....	26
Richland Center Deanery .....	26
Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center.....	26
Lydia's House.....	26
Saint Mary Quilters.....	27
Food Pantry.....	27
Greenway Manor.....	27
Christmas Donations for Passages and Nursing Homes.....	28
St. Mary Parish, Keyesville.....	28
Stevens Point Deanery .....	28
Family Crisis Center .....	28
No Child's Wet Behind .....	29
Community Thrift Store .....	29
Holy Spirit Parish.....	29
One Big Tent Portage County.....	29
Operation Bootstrap.....	30
Interfaith Food Pantry of Portage County.....	30
Thorp Deanery.....	31
Change of Seasons Project .....	31
St. Mary's WRAP Project.....	31
Food Bank Support.....	31
Relationship with Uganda Africa.....	32
Abbotsford Area Food Pantry.....	32
Mobile Health Clinic.....	32
ESL, GED, Finance Classes.....	32
Tomah Deanery .....	33
Queen of the Apostles School - Diaper Collection.....	33
Remembering Jesse Parker Run Inc.....	33
Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Uganda .....	33
Sparta Food Pantry.....	33
Sparta Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry.....	33
St Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store .....	34
Confirmation Service Projects.....	34

Cashton Cupboard and Closet.....	34
St. Mary's Outreach.....	34
St. Paul-St. James-St. Michael Parish Social Ministry.....	35
Tri-Parish PCCW Social Ministry.....	35
St. Francis of Assisi-Our Lady of the Lake Parish Social Ministry.....	35
Family Promise of Monroe County (Queen of the Apostles Parish).....	36
Wausau Deanery.....	36
St Vincent de Paul Society of Wausau .....	36
Wausau Community Warming Center .....	36
Open Door Ministry .....	37
Circle of Love.....	37
Jubilee House.....	37
Southwest Wausau Circle of Joy Food Pantry.....	37
Wisconsin Rapids Deanery.....	38
Deanery Lenten Collection.....	38
St. Vincent de Paul Parish Social Ministries .....	38
St. Alexander Parish.....	38
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Social Ministries.....	38
Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC).....	39
We Need Your Help! .....	39

## Diocesan Wide Efforts

### 40 Days for Life

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/>

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life national campaign with a vision to access God’s power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40-day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God’s favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion through prayer, fasting, community vigils and outreach.

### Catholic Campaign for Human Development

<http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/>

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ "... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4:18) A

portion of the funds from this special collection stays in the Diocese of La Crosse to fund local initiatives. Past recipients include warming shelters, aid for housing, and restorative justice program for crime victims and offenders.

### **Catholic Charities**

3710 East Ave. South

La Crosse, WI 54601

Contact: Karen Becker

Ph: (608) 519-8002 OR (888) 212-HELP (4357)

Email: [kbecker@cclse.org](mailto:kbecker@cclse.org)

Web: [www.cclse.org](http://www.cclse.org)

Catholic Charities serves all parishes through our 13 deaneries within the Diocese of La Crosse. We have 5 office locations: Eau Claire, La Crosse, Loyal, Prairie du Chien and Wausau. However, with the use of technology we are able to serve anyone within the diocese with any of our multiple services.

Catholic Charities provides the following services:

- \*Pregnancy Support
- \*Adoption
- \*Post Adoption Services
- \*St. Lawrence Community Services – Financial Counseling, Housing Counseling, Rent & Utility assistance and help with basic needs
- \*Representative Payee Program
- \*Immigration Services
- \*Disaster Recovery
- \*Community Homeless Facilities – Sojourner House (Eau Claire), La Crosse and Wausau Warming Centers, Franciscan Hospitality House (La Crosse)
- \*Beyond Shelter Program – Wausau Homes and House of Mercy in Loyal
- \*Domestic Abuse in Crawford County
- \*Disability Services through the La Crosse office

To learn more about Catholic Charities and the specifics of the services we provide, please visit our website at [www.cclse.org](http://www.cclse.org) or Karen Becker at (608) 782-0710 or (888) 212-4357.

We are very grateful for the generous support we receive from parishes, organizations, and community members. There are many opportunities for you to join in our mission. Many special projects include a back to school supply collection, local food and personal hygiene pantries, clothing closets, Christmas gift programs, and lending libraries. If you want to find out how you can become involved in one of these special projects or have an idea for a new project in your community, please give us a call. We would love to work with you in service to others.

### **Catholic Relief Services**

<https://www.crs.org/>

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. CRS examines the issues that are dramatically impacting the safety and well-being of poor and vulnerable people worldwide. The work is based on the principles of Catholic

social teaching, primary among them the protection of the dignity of the human person. A portion of the funds raised in the Lenten Rice Bowl collection is used for Project Seed in the Diocese of La Crosse.

### **Project Milk**

Office for Ministries and Social Concerns

[ministries@diolc.org](mailto:ministries@diolc.org)

ph.: (608) 791-0191

<http://diolc.org/social-concerns/rural-life/project-milk/>

A program of the Diocese of La Crosse through which milk is purchased from local dairy farmers, and processed as powdered milk. It is then shipped to Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II in Lurín, Peru where it is given to the orphanage to use and distribute as needed in and around Lurín, Peru.

### **Project Seed**

Office for Ministries and Social Concerns

[ministries@diolc.org](mailto:ministries@diolc.org)

ph.: (608) 791-0191

<http://diolc.org/social-concerns/rural-life/project-seed/>

Funded by 25% of the proceeds from Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl collection, Project Seed provides area farmers with low-cost, high-quality seed such as alfalfa and clover, including non-GMO seed. Comparable yields make this seed an attractive alternative. The Diocese of La Crosse also offers financial assistance to those in need, so that no one is turned away. Donations directed to Project Seed are welcome and should be made payable to the Diocese of La Crosse, with "Project Seed" on the memo line. Mail to the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns, Diocese of La Crosse, PO Box 4004 La Crosse, WI 54602-4004.

### **Catholic Charities**

3710 East Ave. S

La Crosse, WI 54601

Ph: (608) 782-0710

Fax: (608) 782-0702

Toll Free 1-888-212-HELP (1-888-212-4357)

[info@cclse.org](mailto:info@cclse.org)

[www.cclse.org/](http://www.cclse.org/)

Many parishes support Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse by hosting collections for school supplies, winter coats, socks, donations to help with utility bills, and more. Our parishes also support Catholic Charities by donating their time at various shelters and programs.



**Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II**

Office for Missions

Ph.: (608) 791-2676

Email: [mapel@diolc.org](mailto:mapel@diolc.org)<http://diolc.org/missions/>[www.homeajpm.org](http://www.homeajpm.org)

Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II, a mission of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, first opened its doors to homeless children in 1985, but was officially founded the following March of 1986 by Servant of God, Fr. Joe Walijewski. Currently, 64 children call Casa Hogar their home, where they are given faith, family, and a chance at the promising future they deserve. Using the Family Program based on the famous Boys Town® methods, Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II has become a leader in the treatment and care of orphaned, abandoned, and abused children of Peru. Over the years, our parishes have donated first aid supplies, clothing, eye glasses (partnered with Lions clubs), and most recently, guitars and bicycles! Project Milk is an important initiative that helps both Wisconsin farmers and Casa Hogar by purchasing Wisconsin milk, processing, and sending powdered milk to the children in Peru.

**Jail/Prison Ministry**

Office for Ministries and Social Concerns

[ministries@diolc.org](mailto:ministries@diolc.org)

ph.: (608) 791-0191

Many priests, deacons and lay people in the diocese reach out to inmates in our local jails and prisons through Mass, Bible studies, prayer and other initiatives. If you are interested in becoming involved in this important ministry, contact the diocesan Office for Ministries and Social Concerns. An excellent Catholic organization for jail and prison ministry is Dismas Ministry, which sponsors conferences and provides resources ([www.dismasministry.org](http://www.dismasministry.org)).

**Service Mission Trips**

Office for Missions

Ph: (608) 791-2676

Email: [mapel@diolc.org](mailto:mapel@diolc.org)<http://diolc.org/missions/>

We have many parishes that sponsor missions to different areas in an effort to provide aid. Trips have been to Uganda, Haiti, Ukraine, Appalachia, disaster-stricken areas and more. Many parishes also have young people participating in the Mission America Trips sponsored by the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, [www.diolc.org/yya](http://www.diolc.org/yya).

**Pilgrimage for Life**

Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Chris Rogers

Ph.: (608) 791-2659

Email: [crogers@diolc.org](mailto:crogers@diolc.org)

The Pilgrimage for Life is an annual trip to Washington D.C. to participate in the National March for Life on or about January 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision *Roe v. Wade* legalizing abortion. Contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for more information, [www.diolc.org/yya](http://www.diolc.org/yya).

## Projects Common throughout the Diocese

### Mother's Day Rose and Father's Day Carnation Sales

Roses are sold at many parishes on Mother's Day and carnations on Father's Day. The proceeds for these sales go to the local pregnancy care centers or Respect Life groups.

### Food Pantries

Our local food pantries are blessed to have so many generous parishes donate non-perishable food and personal care items. Contact your local food pantry for information.

### Giving Trees and Gift Baskets

Most often held during Advent and Christmas; parishioners around the diocese donate gifts to families in need, elderly, shut-ins, and nursing homes. These acts of giving to others spread the love of Christ.

### Hospital/Nursing Home/Homebound Ministry

This valuable ministry is more than delivering communion to those who are unable to attend Mass, it is caring for one another, connecting them to parish life and providing a sense of community. Many parishes also give Christmas gifts, prayer shawls or other items to those unable to attend Mass with their parish.

### Baby Showers, Diaper Drives or Baby Bottle Collections

Many parishes hold baby showers and collect diapers and other baby items to donate to area pregnancy care centers. Other parishes hand out empty baby bottles to parishioners asking them to fill them with loose change and donations are given to various pregnancy care centers or pro-life organizations.

### Community Meals

Many of our communities host a community meal open to those in need and to anyone who would like to participate. These meals are provided at no cost and rely on volunteers.

### Spiritual Adoption

<https://www.nccw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Spiritual-Adoption-of-Unborn-Human-Life.pdf>

While anyone can pray for the unborn at any time, a spiritual adoption program is a parish, Catholic school or religious education program in which participants pledge to pray for nine months for a baby in danger of abortion. Many begin on the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, concluding on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord on December 25. Other programs run the nine months of a school year or use some other schedule that works for their parish.

## Projects by Deanery

### Arcadia Deanery

#### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission**

411 South Washington Street

Arcadia, WI

Ph: (608) 323-7116

[www.holyfam.com](http://www.holyfam.com)

The mission thrift store at Our Lady of Perpetual Help provides clothing and small household items for those in Arcadia and the surrounding areas. It is staffed by volunteers who believe that giving of their time and talent carries out the commission of Christ, “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (MT 25:40)

#### **Immaculate Conception Parish Food Shelf**

1 Wall Street, PO Box 218

Fountain City, WI 54629-0218

Contact: Bernice Semling

Ph: (608) 626-2611

Email: [treseclesiae@gmail.com](mailto:treseclesiae@gmail.com)

The church has a food pantry that distributes every Thursday from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. They are supported by donations from the community.

#### **Immaculate Conception Parish Mobil Pantry**

1 Wall Street, PO Box 218

Fountain City, WI 54629-0218

Contact: Rick & Christy Helps

Ph: (608) 626-2611

Email: [treseclesiae@gmail.com](mailto:treseclesiae@gmail.com)

The mobile pantry is open every first Tuesday of the month. Hours of operation are 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. The pantry serves families in need throughout Fountain City and the surrounding areas.

### Chippewa Falls Deanery

#### **Bloomer Clothes Closet**

1005 9th Ave.

Bloomer WI 54724

Ph: (715) 568-1129

<http://clothescloset.bloomertel.net/>

Bloomer Clothes Closet is a not for profit organization run by volunteers. Clothing is donated by members of the community then given away for free or for a free-will donation. They stock children's, men's and women's clothing and shoes. They also accept bigger baby items such as high chairs and strollers.

### **St. Francesca Resource Center**

117 Allen Street

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Contact: Matt Elstran

Ph: (715) 720-1136

Email: [st.francesca.rc@gmail.com](mailto:st.francesca.rc@gmail.com)

The mission of the St. Francesca Resource Center is to serve Chippewa County residents in need of food assistance and other resources while respecting the inherent dignity of every human person. The SFRC uses a client choice distribution method which allows our guests to select a predetermined number of items, based on household size, from ten different categories which are identified by color coded shelving. We have distributed over half a million pounds of groceries to over 1000 different households since opening in December 2014. We are open Tuesdays from 9:00 am-1:00 pm and from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm.

We also offer pregnancy support in the form of diapers, formula and baby blankets. In our clothing area we distribute shoes, blankets and other articles of clothing to those in need. We collaborate with St. Joseph Hospital in the collection and distribution of winter coats and warm clothing items.

We also have many agencies come and offer assistance and counseling.

\*Catholic Charities offers financial counseling and housing need assessment from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

\*UW Extension offers nutrition information and recipes.

\*Chippewa Fire Department discusses fire safety.

\*Anthem Blue Cross counsels guests on nutrition and does recipe demonstrations.

\*St. Paul Street Evangelization offers faith-sharing opportunities.

\*Lighthouse Catholic Media has a display with free faith information materials.

### **Friends of Jesus**

412 S. Main Street

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Contact: Sr. Yvonne Hiess

Ph: (715) 726-2378

Web: [www.holyghostchurchcf.com](http://www.holyghostchurchcf.com)

Friends of Jesus is an ecumenical group for people 15 years of age or older. We meet once a month on the last Sunday of the month from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm at Holy Ghost Hall, which is wheelchair accessible. We meet for Christian input, sharing, crafts, songs, celebration of birthdays and socializing. There is no cost. The Knights of Columbus support us from their Tootsie Roll Fund. Sr. Yvonne Hiess is the leader but parents and people from the community come to help each time we meet. We have been meeting for over 20 years.

### **Stitched with Love**

412 S. Main Street

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Contact: Wanda Brooks

Ph: (715) 726-1223

Web: [www.holyghostchurchcf.com](http://www.holyghostchurchcf.com)

Reaching out to parishioners in need who are homebound, sick, disabled and those seeking baptisms, letting them know we are here for them. This ministry can be done at home. We currently have 4 parishioners that knit/crochet or sew and one parishioner dropping off the items to those in need. You can make your item and bring it to the rectory. Items we currently have are baby blankets, baby booties, prayer shawls, silk scarves, crocheted scarves, walker bags, lap quilts, lap blankets, quilts, bags, afghans, and potholders. Each item is blessed by the parish pastor.

### **St. Paul's Catholic Church Thrift Sale**

1222 Main St.

Bloomer, WI 54724

Contact: Don or Colleen Vinette

Ph: (715) 829-0613 or (715) 568-5026

Email: [ed16804@bloomer.net](mailto:ed16804@bloomer.net)

St. Paul's Catholic Church Thrift Sale is located in two large buildings to the rear of St. Paul's Church. A 40ft x 80ft pavilion has a large selection of very affordable housewares, toys, books, seasonal décor, tools, sporting goods, lawn and garden, and fresh fruits and vegetables in season. Another building houses furniture and large appliances. The Thrift Sale is staffed by members of St. Paul's and individuals from the community. Donations are also acquired from individuals from St. Paul's and surrounding community. The sale is open every Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm from the 1<sup>st</sup> week in May until the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October. Funds raised from the Thrift Sale are used to help support the church and school.

## Durand Deanery

### St. Henry Watermark Mission

N460 County Road D

Eau Galle, WI 54737

Ph: (715) 283-4451

Contact: Gary and Rosey Asher

Email: [rasher@wwt.net](mailto:rasher@wwt.net)

St. Henry Watermark Mission is a faith-based disaster recovery organization. Our purpose is to help rebuild homes and lives of disaster survivors through mission trips to points around the U.S. For more information, or to contact us, visit [www.watermark-mission.org](http://www.watermark-mission.org).

### Book Club/Jail Ministry

Contact: Beth Dendinger

Ph: (715) 941-5022

Email: [bethdendinger@gmail.com](mailto:bethdendinger@gmail.com)

The Book Club is a program working with the Ellsworth Public Library and West Central Wisconsin Community Action Center to bring books to the inmates and meet with participants every week. Resources are supplied and time given to help with a variety of educational needs such as tutoring and facilitating group discussion. A knitting program is also offered, through which we teach inmates how to knit scarves and hats. Sacred Heart Parish members donate supplies and their time to this program. The hats and scarves are donated back to the surrounding community.

### Sacred Heart Quilters

Sacred Heart Parish

106 W. Wilson Ave.

Elmwood, WI 54740

Email: [admin@svecatholic.org](mailto:admin@svecatholic.org)

The Sacred Heart Quilters of Elmwood have been quilting since 2000. We work with donations of material and our generous Altar and Rosary Society donates money for the purchase of batting. We donate quilts to our local food pantry, the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls, St. Vincent de Paul Society, our local library, various benefits and over the years to Pierce and Dunn County Human Services, women's shelters, Cuddle Quilts to the Menomonie Fire Department, The United Way, to babies that are baptized in our Parish. We hope to continue quilting and donating quilts for as long as we are able. It's a good feeling when someone receives a quilt and tells us or sends us a Thank You on how much they appreciated the quilt they received.

### Little Dresses for Africa

Sacred Heart Parish  
106 W. Wilson Ave.  
Elmwood, WI 54740

Email: [admin@svecatholic.org](mailto:admin@svecatholic.org)

Our “Little Dresses for Africa” project began in 2012. The simple pattern has gathering with elastic in the front and back at the top. The armholes are cut out and bound with bias tape to be tied over the shoulder. We make sizes 3-12 using new cotton material. Each dress has a pocket and is easy to sew. We have sent 41 dresses to Africa with Teamwork Africa, out of Eau Claire. They have a mission outreach to pastors in Liberia where these dresses are so welcomed. We hope to continue helping these children, bringing smiles to their faces with beautiful dresses.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society Resource Center & Thrift Store

825 E. Prospect St.  
Durand, WI 54736

Contact: Natalie Wulff, Store Manager

Ph: (715) 672-8975

Email: [svdp@nelson-tel.net](mailto:svdp@nelson-tel.net)

Since its opening in 2012, the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Durand uses community donations of clothing, household goods, and furniture for resale or to give away to those in need. Proceeds from store sales and cash donations are then used by the Durand Conference to help the poor and marginalized in the area for housing and utility bill assistance, a mobile food pantry, gas cards, and other necessities to help our neighbors in need.

### Eau Claire Deanery

#### Beacon House

309 E. Lake Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Ph: (715) 726-1936

Contact: Lou Hoeschen

Email: [lou.hoeschen@gmail.com](mailto:lou.hoeschen@gmail.com)

[www.beacon-house.org/](http://www.beacon-house.org/)

Beacon House is a shelter for homeless families and pregnant women. Join a Newman Parish team or volunteer individually in making and serving meals, visiting with clients, helping children with homework, and staying overnight.

#### Bolton Refuge House

807 S. Farwell Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Ph: (715) 832-1507



Contact: Kay Magadance  
 Email: [magadafk@uwec.edu](mailto:magadafk@uwec.edu)  
<http://www.brhinc.org>

Bolton Refuge House addresses needs of victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Volunteers are needed to help with cleaning, answering phones and clerical/reception work, yard work, maintenance, children's services, fundraising, language assistance, and/or special skills. Local parishes have assisted victims in need from charitable works fund.

### **Chippewa Valley Free Clinic**

1030 Oak Ridge Dr.  
 Eau Claire, WI 54701  
 Ph: (715) 832-5983  
 Contact: Sue Tienor (Newman Parish)  
 Email: [tienor@charter.net](mailto:tienor@charter.net)  
[www.cvfreeclinic.org](http://www.cvfreeclinic.org)

The CV Free Clinic provides healthcare to and advocacy for Chippewa Valley residents who have no reasonable healthcare alternative. Medical professional volunteers are needed during clinic hours such as pharmacists, pharm techs, doctors/NP's, and dentists. During non-clinic hours 15-20 volunteers are needed. These include administrative assistants, office receptionists, social media specialists, meal preparers, technical writers, special project workers (fundraising/grant writing/ work projects), public relations assistants, and special events photographers. Area parishes hold periodic collection drives for common medications, toiletries, etc.

### **Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity**

2233 Golf Road  
 Eau Claire, WI 54701  
 Ph: (715) 308-7896  
 Contact: Peter Raleigh (Newman Parish)  
 Email: [pbraleigh@icloud.com](mailto:pbraleigh@icloud.com)  
<http://cvh4h.org/>

Habitat for Humanity builds homes so everyone has a decent place to live. Volunteer activities available: help organize the warehouse, build homes, landscape, minor house repairs, special projects, and office staff support. Members of area parishes serve as board members and frequent volunteers.

### **The Community Table (TCT)**

320 Putnam Street  
 Eau Claire, WI 54701  
 Ph: (715) 379-4110  
 Contact: Laurie Hittman  
 Email: [jlhittman1@lhitman.com](mailto:jlhittman1@lhitman.com)  
<http://thecommunitytable.org/>

TCT provides a daily meal for those in need of nourishment for body and for soul. Join a Newman Parish team or volunteer individually to prepare/serve a meal and help with clean up.

### Family Respite Care

Home Health Hospice (Mayo Clinic)  
 Ph: (715) 838-3045 or 715.831-0100  
 St. Joseph's Hospice, 800.726.3485  
 Contact: Kathy Pinter  
 Email: [Kathy.pinter@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.pinter@gmail.com)  
 Provides a variety of care activities (e.g., grocery shopping) for families with a member in Hospice Care. Requires some training.

### Feed My People Food Bank

2610 Alpine Road  
 Eau Claire, WI 54703  
[www.fmpfoodbank.org/](http://www.fmpfoodbank.org/)

Feed My People provides food to hunger-relief agencies in West Central Wisconsin. Teams and individual volunteers are needed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and occasionally in the evening to repack bulk food, sort food donations, label cans, fill food orders, and drive truck to make deliveries. Many volunteers (minimum age 16) come from area parishes.

### Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope

Ph: (715) 834-4899 (Betty)  
 Ph: (715) 835-5887 (Jacky)  
 Contacts: Betty Hurst & Jacky Miller  
 Email: [jacchuck@yahoo.com](mailto:jacchuck@yahoo.com)

Consists of people of various faith traditions working together on local social justice issues to create positive living conditions for all and to strengthen our community. The work is organized through specific task forces:

- The Criminal Justice Reform Task Force is focusing on the negative effects of solitary confinement and on mental health issues.
- The Eco-Spirituality Group works with others in the community to promote green practices.
- With the goal of safety for all, the Immigration Task Force is working with others in the state to restore driving privileges to non-documented immigrants.
- The Affordable Housing Task Force advocates for policies and the means to provide affordable housing for the homeless and low-income population.

Members are free to join any of the task forces, create a new task force or simply be a supporting member.

### **Advancing Hope Fund**

Ph: (715) 456-5703

Contact: Ken Ripp (Newman Parish)

Email: [rippsk@charter.net](mailto:rippsk@charter.net)

The Advancing Hope Fund was founded with the idea of making no-interest, no-service-fee loans to those in need. However, the goals of AHF are much more holistic than just handing people money. The fund stresses the need for the loan recipients to become involved in the lending circle – paying forward an agreed upon amount in return for the loan. Those funds are then lent out to new clients. Recipients are also matched with a “walking partner” who is there for emotional support, financial advice and to serve as a bridge to the wider community.

### **Sojourner House Volunteers**

618 South Barstow Street

Eau Claire, WI 54701

Ph: (715) 832-3296

Contact: Ken Ripp (Newman Parish)

Email [rippsk@charter.net](mailto:rippsk@charter.net)

OR

Ph: (715) 210-6337

Contact: Judy Peak (St. James)

Email: [nursegoodbody@gmail.com](mailto:nursegoodbody@gmail.com)

[www.cclse.org](http://www.cclse.org)

Newman and St. James Parish volunteers assist as Sojourner House, a homeless shelter for men and women, working in teams or individually in serving a prepared meal, registering guests, handing out bedding and securing guests’ belongings.

### **St. Francis Food Pantry**

1221 Truax Blvd.

Eau Claire, WI 54703

Ph: (715) 384-8866

Contact: Jane O’Meara (Newman Parish)

Email: [jane.omeara@gmail.com](mailto:jane.omeara@gmail.com)

St. Francis Food Pantry distributes food to the needy. Volunteers package bulk food, stock shelves, help with food distribution, and clean.

### **Literacy Chippewa Valley**

L-CV Eau Claire County Office

510 S. Farwell St.

Eau Claire, WI 54701

Ph: (715) 308-7884

Contact: Donna Raleigh (Newman Parish)

Email: [draleigh@uwec.edu](mailto:draleigh@uwec.edu)

Ph: (715) 497-8724

Contact: Mary Fandel (St. James)

Email: [fandelmary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fandelmary@sbcglobal.net)

<http://literacycv.org/>

Literacy Chippewa Valley is a community-based literacy organization that offers adults the opportunity to gain the skills they need to make a better life for themselves and their families. Our free services not only help the learners and their families, they enrich the Chippewa Valley community. Offices exist in Eau Claire, Dunn, and Chippewa Counties.

### **Apple Pregnancy Care Center**

2600 Stein Blvd.

Eau Claire, WI 54701

Ph: (715) 834-7734

[www.applepcc.org](http://www.applepcc.org)

Apple Pregnancy Care Center is a nonprofit organization funded by donations, and it provides services free of charge. All of the services - from pregnancy testing and counseling to practical assistance - are provided with complete confidentiality. Many from area parishes have participated in their Life Walk fundraiser!

### **We All Love Our Pets Program of Eau Claire County Humane Association**

Ph: (715) 833-0977

Contact: Katherine Schneider

Email: [schneiks@uwec.edu](mailto:schneiks@uwec.edu)

Volunteers deliver free pet food and supplies to low income disabled and elderly on a monthly basis. Volunteers need a big car, truck, or van and the ability to carry thirty pound pails of cat litter.

### **Sacred Heart Hospital Volunteers**

Ph: (715) 210-6337

Contact: Judy Peak

Email: [nursegoodbody@gmail.com](mailto:nursegoodbody@gmail.com)

[www.sacredhearteauclaire.org](http://www.sacredhearteauclaire.org)

At HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, volunteers are vital members of our healthcare team. They are people of all ages, backgrounds and lifestyles, with one thing in common: a spirit of dedication and generosity to help others. The more than 300 people who actively volunteer here do so much throughout the hospital.

### **Sister Parish: San Jose, Luquillo Puerto Rico**

St. James the Greater Parish

Contact: Jacky Miller

Ph: (715) 404-7006

Email: [jacchuck@yahoo.com](mailto:jacchuck@yahoo.com)

St. James decided to explore building a relationship with San Jose due to the devastation they suffered from Hurricane Maria. In the summer of 2018, six members of the parish went to meet Fr. Francis and his congregation. This winter two more families will be visiting to continue to get to know them and help with small projects. We plan for this to be long term as they have many years of a long range plan to re-build from the devastation. We see this as many-fold: to experience and learn from one another's culture through friendship and worship, to help with areas of need, and offer prayer and financial support.

### **Immaculate Conception Homeless Ministry**

Immaculate Conception Parish

1722 Highland Ave.

Eau Claire, WI 54701

Contact: Parish Office

Ph: (715) 835-9935

Email: [parishoffice@icpeau.diolcparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@icpeau.diolcparish.org)

The Immaculate Conception Parish community is committed to helping the homeless through volunteering in, and preparing meals for, a variety of initiatives: The Community Table, Sojourner House, Haven House, and Beacon House. For more information, and to become more involved, contact the Immaculate Conception Parish Office.

## **La Crosse Deanery**

### **Front Door Ministry**

While most parishes have a Charitable Works fund, Cathedral Parish has an organized aid program to network with different agencies and provide maximum aid. A more complete explanation is found on our [website](#).

### **Warming Center**

Catholic Charities of La Crosse

413 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

La Crosse, WI

Ph: (608) 782-0710 x220

<https://cclse.org/la-crosse-warming-center/>

The La Crosse Warming Center's Mission is to work with the greater La Crosse community to

better serve those experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect by providing a safe and warm place.

### **Place of Grace**

919 Hood Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Ph.: (608) 782-6224

Place of Grace offers hospitality three days a week and one Sunday a month. During each day the community gathers to share in a meal and builds relationships. Volunteers from many area parishes help prepare and serve meals, clean up, play with children, talk with guests, and most importantly, provide general hospitality to those who visit Place of Grace.

### **Causeway Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc.**

420 West Avenue South  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Ph: (608) 775-9999

Causeway Interfaith Caregivers connects people with needs to people who care for ongoing supportive connections. Causeway provides volunteer and community services to the elderly and adults with disabilities allowing them to maintain independence. People from many area parishes are involved.

### **New Horizons**

PO Box 2031  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Ph: (608) 791-2610

New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Center is a shelter for individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence. Parishioners at St. Patrick Church in Onalaska pick paper garden flowers on which needed items are written (supplies for hygiene, clothing, baby, household, etc.)

### **Gerard Hall**

940 Division Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
Ph: (608) 785-0476

Residence for young single pregnant women and mothers. Provides temporary living quarters, basic personal needs, and counseling services. St. Patrick Church in Onalaska and other area parishes support through donations of needed items and funds.

### **Quarters for Kids at Aquinas Catholic School (St. Pat's)**

1031 Main Street  
Onalaska, WI 54650

Contact: John Williams

Ph: (608) 783-5515

Annual collection each August for students in need who attend St. Patrick's School in Onalaska. Helps pay for school supplies and fees. Funds are also used to help pay Religious Education tuition for needy students.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

3181 Berlin Drive

La Crosse, WI 54601

Ph: (608) 785-2373

Habitat for Humanity builds/rehabilitates homes for responsible low-income families. St. Patrick Parish supports this mission by holding 2x4 fundraiser weekends, supplying volunteers for building projects, and encouraging parishioners to support the Habitat for Humanity ReStore Thrift Store in Onalaska.

### **Holmen Area Food Pantry at SEAS**

515 N. Main St.

Holmen, WI 54636

Contact: Carol Reider

Ph: (608) 526-4424

Email: [carol@seasholmen.org](mailto:carol@seasholmen.org)

The Holmen Area Food Pantry at St. Elizabeth Parish is open most every Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. January through November. Supported by our parish and local businesses, we serve anyone who is in need. Our motto is "We share what we have" and provide food as well as clothing and other items. We also have a Christmas Care and Sharing program every year in early December, with registration beginning in October.

## **Marshfield Deanery**

### **Gifts of Love**

Contact: Pattie Pflugradt, Coordinator

E-mail: [maskipaski@solarus.net](mailto:maskipaski@solarus.net)

Ph: (715) 207-8348

Gifts of Love is a ministry of a group of ladies from Sacred Heart Parish in Marshfield, the Marshfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women, and the La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. These ladies are dedicated to making NICU blankets, kimonos, incubator covers, hats, booties, sweaters, and many other needed items. Premature babies are often so tiny; they need extra tiny cloths or items to keep them warm. Our ladies do just that. They sew, crochet or knit items for them. Gifts of Love ladies also make burial outfits and blankets for the little angels that are too tiny to live. For the mothers who miscarry or whose infants join God in heaven, they

make memorial boxes. And if a family needs a little burial casket for a deceased baby, Gifts of Love makes and donates one. All of these things are provided at no cost.

We offer presentations and help to any person(s) or parish that would like more information on how to get this program started in their area. We are always looking for people who are willing to make and decorate the caskets. So far we have donated 249 caskets of various sizes.

### **St Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store**

169 N Central Ave.

Marshfield, WI 54449

Ph: (715) 387-4425

Contact: Kathy Dierickx, Store Manager

Email: [svdpmfld@frontier.com](mailto:svdpmfld@frontier.com)

[www.stvincentsmarshfield.org](http://www.stvincentsmarshfield.org)

Marshfield's St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store is one of the largest and best stocked stores in Wisconsin with three floors of merchandise. There is a large selection of clothing, housewares, domestic items and furniture. The store always needs donations and volunteers.

### **The Hannah Center – “Where New Life Begins”**

212 E. Third St.

Marshfield, WI 54449

Contact: Tricia Fancher, Program Director

Ph: (715) 387-6300

Email: [info@hannahcenter.com](mailto:info@hannahcenter.com)

The Hannah Center assists women in life crisis through compassion and guidance in a nurturing environment. It is committed to preserving life, providing a home and promoting change. The Hannah Center receives frequent donations from area parishes and individuals.

- **Hannah's Caring Closet**

Hannah's Caring Closet allows The Hannah Center to not only meet the needs of its residents, but to also assist community members facing hard times. Hannah's Caring Closet provides donated baby and children's items to any family in need including baby and children's clothing size 0-6T, diapers and wipes, baby necessities such as bottles, breast pumps, cribs, car seats, formula and much more.

- **Individual Goal Based Program**

The Hannah Center offers an Individual Goal Based Program for women with children, a pregnant woman or a single woman in crisis. This program focuses on setting and achieving long and short term goals, support, advocacy, life skills classes and much more. Length of stay for this program is individualized, and is based on the resident's progress and achievement of her goals.



- **Urgent Housing Program**

The Hannah Center also offers a one-room Urgent Housing Program (UHP). This program is designed to meet the basic needs of a woman and her child(ren) in an urgent housing situation. Intake for this program typically will occur within 72 hours of the original referral/inquiry. This is a two-week program while a woman works towards acceptance into our Individual Goal Based Program.

### **NIGHT TO SHINE PROM – For Special Needs Adults**

1021 W. McMillan St.

Marshfield, WI 54449

Ph: (715) 387-6111

Email: [info@northridgefamily.org](mailto:info@northridgefamily.org)

Contact: Beth Zarnke – Outreach Pastor

Night to Shine, an international initiative of the Tim Tebow Foundation, is a formal Prom for adults with special needs/disabilities. Every guest at Night to Shine enters the event on a red carpet. They are treated to hair and makeup stations, shoe shines, limousine rides, corsages and boutonnieres, a catered dinner, karaoke and a dance floor. Each guest is crowned king or queen of the prom. Celebrating the human dignity of all God's creation in His image, Marshfield area churches, civic groups, business sponsors and schools pull together with guests from adult group homes and foster care homes as life is celebrated to the fullest.

### **BIRTHRIGHT of Marshfield**

149 N. Central Ave., PO Box 141

Marshfield, WI 54449

Ph: (715) 384-4816

Email: [info@birthright.org](mailto:info@birthright.org)

Offers love, friendship, and support to women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant, assuring them that they are not alone. Provides information about pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, prenatal care, parenting skills, child care. Provides referrals for medical support, financial assistance, pregnancy tests, maternity and baby items.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Services**

149 N. Central Ave.

Marshfield, WI 54449

Contact: Deb Steltenpohl – Director of Outreach Services

Ph: (715) 387-0395

Email: [svdpoutreach@frontier.com](mailto:svdpoutreach@frontier.com)

- The SVDP Thrift Store was established to serve the needy. The store provides clothing, furniture, household items, books, sports equipment, etc. Proceeds from the Thrift Store are the primary source of funds with which to operate the Outreach Department.
- The Outreach Center provides a Food Pantry, the USDA Food Program, a Free Medical Clinic and other services. It also dispenses Thrift Store merchandise vouchers to those in

need. We serve a Fellowship Meal each Monday and Wednesday evening at 5pm for low income, lonely, disabled and homeless guests.

- Additional services in the SVDP building include a Christian Library, Central Wisconsin Literacy Council and Birthright.
- Every person on our staff is an important part of the Society's effort to assist the needy in a Christian spirit. We serve all people without regard for age, sex, race or religious beliefs.

### **Spencer Area Sleep In Heavenly Peace**

Spencer, WI 54479

Email: [joleenschade@shpbeds.org](mailto:joleenschade@shpbeds.org)

Contact: Joleen & Alyssa Schade (co-chairs)

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national non-profit network that seeks to insure that impoverished children have access to safe beds and bedding. Local chapters rely on a coalition of volunteers for work days to construct simple beds and bunkbeds which are completely furnished with donated mattresses, blankets and bedding, which are distributed to those families in need of them. Area churches and quilting guilds have been donating blankets and bedding to complete the projects. Our motto is, "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!" The Central Wisconsin Chapter has a website that you can visit to view their mission, services, donate or request assistance from their program. Visit them at <https://www.shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-spencer-area>.

### **Prairie du Chien Deanery**

#### **Roads to Life Tanzania, Inc.**

PO Box 157

Prairie du Chien, WI 53821-0157

Ph: (608) 770-0057

Email: [mary@roadstolifetanzania.org](mailto:mary@roadstolifetanzania.org)

Each year for over 45 years, Father Paul Fagan, a priest serving in the Serengeti region of Tanzania, who grew up on a Southwest Wisconsin farm, has come to report on the progress of his mission and to fundraise. The Catholic faithful of Prairie du Chien have responded by providing over \$750,000 to support the founding of four parishes, the baptizing of over 10,000 people, the building of roads in order to help the local economy, the funding of high school and university education for youth, and the building of a hospital for 200,000 previously unserved people.

#### **JWalkers**

Contact: Mary Stoeffler

Ph: (563) 329-0149

Besides serving the community throughout the year by helping seniors with yard work, visiting nursing homes, serving regularly at Mass and church functions, and helping at the parish daycare, the JWalkers-Holy Family Parish's high school youth group have sent large numbers on diocesan mission trips. This past summer the parish chartered its own bus and sent a group of 39 volunteers to Corpus Christi to aid in Hurricane Harvey cleanup.

### **Faith in Action**

104 East Blackhawk Avenue

Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Ph: (608) 326-1616

The Faith in Action programs links volunteers from Holy Family and other area churches with individuals who need assistance. Volunteers give rides to medical appointments, deliver food from pantries, assist with household duties, visit the homebound and help in many other ways.

### **St. Wenceslaus PCCW Charitable Works**

Contact: Toni Lenzendorf

Email: [tonilenzendorf@yahoo.com](mailto:tonilenzendorf@yahoo.com)

The St. Wenceslaus PCCW donates to a home for unwed mothers and their infants, prepares Christmas baskets for homebound and nursing home elderly, and supports a local free clinic.

### **Knights of Columbus Disaster Assistance**

Contact: Tom Martin

Email: [mountainlaneman@centurytel.net](mailto:mountainlaneman@centurytel.net)

The Knights of Columbus assist citizens who have suffered losses because of fire, flood or other disasters.

## **Richland Center Deanery**

### **Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center**

304 N. Washington Street

Viroqua, WI 54665

Ph: (608) 637-8688 **24/7**

Door of Hope is a crisis pregnancy center serving residents of Vernon, Crawford, and Monroe counties. They care for women and couples in crisis pregnancies, giving them knowledge and support to enable them to choose life for their babies.

### **Lydia's House**

265 N. Church St

Richland Center, WI 53581

Ph: (608) 475-9479

Lydia's House Ministries, established by the churches in the Richland Center area, offers the following:

- Lydia's House Shelter – A 15-day shelter for homeless people in emergency circumstances that provides shelter, food, spiritual care and assistance with housing and employment.
- A Child's Place – A 90-day shelter for homeless people with children providing shelter, food, spiritual care, and professional assistance and training for families to become independent in housing and food.
- A Family's Place – A 2-year housing transition program for homeless families that are trained in finances, education, family care, employment, and other areas that will help people break the cycle of homelessness.

Many of the Catholic faithful in the Richland Center area have volunteered with Lydia's House Ministries.

### **Saint Mary Quilters**

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

400 Congress Ave.

Viroqua, WI 54665

Ph: (608) 637-7711

Contact: Fr. Joseph Richards

Email: [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net)

Handmade quilts by the women of the parish are given to a variety of people, including all newly baptized children of the parish. Quilts are also given to the homebound, the sick, the elderly, fire/natural disaster victims, Catholic Charities, and Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center.

### **Food Pantry**

Sacred Heart Parish

417 S. Oak Street

Lone Rock, WI 53556

Contact: Fr. Wesley Janowski

The Food Pantry in Lone Rock benefits students' families and any Lone Rock residents who are food challenged. Sacred Heart Parish collects year round for this cause.

### **Greenway Manor**

Sacred Heart Parish

417 S. Oak Street

Lone Rock, WI 53556

Contact: Fr. Wesley Janowski

The Greenway Manor in Spring Green houses some of our former parishioners. Visits and volunteerism are a common project in our parish.

### **Christmas Donations for Passages and Nursing Homes**

Sacred Heart Parish

417 S. Oak Street

Lone Rock, WI 53556

Contact: Fr. Wesley Janowski

Christmas donations are given to Passages (home for abused women and children), as well as Pine Valley and Greenway Manor nursing homes.

### **St. Mary Parish, Keyesville**

32605 Durst Lane

Richland Center, WI 53581

Contact: Fr. Nathan Thainase

Ph: (608) 585-2782

Email: [alan.h.lins@gmail.com](mailto:alan.h.lins@gmail.com)

- Making and selling trays of Christmas cookies, raising over \$1000 which sponsors a child for a year at Casa Hogar.
- Baby Shower for Baby Jesus – new and gently used baby items are collected at Christmas and given to the Door of Hope Crisis Pregnancy Center in Viroqua
- Members of the PCCW Care and Concern Committee send cards of encouragement and support with occasional modest monetary donations to members of the Richland Center area community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.
- A Thanksgiving ecumenical service has been held with Willow Valley United Methodist Church since the 1960's. A collection for the local food pantry is conducted at this time.
- The NBVM PCCW invites Ithaca High School seniors pursuing a two-year program or a four-year program to apply for our scholarships. Recipients show leadership and overcoming adversity or obstacles, community involvement, and including faith and/or a faith community in their lives.

### **Stevens Point Deanery**

#### **Family Crisis Center**

Ph: (715) 343-7125

Many area parishioners support the Family Crisis Center which offers a safe place to stay for victims of domestic violence and their children. Staff assists domestic violence victims and their children in identifying alternatives to the problems they are experiencing. Families are also provided with assistance in completion of temporary restraining order petitions, obtaining child care, transportation, housing, etc. They also offer low-cost rental housing for families in need when they leave the Crisis Center.

**No Child's Wet Behind**

St. Bronislava Parish, Plover

No child's wet behind is a diaper collection for the local pantry helping keep the area children dry and healthy.

**Community Thrift Store**

2124 Rice St.

Stevens Point, WI

Ph: (715) 344-7395

Hours: Monday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Food distributed every Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on emergency basis. They have used clothing, shoes, furniture, dishes and household items for sale.

**Holy Spirit Parish**

Contact: Karen Clifford & Carol Steltenpohl

Ph: (715) 344-9117

Email: [carolsteltenpohl@gmail.com](mailto:carolsteltenpohl@gmail.com)

Weekly meal at the Salvation Army, monthly Matthew 25 collection which is distributed to area service agencies; Feeding Hungry Kids which provides food to area schools.

Twin Parish Subcommittee organizes parish support of a parish in Haiti.

Evergreen Initiative includes a weekly community meal on Thursday evening and a kids closet.

Racial Justice Subcommittee has held listening sessions with African American Community members and a study on communicating across political lines.

Environmental Justice Subcommittee is doing a study on minimizing the environmental impact of the parish and possible solar energy.

Rent Ready is a local community program where churches provide financial support and mentoring for people/families moving from homelessness to independent housing.

Christmas Dinner for the community

**One Big Tent Portage County**

Located at the Idea Center

1039b Ellis St.

Stevens Point, WI

Contact:

Ph: (715) 496-9309

Hours: Monday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Collaboration of various churches in the Stevens Point area which provides resources to the needy and makes referrals to other social service agencies. They are being assisted by Catholic Charities in their endeavors. They are trying to help individuals and families in need of food, gas, medicine, housing and other basic life needs.

**Operation Bootstrap**

5000 Heffron St.  
Stevens Point, WI

\*By referral only\*

Parishes, churches, emergency services, energy services, Health & Human Services, Stevens Point Housing, CAP Service, Headstart all make referrals for food, clothing, rent assistance, medicine, car repairs. They do not list their phone number.

**Interfaith Food Pantry of Portage County**

2810 Post Road  
Plover, WI  
Ph: (715) 347-2689

Food is given on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month to residents of Portage County from 5:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

## Thorp Deanery

### Change of Seasons Project

Contact: Gary Veltus

Ph: (715) 743-3840

Email: [stmaryneillsville@tds.net](mailto:stmaryneillsville@tds.net)

Change of Seasons is a time for community volunteers to help our senior citizens with those "Change of Seasons" odd jobs. This happens each spring and fall in Neillsville and Loyal. It began with a collaboration of St. Mary's Justice and Peace Committee, Office of Aging and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Clark County, many community volunteers and St. Anthony's and Trinity Lutheran Church in Loyal.

The day begins with a prayer and breakfast. Churches now take turns hosting. Some churches provide lunch. Names are submitted to Interfaith and the Aging Office. Volunteers are recruited from youth organizations and churches. Teams are set up and given names for their team to rake leaves, wash windows, clean gutters or whatever job the elderly need done. There is no cost for the service.

### St. Mary's WRAP Project

St. Mary's Neillsville

Contact: Dr. Gregory Foster

Email: [drgreg@fosterprimaryeyecare.net](mailto:drgreg@fosterprimaryeyecare.net)

Each year the last week of October or first week in November is designated as WRAP Awareness Week. The senior class in the parish religious education program is engaged by their teacher during one of their class periods to discuss the problems that pornography causes in society. At all Sunday Masses at the beginning of WRAP Awareness Week a volunteer from that senior class reads a short prepared statement (written by the Justice and Peace Committee chairperson) outlining the scourge of pornography on society and the need to make every effort to eliminate it from our lives. The message clearly defines the consumption of pornography as a sin against God. After Mass the senior class and members of the Justice and Peace Committee distribute lengths of white ribbons for parishioners to tie on auto antennas or on rear view mirrors in support of the message. Also St. Mary's had white wrist bands made with the inscription "WRAP White Ribbon Against Pornography" to serve as a reminder to speak out against the sales, distribution, and consumption of pornography whenever the occasion arises.

### Food Bank Support

St. Mary's Neillsville

Contact: Dr. Greg Foster

Email: [drgreg@fosterprimaryeyecare.net](mailto:drgreg@fosterprimaryeyecare.net)

We support local food banks with food drives in conjunction with the PCCW.



### **Relationship with Uganda Africa**

St. Mary's, Neillsville

Contact: Martha Opelt

Email: [stmaryneillsville@tds.net](mailto:stmaryneillsville@tds.net)

The relationship with the Diocese of Kiyinda-Mityana began as Reverend Woodrow Pace spent a year of his seminary discernment in Uganda. It was during that time that Fr. Pace committed to maintaining a relationship with the people of Uganda. In 2001 St. Mary Parish in Neillsville joined the relationship. Over the past 17 years, God has opened the hearts of many to assist with this mission. In coordination with other parishes in the Diocese of La Crosse, Rotary Clubs, and the Remembering Jesse Parker Foundation, thousands of people in Uganda continue to receive clean water, education and economic benefits, and people from the United States who are called to travel to Uganda or participate in any way are blessed with an increase in faith and hope.

### **Abbotsford Area Food Pantry**

Contact: Rev. Timothy Oudenhoven

Started March of 2020 in response to the crisis resulting from Covid-19 and school closures. In July of 2020 partnered with Feed My People Food Bank in Eau Claire, serving 120 families a week. By November of 2020 we started seeing 200 families in some weeks. It has since grown to an average of 200-400 families a week. We have not missed a week since July 2020. We serve food from 2-4pm every Thursday.

### **Mobile Health Clinic**

Contact: Rev. Timothy Oudenhoven

Partnered with Family Health Care Center in Marshfield, WI, St. Bernard is offering a Mobile Family Health Care Clinic weekly. Patrons will be able to receive free care based on need or a reduced rate on a sliding scale. This clinic does not require insurance or legal immigration status, etc.

### **ESL, GED, Finance Classes**

Contact: Rev. Timothy Oudenhoven

St. Bernard offers free ESL, GED, and Finance classes on a regular basis to all interested. These classes are mainly offered to the Hispanic Community. The classes are offered through county collaboration and H2N of Marathon County.

## Tomah Deanery

### Queen of the Apostles School - Diaper Collection

303 W. Monroe St.  
Tomah, WI 54660

OR

203 May Street  
Warrens, WI 54666

Contact: Deacon Bob Riedl

Ph: (608) 372-4516

Email: [dcnbobriedl@gmail.com](mailto:dcnbobriedl@gmail.com)

The children of Queen of the Apostles School research the cost of diapers and the health risks of keeping soiled diapers on the children. They then collect diapers for the local food pantry. Every year they come up with a unique name such as “Give Cheeks a Chance,” and “No Child’s Wet Behind.” Over the past years, they have collected thousands of diapers keeping the Tomah area’s babies dry.

### Remembering Jesse Parker Run, Inc.

Ph: (608) 567-9034

Email: [snicol1949@gmail.com](mailto:snicol1949@gmail.com)

Queen of the Apostles Parish is one of the sponsors of the annual Jesse Run. Proceeds from this event are donated to construct water wells in Uganda and contribute to its school children.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Uganda

Queen of the Apostles Parish in Tomah and St Mary, Neillsville, have partnered with area Rotary Clubs to construct water wells and to aid Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Uganda. These groups have also donated chickens to the school. The school then uses the eggs as a source of protein for the children as well as a source of income for the school.

### Sparta Food Pantry

319 W. Main Street  
Sparta, WI 54656

Ph: (608) 269-2655

Ecumenical Food Pantry in downtown Sparta, WI, open for a few hours daily. St. Pat’s parishioners donate food and volunteer to assist clients. This food pantry operates as an emergency needs facility.

### Sparta Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry

319 W. Main Street  
Sparta, WI 54656

Ph: (608) 269-2655

Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is held in a city warehouse once a month. Volunteers prepare and distribute products, load recipients' vehicles, clean up and write reports. The food pantry provides 40-50 pounds of food per household. Many volunteers come from area churches, including St. Patrick Parish.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store**

925 West State Street

Mauston, WI 53948

Contact: Cynthia Bomber

Ph: (608) 847-6054

Email: [stpatrickparishmauston@gmail.com](mailto:stpatrickparishmauston@gmail.com)

St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store is conveniently located at the end of town with a large selection of clothing, housewares, domestic items and furniture. Store profits finance generous monthly assistance such as contributions to rent, utilities, prescription drugs and transportation to people in need. The thrift store receives volunteers and donations from St. Patrick Parish and the local community.

### **Confirmation Service Projects**

St. Patrick Parish, Mauston

A concerted effort is made to extend social ministry opportunities to the youth of the parish is through Confirmation service projects. Among other projects, Confirmands have raised funds that were donated to Hannah House in Marshfield.

### **Cashton Cupboard and Closet**

1205 Front St.

Cashton, WI 54619

Ph: (608) 654-5654

Email: [tcrcfam@mwt.net](mailto:tcrcfam@mwt.net)

The parishes in Cashton, Norwalk and St. Mary's Ridge work together to maintain the Cashton Cupboard and Closet facility. This includes a food pantry, gently used clothing and small household items. Regular donations are made to Casa Hogar Orphanage in Peru by the parishes and school.

### **St. Mary's Outreach**

117 N. Juneau Street, PO Box 303

Lyndon Station, WI 53944

Contact: Rev. Clayton Elmorst

Ph: (608) 666-2421

Email: [frclaytonstmaryschurch@gmail.com](mailto:frclaytonstmaryschurch@gmail.com)

St. Mary's outreach is extended by the parish to those in need of local food and gas vouchers.

### **St. Paul-St. James-St. Michael Parish Social Ministries**

Contact: St. Paul Parish Office

Ph: (608) 562-3125

These parishes support the local food pantries, and prepare and serve the community dinner periodically that various organizations support monthly. The religious education classes visit the local nursing home to entertain the residents, and gift them with convenient personal care items.

### **Tri-Parish PCCW Social Ministries**

307 Spring Street, PO Box 155

Kendall, WI 54638

Contacts: Kathy Retzlaff, Deb Larson, Cindy Woodward

Ph: (608) 463-7120

Email: [grandmadebbe@centurylink.net](mailto:grandmadebbe@centurylink.net)

Regular donations to Catholic Charities, the SMILE Train, St. Jude's Hospital, St. Claire's Mission, Rolling Hills Nursing Home, Project Milk in Peru, and the local food pantries. Socks, underwear, coats, mittens, and other winter ware are distributed via public schools to local citizens in need each year.

### **St. Francis of Assisi-Our Lady of the Lake Parish Social Ministries**

2001 S. Main Street

Necedah, WI 54646

Contact: Therese McNally

Ph: (608) 565-2488

The parish sponsors the Christmas Angels Project which grants presents of clothes and toys donated by parishioners to local children in need who have been identified by local school personnel. Food drives for those in need are conducted at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"Box of Joy" is in its third year; this program reaches out to children in Haiti, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic with presents of warm season clothes and shoes, toys, and school supplies that all fit within a shoebox.

Parishioners provide rides to Sunday Mass to those in assisted living facilities.

### **Family Promise of Monroe County (Queen of the Apostles Parish)**

303 W. Monroe St.

Tomah, WI 54660

Contact: Deacon Bob Riedl

Ph: (608) 463-7662

Email: [kendallriedls@gmail.com](mailto:kendallriedls@gmail.com)

Family Promise of Monroe County helps homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Families admitted to the program spend one week at each of the 13 host congregations of varying faith traditions, and get advice and assistance at the day center located at Sparrow's Nest near Sparta, WI. School children attend their usual schools, while parents are either at work or looking for employment. Evening meals and overnight accommodations are provided by the host congregations. More information can be found on their website at: <https://familypromiseofmonroecounty.com>

### **Wausau Deanery**

#### **St Vincent de Paul Society of Wausau**

131 West Thomas Street

Wausau, WI 54401

Ph: (715) 298-3028

Email: [dhoppa@svdpwausau.org](mailto:dhoppa@svdpwausau.org)

<http://svdpwausau.org/>

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (or "Vincentians" ) are men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in need.

#### **Wausau Community Warming Center**

540 South 3rd Ave.

PO Box 2186

Wausau, WI. 54402-2186

Ph: (715) 849-3311

<http://cclse.org/wausau-community-warming-center/>

Catholic Charities operates the center and works with other community organizations to ensure success. The Community Warming Center is a fruit of the Wausau Housing and Homelessness Coalition. The Coalition's mission is to collaboratively raise community awareness, to maximize and strengthen existing resources, to develop new solutions, and to create a seamless delivery of services to end homelessness in Marathon County. The shelter provides a clean, warm and safe environment for up to 25 adult men and women, accepts and encourages guests' ambitions and hopes, provides a nightly hot meal to our guests, and ensures each guest's personal dignity, safety and respect.

### **Open Door Ministry**

Ph: (715) 848-4044

The Open Door Ministry was begun in 2010 as a hand up to recently released inmates. Marathon County Jail releases its inmates before breakfast on their date of release, and they come out wearing the clothes they wore when they went in. Open Door Ministry meets them with a cup of coffee, a bite to eat, a chance to choose some new clothing, and a word of encouragement and hope. Volunteers come from area Catholic parishes, other churches and the broader community.

### **Circle of Love**

Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

621 2nd Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Ph: (715) 845-6715

Email: [info@eastsideparishes.org](mailto:info@eastsideparishes.org)

Website: [www.eastsideparishes.org](http://www.eastsideparishes.org)

Resurrection Parish in Wausau sponsors soup lunches during Lent from 11:30 am until after 12:10 Mass (1:00 pm). Those in need are invited at no cost – and those who can afford to pay are asked for a free-will donation. We carry on the work of the Circle of Love throughout the year on the profits of the “Lenten Soup Kitchen”.

### **Jubilee House**

229 S. 28<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Wausau, WI 54401

Ph: (715) 842-3148

Contact: Ellen Schumann, President

Jubilee House is a Catholic Worker House, following the example of Dorothy Day. Jubilee House serves a free community meal and hospitality every Thursday night in the school cafeteria at St. Matthew Parish. Everyone is invited to come together for the meal regardless of their station in life. Area groups sign up to provide and serve a meal. As Dorothy Day said, “Peace begins when the hungry are fed.” You can be a part of the solution.

### **Southwest Wausau Circle of Joy Food Pantry**

2100 Snowbird Lane

Wausau, WI 54401

Contact: Brenda Ricci, President

Ph: (715) 298-0893

Email: [movinon2@charter.net](mailto:movinon2@charter.net)

Food pantry serving those in need that live in the southwest part of Wausau. Service is provided on an “as needed” basis, as well as Thanksgiving and Easter food baskets.

## Wisconsin Rapids Deanery

### Deanery Lenten Collection

6741 Lenox Ave.  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
Ph: (715) 424-5338  
Contact: Joyce Lobner or Terri Sersch  
Email: [tsersch@wctc.net](mailto:tsersch@wctc.net)

### St. Vincent de Paul Parish Social Ministries

820 13<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
Ph: (715) 423-2111  
Contact: Ann Ruesch  
Email: [stvin@wctc.net](mailto:stvin@wctc.net)  
Social Justice committee is involved with the following programs:  
\*Haiti Twin Parish  
\*Home Delivered Meals in the Wisconsin Rapids area  
\*Community Blood Bank  
\*Right to Life  
\*Food Pantry of Wisconsin Rapids area  
\*Visits to homebound  
\*Neighborhood Table – community meal program

### St. Alexander Parish

880 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Port Edwards, WI 54469  
Ph: (715) 887-3012  
Email: [deaconmarkq@solarus.net](mailto:deaconmarkq@solarus.net)

St. Alexander's parish supports a Navaho mission in Arizona and holds a monthly collection for our local food pantry.

### Our Lady Queen of Heaven Social Ministries

750 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
Contact: Mary Moss  
Ph: (715) 423-1251  
Email: [olqh@solarus.net](mailto:olqh@solarus.net)

The parish provides a weekly food pantry collection, monthly knitting group, blood pressure

checks, end of life seminars, grief support volunteers, food pantry volunteers, mitten tree, giving tree for children, coats for kids, sister parish in India.

### **Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC)**

710 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Contact: DaNita Carlson

Ph: (715) 424-LOVE (5683)

Email: [danita@loveincswc.org](mailto:danita@loveincswc.org)

Web: <http://loveincswc.org>

Love In the Name of Christ has a mission to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. At its most fundamental level, Love INC mobilizes and coordinates church efforts to help people in need and trains church members to respond with proven best-practices, compassion, and friendship. Love INC of South Wood County (Love INC of SWC) is an affiliate of Love INC National, which has been in existence since 1977.

## **We Need Your Help!**

### **Additions and Corrections**

This directory is an evolving project requiring input from the local parishes. We realize there are initiatives going on in the diocese not listed here, or ones that have changed. For the social ministry initiatives of your parish or deanery to be listed, the pastor or someone authorized by him should complete and submit the online form at: [diolc.org/psm-directory-form](http://diolc.org/psm-directory-form).

For corrections or deletions, please contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at [ministries@diolc.org](mailto:ministries@diolc.org) or (608) 791-0161.