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**IN MEMORIAM**

*Please remember in your prayers the following members, volunteers, spouses and friends of Ladies of Charity whom we have lost recently.*

*Joyce Bacon, Ed Keen, Joe Melia, Sydnee Doherty  
Barbara "Chris" Christenberry, Mary Newton*

**Love Made Real...Charity as a Way of Life**

**You Are Invited to the Fall Retreat!**

**Fr. Tim Sullivan, CSP, Immaculate Conception Associate Pastor, will be our spiritual director for this half day retreat.**

**Thursday, October 20th at 8:30—12:30 PM**

**Members no fee, donations accepted for nonmembers. Reservations required, please contact: Clara Mathien at Email: mathienclara@gmail.com or call 247-5790, Ext. 104**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** As we expand, shift, streamline, and go on vacation, our Thrift Shop & Warehouse **need volunteers!** The volunteer times are 9:30—12:30 or 12:30—3:30 in most areas. Contact Debbie Donahoo at 865-599-0088 to get involved at Ladies of Charity. Groups are welcome to have a volunteer day.

Current needs are in the thrift store, clothing vouchers, food pantry and warehouse. If you haven't been to Ladies of Charity in awhile, call Debbie for a tour and see where you may help with our mission. Thank you!

<b>Emergency Assistance</b> Hours: Monday—Friday 9:30 AM—1:30 PM 865-474-9348	<b>Thrift Store</b> Hours: Monday—Saturday 9:30 AM—4:15 PM	<b>Ladies of Charity</b> Email: ladiesofcharityknox@gmail.com 865-247-5790	<b>Ladies of Charity</b> Furniture pickup Wednesday or Saturday 865-247-5790 Ext. 104
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**September 2016 Newsletter**



**Return Service Requested**

**The Ladies of Charity  
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**Caritas**

*Serving others with love and charity*



September 2016

Vol. 31 No. 3

**A Message from our Presidents**



Dear Ladies of Charity Family,

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”.....*Charles Dickens from a Tale of Two Cities.* This is the first thought that came to mind when praying and thinking about this article.

When you look at our “state” in a worldly way, it is easy to think things are bad and very easy to have a negative and despairing attitude. However, our church and community give us hope because we do hope in the Lord!

Amid the trials and tribulation of our country and world: sickness, poverty, politics, natural disasters, war, corruption, immorality----sin---- we hope in the Lord and know and believe he loves and cares for us all. Thanks be to God!

Our church and community do have so much to be thankful for: Mother Teresa is now Saint Teresa of Kolkata, our local church is building and progressing well on a beautiful cathedral which we can all be enriched by, we have broken ground on our elevator, we had a very successful fundraiser in July, we are preparing to celebrate 75 years next year, we had a social to thank our volunteers for all that they do, we are beginning a strategic plan, we have a Ladies of Charity community which is growing in youth and yet aging in beautiful fashion, God continues to bless us with donations and people, and on and on.

Possibly the greatest blessing we have working with the Ladies of Charity is that we do have the power, as God’s instruments, to help relieve some of the suffering of the world!

We had several occasions at the Ladies of Charity (this past two months especially) to witness God’s love in action through our employees and volunteers. These experiences always are deeply touching...to see employees and volunteers serve our community in a loving, charitable, and patient way is proof of God’s love in action. Thank you to all, we can never say that enough.

**2017 Slate of Officers**

President	Geri Sutter
Co-Present Elect	Therese Stovall & Vicki Christensen
Vice-President	Karen Burry (2nd term)
Recording Secretary	Mary Phillips (2nd term)
Treasurer	Kathi O'Hara
Past Presidents	Christine Lucheon & Lisa Morris

The officers are elected at the December 8, 2016 general meeting; are installed at the close of the January, 2017 meeting and assume the duties of the their offices immedi-

Most recently, we did have a wonderful ground breaking ceremony. Laura Deubler and Kathi O’Hara were our presenters. They both had wonderful presentations which you can read in this newsletter. Laura’s talk very much sums up this theme....her job is difficult and there are things that she does not like about it, and yet she is grateful for her job and does love it and I believe she is greatly blessed and rewarded by it. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”. I think many of can say that at the end of the day so, let us be reminded to Hope in the Lord!!

Thank you to our board, employees, members, donors, and volunteers for your service and faithfulness to our mission.

Saint Teresa of Kolkata pray for us!

“God does not call us to be perfect, He calls to be faithful”--- Saint Teresa of Kolkata

With gratitude,

## A Message from Father Orr



Dear Ladies of Charity,

Peace! Happily we continue our common reflection on the sure and certain teachings of Holy Mother Church by considering anew the perennial teachings of Christ's Mystical Body. As Ladies of Charity you do so much spiritually and corporally to alleviate the sufferings of the needy poor in our midst. I base these reflections on the social teaching of the Church as presented by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in the volume *The Social Agenda* which is freely and readily available on-line (<http://www.thesocialagenda.org/>). This volume cites various documents from saints, the popes and the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). We continue here our considerations out of sequence with article eight: Poverty and Charity, section three: Charity and the Preferential

Option for the Poor.

Saint John Paul II (+2005) in his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Asia*, 34 (6 November, 1999), called for the promotion of human dignity in various ways. Here are some highlights.

We are to have a "preferential love for the poor and voiceless" because the Lord Jesus Himself identifies with them in a special way (i.e. no room in the inn, naked on the Cross, borrowed tomb...).

The "preferential love for the poor and voiceless" excludes no one, but prioritizes service. Someone who is not poor and voiceless might not need as much help as one in those circumstances.

Specifically among the "poor and voiceless" needing help, Saint John Paul II identified the following: the multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care, and above all, those without hope

On behalf of all the members, past and present, whose hearts and hands are the essence of LOC, thank you for joining us as we celebrate this exciting occasion.

LOC has come a long way since a very humble beginning in 1942, but our mission to assist those in need remains unchanged. What has changed is our location, and that move has enabled us to expand beyond belief. Today we begin the project of taking the expansion upward with the addition on an elevator.

Before mentioning those particular members whose efforts and gifts are directly related to this building and this project, I would like to recognize Hazel Brimi. Hazel became president of LOC on the mid-1960's when membership had fallen drastically. Her efforts, her energy and her enthusiasm are credited with revitalizing LOC. It has been said, actually written, that "if buildings have cornerstones and organizations have founders then LOC of Knoxville has a major structural support in Hazel Brimi."

Fast forward now to 2008. Erika Fuhr is president and LOC is in need of finding a larger space for its operation. Erika and her husband Joe are a "dynamic duo" and an amazing search committee! In 2009 they found this location just around the corner on Baxter Avenue. They did the research, documented the feasibility and took care of the details relative to securing the property. Erika and Joe worked tirelessly on behalf of LOC, and theirs is always a labor of love.

In 2009 a very generous bequest in the will of Helen Marx provided for the purchase of this property with a manageable mortgage payment, and in 2012 Shirley Nicholson paid off the mortgage with a generous gift in memory of her husband Ed, himself a long-time friend of LOC.

Here we are, its 2016, we own this property debt-free, and we see the need to utilize the spacious "upper room" to realize our full potential. Once the LOC board committed to undertake the installing of an elevator to make the second floor accessible to all, Julia Schriver stepped up giving a generous gift to "get the ball rolling" on the fundraising effort.

A special thank you to the families of Joyce Bacon and Ted Denning who requested that their loved one be remembered with memorials to the LOC Elevator Fund. Joyce was a lifetime member and Ted was an asset to LOC that we sorely miss.

To all the members and volunteers who have embraced our mission and given so much for so many years, thank you. We are the helping hands of Jesus to those in need.

Speech reprinted with permission by Kathi O'Hara at the Elevator Ground Breaking Ceremony.

*"God has not called me to be successful. He called me to be faithful."*  
*Saint Teresa of Kolkata*

## GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME...

I wanted to take a few minutes to share how God's goodness is a constant at Ladies of Charity.

It was recently decided to put automatic closures on the restroom doors for sanitary and safety reasons. A volunteer was asked to help research the best option for closures. Not only did he research what was needed, he ordered all the parts and installed the door closures on all four of our restroom doors. Thank you Chuck Wright!

Another project that has been on going is the IT project. LOC is fortunate to have a knowledgeable group of volunteers who have been consulting with our IT Company, Integracon Technologies. Thanks to the expertise and commitment of Bill Christensen, Chris Luchon and John and Therese Stovall, we have a working plan in place to tackle this large project. Also, during the planning stage an extremely generous donation of more than \$5,000.00 was given toward the purchase of new equipment for the project. What a huge and timely blessing!

One last story of God's goodness: The truck that was loaded with clothing and shoes to be taken to KY last week was mostly summer shoes that had been boxed and were not used this year. However, there was a pair of boots that had come in to Intake that day. Those boots were put on the truck. When The Hopwood family arrived at their KY destination, the pastor told them that the man that had been mowing the grass at the church had been wearing size 12 boots, because that was all he had. (His actual shoe size was a 9 1/2). The boots that came in to intake that morning and were put on the truck last minute, were a size 9 1/2!

...ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD!

Submitted by: Clara Mathien, Operations Manager

Pictured Below (left to right): Susan Unbehaun, Geri Sutter, Jennie Johnson, Tom Johnson, Lisa Morris, Kathi O'Hara.

### Ladies of Charity Calendar 2016

- ◇ September 28 – General Meeting, Volunteer Luncheon
- ◇ September 29- LCUSA National Assembly
- ◇ Oct. 12—Board Meeting
- ◇ Oct. 19— Client Career Day
- ◇ Oct. 20—Member Retreat
- ◇ Nov. 9—Board Meeting
- ◇ Nov. 13—Silver Tea
- ◇ Nov. 24-26—Closed for Thanksgiving
- ◇ Dec. 7—Board Meeting
- ◇ Dec. 8—General Meeting/Christmas Party
- ◇ Dec. 24—Closed, Christmas Eve
- ◇ Dec. 25—Christmas Day



### Donation of a Lifetime

If you have seen another Ladies of Charity-owned vehicle running around, it is thanks to the beautiful generosity of Tom & Jennie Johnson! Their offer came at a time when we realized our big box truck was being overused for jobs that were too small. HOW did the Johnsons realize our special need?! Their humble comment was "We are so glad you can use it for all the things you do!" Among other jobs, this van is taking a 3-day food supply for up to 20 families to Whittle Springs Middle School through the Parent Resource Center. Thank you, Tom & Jennie! And our clients and volunteers thank you! Submitted by: Debbie Donahoo

Good morning everyone. I just wanted to talk for a minute about why I think Ladies of Charity is so important to our community. I have been working here for over four years now and I get asked on a daily basis if I like my job, to be really honest some days I do and some days I don't. My job is not physically hard, I sit behind a desk and type on a computer but mentally it is challenging to say the least. The days that I say I don't like my job is not because of what I do but what I cannot do. I hate it when I see a mental ill man that comes in so frail and weak but walks here because he does not have any transportation only needing a coat to keep him warm during the winter months only to see him back here in a few days needing the same thing because someone has stolen it or he lost it in his travels. I love my job because he knows that Ladies of Charity is a safe place that will help him to keep him warm during the winter months. I hate that I see a single mom about to be homeless and who is willing to sign custody papers over to her sister so her son will have a safe place to sleep at night even if it means she has to go to the mission, but I love that Ladies of Charity can team up with other organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul and help that mom and child put a deposit down on a new apartment and they could stay together as a family. I hate that we have elderly clients whose only request is a suit to be buried in and that they cannot afford one on their own, but I love that we have wonderful donations from our community to help put our clients at ease for things that are important to them. I hate having a young man come into the office stating that he is homeless has nothing, but I love my job when we tell him that if he finds a job we can help with the proper work shoes so he can start as soon as possible.

The best day here at Ladies of Charity is when the same young homeless man comes back to us and says he is doing wonderful, he now has a car and permanent place to live and part of that was because of Ladies of Charity helped him. When clients tell us that their life is so much better now and we had a small part of that, it makes it all that much easier to do my job with a smile on my face. Ladies of Charity is the only food pantry that is open five days a week without needing an appointment here in the Knoxville area but we are so much more than that. We are an organization that can offer so much to the less fortunate. When people come in for help, some are in tears, some are angry, some are mean, but at the end of the day they are very grateful for the services that we deliver. I always tell the clients that we all need a little help it just depends on where you get it. So to fully answer the question, yes without a doubt I love my job. I love the fact that Ladies of Charity can help change people's lives for the better. I love that we have a great group of volunteers to help us do that. Without the volunteers we would not be Ladies of Charity so thank you for everything you do. The less fortunate in our area need the Ladies of Charity and we are all blessed to be part of such a wonderful organization. Thank you.

Speech reprinted with permission, by Laura Deubler at the Elevator Ground Breaking Ceremony

"Summer Shenanigans 2" was the theme for the Ladies of Charity of Knoxville annual Helping Hands and Generous Hearts fundraiser on Sunday evening, July 31 at The Jackson Terminal in Knoxville. More than 200 guests enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by All Occasions Catering, entertainment by The Akima singers, music by DJ Dan Murphy and the company of Cardinal Justin Rigali. Great fellowship and shenanigans added a lot of laughter to the evenings festivities. Everyone enjoyed outbidding one another on fabulous silent auction items.

Ladies of Charity has served the poor in our community by providing food, clothing, housing, medical and infant needs, and other emergency assistance regardless of race, creed color, religion or nationality. This year the fund raiser is being used for the capital campaign for an elevator for the building at 120 West Baxter Avenue. The elevator will improve access to the 4600 square feet of second floor office and meeting space and provide options for improving and possible expansion of emergency assistance services.

Karen Massey and Elizabeth Moore from Kreative Events planners donated their time and talent to make the evening run smoothly. They definitely helped with many of the details that made the event run smoothly. Presidents Christine Luchon and Lisa Morris announce there would be some very special events next year to celebrate the 75 Anniversary of Ladies of Charity, Knoxville.

We also celebrated Shirley Nicholson's 95th birthday. She was a founding member of Ladies of Charity.

Submitted by: Geri Sutter, Publicity Chair

## A Message from the Executive Director

Susan Unbehaun



*Ladies of Charity continues to assist our local community with the basic needs of food and clothing, utility assistance and perhaps financial support to buy their medicine or work boots to get a new job. The new crib or car seat supplied to an infant, along with the layette and formula makes a difference in the young child's life.*

*Ladies of Charity's mission reaches out to their members, volunteers and local parishes for support to continue these services. Ladies of Charity is blessed to have the support of many people, and therefore helping many people. Our grants that we receive make a difference in our client's lives by underwriting so much of the cost of specific programs. I'd like to recognize and thank the 2016 grantors and foundations.*

**Akima Grant:** This grant supports our utility assistance program. It is the only grant supporting our utility program. According to the 2-1-1 service number, Ladies of Charity has led the number of requests for utility payment assistance. Akima members also volunteer on Mondays at Ladies of Charity and continue to support many other efforts including the layette ministry. Last year, they started the back to work footwear program.

**Blanche M. Walsh Charity Trust:** The Blanche Walsh grant provides underwear to adults and children. Each clothing voucher client can receive a new pair of underwear when their size is available. Underwear is the most requested clothing item and this grant helps meet the client's needs.

**The Clayton Family Foundation:** supports our emergency assistance food program. The Clayton Family Foundation is committed to enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families and organizations in communities which have supported the Clayton Businesses.

**Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation:** supports our emergency assistance food program. The Food Lion grant provides financial support for organizations dedicated to feeding the hungry in the communities it serves.

**Gene and Florence Monday Foundation, Inc.:** This local foundation has doubled the financial resources of the Ladies of Charity medicine program. Whether a client needs antibiotics, a lice kit, high blood pressure medicine, or other needs, they can get assistance and not worry about the additional stress of paying out of pocket for one prescription per year. In years past, we always ran out of money and had to turn clients away, this is a big and positive change for those in need of medicine assistance.

**Raskob Foundation:** This grant provides the funds for Ladies of Charity to offer limited employment to past offenders and adults with intellectual disabilities. Sertoma Center and E.M. Jellinek Center have partnered with Ladies of Charity to implement this program.

**Robert Lee Weiss Foundation:** supports our emergency assistance food program. Is an independent Knoxville, TN foundation and Ladies of Charity is grateful for their grant to supply three day food packages to our clients.

**St. Mary's Legacy Foundation of East Tennessee, Inc.:** This foundation provides direct support for Charity, Health Care and Education through Catholic organizations serving those in need in East Tennessee. This grant purchased a new walk-in cooler/freezer unit for the emergency assistance food program. It also supplied the funds to purchase fresh eggs for every household. Ladies of Charity has improved food safety and storage and reduced food costs with the assistance of this grant. It has been a blessing to Ladies of Charity and our families in need. We have been a partner since the start of the grant program.

**TJX Foundation:** supports our emergency assistance food program. The TJX mission is to help families who need it most build a valuable future. We are glad to be a part of their mission.

**United Way of Greater Knoxville:** Ladies of Charity's partnership with UWGK began in 1982. The current three year program provides emergency assistance funds for our programs, especially to provide food, clothing, and utility assistance. UWGK supports many nonprofits with their organization's mission and positively impacts the Knoxville community.

**Variety Grant of East Tennessee:** The Variety grant has provided the funds to purchase the new car seats and baby cribs as well as formula and baby food, layette supplies, children's underwear and backpacks. The Variety Grant provides funds to East Tennessee children's agencies and Ladies of Charity has been a partner since 2009.

**Special thanks to Tom Shannon, Shirley and Terry Moore, and Nancy Scheurer who have assisted with writing**

**the grant applications for 2016.**

### From "Clothesmont" to Blackmont Bill Hopwood

Maybe it hasn't always been this way but it does seem the renewable piles of clothes that are graciously donated to LOC have been around since creation. The dedicated staff and volunteers have literally moved mountains by Faith and Love. I think the Hope part is that all the clothes can be reasonably managed. There have been times when the crest seemed insurmountable and various schemes have been employed to level the playing field. Our first goal has been to serve those who come to us with needs, then sell what we can to our customers which assists in buying emergency provisions that aren't available through donations, and lastly to sell excess donations to recycle companies, which still brings some revenue back for our ministry. Since a lot of items released to recycle are still usable, there has been a desire to find other avenues that might put clothes and other dry goods in the hands of those in need. In concert with that, awhile back over 50 boxes of clothes were provided to the Burlington Lodge #763 on Holston Drive, since they already had a practice of delivering clothes to a church center in an impoverished area of southeast Kentucky. This seemed to be a reasonable disposition of the excess clothes, even though we didn't know much more about their final distribution.

A few weeks ago communications between LOC and the Masonic Lodge (Susan and Paul Yates) indicated that they had not been able to deliver any clothing lately, since the gentleman who provided the service with truck and trailer was experiencing medical difficulties (every charitable organization has to have a Ted!). Subsequently, Susan gave me a business card for the Secretary of the Lodge, David Wolfenbarger, and asked if I would give him a call. To make a long story short, after several discussions with David, Susan and others, LOC approval was given to make a trial run with our truck to Kentucky. We would take what the Lodge had and add more from our excess inventory

The Lodge had 56 boxes (apparently our previously filled and labeled egg boxes) of clothes and about 20 bags of clothes and shoes. I met David at the Lodge on Friday (9/2/16) and we loaded their mound, clearing their stairway. Afterwards we sat in their hall and had a cold drink (Coke, the other carbonated beverage). It gave us a chance to discuss details a little more and if anyone questions LOC involvement at this point, David made it clear he had been praying about how to get their donations delivered and we were the answer to that prayer. David pro-



On Saturday, Karen identified an additional 40 boxes of clothes that we could donate and the following Tuesday, Clara identified 20 boxes of shoes we could provide. While pushing these on the dolly to the cargo door, Jackie and Maxine threw in several bags of afghans and such items. To top it off, Clara said to grab some boxes of books staged for recycle. All said and done, below is what the truck looked like before closing the door.

On Labor Day weekend I had a few phone conversations with Rev. Howard, who had just gotten back into town. Given his schedule and ours, and even though he wasn't sure how many folks he could get to help unload the truck, the same Tuesday above (in the afternoon) was agreed upon for delivery. So Karen, Sarah and I secured the cargo door, checked the oil and tires and left LOC, heading northeast through Middlesboro to Hulen and the First Blackmont Baptist Church.

Thank goodness Karen's phone GPS was better than mine and my memory, as I had driven too far through Pineville before turning around and taking the highway she had pointed out earlier. It was a nice drive paralleling the Cumberland River for so many miles between Pineville and Hulen. Also Rev. Howard had verbally given me directions that took us past the Bridge-to-Nowhere (yep, Kentucky has one too!), which was right before the river bridge, on the other side of which was their church. He had referred to the old stone church first, and then their newer brick church, both shown here. Before saying too much about the condition of the older church, which now serves as their distribution center, she and I both came to life in 1944. It is interesting to learn that for one of the volunteers helping unload the truck, his father had helped build the old church.



Since Rev. Howard (also David) had expressed some concern as to getting help on short notice, it was nice to meet the eight other guys that showed up to unload. He said that's the way it usually goes though, prayers and phones work miracles. The following photos (thanks to Sarah) show some of the sweat-dripping activity which, with all the help, only took about an hour. Inside the center can be seen the common struggles we have with space limitations. Nevertheless, David did express appreciation for our neatly, organized boxes. The pastor can be seen with recommended lifting belt, standing next to the older guy, while both enjoy handing boxes to



With only the cab overhead left, it was about time for a break.



Gathering on the front porch of the old church and drinking a bottle of water from the cooler they'd brought, gave us time to learn more about them, their ministry and their mountain home. The Cumberland rolls between us and the hills in the distance. Scanning the ridges, treeless but green bald spots could be seen. Before reclamation, these were naked remnants of coal strip mining. They told us that deer, elk, and bear can often be spotted roaming the hills. The Bridge-to-Nowhere that we had passed was used by mining companies in the past, but now crosses over the river to a wildlife reserve, though some of our hosts seemed a little skeptical about its intentions and utility.

I cannot tell you how many times they thanked and blessed us for delivering these goods. I also will not be able to adequately convey the small group prayer shared with us right before we departed. There were about six members of their congregation still there and David asked if they could pray with us. As Rev. Howard began his prayer, each of the other members began praying in his own words, with each prayer being different from the person next to him. I am not sure how long it lasted, maybe 3-4 minutes, but all finished their prayers at the same time. I recognized some individual words but do not know all that was prayed for or about, but can tell you the resultant hum or hymn of those voices was heartfelt and spiritual.

The roundtrip to Hulen was about 175 miles (maybe needing to subtract the few miles for my missed turn) and it took about 2 hours each way. Checking the mileage showed our truck to get about 10.3/gal. I might also add that it is a nice drive through the hills and valleys and over the streams. It's hard to realize this is the same Cumberland River that winds so far westward around Nashville and then back up toward Kentucky again!

Whether or not we should contribute to First Blackmont Baptist Church again, I'll leave that up to



*Note: The Ladies of Charity Board is grateful to be apart of this service, and look forward to the next trip up to Hulen, KY where our mission continues to serve those in need, cooperatively with Burlington Lodge #763.*



**St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day is September 27th**

Water with eternal blessings this establishment like a new tree planted by Your hand. Vincent de Paul