



DIOCESAN CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE AND HOPE

COLLECTION WEEKEND •
NOVEMBER 19-20, 2022



Your donations help the poor and the vulnerable

"The grant funds allow me to help women in our community. Through serving them, I'm hoping to change not only their life but the lives of the next generation of children yet to be born." This statement by grant recipient Toby Austin struck a chord with me.

Visiting organizations that receive grant funds from the annual Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope (DCJH), grant recipients always share their gratitude for receiving granted funds from DCJH, funds that enable them to fulfill their mission to help the poor and vulnerable within our diocese, and even those yet to be born.

So, on behalf of the 21 grant recipients this past year, thank you for your donation and support of DCJH. Some of the proj-

ects funded with the \$73,943 donated last year include: providing safety equipment to the elderly, baby items and education to women with an unexpected pregnancy, feeding the hungry, and expanding therapy options for women victimized by human trafficking.



Donna Moore is the director of Pro-Life Activities, Missions, and Special Ministries. The Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope is one of those special ministries.

DCJH grant helps women who choose life

MARYVILLE—A Beacon of Light (ABL) Pregnancy Help Center in Maryville has experienced an increase in the number of abortion-vulnerable women they are able to help. Many of these women have chosen life for their babies thanks to the DCJH grant, said Diane Villhard, the center's marketing chair.

The DCJH grant helped fund an online Google

campaign that identifies the center as an option for women facing unplanned pregnancies. This helps women find the center and helps the center to give women support and care they need.

"Funds are also used to renew the *Bright Course* subscription. This course provides in-center and online lessons on pregnancy care, infant care, parenting, relationships, and healthy choices," said Villhard. "Without these resources, ABL would not be able to provide the practical support that keeps the center connected to its clients." ✚



How to give to the annual Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope

Please continue your generous giving to help our brothers and sisters within the diocese by donating in your second collection envelope on the **weekend of Nov. 19-20**. You can also use the envelope in this *Catholic Times* edition to mail a check to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois or give online at <https://www.dio.org/dcjh/home.html>.

Birthright sees DCJH grant as blessing

QUINCY — The DCJH grant has been a blessing for the people in the Quincy community, said Birthright of Quincy's co-director

Katie Klauser. Birthright clients are typically women and girls who

are faced with an unplanned or crisis pregnancy, she said. Birthright's goal is to give them any support they need — both emotional and material — to find the right life-affirming choice for themselves and their children.

"Birthright is operated 100 percent by volunteers, donations, and fundraisers," Klauser said. "The DCJH grant enabled us to provide baby items along with other household needs of the mothers, completely free of charge. Support as simple as this encourages a woman to choose life for her baby." ✚



families were served in 2021. "The DCJH funds enabled the center to install new flooring in the shopping area of the store and to construct a wider and much safer stairway to the basement, where we sort and store donated items," said Dunseth. "These improvements provide a safer environment for both our customers and volunteers." ✚

Crisis Nursery playground renovation funded in part by DCJH

EFFINGHAM COUNTY — Crisis Nursery of Effingham County's mission is to prevent and protect children from trauma, abuse, and neglect through the provision of a 24/7/365 free emergency childcare program for children birth through 6 years of age.



This year, the nursery is taking on a large-scale renovation of their playground, said Meghan Rewers, director. "The Diocesan Campaign

for Justice and Hope (DCJH) graciously gifted funds to cover the purchase of a piece called 'Melody' that will be installed on the new grounds. This is a music piece that looks and sounds like a xylophone," Rewers said. "We hope to begin the playground renovation in spring of 2023. Support like this of the DCJH for our playground project will help our program give children moments, care, and experiences they deserve." ✚

Family Camp participants, leaders thankful for DCJH grant money

EFFINGHAM — Families and organizers of Family Camp are grateful to the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for the grant money received through DCJH. This money allows families, with a family

member having intellectual and/or physical disabilities, to gather each year in an atmosphere of ease and comfort. It's a place where people with disabilities and their families are one with each other, said Elaine Vonderheide, who has been involved with Family Camp for decades.

"Our families come from throughout the diocese. We celebrate Eucharist and pray together. We also have fun activities such as miniature golf, swimming, square dancing, making crafts, and taking a hayride together. Most importantly, we come to share the love that Jesus has for us with one another," Vonderheide said. "We are a happy people."

Each year, the Family Camp is hardly over and the participants are already asking about the next year of coming together, she said.

"We are grateful to Sacred Heart Parish, Effingham, the Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope, and the Knights of Columbus who all support this event. This is our 32nd year of Family Camp and we hope to enjoy many more. Blessings to all who allow us this great gift." ✚



DCJH helps Grounds of Grace expand virtual programs

SPRINGFIELD — Grounds of Grace is grateful for funding received through the DCJH grant, said Dana Pfeiffer, executive director and founder. This grant opens up possibilities of assisting survivors of human trafficking, she noted.

"Through funding from DCJH, Grounds of Grace is now able to offer our extensive programs virtually," said Pfeiffer. "We are able to assist survivors with online therapy and trauma support; and refer local support for medical, dental, housing, etc. Most importantly, we are able to assist survivors who desire to overcome personal challenges one on

Community Mission Center puts DCJH grant funds to practical use

PANA — The Community Mission Center has been in operation since 2010 providing clothing, household items, furniture, hygiene items, and school supplies for the less fortunate in Pana and surrounding communities. "We also have programs providing food for children for the weekends, school supplies,

and coats and warm clothing for children and adults in the winter," said Linda Dunseth, board member and grant administrator.

Over 3,700



one, providing direction and support to personal needs that arise on their journey to recovery.” ☸

HACSM uses DCJH grants for various purposes

HIGHLAND AREA — DCJH grants always make a difference to the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry, said HACSM Executive Director Diane Williams. Past awards have funded children’s cooking classes and small kitchen appliances to help families cook healthier meals. “Also, distribution of box fans in summer and portable heaters in winter are examples of DCJH funds keeping energy bills more manageable for low-income families in our community,” she said.



“We look forward to this year’s project of purchasing and distributing automotive maintenance supplies such as tire pressure gauges, jumper cables and windshield washer fluid,” Williams said. “These are just a few examples of DCJH funds partnering with our agency to give individuals and families tools toward self-sufficiency and independence.” ☸

Community assistance ministry establishes food nooks with DCJH grants

QUINCY — Through the use of the DCJH grant funds, the St. Francis Community Assistance Ministry was able to serve the needy and the isolated by establishing “food nooks” in 13 different locations throughout the community, during and after the COVID pandemic, said ministry leader Mary Beth McGee. The nooks are free-standing “mini food and supply pantries,” she said.

The funds from DCJH were used to purchase canned fruit, soups, and meats; as well as pastas, cereals, crackers, and food bars. Washcloths, toothpaste and brushes, gloves, and socks were also purchased.

The DCJH funds were critically important in supporting the ministry in two ways, McGee said. “One, we were able to serve a greater number of those in need; and two, we were able to serve them conveniently and anonymously in their neighborhoods, during the pandemic,” she said. ☸

Continuing food vouchers, thanks to DCJH

MATTOON — Funds received from DCJH have allowed The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Mattoon to continue their food voucher program. After meeting with a client and assessing their need, a pre-printed voucher is completed which contains a dollar amount that they may spend, said volunteer

Shady Raboin.

“The voucher is taken to a local grocery store with which we have partnered. There is never any change given so we encourage our



clients to spend as much of the voucher as they can,” Raboin said. “Receipt of the grant from DCJH is vital to our program, especially as we continue to see grocery prices rising and need increasing.” ☸

How to apply for a DCJH grant

If you have questions about the DCJH Campaign, please call (217) 321-1161 or email DCJH@dio.org. The DCJH guidelines and application can be found at www.dio.org/dcjh.

The 2023-2024 DCJH grant applications must be postmarked or emailed by Jan. 31, 2023. Decisions on funding and notification will be made in May 2023.

Grants will be awarded in June 2023.

2022 Grant Recipients

A Beacon of Light, **Maryville**
Birthright, **Quincy**
Community Mission Center, **Pana**
Crisis Nursery, **Effingham**
Faith in Action, **Collinsville**
Family Life Center, **Effingham**
Grounds of Grace, **Springfield**
Habitat for Humanity, **Springfield**

HACSM, **Highland**
Holy Family Parish, **Granite City**
Lighthouse Pregnancy Help Center, **Vandalia**
Sacred Heart Parish, **Effingham**
St. Francis Community Assistance, **Quincy**
St. Hedwig, **Charleston**

St. Vincent DePaul, **Alton**
St. Vincent DePaul Society, **Calhoun County**
St. Vincent DePaul, **Mattoon**
Staunton Helping Hands, **Staunton**
The Parent Place, **Springfield**
Thrive Metro East, **Springfield**
Two Hearts, **Springfield**