

Shepherd's WATCH

GOOD SHEPHERD CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

FALL 2025

Dear Friends,

As the crisp fall air settles in and the leaves begin to change, we at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis's ministry, Good Shepherd Children and Family Services, are filled with excitement for the season ahead. Autumn is always a special time for our ministry, and this year it brings the return of our annual #Safe4ANight campaign.

This campaign raises critical funds for our maternity shelter, ensuring that pregnant and parenting young mothers, and their children, have a safe place to call home. More than shelter, Good Shepherd provides the support, resources, and tools that help families not just survive, but thrive.

Our work is grounded in the unified mission of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis: to bring the healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need across our region. Guided by this mission, we are excited to be launching a new five-year strategic plan, a vision that will bring us into even greater alignment together with Marygrove in the Children and Family Services Service Line. Together, we will expand our reach, serve more clients, and ensure Good Shepherd continues to flourish as a financially strong ministry for years to come.

As we look forward to the blessings of this season, we invite you to join us in making sure every mother and child has the chance to feel safe, supported, and hopeful about their future.



With Gratitude,

Kathy Fowler, Executive Director



Finding Stability and Hope at Good Shepherd

We walk with young mothers on the journey from crisis to stability. One of our current maternity shelter residents is a 19-year-old client who just gave birth to her first baby in September.



Before arriving at Good Shepherd, she had nowhere stable to turn. She was often couch hopping and eventually found temporary refuge at her cousin's home. That cousin, a former Good Shepherd client herself, encouraged her to reach out to our ministry for help.

This young woman came to us with a history of homelessness, gaps in her education, and the pain of past domestic violence. With the support of Good Shepherd staff, she is now enrolled in a GED program and has already completed two tests. Staff describe her as receptive, pleasant, and hardworking. She knows every staff member by name and has embraced the supportive community around her.

Her story is still unfolding, but it is already one of resilience, hope, and healing. By offering shelter, education support, and care, Good Shepherd is helping her prepare for motherhood with confidence and the chance at a brighter future.

JOIN US FOR #Safe4ANight

At Catholic Charities' ministry Good Shepherd Children and Family Services, we believe every mother and baby deserves a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals, and the support they need to thrive. Our annual #Safe4ANight campaign directly supports Good Shepherd's maternity shelter, which provides round-the-clock care for up to 14 mothers and their children.

This year's 24-hour fundraiser runs from **2 PM on October 22 to 2 PM on October 23**. Together, we are working toward our ambitious \$235,000 goal. Every dollar donated will be matched four times thanks to generous benefactors—meaning your gift has four times the impact for moms and babies.



GET INVOLVED:

- Become a matcher by pledging a matching gift.
- Join a team to rally your network in support of the shelter.
- Donate directly at charidy.com/goodshepherd.

To learn more about becoming a matcher, please contact: Courtney Noto, Senior Director of Philanthropy, at cnoto@gsstl.org.

Your support helps ensure that young mothers and their children have a safe home and a hopeful path forward. Thank you for helping us keep families #Safe4ANight.

Meet Courtney Noto, Senior Director of Philanthropy

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is pleased to introduce Courtney Noto, who now serves as Senior Director of Philanthropy for our ministries Good Shepherd Children and Family Services and Marygrove. Courtney leads fundraising and donor engagement as part of the unified Philanthropy team created in 2025 to strengthen both ministries under Catholic Charities' mission.



"Our donors make transformational work possible every day."

Courtney has been with Marygrove since 2012, most recently serving as Chief Development Officer. Over the years, she has witnessed the resilience of children and families who, with the right support, are able to heal and thrive. "That's what keeps me inspired—seeing the transformation that happens when our community comes together to show kids they are not alone," she shares.

A native of St. Charles, Courtney grew up working in her family's bakery throughout grade school, high school, and college. Today, her sister continues the family tradition, transforming the bakery into an authentic Italian restaurant in Cottleville. Courtney is also a proud St. Louis City SC fan, and when she is not working, she enjoys spending time with family and friends at the Lake of the Ozarks.

She holds an MBA with a concentration in General Management as well as a Bachelor of Science degree from Southeast Missouri State University.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of both Marygrove and Good Shepherd's legacies," Courtney says. "Our donors make transformational work possible every day, and I look forward to getting to know more of you personally as we continue this journey together."



Maximize YOUR Impact with a Missouri Tax Credit

Did you know your support for Catholic Charities' ministry Good Shepherd Children and Family Services can also benefit you at tax time? Financial gifts of \$1,000 or more are eligible for a 70% Missouri State Tax Credit, which is a direct, dollar-for-dollar reduction of the state income tax you owe. Combined with federal and state charitable deductions, your net out-of-pocket cost is significantly reduced—sometimes to less than 20% of your original gift.

Your generosity will directly impact mothers, children, and families across the Archdiocese of St. Louis while also making financial sense for you.

For more information, please contact
Courtney Noto, Senior Director
of Philanthropy at cnoto@gsstl.org.

Eligible donations of
\$1,000+ get a 70%
MO State Tax Credit

SCAN TO DONATE





Celebrating Adoption at Good Shepherd

Adoption is a sacred expression of love that creates families and transforms lives. Already in 2025, our adoption team has completed 10 placements, helping children find safe and loving forever homes.

Our work does not end at placement. In partnership with Lutheran Family and Children Services, we now offer monthly support groups for birth mothers—both virtual and in person. These gatherings provide a caring space to connect with other women who have made the courageous choice of adoption, guided by adoption professionals. Support for birth mothers is lifelong, not just at the moment of placement.

This summer, Good Shepherd also hosted its first annual adoptive family picnic. Families came together to celebrate the beautiful gift of adoption, enjoy time with one another, and share in the joy of their journeys. The day was filled with laughter, smiles, and new friendships.

Looking ahead, November is National Adoption Month. We invite you to join us for our annual Adoption Mass on November 23, 2025. More details will be shared soon—we hope you will celebrate with us!

For more information about adoption at Good Shepherd, please contact Joy Quante, Director of Adoption, at jquante@gsstl.org.

Pregnancy and Parenting Support Walking Beside Young Mothers

Our Pregnancy and Parenting Support (PPS) program walks beside young mothers as they build stable, hopeful futures for themselves and their children.

One of our clients, an 18-year-old mother, grew up facing emotional and physical abuse and spent two years living on the streets. Even in the face of these hardships, she was determined to finish school and proudly graduated from high school last year.

When she became pregnant, she enrolled in Good Shepherd's PPS program. Here, she found the emotional support, guidance, and parenting lessons she needed to take her next steps. With the help of her PPS worker, she secured her own apartment, began working part time, and became a certified phlebotomist. She even completed driving lessons, passed her test, and bought her first car.

Her story is a powerful example of how dedicated support can transform lives. By walking with young mothers like her, PPS helps ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe, loving, and hopeful home.

For more information about the Pregnancy and Parenting Support program, please contact Sarah Miller, Director of PPS, at smiller@gsstl.org.

Golf Tournament SUCCESS

We are thrilled to share that this year's Good Shepherd Golf Tournament raised over \$164,000 to support children and families across the St. Louis region!

Thank you to everyone who played, sponsored, donated, or volunteered to make this day so impactful. Your generosity helps us provide safe, loving homes and life-changing services to those who need them most.

We are grateful for your support. See you on the green next year—Tuesday, June 2, 2026.



GOOD SHEPHERD BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Josh Holland

Catholic Charities' ministry Good Shepherd Children and Family Services

is grateful for the leadership of our board members who give their time and talents to advance our mission. This month, we are pleased to introduce Josh Holland.



Josh grew up in Fenton and attended the University of Missouri–Columbia, where he studied English. After beginning his career in telecommunications in St. Louis, he worked in Chicago with Gatorade and later in Seattle with Microsoft and Blue Nile. Today, Josh serves as a Senior Vice President at FleishmanHillard in St. Louis, where he lives with his family and is a parishioner at St. Gerard Majella.

Drawn to Good Shepherd through a fellow parishioner, Josh joined the board out of a deep desire to serve children and families. A recent Catholic convert, he is passionate about helping kids find safe and loving homes and about sharing Good Shepherd's story with the wider community.

***"Whatever you did for
one of the least of these...
you did for me."***

– Matthew 25:40



Safe4ANight 2 PM, OCTOBER 22–2 PM, OCTOBER 23

**Save
THE
Date**

Join Catholic Charities' ministry Good Shepherd Children and Family Services for our 24-hour #Safe4ANight campaign. Every dollar donated to the maternity shelter will be matched four times, helping us reach our \$235,000 goal.

Together, we can ensure moms and babies receive the safe shelter and care they need.

Give or learn more at charidy.com/goodshepherd.



MISSION

To bring the healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need with a compassionate, caring presence.

VISION

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be a premier leader in community renewal and a visible catalyst for social outreach by connecting with people, parishes, and ministries committed to a meaningful communion of care to those in need across every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

GOOD SHEPHERD PURPOSE STATEMENT

Connecting children with families and keeping families connected by providing pregnancy and parenting support, foster care programs, and adoption services.

- Letter from Executive Director Kathy Fowler
- Safe4ANight 2025
- Meet our Senior Director of Philanthropy: Courtney Noto
- Celebrating Adoption
- Pregnancy and Parenting Support
- Good Shepherd Board Spotlight

What's Inside



1340 Partridge Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63130

A MINISTRY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

GOOD SHEPHERD
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

