

## Tuesday Night Suppers

One of three Pope Francis  
Ministry programs serving  
the needs of the homeless



## Ministry of Compassion and Dignity

POPE FRANCIS MINISTRIES  
*Year One Reflection*

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*Year One Reflection*



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from Home Depot is a  
fantastic reflection  
[of our mission].”

**Nancy Haws**

*– The House of the Good Shepherd, Development Director*



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# SPIRIT MAGAZINE

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PHOTOS Catholic Charities  
Communications  
Department

DESIGN **Kathy Gabriel**

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*Spirit Magazine is published by Catholic Charities  
of the Archdiocese of Chicago for its friends,  
clients, and benefactors.*

Phone (312) 655-7010

[communications@catholiccharities.net](mailto:communications@catholiccharities.net)

Postage paid in Chicago, IL 60654  
Postmaster Send change of address to:  
Spirit Magazine, 721 N. LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois 60654



[www.catholiccharities.net/spirit](http://www.catholiccharities.net/spirit)

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## Rev. Monsignor Michael Boland

PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

# Strong Leadership and Management Ensures ‘Jewel of the Archdiocese’

With a heavy heart, I made the decision step down as President, Administrator, and CEO of Catholic Charities effective August 16, 2019. It has been my great privilege to hold this position at Catholic Charities for almost 25 years and to be a part of the agency for 30 years.

When I became Administrator, a friend told me that I had been given stewardship of “the great jewel of the Archdiocese.” That term has always stuck with me because it is a beautiful reminder that the poor and vulnerable are the true treasures of the Church. Catholic Charities is so blessed to daily minister to the needs of those whom Jesus entrusted to our care, and during my tenure I have tried to be a faithful steward of this remarkable agency that brings help and hope to so many people in need.

One of the greatest joys of my time at Catholic Charities has to be our recent year-long centennial anniversary celebration. The 100th anniversary gave us the opportunity to honor the great tradition of charitable care in the Archdiocese of Chicago – a tradition that has always included parishes, religious orders, volunteers, board members, philanthropic organizations, the business community, and government entities all working together to adapt and add services to meet changing needs.

During the past 30 years, this tradition has not only continued, but flourished. I have been



**“As Catholic Charities embarks on the next phase of leadership, it will continue the great tradition of bringing people together to respond to changing needs.”**

tremendously grateful for the support Catholic Charities receives from so many organizations, individuals, and especially our dedicated volunteers and board members that has allowed us

to expand our services in both Cook and Lake counties. Because of this support we are able to implement a variety of innovative programming for veterans, seniors, families, children, and anyone in need of a helping hand.

As Catholic Charities embarks on the next phase of leadership, it will continue the great tradition of bringing people together to respond to changing needs. Kathy Donahue, Senior Vice President of Program Development and Evaluation, will assume the role of Acting Administrator, President and CEO. Kathy’s nearly 40 years of service at Catholic Charities demonstrates her commitment to the mission and strong leadership in the agency. I am confident that Kathy will ensure Catholic Charities seamless operations during this transition.

While my heart will always be with Catholic Charities, it is time for me to step back. I leave confident that you will continue your extraordinary support ensuring the poor and vulnerable will be protected and treated with the love and respect that is worthy of their God-given dignity.

May God’s peace be with you always.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monsignor Michael Boland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



## THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life.

In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: *Respect, Compassion, Competence and Stewardship.*

---

**Kathleen A. Donahue-Coia**

ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

# Competence and Compassion at Catholic Charities Remains Steadfast

As you can imagine, this has been a time of transition at Catholic Charities. Monsignor Boland has been a well-loved and respected shepherd of the agency. He's a visionary leader in the true sense of the word, with his passion and genuine love for the poor and vulnerable inspiring staff and making a permanent mark on all we do. He will be sorely missed.

To be sure, Monsignor Boland leaves Catholic Charities in a very good place. We are blessed with a strong leadership team and excellent management infrastructure that will guide Catholic Charities into the future and ensure that our Gospel mission to serve those in need with compassion and dignity remains steadfast.

Perhaps it is fitting that this issue of Spirit magazine focuses on Catholic Charities' programs that are near and dear to Monsignor Boland's heart: our services for people who are experiencing homelessness, particularly the "Pope Francis Ministries," which include our long-established Evening Supper and After Supper Visions Programs, as well as our newly created shower and laundry programs that operate out of our main headquarters at the St. Vincent Center on LaSalle Street.

It is heartbreaking and unjust that thousands of Chicagoans don't have a place to call home. Often, one significant setback like a job loss, the death of the head of household, or an unexpected medical expense can lead to a spiral of events that result in homelessness for an individual or family. With the absence of any safety net income for single adults, as well



**“We are blessed with a strong leadership team... that will guide Catholic Charities into the future ...”**

as the severe shortage of affordable housing and supportive housing for people with special needs, it becomes extremely difficult to regain housing once it is lost.

Catholic Charities Pope Francis Ministries not only fill the practical needs of those experiencing homelessness, but feed their spirits as well. The Ministries are largely volunteer-driven, with volunteers walking alongside our guests, neighbor to neighbor, accompanying them on their journey through

difficult times. Pope Francis often speaks of creating a “culture of encounter,” where we are connecting with people on a personal level and embracing their humanness despite differences between us. He envisions a world where we compassionately “encounter” others just as Jesus did. It is beautiful to witness the encounters between Catholic Charities' guests and volunteers, where the lines between those helping and those being helped are blurred, and where so many of our volunteers tell us that they are the true beneficiaries in helping others.

The connections our brothers and sisters make at Catholic Charities become so important because when people live on the streets, life can be lonely and dangerous. They must constantly be on their guard and protect themselves from all kinds of harm. We want our offices to be a safe place where guests know they can come for professional help, but also a place where they can let their guard down; feel that sense of belonging; and be welcomed in with a friendly smile, a warm meal, a hot shower, and clean clothes. We want the St. Vincent Center to be a place of stability amidst uncertainty and fear, where dignity is restored and hope renewed. On the following pages, I hope you enjoy reading about the many dedicated volunteers and generous donors who make Catholic Charities a place that feels like home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen A. Donahue-Coia".

# Pope Francis Ministries Adds to Continuum of Emergency Help

One of the things we're known for at Catholic Charities is our comprehensive homeless and housing programs. They provide affordable apartments and social services to veterans, seniors, families, and those facing the challenge of domestic violence or disability. In total, we provide affordable housing to more than 4,000 people each year throughout Cook and Lake counties. Catholic Charities offers a variety of support services and employment programs that help people move from homelessness to stability and independence. Especially with the severe shortage of affordable housing in our high-rent metropolitan area, it is more important than ever to provide housing support for so many people.

It can be hard to fully comprehend that when someone is homeless and on the street, each day is truly about surviving to the next day. Planning for the future becomes a luxury because you are too busy figuring out how to stay safe, where to go for a hot meal, or where to sleep at night – and then getting yourself there, most likely on foot.

And so emergency services become critical – services filling the most basic of human needs for food, clothing, and refuge from the elements. Therefore, in addition to our comprehensive housing and social services, Catholic Charities operates numerous programs to fill basic human needs.

## MOBILE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Program, reached when people dial “311,” dispatches teams to respond to non-life threatening requests for assistance throughout

**We offer a variety of support services and programs that help people move from homelessness to stability and independence.**

the city of Chicago 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. This includes doing well-being checks, bringing people to shelters, providing emergency food, and giving transportation assistance. Our teams are especially busy during the summer and winter months when we try to move people out of extreme temperatures and into warming or cooling centers and shelters throughout the city.

## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Catholic Charities operates the Homeless Prevention Call Center, which screens callers and provides

emergency, one-time financial assistance to persons who are at risk of being evicted or at risk of having their heat or lights turned off due to a recent crisis.

## Pope Francis Ministries

### SUPPER PROGRAM

The Evening Supper Programs are located in the city and throughout the suburbs and provide a hot evening meal to anyone in need. Guests get a nutritious meal that may be their only meal of the day and can be connected with other needed services. *See related stories on pages 7 and 12.*

### SHOWER AND LAUNDRY PROGRAM

Showers and laundry facilities at the St. Vincent Center provide the renewal of a hot shower for those without access to private bathrooms. *See cover story on page 8.*

### FOOD AND CLOTHING PROGRAMS

The Family Stabilization Program operates food pantries and clothing rooms across many locations throughout the city and suburbs. Ready-to-eat food is available for those without access to cooking facilities. Depending on donations received, we provide winter coats and other cold-weather gear to help people stay warm in frigid temperatures. Mary's Closet is a specialized clothing room for professional attire. Guests are helped to find clothing appropriate for interviews and employment.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Catholic Charities Family Stabilization Program and Crisis Services

(312) 655-7700 • [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net)

# Supper Guests Exhibit Art and Talent

For more than 18 years, people who are hungry or homeless have come to Catholic Charities St. Vincent Hall every weeknight for company and a hot meal through the Evening Supper Program. Catholic Charities sponsors the meal Tuesday evenings, while the Chicago HELP Initiative, Fourth Presbyterian Church and Holy Name Cathedral provide the meal on the other four weeknights. On a typical evening, 130 people receive dinner. We are always at capacity and distribute sack meals to those who cannot be accommodated at a table. The program is a remarkable collaboration of volunteers, community groups, churches, and local restaurants who all work together to ensure that supper guests are fed delicious food served with love.

Shortly after starting the suppers, Catholic Charities initiated "After Supper Visions" for the guests. The program, run by a team of volunteers, starts in September each year. Interested supper guests are given a disposable camera, participate in workshops where they are taught basic photography skills, and are then encouraged to take photographs from their point of view. Volunteers work with the supper guests over the fall and winter months as the photographs are developed and discussed in small groups on a weekly basis.

"The suppers have really become a community and family for the guests, many of whom are alone," says Kathy Donahue (Acting Administrator, President and CEO of Catholic Charities). "Visions" is an extension of that community and gives people a shared experience that they can talk about amongst themselves and with the volunteers. It brings that sense of human connection that you would have with anyone who shared your passion."

Ellen Gorney, retired Director of Programs, was one of the original



creators of the program 17 years ago and has volunteered ever since. "To be able to have relationships with the photographers is a gift," she says. "I enjoy learning about their lives. They know so much about the city, current events...they have so much to contribute."

It is particularly rewarding to see the photographs improve as they learn more skills. "Visions" helps participants rekindle a sense of pride and enhances their self-confidence. "It is liberating for them to see themselves as something other than in need," explains Kathy. "They are truly artists and begin to see themselves as such."

The artists select their best photos to be displayed in a gallery exhibition held in June at St. Vincent Hall. Staff from Catholic Charities clothing room, Mary's Closet, help each artist select professional attire, and many of the artists take advantage of the shower program. There is an opening night reception, then two afternoon shows where the artists proudly discuss their photography with the 400 to 500 guests. It is a wonderful exchange of ideas, as guests view the gallery and get to meet and visit with the artists.

"Over the years the show has become more well-known and we get more patrons," Kathy notes. "We

## After Supper Visions

DEVELOPING FILM, TALENT AND HOPE

### MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

- Photo Prints
- Note Cards
- Framed Photos
- Ornaments

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate used digital cameras.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[aftersuppervisions.com](http://aftersuppervisions.com)

have professional photographers who come and are very impressed with the quality of the photographs. The "Visions" artists have a unique perspective on our surroundings, which comes through in their work. It is wonderful to see the artists speaking with the professional photographers as contemporaries."

Prints, notecards and gifts, made from photos taken by the artists, are available for sale during the show (and anytime on-line). The artists receive 70 percent of the proceeds from the sale of their work, and 30 percent comes back to the program to cover the cost of cameras, printing, ink, framing and other expenses. The money earned is truly a blessing for the artists and getting paid for their "vision" of the world around them is very life-affirming.

# Ministry of Compassion and Dignity

## POPE FRANCIS MINISTRIES

### *Year One Reflection*



TOP

Pope Francis Ministries' volunteer greets and registers shower program participants.

BELOW: LEFT TO RIGHT

"Mary's Closet" clothing room, shower room, and laundry facilities.

On a recent sunny morning at Catholic Charities St. Vincent Center on LaSalle Street, Vince and Sherry\* arrive early for their 10 a.m. shower appointments and wait patiently in the lobby as volunteers finish stocking two private bathrooms with fresh towels and washcloths, shower shoes, new socks and underwear, and a variety of toiletries. Another volunteer warmly greets the

In its first year, the shower program served more than 220 individuals with the able assistance of 40 volunteers.

two and escorts them downstairs to the newly remodeled clothing room, where they "shop" for gently used shirts and pants from the many generous donations. Vince and Sherry are the first guests of the day in Catholic Charities Shower Ministry, which celebrated its first anniversary in June.

For people who are experiencing homelessness, finding a place to clean up can be extremely challenging. Many try to wash up in public restrooms, but of course that is not the same as taking a shower and changing into clean clothing. Many guests of our Evening Supper program had shared that they were often embarrassed to apply for jobs, show up for work, or attend counseling or medical appointments when they had not showered or were wearing dirty clothing. Catholic Charities wanted to be sure we could address this need. Since we started the program last year, hundreds of people have experienced the simple

joy that a shower and fresh clothing can bring.

As the Holy Father explains, the showers and laundry are a concrete way to recognize the humanity and dignity of our brothers and sisters who are experiencing homelessness, and to show God's love and tenderness to people who are too often overlooked.

Modeled after the "Pope Francis Ministries" facilities on the grounds of the Vatican, the Catholic Charities program encompasses the showers, the laundry, and our Evening Supper program, which has been providing hot meals to the hungry and homeless for nearly two decades. Each weeknight, the Evening Supper Program hosts more than 130 people in St. Vincent Hall to enjoy a hot meal prepared by volunteers or generously donated by local restaurants. Supper guests are invited to participate in a variety of other services such as medical care, legal assistance, employment programs, counseling services — and now they can also reserve their half-hour spot for a hot shower!

What is unique about the Pope Francis Ministries is that, aside from minimal staff oversight, they are entirely volunteer-run and are operated through our Volunteer Relations Department. "It has really been amazing to watch the way the volunteers take ownership of these programs," says Andrew McKernin, Manager of Volunteer Relations. "We relied on volunteers to help organize the programs from the ground up, and we count on them to keep them running day-to-day."

These ministries are a way for us to, in Pope Francis' words, use "our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our hands to care" for those in need of



**"When I first came here, I was real upset. I didn't smile. Here's somebody that went out of their way to feed me when I was hungry, gave me clothes when I needed clothes."**

– Pierre S.

friendship and a helping hand. The one-on-one connection between volunteers and guests is powerful. We know that we are proudly giving much more than food or place to clean up — being seen and heard by our caring volunteers is important for our guests who feel welcomed and seen as the children of God they are.

In the words of Board of Advisors Member and shower volunteer Michele Medzigian, "It has been

moving to see the transformation of people that takes place from the moment they walk in the door until the time they leave. They come out of the showers with big smiles on their faces, standing a little taller. You can tell they feel so much better and more able to take on whatever comes in the rest of their day."

Currently, the showers are being offered three days per week and laundry is offered one day per week. However, with more donations and more volunteers, we could do more, according to Kathy Almaney, Board Member and shower volunteer, "We really need more volunteers! And truly as a volunteer, you get so much more than you give. Everyone is so grateful, and it is a joy to help people have a shower, which is a very routine human experience that they don't get to have otherwise."

Andrew explains that "Volunteers sign up in roughly three-hour shifts (9:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.) and can come every week, every month, or on an occasional basis. We are happy to have them whenever they can come." Needed donations include small or travel-sized toiletries, new socks and underwear, and gently used clothing and shoes. Gathering donations would be a great project for school and service groups!

As we have learned over the past year of our Shower Ministry, sharing a warm welcome and a warm shower can truly be the first step in restoring a person's pride and providing hope for the future. We are so grateful to our donors and volunteers who have made this small act of kindness and grace available to those in need.

*\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.*

**TO DONATE SHOWER OR LAUNDRY PROGRAM GOODS OR VOLUNTEER**

Contact: Emily Lewis, Volunteer Relations Project Manager  
[elewis@catholiccharities.net](mailto:elewis@catholiccharities.net) • (312) 655-7053

## Kathy Almaney | Leaving a Meaningful Legacy

When Kathy Almaney's colleague at Northern Trust asked her to join Catholic Charities Board of Advisors, she had no idea just how large and far-reaching the organization was, or just how long she would remain involved. That was 25 years ago – and her then-colleague, Bill Fanning, recently celebrated his 50th year on Catholic Charities board!

“Until you get involved, it is hard to comprehend just how many different services are offered and how many people are helped each year. I wish more people knew about all the different programs Catholic Charities has for children, seniors, veterans, the hungry, homeless... anyone in need is helped here. Chicago would certainly be in dire straits without Catholic Charities.”

With her professional background in human resources, Kathy has been on the executive board as chair of the benefits committee for more than 10 years. She says, “The staff of Catholic Charities is so dedicated. Everyone who chooses to work here wants to work for the good of others.”

Recently, Kathy has enjoyed getting more involved in direct service, helping launch the shower program that enables the homeless to shower and receive fresh clothing. She faithfully volunteers with the program almost every Monday. *See the cover story on page 8.*

When Kathy and her husband, Adnan, began the estate planning process several years ago, they knew they wanted Catholic Charities to be a part of their legacy, she explains. “Taking care of family is a big part of estate planning, but we also knew we wanted to help the community. We wanted to be sure that any organizations we included in our estate plan would have the longevity to serve people years and years after we were gone.”

“Catholic Charities will continue



on with its good work because it is such a well-run organization. It has always been led by leaders with extraordinary vision. It is cost-efficient. It attracts wonderful staff, and, most importantly, it is driven

**“Catholic Charities... has always been led by leaders with extraordinary vision.” – Kathy Almaney**

by its mission to help others just as Jesus did. That is something that will never change. Being mission-driven and organizationally sound enables Catholic Charities to constantly adapt its services and programs to changing needs. That's important.”

Whether they've been involved with the agency for as long as she has, or are making their first donation, Kathy hopes others will consider making Catholic Charities a part of their legacy. “I think we all want to trust that our money will be used for good, and with Catholic Charities, you can have that confidence.”

PHOTO

Adnan & Kathy Almaney.

### SAVE THE DATE

CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

*Legacy of Hope*

**Luncheon**

**Monday**

**September 30, 2019**

Noon

721 N LaSalle, Chicago

Gather for Mass in our chapel at noon followed by lunch.

Come and meet other wonderful supporters, and enjoy a behind the scenes look at how your gifts help others. We hope your connection to Catholic Charities always brings you joy. This luncheon is our way of saying thank you!

The Legacy of Hope Society honors individuals who plan to support us in the future through wills, trusts, gift annuities, life insurance, retirement plans, or other ways. For more information about the society or the luncheon, contact:

**Margaret Hughes**

*Director of Individual & Planned Giving*

**(312) 655-7012**

[mhughes@catholiccharities.net](mailto:mhughes@catholiccharities.net)

2019

# Neighbors in Need Fund



*You can transform  
the life of your neighbor!*

Help your neighbor regain their dignity & rebuild their life.  
Your gift to the Neighbors in Need Fund is a crucial step  
to provide direct support for basic needs that can't wait.

Ways  
to Give

**DONATE TODAY**

PHONE (312) 948-6087

ONLINE [www.catholiccharities.net/donate](http://www.catholiccharities.net/donate)

BY MAIL *Send your donation to our lockbox:*  
Catholic Charities  
75 Remittance Dr, Ste 1623  
Chicago, IL 60675-1623



[www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net)

Find ccofchicago on:    

## Holy Name Cathedral

CHICAGO



## Beauty of Cathedral Reflected in Parishioners

People from all over the world visit Holy Name Cathedral. Seat of the Archdiocese of Chicago and home to Chicago's Archbishop, Cardinal Blase Cupich, it is arguably one of the most beautiful churches in the United States. But ask any Evening Supper guest what makes Holy Name beautiful, and they will tell you that it's not the soaring spire or stained glass, but the wonderful parishioners who faithfully help their community that give Holy Name its true beauty.

The Evening Supper Program provides 130 hot meals and another 70 takeaway meals to the hungry and homeless each weeknight at Catholic Charities St. Vincent Center. The program is a result of tremendous collaboration among community groups, volunteers, and local restaurants. Catholic Charities sponsors the Tuesday Night Suppers, and other organizations (including the Chicago HELP Initiative and Fourth Presbyterian Church) sponsor the remaining nights.

Holy Name Parish began sponsoring one meal per week in 2006, but within a year, they had enough volunteers and donations to sponsor a second night. They have been sponsoring the Thursday and Friday Night Suppers every week since 2007.

"We have so many parishioners

who want to get involved that we've created a variety of ways they can help with the program," says Chris Martinez, a member of the parish's Human Concerns Commission and liaison to Catholic Charities. Parishioners can give monetary donations, bake homemade desserts, help secure meal sponsorships from local restaurants, or volunteer

**"We really become a family. It's a lot more than food. It's very social. People talk with each other."**

— Cindy Loftus

to serve meals. A different parish group is in charge of organizing and serving each of the meals Holy Name is responsible for each month. For example, the Act II adult group handles the first Friday, the Young Adult ministry handles the second Friday, and so on.

"People want to help our neighbors and make an impact on the community," explains Chris. "It is such a blessing to serve a meal

to someone. But what keeps people coming back are the relationships that are formed with guests and other volunteers."

Cindy Loftus, also a member of the parish's Human Concerns Commission, agrees: "We really become a family. It's a lot more than food. It's very social. People talk with each other. There's a lot of love that's extended to everyone."

The parish's Human Concerns Commission, to which Cindy and Chris belong, organizes a wide variety of community outreach efforts sponsored by the parish. The commission conducts annual food, school supply and clothing drives; promotes breast cancer awareness; provides free tax preparation assistance; gathers food for their "Blessings in a Backpack" program that feeds 250 hungry children each week; and operates a career network to help people find jobs.

What a blessing it is for us in the Archdiocese of Chicago to witness the Cathedral parish enriching our community in so many beautiful ways. Catholic Charities is extremely grateful for their partnership and support.

### PHOTO

Holy Name parishioners volunteering at Catholic Charities Evening Supper and Food Pantry programs.

# Home Depot Provides Hope, Restoration to The House of the Good Shepherd



The women rebuilding their lives at the House of the Good Shepherd after experiencing domestic abuse have even more reasons to look to a brighter future, thanks to the generosity of Home Depot District 65. “It all started with the replacement of a dishwasher,” says Nancy Haws, Catholic Charities Director of Development for the House of the Good Shepherd. “However, Home Depot went far above and beyond that by updating both the interior and exterior of the facility. In addition, we received a \$10,000 grant from the Home Depot Foundation. It has been truly a remarkable transformation.”

Once a new dishwasher was delivered, Home Depot managers started seeing other updates that were needed. Soon, top quality cabinets, granite countertops, name brand appliances, and contemporary lighting and flooring were all installed by Home Depot employees and volunteers. The result is a stunning new kitchen and dining area for women and children. The Home Depot team continued to notice



**Home Depot  
Dream Team  
District 65**

LEFT TO RIGHT

Joe Dandan, Nick Miketinac, Gary Hutchinson, Manny Gonzalez, and Satish Kumar. (Not shown: Al Stermer.)

other areas of the home that were in need of updates. Eleven Home Depot stores and several external contractors became involved, and the entire first floor interior was updated with new carpeting, paint, and even a new clothes washer and dryer. Outside, an extensive landscaping renovation also took place, with Home Depot employees planting new flowers, bushes, sod, cedar mulch and playground materials to give the women and children a bright, happy backyard where they can play and spend time together.

Founded in 1859 by the Good Shepherd Sisters, the House of the Good Shepherd became part of Catholic Charities in 2015 and has

continued to be a safe and caring home for women and children who have been affected by domestic violence. Most women who come to the House of the Good Shepherd have little or no income and no place to live once they have left the abusive relationship. All of the women are given the support and tools they need to heal, regain their confidence, plan for their future, become independent and end the cycle of abuse.

As Nancy says, “The mission of The House of the Good Shepherd is to help women and children seek and find new possibilities in their lives. This wonderful outpouring of generosity from Home Depot is a fantastic reflection of that.”

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The House of the Good Shepherd  
[www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net) • [hgschicago.org](http://hgschicago.org)

PAST EVENTS



**BLOSSOMS OF HOPE BRUNCH** | Mary Ann Rowan, John Rowan, and Fr. Charles T. Rubey



**LEGAL LIFELINES** | (CENTER) Cook County Sheriff, Tom Dart, (FAR RIGHT) Monsignor Boland.,with event organizers



**MSGR. BOLAND GOLF INVITATIONAL** | Mike Rigali and Monsignor Boland

**Art of Caring**

**April 6, 2019**

*Benefiting Programs in Lake County*

202 Guests

CO-CHAIRS

*Sandra Adam  
Nadine Shepard*

**Hearts for Hope  
Dinner & Auction**

**April 13, 2019**

*Benefiting Services in the Northwest Region*

353 Guests

CHAIR

*Cathie Stefanski*

**Blossoms of Hope Brunch**

**April 28, 2019**

*Benefiting the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program*

900 Guests

CHAIR

*Mary Ann Rowan*

**Legal Lifelines**

**May 9, 2019**

*Benefiting Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Program*

247 Guests

CO-CHAIRS

*Megan Donohue,  
Patrick A. Salvi,  
Christie L. Starzec*

**City Southwest Story:  
Building Our Community**

**June 5, 2019**

*Benefiting Programs in the City Southwest Region*

169 Guests

CHAIR

*City Southwest Regional Advisory Board*

**Diamonds Are Forever  
Boutique & Luncheon**

**June 13, 2019**

*Benefiting Programs in the North Region*

251 Guests

CO-CHAIRS

*Diamonds Are Forever Host Committee*

**Brighter Futures  
Golf Outing**

**June 24, 2019**

*Benefiting the New Hope Housing Program*

156 Golfers, 26 Dinner Guests

CO-CHAIRS

*Brighter Futures Host Committee*

**Charities Golf Classic**

**July 22, 2019**

*Benefiting Programs in Lake County*

148 Golfers, 27 Dinner Guests

CO-CHAIRS

*John Brinckerhoff  
Matt Davis  
Tim Finnegan*

**Msgr. Michael Boland  
Golf Invitational**

**July 24, 2019**

*Benefiting Catholic Charities Family Stabilization Efforts*

280 Guests

CO-CHAIRS

*Marty Endre  
Emile Johnson  
Mike Smith*

**William E. Joyce  
Golf Invitational**

**August 5, 2019**

*Benefiting the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program*

116 Golfers, 54 Dinner Guests

CO-CHAIRS

*Jack Miller  
Jim Sexton*

**\$1,487,408**

raised this spring/summer at special events to support programs and services

FOR ALL EVENT PHOTOS [flickr.com/ccofchicago](https://www.flickr.com/ccofchicago)

**THURSDAY • OCTOBER 10**

**Bourbon Street Blues Night**

This year's South & Southwest Region fall event will be held October 10 at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park. Proceeds benefit the South & Southwest Regions Emergency Services Programs. Tickets are \$35.

**FRIDAY • OCTOBER 11**

**Harvest of Hope Dinner**

Catholic Charities North Regional Services presents the Harvest of Hope Dinner on October 11 at the Michigan Shores Club in Wilmette. This event features dinner and an awards presentation and benefits programs in the North Region. Tickets are \$175.

**WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 16**

**Ayudando Nuestras Familias**

This event is hosted by the Catholic Charities Latino Advisory Committee and benefit Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center will be held October 16 at The Casino in Chicago. Each year, Sister Joellen Tumas and her dedicated staff and volunteers provide more than 500,000 meals to families experiencing food insecurity in the Back of the Yards community. Reservations are \$85; \$95 after Oct. 9. The event features an assortment of hearty appetizers, beer, wine, and soft drinks.

**THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 7**

**Holiday Tea & Boutique**

The event promises to be a great day of high tea and holiday shopping on November 7 at The Club at Wynstone in North Barrington. Tickets are \$65 and early reservations are suggested. Proceeds benefit Lake County programs.

**FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 8**

**The House of the Good Shepherd Women's Board 112th Annual Event**

The House of the Good Shepherd Women's Board 112th Annual Event benefiting the domestic violence shelter is November 8 at the Four Seasons in Chicago. Tickets are for the dinner \$250.

**FRIDAY • DECEMBER 6**

**Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball**

A reception, gourmet dinner, live dancing, entertainment by the Ken Arlen Orchestra, cocktails, and late night "sweets and treats" will be featured at this black-tie celebration of the Christmas season on December 6 at the Hilton Chicago. Honorary chairmen Most Reverend Cardinal Blase J. Cupich. The 2019 Chaircouple, Jerry & Judy Castellini will host. Tickets are \$550 and proceeds benefit children's programs.

**SUNDAY • JANUARY 26**

**d'Vine Affair**

An elegant wine tasting at the Union League Club of Chicago will feature more than 250 wines from around the world as well as a craft and imported beer tasting, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, desserts and a Wine Appreciation Seminar. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Self-Sufficiency programs in Cook and Lake counties. Tickets are \$125

**FRIDAY • JANUARY 31**

**Patrick J. Ryan Main Event**

The Patrick J. Ryan Main Event was established by former Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan and his wife Marie and their family in memory of their son Patrick who died of suicide in 2007. The event will feature an exciting night of 8 to 10 talented, Golden Glove-style amateur boxing fights, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and ringside seating with dinner. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program, created for children and youth who have endured the loss of a loved one to suicide. Tickets are \$250.

**FEBRUARY 7**

**First Look for Charity**

First Look for Charity is the Chicago Auto Show's preview night at McCormick Place benefits local nonprofit organizations. Featuring access to Catholic Charities private reception suite, a "first look" at the premier vehicles, live entertainment, and chance to win a new car. Proceeds benefit the Maternity and Adoption programs and the Neighbors in Need Fund. Tickets are \$275.



**1 GALA OF THE ARTS**

Guests tour auction galleries

**2 AYUDANDO NUESTRAS FAMILIAS**

Isabell Abello, Sr. Joellen Tumas, Gus Abell

**3 SPIRIT OF SAINT NICHOLAS BALL**

2019 Chaircouple Jerry & Judy Castellini with Cardinal Blase Cupich and Monsignor Boland

**4 D'VINE AFFAIR**

Monsignor Boland and William Kates

**FOR TICKETS, SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES,  
AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

**Denise Samulis (312) 948-6864 • dsamulis@catholiccharities.net**

**[www.catholiccharities.net/events](http://www.catholiccharities.net/events)**

## Justice-Involved Pregnant and Post Natal Women Reclaim their Lives through Grant Support

With a \$250,000 grant from the Cook County Justice Advisory Council, Catholic Charities will provide services to improve the birth outcomes and general welfare for pregnant and postpartum women and youth who are awaiting trial and have been released to their communities.

Catholic Charities Child, Youth, and Family Services' long history of home visiting programs with expectant and new mothers was an

important factor in being selected. Catholic Charities was one of only two organizations awarded the grant.

Case management services will include coordination of medical care for both client and infant, transportation, assistance obtaining public benefits, and external referrals. Counseling services will include cognitive behavior therapy (how we make decisions), moral recognition therapy, trauma counseling, anger management,

domestic violence counseling and postpartum counseling. Catholic Charities will be implementing this new programming beginning September 1.

The potential for both mothers and their children to move past criminal justice involvement, and to rebuild their lives is enormous.

Commissioner Bridget Gainer sponsored the grant with significant support from Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

## Bombas Donates Needed Socks

In early June, Catholic Charities received a generous shipment of 1,750 pairs of socks from Bombas, a sock and t-shirt company, that were given to guests of our Homeless Supper. Not just any socks, Bombas socks are engineered to meet the needs of people who don't have the luxury of putting on a clean pair of socks every day, such as anti-microbial finishes, reinforced seams, and darker colors to show less wear.

David Heath, Co-founder and CEO of Bombas, was struck by a quote he came across several years ago that said, "Socks are the most requested clothing item in homeless shelters." That was a defining moment for him. He was shocked to learn that for some people, socks were a luxury.

He shared the quote with his good friend, Randy Goldberg, and together they came up with the idea for Bombas, a give-back business model, in 2011. Their idea was to donate a pair of socks for every pair they sold. After two years of research and development to build a better sock, the company used a Crowdsourcing website to raise initial funding in 2013. The founders appeared on the

entrepreneurial-themed reality show, Shark Tank, in September 2014. Since then, Bombas has donated more than twenty-one million pairs of socks to agencies across the country that are serving the homeless.

The word Bombas comes from the Latin word for bumblebee. The company's mantra is "bee better." As their website states, "Bees live in a hive and work together to make their world a better place. They're small, but their combined actions have a big impact on the world." We couldn't agree more.

When David and Randy first started Bombas, they walked around Manhattan giving socks to those they encountered who were living on the streets. Today, to make sure all of their employees make the same connection, every new employee is given a pack of socks to hand out on their commute to and from work during their first week.

We are grateful for their donation and their philosophy. We can all "bee better." Learn more about Bombas on their website, <https://bombas.com/pages/giving-back>

## Matching Gifts

**DOUBLE AND TRIPLE  
Your Donation and Help  
More People in Need!**



A matching gift from your employer doubles or triples your donation to Catholic Charities. Millions of matching dollars set aside by employers nationwide are unclaimed by employees each year. You can make a significant difference by requesting matching gifts.

Contact your employer to find out if they have a matching gift program or go to the Catholic Charities website. Click on the red button at the bottom of the page that says **Matching Gifts**.

**[www.catholiccharities.net/  
DonateNow/MatchingGifts](http://www.catholiccharities.net/DonateNow/MatchingGifts)**



(FAR LEFT) Chris Torres and Sandra Slayton with St. Xavier University students and faculty.



(LET TO RIGHT) Laura Diaz, Stella Gayton, Sr. Joellen Tomas, Liz Aquino, Cary Rositas-Sheftel, and Jose Hernandez.



**JUNIOR BOARD MEMBERS** | CLOCKWISE  
Mary Margaret Parker, Bridget Morton, Maggie Boland, Alex Rubalcava, Bradly Dearlove, Joe Hetland, Daniel Marinez, Sam Moorhead, and Lianna Petruccio.

## St. Xavier University April Food Day

The United Way held its annual April Food Drive in Tinley Park, with proceeds benefiting our Food Pantry at Saint Irenaeus in Park Forest. Faculty and students from the Graham School of Business at St. Xavier University organized the food drive and coordinated deliveries. Board Member Sandra Slayton provided her leadership to this initiative.

## Casa Catalina Day of Service

On May 15, the Latino Advisory Committee organized a Day of Service at our Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. Under the leadership of Sr. Joellen Tomas, Casa Catalina has been operating a food pantry with healthy meal options for

the community for more than 30 years. Board members Stella Gaytan and Liz Aquino participated and assisted in the distribution of food to our clients.

## Spring Social

On May 22, nearly 100 Board and Junior Board Members attended our annual Spring Social. Chip Mulaney hosted this event at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. The 10th annual Social provided an opportunity for our Board and Junior Board Members and their guests to network and learn more about opportunities for involvement on our Board Committees across the Agency. Junior Board Member, Joe Hetland was introduced as the Junior Board's Leadership Chair, a new position that will focus on the intentional development and promotion of the next Board of Advisors.

## JUNIOR BOARD

### Strides for Peace

On June 6, the Junior Board participated in the *Strides for Peace Race Against Gun Violence*.

The Race Against Gun Violence is a rallying point to raise awareness of and funds for organizations working to save lives and build Chicago's future. It is an opportunity to change the narrative about our city, call concerned citizens to action and show the world that Chicago can come together to solve the problem of gun violence.

### 3Q Meeting and Social

On July 11, the Junior Board had its 3rd quarter General Meeting and Social. New members were able to meet our fun and engaging Executive Committee and learn about what's happening on the Junior Board! The meeting began with Mass by our Chaplain, Fr. Wayne F. Watts, followed by a brief Junior Board program and BBQ social.

All are welcome! Meetings are open to veteran, new, and prospective Junior Board members! For more information:

**Noreen Russo**  
nrusso@catholiccharities.net

### FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Andrew E McKernin • (312) 655-7557**  
amckernin@catholiccharities.net

[www.ccofchicagovolunteer.com](http://www.ccofchicagovolunteer.com)

Rochelle Baker

## Catholic Charities a Blessing for Supper Guest

I am a Chicago native, born and raised in the Chatham neighborhood on the city's South Side and a graduate of the now-closed Aquinas Dominican High School. My father was a jazz aficionado and passed his passion for jazz onto me. A love of the arts and culture is an integral part of my life.

I give high praise to God for ordering my steps to Catholic Charities. I started coming to the Evening Supper Program several years ago when a friend of my brother's told me about it. I've been unemployed for a period of time so the suppers are a real blessing. I have become friends with many of the volunteers and other guests, and the services available have enriched my life.

I started coming to the shower program shortly after it opened last year because the shower in my apartment is not in the best working order anymore. Catholic Charities' shower program is heaven-sent! I feel like a million dollars when I walk out! The volunteers are kind and care about how I'm doing. I have a standing appointment every Wednesday.

I come for the showers on Wednesday because that is also my favorite day of the week to come to the suppers. The Chicago HELP Initiative is in charge that night, and the people who run it (Jacqueline Hayes and Doug Fraser) are wonderful people. The dinners are always delicious and they have



**“I am so grateful that Catholic Charities is providing a place not just for a shower and hot meal, but a place for me to connect with people who care about me.”**

a book table where free books are available. In addition to the dinners, I attend the Bookworms Club and the Arts and Culture Club. These special groups broaden my horizons and make me feel a vital part of the world around me.

As you can see, I have a penchant

for books. Harper Lee, Toni Morrison, J.D. Salinger...I know books A to Z. In fact, my career has been based largely on books. After two years of college, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, but I had faith that God would lead me to the right place – and He did! Kroch's and Brentano's was the largest bookstore downtown at the time. When I saw it, I knew that was the place for me. I applied for a job and lucked out that the store manager was available for an interview. When he realized my knowledge of books, he hired me on the spot.

After Kroch's, jobs just fell into place for me, and I neatly transitioned from one to the next. I've worked at great places including the Art Institute and two law firms where I was the research librarian. Most recently, I worked at Walgreens, but that job has ended. My budget is very limited now so coming to Catholic Charities has helped me make ends meet. I pray that God will lead me to the next job just as He has at other times in my life. Finding a job is the number one priority for me right now.

I am so grateful that Catholic Charities is providing a place not just for a shower and hot meal, but a place for me to connect with people who care about me and share my interests. Catholic Charities is a blessing for people who need a helping hand.

PHOTO

Rochelle Baker

# FROM LETTERS

# FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

These stories were submitted to Catholic Charities through the mail or online.

**We welcome your submissions, stories, and memories.**

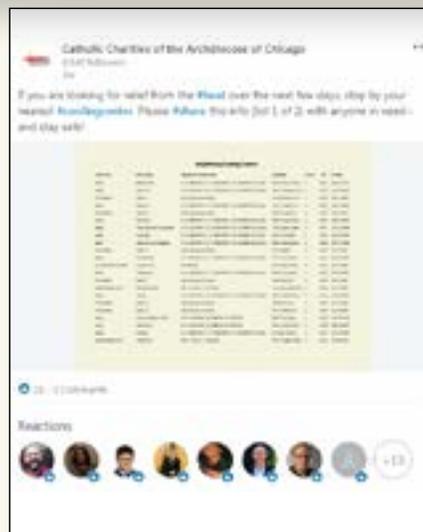
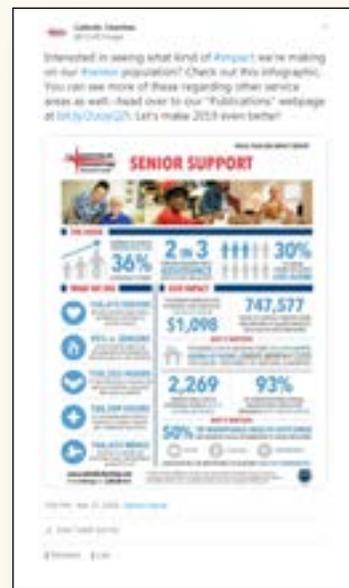
“I came to the EPIC Program to get my Forklift Certificate. I was a little hesitant of the program until I met Ms. Atkins. She cares about people, and she took her time to make everyone feel welcomed. Then we moved to the Warehouse for training, and it was hard trying to get the information down to pass the test. Ms. Atkins called to check in on me and she always said something encouraging. When I passed my test, she sent me a text message saying how proud she was of me. That really meant a lot. I have successfully completed the program, got my certificate, and I am now working full time. Thanks Ms. Atkins and the Program of Catholic Charities.” **RK**

*“RK” participated in Catholic Charities EPIC job training program after learning about it at a WIC food center. He is currently a full time forklift operator with Temple Steel.*

## EPIC Program

The Employment Opportunities, Personalized Services, and Individualized Training, and Career Planning Program (EPIC) is a partnership between the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and Catholic Charities.

EPIC provides employment and training services to SNAP recipients referred by IDHS, with career pathways opportunities aligned to local employer and sector demand.



## CONTACT US

**By Mail**

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**MAIL** Catholic Charities c/o Spirit Magazine  
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## GET IN TOUCH

**On the Web**

**FIND US** at [ccoofchicago](https://www.ccofchicago.org) on

**VISIT US** at [www.catholiccharities.net/spirit](http://www.catholiccharities.net/spirit)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR



Friday  
**DECEMBER 6**  
**SPIRIT OF SAINT  
NICHOLAS BALL**

2020

### OCTOBER

**BOURBON STREET  
BLUES NIGHT**  
Thursday, October 10  
115 Bourbon Street  
Merrionette Park  
(708) 333-8379

**HARVEST OF HOPE  
DINNER**  
Friday, October 11  
Michigan Shores Club  
Wilmette  
(847) 376-2121

**AYUDANDO NUESTRAS  
FAMILIAS/HELPING  
OUR FAMILIES**  
Wednesday, October 16  
The Casino, Chicago  
(312) 655-8492

### NOVEMBER

**HOLIDAY TEA &  
BOUTIQUE**  
Thursday, November 7  
The Club at Wynstone  
North Barrington  
(847) 782-4115

**HOUSE OF THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD  
WOMEN'S BOARD  
112TH ANNUAL EVENT**  
Friday, November 8  
Four Seasons, Chicago  
(312) 655-7348

### DECEMBER

**SPIRIT OF SAINT  
NICHOLAS BALL**  
Friday, December 6  
Hilton Chicago  
(312) 948-6797

### JANUARY

**D'VINE AFFAIR**  
Sunday, January 26  
Union League Club  
of Chicago  
(312) 655-7907

**PATRICK J. RYAN  
MAIN EVENT**  
Friday, January 31  
Drury Lane  
Oakbrook Terrace  
(312) 655-7290

### FEBRUARY

**CHICAGO AUTO SHOW'S  
FIRST LOOK FOR CHARITY**  
Friday, February 7  
McCormick Place, Chicago  
(312) 948-6797

[www.catholiccharities.net/events](http://www.catholiccharities.net/events)