



Good News

Strengthening Families—Building Community

Catholic Social Services, as an agency of the Diocese of Belleville in Illinois, seeks to be a visible expression of God's love by responding to the human needs of the people of Southern Illinois and by promoting a just and caring community for men, women and children from all backgrounds.

JoAnn Pisel, CSS Board Secretary, receives National Association of Social Workers (Illinois Chapter) Lifetime Achievement Award



JoAnn Pisel is a member of and serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of Catholic Social Services (CSS) in a volunteer capacity. Earlier this year JoAnn was recognized by the Metro East St. Louis District of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

JoAnn has a long and accomplished career in social work here in Southern Illinois and has made a definite impact on the lives of so many people in our area.

JoAnn previously served as the Executive Director of "Call-for-Help" for 27 years during which time she was instrumental in the development of numerous programs in the area of crisis intervention. She has assembled a lifetime of accomplishments. Through her leadership efforts the following agencies were created: the *Suicide & Crisis Hotline*, a 24-hour crisis hotline; a *Centralized Information and Referral Service*, a county-wide emergency referral center; the *Women's Crisis Center* (now known as the *Violence Prevention Center*); the *Sexual Assault Victims Care Unit*; a residential transitional program for adults with mental illness; the *Youth & Teen Runaway Hotline*; a 16-bed *Youth Emergency Shelter*, for youths in crisis or at risk; an 800-Parent Hotline, for parents in crisis and in need of counseling; and a *Transitional Housing* unit to assist young women with children to seek independence in times of crisis and homelessness.

This is truly an impressive and enviable list of accomplishments, and we are proud and grateful to have JoAnn involved in our agency.

JoAnn has been on the Catholic Social Services' Board of Directors since 2003. In addition to her duties as the board secretary, as such, she is also a member of the Board Executive Committee. JoAnn also serves as the Chair of the CSS Personnel Committee. Her association with CSS actually started much earlier when she became a Foster Parent in 1984. She has fostered many children during this time. She has opened her home to children in need and embraced the opportunity to touch each child's life as a parent and positive role model. According to our Foster Care Staff, JoAnn has never turned away a child, no matter how inconvenient the schedule or the circumstances surrounding the care of that child. We have been blessed to have her as a Foster Parent for the past 24 years. **Thank you JoAnn!**

CSS is Accredited by the Hague Convention to do International Adoptions

Catholic Social Services is extremely pleased to notify our clients and supporters that the U.S State Department, through the Council on Accreditation (COA), has granted Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois's accreditation in accordance with the Hague Convention pursuant to the Inter-Country Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA). The achievement of Hague Accreditation demonstrates our commitment to the children and families

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we serve both here and abroad. ("COA – Accredited" is a designation reserved for agencies that are voluntarily accredited through COA). This is an enviable and difficult designation to achieve. There are only a few agencies in our area that have this accreditation. As a result, CSS provides a valuable service to the people of Southern Illinois, who are pursuing adoption. We invite you to view our website (www.cssil.org) to get more specific information about this & other subjects. If you wish to speak to someone about adoptions, please call us at (618) 394-5900 (ext. 230).

The Belleville (Metro-East) Region Hosts the 2008 Christian Service Awards and Benefit Dinner

The Belleville (Metro-East) Region of Catholic Social Services (CSS) of Southern Illinois hosted the 18th Annual Christian Service Awards and Benefit dinner on Friday, May 2nd at Albert's Banquet Hall in Belleville. At this year's award ceremony three outstanding recipients received the 2008 Christian Service Award:

☀ **Jeanne Edgar** - Member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Belleville and long-time community volunteer.

☀ **Jerry Messick** - Member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Belleville, and Director of the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.

☀ **Glenn Schott** - Athletic Director, Head Football Coach and Assistant Principal at Althoff Catholic High School.



Pictured from left to right: Tom Smith, Chairman of the Belleville Regional Advisory Council, Glen Schott, Patricia Schott, Wayne Edgar, Jeanne Edgar, Jerry Messick, Mari Jean Messick, and Brad Beck, Director of the Belleville (Metro-East) Region of Catholic Social Services.

A brief summary of their accomplishments follows:

Jeanne Edgar has been a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace parish since 1976. Over the years, Jeanne has been involved in almost every activity with the church and school. Jeanne has served as lector, a Eucharistic minister, on the Pastoral Council twice and as President once. For many years she was known as the "fish fry lady" because of her leadership role in organizing all of them. She has also worked with Pastor Drew Kramer at St. Paul's United Church of Christ on the "House Build" and with the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.



Jerry Messick served on the Franklin Community Neighborhood Association Board from 2002 thru 2007. He taught after-school "life skill" classes in woodworking to fourth thru sixth graders and assisted with the annual neighborhood picnic each September. In 2005 he began work to bring various churches together in a combined food pantry effort to serve Belleville's hungry families. His tireless efforts resulted in the Community Interfaith Food Pantry which began operation in August 2007



Glenn Schott has spent his entire life working with boys and girls helping them to become responsible men and women. He has coached football teams to three championships, plus many other playoff appearances. He spent 46 years coaching and teaching in the Belleville Diocese, passing on the Christian values he lives by. His honors include: the Value and Vision Award (given for positive influence on thousands of students and athletes at Althoff Catholic High School); Illinois Football Coach Hall of Fame; Coach of the Year (St. Louis Football Coaches Association in 1980, 1989, 1990, 2002; Illinois High School All-Star Game Head Coach in 1981; and the Silver Helmet Award from St. Louis Football Cardinals (8 years).

Nominations for the 2009 Christian Service Award

Do you know of anyone who fits the criteria for this award? If so, please consider nominating that individual for next year's award. The individual's accomplishments for this award should reflect the mission and spirit of Catholic Social Services through their contributions in one or more of the following areas: faith-related service; community service; youth mentoring; advocacy; direct service to those in need; activity in community organizations, volunteerism, and/or fundraising. For more details and a nomination form, please go to our website at: www.cssil.org and click on Special Events.

Save the Date

The Belleville (Metro-East) Regional Office will host the 19th Annual Christian Service Awards & Benefit Dinner on Friday, May 1st, 2009. Mark your calendar today to reserve this date and be sure to contact your friends to do the same. We want you to be part of our program, so please join us on May 1st, 2009. Your participation helps us to support our many programs.

If you know someone who has served others through: faith-related service; community service; youth mentoring; advocacy; direct service to those in need; volunteerism; and/or fundraising, and wish to nominate them for the Christian Service Award, please call: (618) 394-5900 (ext. 106), or check out our website at www.cssil.org. Go to the special events page to see the nominating instructions.



The Carbondale Regional Office will host their 5th Annual Charity Breakfast – April 18, 2009 at St. Andrew Knights of Columbus Hall in Murphysboro. Reservations needed. For more information please call (618) 351-0743 or send an e-mail to Marylou@cssil.org.



“Voices for Illinois Children”, along with over 60 private child welfare agencies across Illinois (including Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois) are leading the “Foster Kids Are Our Kids” marketing campaign to change perceptions about foster kids and to challenge the public to contribute to improving their lives. The campaign features a TV commercial, prepared radio spots, as well as print materials, a website and training support for child welfare agencies. In addition, we would welcome an opportunity to offer an interview with one of our foster care workers/supervisors.

We are asking a variety of media providers to help us promote the campaign in our local area. Please visit the campaign website at www.fosterkidsareourkids.org to get more information about this program.

Check out our website at:
www.cssil.org

The CSS Adoptions’ Wish List

Here are a number of items we could use in our Adoption Program on on-going basis. We have decided to ask for donations of these items in lieu of spending direct dollars for these supplies.

- Boxes of newborn diapers
- Boxes of 3-6 month diapers
- New Infant car seats/carriers
- Misc. newborn clothes (preferably onesies)

If you would like to donate any of these items, please call us at the office nearest you in:

- Belleville at (618) 349-5900 (ext. 250),
- Carbondale: at (618)351-0945 or

Stop in any of our offices to speak to our Adoption Staff. They will gladly talk to you.

Address Corrections Wanted

In an effort to keep our mailing list up-to-date, we are requesting your assistance by asking you to inform us if your name or address is incorrect, if a name needs to be deleted, or if more than one newsletter is going to the same address.

We truly appreciate your input and hope this updating will eliminate any inconvenience to our readers while, at the same time, save money for our organization. Changes should be sent to the Editor at the Belleville office. Please contact us at (618) 394-5900.

♥♥ Wanted! ♥♥ “A Few Good Foster Parents”

We are always looking for potential foster parents who are willing to make the commitment help save our children who for whatever reason are unable to be with their biological parents. Let us qualify you to be a part of a greatly rewarding program not only for the children who desperately need a safe living environment and positive nurturing form caring people, but for your own intrinsic rewards.

♥ **Have a heart and become a Foster Parent**

- Interested??? Call us in:**
- Belleville: at (618) 394-5900 (ext. 225)**
- Carbondale: at (618)351-0945**
- Mt. Vernon: at (618) 244-0344**



Carbondale's "Awakenings" Program receives Illinois Bar Association Grant

Mark Hassakis, third vice-president of the Illinois Bar Association and past president of the Illinois Bar Foundation, presented an \$8,000 check to Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois (CSS) on May 27th to be used for the Awakenings Program offered through the Carbondale CSS office.

The Awakenings program was developed by Sr. Barbara Lux, LCPC. It is a fourteen-week program to help inmates and ex-offenders examine their attitudes and behaviors. The goal is to reduce recidivism while assisting individuals develop the basic life skills needed for a more productive life. It is based upon a program developed by a group of psychologists at the prison in Taylorville, IL several years ago. With their approval, she is using this program successfully with individuals on parole or probation and with incarcerated youth.

In collaboration with Judges Charles Grace and William Schwartz, and Probation Supervisor, Ed Tolbert, the program has been offered in Jackson County since October, 2006. Fifty individuals have successfully graduated from the program. The Awakenings program has been adapted for use with juveniles at the Harrisburg Youth Facility (IYC). With the enthusiastic support of Melva Clarida, IYC Educational Facility Administrator, twelve young men graduated from the program since April, 2007.



From left to right: **Al Melone**, CSS Board of Directors & Carbondale Regional Advisory Council; **Sr. Barbara Lux**, Awakenings Program; **Shari Rhode**, member of Illinois Bar Association Board; **Mark Hassakis**, past President of Il Bar Foundation, Third Vice President of Il Bar Association; **Judge Chuck Grace**, CSS Advisory Council & Jackson County Judge; **Mary Lou Loos**, CSS Regional Director; **Mayor Ron Williams**, Mayor of Murphysboro (also present, but not shown, was **Brad Cole**, Mayor of Carbondale)

Class topics of the Awakenings program include issues of self-esteem; respecting personal boundaries; anger management; victimization; and development of healthy relationships & lifestyles. Adult learning methods are utilized. Homework is assigned. Graduation is dependent on full participation for fourteen weeks. The goal of Awakenings is to reduce repeat offending by teaching alternate behaviors in response to stress and anger. Comments from graduates include: "I always thought I was the victim." "The class helped me to recognize how my behaviors hurt other people." "The program really helped me to learn how to control my anger."

The program was initiated in the Carbondale area with funding sources from the Gundlach Bequest, donations from individuals, churches, religious communities, and from donations at the annual Charity Breakfast. The Grant from the Illinois Bar Foundation will allow for continuation of the program in the months ahead.

The Awakenings program is a part of a regional effort to provide supportive services to those involved with the court system and/or incarceration. SIRG –Southern Illinois Reentry Group is a coalition of agencies, faith-based organizations and concerned citizens who have joined together to coordinate services to reduce recidivism and successfully reintegrate the offender into the community.

For more information on the Awakenings program go to: www.cssil.org . Click to "Counseling" and then to "Awakenings" or call: (618) 351-0743

Volunteers are Welcome

Volunteers are needed for: clerical work; special events (Secret Santa, fundraisers, etc.); mentors at St. John Bosco Children's Center, in our foster care program; and other projects. If you would like more information about volunteering, please contact one of the following.

In Belleville call Kelly Le Chien, our volunteer coordinator, at (618) 394-5900 (ext. 199) or send her an email at kellyl@cssil.org.

In Carbondale call Mary Loos at (618) 351-0945, in Mt. Vernon call Pam Flota at (618) 2440344, and in Mt. Carmel call Don Goff at (618) 263-3863.

Please check out our website to get more specific information about Catholic Social Services and our programs.

Secret Santa 2008 Needs Your Support

The **Secret Santa** program provides Christmas gifts for hundreds of needy children of all ages and backgrounds in the Diocese of Belleville. Call us if you are interested in supporting this program. It is really fun, simple and rewarding!

When you sign up, you receive sponsorship information in early November with a "Letter to Santa," which includes a short wish list from your sponsored child. You purchase 1-3 (or more if able to) new items for the child. You will be asked to deliver your gift by a predetermined date in early December. Simple as that.

If you prefer, we also welcome monetary donation for this program where we will purchase gifts to fulfill the children's wish lists. Please see the "*Special Events Page*" on our website for more details about **Secret Santa** at (www.cssil.org). If you are not already on our mailing list for this program, you may call us at (618) 394-5900 in Belleville, (618) 351-0743 in Carbondale, or (618) 244-0344 in Mt. Vernon.

We help in excess of 600 needy children and dozens of families each year throughout Southern Illinois through the generosity of hundreds of "Secret Santas." We also need volunteers to help with the collection, sorting, and distribution of the thousands of gifts we receive.

Eastern Region Inaugurates a New Regional Advisory Council

Don Goff, CSS Eastern Region Director, was happy to announce that he has thirteen volunteers who recently had their first several meetings as the newly reconstituted Regional Advisory Council (RAC). Don believes that these individuals have made a strong commitment to help improve the services of the Eastern Regional Office. An immediate focus will be fundraising to help offset some of the costs not covered by government grant monies. The following individuals have volunteered to serve as the Eastern Region's Executive Committee: Kathy Brown, Chairperson; John Feaheiley, Vice-Chair; and Mike McCollough, Secretary.

"Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me."

Matthew 25: 35-40



United Way Campaign Begins in September

The United Way begins its 2008 fundraising campaign in September. Contributions generated from the campaign help support the programs of Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois and more than 200 additional local health and human services organizations. You can be sure your gift is used wisely because more than 400 experienced community volunteers carefully distribute donations to charities that demonstrate high quality standards and results. A United Way contribution is cost-efficient. That's because more than 90 cents of every contribution dollar is strategically invested to help people in the community. Many of our clients receive services from more than one United Way-supported agency. It takes a strong system of quality agencies that provide a variety of programs to help our clients. That's why a contribution to the United Way is important.

Please support the United Way and help us build a stronger community.

Did You Know?

Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois is one of the largest providers of Foster Care Services in Southern Illinois. Through three of our locations (Belleville, Carbondale, and Mt. Vernon) we currently provide services to 447 foster children (393 traditional cases, and 54 specialized/treatment cases).

Counseling Questions

Here are the top three questions we get from callers.

1. What kind of Counseling do you offer?
2. How much does it cost, and do you take insurance?
3. How soon can I come in?

Here are the answers to those questions.

1. We offer individual, couple, and family counseling and provide an number of different clinical modalities for our clients.
2. We accept most major insurances. We bill at a rate of \$85.00 per session (with one session being 50-60 minutes long). If a prospective client has financial issues or is not insured, we do utilize an adjusted fee scale based upon the income of the household. We may adjust the payment as low as \$25.00 depending upon individual circumstances.
3. We are able to work in new patients within a 2 week period. In cases of severe emergency, we do our utmost to assist the client as soon as possible.

Become a CSS Booster

We invite you to become a CSS Booster and help us promote our agency. Learn more about us - simply access our website at www.cssil.org to see more detail about our mission and programs. If you're sold on what we do, have a heart and please consider making a donation (look for the heart on our website's home page, click it, and follow instructions).

CSS Says Farewell to Departing Board Members

We want to thank the following departing Board Members for their dedicated and valuable service to Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois, and wish them well in their future endeavors:

Raymond Heinen - serving since 1992.
Judy Phillips - serving since 1992.
Father Gene Neff - serving since 2001
Mary Norbut - serving since 2002
Tom Smith - serving since 2007
Amy Ballance - serving since 2007

**You have given us your time, talent and treasure.
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Welcome New Board Members

We want to welcome the following individuals who have just joined the Board of Directors:

Welcome: **Mary Adeniyi**
Welcome: **Davis Darin**
Welcome: **John Fearheiley**
Welcome: **Marge Francois**
Welcome: **David Miller**

Please will you consider Catholic Social Services in your estate planning? Please call us if you're interested (618) 394-5900 (ext. 106).

Yes! I want to help Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois to continue to strengthen families and build community.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Catholic Social Services.

Or

Please charge my Discover Master Card Visa

For a one-time donation of \$ _____

Monthly/Quarterly (circle one)

- In installments of \$ _____
- For a total of \$ _____

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card (Please Print): _____

Signature: _____

My donation should go: _____ to the area of greatest need **or** the one of the following CSS Office: _____ Belleville _____ Carbondale
_____ Mt. Carmel _____ Mt. Vernon

Please bill me

For a one-time donation of \$ _____

Monthly/Quarterly (circle one)

- Installments of \$ _____
_ For a total of \$ _____

My gift will be matched by:

(Company name (please enclose company form))

In addition to my financial gift, I would like to volunteer. Please send me an application.

Please return this portion with your donation.



Director's Corner

Gary Huelsmann

Dear Friends of Catholic Social Services:

I want to share with you all a "Board motion" that was passed at the Catholic Social Services Board of Directors' meeting in March. These very positive sentiments I also share, as do many others. I regularly get feedback from throughout the various communities of Southern Illinois on the very positive impact we have in the lives of so many. Please recognize the positive contributions that our employees (and volunteers) make.

"The Board of Directors hereby recognizes the excellent work of the management and staff of Catholic Social Services (CSS) this past year. CSS has surpassed expectations by providing a wider range of services to a more diverse clientele over a larger area than ever before, all the while, garnering statewide recognition of meeting the highest standards of quality and services. We, the Board, appreciate as well the ability of the management and staff to provide such a diverse range of services in a financially responsible way and having succeeded in putting CSS in the best financial position it has been in a number of years. We, the Board of Directors, are very proud of the positive ways the management and staff have touched many lives of individuals in crises, individuals in need, seniors, children, and families throughout Southern Illinois."

Thanks to all who actively support the mission of Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois. We greatly appreciate your generosity which helps us to serve those who are underserved.

Take care and God Bless!

Gary R. Huelsmann, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director



*Give to those who ask,
Provide to those who seek,
Open to those who knock.*

Catholic Charities USA Mobilizes Multi-state Flood Relief Effort in Midwest; Long-term Response Key Focus

As the flood waters recede, local Catholic Charities throughout the Midwest, with the help of Catholic Charities USA's Office of Disaster Response, are assessing the needs in their communities and outlining their long-term recovery plans.

"Catholic Charities' niche in disaster response is often long-term recovery, we are there for the long haul," said Kim Burgo, senior director of Catholic Charities USA's Office of Disaster Response. "Catholic Charities agencies in the impacted areas are currently assessing the extent of the damage and working with other disaster relief organizations to determine how best to respond in the weeks and months ahead."

How YOU Can Help

To help support Catholic Charities' response efforts to June Midwest floods:

- Call (800) 919-9338
- or Donate on-line at: catholiccharitiesusa.org
- or Send checks to:
 - Catholic Charities USA
 - Midwest Floods June 2008
 - PO Box 7068,
 - Merrifield, VA 22116-7068

Catholic Charities USA is unable to accept contributions of food, clothing, blankets and other relief supplies. Its federal ID number is 53-0196620.

CSS Services in a Nutshell

Catholic Social Services serves the people of Southern Illinois by offering a variety of human services and has been committed to "strengthening families and building community." CSS provides comprehensive individual, family, and school counseling; adoption services; birth-parent services; foster care services; senior employment and senior assisted living management services; a children's center for abused and neglected children under the age of 12; and referral services. Please go to our website (www.cssil.org) to get more detailed information about us.

Executive Director
Gary Huelsmann

Board of Directors
Executive Committee

Bob Mueller, *Chairperson*
Mark Schafale, *Vice-Chair*
JoAnn Pisel, *Secretary*
Kevin McCarkel, *Treasurer*
Al Miller, *Past Chairperson*

Members of the Board of Directors

Mary Adeniyi	Norman Jacob
David Darin	Joseph McDonnell
John Fearheiley	Stephen McGlynn
Marge Francois	Albert Melone
John Hudspeth	David Miller

Belleville (Metro-East) Regional Office
Brad Beck - Director
8601 West Main Street, Suite 201
Belleville, Illinois 62223
(618) 394-5900

Carbondale Regional Office
Mary Lou Loos - Director
214 South University Avenue
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
(618) 351-0743

Mt. Carmel Regional Office
Don Goff - Director
120 West Fifth Street, P. O. Box 23
Mt. Carmel, Illinois 62863
(618) 263-3863

Mt. Vernon Regional Office
Pam Flota - Director
219 Withers Drive
Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864
(618) 244-0344

St. John (Don) Bosco Children's Center
(Residential Treatment Facility)
900 Royal Heights Road (Suite 1150)
Belleville, Illinois 62226
(618) 688-1150

Fox River Apartments
(Assisted Living Facility)
1016 Parker Street
Olney, Illinois 62450
(618) 392-6168

We invite you to visit our website at:
www.cssil.org to learn more about Catholic Social Services and our programs. We earnestly hope you will consider a donation to our agency.

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