

Even in the heart of winter, February brings a welcome hint that change is coming. The days are stretching longer, spring is somewhere ahead of us—and at the very least, we can all hope for temperatures above freezing. All of it gently invites us to look forward with hope and anticipation. But, as we look ahead to what's coming next, let's to look back with gratitude—at how much we accomplished together over the past year.

Your gifts of time and visits of sustaining presence truly added up last year in powerful ways. Please be sure to check out the Impact Statement on page 2.

And on pages 3 & 4, we dig deeper into the importance of reporting your hours. Your time may feel small in the moment, but reporting it helps us faithfully tell the story of this ministry, secure funding, and steward resources wisely. You can—and should—even include the time you spend reading this monthly newsletter as part of your reported hours!

**Prayer Booklet Update** - Attached to this email you'll find the Care Team Prayer Booklet, originally compiled in 2011. This resource has been a blessing for many over the years. If there is enough interest—and if team members would like to contribute new prayers—we would love to explore creating a new and updated edition together.

#### A Message from Judi Hoang

"I have truly missed working directly with families, so I've accepted a position as a Case Manager with The Elizabeth House through Care Net. I deeply appreciate the incredible work you've done to support our ministry. It has been an honor to work alongside such dedicated and compassionate individuals! Thank you again for all your hard work and commitment."

We wish Judi all the best in her new position.

Thank you for being such a vital part of this ministry. Your presence matters. Your prayers matter. You matter—and we are deeply thankful for each of you.



Midvale Community Lutheran 2013  
&  
Divine Mercy - St Maria Goretti 2018

# 2025 CARE TEAM MINISTRY IMPACT

A wonderful program you have and I am so blessed to receive it. The girls do make my days and I do love each of them. God is so good.



**8,843 Hours**



**192 Volunteers**



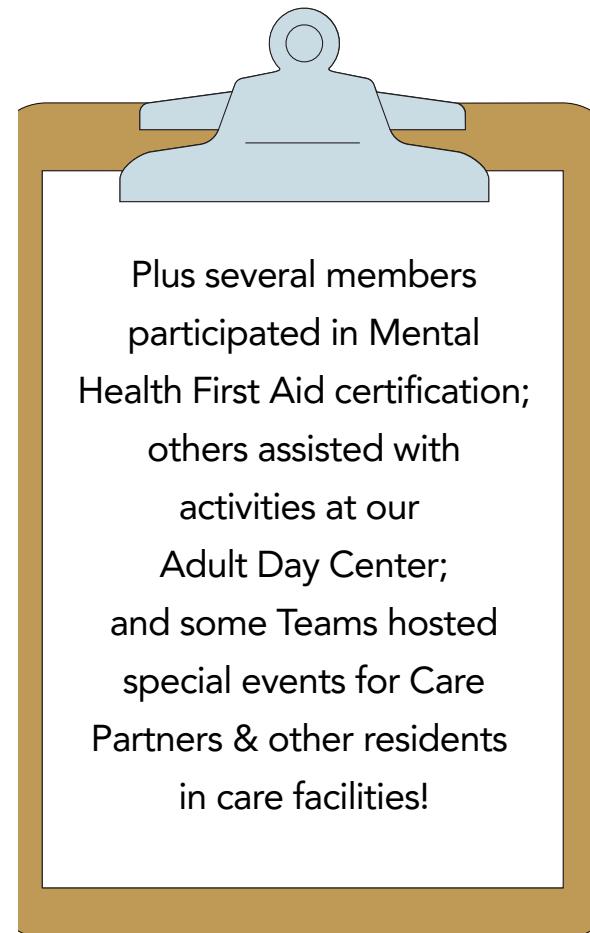
**262 Care Partners**



**13 Care Teams**

The Care Team is a great program! I'm alone a lot of the time. My Care Team person is so friendly, caring, etc. I enjoy the time & activity we spend together and look forward to the next time we spend together.

I thoroughly enjoy the ladies that visit me - we have become good friends.



## THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING YEAR!

## Why Reporting Visits Matters

Behind every Care Team visit is another important act of service: reporting. Far more than a bookkeeping task — reporting is essential to ministry effectiveness, continuity of service, and accountability as a nonprofit organization.

We know that your visits flow from a genuine desire to bring Christ's love to others. Your service is a gift, not a transaction, and we are deeply grateful for you.

### What "Reporting" Really Means

When we say "reporting," we don't mean paperwork or complicated forms. We simply mean keeping track of your hours in whatever way works best for you and sharing them with your leader just once a month.

Please be sure to include:

- Care Team visits
- Care Team meetings
- Retreats, Quarterly Connections held by Care Team Ministry
- Trainings you attend with other agencies in person or online
- Phone calls to your Care Partner
- Your travel time to/from all of the above

Some simple examples of methods:

- A note in your phone
- A calendar where you jot down your visits
- A small notebook in your purse or pocket

And sending your report can be just as easy:

- Text or email your team leader
- Leave a voice message with your visit information
- Writing your hours on the paper form passed around at meetings

If you're communicating the basics — whom you visited and how things are going — you are reporting. It truly is that simple.

## Why Reporting Matters

### 1. Continuity of Care

Your updates help ensure that no Care Partner ever "falls through the cracks." Team leaders rely on your reports to know:

- Whether you are still actively visiting
- Whether your Care Partner's condition or situation is changing
- If you need to pause or step away
- If a Care Partner has moved, been hospitalized, or entered rehab or hospice

Often, you are their primary connection to the parish. Your communication allows us to maintain support through visits, phone calls, and cards — especially during times of transition or illness. That continuity of care makes a profound difference.

## 2. Quality of Care

Your reporting helps leaders understand how best to support each Care Partner:

- Do they need more frequent visits?
- Would an additional visitor help?
- Are any boundaries becoming unclear?

Leaders can help ensure appropriate, ministry-aligned relationships that protect everyone involved.

Please also report if a Care Partner may need a pastoral visit. Often, pastors only know because you make the connection.

## 3. Self-Care for Volunteers

Your service is meaningful — and it is also emotional work. Sharing your experiences helps leaders offer encouragement, problem solving, and guidance. A quick report lets us know when you're facing a challenge, feeling stuck, or simply need to step back for a time. There is never guilt in self-care. You are a valued part of this ministry.

## 4. Transparency and Accountability in Nonprofit Ministry

As a nonprofit ministry, we have an ethical and financial responsibility to report how many people are receiving visits, from how many volunteers and over how many hours.

We provide these numbers to:

- Catholic Charities
- The Oakwood Foundation
- The Diocese
- And other grantors or oversight bodies who request them

Accurate reporting builds trust, honors donor expectations, and demonstrates the real impact of our ministry. Transparency is part of our witness.

### **An Important Final Thought: "I Don't Want Any Credit"**

Some volunteers tell us they prefer not to receive "credit" for what they do. We understand and honor that humility. But it's important to know that reporting hours is not taking credit.

Your individual hours are never published, highlighted, or tied to your name.

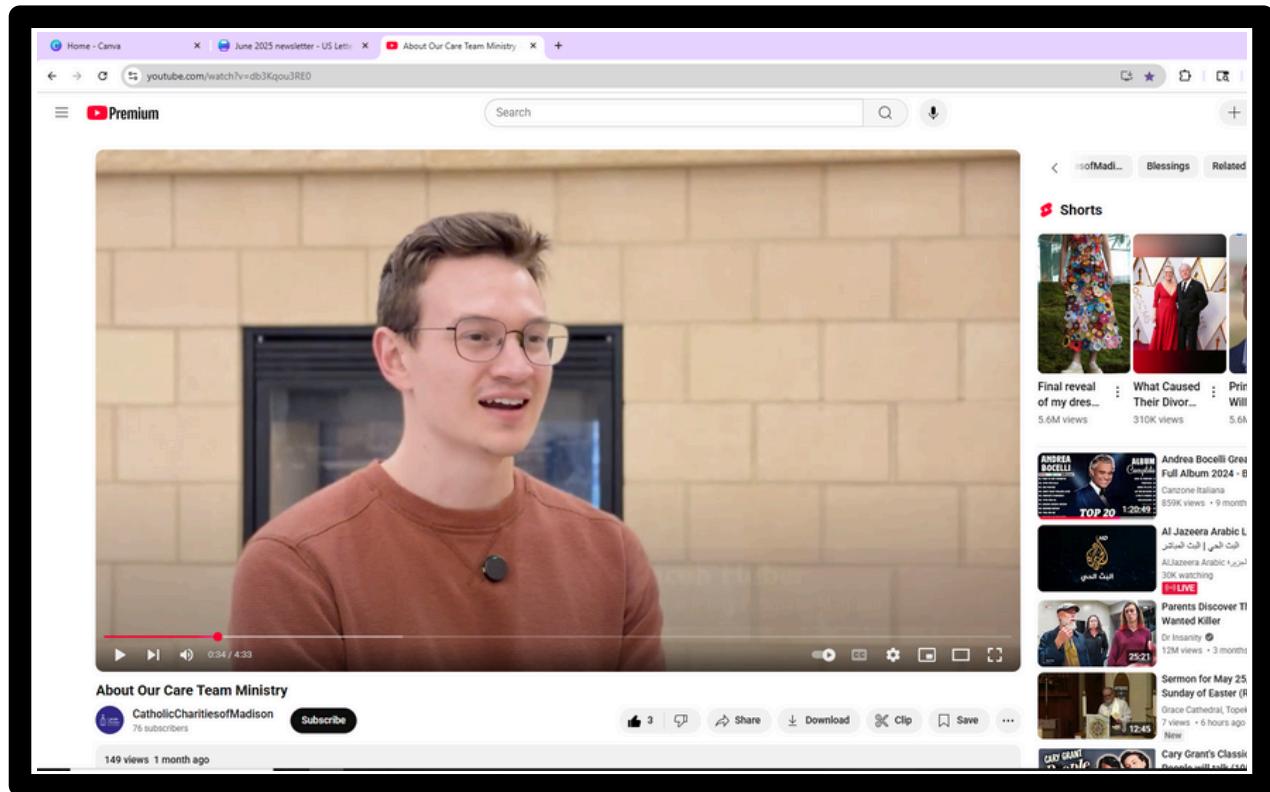
When we report hours, they are aggregated for the entire ministry — never listed individually. Reporting allows the ministry to reflect:

- \* The total amount of Care Team visits and the administrative work required to support them
- \* The number of Care Partners being served
- \* The strength and scope of our volunteer community

This helps the ministry grow, obtain support, and remain accountable — while keeping your service humble and nameless, just as you prefer.

Your visits bring Christ's compassion into homes and hearts. By taking a few moments to report those visits, you help ensure that no one falls through the cracks; you have the support of your leaders and teammates; and our ministry can continue to grow and serve.

Remember to share our wonderful Care Team video. This resource is perfect for use in your parish to highlight our ministry and inspire others to join our efforts. If you're interested, just ask us how to get started!



CLICK HERE