



*Remember the Past,
Embrace the Future!
St. Louise de Marillac*

Caritas

Serving others with love and charity



Community Partner

February 2019

A Newsletter from the Ladies of Charity Knoxville

Vol. 34 No. 2



Wishing all our Members, Volunteers, Staff and all their families a very Happy Valentine's Day!

A Message from the President

I look forward to serving as the President of Ladies of Charity Knoxville (LOCK) during this coming year. I feel greatly humbled that the leadership of this organization has been entrusted to me. I also feel greatly blessed because I am surrounded by extraordinary, faith-filled and caring people...members, volunteers and staff...who are committed to the mission of LOCK to serve Christ in humility, simplicity and charity. I know the 2019 Officers and Board will continue to grow this mission.

I wish to thank the members of the 2018 Board for all their hard work this past year. George Frederick, Pat Stapleton, Lisa Daley and Christine Luchon will not be serving on the 2019 Board, but each one is continuing to serve LOCK in different roles. George will continue to serve on the Finance Committee and is taking leadership as we make plans to improve the parking lot. Pat has offered to advise us in legal matters, and Christine will be available to assist with our data systems. Lisa is leading the planning for the 2020 Ladies of Charity, USA meeting that LOCK will be hosting in Knoxville. All four of these individuals exemplify the Volunteer spirit that infuses Ladies of Charity Knoxville. THANK YOU!!

I also wish to thank Susan Unbehaun and her staff for the incredible patience they have shown to me as I have attempted to learn as much as possible about LOCK and the many, many ways that our organization serves the poor of Knoxville.

Going forward into 2019, we will continue, as always, to meet the emergency needs of our clients. We will also continue to seek ways to expand existing programs and develop new programs to help clients attain economic stability. Examples include:

- The growing English Language Learner program which creates opportunities for both social interactions and employment.
- Funds are being sought to provide clients with bus passes for employment-related travel as lack of transportation is frequently an obstacle to employment.
- An expansion of Employment Services is being explored.

Finally, as 1 Corinthians 12:12 says "There is one body, but it has many parts". Each of you has special God-given talents that I pray you will be willing to share with LOCK over the coming months. If you are unsure how to help, just ask. There is a place for YOU at LOCK.

Connie Brace,
President

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE—MARCH 16, 2019

Come join in the fun and camaraderie with other members and friends at LOCK and march in the parade with us! Parade tee-shirts will be \$10.00. Shopping cart dancers are needed.

- ◆ Register online at www.ladiesofcharityknox.org
- ◆ Ladies of Charity will provide food and snacks before the parade.
- ◆ Float decorating is March 15th.
- ◆ Contact Connie Brace for more information.



Happy St. Patrick's Day



Ladies of Charity Knoxville would like to thank Patti Gibson and Hilton Garden Inn Knoxville West for their generous donation of beautiful furniture.

We received 13 sleeper sofas, 13 chairs with matching ottomans, 13 table desks, and 13 bookshelf units.



Do you have furniture to donate? Pick ups are scheduled on Wednesday and Saturday.

Contact Ladies of Charity at 865-247-5790, Ext. 104



Thank you!

A big thank you to Natalea Riley, Mast General store, Columbia coats and generous customers for their generosity in providing 29 new coats, 23 used coats, 58 pairs of used shoes, boots and 14 pieces of miscellaneous clothing. Our clients truly appreciate receiving these items!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT EAP RECEPTION



**L to R: Pat, Susan & Liz
EAP Receptionists**

These ladies have put in an amazing amount of hours to help our clients at LOCK.

VOLUNTEERS WHOM HAVE DONE SO MUCH

STAFF SPOTLIGHT IS ON MARTHA DAVIS



Cashier—Martha is leaving LOCK after many years of service. We wish her good luck on her new journey in Oregon! She will be missed!!

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR OUR CLIENTS AND LADIES OF CHARITY!

The words of Sister Rosalie: "Be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you bring them."

A Bed for Christ(mas)

“... whatever you did for one you did for me...” Mt 25:40

On the third Sunday of Advent, David¹ left a voice message on my phone, asking if I would call him back when I got a chance. Over a month had passed since we took a truck load of donations to their old stone church outreach center. Since it was still before Christmas, I assumed he was interested in the possibility of our sending another truck with goods for their coal country folks. I called back but also had to leave a message and noted it was likely the time of their Sunday evening service.

When we finally connected on the third attempt, he apologized for calling on Sunday and then asked if LOC could help with something urgently needed. He began telling me how one of his brothers² had a thirty-year-old daughter (Adriana) with a critical intestinal disease and was having surgery. Hopefully after a few days' recovery and medical treatment in the hospital, Adriana would be released a few days before Christmas. However, she would still have a lengthy convalescence and be equipped with a drain tube. This led to David's request as to Ladies possibly having another hospital bed as we had brought them over a year ago. That bed had been provided to someone almost immediately after they had received it. Adriana did not have insurance that would cover a hospital bed, so David's church was trying to find one before she was released. I told David that I would check with Ladies on Monday but did not think we had one. I would also contact other agencies with whom we dealt on hospital equipment, to see if a bed were available. I would get back with him as soon as possible.

Not finding a bed at Ladies or other agencies, I turned to the local online ads for a used hospital bed and found two for the same price that seemed reasonable. After visiting with the owners and looking at the beds, one was hardly used and in much better condition than the other. I told the owner about LOC, what we wanted it for, and asked if he would consider reducing the price a little. He dropped the price significantly and was glad that someone in real need would be getting the bed, as it had belonged to his grandfather. I loaded the bed in my trailer and brought it home, till we could arrange how to get it to David.

After discussing with Susan, I contacted David Tuesday night, letting him know we had found a bed, that the LOC van was available, and that we would bring some additional items Friday if that would work for him. He told me that Adriana had not been released yet but it would be later that week. He also said that her father (Bruce) was trying to get Adriana's apartment set up. Her apartment is in Pineville (about 12 miles from the church), so we agreed to meet Friday morning at the intersection of the highways to Pineville and Hulen.

On Wednesday we loaded the van with the bed and sheets for it, along with other items, including 16 boxes of diapers, 4 bags of clothes, 6 boxes of cloth and fabric (they have a ladies' group that use these), a real nice Pack-n-Play, and 2 sleeping bags. Early Friday morning, Michael (Maxine's son) and I left LOC headed to Pineville, amidst rain which lasted through most of our trip. Nevertheless, the 2-hour drive was much easier than any before, due to the comfort of the van as compared to the truck, which itself was in the repair shop after a poor run the day before to Second Harvest and crying over spilt milk!

We met David with two brothers in the church van at the designated intersection, and then followed them to Pineville and Adriana's apartment. It was still raining when we unloaded the bed, which wasn't bad with all the help we had. We got to meet Bruce and while setting up the bed and checking its operation, we talked about Adriana's situation and plans for recovery. We found out she had likely inherited the condition from her dad, as he almost died years ago when he had to have intestinal surgery. During his spell, he was also having some organ failure and was on dialysis with poor vital signs. After lengthy treatment and medication trials he finally recovered and has been doing well for many years now. He did tell us that Adriana had to have 3 feet of her small intestine removed and the medications she was on appeared to be helping. Our LOC patron saint must have helped with our delivery schedule, for we learned that Adriana was planned for release in about 2 hours. Her dad had also decorated her apartment with a Christmas tree, and was busy arranging the bed and furniture to make Adriana as comfortable as possible. We talked for just a few more minutes and then held hands during the usual prayer with all 4 brothers' individual pleas in unison for healing and thanksgiving. Michael and I wished Bruce a Blessed Christmas, asking him to give Adriana our best, as well as letting him know that they would continue to be in our prayers.

When we left it was still raining, so David asked us to follow him to the carwash. His idea was to back both vans into the wash shed, keeping dry while transferring the other items to his van. Kind of the opposite of what a car wash does, but a good idea and we got things quickly transferred. They told us how much they appreciated our efforts, the additional donations and wished all of Ladies a Merry Christmas. Michael and I headed home in the rain, with one of us snoozing a little on the way back.

I called David this week to see how Adriana is doing. He said she was released, is doing well in her apartment, has limited mobility due to the incision and the drain tube, but overall appears to be improving. Of course, he again expressed appreciation for LOC and we closed with mutual greetings for the New Year.

¹ Pastor of First Blackmont Baptist Church, "our sister mission" in Hulen, KY.

² I used this term because it is natural for David to so call others.

Submitted by Bill Hopwood

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer in 2019? Not able to volunteer on a regular basis? How about just 3 hours on a Saturday morning? Students do you need community service hours for school? Please contact Laura Deubler at Ladies of Charity Knoxville, please email Laura at Communityengagement.loc.knox@gmail.com for more information and to volunteer.

IN MEMORIUM



Please remember in your prayers the following members and family members of LOC whom we have lost:

*Mary Ilene Kerley, December 26
Roy Patrick Neuenschwander, January 13
Tiffany Murphy, January 14
Terry Lynn Rosenbalm, January 14
Phyllis A. Ide, January 27*

Please inform Carol Curry if a member is homebound, in assisted living or nursing home, is ill, or recovering from a hospital stay we will send them a card. For sympathy cards of family members or Mass cards are provided to family members of our lost members. Their home parish is contacted and a Mass is held in memory of our deceased member.

Please contact Carol at jcurry1940@msn.com or 865-966-1277.

Help Wanted

Do you love planning a party?

Do you love music, dancing, wine and food?

Then come and help plan the

LOCK August Dinner

Volunteer Chairperson Needed

**For Information: Connie Brace
(cjbrace@yahoo.com)**

Mardi Gras Party at All Saints Hall

Benefits Ladies of Charity

March 5 Fat Tuesday

6:00 — 9:00 PM, Dinner & Dance

\$15 per person or \$25 per couple

Louisiana cooking and live DJ!

Contact Kathy Ernst 548-8209



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Here's an update on our second week of January to April semester. We are so blessed that our program has grown to unexpected success. We currently have three class levels attended by 17 students from Mexico, 1 Cuba, 1 Sudan, 1 Egypt, 1 Guatemala, 2 Honduras, 1 Rwanda and 1 Korea.



A special thank you to all the teachers, volunteer encouragers and students for their hard work. Ladies of Charity is a gift to all of us for all their support and assistance.

Chester Pun-Chuen, Coordinator

The words of Rosalie Rendu: *“God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant. Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet—if our childhood had been one of constant want—perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter.”*



Share: Choose an event from your service to the poor that, like Sr. Rosalie, taught you how to love and serve those living in poverty.

- Have you invited others to serve the poor?
- Have you mentored others in Vincentian spirit?
- How is God present with you on this reflection?

LADIES OF CHARITY RAM CLINIC

Saturday, April 13, 2019
Ladies of Charity Building
120 W. Baxter Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37917

Volunteer Recruitment Information for Dental

In collaboration with Remote Area Medical (RAM), the Smoky Mountain Lions Charities Inc., and the Knights of Columbus, the Ladies of Charity will host its third dental and vision clinic for people in the Knoxville area who cannot afford dental or vision Services.

In order to help the maximum number of our neighbors obtain dental cleaning, or fillings, or tooth extractions free of charge, the Ladies are seeking the volunteer assistance of:

Ten Dentists, Ten Dental Hygienists, Ten Dental Assistants

Arrival time for all volunteers is 5:00 am and starts with a free breakfast in the basement of Holy Ghost Church prepared by the Knights of Columbus.

A free lunch will also be served around 11:30 for all volunteers.

Parking for professionals who participate in the clinic will be available in the Holy Ghost Catholic Church parking lot.

Patients will be seen by appointment starting at 6:00 am with the final appointment set to begin no later than 2:00 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Earl Schliesman,
Telephone: 865-247-6217 (Please leave a message.) **Email:** schliesmanearl@gmail.com.

Volunteers can register at volunteer.ramusa.org and the event is officially called “Ladies of Charity Knoxville, TN 2019.” Remote Area Medical asks that all volunteers register online.

Help Wanted

**Do you love Ladies of Charity
Knoxville?**

Do you love people?

**Then we have just the volunteer job
for you!!**

Bring people and LOCK together!!

Membership Chairperson Needed



Member Book

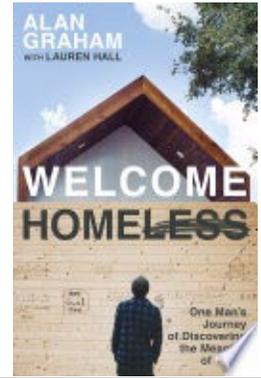
Recommendation

From Peg Hart, LOC Mem-
ber

Welcome Homeless

By Alan Graham

One man's journey of Dis-
covering the Meaning of
Home



Ladies of Charity General Meeting was held on January 30, 2019 with 36 members in attendance. The cold and snowy weather closed the store the day before and we weren't sure if we could have the meeting. Many delicious salads and sandwiches were served and a dessert table with delicious treats spoiled everyone who came. Mary Phillips and the hospitality committee did a wonderful table display with winter berries, baby's breath, wood and stone accent.

Fr. Dowling, Spiritual Moderator, blessed the incoming board members at the luncheon, and Geri handed over the reigns to Connie Brace. New board members present: Connie Brace, President, Corresponding Secretary B.E. Colway, Recording Secretary Barbara Stahl, At-Large Patti Gibson, At-Large Lisa McElligott, standing in for Treasurer Kathi O'Hara was Ann Horst and standing in for Vice-President Natalea Riley was Shirley Moore.

The Solemn Reception during Mass received eight members. Bonnie Larison, Patti Gibson, Lisa McElligott, Barbara Stahl, Peggy Brown, Joan Easterly, Mary Phillips and Polly Burch. Fr. Dowling blessed the crosses and said a prayer to each lady. Connie Brace then handed a member booklet and pin to each received member.

Special thanks to Charles Graves for taking pictures of new members and board members. He also took pictures of the facility, volunteers, clients and thrift store. You will see his work in upcoming publications.

The pictures below submitted by LOC members. Solemn reception, Board Installation, Received members with Fr. Dowling, Lisa Daley receiving gift as outgoing board member with Connie Brace, President.



MARY'S CRADLE



Thank you to the family of Mary Margaret Patronik, Variety of ET, Akima Group, All Saints sewing and crochet groups, All Saints CCW, Immaculate Conception Church Bees, Holy Ghost Martha & Mary Group, Angel Tree, Sacred Heart CCW, St. John Paul II Mission Church, St. Joseph Guild, and all the individuals and groups that donate to Mary's Cradle. 184 babies received layettes in 2018. 80 received a crib or car seat.

CAREER FAIR

Earl Schliesman coordinated with TN Job Center to host a career fair on January 9th. 28 employers set up their tabletop displays and met with potential employees. Maryjane Locke and Stephanie Lloyd –Wright assisted clients with business clothing.

WATE-TV covered the event, lunch was picked up by Liz Mahoney, and Kathi O'Hara distributed some welcome bags to the employers.



FOOD PANTRY

Keep sending in the plastic or paper grocery bags. In January, we gave 60 food bags to the Immaculate Conception food pantry, we

helped Whittle Springs Middle School families with food bags, we opened early to accommodate our clients in the cold weather, even serving coffee during Martin Luther King, Jr. week.

Special thanks to Ron and Judy Cross for packing the food bags and delivering to Whittle Springs.



RENT and UTILITY HELP

It is especially critical to be sure everyone has a warm place to sleep during the winter weather. Ladies of Charity has put the applications for rent and utility assistance on our website. In 2018, Ladies of Charity assisted Community Action Committee and Knoxville Utility Board in distributing utility funds. 31 utility deposits and approximately 264 utility payments went to clients. CAC gave out the funds for LOC.

Remote Area Medical Clinic

Thank you to Dr. John Coulter for the case of toothpaste. We always run out! We have started to make our client bags for the Remote Area Medical Clinic and the toothpaste, toothbrushes and other items are always a nice way to end a trip to the RAM dentist office!!



Sign up to volunteer on April 13th or bake a treat for the volunteers. Go to the LOCK website for more information.

Surveys for Impact Evaluation

Starting this month, clients are filling out a food insecurity survey. This survey was designed by the USDA to measure the food insecurity of a family or individual. Here are two sample questions: In the last 12 months, were you hungry, but didn't eat, because there wasn't enough food? Or In the last 12 months, were the children hungry but you just couldn't afford more food?

Ladies of Charity will share the results in the April newsletter.

Ladies of Charity would like to remind members to pay their 2019 annual dues.

\$30 for annual dues or \$200 for lifetime dues. These dues can be paid on line, mailed in or stop by the office at 120 W. Baxter Avenue. If you do not have a recent picture for the membership book, please let us know.

2019 Calendar

- February 20—Board Meeting
- February 27—Fight Hunger Week: LOC Open House, 1-4 PM
- March 5—Mardi Gras Dinner and Dance
- March 16—St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- April 7 and 14—Easter Basket Sale
- April 13—Remote Area Medical Clinic
- April 24—General Meeting

FACEBOOK
Ladies of Charity Knoxville

INSTAGRAM
@ladiesofcharityknox

WEBSITE
ladiesofcharityknox.org

February 7th is the Feast Day of Sr. Rosali Rendu. One of the greatest gifts of Sister Rosalie was her ability to recognize Christ in the face of the suffering and to mobilize the energies of others to join her in the service of those living in poverty. To aid the most abandoned she gathered together rich and poor, women and men, clergy and laity. The reflection and this paragraph can be found in “a Heart on Fire,” Apostolic Reflection with Sister Rosalie Rendu by Joan Gibson, DC and Kieran Kneaves, DC

February Newsletter

Return Service Requested

Ladies of Charity Knoxville
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