

LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025, ISSUE 10, VOLUME 88

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A Church Picnic can be a wonderful thing. It's a great chance to come together for some food, fun, and fellowship. Throughout the history of LABC, we have approached the idea of a church picnic in a variety of ways. During our 150th Anniversary celebration, our Historian pulled out a variety of images that show the picnics of

yesteryear. Up at in Charlotte or at other locations, these picnics came with a written list of who was bringing what, and an agenda of events detailed down to the minute. The pictures that accompany those earlier church picnics show people in their Sunday best and children running around no doubt trying to keep their dress pants or shorts clean while having a lot of fun at the same time.

In more recent history, we have held church picnics at Seneca Park in a variety of shelters (indoors and out), and even one year at a park in Brighton. The last three or four years, we have moved our church picnic from August to September. This was, I must admit, originally the product of waiting too long to book a suitable weekend. Shelter spots fill up surprisingly quickly. However, what began as a situation of circumstance has had a wonderful effect. By moving our yearly picnic to September it has served as a "Welcome Back" event in the life of the church.

This year was no different. Our Church Picnic served as a wonderful time to gather back the Sunday after the long weekend in September. Our Nurture and Care Team, under the leadership of Soe Win, planned a great event. There was (unsurprisingly) plenty of food (thank you to everyone who brought food!), and we had a great turnout. Rochester Myanmar Christian Church was gracious enough to cancel their service and worship with the 10:00 a.m. community. We were able to worship in Burmese and English (and hear a wonderful message by Pastor Christopher Bwee). We shared in communion and then headed off to Seneca Park. There, we laughed, we ate, we played, and we celebrated community. What a wonderful way to kick off a new church year together.

The Church Picnic isn't just a chance to eat together, but it's also a great reminder of what makes up a church. It's not the things we do, the way we worship, the education classes we offer, or the building. Rather, it's the people. And our Church Picnic is a great time to get together, to connect or reconnect, and be reminded that we bring all of ourselves to our shared ministry. Thank you to the organizers for kicking off the 2025-2026 church year in such a fantastic fashion!

Michael





THE THRIVING CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE

This year, LABC has the joy of being part of the Thriving Congregations Initiative. This program is part of the ABCRGR (and is funded by the Lily Endowment). We are part of the second cohort to go through this groundbreaking program that is meant to help congregations explore new and innovative ways to do ministry in this particular time and place. A huge thank you to Evann Hasenauer for doing the groundwork to get us into this program.

As part of the program, our team (Evann Hasenauer, Jane Grant, Soe Win, Sam Kinsman (from the Protestant Chapel Community at University of Rochester, and myself) were invited to take part in the kick-off retreat. Held from September 10th to 13th in Paoli, Pennsylvania, three of our members (Evann, Soe Win, and myself)

were able to participate in a time of worship, extensive leadership formation, and fellowship.

As part of the retreat, we worked very hard with mentors from Ministry Architects, to evaluate the contents of those surveys that Evann had so many of you complete, to help understand the needs of our church and community at this time in our history, and to explore how to translate some of those strengths and needs into a management process to discern a project for our church.

You'll hear more about this process and project in the weeks to come and be invited into the program at many steps throughout. I have suggested that anything formal that you hear about our work together come from one person (Evan) rather than multiple voices that may confuse us etc.. It's important to have a clear understanding of our efforts, and so one voice will be most valuable. You'll hear more from Evan soon!

What I do want to say is that it is an honor to be part of this innovative program, and we are very lucky to be included in this effort. This program comes with funding that will allow us to try something new and needed without a negative impact on our yearly budget. This is an invitation to dream, evaluate, plan and engage in something new for our church and community.

Stay tuned for more!

THRIVING IN A 21ST CENTURY CHURCH POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

SEPT. 10 – SEPT. 13

Dear members of LABC,

I write this report with great enthusiasm! First, I want to thank God. I feel so blessed to be part of this project. I also want to thank Evan Hasenauer for inviting me to join.

As some of you may know, Evan applied for a grant called *Thriving in a 21st Century Church Post-Pandemic World*. This grant supports churches in the Rochester/Genesee region by helping them thrive through community assessment, building, and collaboration (I'm sure Evan can explain the details even better!). And guess what? LABC is one of the churches that received this grant!

Part of the grant required at least three people from each participating church to attend a retreat in Paoli, PA, from Sept. 10–13. Rev. Dr. Michael Ford, Evan Hasenauer, and I represented LABC.

Now, let me be honest with you all. As I've been telling everyone, I'm a little biased. I love LABC, and I truly think it's the best church in Rochester! We know what we are doing. So, when Evan first proposed that our project focus on working with LGBTQ+ youth, I trusted Evan and our team completely. I even thought, *Why do we need a retreat? We already know what we're doing! Just give us the money!*

But oh my goodness—was I wrong. My perspective changed on day one after just a few workshops. There was *so much* to learn! For example, while we knew we wanted to work with LGBTQ+ youth, we weren't sure where to begin or what the process should look like. The workshops helped us identify the challenges, map out the process, and gave us tools, suggestions, and feedback to actually make our project successful.

Another highlight was connecting with other churches. I loved hearing about the amazing projects they're working on, and it gave me even more inspiration for what we can do together as a community.

Thank you, Lord, for giving LABC this opportunity to walk alongside LGBTQ+ youth in our community who have often been excluded and marginalized. I am so excited about what's ahead. I hope all of you will support this project, whether through volunteering, encouragement, or additional funding if needed.

This project will roll out in three phases:

1. Collecting historical information about welcoming and affirming in the church.
2. Surveying LGBTQ+ members of the community.
3. Implementing what we've learned based on those needs.

Evan will share more details soon, and you'll be hearing updates as we move forward.

With gratitude and excitement,

Soe G. Win (She/They), Ph.D., Moderator, LABC

THRIVING CONGREGATIONS WORK RETREAT

By Evann Hasenauer

Along with Soe Win and Michael, I attended the work retreat for the Thriving Congregations grant that our church was awarded. This was a retreat of several churches at the Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, Pennsylvania (an absolutely beautiful location that I'd love to return to sometime). This retreat provided Soe Win, Michael, and I with two days to explore and examine the goals of the grant project and the steps we would need to achieve that goal, with the assistance of coaches from Ministry Architects. Like many congregants expressed during the Stewardship surveys we did last November and in the surveys we did over the summer, LABC has a long history of mission work, especially outreach to the local community, and we went into the retreat knowing that we wanted to honor that history.

The first step of the workshops was to deeply examine the results of the surveys that were done over the summer. Through this process, we were able to isolate that the congregation felt drawn to finding new ways to support the low income and homeless population of our community, and that LABC's history of LGBT+ outreach and social justice work was very important to a lot of people. We took that into consideration as we ironed out exactly what our goals should be.

The workshops and meetings, and even conversations with other churches, helped us to iron out exactly what we wanted to do. Namely, that we could not determine an exact project until we did more community research through a widespread survey across the LGBT+ community in Rochester. Luckily, Soe Win has a background in research and offered to spearhead that side of the project.

At the same time, during these discussions, we determined that it was important to explore the history of LGBT+ outreach and ministry at LABC. As I have an interest in history in general and especially in all aspects of local and church history, I volunteered to spearhead the historical review side of the project. We were even encouraged to turn this work into a documentary! This project will involve interviews with current and past church members, digging through the church archives (special thanks to Garth Brokaw for his help with that!), and exploring any other historical data I can find.

I'll be updating the congregation regularly on what I find, either through newsletter articles or occasional Adult Ed sessions, and through announcements when we have major updates.



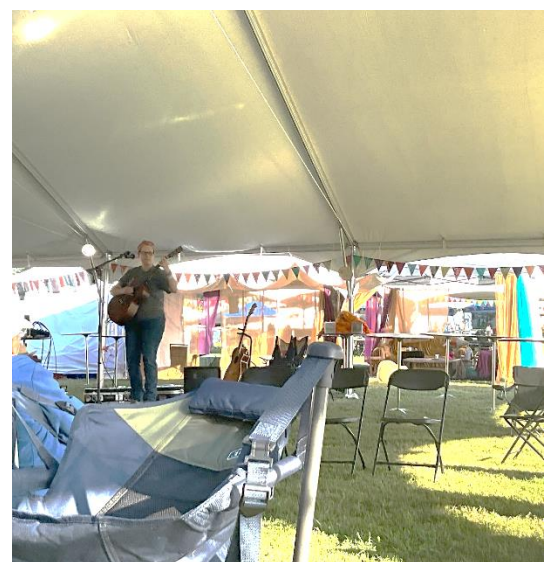
WILD GOOSE

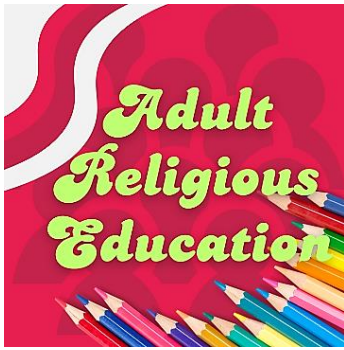
Article by Evann Hasenauer

Like last year, I was fortunate enough to be able to attend Wild Goose this year. For those of you who don't know, Wild Goose is a Progressive Christian festival that takes place at an RV farm just north of Statesville, North Carolina. Hundreds of people from across the US travel and camp out at the grounds for a weekend of workshops, music, and community. I drove down and arrived on Thursday night, with just enough time to pick out a campsite, set up my tent, and hike up to the main tent for the opening ceremonies and concert.

Friday and Saturday were filled with conversations, workshops, and experiences. Each attendee is invited to create their own schedule based on what's being offered, and so I chose to primarily focus on workshops and conversations that allowed me to unwind, relax, and build community with other attendees. Highlights of the two days included a conversation around LGBT+ Christians seeing ourselves in the Gospel, where a group of us gathered and discussed what Gospel stories we found particularly relatable to ourselves. Another highlight was a conversation around eunuchs and their relationship to God and Jesus.

After two full days of learning and building community, we finished with a powerful sermon, which reminded us that, despite what it feels like, we are not alone and we have the power to make real changes in this world if we refuse to give up and if we trust in God. All in all, it was a transformative trip that renewed my spirit and my resolve.





You're A What???

Do you know any ordained pastors who are not church ministers? Can you actually be a minister when you don't pastor a church?

Each Sunday during October, our Adult Education class will explore the professions of some LABC members who are ordained and yet took on professional roles beyond church congregations. Why did they do that? What specifically did they do...and why? Did their ministerial academic degree prepare them for their non-traditional positions?

Tom Argust will lead this class as he introduces us to a few ordained LABC members who have spent their professional careers not as church pastors. Come join us for some interesting, insightful and inspirational conversations.

October 5 - Jackie Sullivan: Protestant Chaplain, Albion State Correctional Facility (Women's Prison)

October 12 - Garth Brokaw: President and CEO of Elder Care Retired Community

October 17 - Michael Ford: While Michael is a Pastor, he is also engaged in non-traditional community services.

October 24 - Tom Argust: Deputy Commissioner, NYS Division for Youth; Commissioner of Rochester's Community Development Department; Commissioner of Rochester's Parks, Recreation and Human Services Department.

AGING
Joyfully
& Gracefully
By Susan Maybeck

As the month goes by and I prepare for the next meeting of the Aging Group, I think about my own aging. I don't tie my shoes as easily as I used to. I need something or someone to lean on to get up if I fall. I am careful not to move too quickly or sit suddenly off balance. I am aware that my body is aging! May this poem touch your heart also.

We will continue to be Joyful and Graceful and Happy as we meet on Monday, October 6 at 1:30 pm at church.

Let Go of the Person I Was By Joyce Rapp

Let go of the one totally in charge,
the one who had no fear of falling
of breaking an ankle, a leg, an arm,
or worse – suffer a brain bleed.

Let go of the one skilled at doing,
Being successful and productive,
Confident and self-possessed.
Able to handle most everything.

Let go of having a healthy body
Ready to obey and serve each command.
Let go of energy once quick and plentiful,
Rarely collapsing with utter weariness.

Greet this unwanted stranger's arrival,
waiting to receive a respectful welcome.
Get to know and accept her new traits,
Do not shun, deny, reject or criticize.

Rather behold with a gaze of kindness
this one still looking over her shoulder
longing to be the woman she once was.
Learn to love and appreciate her now

for she still bears the same loving spirit,
still intends to love with zestful gratitude,
still cherishes what is of utmost value,
still retains a home in Eternity's Heart.



THE WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING "BE YOU" MOVIE SERIES

The next movie in this series is part two of "The Falls". This will be shown on **Saturday, October 11 at 6:00 pm** in Classroom 1 (the conference room). Please note the date change! Chuck Theis will be away on Saturday, October 4th. Because many of the movies have adult themes, they may not be appropriate for children. If you plan to attend, please come to the church office door and ring the doorbell and someone will let you in.



Our next community dinner will take place on Wednesday, October 15 at 6:00 pm. We will be having a variety of hearty soups along with salad, bread, and dessert. A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday, October 5 at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Even if you are unable to bring something, your presence is always welcome.



HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PAINTING AND CARVING PARTY FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES.

Children of all ages are invited to our annual church Pumpkin Painting and Carving Party on **Saturday, October 25th** from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Costumes are not required but if you would like to wear one, please do so. Would you like to volunteer to help with this event? If so, please let Val Ketchum know.



Missions Committee

A Note from Our Mission Chair, Karen Brokaw

Fall is my favorite time of year! The beautiful colors of the falling leaves, the new start of school, fall foods like soup, and so much more.

School has been a huge thing in my life because I was a teacher. Literacy and education are so fundamental to our children's success in life. When I say "our" children, I always mean ALL children because our future rests with how well we raise them. You've heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child". I truly believe that! Every child is a child of God, and we need to be present with them.

This can happen in a variety of ways. We just finished collecting supplies for Cameron. Perhaps your local school could use more supplies. Make that offer!

Could some schools use a monetary donation, some feminine supply products, winter coats? You would be surprised how many children have little to eat once they go home, even in the suburbs.

A few of us volunteer at #5 school and find that deeply gratifying. Mission will be delivering flowers to teachers in our neighborhood schools next week as an expression of our gratitude. You can help also by supporting sports teams, helping out with music and arts for kids, tutoring, and so many other ways! From the comfort of our homes, we can advocate for our kids. Perhaps you have strong feelings about early childhood education, mental health services, and special education services. Advocate, vote....and PRAY for our children! Pray that they will be safe, that they will be loved, and that they will have the opportunity to become their best selves to inspire a just world.



WE WELCOME OUR NEW MUSIC EDUCATOR, ORGANIST, PIANIST, AND CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR, STAN VAN ROMPAY

Stan Van Rompay (b. 1999) is an organist, harpsichordist, and passionate educator from Ghent, Belgium. He served as a faculty member at the Municipal Music Academy of Roeselare (STAP), where he taught organ, accompaniment practice, and keyboard classes. Simultaneously, he holds the position of Coordinator of the Musical Instrument Collection at the Alamire Foundation, a research center in Leuven focusing on vocal music from the Low Countries during the Renaissance. Previously, he also taught organ at the music academies of Turnhout and Deinze.

As a child, Stan spent much of his time at the piano. He attended secondary school at a local secondary music school, where he expanded his musical education with intensive lessons in

percussion, marimba, composition, and music theory.

At the age of 13, he began organ lessons, which became his primary field of study after secondary school. His musical ambitions led him to study at the conservatories of Ghent (KASK & Conservatorium), Brussels (KCB), Leuven (LUCA School of Arts), Bologna (Conservatorio Gian Battista Martini, Italy), Gothenburg (GU, Sweden), and Rochester, New York (Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, USA).

During his advanced organ studies, Stan also took harpsichord lessons at the Brussels Conservatory (KCB) under Bart Naessens. Both his degrees in performance he attained with a high distinction.

In 2024, Stan received a scholarship from the prestigious Belgian American Educational Foundation to pursue an Advanced Diploma at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Currently he continues his musical studies at the Eastman School, where he pursues a Doctorate in Musical Arts in Organ performance under the tutelage of Professor Nathan Laube.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ERIC SHOEN

Eric Shoen is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award from Hartwick College. The Meritorious Service Award is given to an alumni recognized for his exceptional dedication and tireless service to the Hartwick Community. Eric is a certified fundraising executive; he is an accomplished leader with a proven track record in higher education advancement and currently serves as the executive director at the Rhode Island College Foundation.

Shoen has played an active leadership role at Hartwick as chair of the Flightpath/Recent Alumni Engagement Committee, where his efforts have created valuable opportunities for mentorship, networking and professional growth. "His vision and efforts in this capacity have helped create meaningful opportunities for students to network, seek guidance, and build lasting relationships with successful alumni across diverse fields," one supporter wrote.

His personal commitment to supporting Hartwick alumni is described as "exemplary." He regularly provides career advice, guidance and mentorship to both fellow alumni and students navigating their professional journeys. As one nominator put it: "Eric's impact on the Hartwick College alumni network is profound. He embodies the values of service, leadership, and dedication to the institution, and his work has had a lasting positive influence on both current students and alumni alike."

CRCDS Lectures – Fall 2025

Each Spring and Fall, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School offers a series of free lectures for their students and the broader community (both in person and online). One of those lectures, The Melanie Duguid May Christian Faith and LGBTQ+ Experience Lecture, is sponsored by a number of local churches, including LABC. We are privileged to continue to support this important lecture.



This year, the lecturer was Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson. Brian is the Executive Director of AWAB (The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists) of which LABC is also a member. We were treated to a remarkable lecture that addressed the intersection of Gender and Baptist Freedoms. Brian spoke from his own personal experience as a gay man who went through a journey of understanding the texts (often used to incorrectly condemn LGBTQ + peoples) and the significance of the "Four Fragile Freedoms" that serve as a basis for Baptist thought and practice. It was a joy to connect with Brian, to hear his inspirational lecture, and to know that it was enjoyed by people both in person but also around the country.

As an aside, our Adult Education class watched this lecture on a recent Sunday morning, and it provided continued fodder for thought and conversation. I strongly encourage you to go to <https://www.crcds.edu/ON-DEMAND> to watch this important lecture.

As a second aside, it brought me so much joy to hear of the impact that LABC and many who have passed through this congregation, and those who are still part of our community, who impacted the movement in this journey for full inclusion: Dr. Darrell Lance, Dr. Melanie Duguid-May, and Helen Barrett Montgomery, all who received “shout-outs” during the lecture.



During the CRCDS Fall Lecture Week, attendees (in person and online) were privileged to be part of the Helen Barrett Montgomery Lecture presented by Rev. Deborah Hughes (part of our LABC Family!). Rev. Hughes offered a remarkable lecture titled “Boulders in the Way” which reflected on some of the courageous women of the past who helped shape our response (and potential response) to the realities of our present day challenges (specifically as it relates to our political and social reality). In her lecture, Rev. Hughes, who is the CEO of the Susan B. Anthony House and Museum, referenced the impact of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Helen Barrett Montgomery (among others). She spoke of their impact on the women’s movement, and how their trailblazing work impacted the role of women in our society. They faced challenges, both large and small. However, their dedication to the full recognition of women in society has impacted our nation

for the better. Their efforts cannot be understated, and we must continue to carry the mantle of those who have gone before us as we face some of the many challenges in our present age (the boulders that appear before us all).

I strongly encourage you to visit <https://www.crcds.edu/ON-DEMAND> to take in this powerful lecture. We will be watching this lecture during an upcoming adult education class, but it’s worth watching both now and then.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MS. TOMICKA MADISON



Cameron Community Ministries is proud to announce the appointment of Tomicka Madison as its new Executive Director, effective September 17, 2025. After several months of working with EDI: Executive Search Services on a comprehensive search process that included input from a variety of stakeholders, the Board of Directors of Cameron Community Ministries is proud to introduce Ms. Tomicka Madison as our new Executive Director.

A self-described “product of the City of Rochester,” Ms. Madison is a compassionate, mission-driven nonprofit executive with more than 15 years of leadership experience across health and human services. She has dedicated her career to advancing equity, strengthening community partnerships, and creating sustainable pathways of support for individuals and families facing housing instability, behavioral health challenges, and systemic barriers. Ms. Madison assumed the Executive Director role on September 17, 2025.

Tomicka Madison’s arrival marks an exciting new chapter for the organization as it deepens its impact and extends its reach within the community.

A self-described “product of the City of Rochester,” Ms. Madison is a compassionate, mission-driven nonprofit executive with more than 15 years of leadership experience across health and human services. She has dedicated her career to advancing equity, strengthening community partnerships, and creating sustainable pathways of support for individuals and families facing housing instability, behavioral health challenges, and systemic barriers.

Before joining Cameron Community Ministries as Executive Director, Ms. Madison served as Director of Care Management & Experience Operations at Greater Rochester Health Home Network, where she led a team of professionals serving populations with complex health needs across six counties.

Previously, she held leadership roles with Recovery Options Made Easy, Epilepsy-Pralid, and Trillium Health, where she developed housing-first initiatives, implemented culturally responsive programming, and designed inclusive services for LGBTQ+ and HIV+ communities.

Ms. Madison holds an Executive MBA from Rochester Institute of Technology, a B.S. in Biological Psychology from SUNY Buffalo State, and is currently completing the Healthcare Business Academy Fellowship through NorthStar Network. She also serves on the board of Delphi Rise, where she has held governance and compliance leadership positions.

At Cameron Community Ministries, Tomicka brings her vision, passion, and deep roots in Rochester to guide the organization’s mission of offering hope, dignity, and opportunity to children, families, and individuals in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood.

The Board partnered with EDI Executive Search Consultants for a thorough, equity-focused search, gathering input from staff and stakeholders. After a comprehensive review, Ms. Madison stood out for her strategic vision and dedication, making her the clear choice for Executive Director.

Rev. Dr. Sandra Hasenauer, Chair of the Board of Directors, shared her excitement for the organization’s new direction: “We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Madison to Cameron Community Ministries. Her leadership, experience, and genuine passion for community transformation are exactly what Cameron needs to move confidently into the future.”



Hospice care provides comfort and support to individuals with terminal illnesses, focusing on quality of life as they near the end of life. This involves being present at the bedside, offering companionship, and supporting patients, families, and providers.

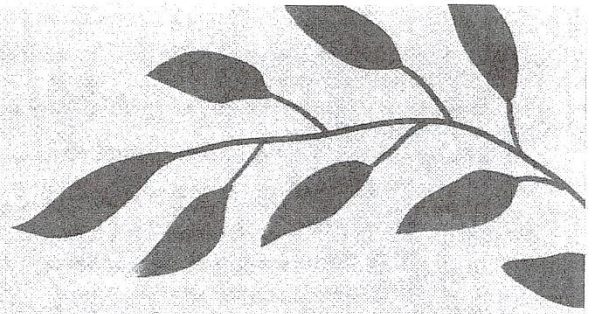
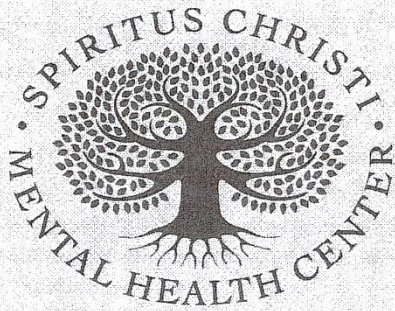
No One Dies Alone (NODA) extends this mission to patients who are facing the end of life without loved ones at their side.

Some patients may be eligible for hospice but are unable to access it due to bed/staff shortages or lack of awareness of hospice care.

NODA volunteers step in to provide for these individuals.

If you are interested in volunteering, please scan the QR code to fill out the short form. For more information or questions, contact

Anika Sharma at ashar51@u.rochester.edu.



Finding Solid Ground

We are offering a 6-week therapy group for adult survivors of childhood sexual trauma (prior to age 18). This group is a safe place to learn about how you've been impacted by what happened to you, to learn ways to cope with the effects, and to gain solid footing for healing and growth.

The group is offered from 4:30 - 6:00pm from October 2 through November 20, with no meetings on October 16th and November 13th.

Participants must commit to all 6 (90-minute) sessions, as consistent attendance is important to creating a safe group.

Group co-led by Lynn Acquafondata, LMHC & Jennifer Bateman, MHC-LP.

"Group Therapy for sexual trauma helped me to heal from this journey and led me to a new and enriched life."

"Being with others really helped. I don't feel so alone anymore."
- Past participants

Screening will be conducted to ensure safety and appropriateness of group members.

As with all our offerings, there is no cost to participants.

For more information contact Amy at 585-325-1186, ext. 114

or at contactmentalhealth@spirituschristi.org

Spiritus Christi Mental Health Center
121 N. Fitzhugh St Rochester, NY 14614

585.325.1186
scmentalhealth.org

SAVE A LOVED ONE

PROSTATE, COLORECTAL & BREAST CANCER

Community Screening

JOIN US

Saturday
October 4, 2025

8:30 AM - NOON
Schedule an appointment

585-719-1938



Breakfast & Program at:
School #22
585 Upper Falls
Screenings held next door at:
Walk-ins Welcome
Jordan Health Center
82 Holland Street

- Prostate Screenings
- Mammograms
- Free Breakfast
- Free Raffle Drawings For Prizes

Thank You to Our Community Partners



Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program



Do you have room in your heart and your home?

Catholic Charities Family and Community Services specializes in foster care services for young people from around the world whose lives have been torn apart by war and oppression. Do you have room in your home and heart to help us help them start new lives in peace and freedom?

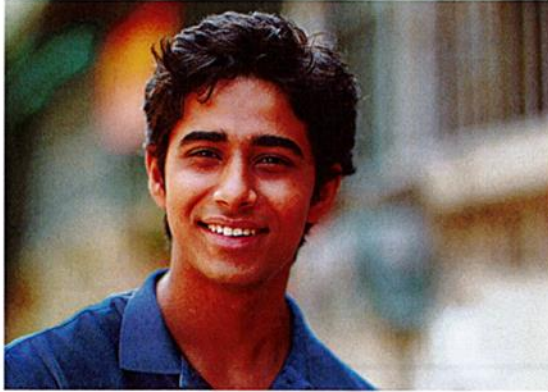
How do these young people come to us?

They are referred here by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Office of Refugee Resettlement Services. Why here? Working with dedicated foster families, CCFCS' unique Foster Care program provides for the safety and life needs of refugee youth in the present and prepares them for successful futures as independent adults. How long do these youth need foster care? Unaccompanied refugee minors can remain in foster care until the age of 21 provided they are in school or a vocational program. In truth, these young people most often become part of the family and remain close to their foster parent(s) and siblings. What do they all have in common? They need safe, stable, caring homes where they can thrive.



What are CCFC's services to support foster care families?

- A caseworker will maintain 24/7 contact with you and the youth in your care to help with any adjustment issues.
- We provide financial assistance to foster parents to help care for the youth.
- We will assist in the development of a service plan with goals and objectives to support successful development of independent living skills.



- We will assist youth in addressing medical and mental health needs, securing permanent residency status and academic support.
- We assist youth with getting educational support by working with the particular school district to meet their needs, e.g., tutoring, ESL classes, etc.

Once a month, we offer support/training groups for foster parents and, at the same time, living skills training for URM youth.

The ultimate goal of the program is that upon graduation, our youth are either employed and self supporting or established in a higher education program with academic and financial supports in place.

Program Objectives

- Assist URM with Independent Living Skills
- Provide for daily living needs including food, clothing, shelter, academic assistance and medical concerns.
- Assist with acculturation and adaptation to American society while maintaining their unique cultural identity.
- Assist youth in identifying impact of trauma and developing effective coping strategies.

How do these young people come to us?

The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Administration of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services funds refugee foster care programs through State Refugee coordination offices. The state funds the local programs through the local Department of Human Services, which oversee foster care programs in Monroe County.

Program Contact Information:

Foster Care Home Finder
(585) 546-7220 ext. 4805

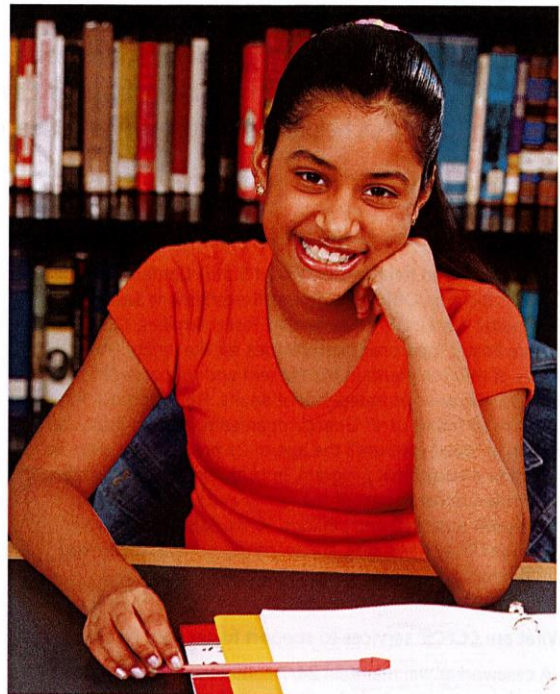
Placement Services Supervisor
(585) 546-7220 ext. 4831

Who are Unaccompanied Refugee Minors?

These are minors who are refugees or applicants for political asylum. Our youth come from all over the world, from Africa to Latin America and Asia. They are not accompanied by their parents or other adults.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent please feel free to contact our Home Finder at (585) 546-7220, ext. 4805 or our Program Secretary at (585) 546-7220, ext. 4801. Information meetings are held monthly.

Individual appointments are available by request.



"The stories of 'The Lost Boys of Sudan' made me both laugh and cry, and inspired me to serve, and make a difference."

- Cheryl, foster parent to 13 refugee children (and counting)

Catholic Charities Family and Community Services

Catholic Charities Family and Community Services provides housing, employment, and coordination of care to help people of all walks of life live independently with dignity while facing the challenges of addiction, aging, mental illness, HIV, poverty, developmental disability, and immigration.

CCFCS' URM Program • 55 Troup St • Rochester, NY 14608 • (585) 546-7220 x 4807 • FCSCharities.org



Marvin Mich Memorial Lecture



Thursday, October 23, 2025

St. John Fisher University

Cleary Family Auditorium in Kearny Hall, #16 on Map when Registering
3690 East Ave. Rochester NY 14618

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

“Immigrant Stories: A Call to Justice”

Obaida Omar

Refugee Health Manager

Catholic Charities Family and Community Services

Rev. Heritage Munyakuri

Pastor of El Shaddai Church, Rochester, NY

Rev. Melanie Duguid-May

Rector, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath, NY

Professor Emerita, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Rev. Jesús Flores

Catholic Diocesan Coordinator of the Office of Migrant Ministry

~Question & Answer Period to Follow

~Tables from Local Community Agencies will be Present

Presentation will be available In-Person or on Zoom

To Register for either, and for Directions,

Scan the QR Code:

or

Click on the Link Below



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeg-JSO0GV5kbmTJQX3jotam-WA0sWDNtGI_FDKDiqeqbAxlw/viewform?usp=sf_link