

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF WAYNE COUNTY - Historical Highlights

- 1870 Daughters of Charity began services to unwed mothers at Providence Hospital. Eventually, the first adoption placement agency in the Archdiocese of Detroit came into existence.
- 1912 Society of St. Vincent de Paul began the placement of children without families or homes of their own in Catholic homes and/or institutions.
- 1928 Sarah Fisher Home for Children began with social casework services furnished by the Social Service Department of Providence Hospital.
- 1946 Catholic Family Center was established to provide family and individual casework services
- 1948 The Catholic Family Center becomes a charter, founding member of the United Way.
- 1952 The Social Service Department of Providence Hospital, casework services for St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home merged into the family program of the Catholic Family Center.
- 1956 Catholic Family Center relocated to 9851 Hamilton Avenue, Detroit
- 1957 Catholic Social Services of Wayne County was formed and incorporated through the merger of the Catholic Family Center and the Child Care Department of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- 1965 Foster Grandparent Program became operational at Catholic Social Services of Wayne County.
- 1967 Fr. Paul Hickey resigns following many years of service as the first Executive Director of Catholic Social Services of Wayne County.
- 1969 Taylor branch office opened.
- 1970 Catholic Charities Youth Services, Catholic Big Brother Program transferred to Catholic Social Services of Wayne County.
- 1972 Catholic Social Services of Wayne County transfers casework service responsibility of children placed in St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home to that facility. CSSWC assumes administrative responsibility for a Head Start Program.
- 1973 Catholic Charities Department of Aging merged with Catholic Social Services of Wayne County.
- The Retired Senior and Volunteer Program started at Catholic Social Services of Wayne County.
- 1974 Big Brother Program transferred from Catholic Social Services of Wayne County to form Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit.
- 1976 Livonia branch office opened.
- 1977 Grosse Pointe branch office opened.
- 1981 Head Start Program returned to City of Detroit.
- 1982 Adolescent Family Life Demonstration Project" (CASI) was approved for three years.
- 1985 Senior Companion Program opened at Catholic Social Services of Wayne County.

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- 1986 Substance Abuse Services established as a separate department within the Family Division at Catholic Social Services of Wayne County.
- Timothy F. Ryan retires following twenty years of service as the President of CSSWC. Thomas Quinn is appointed President of CSSWC.
- 1987 CAPSA contract awarded to provide a substance abuse prevention program for youth and their parents.
- Foster Family Care Department developed a foster care program for children with AIDS, ARC and HIV positive.
- 1990 VOICES Program for victims of incest and sexual abuse merged with Catholic Social Services of Wayne County.
- CSSWC assumed responsibility for its fourth branch office located at Old St. Mary's Community Center in Greektown.
- 1991 Patrick Heron is appointed President/CEO of Catholic Social Services of Wayne County following the resignation of Thomas Quinn.
- 1992 Canton Community Center for counseling services opened in collaboration with Family Service of Detroit and Wayne County.
- 1994 Catholic Social Services of Wayne County discontinued service at the Canton Community Center.
- The Lois McOsker Memorial Scholarship Fund established at CSSWC.
- 1995 Catholic Social Services of Wayne County begins a partnership with the Detroit/Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency which leads to the establishment of the Planned Family Respite Care Program; a unique collaboration with St. Francis Family Services, St. Vincent /Sarah Fisher Center, Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Child and Family Services. United Way Community Services provides matching funds for the Respite Care Program and also provides funding for collaboration with Homes for Black Children to enhance adoption services.
- 1996 Catholic Social Services of Wayne County celebrates its fifty year anniversary. Cardinal Maida celebrates a commemorative mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral and a "Family Day" for agency staff and foster parents is held at Belle Isle.
- CSSWC receives capital campaign grant from UWCS to upgrade the Management Information System.
- CSSWC receives HUD funding for Teen Empowerment/Transitional Housing collaboration. The Mayor of Detroit, Dennis Archer, acknowledges this accomplishment of CSSWC at a special press conference.
- 1997 The Eastside branch office is relocated to Grosse Pointe Park.

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The Greektown office is closed and the VOICES program is moved to the Hamilton Avenue office.

The Detroit Health Department designates CSSWC for a three-year substance abuse prevention grant.

A tornado hits the neighborhood immediately north of CSSWC. CSSWC staff provides emergency services to the community for six months.

CSSWC invited by the State of Michigan FIA to participate in a foster care – managed care pilot project. CSSWC is one of four agencies statewide chosen to participate.

1998

The Taylor branch office is closed and services are relocated to Dearborn Heights, where Catholic Social Services of Wayne County purchased its first building.

The Livonia branch office is consolidated and relocated to a new location in Livonia.

CSSWC receives a grant from the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) to provide services to victims of crime and domestic violence.

CSSWC embarks on a “community-centered” strategy following designation as a “Knight Cities Project” agency by Family Service America.

1999

CSSWC provides temporary office space to the Employment & Training Design, Inc. (ETDI) project following a record breaking snowstorm which severely damaged ETDI’s office building in Highland Park.

CSSWC opens a residential program at Historic St. Anthony Rectory on the eastside of Detroit in June 1999. This project, funded by HUD and MSHD and called the Teen Empowerment Supportive Housing Program, is designed to serve homeless teen mothers and their children as well as homeless pregnant teens. Cardinal Maida presides over a formal building rededication for the project in October.

The Knight Foundation awards a grant to CSSWC for the continuing development of community-centered initiatives.

CSSWC receives funding to provide outpatient treatment for substance abuse to Detroit residents.

2000

In 2000, CSSWC presented a conference, “Building Strong Communities: A Vision for Detroit”, at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. The conference addressed community-centered practice in the delivery of social services.

Catholic Social Services of Wayne County began collaboration with the Michigan Metro Girl Scouts Council and Lula Belle Stewart Center to establish the “Fostering Success” scouting program for girls in foster care. Funding for this program is provided by United Way Community Services.

CSSWC received “flexi-dollars” from UWCS for the Family Works Program. This program is designed to help parents maintain permanent homes in which they are able to nurture children and promote their safety, well being and health development. Services are provided to families to whom a child has been returned after placement in foster care.

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- 2001 Expansion of Substance Abuse Prevention Services- Governor’s Discretionary Grant of \$100,000.
- 2002 The Michigan Department of Corrections awarded the VOICES Program with expanded funding that will continue to provide probationers and parolees with treatment and ancillary services.
- 2003 Inauguration of the “Ways to Work-Detroit “program which is designed to provide low-interest loans to eligible applicants for transportation, housing, and other special needs related to maintaining employment. This project is funded by major grants from the Kresge Foundation, the Knight Foundation, the United Way, the Alliance fir Children and Families and the City of Detroit’s Employment and Training Department
- Expansion of the Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Program in Highland Park, Taylor and Wayne communities.
- 2004 First Annual Leadership Recognition Dinner: “Detroit’s Best- Giving from the Heart” in support of the ongoing efforts of children and families.
- A successful completion of a two-year Empowerment Zone Grant for the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs.
- 2005 New Start Program collaborates with the Center for Humanistic Studies to provide clinical services to foster care parents and children.
- Substance Abuse Prevention staff offered a unique service to foster care biological parents designed to raise awareness of dangers of alcohol , tobacco and other drugs in foster youth.
- Catholic Social Services of Wayne County celebrates its’ 60th Anniversary.
- Catholic Social Services of Wayne collaborates with the Annie Casey Foundation to launch the First Annual Foster Family Resource Fair
- The Michigan Prison Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI) a new service begins in cooperation with the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and the Michigan Department of Corrections.
- CSSWC’s Hurricane Katrina Outreach Project helps more than 200 survivors who relocated to the Detroit Michigan area.
- 2007 Catholic Social Services of Wayne County unveils a new Parent and Child Literacy Program. The programs received support from Comerica Bank and St. Genevieve Parish and Youth Ministry
- 2008 Catholic Social Services of Wayne County acquires the Lula Bell Stewart Homeless Teen Mothers Program.