

Each year, our Council donates to several organizations serving St. Johns County and the greater Jacksonville area. These partnerships support ministries and nonprofits working in disability services, crisis pregnancy support, affordable housing, emergency assistance, and youth homelessness. These areas are where the need is persistent and the work demands consistency. Our funding priorities reflect our Council's core commitment to charity and the protection of human dignity, particularly for those most often underserved. The organizations we support operate year-round and within the communities our members call home.

1). **Bit of Faith Ranch** -- Located within our community, Bit of Faith Ranch is a non-profit dedicated to serving individuals with autism and related disabilities. Through adaptive horseback riding and inclusive recreation, the ranch provides a safe environment where children and adolescents can build confidence and connection. Also, Bit of Faith is a place of respite for caregivers. We are proud to highlight their mission as they continue to provide a support to the special needs community of St. Johns County. [\$2000 donation, presented by Brother Bob Cowhey on Feb 16, 2026.] *Life.*

2). **Camp I AM SPECIAL** -- For over 40 years, Camp I Am Special has helped children and adults with intellectual and developmental differences (IDDs) within our Diocese. Hosted at Marywood Retreat Center, the camp provides a traditional summer experience, complete with swimming, fishing, and hayrides, tailored to each camper's unique needs. Furthermore, Camp I AM SPECIAL trains local teen volunteers on the 1-on-1 "Buddy" initiative to care for special needs children, fostering a bond within the community. [\$2000 donation, presented by Brother Joe Pitisci on March 8, 2026.] *Life.*

3). **L'Arche** -- L'Arche Jacksonville is a community of family-style homes where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and assistants who live, work, and pray together. Founded on the belief that every person has a uniqueness to share, L'Arche transforms lives through mutual relationships. By sharing daily meals, chores, celebrations, and fellowship at Blanchart Community Center. L'Arche creates a place where everyone is valued. [\$2000 donation, presented by Brother Joe Pitisci on Feb 27, 2026.] *Life.*

4). **Divine Mercy House** – Located on the campus of St. Joseph's in Mandarin, Divine Mercy House serves women of all faiths by addressing their physical, spiritual, and educational needs. Furthermore, it provides a supportive environment for women facing crisis pregnancies. Residents are given the tools to break cycles of crisis through GED completion, job placement assistance, and financial literacy courses. Offering housing, prenatal care coordination, and life-skills training, Divine Mercy House assists mothers to build a self-sufficient future for themselves and their children. Our Council is proud to support this local ministry. [\$2000 donation, presented by Brother Bob Cowhey on March 5, 2026.] *ASAP/Pregnancy Support.*

5). **St Vincent de Paul** – Our Council supports The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in their community works of mercy. Operating through local parishes in St. Augustine and Jacksonville, they provide emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, and medicine. Their unique home visits model ensures that neighbors in need are met with dignity and spiritual support in addition to material aid. Our Council is proud to walk alongside the SVdP Food Pantries and Thrift Stores, which turn community donations into a lifeline for families in crisis. [\$1000 donation, presented by Brother Al Lucenti on February 23, 2026.]

6). **HUGS Coats for Kids** -- HUGS St. Johns is a local, all-volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the basic needs of the nearly 800 students identified as homeless in St. Johns County. Our Council is proud to partner with HUGS through the Coats for Kids program, providing winter jackets to local children who would otherwise face the Florida winter without coats. Beyond clothing, HUGS provides emergency food bags and school-based pantries, acting as a critical bridge between the community's generosity and our youngest neighbors in crisis. [\$700 donation, presented by Brother Bob Cowhey, on March 6, 2026.] **Community.**

7). **Habitat for Humanity** -- Habitat is a Christian ministry that partners with local citizens like working families, veterans, and social workers to assist with finding affordable housing. Currently, Habitat is undergoing the largest expansion in its 30-year history. In 2026, Habitat tripled its usual pace, aiming to complete nearly 30 homes in the Volusia neighborhood to combat the local housing crisis. Our Council supports Habitat annually and stands alongside their vision to help families. [\$1000 donation, presented by Brother Bob Cowhey, on March 9, 2026.] **Community.**

8). **Precious Ones Mausoleum** -- The Precious Ones Mausoleum was created to honor the humanity of the unborn child lost through miscarriage, early infant death, or abortion. Through prayer, education, and access to burial, these lives will be remembered with dignity and respect. (\$1500 donation, presented to Bishop Pohlmeier by GK John Berry and Life Chairman John Preli on Feb 9, 2026.) **Life.**

9). **Catholic Days at the Capitol** -- The 2026 Catholic Days at the Capitol in Tallahassee, FL, was held February 10–12, 2026. This annual event brings Catholics across Florida together to advocate for life and dignity, featuring legislative briefings, meetings with lawmakers, a breakfast with bishops, and the 51st Annual Red Mass of the Holy Spirit. The council sponsored attendance by students representing all four Catholic high schools in the diocese. (\$1500 donation, presented to Bishop Pohlmeier by GK John Berry and Life Chairman John Preli on Feb 9, 2026.) **Life.**

10). **RSVP** – The council provided \$2,000 scholarships each to two seminarians, Joseph Hohbach and George Gilbert. (\$4,000 donation, delivered to the diocese by Brother Al Lucenti on Feb 12, 2026.) **Faith.**