

Local Councils in Action

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To promote the activities of our local councils around the State, various council programs will be posted here.

Send your stories of worthy council programs along with pics to g.merritt@mikofc.org.

Basilica of St. Adalbert Council 15213 Grand Rapids



Council 15213 in Grand Rapids held their Coats for Kids give away on Saturday November 17. Over 500 new coats were distributed to needy children.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 8425 Sand Lake



Sand Lake council 8425 presents an \$850.00 check to Helping Hands Food Pantry in Howard City on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. Helping Hands serves 250 families in the Tri-County area, comprising Kent, Montcalm, and Newaygo counties. Pictured left to right are: Jerry Gartzke – HH board member and DGK; Fred Plath – HH Treasurer; Marc Jansheski – Warden; Joyce Hanson –HH Secretary; Frederick Bartel – HH volunteer and DD; Joe Juskewicz – Treasurer; and Paul Eickenroth – HH President. The contribution was raised largely due to the council's annual Pig Roast held at Mary Queen of Apostle's in Sand Lake.

[Bishop Allen J. Babcock Council 7341 Caledonia](#)



Bishop Allen J. Babcock Council 7341 at Holy Family Catholic Parish and the Holy Family Council of Catholic Women combined efforts with a drive to provide coats for those in need. Together over \$1,300.00 was raised to purchase 48 coats from the Supreme Knights of

Columbus Coats for Kids program along with various sizes of gloves, boots and hats which will be distributed to the Caledonia, Middleville and Kentwood school children that are in need of winter clothing.

District 44 Kalamazoo

Last year Bob Smith, Knights of Columbus District Deputy for the Kalamazoo/Portage decided that he needed to do more to recognize our local Knights for their contributions to our Church and community. With that in mind he awarded the first District 44 Knight of the Year to Gene Roberts. This year, he is adding District Family of the Year award as well as District Knight of the Year.

In 2012, [Holy Family Health Care](#) was founded by a group of physicians to provide dignity in health care for the poor and migrant families of Southwestern Michigan. Using the teachings of the Holy Church with a mission to care for body, mind and soul. HFHC treated over 6,000 patients last year and served over 50,000 meals to the needy of South Western Michigan. Further, in November of 2017 HFHC partnered with [Caring Network](#), part of the [Catholic Charities](#) of the Diocese of Kalamazoo providing prenatal healthcare as well as ultrasound services for young mothers. The family behind this organization is Deacon Dr. Don and Theresa Bouchard, founder of HFHC and our **District 44 for 17-18 Family of the Year**. Congratulations!



Our recipient for District 44 Knight of the Year is no stranger when it comes to the Knights of Columbus. At the age of 18 he joined the only council in Kalamazoo, Bishop Markevitch Council 1616 and has been a faithful Knight for 78 years, the longest seniority in the Michigan Jurisdiction. (I won't tell you his age, but...do the math) As council member he participated in numerous council functions including his favorite, the MI Drive known as the Tootsie Roll Drive. This energetic Knight, though retired, has volunteered for the past 2 decades providing magazines and reading materials to the patients of Bronson Hospital gaining him the title of Magazine Man and our **District 44 2017-2018 Knight of the Year** is Bob Johnson. for 2017-2018.

Congratulations!

North Branch Knights of Columbus Council 9568



Our Grand Knight Drew Edwards presented a check to help fund special education at North Branch Public Schools at tonight's board meeting. So far the Knights have donated over fifty thousand dollars for special education in North Branch.

St. Mary Magdalen Council 16223 Kentwood



The idea of supplying school supplies to needy students was brought up at our last District meeting. I brought the idea to the Parish of St. Mary Magdalen and asked if they thought it would be a program we could run during the month of August (since it is a program the Parish currently didn't have) to help out the kids at are local community schools in Kentwood. All agreed and an announcement and directions for dropping off the items was made at all weekend mass announcements, inserted into the bulletin and a flyer the Parishioners could pick up at any time with a list of the items requested. The parish then allowed for the drop off of any items to the church throughout the month of August so the Knights could make collections a couple times a week and place them in storage until the presentation date. Pictured on the left are all the supplies in my car with my two kids going to drop it off at the school administration building. The second picture is dropping them off the to the director of homeless student services. GK 16223 Sean Klisz