

# Faithfully Forward »

A PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF MADISON

MARCH 2023



Community Connections moved to a 12,000-foot location in Janesville late last summer, giving participants more programming options and room to move. Pictured here, participants enjoy lunch in the main room (left) and arts and crafts (above).

## Room to move: Donor support leads to upgraded Community Connections facility

**‘This is going to give them the space that they need to be able to make that choice about where they want to go.’**

**JOEL SCHENK,  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

**J**oel Schenk smiles when he looks across the expansive new location of Catholic Charities’ Community Connections facility in Janesville.

“The space is for them.”

Community Connections is an adult day center for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities which has served Rock County since 2000. Late last summer, Community Connections merged its two existing locations into a new 12,000-square-foot facility on North Parker Drive in Janesville – more than two-and-a-half times the size of the old spaces combined.

Schenk, the program director of Community Connections, said the larger space gives pro-

gram participants more independence and input into what they do with their day. While the old spaces in Janesville and Beloit had served the program for several years, Schenk said their smaller floor plans limited mobility for participants and his staff’s ability to provide different forms of programming at the same time.

“This space is going to give us the opportunity to utilize the environment better for individuals, and for individuals to utilize the space for themselves,” Schenk said.

The new North Parker Drive facility – formerly a cafeteria building for the Parker Pen company and later a charter high school

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# Our Mission

To demonstrate Christ's charity and justice by caring in faith for the human family.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

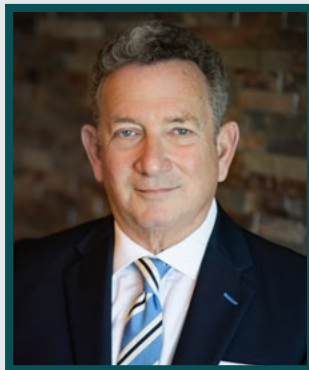
## Being salt and light

In the weeks leading up to Lent, we heard Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" from the Gospel of Matthew during Sunday's Mass readings. This sermon is at the heart of his teaching and, ultimately, it's reflected in the work we aim to do here at Catholic Charities.

Jesus gives us the Beatitudes – blessed are the poor in spirit, they who mourn, the meek, they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the clean of heart, the peace-makers – and he calls us to be the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." We are reminded that, "Your light must shine before others."

Indeed, we see that light shining at Community Connections in Janesville, where your support enabled us to expand to a much larger facility, giving our participants more programming options and room to move.

We see it at 5 Door Recovery, where Fr. Mick Moon, a retired priest and social worker, blends these two roles to



serve the needs of men and women facing substance use disorders and, often, mental illness.

At The Beacon, donors stepped forward on #GivingTuesday to raise the funds needed to purchase a secure phone charging station, which will help our guests keep a vital tool powered up during their visits.

These are a few of the many ways Catholic Charities tries to shine a light for our brothers and sisters in need across Southern Wisconsin; none of it would be possible without your continued support.

As we look toward Easter morning, let us all continue to work together to light the way.

Peace,

Shawn Carney  
Executive Director



### VISIT FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA

We were visited in December by three representatives from Catholic Charities USA to discuss homeless services, affordable housing and possible new initiatives regarding health care and behavioral health for people experiencing homelessness. Many thanks to Curtis Johnson (VP-Housing Strategy), Timothy Crawl-Bey (Senior Director-Housing Strategy) and Benjamin Wortham (VP-Behavioral Health Integration) for making the trip to Wisconsin. During their visit, they met with Bishop Donald Hying, Catholic Charities of Madison Executive Director Shawn Carney and members of our Leadership Team.



# Finding healing and hope in parables

## Fr. Mick Moon combines counseling, spirituality at 5 Door Recovery

**T**he story of the prodigal son is arguably one of the most well-known and well-loved parables. The parable tells the story of a father and his two sons. One son is given a great inheritance and leaves his family to spend the money frivolously. Meanwhile, the other son stays and diligently works for his father. When his fortune runs out and he finds himself living in poverty, the younger son returns to his father, who welcomes him with open arms.

It's easy to see why this story is so beloved—it offers a positive message to anyone who has made decisions they regret. It illustrates that, like the father in the story, God is merciful and loves us, even when we stumble. This central message is the reason Fr. Mick Moon chose to share this parable with a group of individuals receiving treatment for substance use disorder during his first spirituality group session at 5 Door Recovery in August 2022. For individuals who may be at their lowest point and grappling with the mix of emotions and challenges that are part of the journey through addiction and recovery, the story of the prodigal son and the message that it's never too late to return to God can be a source of hope.

Fr. Mick Moon is a retired Catholic priest, who also spent many years working as a social worker. After earning his master's degree in social work from Rutgers University in New Jersey, Fr. Moon worked in Mil-



Fr. Mick Moon, a retired priest and social worker, stands with a painting depicting the parable of the prodigal son.

waukee, Wisconsin and then Hereford, Texas before joining Catholic Charities of Madison, where he worked in the family counseling program in Janesville from 1990-1997. Fr. Moon then went back to the seminary in the fall of 1997. After being ordained in 2002, he served as the parish priest in St. Bernard in Middleton, Holy Redeemer in downtown Madison, St. Joseph in Madison, St. Rose of Lima in Brodhead, St. Patrick in Albany, and St. Francis of Assisi in Belleville. He retired in July 2021.

Fr. Moon's ministry is a relatively new addition to the 5 Door programming. Though it had long been a goal to add a voluntary faith-based group at 5 Door, plans were stalled by COVID-19 and the accompanying restrictions on visitors. Fortunately, these restrictions

eased, and last fall, Fr. Moon was able to start his group sessions. Twice per month, he draws from his lifetime of experience as a social worker and Catholic priest to provide spiritual guidance and support for those who choose to attend his sessions.

While the sessions are completely voluntary for individuals receiving treatment at 5 Door, Mary Haberman-Laesch, the program director of 5 Door, reports that the sessions are popular, explaining that recovery tends to be a time of great spiritual exploration.

Fr. Moon's sessions start with introductions and a prayer, followed by any spirituality or faith-related questions. The group uses the Life Recovery Bible, which is a Bible that incorporates the 12-step recovery system and includes

recovery-specific notes and reflections. Often, Fr. Moon comes prepared with a theme for the session and shares two or three Scripture passages that relate to the theme. But mostly, the sessions are an opportunity for participants to open up about their individual journeys. "There's a very good degree of personal sharing that goes on in our meetings. Most are grateful for the support that people attending give to each other," Fr. Moon explained.

When people complete the 5 Door treatment program, Fr. Moon gives them an "angel coin," which is a coin that has an imprint of an angel on it, and which he hopes will convey that the Lord is watching over them in a protective way. "In all honesty, the fact that some of these people are still alive, they are walking miracles in that sense alone, for all the things they have been through or put themselves through. I like to make sure that when they are departing the program for having completed it [they know] that they have made a serious investment in turning their lives around and that God is there to offer his protection and growth."

If participants walk away with just one thing, Fr. Moon would like that to be a message of hope for a better future. Perhaps this message is best summed up by a Scripture passage from Jeremiah 29:11 that Fr. Moon often refers to in his sessions: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

"They are going to be facing a lot of challenges as soon as they finish the program and walk out that door, but hopefully they know they are better equipped and that God loves them," said Fr. Moon.



COMING SOON TO THE BEACON

## Charging ahead!

Guests at The Beacon will soon be able to securely charge their cell phones thanks to your gifts to our #GivingTuesday campaign. The cell phone charging locker has been ordered and will be installed at The Beacon just as soon as it arrives.



Once installed, guests will be able to place their phone into one of 8 lockable bays, leave it, and come back to a fully charged device. Each of the lockable stations is outfitted with charging cables to power every type of phone.

Similar to the in-room safes at hotels, the guest can create their own password to ensure their phone is secure.

The charging station will give guests peace of mind. Thank you for making the purchase of this much-needed charging station a reality.

# Perez, Bennett join Board

Catholic Charities of Madison is pleased to announce the appointment of Rosario “Rosie” Perez and Richard “Dick” Bennett to its board of directors.

Perez serves as vice president of mission integration for the Wisconsin region of SSM Health, providing strategic direction on mission-related issues for the health care organization.

Bennett retired in 2019 after serving as executive vice president and financial advisor for Savant Wealth Management in Rockford and Freeport, Illinois.

“Rosie and Dick are excellent additions to our board,” said Shawn Carney, executive director of Catholic Charities of Madison. “They both bring outstanding and unique skill sets that will provide new insight as we look to serve people in need throughout the Diocese.”

Perez joined SSM Health in March 2022 after serving in mission leadership roles for Catholic health care systems in California, New York and Texas. She earned



Rosie Perez



Dick Bennett

a Master of Arts degree in health care mission from the Aquinas Institute of Theology, a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the University of Houston, and an Associate degree in nursing from San Jacinto College.

Throughout her career, Perez has provided leadership in support of Catholic identity, spiritual care, medical mission, financial assistance programs, population health, homelessness programs and community nursing.

Bennett and his wife, Kelly, moved to Madison in 2020. In addition to his work at Savant, Bennett was the regional director of trust and senior vice president of a large bank. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Eastern Illinois University. Bennett is a Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF).

Bennett also serves as an investment advisor for the Catholic Diocese of Madison Foundation.



## 2023 Fundraising Events Save the Dates



### 27th Annual Golf Outing

**MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023**

**Blackhawk Country Club, Madison**



### Beacon & Eggs Breakfast

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023**

**The Tinsmith, 828 E. Main St., Madison**

**SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP TODAY!**

Contact Sandy Lampman at (608) 826-8096 or [slampman@ccmadison.org](mailto:slampman@ccmadison.org) for more information.





## SCENES FROM BEACON & EGGS

Supporters of The Beacon came together to mark the fifth anniversary of the homeless day resource center during the Beacon & Eggs fundraiser on Oct. 20, 2022 at the Orpheum Theater in Madison. Pictured above, from left to right: Bishop Donald Hying, Dane County Executive Joe Parisi, Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and Catholic Charities Executive Director Shawn Carney gather for a photo before the event; Catholic Charities Homeless Services Director Carly Soby served as emcee for Beacon & Eggs; and Ron Luskin, president of the Community Advisory Team, was recognized for his dedication and service to The Beacon. At left, Jim Hartlieb, then-chair of the Catholic Charities Board of Directors, visits with Karen Carlson, Ben Gutsch, board member Megan McDermott and Jill Thomas.

## ROOM TO MOVE

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– features a wide-open main room with separate spaces for dining, games, arts and crafts, a coffee bar and socialization. Off the back of the main room, there's a program room, movie room, a quiet room, a sensory room, kitchen, first aid/medical room, and a participant locker area.



Joel Schenk

Schenk said planning is underway to complete a beautiful fenced outdoor area under the property's large trees once the weather warms up, too.

"This is going to give them the space that they need to be able to make that choice about where they want to go and what they want to do, rather than kind of being confined into the small rooms that we had before," Schenk said. "This gives them plenty of space to be with who they want and to do what they want just because we have the amount of space we have."

The former Janesville location served

32 individuals in a space of 3,400 square feet, while the Beloit facility served about 13 participants in a similarly sized building. With both facilities combined, Schenk said the number of individuals being served has reached 54, with a goal to increase the census to 60.

## THANKS TO DONORS

Catholic Charities raised a total of \$110,600 in cash and in-kind donations during a capital campaign for the project. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Community Connections was not only able to expand into the larger space, but also upgrade to high-quality medical grade furnishings to create a comfortable and functional atmosphere for participants and staff alike.

Schenk said the upgraded environment is unlike anything he's encountered during his more than 25-year career working in adult day programs.

"We appreciate the donors for what they were able to do to help us," he said. "We've had people that have taken tours and families taking tours that really are impressed with the way things look,

how it's set up and all the little things that you don't think about that you can't get without donor support."

Donors will be honored during a private reception on April 19. Bishop Donald J. Hying will also bless the facility during the reception.

## COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

In addition to offering programs and activities on-site, Community Connections focuses on other social and recreational opportunities out in the broader community. Community Connections takes participants to a "restaurant of the month" for lunch, visits local coffee shops, shops local farmers markets, visits museums, the Rock County Fair, the Rock River Threshere, the YMCA of Northern Rock County and more.

"That's our main focus is getting the individuals that live in Rock County out to experience it, things that are in the area that they may not normally be able to get out into," Schenk said. "We're affording them the opportunity to get out into community to see it and experience it."





702 S. High Point Road  
Madison, WI 53719

## Legacy Giving

You can continue to help provide healing and hope for years to come.



One of the easiest ways to leave a legacy gift is through a simple beneficiary designation on your IRA, 401K, life insurance policy or annuity.

It is easy to leave a percentage to your family and a percentage to help those in need of food, comfort and caring support.

Questions? Contact Sandy Lampman  
(608) 826-8096  
[slampman@ccmadison.org](mailto:slampman@ccmadison.org)

Catholic Charities Madison EIN 39-0807067

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Service to others as an expression of faith

**M**y family and Catholic education – particularly a number of wonderful Jesuit teachers – emphasized the importance of service to others.

I have taken that to heart and on a personal level. My participation in Catholic Charities is an expression of my faith.

The community and friendships at Catholic Charities make my participation all the more enjoyable. Most importantly, I am always impressed by the talented staff at Catholic Charities which give so much of themselves and help so many in need. They are humble in their work and I am grateful that I can support their efforts.



**Chris Roe**  
CUNA