

## TWO NEW TENANTS FILL CARDINAL RITTER BIRTHPLACE

Spring 2021 brought two new tenants to the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace (CRB).

1. In April, the *Homeless Coalition of Southern Indiana* (HCSI) moved into the three office spaces on the ground floor of the Ritter House.
2. In May, the *Community Action of Southern Indiana* (CASI) moved their *Energy Assistance Agency of Floyd County* (EAFC) into the five office spaces on the second floor.

For the past decade, Louisville's *Home of the Innocents* has operated from the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace. At the end of 2020, they discontinued their southern Indiana programs due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All rentable space at the 1218 East Oak Street facility is now committed. The homestead of Cardinal Joseph Ritter, who was born in 1892 and became a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church in 1961, was restored and renovated between 2004 and 2010. With these two new tenants, the *Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation, Inc.* (CRBFI) continues to fulfill one of its four major goals – “to provide office and service space to non-profits committed to serving neighborhood needs and offer assistance to local residents.”

The house also features two rooms preserved for their historical value – the circa 1880s Front Entrance Parlor and the Cardinal Birth Room upstairs.. The old rear prep-room of the family-operated Ritter Bakery is now a small museum honoring the Cardinal's works including his Integration of Schools, Ecumenism, and promotion of Religious Freedom. A community-meeting room was built and dedicated in 2011.

The goal of the *Homeless Coalition of Southern Indiana* is to end homelessness in southern Indiana. According to their website, they seek to “build a community of collaboration. Through education, advocacy, and awareness, we want each member of the community to know they have a role to play.” They actively “work with local government, organizations, businesses, and other volunteers to coordinate services to those homeless and at-risk. Through collaboration and partnership with our community, we minimize the time an individual spends homeless.”

For more information about (HCSI), visit <https://www.soinhomeless.org/>

The *Community Action of Southern Indiana* will operate their *Energy Assistance Agency of Floyd County* (EAFC) program from the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace. Their primary administrative offices are located at 1613 East 8th Street in Jeffersonville, IN. from which they administer seven other programs: Early Childhood Education, Family Development, Housing Choice Voucher, Life Literacy, Minority Health, Self Initiative - Self Development, and Weatherization.

For more information about (CASI and EAFC), visit <http://casi1.org/index.html>

CRBFI welcomes the *Homeless Coalition of Southern Indiana* and the *Community Action of Southern Indiana*. We pray that Cardinal Ritter will bless their community service programs in New Albany, Floyd County, and the surrounding southern Indiana communities.