

Stats for Recruitment Brochure for Success

Knights of Columbus



From the moment of our founding in 1882, charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. We are Catholic men of faith and men of charitable action.

In 2016, the Knights of Columbus set a record in charitable giving for the 18th consecutive year. Our charitable donations increased from \$175 million in 2015 to a new total of \$177,500,673 in 2016. In

addition, we achieved our highest level of charitable service in 2016, volunteering more than 75 million hours of service. The number of service hours contributed by Knights rose in 2016 by more than a million over the previous year's total.

The totals, again an increase, for 2017 are in the brochure to the left.

Our charitable activities encompass an almost infinite variety of local, national and international projects. Our own unique charities include the [Christian Refugee Relief Fund](#), [Disaster Relief](#), [Ultrasound Initiative](#), and [Coats for Kids](#). We also partner with international charities including [Special Olympics](#), the [Global Wheelchair Mission](#) and [Habitat for Humanity](#).

Through our [Building the Domestic Church initiative](#), Knights and their families have greater opportunities to participate in a variety of activities that deepen their faith, promote the New Evangelization, and strengthen our parishes. These activities include the [Family Fully Alive Devotional Program](#), [Father's Day Affirmation of Wedding Vows](#), [Food for Families](#) and the [Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign](#).

"We are answering Pope Francis' call to go to the peripheries," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said. "We can reach half way around the globe to help those in need and we can reach to our neighbor next door. And we do that every day. That makes us witnesses to the faith."

If you'd like to be a part of an international organization of nearly **2 million** Catholic men whose principal work involves helping others in need, we'd love to have you be a part of us. A simple way to join is a new online program at <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/join/sign-me-up.html> linked here; [join us](#).

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State of Michigan

In the State of Michigan our **66,000** brothers in nearly **400** local councils are an exact reflection of our Orders dedication to the principle of charity. Every council organizes programs and events that live up to this commitment and the principles of our Order and Church.

Our councils are in touch with their communities and churches learning the local needs and using the members to fill that need. From distributing over **4,000** coats to needy children for the gift of warmth through the Coats for Kids program to collecting and distributing thousands of pounds of food for local food pantries.

Our Respect for Life commitment is exemplified through the local councils participating in the Supreme Ultrasound initiative placing and helping support **47** ultrasounds in pregnant resource centers and clinics throughout the state. According to current studies over **80%** of women who are considering an abortion change their mind after seeing an image of their baby made possible through the ultrasound technology. Without the Knights support these clinics would not have the resources to provide this service. It is possible for many centers to do at least **200** ultrasounds per year. That adds up to the possibility of saving almost **9,000** babies a year here in Michigan. Talk about a gift of life!

Supporting the formation of new Priests and Religious is very important to the Knights of Columbus. Michigan Councils and Assemblies have contributed over **\$212,000** so far this year to the RSVP programs which contributes money directly to seminarians and Postulates. Councils also recognize their pastors and chaplains through various events such as clergy appreciation dinners and contributing to pastor project funds.

Michigan councils have the opportunity twice a year to participate in the Mentally Impaired Drive, affectionately known as the Tootsie Roll Drive. Members man various locations collecting funds to contribute to programs servicing those with special intellectual disabilities. A Tootsie Roll is offered to each contributor to show our appreciation for community cooperation. This past year **\$1,251,008.67** was collected with **389** councils participating in the program.

Those with special needs are close to the heart of the Knights of Columbus, and that shows through the **\$152,329.00** donated to Special Olympics of Michigan by our local councils and the State Council.

Our youth are our future and our local Knights realize this and provide several youth programs including Free Throw and Soccer challenges, Spelling Bees, Essay Contests, Poster Contests and some unique programs in local councils. This is integrated with our principle of being a Catholic Family Fraternal Service organization. We involve the family whenever possible, many programs are family based such as social dinners, fish fries, family picnics, movie nights etc. and all members of the family are invited to assist and participate in all programs.

As mentioned earlier every community and parish has its own needs and the local councils work to fill that need through the input of the council chaplains and parish priests. Also new members, along with the asset of more support, bring their own ideas to the council. You can't imagine how each new member that becomes involved magnifies what the council is able to do in the community and parish.

We need you for our council to continue to provide for all we do. Wouldn't you like to be part of a group that makes a difference in society both locally and worldwide? To receive more information about or to join your local council contact;

Grand Knight name _____ Council # _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Director Council # _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Ken Krause, State Membership Director, k.krause@mikofc.org