



Walking with
Moms in Need

Quarter 2 - 2026 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We thank you for your continued interest in supporting moms—and dads—in need. Your openness, compassion, and willingness to serve are already helping to build a culture of care within our community. We are truly grateful for all you are doing—and preparing to do—as this ministry grows.

We want to highlight some important upcoming events. The first is tomorrow at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Madison, so be sure to check it out right away! It's a wonderful opportunity to gather, learn, and grow together in this mission. In addition, we're excited about two upcoming events of our own—briefly outlined on pages 3 and 4—and hope you'll mark your calendars and join us.

We are also pleased to introduce Marisa Theil, our new Parish Social Ministries Coordinator. You can find her photo and bio on page 5, and a chart showing how Parish Social Ministries fits into Catholic Charities following.

If you haven't yet participated in our training, we warmly invite you to take part. It takes just one hour and covers essential aspects of accompaniment and ministry.

Please reach out to get connected—we would love to support you in this meaningful work.

A statement from Bishop Hanefeldt on Walking With Moms in Need

March 1, 2026

One of the most important works of mercy is that of accompanying another person in their time of need. Accompaniment is not found on the traditional list of the works of mercy, but it is at the heart of how the Church fulfills the Gospel. To accompany someone is to come alongside them and support them with our presence as much as with our material resources. Perhaps the greatest fruit of accompanying someone in need is the gift of hope they receive.

In recent years, the bishops in this country have launched an initiative known as "Walking With Moms in Need." This is an effort to assess the needs of mothers, both with children and those yet to be born, and respond to their needs, not simply in a material way but also to accompany them with compassion and concern. Walking With Moms in Need is one of the best examples of how to fulfill the Gospel challenge of Jesus, who said, "Love one another as I have loved you." Like our Blessed Mother, who visited her cousin Elizabeth, Walking With Moms in Need is a ministry of Hope for women at a critical time in their lives.

May the Lord draw us all into some ministry of accompanying others in their need as we care for one another, especially for mothers in whatever their needs may be.

<https://gidiocese.org/news/a-statement-from-bishop-hanefeldt-on-walking-with-moms-in-need>

Tomorrow!

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Welcoming Every Person in the Body of Christ

Enjoy an inspiring evening with Anya Kewley

Missions Director of Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Ministry, a Catholic nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the dignity, inclusion, and belonging of people with disabilities within the life of the Church. The event will be held Wednesday, June 17 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.

Drawing from her own experience living with Spina Bifida and her work serving families, schools, parishes, and dioceses, Kewley will share how disability ministry is not a special program but an essential expression of the Gospel. Rooted in Psalm 139—"I praise you, Lord, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"—her message challenges all to recognize the God-given dignity of every person, and to build communities where every person is welcomed, valued, and empowered to share their gifts.

The presentation will begin at **6:30 p.m.** following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Light refreshments will be served, and time for questions and discussion will follow the presentation.

This event is sponsored by the Respect Life Committee.

Our Lady Queen of Peace is located at 401 S. Owen in Madison.

All are welcome.

Save the date for a very special online event

The Importance of Supporting Dads

AUGUST

25th

2:00PM



Guest
speaker

**JOHNNY
ALICEA**

Walking with
Moms in Need *and dads too!*

**Save
The
Date**

for our
Annual Retreat

Date: September 22, 2026

Venue: St Thomas Aquinas

Coffee's on at 8:30

Bishop Hying starts us off at 9:00

Closing Blessing wraps our day up at 2:50

**with lots of important presentations, activities,
and delicious food in between!**

**Come meet other volunteers, learn from
superb presenters, and refill your cup!**

Hi everyone,

My name is Marisa Thiel, your new Program Coordinator for the Parish Social Ministries Program at Catholic Charities of Madison. I'm grateful to join such dedicated, kind people and look forward to our work together. Here are a few things to help you get to know me!



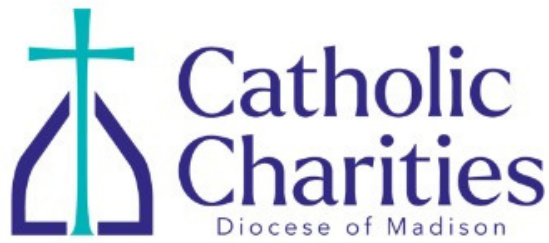
I am a born-and-raised Madisonian

and love spending time on outdoor activities, such as going to the farmer's market in downtown Madison in the summer, hiking in new places around the state, and simply winding down and spending time in nature.

Photography and the creative arts are important to me. I enjoy coming up with new ideas and inspiration for my photos. I hope to use this creativity to highlight our amazing volunteers and the difference our programs make, thereby supporting our mission and outreach.

I'm truly honored to join the team, and I look forward to meeting all of you in the coming months!

Marisa Thiel 608-826-8009 MTHIEL@CCMADISON.ORG



Shawn Carney, Executive Director

Kelly Medenwaldt, Chief Program Officer

Cricket Hesselberg, Director of Programs



Melissa Kelley, Program Supervisor

Marisa Thiel, Program Coordinator

Melissa & Marisa Team



Empower *your team* *with our training course.*

Let us know when we can book a training session for your volunteers. We will come to you with all the materials and conduct this engaging, one-hour training at your convenience.

Topics

Accompaniment
Active Listening
Boundaries
Building Connections
Confidentiality
Cultural Sensitivity
Don't be Dismayed

Local Resources

Here are some local resources that support moms and families in need. As always, we encourage you to inquire and ask questions about their life affirming services.



Sponsor Families

Volunteers “adopt” a family in need, delivering food weekly and building ongoing, authentic relationships.



Serving women who have been sexually exploited by providing residential programming and supportive community in which they are free to dream and thrive.

