



Reflections of Mercy



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SPiRiT

MAGAZINE

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JUBILEE OF MERCY

Blessings Abound, and We're Grateful

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland
PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

In our everyday lives, we are surrounded by blessings. They come in all shapes and sizes: a thoughtful and generous gift, a friend who is always there to listen, a neighbor who waves when they pass. In a recent homily, Pope Francis

At Catholic Charities, we see blessings in the most dire situations bloom right before our eyes.

reminded us to acknowledge God's gifts with both wonder and gratitude. The blessings we see are evidence of God's majesty and goodness in our world and in our lives. At times, we forget to recognize them. We forget to say thank you.

At Catholic Charities, we see blessings in the most dire situations bloom right before our eyes. We welcome supporters who bring bags of clothing through our doors for those in need. We celebrate as the shelves of our pantries are filled for the hungry. We take joy in the success of a family who sought stability, and found employment, housing, and the love and support of our staff.

One of our most recent blessings is the addition of the Peace Corner Youth Center to our body of service. Peace Corner, our designated Place of Mercy in the 2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy, is a community center in the heart of Austin on the west side of Chicago. Austin is a neighborhood filled with young children and families but plagued by violence and gang activity. Peace Corner provides a safe haven for those living in the neighborhood through an afterschool program for children, and GED classes, job training, and job placement for young adults. Through Peace Corner, we are empowering people to take care of themselves and to contribute to the neighborhood,



while offering a safe space of healing and hope.

Peace Corner is just one of our many blessings that span across our 153 locations and 150 programs. Because of supporters like you, we were able to serve nearly 1 million people in need in Cook and Lake counties last year.

Throughout this issue, we've highlighted a work of mercy and paired it with a program that illustrates how we carry it out. Whether we are serving a woman battling chronic homelessness (Page 12) or a refugee family escaping absolute terror and oppression (Page 11), we do so with the love and compassion of Christ: treating mind, body, and spirit.

We hope these stories bring light to your lives and inspire you to further engage in our mission in the coming year. The successes of our clients are the most powerful way we can say thank you, and so we offer this issue, and the stories inside it, as our word of thanks.

Infant Jesus of Prague

— FLOSSMOOR —



The mission of the Infant Jesus of Prague parish, centered in the Eucharistic celebration of Jesus Christ our Lord, is to nourish the spiritual growth and to enrich the sacramental life of our parishioners so that we can live in witness to the gospel message of faith, hope, reconciliation, and love.



Infant Jesus of Prague is a diverse, vibrant parish in Catholic Charities South Region that is described by its parishioners as “warm, welcoming, and open-minded.” Father Edmond Aristil, who has served at the parish since 2012, said the parish is guided by love, particularly the scripture 1 Corinthians 13:13, which states, “Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.”

“We are invited by Jesus to open our eyes to what’s going on around us, and if there is a need and we can help, it’s our duty as Christians to do that,” Fr. Edmond said.

The parish fulfills part of that duty by supporting Catholic Charities mission in a variety of ways. Over the years, the parish and school have assisted with food, clothing, and toy drives, and sponsoring our Monday Night Suppers at Saint Anne Parish in Hazel Crest.

The school and religious education programs collect supplies for Catholic Charities programs and special financial collections are also held throughout the year.

The diverse community of Flossmoor is represented in the parish, which Fr. Edmond said is another positive quality that sets it apart and makes it stronger.

“When you come to our different liturgies, you can see the diversity in our parish and in our schools,” he said. “It’s one of our gifts. We are united in faith, love, and charity. We are one family in God. We are all sisters and brothers.”

Rich Pozdol, who has attended the parish for more than 30 years, first started attending after he and his wife were married. Later, his children attended the Infant Jesus of Prague School. Pozdol describes the parish as “very active” in the community.

“It’s part of our mission as a church to

contribute to organizations like Catholic Charities,” Pozdol said. “The Pope has said he wants us to go out to the borders, so to speak.”

Pozdol is also active in the parish’s homeless ministry, which houses approximately 30 or more men every Tuesday night from October 1 through April 30.

“I have 40-45 parishioners who volunteer to supervise on the site and have a couple hundred parishioners that participate in providing meals for the guests,” he said. The ministry also provides breakfast for about 40 people the morning after the guests’ stay.

Last season, Pozdol said they provided more than 900 nights of shelter and more than 2,700 meals.

“I don’t think people are aware of the homelessness in our community,” Pozdol said. “Here, in the suburbs, it



doesn’t happen very much out in the open; they’re under the radar. When we offer shelter, all of a sudden they show up.”

Over the weekend, the parish holds five Masses for its congregation of nearly 900 people. Its ministries include a Giving Tree, which is a 28-year-strong gift-giving program during Christmas. Additionally, the parish youth group



reaches out to elderly in the community and hosts various activities throughout the year to assist the needy and raise awareness of the parish’s contributions.

In the summer, the parish hosts its annual block party, one of its major fundraisers throughout the year.

“It brings the community together for a day of fun and music and it’s basically a way for us to bond with each other and reconnect to each other,” Fr. Edmond said. “We bring all people together through the parish. We have music and food, different kinds of games, and different ministries display whatever they do in and outside the parish.”

Fr. Edmond said he is also especially passionate about the children’s ministry, which includes the children’s choir.

“Children are the future of the parish and the church,” he said. “The children’s choir draws many of our parishioners to the Wednesday Mass. It’s quite uplifting.”

PHOTOS

(TOP LEFT) Pictured is the parish sanctuary at Infant Jesus of Prague.

(MIDDLE LEFT) Children assist with the parish’s Giving Tree project.

(TOP RIGHT) Volunteers from the parish work in their vegetable garden to support the local food pantry.

FATHER Edmond



Father Edmond, a native of Haiti, has served as pastor of Infant Jesus of Prague since 2012. Fr. Edmond said he values working

directly with the poor and tries his best to model his life after the life of Jesus, no matter how drastic that may seem in modern times.

“Jesus was involved in the lives of the people he ministered, people who were rejected – and he embraced them,” Fr. Edmond said. “That was the call of His ministry and we are called to do the same. To reach out to those who are in need and to help in any way possible so that we can be true disciples of Jesus and the witnesses of love, compassion, and mercy.”

He models his service to the parish after Matthew 25, the parables that illustrate that however we treat those who are in need should reflect how we would treat Jesus.

“It invites us to help those in need in our community,” Fr. Edmond said.

At the top of Fr. Edmond’s recommended reading list is “A Presence That Disturbs: A Call to Radical Discipleship” by Anthony J. Gittons, who is a professor at the University of Chicago.

“It’s very interesting,” Fr. Edmond said. “It really calls us to discipleship and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in terms of opening our eyes to the needs of our sisters and brothers, and to be engaged and involved in the mission of Jesus.”

roundtable DISCUSSION

Treating Mind, Body, and Spirit



FATHER PEREZ
*Associate Administrator
at Catholic Charities*



KATHE DELLACECCA
*System Vice President
for Behavioral Health
at Sinai Health System*



**SISTER MARIE
MC KENNA**
*Director of Catholic Charities
Employee Assistance
Department*

The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy direct us to love others by alleviating misery and misfortune. While the Corporal Works of Mercy, such as feed the hungry and clothe the naked, focus on more physical needs, they do have spiritual and emotional effects. To feed our brothers and sisters is to show we care for and love them. In the same way, the Spiritual Works of Mercy, such as forgive others willingly and comfort the afflicted, provide both a mental peace and spiritual healing. In this issue, Father Perez, Associate Administrator at Catholic Charities; Kathe Dellacecca, System Vice President for Behavioral Health at Sinai Health System; and Sister Marie McKenna, Director of Catholic Charities Employee Assistance Department, discuss how Catholic Charities programs treat the mind, body, and spirit through the Works of Mercy.

How does mental and spiritual health play a role in physical health?

FATHER PEREZ

Mental and spiritual illnesses affect physical health because they often rob a person of their sense of self-worth in such a way that it negatively affects their physical health. Persons afflicted with mental or spiritual illnesses find it hard to care for their personal health and well-being. As a result, they often feel sick, alone, abandoned, and unloved.

KATHE

Symptoms of mental health often present in physical ways such as inability to sleep, appetite problems, upset stomach, or pain. People with depression, for example, often have worse physical health either as indicated by medical testing or by self-reported symptomology. The combination of a mental disorder such as depression when combined with a physical disorder such as heart disease often leads to social behavioral changes such as social isolation, which in turn can affect spirituality, ability to think clearly, and ability to get out to important activities. For some people, practice or belief in some form of spirituality can be an integral part of their overall health. For these people, spiritual practices have been known to help reduce symptoms of mental and emotional distress.

SISTER MARIE

We are organisms in this universe. This means we are made of individual parts (body elements, spirit, intelligence, and emotions) and it is very important that these elements are not seen in isolation. We are by nature interconnected with all the individual parts so what happens in one part affects the other parts. In order to provide care, it is important that we pay attention to body, mind, and spiritual needs.

Why do you think it is important to holistically serve our clients: mind, body, and spirit?

FATHER PEREZ

Catholic Charities mission is to provide holistic, professional, and caring outreach to all of our clients. What sets us apart is that while we serve the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, and the broken-hearted, we serve them with charity and love. Love has the potential to heal mind, body, and spirit. Serving the poor with true Christian love also transforms the hearts of the persons who serve them. We are all healed when we serve with love.

KATHE

Holistically treating patients is critical to ensuring that there is no aspect of someone's life that is not being treated. For example, in underserved areas of Chicago, community members are regularly dealing with daily life events that significantly impact their health such as traumatic situations. Social determinants have been proven to negatively impact mental and physical health. Spirituality in these communities is very often the glue that holds people and families together. If we do not look at all of these aspects in tandem, we will be doing a disservice to our communities.

SISTER MARIE

It is important in our own care, and care for others, that we aren't dismissive of any element of our life. The body, just as other parts of our organism are in need of healing at times, provides health for our spirit and emotions. It is through our physical health, as well as the other elements, that we work toward a more positive sense of well-being.

Which Work of Mercy performed by Catholic Charities is most powerful for you?

FATHER PEREZ

One of the ministries of Catholic Charities that impresses me is the outreach to feed the hungry of Chicago. By serving and distributing food to those in need, it empowers them to set their own tables with food given in Christian love.

KATHE

I find the works of mercy that directly impact the social determinants of behavior to be the most powerful. It is difficult to help a person achieve a greater level of overall health and well-being, socially, emotionally, or physically as a healthcare provider if we are not also addressing these critical needs. Providing daily meals and housing for people in need can be the most powerful aspect to the start of the healing process.

SISTER MARIE

It is difficult to pick just one. It is powerful to consider that mercy is not just offered to those we admire, like, are related to, or are friends with. Mercy is an act that pays attention to the needs of those we serve and work with. Mercy in this regard is also a discipline, that we see these needs in all people. Virtue exists because it is given freely to all, not just a select few.



Catholic Charities Celebrates Cupich Elevation to Cardinal



Cardinal Cupich serving at the Catholic Charities Tuesday Night Supper.

On November 19, the night before the closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis elevated Chicago's Archbishop to the rank of cardinals. Cardinal Blase J. Cupich was one of 17 new cardinals elevated during the service at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, which featured a one-hour-and-15-minute Liturgy of the Word where the new cardinals were asked to declare their fidelity to the universal Catholic Church.

Monsignor Boland, along with many Catholics and dignitaries from Chicago, traveled to Rome to attend the consistory as well as the closing of the Jubilee of Mercy on November 20.

"I congratulate Cardinal Cupich on being elevated to the College of Cardinals," Monsignor Boland said. "He has been a great leader for the Church in Chicago and a wonderful supporter of Catholic Charities."

This elevation is especially fitting for the Jubilee Year of Mercy as the Archbishop has been a voice for the poor and marginalized in Chicago. His leadership has been an inspiration for the nearly 1 million people in Chicago who turn to Catholic Charities for support on their

journeys to self-sufficiency.

"In a city plagued by violence and extreme poverty, his voice has been welcomed as we face difficult issues in our communities," Monsignor Boland said.

"When Pope Francis appointed me Archbishop of Chicago more than two years ago, the people of the Archdiocese welcomed me as a friend and brother and I committed wholeheartedly to serve them," Cardinal Cupich said. "The role of Cardinal brings new responsibilities, but with your prayers and help, we will continue the task we have begun of renewing the Church in the Archdiocese and preparing it to thrive in the decades ahead."

In an interfaith Thanksgiving celebration at Holy Name Cathedral on December 4, Cardinal Cupich called on the parish to serve the cause of peace, justice, and human dignity by fighting racism and bigotry and raising up love for our neighbors. The evening served as a reminder that the Catholic Church does not exist in isolation.

Congratulations Cardinal Cupich!



Feed the Hungry

Lunch-n-More – Nourishing Body and Soul

Food is a universal comfort. Whether someone is physically, socially, or emotionally hungry, Catholic Charities Lunch-n-More program is able to reach out and feed them.

“We’re serving our most vulnerable at-risk populations: seniors and kids,” said Diane Nunley, Associate Vice President of Food and Nutrition at Catholic Charities. “Many of these folks are in predicaments that we’re the only meal that they’re receiving that day.”

The meals are made by Catholic Charities staff and planned by a Catholic Charities team of registered dietitians to ensure they are both nutritious and tasty. From there, they’re delivered by staff and volunteers to children in afterschool programs, and seniors who are living at home, in care centers, or attending day care programs. Home-delivered meals for seniors, known as Meals on Wheels, go out five days a week and double as a well-being check. David, who is a World War II and Korean War Veteran, depends on the meals and well-being checks now that his three children live out of state. His daughter, Marianne, said her family couldn’t be more grateful for the program and the peace of mind it brings.

“This program allows my dad to live in the home that we grew up in, the house he’s lived in for nearly 60 years,” she said. Her father tells her that he makes sure his doorstep is swept



A senior client enjoys a meal provided by Lunch-n-More.

before volunteers come and keeps a list of their names so he can greet them.

“The people delivering the food have been awesome,” Marianne said. “If he’s out in the backyard, they’ll come around to find him when he doesn’t answer the door. If they can’t find him, they call me to make sure I’ve heard from him. There’s never been a time when they’ve failed.”

Seniors also receive meals from Lunch-n-More if they are part of a day care center or attend a senior activity center for congregate meals. Jim has been a congregate meal participant for about 10 years through the Catholic Charities Arlington Heights Senior Center. Jim’s brother, Bob, said the program has made it easier for him to

access affordable, nutritious meals.

“It’s one less meal he has to prepare for himself, so he can get what he needs without a lot of hassle,” Bob said. “It’s very convenient for him and his overall well-being.”

Jim described his brother as “kind of shy” and “not a big talker.” The senior center provides him with a way to get active in his community.

“It’s his home away from home,” Bob said. “He’s developed a lot of friendships and really feels comfortable just having a place to go and read the newspaper. If he wasn’t there, he’d be at home all day. It broadened the world for him.”

Lunch-n-More also services children from low-income families who are active in afterschool programs.

“We serve a snack and supper after school, five days a week,” Nunley said. “Kids are getting a balanced diet and hopefully understanding a pattern of what should be on their plate.”

LaVerne, a grandmother of one of the children who receives meals through the program, said it teaches parents and kids to eat healthier.

“It’s nice [for the kids] to have a safe place to eat and learn, especially with all the violence in the community” she said. “A lot of parents work late. This program helps feed the children at dinnertime, and keeps them from eating unhealthy foods like chips and soda.”

42,300

meals per month delivered to
seniors and children through Lunch-n-More



Assist the Vulnerable

Mentoring Builds a Bridge Between Generations

Lori, a former corporate consultant who now runs a nonprofit organization, and Trinity, a 12-year-old sixth-grader, are unlikely friends. But through Catholic Charities mentorship program, they meet weekly, and learn from each other, laugh with each other, and experience new things together. The mentorship program pairs youth ages 9 through 12 with volunteer mentors who serve as positive role models. For almost two years, Lori and Trinity have met to go on hikes, enjoy the theater, or even just to walk Lori's dog and chat.

"There are just so many children growing up in very challenging circumstances," said Beth Sheehan-Lucas, Program Coordinator of the Youth Mentorship Program. "This program truly provides an opportunity to make a difference."

Catholic Charities works closely with social workers at local public schools to identify youth who could benefit from the support of a volunteer mentor. Beth said the most common situation they see is a single mom struggling to provide for her kids while working multiple jobs. Before being matched, Catholic Charities trains its mentors to understand how poverty, community violence, and trauma often



Lori (left), a Catholic Charities mentor, visits with Trinity, her mentee.

impact the youth in the program.

"When a mentor comes into a child's life, the child can benefit from the friendship, support, and new experiences they share," Beth said. "So many possibilities are there, which we hope lead to a meaningful relationship."

Trinity, who just celebrated her 12th birthday, said she has learned so much from Lori, who often gives her advice and teaches her how to respond to situations she's never experienced before. At school, Trinity's favorite subject is math. After school, Trinity loves to play basketball, meet up with friends, and play outside. When she grows up, she hopes to join the U.S. Army or Navy to honor her

grandfather, who was a U.S. Marine.

"I would like to serve my country, just like my grandpa did," Trinity said.

Lori was connected with the program when someone suggested it to her, and at first, was worried she wouldn't have enough time to commit to Trinity.

"I've learned that we can do things that are really simple that can be really fun," she said. "And it's easy for us to communicate and have a nice friendship. We just hang out and have a really fun time together."

Trinity and Lori have gotten along famously since they were first introduced, a connection Lori attributes to Catholic Charities process of matching them together.

"I remember the first time they met," Beth said. "Lori asked Trinity to take a picture with her, and Trinity was immediately showing her how she could make the picture the lock screen on her phone."

Lori laughed in recollection of the memory.

"Do you remember that Trinity?" she said. "You've taught me so many things. Trinity is a beautiful person, inside and out. Her smile just lights up the room."

BENEFITS FOR MENTOR-ASSISTED AT-RISK YOUTH

55%

**More likely to enroll
in college**

78%

**More likely to
volunteer regularly**

130%

**More likely to hold
leadership positions**



Comfort the Afflicted

Refugee Resettlement Offers Hope, Peace

Zahid's family smiles so often, you would never imagine they had recently escaped dire circumstances. Zahid, his wife, Rabia, and their 6-year-old daughter, Sharon, came to the United States as refugees in October. According to Zahid, Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program literally "saved his life."

Generations of Zahid's family had lived peacefully as Christians in Pakistan for more than 100 years. But after 9/11, tensions began to rise. Zahid's father, pastor of their local church, was murdered. Shortly after, Zahid's brother was kidnapped. Zahid feared his family would be targeted next, and they fled to Thailand to apply for refugee status. It would take four years before their request was approved.

During that time, the family lived in an 7-by-12-foot room that had no air conditioning, no kitchen, and one small bathroom. They slept on the floor with no blankets or pillows. They relied on the church for food and supplies. Zahid counts the number of years they spent there on four fingers, and lifts them up.

"It was a very hard time," he said, adding it was hardest of all on Sharon, whose early childhood – including birthday celebrations – were spent in the tiny room.

"She would want for toys and things to play with," Zahid remembers. "It was very hard to tell her no."

Finally, they got the news. Their refugee status was approved, and they were coming to Chicago, where they would be connected with Catholic Charities.

For families like Zahid's, the relationship with Catholic Charities



Rabia (left) and Zahid (center) play a game with their daughter Sharon.

begins the moment they arrive. They are greeted at the airport, provided with a hot meal, and then taken to their new home, outfitted with the furniture and supplies they'll need, as well as

"Chicago is paradise. When you live without freedom, you learn how important for life it is..."

financial assistance to get started. From there, a case manager works with them for as long as two years to get them acclimated to life in the United States. Families receive everything from English classes, medical care, and employment resources. If there are children, staff also works with getting them placed in the right school.

Pregnancy services are also robust – in 2016, Kate Kuhn, Case Manager Supervisor of the Refugee Resettlement Program, said they had about 15 babies born into the program.

While Zahid usually allows an interpreter to speak for him, he shares the things he feels most passionately about with the English words he knows. When asked how he and his family like Chicago, he had a simple, profound answer: "Chicago is paradise," he said. "When you live without freedom, you learn how important for life it is."

Kate smiles when she sees her families experience joy, after so many of them have overcome such extreme hardships.

"It's exciting to watch clients get that opportunity to start a new life," she said. "Very few refugees get a chance to come to the United States and we get to work with that lucky few. We help them make the best of their opportunities."



Shelter the Homeless

Chronically Homeless Find Long-awaited Shelter

Anzetta was without a place to call home for more than five years. She had stayed with friends and tried staying in shelters, but because of her disability and lack of resources, she was unable to earn enough money to live on her own. One day, she caught a tip from a stranger.

“I was living at a friend’s house and her neighbor told me about Street to Home,” Anzetta remembers.

Street to Home is a Catholic Charities program, done in partnership with the City of Chicago, that works with chronically homeless adults to place them in affordable, subsidized housing.

Anzetta’s journey began with a simple phone call to Catholic Charities. Shortly after, she was paired with a case manager, Lashaunda Battie, who evaluated her situation, restored the paperwork and identification she had lost when she lost her home, and moved her from homelessness to living in the YWCA in downtown Chicago.

“That by itself was a life-changer,” she said.

Lashaunda’s next steps were to get Anzetta the disability support she needed and provide her with trauma-informed counseling. She also encouraged her to set goals, many of which Anzetta never dreamed she’d be able to reach again.

“I would get so discouraged at some points, and Lashaunda helped me with everything – from getting to the doctor to keeping my new place in order,” Anzetta said.

After a little over a year in the YWCA, Anzetta was ready and able to live on her own. Together, she and Lashaunda searched for the right



Street to Home employees reach out to chronically homeless adults living on the streets.

home, taking into consideration Anzetta’s safety as she would be living on her own for the first time in more than five years. One day, they found it.

“It’s just mind-boggling to go from being homeless to having your own place...It makes you feel like you’re taking care of yourself.”

“Lashaunda came down to see me and she said, ‘I’ve got the perfect place for you.’ When she showed me the apartment, wow, it was just so beautiful,” Anzetta remembered.

Moving Anzetta into her place isn’t the end of the program, though.

Lashaunda keeps up with Anzetta to make sure she’s still doing well and helps her to maintain her apartment and keep it clean. Anzetta said she now enjoys inviting friends over for dinner and conversation.

“It’s just mind-boggling to go from being homeless to having your own place,” Anzetta said. “It makes you feel like you’re taking care of yourself when you don’t have to beg people or be hungry.”

For her, the program has been truly life-changing.

“I pray every day and all day, and I just keep being strong,” Anzetta said. “Catholic Charities gave me patience when mine was wearing out. I learned you have to hold on because God makes everything possible with the help of people. I thank God that I was led to this program.”



Instruct

Autistic Son Inspires Senior-aged Father to Get Back to Work

Donald Watson lights up when he talks about his son D.J. The two look alike, dress alike, and do everything together. “There’s nothing in the world I wouldn’t do for him,” Donald said. “He’s my best friend and I’m his.”

D.J., who was diagnosed with autism, is now 27 but came to live with Donald when he was just 11 years old. D.J.’s mother had recently passed away and the state was preparing to take custody. “I thought, ‘No way – that’s my son,’” Donald said. “At that point, I decided to man up and get my act together.”

Over the years, Donald worked primarily as a handyman, doing everything from electrical work to plumbing. “I can take anything apart and put it back together again,” Donald said. As he got older, Donald found himself in need of more steady work to care for his family. He was referred to Catholic Charities Senior Aide Employment Program, which assists low-income individuals age 55 and older with obtaining part-time work through resume building, job searching, and job placement.

“I have always wanted to keep busy and work ... to pay my bills and keep a roof over our heads,” Donald said. Consistent with his previous experience, Donald now completes maintenance duties as an Activity Aide at Catholic Charities St. Ailbe Adult Day Services in Chicago.

“I’m one of the first people here in the morning, making



Donald Watson, who went back to work at 55 to care for his son, is now employed through Catholic Charities Senior Aide Employment program.

sure we’re ready to go,” he said. “I love the staff and the participants are like family to me. I call them my babies. I don’t ever want to be without them, not one day of the week.”

While his new job allows him to care for his son, Donald said it’s about more than just income. His job gives him a sense of community and purpose. He recently did a presentation to the seniors, where he shared his story of raising his son and what it means to be autistic. Donald said he felt closer to the residents afterward and that many of them could relate

because of their own health conditions.

“It made me feel so good,” Donald said. “I got two standing ovations.”

Jobs available for seniors in the program range from teacher’s aides and lunchroom monitors to maintenance staff and mailing room assistants. Angela Taylor, Associate Vice President of Community Based Services, said that many of the seniors enjoy a renewed sense of purpose once they get back to work through the program.

“When seniors get turned down for job after job, a lot of them tell us they feel obsolete,” she said. “The truth is, seniors are usually the most productive employees on staff because they’re so grateful to be working and they have that old-fashioned work ethic.”

25%

of our clients were defined as “most in need” – working with a disability, limited education, or lack of work experience



Gala of the Arts • Deacon Stan Strom receives *The Mandatum Award*.



Harvest of Hope Dinner • Mock horse racing was added to this year's event.



Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball • (RIGHT TO LEFT) Bishop Perry, Bishop Rojas, Msg. Boland, Cardinal Cupich, Mary Beth and Richard Murphy, and Rev. Ronald A. Hicks.

PAST EVENTS

Gala of the Arts

On September 9 the 15th Annual Gala of the Arts was held at the Navy Pier Grand Ballroom. Nearly 600 attendees raised \$317,000 to benefit Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Department. The event was chaired by Jim Serritella and Heide and Gerry Kenny served as co-chairs. *The Mandatum Award* was presented to Deacon Stan Strom of Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

Brighter Futures Golf Outing

On September 12 the 16th Annual Brighter Futures Golf Outing was held at the Oak Park Country Club. Co-chaired by Doug and Kathy Kurtenbach, Jeff and Karen Stelmach, Mike and Lisa Kozak, and Jim and Deborah Hopkinson, the event hosted 113 golfers and an additional 89 dinner guests, raising a record \$138,000 for the New Hope Apartments in the West Region. Joe and Char Madden were awarded the *Heart of Charity Award*.

Harvest of Hope Dinner

The North Region's Harvest of Hope Dinner at the Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette was September 30, and raised more than \$120,000 from 400 attendees. Event co-chairs Eric and Mary Anderson and Tim and Megan Horton organized the evening of cocktails, mock horse racing, a silent auction, and dinner. Rev. Patrick McGrath, S. J., was recognized on behalf of Loyola Academy with the *Heart of Charity Award*.

Ayudando Nuestras Familias

The Ayudando Nuestras Familias cocktail reception hosted 130 attendees at the Casino Club in Chicago on October 12, raising nearly \$38,000 for Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center in the Back of the Yards community. With the help of the Latino Advisory Committee, presenting sponsors Gus and Isabell Abello planned the cocktail reception with entertainment by the Holy Cross Marimba Ensemble.

Wynstone Holiday Tea & Boutique

The annual Wynstone Holiday Tea & Boutique was November 3. More than 100 guests enjoyed the Holiday Shopping Boutique featuring vendors with an array of wares and two High Tea seatings. Tae Haider-Krebs and Jackie Cantwell chaired the event, which raised more than \$20,000 to benefit services in Lake County.

House of Good Shepherd Renaissance Brunch

More than 360 attendees came together for the House of the Good Shepherd 109th Annual Women's Board Brunch and Auction on November 6 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Guests enjoyed a silent auction and brunch followed by a live auction.

Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball

Catholic Charities kicked off the Christmas season with a record-breaking \$1.4 million raised at the 27th Annual Spirit of St. Nicholas Ball hosted by Chaircouple Richard and Mary Beth Murphy and Vice

ALL EVENT
TICKET
Information

Denise Samulis
Director of Special Events & Corporate Partnerships
(312) 948-6864
dsamulis@catholiccharities.net



www.catholiccharities.net
Find ccofchicago on:



2016 d'Vine Affair



2016 Patrick J. Ryan Main Event



Chaircouple Michael and Claire O'Grady on December 2 at the Hilton Chicago. Remarks from Cardinal Cupich and Monsignor Michael Boland highlighted the evening. Attendees danced to The Ken Arlen Orchestra and also enjoyed cordials, cookies, and harp music in the Late Night Café.

UPCOMING EVENTS

d'Vine Affair

The 16th Annual d'Vine Affair is from 2-6 p.m. on January 29 at the Union League Club of Chicago. This elegant wine tasting features more than 90 vintners from around the world as well as a craft and imported beer tasting and gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts. The event features a wine seminar at 1:30 p.m. and an auction of a barrel of wine. Proceeds from the d'Vine Affair benefit Catholic Charities Self Sufficiency programs in Cook and Lake counties. For more information, visit www.catholiccharities.net/dvine.

Patrick J. Ryan Main Event

The 3rd Annual Patrick J. Ryan Main Event is February 3 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. The reception begins at 6 p.m. with dinner and amateur boxing bouts at 7 p.m. New this year is the addition of casino games. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide Program for Children and Youth. For more information, contact Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez at (312) 655-7290 or RMLesniakMendez@catholiccharities.net.

Compassion In Action Dinner

The 11th Annual Compassion in Action Dinner is at 6 p.m. on February 18, at Glenwoodie Golf Club in Glenwood, benefiting the South Region. The highlights of the evening will be the presentation of the *Servant of God, Father Augustine Tolton Award*, the *Compassion in Action Award*, and the *Bertrand W. Ellis Award*. For more information, call Christopher Torres at (708) 333-9239 or cltorres@catholiccharities.net.

UPCOMING EVENT

First Look for Charity

Benefiting Maternity & Adoption and Neighbors In Need Fund

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 10

First Look for Charity is the Chicago Auto Show's preview night at McCormick Place that benefits 18 local nonprofit organizations, including Catholic Charities. The event features an exclusive "first look" at the premier display of vehicles on the auto show floor, live entertainment, and a chance to win one of two new cars: a 2017 Acura TLX or a 2017 Lexus NX. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., guests of Catholic Charities are invited to attend a private pre-event reception featuring a raffle, private coat check, fine array of cocktails, gourmet food, and musical entertainment. Proceeds benefit the Maternity and Adoption programs and the Neighbors in Need Fund. Tickets are \$275 and sponsorships are available. To reserve tickets, visit www.catholiccharities.net/firstlook or contact Jodi Hill at johill@catholiccharities.net or (312) 948-6797.

PHOTO

Guests enjoy the 2016 First Look for Charity.

\$2,278,150

**raised at Autumn fundraisers
to support programs and services**

Private Partners Provide Vital Funding



Pictured is veteran Aquiles Hernandez, who benefited from the Veterans Employment Program. The program received a grant from the Irvin Stern Foundation.

Irvin Stern Foundation

The Trustees of the Irvin Stern Foundation awarded a grant to Catholic Charities to support our Veterans Employment Program. This first-time gift to Catholic Charities will allow the program to help homeless veterans by providing job-readiness skills through assessment, training, and preparation for employment.

Frank J. Lewis Foundation

The Frank J. Lewis Foundation provided continued support of Catholic Charities Maternity and Adoption Program. The late Frank J. Lewis was the very first donor and a founding board member of Catholic Charities nearly a century ago. Their family's continued generosity over the years has benefited thousands of our clients.

Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust

The Trustees of the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust generously funded the supportive social services provided at our St. Leo Residence for Veterans during our 2017 Fiscal Year. The supportive services at the St. Leo Residence help previously homeless veterans maintain stable housing and achieve their greatest personal level of self-sufficiency.

MAC AIDS Fund

The MAC AIDS Fund returned to supporting Catholic Charities HIV Care Cupboard in Lake County. The Care Cupboard works in conjunction with our HIV/AIDS Case Management Program to provide people living with HIV/AIDS access to balanced meals to improve and maintain their physical health and adherence to other medication regimens. The Care Cupboard is the only HIV/AIDS-specific food pantry in all of Lake County.

Highland Park Community Foundation

The Highland Park Community Foundation increased its support of Lake County Senior Services. Catholic Charities Lake County Senior Services provides comprehensive services so that seniors are able to live independently or with caregiver support in their own 'homes and communities.



Pictured is a child at the New Hope Apartments Success Day Ceremony. The program received funding from the Lyon Family Foundation.

Lyon Family Foundation

The Lyon Family Foundation recently awarded a grant in support of Catholic Charities New Hope Apartments program in Chicago. The New Hope Apartments program provides transitional housing with intensive case management services for homeless families with children under the age of 18.



New board members pose for a photo at the 99th Annual Meeting.

99th Annual Meeting of the Board of Advisors

Nearly 350 board members and guests attended the 99th Annual Meeting of the Board of Advisors on Thursday, October 27, at the Hilton Chicago. Photos highlighting Catholic Charities history over the years were displayed throughout the room, as a preview to the celebration of Catholic Charities 100th year.

During the program, Monsignor Boland highlighted the accomplishments of Catholic Charities during this financially challenging year, reinforcing the commitment of the agency to its mission of professional, competent, and compassionate services to all in need in Cook and Lake counties. He also thanked and acknowledged Timothy J. Rivelli, outgoing Chair of the Board, for his leadership the past two years.

Vicar General Very Rev. Ronald A. Hicks represented then-Cardinal Elect Blase Cupich in appointing 37 new members to the Catholic Charities Board of Advisors. He also recognized members of the board being reappointed to a new three-year term and those receiving Distinguished Board Member status for years of dedicated service.

Awardees included: *Dennis F. Kelly Award*: Martha Fitzgerald and Amy Mazzolin; *Compassion in*

Action Award: Gerard and Heide Kenny; *Bishop M. Conway, The Love of Christ Impels Us Award*: Joseph and Elizabeth Rocci and the Hilton Chicago; *St. Thomas More Award*: Sisters of the Good Shepherd; *Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. Mission of Charity Award*: Rev. Charles T. Rubey; *Volunteer of the Year Award*: Mary Ellen Kastenholz.

Thanksgiving for the Newly Resettled Refugee Families

On Saturday, November 12, Thanksgiving came early for more than 120 refugee adults and children who were resettled in Chicago by Catholic Charities in 2016. Members of the Catholic Charities Junior Board, together with Board members participating on the Family and Parish Service Area Board, hosted a Thanksgiving meal, complete with all the trimmings. The dinner took place at St. Gregory Parish on Chicago's north side. In addition to a wonderful meal, children played games and participated in Thanksgiving-themed crafts. "This event opens the eyes of our families to the generosity of our communities and makes them feel welcome in a country that they are still adjusting to," said Elmida Kulovic, Program Director of Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program.



JUNIOR BOARD

Junior Board Casino Night A Success

The 10th Annual Casino Night took place on Saturday, November 19, at the Chicago Cultural Center. More than 225 guests came together for an evening of gaming and fun, raising more than \$45,000 for Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Department. Event Chairs Daniel Marinez and Kat Kos, along with an outstanding planning committee, created a memorable evening that included the music of the Outcast Jazz Band. Father Wayne F. Watts received the *Pope Francis Award*, presented by Catholic Charities Senior Vice President Kathy Donahue on behalf of Monsignor Boland and the Junior Board.

The Junior Board welcomes young professionals interested in living out their faith in service and support to the Catholic Charities mission. To learn more or to get involved, contact Carlos Rinconeno, Junior Board Director, at (312) 655-7932 or crinconeno@catholiccharities.net.

PHOTO

Attendees enjoy the annual Junior Board Casino Night.

The Last Word ...

'I had to forgive in order to move forward'

Maricela • CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING CLIENT

I've struggled with depression and anxiety, as well as abusive relationships, throughout my life. Last year, after a bad breakup, I sought counseling through a priest at my parish because my faith plays such a big role in my life. My priest directed me to Catholic Charities counseling and case management services.

I began working with Maeve at Catholic Charities, and we set up an action plan and touched base about certain goals I would set for myself, as far as self-care and coping mechanisms, and learning how to find the right resources outside of Catholic Charities. It meant so much just to be able to manage my symptoms and work through my issues. Maeve was always ready, able, and willing to share resources accessible to me.

One of the projects we worked on was a letter that I wrote. I had just gotten out of an emotionally abusive relationship. I'm also a survivor of sexual assault. I felt like it was so important to forgive everything that had been done. Maeve wanted me to write this letter as a means to an end but also a new beginning. I wanted to move forward on to the next chapter of my life and continue to grow and evolve as an individual. This was the first time in my life where I set out to do this, and there was a huge accumulation of bad



Maeve Raphelson, a Clinical Family Services Specialist with Catholic Charities, who worked with Maricela.

relationships to seek to forgive any wrongs that had been done.

The act of reconciliation brings you closer to God. Relationships can take a horrible turn, whether it's intentional or not, but there are always opportunities for growth through forgiveness. I'm not the exception. There are many women who go through abuse and it's so hard as a woman to forgive also yourself. You have to hold yourself into account and love yourself through it and heal every day. I had to form my own peace of mind to move forward. Some days are harder than others and I just try to release everything with love.

When I feel bad about myself I say God is love and I have to be a reflection of His love on earth, and I have to consistently work with it and ask for patience and perseverance and humility. I know that God is not going to hand me perseverance but he is going to bring me opportunities to choose happiness and move forward. Through my work with Maeve, every week I had someone holding me accountable.

I realize now that mental illness is a complex thing to deal with. I think people are doubtful to reach out for help or aren't aware of the resources in their community. For me, in a Hispanic community, it's overlooked and not always taken as seriously. There's a stigma and people say "you're just crazy." But I realize for me, the best thing I could've done for myself was to reach out for help and not be ashamed of it. There are moments in our lives that are situational and it's okay to admit that we don't have to go through it alone. Catholic Charities is a great organization and offers so many services for low-income families and it's so readily available – there's no reason why people shouldn't reach out.

Catholic Charities offers counseling services on a sliding scale or at no cost to clients. For more information, call (312) 655-7700.

2016 YEAR-END APPEAL

Let Light Shine Out of Darkness



Now your gift may be doubled!

Together we can heal deep-seated wounds and bring the hope of peace where it is most needed. An anonymous donor will match new and increased gifts, up to \$55,000.

Ways
to Give

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2017 UPCOMING EVENTS

jan



D'VINE AFFAIR
Sunday, January 29
Union League Club
of Chicago
(312) 655-7907

feb

**PATRICK J. RYAN
MAIN EVENT**
Friday, February 3
Drury Lane,
Oakbrook Terrace
(312) 655-7290

**CHICAGO AUTO SHOW'S
FIRST LOOK FOR CHARITY**
Friday, February 10
McCormick Place, Chicago
(312) 948-6797

**COMPASSION IN
ACTION DINNER**
Saturday, February 18
Glenwoodie Golf Club
Glenwood
(708) 333-8379

NITE AT THE NET
Saturday, February 25
Hinsdale Racquet Club
Hinsdale
(312) 655-7290

mar

**HELPING HANDS
DINNER & AUCTION**
Saturday, March 4
Silver Lake Country Club
Orland Park
(708) 430-0428

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CELEBRATION**
Thursday, March 9
FitzGerald's, Berwyn
(708) 329-4022

**HOLY FAMILY VILLA
DINNER**
Sunday, March 19
Gaelic Park, Oak Forest
(630) 257-2291

**MEALS ON WHEELS
DINNER DANCE**
Saturday, March 25
Maravelas, Ingleside
(847) 782-4119

apr

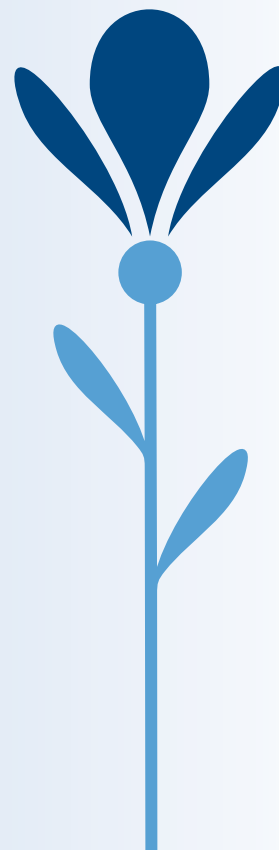
**LEGAL LIFELINES
COCKTAIL RECEPTION**
Thursday, April 6
Union League Club
of Chicago
(312) 655-7290

**BLOSSOMS OF
HOPE BRUNCH**
Sunday, April 23
Drury Lane
Oakbrook Terrace
(312) 948-6797

**HEARTS FOR HOPE
DINNER & AUCTION**
Saturday, April 29
Schaumburg Golf Club
Schaumburg
(847) 376-2118

may

ART OF CARING
Saturday, May 13
Genesee Theater,
Waukegan
(312) 948-6797



www.catholiccharities.net/events