

News Release



MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

For further information contact:
Tia Wisdom, 636-946-4022
Tia@StCharlesRealtors.com

St. Charles Realtors® Donate \$5,000 to Support Homelessness Relief Efforts Amid Harsh Winter Conditions



ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI – January 29, 2025-- This month, the temperatures in St. Charles County dropped below six degrees. As we bundled up in our thick winter coats, hats and gloves to brave our short walk from our warm homes to our awaiting vehicles, there are hundreds of homeless individuals trying to SURVIVE outside in these brutal weather conditions each day. While warming centers were activated and emergency shelters were opened in the evenings, these are only short-term solutions to a long-term, ongoing problem—homelessness.

St. Charles Realtors® is proud to support the work of Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service in their tireless efforts to help individuals and families facing a housing crisis, whether that be temporary or full homelessness. At its January Board meeting, the Realtor® Board of Directors presented a \$5,000 donation to The Care Service via Amy Armour, Care Service Grant Writer. These funds were made possible by generous donations by Realtor® Members to the St. Charles Realtors® Housing Foundation. St. Charles Realtors® President Sarah Bell added, “Realtors® are community minded and providing homes is what we do. We are thrilled to be able to continue our support of The Care Service again this year.”

[Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service](#) has been addressing homelessness and working tirelessly for more than 43 years to help individuals and families facing a housing crisis. Their goal is to provide them with the financial housing assistance, resources and personal support needed to map out a meaningful plan for long-term self-sufficiency and stability. In the last five years, their programs have helped decrease homelessness in the tri-county area by 60%, but there is still much work to be done as hundreds of individuals, including children, still have no place to call home.

In 2023, The Care Service provided \$385,653 in financial housing assistance to 349 families facing or near an eviction or utility disconnection. Through their efforts, they were able to house those who were homeless; prevent many from becoming homeless; provide utility assistance to those without electric, water or gas service; and prevent utility disconnects. However, the need continues to be higher than The Care Service can provide, as more than 189 households were turned away last year due to a lack of funding or lack of staff. It is through grants, like one recently received from the St. Charles County Realtors® Association, that The Care Service is able to help more vulnerable families in our community.

The Care Service offers the following programs:

Housing Assistance

The Housing Assistance Program provides families with financial housing assistance, case management, and housing location services designed to facilitate long-term sustainability. The program provides financial assistance in the form of rent, mortgage, or utility payments to prevent an eviction or disconnection. Rental and utility deposits for new housing, as well as hotel vouchers, are also available for those who are homeless or facing homelessness. The Care Service also owns 15 affordable/transitional housing units that we rent to low-income families facing homelessness at affordable rates.

Financial assistance is often coupled with strengths-based case management which is designed to assess and assist families toward stability and self-sufficiency while strengthening the family's problem-solving and coping capabilities and creating systemic change.

Street Outreach

Street Outreach teams travel throughout the tri-county area three days a week to assist literally homeless individuals and families with basic survival and emergency needs while determining physical/mental health issues, with the goal of permanent housing placement. Street Outreach case managers meet these individuals where they are—whether it is under a bridge, in a park, or in their car. Individuals are assessed to determine their most immediate needs, and are provided with food and water, along with tangible items, such as socks, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Food Pantry

The Care Service strives to provide nutritious, supplemental food each week to low-income households struggling with food insecurity through its three food pantries. Our St. Charles and Elsberry Client Choice Food Pantries distribute food, as well as much-needed hygiene and cleaning items which cannot be purchased with food stamps.

Adopt-A-Family

Each year in December, about 350 low-income families are adopted and receive food and gifts for Christmas. This program collaborates with several other St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren County agencies.

As the leading resource for real estate in the area, St. Charles Realtors® is a nonprofit, real estate trade association serving over 2,000 Realtor® and Affiliate members. The Association is dedicated to serving the real estate professionals of St. Charles County and the families and property owners they serve by uniting to advocate for real property rights, delivering educational programs that advance professionalism, connecting members and the community through outreach, and being accountable and transparent to its membership.

In the spirit of service to others, the St. Charles REALTORS® founded the St. Charles REALTORS® Housing Foundation in 2015. The Foundation's mission is to preserve and sustain housing in the St. Charles County region. The Foundation's goal is to accomplish its mission by financially assisting those organizations that help those in need find temporary or permanent housing for them and their families, as well as helping its members who have suffered loss or damage to their home from manmade or natural disaster.

For more information on the St. Charles Realtors® Housing Foundation or to make a [donation](#), visit our [website](#).