

GOOD NEWS



Lighting the Way...

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM CEO



*“Stay awake, for you know neither
the day nor the hour.”*
- Matthew 25:13

Inside

CSSMV Leadership Is Involved in Strategic Planning	3
Sinclair Community College Hosts CSSMV Annual Meeting.....	4-5
ECHO Receives Support from Two Major Grants	6
Pregnancy and Parenting Program Holds a Special Event to Celebrate Mothers	7
CSSMV Celebrates Volunteers Who Go Above and Beyond	8-9
Development Adds Associate Director to Focus on Northern Counties	10
Next Steps Graduates Make Future Plans	11
Choice Food Pantry Welcomes a New Leadership Team	12
PASOS Holds Second Annual End of School Year Party.....	13
Inspired By.....	14-15

On the Cover:

A mother and her little one celebrate Mother's Day with CSSMV.

There is an old saying that “when we make plans, God laughs.” While it is true that only God knows what lies ahead for any of us, Jesus also gave us the parable of the foolish and the wise in which He tells us to be vigilant and prepared. For if we do not have the oil needed to light our lamps when the time comes, we will miss the coming of the Savior and be left in darkness.

Every three years at Catholic Social Services, we spend time evaluating and defining our strategic plan. It is an important step in making sure that our organization is prepared and has enough “oil” to keep our lamps lit for all who come to our doors seeking help.

While it is impossible to predict tornadoes and pandemics that may cause us to refocus our work, having a strong foundational plan allows us to pivot quickly and successfully when the need arises. Our ability to adapt to changing community needs has long been a hallmark of our organization, and we want to remain vigilant so we can determine how we can best serve those who need us the most.

As we await the arrival of a new CEO to lead CSSMV, our Executive Team is determined to keep moving forward in a positive way. Strong leadership makes all of us stronger. For over a century of service, we have been blessed with servant leaders who have guided us to where we stand today.

We are grateful for those who have forged this path for us to follow, an avenue of hope leading us from darkness and into the light.

Ronn Hoffman
Interim CEO

CSSMV LEADERSHIP IS INVOLVED IN STRATEGIC PLANNING

“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”

– St. John Paul the Great

Nothing in life remains the same. Just as we settle into a comfortable routine, there will be something that uproots us and creates an unpredicted challenge. How we handle this depends on how prepared we are for inevitable change.

For every organization that is focused on continued success, strategizing for the future is imperative.

Every three years, CSSMV leadership drafts a new strategic plan. It is a rigorous process of evaluating current practices, determining strengths and weaknesses, and anticipating future needs. Staff and board members come together to assess, analyze, discuss, and determine the best path forward.



“One of the keys to the committee’s productivity was that we were so well informed about where we are now as an organization and what challenges and opportunities we may face in the future,” said Karen Wendeln, member of the Board of Directors. “The committee was made of people with differing points of view — board members, the administrative team, and rising leaders within the organization who experience the everyday workings of CSSMV. In addition to



our own input, we considered results of surveys taken by clients, community partners, and the public. All that information helped us see the big picture and more easily choose several areas of focus for Catholic Social Services for the next three years.”

The four areas of emphasis in the newly approved 2026-2029 plan are communicate impact, workforce investment, modernize systems, and funding resilience.

“Being part of the strategic planning team was a great experience,” said Sarah Bethel, Human Resources Manager. “As a team made of board members, administrators, and rising leaders, we had meaningful discussions and were able to combine the shared ideas into a vision for the future.”

The leadership team is currently working on an action plan to reach desired benchmarks in each of these priority areas to advance the mission and operations.



SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS CSSMV ANNUAL MEETING

The 2026 CSSMV Annual Meeting was held at the end of April at Sinclair Community College in downtown Dayton. The annual event is a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, look ahead to the future, and thank our supporters. One highlight of the event each year is the presentation of awards. This year, we were delighted to welcome Most Reverend Robert G. Casey, Archbishop of Cincinnati, as a special guest.

Father Joseph Kozar, new board member, opened the meeting with prayer. Attendees then enjoyed some social time as well as a delicious lunch prepared by the staff at the college. Board Chair Amy Riegel shared some brief remarks before introducing Interim CEO Ronn Hoffman who presided over the program.

Hoffman reflected on 2025 as a time filled with blessings and continued growth for the agency. He praised the staff and volunteers who embrace the call to serve and thanked the many generous donors who enable the agency to meet its goals and plan confidently for the future.

Hoffman also extended heartfelt gratitude to Laura Roesch for her 37 years of service to CSSMV, including 16 years as its CEO, noting that her distinguished leadership would forever be linked to our story. He asked for prayers for the Search Committee as they work diligently to identify the right leader to guide CSSMV into the future.

Three new board members were introduced – Colleen Gong, Father Joseph Kozar, and Linda Lopez. Retiring board member Father Len Wenke received a gift for his service.





Our 2025 Community Partner Award was presented to Miami Valley Meals and the AfroMeals Foundation. Last October, when we learned that refugee clients would permanently lose eligibility for monthly federal food benefits, we reached out to Miami Valley Meals, already a valued partner through their chef-prepared meals for our Choice Food Pantry. They collaborated with Chef Gabi Odebode, founder of the AfroMeals Foundation, to donate culturally appropriate meals for African refugee families in Dayton. This gesture met an urgent need and honored the deep connection between food, identity, and comfort, showing families that they are valued.

Our Rising Star Award is presented to a client who has overcome great obstacles in realizing his or her dream of success. Pamela Sparnall was referred to Next Steps after relocating to Dayton from Cincinnati with her five children, including her youngest who has Down syndrome. Despite significant challenges, Pamela excelled academically at Sinclair, making steady improvement in her grades and achieving her goal of graduating this year. Pamela is a true rising star because of her resilience and how she goes above and beyond for her family.

Kaup Pharmacy received the 2025 Business Leadership Award. Since 1980, Kaup has been a lifeline for older adults, providing medical equipment and supplies, home modifications, and pharmacy services. As a trusted partner of CSSMV, they ensure that older adults, both in and beyond our service area, can age safely in their homes through personal, face-to-face delivery. More than 250 individuals rely on Kaup for these critical services.

The Excellence in Impact Award recognizes a staff member whose work exceeds expectations. Since 2014, Elaine Schweller-Snyder has served as Marketing and Development Coordinator in the Northern Counties and plays a central role in writing our publications, grants, and other materials. She has expertly planned the annual Celebration of Caring event, consistently seeking innovative ways to elevate the event's impact and achieving her strongest results in 2025.

Jody Armstrong was the recipient of the 2025 Leadership Award. Armstrong has been a tireless advocate for the agency, serving on the Board of Directors from 2018-2025 and as Board Chair from 2023-2025. She has also been an active member of the Opus Est Committee that plans the annual Jazz Party. Her leadership has inspired countless others to engage with and champion the mission of CSSMV.

Attendees were urged to review the copy of the 2025 Community Impact Report found at their places and share it with others. Archbishop Casey concluded the event with prayer.

ECHO RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM TWO MAJOR GRANTS

ECHO (Empowering Children with Hope and Opportunity) is a school counseling model designed to help children overcome non-academic obstacles to learning. Through a memorandum of understanding with the University of Dayton – which began the program in area Catholic schools – CSSMV was able to bring the ECHO model to rural public schools.



CSSMV counselors are currently providing ECHO in the Hardin-Houston and Russia school districts in Shelby County. Generous support from two major funders is helping sustain the program this school year. The AES Ohio Foundation was established in 1985 to make transformational investments in the communities it serves. Since its founding, it has distributed over \$48 million in grant funding to meet critical community needs in several priority areas including education and job readiness. In 2025, AES gave grants to 42 Miami Valley organizations including CSSMV.

Dayton Children's Hospital Community Benefit Fund supports organizations that are working to improve the lives of children and families. It is their belief that it takes a community to ensure that children are healthy and safe where they live, learn, and play. In the past year, they have deepened their commitment to youth mental health and have invested \$63 million in the community, supporting programs that bring mental health awareness and counseling into area classrooms.

ECHO uses Second Step, a lesson-based social and emotional learning curriculum to focus on positive behaviors, empathy, emotion management, and problem solving. With instruction from our community outreach counselor, students learn to listen, share, care, problem-solve, and stay focused in the classroom. When reinforced by the classroom teachers, these skills can translate to more successful learning outcomes.

One-on-one counseling for individual students is provided during the school day for students identified by their teachers and school counselors as needing help with their mental health.

ECHO staff also assist the schools in providing state-required instruction in Erin's Law and the SAVE Act. Erin's Law requires Ohio schools to instruct students about child sexual abuse and dating violence prevention. At Hardin-Houston, this instruction is done through Second Step in grades K-2. At Russia, it is provided to grades K-6, using age-appropriate materials. The SAVE Act is a state requirement to provide lessons on suicide prevention, violence prevention, and social inclusion for grades 6-12.



In 2025, CSSMV's ECHO staff presented Second Step, Erin's Law, and SAVE Act instruction to 993 students in the two school districts. Seventy-six students of varying ages received one-on-one counseling.

PREGNANCY AND PARENTING PROGRAM HOLDS A SPECIAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE MOTHERS

Pregnancy and Parenting staff welcomed mothers to a “Mother’s Day Meet Up” a few days before the official Sunday that celebrates them. Mothers and their babies, older children, and other family members attended the lunchtime event, held in the gathering space at the CSSMV Center for Families.

“This year, we wanted to honor our moms by ‘giving them their flowers,’ as an expression of gratitude and their own uniqueness,” said Kelly Smith, program manager. “We had a beautiful flower display for them to build their own wrapped bouquets to take home.”

Staff explained that different varieties of flowers possess unique qualities just like moms. For example, ranunculus blossoms symbolize charm and attractiveness, orchids symbolize strength and beauty, and Korean violets are known for their height and fragrant blooms.

The Mother’s Day event is intended to strengthen and empower mothers and provide them with positive support. “Our team created a presentation centered around what it means to be ‘More than Mommy,’” said

Smith. “It was intended to remind our moms of the importance of having identity, value, and worth beyond motherhood.”

The presentation stated that having an identity outside of motherhood reduces stress and burnout, helps with energy and patience, and shows children that while being a parent is fulfilling, it is also important to be your own person.

The group discussion that followed the presentation was impactful, with moms sharing hobbies and positive outlets they had prior to becoming moms. Many discovered common interests and shared aspects of motherhood that they find enjoyable.

“It was really special to see all of the moms talking with each other and engaging with staff, as well as watching the babies playing together,” said Smith.

“Each family was excited to have a few moments with our photographer to capture their own unique family photo. The smiles all around the room were priceless.”

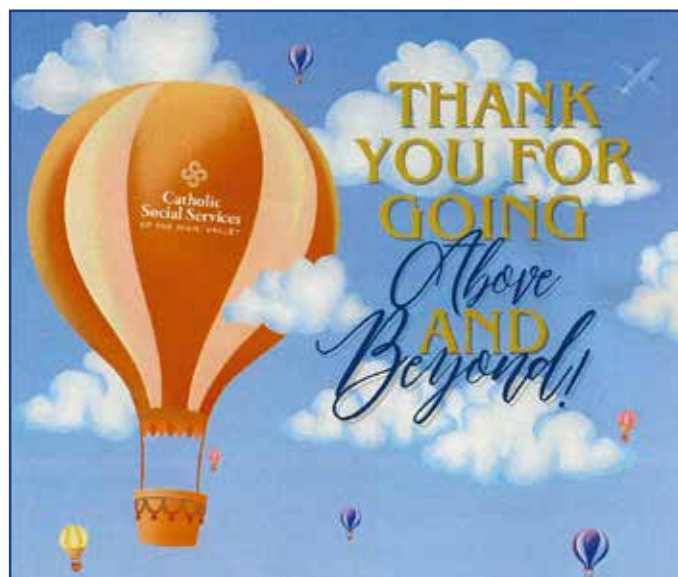


CSSMV CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERS WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

Colorful hot air balloons were the centerpieces for the annual CSSMV Volunteer Recognition Banquet held in May. With the theme “thank you for going above and beyond,” the evening celebrated over 200 volunteers who work alongside our staff. In 2025, these volunteers dedicated an amazing total of more than 7,500 hours to make a difference.

Milestone Years of Service Awards:

Recognized for five years of service were Donna Conley and Sister Martha Eckstein (Erma’s House); Joseph Bradley, Ann Kolb, Phil Lahrmer, Rick Schrader, Phil Walbright, and Bill Wilson (RideConnect); Kathleen Stechschulte (Eckerle front desk and the Opus East Committee); and Steve Morris and Amy Riegel (Board of Directors).



Matt Scarr was recognized for 10 years of service. He currently serves as treasurer of the Executive Board, chair of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Audit Committee. CJ Schoeff was recognized for 15 years of service. She volunteers at the Eckerle front desk and serves on the Community and Agency Committee and the Development Committee. Cyndi Adams was recognized for 25 years as a visitation monitor at Erma’s House.

It is an annual tradition for each program manager to nominate a volunteer for the Pamela Fenn Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. This award was created to honor Pam Fenn who was the CSSMV Director of Volunteer Services for 16 years and passed away in 1994. Fenn worked diligently to advance volunteerism in the community and is responsible for the high standards and quality of our volunteer program.

Pam Fenn Awards:

Linda Lopez has volunteered at CSSMV for over 30 years, primarily serving on the Opus Est Committee that plans our annual Jazz Party fundraising event. This year, in addition to her work with Opus Est, she is beginning her first term on the CSSMV Board of Directors.

Beverly Smith began volunteering by assisting newly arrived refugee clients with family reunification applications. With the changes to the refugee program in 2025, Beverly transitioned to developing and leading English classes for job-seeking clients, adapting the lessons to meet a wide range of language levels.

Sister Linda Pleiman has served on the CSSMV Board of Directors and joined Erma’s House as a visitation monitor in June 2021. With her background in elementary education, she brings a compassionate presence that puts families and children at ease. She has generously given over 300 hours of her time.

Roy Richards officially joined the volunteer team at the Pantry in 2023 and has shown a level of dedication and heart that is truly exceptional. He has given almost 1,000 hours to the Pantry, offering people not only food but dignity, respect, and kindness.

Rocco Latino began driving for RideConnect in October 2023 and has provided over 200 trips and driven more than 8,000 miles. He is a kind and dependable volunteer who consistently goes above and beyond, often checking the unfilled requests list and offering to help.

Karen Wendeln began her journey with CSSMV in 2016 when she joined the Northern Counties Advisory Council.

Because of her insight, passion, and dedication, she was invited to join the Board of Directors in 2021 where she has shown exceptional leadership and consistently championed our mission.

Held at the Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering, the event was planned by Volunteer Coordinator Becca Fedyk, Human Resources Manager Sarah Bethel, Senior Executive Administrator Christie Linard, and New Americans Volunteer Coordinator Shay Augustin.



Ronn Hoffman, Linda Lopez, & Marlena Gantz



Cassandra Elzein, Beverly Smith, & Ronn Hoffman



MaryPat Zengel and Sister Linda Pleiman



Kelly Hergenrither, Roy Richards, & Ronn Hoffman



Heather Robison and Rocco Latino



Karen Wendeln and Ronn Hoffman

CSSMV IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Many CSSMV programs depend on the expertise and enthusiasm of volunteers. Some examples of what you could do include stocking items in the pantry, staffing the front desk at our Riverview or Brown Street location, serving on our board or event committees, or driving for RideConnect.

To find out more, visit our website (cssmv.org) and click on the “You Can Help” tab. There you can learn about the opportunities and how to apply. All prospective volunteers must fill out an application and complete the training required for your area of interest.

DEVELOPMENT ADDS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR TO FOCUS ON NORTHERN COUNTIES

Over the last several years, CSSMV programming in the counties north of Dayton has expanded dramatically, but awareness and donations have not always followed. Although many residents in the northern counties have heard of CSSMV, they are often unsure of what the agency does.

Through its office in Sidney, CSSMV has added school-based counseling in Shelby County, guardianship services in Miami and Shelby Counties, additional senior services in Darke County, and transportation services throughout the entire northern region. Continued growth of these programs is contingent on available funding.

In addition to bolstering the annual Celebration of Caring fundraising event, a sub-committee of the Board's Development Committee was formed last year to focus on growing support in the north for the agency's Annual Fund. The next step has been to add a member to the Development staff who can focus primarily on the northern counties.

In March, Carley King was named Associate Development Director for Northern Counties. King is a native of Anna in Shelby County.

King studied at Otterbein University in Westerville where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Communication Studies and a Master of Business Administration. During one semester, she served an internship with NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness). The following year, she had an internship with the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce, assisting with communications and community events.

While in graduate school, she worked as the Annual Giving Program Coordinator at the college, managing Giving Day and other outreach campaigns, leading marketing efforts, and supervising a team of student engagement officers to strengthen alumni giving.



Carley King, Associate Development Director

King returned to her hometown in June 2025 to take the position of Recruiting Coordinator at Continental Express in Sidney. Several months later, she saw an ad for the new position at CSSMV.

"I was attracted to the job because I grew up Catholic and I knew I could bring to the table a familiarity with the northern area," said King. "I like being creative and the idea of finding ways to gather people together to make a difference is appealing to me."

King admits that the initial challenge has been learning about all the programs at CSSMV. She has been meeting with program managers and spending time "out in the field" to better understand what each program does.

"We need to grow awareness before we can grow support," she said. "Once I can explain what we do, I hope to discover new ways to spread the word and engage supporters. Even if they have not been impacted directly by our services, they may know a family member or neighbor who has and that gives us a shared purpose."

If you live in Miami, Shelby, Darke, Mercer, or Auglaize Counties and would like to learn more about the work of Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, contact Development Director Marlena Gantz by email at [gantzm@cssmv.org](mailto:gantzmarlena@cssmv.org) or by phone at 937.223.7217 x1167 or Northern Area Director Erin Meyer at EMeyer@cssmv-sidney.org or by phone at 937.575.7076.

NEXT STEPS GRADUATES MAKE FUTURE PLANS

CSSMV's Next Steps program works in collaboration with Sinclair Community College to provide students with supports that address non-academic barriers to academic success. Barriers that may cause students to drop out of school can include housing instability, unreliable transportation, difficulty balancing school and work, and lack of internet access to complete assignments.

Students enrolled in Next Steps meet regularly with a success navigator to keep them on track as they progress towards their career goals. Emergency financial assistance stipends are available as well as access to other CSSMV services like our food pantry. Because of work and family responsibilities, many students cannot take a full course load, so it may take longer to achieve a coveted degree. That journey can be daunting without support.

This spring, Next Steps celebrated our largest graduation class since the program began with 16 students getting their diplomas. A party was held in our Community Room at the Eckerle Center to celebrate these accomplishments.

Many of the graduates have already made plans for further study. Danny Sparks will continue his education in Civil Engineering at the University of Dayton. Charlie White will transfer to Wright State to pursue his B.S. in Social Work. David Miles received his associate degree

in Addiction Services and will transfer to Wright State to study Physiology and Neuroscience.

As several graduates enter the workforce, they will benefit with advanced training in various health fields: Taychell Leslie, Health Science; Dinisty Little, Social Work; Pamela Sparnell, Health Information Management; and Lakeshia Slade, Health Services Administration.

Other degrees earned include Zabib Bekit and Ruta Gebre, Business Administration; Breah Bunch, Business Management; Shaun'tel Martin, IT User Support; Carter Astorga, Mechanical Engineering; Alexis Sandoval, Cyber Investigation Technology; and Melody Lanford, Digital Marketing Business Management.

Three of the graduates – David Miles, Pamela Sparnell, and Lakeshia Slade – were part of Next Steps' newest focus. Called Next Steps: 2Gen, this program adapts regular Next Steps programming to support the unique needs of student parents, especially mothers and primary caregivers of children under the age of three. Through a partnership with Catholic Charities USA, the 2Gen program provides additional help for students who must balance raising a child with going to school. By enhancing their employability and improving their future earning potential, a degree will enable these students to better support their young families and in turn, strengthen the stability of our community.



Seated in front: Ruta Gebre, Melody Langford, Zabib Bekit, Shaun'tel Martin, Dinisty Little.

Standing: Tamara Gaddis-Strozier (CSSMV program manager), David Miles, Alexis Sandoval, Carter Astorga, Tiena Wiggins (Next Steps Navigator), Nadia Pope (Next Steps 2GEN Navigator)

CHOICE FOOD PANTRY WELCOMES A NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

The CSSMV Choice Food Pantry is under new management with the addition of three staff members who are now in charge of the daily operations.

Kelly Hergenrath, Choice Pantry Floor Coordinator, joined the CSSMV team one year ago, replacing MaryPat Zengel who left the pantry to become the Program Manager of Erma's House. Hergenrath brings 15 years of experience in the restaurant industry to the position. "Working in restaurant management was stressful in many ways," she said. "Then after I lost my brother to suicide, I decided I needed something that would involve helping others and being more fulfilling for me personally. I found that here at CSSMV."

Hergenrath said that the day-to-day operation is a team effort and is quick to praise her co-workers - Candis Cochran, Family Stabilization and Support Coordinator, and Nick Hernandez, Pantry and Facilities Assistant.

Cochran started at CSSMV as a student intern while working on her degree in Social Work through Indiana Wesleyan University. She returned to the pantry as an employee in November 2025. "I handle the front of the house and Kelly handles the back," said Cochran. "During intake, we determine if people need extra supports like utility assistance. I then work with each case to find resources that can increase their family stability."

Hernandez is the only one of the three who worked at the pantry before the new addition was completed in 2024. Initially joining the pantry to offer temporary staffing support, he officially became a permanent member of the team in 2025. Hernandez and many volunteers handle the inventory and keep the shelves stocked for the 130-160 individuals who visit the pantry every weekday.

"It can be pretty crazy to get that many people through the doors in two hours," said Hergenrath. "There is a constant rotation of people, but Nick and our volunteers are great and they keep things moving."

Hergenrath said that the most recent challenge has been the availability of fresh produce. "We want to



provide as much healthy food as possible," she said. "The refugee clients especially want whole foods and vegetables. They do not want the snacks and sugary products that may be easier to get but aren't as healthy."

Everyone agreed that they enjoy the chance to interact with other CSSMV programs. "The agency serves such a broad and diverse group of people," said Hergenrath. "When we can provide food boxes for clients from other programs like PASOS and Next Steps, we can bless even more people, which is wonderful."

Cochran added that the Pantry has expanded assistance to meet the unique needs of families with infants, offering a baby formula pantry through a generous gift from the Mercy Pets Foundation and capacity building support through a collaboration with Dayton Children's. This initiative aligns perfectly with CSSMV's Pregnancy and Parenting Program that works to support maternal and infant health. Families receiving this support may also access traditional pantry services, providing wraparound support to the whole family.

"As our largest service area, the pantry is often the first point of contact that individuals in need have with our agency," said Mary Reid, Senior Director of Programs and Strategy. "This small but mighty team meets the immediate needs of pantry guests with dignity and offers an access point to additional stabilizing programs. We are so happy to have these dedicated professionals at CSSMV."

PASOS HOLDS SECOND ANNUAL END OF SCHOOL YEAR PARTY

Our PASOS program connects Hispanic families in Dayton with valuable community resources and helps them access services that support their overall well-being and stability. The program also creates a welcoming and supportive environment for families where they can feel valued and informed.

A major emphasis is support for the educational success of Hispanic children in school. The program provides resources and opportunities that promote educational success and family engagement.

“The goal of PASOS is to foster confidence, stability, and long-term success for both students and their families through culturally responsive programming,” said Nydia Arce, PASOS Program Manager. “We help strengthen connections between families and the educational system, empowering parents to take an active role in their children’s learning and development.”

For the second year, PASOS held an event in May to celebrate students successfully completing the school year. It was an opportunity to recognize hard work, growth, and academic accomplishments, while also bringing families together to share this important milestone.

Building on the success of the first party in 2025, this year’s organizers created a more meaningful experience by adding opportunities for family engagement like photo moments and shared celebrations. The program was restructured to better highlight each student’s achievements.

“An invitation was sent to all PASOS families to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to participate in the celebration,” said Arce. “Invitations were distributed through multiple channels to maximize outreach.” As expected, participation increased significantly in the second year. Twenty-seven children from nineteen families attended the event. Light refreshments were provided including cupcakes, cookies, and juice.

Students received certificates of recognition and medals in acknowledgement of their accomplishments throughout the school year. One student received special recognition for outstanding academic performance, achieving a 4.0 GPA.



inspired by!

Each year in our summer issue, we shine a spotlight on a client, staff member, and volunteer who are among the many who inspire us day after day. In this installment of #InspiredBy, you will meet David, a client from our Next Steps program; Lauren, a Quality Assurance Specialist in the Sidney office; and Phil, a volunteer with RideConnect.

David Miles, Next Steps

David grew up in a broken home and began using alcohol at a young age to handle his pain. As he grew up, he wanted desperately to escape his addiction but just didn't know how. "I bounced around a lot," he said. "I did graduate from the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology in Troy, but I really wanted to go to college to study psychology."

He continued to "bounce," enrolling at several community colleges but failing to finish. Thankfully, by the time he landed at Sinclair, he was two years sober and working at the Woodhaven Residential Treatment Center in Dayton. "One of my clients told me about a program through Catholic Social Services and I went to the website and read about it," he said. "The very next day I ran into Tamara from CSSMV on campus and she got me into Next Steps."

Since he has shared custody of his two children – Dahlia, age 6 and Leary James, age 2, David qualified for the added benefits provided through Next Steps: 2Gen which focuses on student parents.

This spring, David earned his Associate of Applied Science in Addiction Services with high honors and a 3.94 grade point average. He delivered a powerful testimony about his path to sobriety at the CSSMV Next Steps graduation celebration. A true success story, David is now at Wright State University, majoring in Physiology and Neuroscience. He plans to study for Master and PhD degrees there as well.

Nevertheless, his past will always be part of his journey. He works at DeCoach Recovery Centre which has a residential facility and seven regional outpatient offices. There he helps others find a way out of the darkness of addiction.



Lauren Grilliot, Quality Assurance Specialist

Lauren Grilliot is a registered nurse of 17 years who came to CSSMV with a strong background of working with Medicaid waiver services, compliance, and advocacy for quality care for older adults and vulnerable populations. She was drawn to CSSMV because of its commitment to supporting individuals with dignity and respect.

“I wanted to be part of an organization whose mission focuses not only on providing services, but also on improving quality of life for the people we serve,” she said. “What makes Catholic Social Services a great place to work is the strong sense of teamwork, compassion, and dedication among staff. It is rewarding to work alongside people who genuinely care about helping others and are committed to making a positive difference.”



Grilliot works as part of the Quality Assurance Team that makes sure that our many contracted providers deliver services in a timely and professional manner. She enjoys the opportunity the job gives her to problem-solve and collaborate, noting that it is gratifying to see the direct impact on individuals and families. More than anything, Grilliot values community connection, lifelong learning, and the chance to continue to grow both personally and professionally.

Grilliot and her husband Eric live in Sidney. When she is not working, she likes spending time with family and grandchildren, traveling, hiking, and thrifting. They have two children – Ben and Hunter. Ben and his wife Alana are parents of their grandchildren Sylus and Myles.

Phil Meyer, Volunteer Driver for RideConnect

When Phil Meyer retired from full-time employment at B.F. Goodrich (now Collins Aerospace) after 35 years, his sisters urged him to find some way to volunteer. They enjoy volunteering at FISH in Sidney and thought he should give back to the community too.

Not that Meyer isn't still plenty busy, farming his 350 acres. But most farmers have other jobs and as he puts it, “with farming, you clock in at five years old, and never really clock out.” These days, his two sons are taking over much of the heavy farm work, giving Meyer and his wife Lisa a bit more leisure time with their eight grandchildren. Walking by the CSSMV office one day, Meyer just stopped to see what he might be able to do. It was a chance meeting that led him to RideConnect.



“It is nice working with Heather (Robison, CSSMV Transportation Coordinator),” he said. “I can monitor the ride requests and if I am free, I sign up. The flexibility is great. If we are rushing to get crops put in or harvested, I just let her know to take me off the list for a couple weeks, but then when we are not, I'm available.”

Like Meyer, many volunteers for RideConnect are retired. After a required background check and training, they are ready to accept requests to transport individuals to medical and non-medical appointments. Volunteers use their own vehicles and are compensated for mileage.

“I like talking to the people,” said Meyer. “I actually think the experience does more for me than what I do for them. Helping others makes you realize how blessed you are.”



Service Locations

Center for Families

1046 Brown Street
Dayton, Ohio
(937) 223-7217 or (800) 300-2937

Eckerle Administration Center

922 W. Riverview Avenue
Dayton, Ohio
(937) 223-7217 or (800) 300-2937

Northern Counties Office

100 S. Main Street
Sidney, Ohio
(937) 498-4593 or (800) 289-0227



**Catholic
Social Services**
OF THE MIAMI VALLEY

922 W. Riverview Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45402

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2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

DAYTON DRAGONS FUNDRAISER

at Day Air Ballpark

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

CELEBRATION OF CARING

(Supporting Northern Counties Programming)

at the Round Barn at Orrmont in Piqua

Entertainment by Dueling Pianos International

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

31ST ANNUAL JAZZ PARTY

at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton



To register or find out more about our events, visit our website: www.cssmv.org