



**Message From
President
Kathleen Roseti**

The Advisory Board has been busy since returning back to pre-Covid activities. In addition to planning the delivery of our ministries and programs, oversight of the thrift store and building issues, we made decisions to return our scholarships to \$800 per student per year, to contribute \$500 to the Rich Street Pantry to help those impacted by the closing of Tops supermarket and donate \$500 for the purchase of material for the *Sisters of the Heart of Jesus*' mission in Nigeria to make first communion outfits for 40-60 children.

Our fundraising efforts have continued to show the generosity of our membership which has enabled us to use some of our funds to help these two groups and our scholarship winners. Another effort we are spearheading is the offering of small grants to our parish LOC groups. Initially, we will test its effectiveness by selecting a small group of parishes from those that apply. Information on the grants was distributed to each parish LOC group. Understanding that our ministries and organization extend beyond the Center on Broadway, we hope that by offering these grants we might jumpstart some other projects throughout the diocese that could reach pockets of the population in need that we might not have otherwise identified. Please reach out to your parish LOC leadership and make suggestions on starting a group project. If these grants are successful, perhaps it could lead to identifying the need for a larger ministry and/or the continuation of the grants. The application deadline is September 1st.

Benefits to Volunteering *

- ◆ Boost self-esteem – you are always surrounded by a community that's willing to help you when times get tough.
- ◆ Expands your connections – relationships you create can be endless.
- ◆ Makes you feel good – volunteering makes you happy!
- ◆ Contributes to a longer life – volunteers encounter greater longevity and less frequent heart disease. Volunteers may be at a lower risk for memory loss too.
- ◆ Gives purpose – there are plenty of ways to give your life new meaning by helping others.
- ◆ Combats stress – studies on the "Happiness Effect" of volunteering show that you become happier the more you volunteer.
- ◆ Gives a good example – by giving back to your community, you can lay the foundation for service in the years to come.
- ◆ Teaches new skills – broaden your horizons while helping others at the same time.

*taken from nonprofit hub.org

+ A reminder of the advice from so many of our Ladies who are able to actively volunteer into their 80s, 90s and even 100s — KEEP MOVING!!

Call the Center at 716-895-4001 if you would like to get back on the volunteer schedule.

LOC Teams-Up with St. Vincent de Paul at St. Greg's

St. Gregory the Great Ladies of Charity held their annual parish household goods collection on May 15th. The response from the parishioners was wonderful. More than a truckload of goods were donated, including blankets, dishes, pots and pans, cups, glasses, towels, small appliances, lamps, etc. All items will be given to individuals and families needing assistance and referred to LOC by Catholic Charities through our *Fresh Start* Ministry. LOC volunteers (some pictured to the right) were joined by St. Vincent de Paul members and Junior Lady of Charity, Madison Hanaka. LOC sends many thanks to everyone for their support!



Advocacy News

by Holly Walter

From the NYS Catholic Conference: Urge Governor Hochul to halt the abortion fund which is an appropriation of \$35 million for abortion services in NY to make the state a "sanctuary" for women seeking an abortion. Help protect pro-life pregnancy centers by urging non passage of a bill that would allow the state Health Commissioner to subpoena the records of these centers and force them to provide an over-whelming volume of data and reports. The outcome is to find the centers "limited" because they do not provide abortion. Take action on these and other issues at nyscatholic.org

On the federal side: The Biden Administration will host a White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health this September. The goal will be ending hunger and increasing healthy eating and physical activity by 2030.

From CCUSA: Congress is being asked to address additional funding to support Ukraine, especially those who have been displaced by the war. CCUSA has also sent a letter to Congressional leadership expressing opposition to any legislative measures that prolong the misuse of certain provisions of Title 42, to prevent access to asylum and override normal immigration proceedings under Title 8. However, the letter also emphasizes the importance of having positive support structures in place in the absence of Title 42 to address increased humanitarian needs at the US-Mexico border.

Recent events have shocked and horrified our nation once again. In Buffalo New York, ten mostly senior African Americans were gunned down while they did their usual Saturday afternoon grocery shopping. In Uvalde Texas, 19 mostly Mexican American fourth graders and two teachers were shot and killed as they closed their school year in their classrooms. Four people, including two doctors, a receptionist, and a patient were gunned down on the second floor of a hospital medical complex in Tulsa Oklahoma. Something is wrong when things like this happen over and over again in our country where all citizens are supposed to live in peace and freedom and feel safe in their own neighborhood. There is one common denominator in all these and other mass shootings we have witnessed in our country in the past twenty plus years. Someone had possession of a weapon that they shouldn't have had

possession of if a few simple and common sense gun safety had been implemented and followed. Congress has begun bipartisan attempts at addressing legislation to help rectify the situation. Some of the proposals being considered are universal background checks no matter where the guns are purchased, strengthening "red flag" laws to keep guns out of the hands of those suffering from mental or emotional illness, proper training and storage of fire arms, outlawing high capacity magazines, and funding an increase in funding for mental health care around the nation. These are all steps in the right direction but are there other things that can be done? Permits should be required for all guns purchased legally including a waiting period between application for the permit and actual purchase of the gun so that backgrounds can be thoroughly checked. Enforcement of red flag laws should include confiscation of guns if a person is deemed mentally or emotionally unfit to own one. More health agencies should be allowed to identify those unqualified individuals. No one under the age of 21 should be allowed to purchase or own an assault weapon like the AR 15 or any semi-automatic gun. The sale of body armor should be confined to law enforcement officials or the military. We should be making concerted efforts to confiscate illegal and "ghost" guns in our cities and towns. All of these suggestions are common sense solutions that can help reduce the mass carnage we are seeing in increased frequency in our nation.

There are times in our care for others, as Ladies of Charity, we need to speak up and let others know, especially those we elect to serve us in government, that our concern for others includes keeping the people in our neighborhoods safe from indiscriminate or intentional violence. We can advocate for others by contacting our Congressional representatives, both in the House and in the Senate, and letting them know that sensible gun safety laws need to be passed and that time is NOW. Encourage others to do so as well. Please contact: U.S. Senate: Contacting U.S Senator and Find Your Representative house.gov

Thank You for your advocacy.