



Giving a Voice

TO THOSE
IN NEED

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA)
Adriana Doger, Intern and Hilda Bahena, Director

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Giving a Voice TO THOSE IN NEED



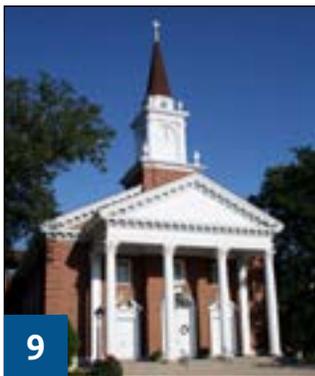
“We all respond to our peers. There needs to be trust and some sense of shared experience...So, it is important to hire from the community you are serving...Our clients are the best authors of their experiences and their progress.”

Laura Kuever

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SPIRIT MAGAZINE

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www.catholiccharities.net/spirit

Kathleen A. Donahue-Coia

ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, PRESIDENT, AND CEO OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Two Feet of Love in Action

Charitable Work and Social Justice

Happy New Year!

At the heart of Christian teaching is the idea that we are all caretakers of God's creation, and we are all responsible for one another. The dual imperatives of charitable works and social justice represent the "Two Feet of Love in Action," according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and must guide us as we continually pursue the common good.

In Catholic Charities' role as social service provider, we address a vast array of material and emotional needs by feeding, clothing, housing, counseling, and rehabilitating. Equally important to the health and well-being of those around us is Catholic Charities' role in speaking out for public policies that preserve and uplift human life and human dignity, informing people about their rights under the law, educating government officials about the impact of their policy decisions and budgets, and ensuring that all of our brothers and sisters are being heard and treated fairly. We serve and speak on behalf of the poor and vulnerable so that no one is abandoned or forgotten.

In this issue of Spirit Magazine, we look at how Catholic Charities operates on a broad level in the public policy arena, and in individual cases to give a voice to our clients and their needs. We introduce you to the Government



“We are called to be prudent stewards of our resources and gifts, and to continually pursue the common good, doing our part each day to bring the Kingdom of God a little closer to one another.”

Relations Department, which coordinates our federal, state, and local efforts to share our work, and explore two program areas

where helping others advocate for themselves plays a distinctive role.

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Program for instance, provides assistance to low-income individuals who would otherwise not be able to afford legal representation. And as of fall 2019, Catholic Charities began providing mental health services through the Encompassing Center, a mental and behavioral health service center made possible through community advocacy and financial support.

Our Parish Profile takes you to Glenview where we learn about the incredible work of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Parish. OLPH has fully embraced the idea of Christian stewardship and has developed more than 50 ministries that give parishioners many opportunities to live out the Gospel in their everyday lives.

Catholic Charities is committed to lifting up the voices of the poor and vulnerable. We take seriously our responsibility to work for a more just society, while meeting clients immediate challenges.

Charitable works and social justice are the "Two Feet of Love in Action." May we walk together in delivering more of both.

Sincerely,

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

Giving a Voice

TO THOSE IN NEED



LEGAL ASSISTANCE



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



MENTAL HEALTH

Catholic Charities fulfills its mission of charity by providing compassionate and professional services to anyone in need, but just as important, it is the voice for those who have no voice – the vulnerable and those without access to power.

This issue looks at Catholic Charities programs and initiatives that help us empower the less fortunate in society.

Three Ways We Give a Voice to Clients:

■ The Office of Government Relations

Furtheres the mission of the agency by working collaboratively with stakeholders to improve the lives of those we serve through advocacy and program sustainability.

See story on page 5

■ Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA)

Provides a wide range of legal services to low-income individuals who otherwise could not afford an attorney.

See story on page 6

■ Mental Health Services

Reduces health inequities by strengthening collaboration among healthcare delivery systems and community-based service sectors to improve health.

See story on page 8

Government Relations

Lift Up Voices and Share Expertise



Love In Action What You Can Do

There are two different, but complementary, ways we can walk the path of love, or caritas, according to resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. These are the “Two Feet of Love in Action,” based on Pope Benedict XVI’s reflections in *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love) and *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth).

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Remove root causes & improve structures

- Expand access to affordable housing
- Work to improve the educational system
- Support environmental protection laws
- Participate in a living wage campaign
- Promote peace
- Advocate for international assistance

CHARITABLE WORKS

Meet basic needs & aid individuals

- Volunteer at homeless shelters
- Tutor children
- Assist women who face a crisis pregnancy
- Participate in a community beautification program
- Donate to food & clothing pantries
- Sponsor a refugee family
- Raise money for an overseas development project

For more resources visit:
www.usccb.org/jphd

Inspired by the Great Commandment of Jesus (Mt 22:36-40), love of God and love of neighbor have driven the Church’s long tradition of caring for and speaking out on behalf of the poor and vulnerable. Not only are we called to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, and comfort the afflicted, but also to champion for public policies that challenge social structures that contribute to suffering and injustice.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is honored to be a part of these efforts. We work closely with Catholic Charities USA and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at the national level, and the Catholic Conference of Illinois at the state level to promote policies that enhance the common good and preserve human life and human dignity.

Our 100+ year history and role as the largest provider of professional social work services in the area gives Catholic Charities a unique expertise in terms of evaluating public policy proposals and funding for human services. Every day we see how laws and regulations can have a positive or negative effect on those we serve. Public policies can bring unintended consequences that instead of achieving original objectives, actually cause great harm at the implementation level. For example, while Catholic Charities wholly supports a living wage for all workers, raising the minimum wage without simultaneously incorporating the increase into city and state service reimbursements forces many nonprofits to struggle with increased program deficits. This has become a very real challenge for non-profit service providers who often operate with little to no financial cushion.

When Illinois required participants in the Child Care Assistance Program to undergo income eligibility redetermination every six months, families cycled in and out of services as wages fluctuated over the year.

Intentional engagement with lawmakers from service providers helped convince legislators to adjust the eligibility period to a full twelve months, restoring stability for enrolled families. Lawmakers count on agencies like Catholic Charities to share stories of success and failure so they can fully consider the impact of proposed legislation and better identify potential solutions to critical public problems. They also need to hear support and encouragement when they’re moving in the right direction from non-profit board members and volunteers as lawmakers are ever mindful of the concerns of their voting constituents.

Today, a growing need for services coupled with a shrinking availability of financial resources create an environment where Catholic Charities must engage more than ever. In addition to residual damage caused by Illinois’ two-year budget stalemate, social service providers struggle with the government’s alarming and prolonged disinvestment in human services and lagging rate increases that don’t meet true costs. Charitable agencies are expected to “pick up the slack,” but the gap is too large to be made whole by private dollars. It is our responsibility to help lawmakers (and taxpayers) understand that investment in human services is like a down payment for the future, ultimately leading to thriving families and healthier communities, and that prevention and early intervention services save significant dollars in future budgets.

It is part of our mission to address the root causes of issues. In addition to providing direct services that help families create a better life, this oftentimes means pursuing systemic changes that can have a more permanent and far-reaching impact — “Love in Action” demands nothing less.

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA) Created by Board Members

Legal services began at Catholic Charities in 2002 as a wholly volunteer initiative founded by Board Members and lawyers Mary G. Fitzpatrick and Jeanne S. Casey when case managers and social workers were encountering more and more clients with pressing legal needs. In 2005, CCLA officially opened its doors for the first time, initially providing referrals to legal aid resources until it was able to recruit more volunteer attorneys to provide direct counsel.

Today, Catholic Charities is a comprehensive legal aid department providing in-depth legal advice, representation, and community legal education. The department continues to be supported by a large network of dedicated pro bono attorneys and volunteers.

SPECIAL SERVICES

- **Orders of Protection**
Orders of Protection for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- **Immigrant Survivors Project**
Legal services to address the barriers faced by immigrant survivors, including immigration status issues and language barriers.
- **Senior Project**
Legal seminars, consultations, and preparation of documents, including advance directives for seniors.
- **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Initiative**
Assistance in establishing custody or guardianship of immigrant children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
(312) 948-6821

Legal Assistance Builds Trust and Empowers Clients

By **Adriana Doger** • Intern

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA) program provides legal services to individuals who need a lawyer or want to be walked through the legal processes or options related to a given situation. CCLA also assists individuals who are representing themselves in a legal matter by giving them advice on their rights as well as the steps they need to take related to their legal issue. With a staff of attorneys and non-attorneys who volunteer, CCLA offers their services in English and Spanish, regardless of a person's religion, ethnicity, or citizen status.

Most CCLA clients have little to no income with which to pay for legal advice and are challenged in understanding the legal system generally, and related to their particular situation, and the need for services is growing. Says CCLA Director Hilda Bahena, "We are seeing an increase in demand for our services because the community trusts our ability to walk with them and assist them in resolving their legal issues. Then word gets around. We have increased every service that we offer, which is fantastic because we are really helping people."

The most common service request that CCLA deals with is direct representation of clients in civil litigation cases like family, housing and consumer law. "We also know from studies that this is the most impactful service we can provide because of the high level of expertise it requires and the significant cost of legal representation. Direct representation doesn't just mean in court. It's also administrative hearings and negotiations—all of which is time-consuming. We increased our direct

representation this past year by 30%.

The growth of CCL means looking beyond at Catholic Charities' administrative office to other centers. "This year we are launching CCLA services in three additional geographies: Lake County, the Westside of Chicago and at the Peace Center (an afterschool and violence prevention program), as well as expanding services to victims of domestic violence.

CCLA makes sure clients have a partner by their side who will help voice their concerns and be able to advocate on their behalf to ensure they receive justice under the law.

Volunteers are critical to this work and more are needed. The training for volunteer attorneys includes continual legal education credit, which means that the Supreme Court has approved the particular courses. Adds Hilda, "We also educate our volunteers in empowerment-based legal practice, an approach created by a social worker colleague and myself that focuses on using legal services to empower clients." This gives legal pro bono representation options to clients whenever possible so that they decide which path best fits their needs, putting them in control of a process that could make them feel trapped or powerless.

ABOUT ADRIANA DOGER

I'm a student and legal assistance volunteer in the CCLA, which is very fulfilling, because I'm learning a lot from the director Hilda and the supervisor Rosy. We are very dedicated to our clients. We advocate for every client's legal issue and we make sure to do our best to keep clients confidence in us. The help we provide impacts our clients' housing, family stability, safety, and their ability to protect and take care of their children.



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West Side Expanded Mental Health Center Tailored to the Community It Serves

An Interview with Laura Kuever

Associate Vice President of
Child, Youth, and Family Services

The Encompassing Center, a new community mental health facility on Chicago's West Side, officially opened its doors on October 15, 2019 with Catholic Charities providing counseling and other mental health services to residents.

We talked with Laura Kuever, Associate Vice President for Child, Youth, and Family Services about the Center and Catholic Charities' role in its development.

How did the Encompassing Center come to be?

From my understanding, community mental health centers throughout the city were closed and as a result, communities like the ones we serve on the West side were left without enough resources in their communities. The Save our Mental Health Centers Coalition approached some community members with the idea of passing a tax referendum to fund mental health services for their area. That started a 4-year process to get where we are now. So this is clearly an example of neighbors helping neighbors.

Catholic Charities became involved in October 2018 when we responded to the request for proposal for services. We reviewed a needs assessment that was completed on the Westside and conducted our own assessment so we could tailor our proposed program as closely as possible to community needs. In January 2019, we were

informed that we were the selected provider of the services and began the journey of locating a site for the program. In July 2019, the site was found and a build-out began.

There was a particular shortage of services on the West Side, is that right?

When we first expanded mental health services in Austin there were not many other behavioral health service providers there at the time. Based on the needs assessment that we reviewed and the one that we conducted, the same was true of East and West Garfield, North Lawndale, and the Near Westside.

What do you think most people don't understand about mental health, particularly in low-income communities or those that experience high levels of violence?

That there can be significant amounts of trauma and stress that are then exacerbated by a lack of services. Additionally, people don't often realize that what they are experiencing are mental health symptoms. Because trauma is such a part of their day-to-day existence, it is hard to know that symptoms are a reaction to trauma and that there are services available that will help improve their life. Or, if they do realize it, then they feel that because they are suffering from mental health symptoms, they are weak or somehow "broken," and this prevents them from getting help. There's still an awful lot of stigma

related to mental health. We're making progress but more needs to be done.

"There's still an awful lot of stigma related to mental health. We're making progress but more needs to be done."

Laura Kuever

What did Catholic Charities focus on in our approach to services?

Our experience is that if mental health services are needed then case management, substance use, and community education services are also very likely needed. We brought that all together in our proposal.

Why are culturally competent services so important?

We all respond to our peers. There needs to be trust and some sense of shared experience if someone is going to tell you about their life and their challenges and ask for help. So, it is important to hire from the community you are serving and to leverage that culture as part of their healing where you can. Our clients are the best authors of their experiences and their progress.

Encompassing Center

Serving residents of East and West Garfield, North Lawndale, and the Near West Side.

Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30 • (773) 638-5703

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

GLENVIEW



Putting Faith into Action

For years, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic parish (OLPH) in Glenview has been a steadfast partner with Catholic Charities. “Every year that goes by, the parish gets more invested in serving the poor, and also in working with Catholic Charities,” says Adriana Kelly, North Regional Director for Catholic Charities. Serving others is embedded in the parish culture which focuses on each parishioner becoming an engaged disciple, striving to live out the Gospel of Jesus in their everyday lives.

“Matthew 25 is really the heart of the Gospel that inspires our service,” explains Sharon Riley, OLPH parishioner and member of Catholic Charities Regional Advisory Board.

With over 50 ministries, OLPH parishioners are definitely “doers” of the Word, demonstrating the love of God in a multitude of ways. “There are many, many hands that work together. We have a beautiful collaboration of our ministries that weaves together an effective response to our neighbors in need,” Sharon explains. “It is really about putting love in action.”

OLPH’s Sharing Ministry, Needy

Family Fund, Women’s Guilds, Knights of Columbus, Men’s Club, and other ministries provide many opportunities for parishioners to get

“We like that we can extend the reach of an excellent program that has been proven to lift people out of poverty.”

Sharon Riley

involved. “Catholic Charities is often a beneficiary of OLPH’s numerous clothing, food, and other drives,” says Adriana. “But they also help so many other organizations in the area. Truly the outpouring of parishioner participation is awe-inspiring.”

One of the primary ways OLPH supports Catholic Charities is their sponsorship of families in our New Hope Apartments, a rapid rehousing program for homeless

women. “We love partnering with Catholic Charities,” explains Sharon. “Families moving from homelessness to self-sufficiency need help in so many different areas. Catholic Charities provides the professional assistance with housing, counseling, job training, and other services. We like that we can extend the reach of an excellent program that has been proven to lift people out of poverty.”

Beyond the New Hope Apartments Program, the parish’s support can be felt at all levels of the agency. They participate on Catholic Charities’ boards and fundraising committees, provide volunteers for programs, stock our food pantries and clothing rooms; plan and serve meals for our Evening Supper Program; sponsor families in our refugee program; and host a Catholic Charities social worker at the parish for closer on-site collaboration.

“We’ve been grateful for our partnership with Catholic Charities and its growth over many years,” explains Fr. Jerry Boland, Pastor of OLPH. “The stronger the partnership between Catholic Charities and the parishes, the more effective we can be in meeting the many needs in the community.”



1 d'Vine Affair

Silvia Perez, FOX 32 anchor and Joe Glunz Jr., d'Vine Affair Chair, promote the event.

2 Tuesday Night Suppers

Volunteers for the weekly Tuesday night dinner.

3 Ayudando Nuestras Familias

Sister Joellen Tomas and Bishop Placido Rodriguez

4 Gibson's New Year's Event

Elegant young guests at the New Year's celebration at Gibson's Steakhouse.

5 Thanksgiving Day Supper

Family volunteers at Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Day Supper.

6 Harvest of Hope

Heart of Charity Award presented to Phil Andrew (second from left) by Rev. Patrick McGrath (center).

7 Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball

A young couple enjoy the evening on the dance floor.

8 Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball

(left to right) Acting President, Kathy Donahue, Cardinal Cupich, Liz & Marge Livingston, event Chaircouple Jerry & Judy Castellini.

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 22

Compassion In Action Dinner

Join us for the 16th annual Compassion in Action Dinner at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor. The event benefits Catholic Charities programs in the South Region and includes the presentation of awards, a silent auction, and raffle prizes.

THURSDAY • MARCH 12

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Celebrate St. Paddy at the legendary Fitzgerald's Night Club in Berwyn. Proceeds support Catholic Charities New Hope Housing Program in the West Region. The event features great Irish entertainment by the McNulty Irish Dancers, the Shannon Rovers, and members of the Irish Musicians Association-Chicago. Highlights include a fantastic grand raffle prizes and a terrific silent auction.

SATURDAY • MARCH 21

Helping Hands Dinner & Silent Auction

The Helping Hands Dinner and Auction is on Saturday, March 21 at the Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. More than 250 guests are expected to attend this annual event in support of Catholic Charities programs in the Southwest Region. Highlights include the presentation of awards, a silent auction, and raffle prizes.

SATURDAY • APRIL 18

Hearts for Hope Dinner & Auction

The 31st Annual Hearts for Hope Dinner & Auction is on Saturday, April 18 at The Cotillion in Palatine. More than 300 guests are expected to attend. Enjoy music by 7th Heaven, a silent and live auction, and recognition awards for members of the community. Proceeds support the wide range of services provided by Catholic Charities in the Northwest Suburbs.

THURSDAY • APRIL 23

Legal Lifelines Cocktail Reception

The Legal Lifelines Cocktail Reception will be held on Thursday, April 23 at the Union League Club of Chicago. More than 200 guests are expected to attend this annual event in support of the Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Program.

THURSDAY • APRIL 23

Art of Caring

The Women's Board of Lake County Services 31st Annual Art of Caring event will be held on Saturday, April 23, at the elegant and historic Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest. Enjoy a fabulous reception and dinner, unique live auction, and entertainment. Proceeds benefit programs in Lake County.

SUNDAY • APRIL 26

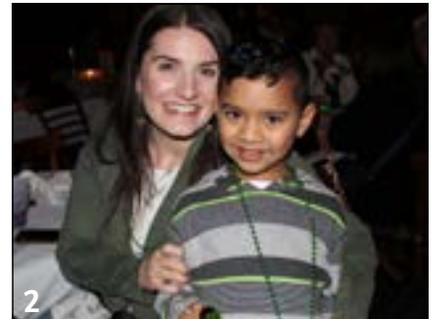
Blossoms of Hope Brunch

The 30th Annual Blossoms of Hope Brunch, benefiting the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) program, will take place on April 26 at Drury Lane in Oak Brook Terrace. This event features an amazing array of raffle and pick a prize items and the famous Drury Lane Sunday Brunch Buffet.

THURSDAY • JUNE 4

Diamonds Are Forever Boutique & Luncheon

The 6th Annual Diamonds Are Forever Boutique & Luncheon will be held at a new venue, the North Shore Country Club in Glenview. Shopping at the boutique and the silent auction begins at 10 a.m., with the luncheon and fashion show at noon, followed by more shopping. Several vendors will be displaying their unique creations for purchase. Catholic Charities will receive a portion of the sales receipts and all proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Programs in the North Suburbs.



1 COMPASSION IN ACTION

Dinner at the Southwest Region event benefiting Catholic Charities Southwest Region programs and services.

2 ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Fitzgerald's, benefiting Catholic Charities New Hope Apartments for homeless women.

3 Legal Lifelines

Legal Lifelines Cocktail Reception benefits Catholic Charities invaluable legal services to clients.

4 Art of Caring

The Art of Caring benefits Catholic Charities Lake County services.

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

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

www.catholiccharities.net/events

Barrington Memorial VFW Generosity Supports Veterans Care at St. Leo Residence

Three members of the Barrington Memorial VFW Post #7706 – current Post Commander Guy Newell, former Post Commander Rich Bowman, and Bill Hannay – paid a visit to the St. Leo Residence for Veterans, 7750 S. Emerald Avenue, in late October. The St. Leo Residence, part of Catholic Charities St. Leo Campus for Veterans, provides housing and supportive services to 141 previously homeless veterans. The St. Leo Residence gives veterans the opportunity to maintain stable, affordable housing while receiving support services and developing further life skills. On-site case managers assist the veterans in addressing challenges and any unmet needs that may impede the veterans from achieving their goals.

The Barrington Memorial team met with Cynthia Steen, Multi-Building Property Manager for the St. Leo Campus; and David Dempsey, Program Director, St. Leo Residence, who answered questions about the St. Leo residents' successes and challenges.

A total of 515 previously homeless veterans have been served by the St. Leo



Residence since it opened in January 2017. Some veterans have been able to reunite with family with whom they had been estranged. Others have maintained steady employment long enough to purchase a car or a home of their own.

Among the challenges for veterans, forty-one percent of the current residents are over age 62, a significant barrier for those hoping to re-enter the job market. In addition, many of the residents face substance use or mental health issues caused or exacerbated by their military experience or their periods of homelessness.

Rich and Bill were not unfamiliar with many of these dynamics. Rich was the Post Commander when Post #7706 began

A total of 515 previously homeless veterans have been served by the St. Leo Residence since it opened in January 2017.

its support of the St. Leo Residence shortly after it opened in 2017. The Post has been a steadfast annual donor ever since.

Rich and Bill later took a tour of the residence and remarked on the building's meticulous maintenance

as they expressed their gratitude for the housing and services being provided to their fellow service members at the St. Leo Residence.

Catholic Charities is grateful for the generous support of VFW Post #7706 over the years. It is through their generosity and a host of others' that we are able to care for those who risked and often suffered so much in the name of our freedom.

The Barrington Memorial VFW Post #7706 was chartered in June, 1946, and currently has 77 members. Their mission is to support veteran programming, and provide service to the Barrington community.

PHOTO Barrington Memorial VFW members outside St. Leo's.

Barrington Memorial VFW Post #7706

You can learn more about the Post, its members and activities, visit:

www.vfwpost7706.org



Join Us On Ash Wednesday

In celebration of Ash Wednesday, the Board of Directors and Junior Board cordially invite you to an Ash Wednesday Mass and Evening of Reflection on Wednesday, February 26 at 6 p.m. at the Catholic Charities St. Louise de Marillac Chapel. Rev. Wayne F. Watts and Rev. Gerard Kelly, C.M. will concelebrate the Mass. Music ministers include Maggie Boland, cantor and Peter Thompson, piano. The Mass will be followed by a reception in St. Vincent Hall.

We ask you to please bring men and women's underwear (all sizes) to benefit our Pope Francis Ministries shower program for the homeless.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 19, to: boardrelations2@catholiccharities.net or (312) 655-7931

Thank You

We can't thank our Spirit readers enough for your generosity at the close of 2019. From the St. Nicholas Ball and year-end appeal, to the Celebration of Giving toy drive, you have brought light and help to so many people. You are indispensable to our work and to better lives for our neighbors.

With your help, **499 families** received gifts and basic necessities during the holiday season.

Junior Board Honors Michael L. Monticello



Michael L. Monticello was given the *Pope Francis Award* at the Junior Board's Annual Casino Night on February 15. Michael has

been an active and generous member of the Catholic Charities Board of Directors and Junior Board. He helped create the Junior Board in 2002 and has worked to grow it ever since.

Catholic Charities is blessed to enjoy the support of more than 500 Junior Board members.

Mary's Closet

Among the many areas of Catholic Charities work where the Junior Board makes its mark is Mary's Closet, our professional clothing pantry at 721 N. LaSalle. Once each month, the Junior Board works specifically with refugees to prepare for job interviews and find just the right outfit to help them shine.

Mary's Closet was established in 2011 by Catholic Charities Board Members to enhance clients' self-confidence and spirits, to provide clients with a choice of professional attire, and to support them in preparing for interviews and life events such as graduations, funerals, and weddings.

FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

www.ccofchicagovolunteer.com

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance and Support Provides a Refuge From Fear

“My name is Gail and I am the mother of three children; a grown boy and girl, and one teenage girl. I've worked hard all my life and am currently working three jobs. I love to cook and do hair, and I've been a hairdresser since I was 15 years old. Although I've owned my own salons in the past, currently I work for a friend's salon on weekends, work nights at an automotive factory during the week, and provide driving services. I went to culinary school and try to use these skills to bake cakes or cook special meals to earn extra money.

I first became acquainted with Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA) a couple of years ago when I was referred to them by the court because I could not afford the legal help I needed to leave an abusive relationship. My partner did not want me to go, but after more than 20 years of abuse, I had decided that it was enough.

Twenty years is a long time, but I had a history, and so did my partner. My mother was in an abusive relationship — not physically abusive, but verbally and emotionally abusive. I thought it was normal to be

treated that way. He also thought it was normal behavior because his father had been verbally and emotionally abusive to his mother. By the time my partner

“I am so grateful to my CCLA attorneys ... and Catholic Charities for helping me get a permanent order of protection and getting me through the entire process.”

started being physically abusive, we already had children. It was hard to leave. And a lot of the time he was a good dad. He loves his children, but he didn't realize how much he was hurting them by the way he was treating me.

When I told him he needed to move out, he called the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the

Department on Aging, claiming that I was abusing him. The investigators were able to see that I was not harming anyone and in fact was being abused. The investigators advised me to get an emergency order of protection, which I did right away, and received police assistance to remove him from our home.

But removing him from our home was only the first step. I am so grateful to my CCLA attorneys, Adela (CCLA Legal Program Director) and Melanie (CCLA Staff Attorney), and Catholic Charities for helping me get a permanent order of protection. I was so scared to face my partner in court, I would be shaking every time. But, having a CCLA attorney by my side made a difference; I felt supported. I did not have to face my abuser alone because they were with me every step of the way. My CCLA attorneys referred me to counseling and slowly I began to gain my self-confidence back. I am a Christian, so I truly believe that it was God's hand guiding me and bringing me the people I needed to get through it.

When I share my story, I hope that it helps others who are living in fear to know that they are not alone and that help is available. ”

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA)

721 N. LaSalle Street • Chicago, Illinois
INTAKE (312) 948-6821

FROM LETTERS

FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

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

We welcome your submissions, stories, and memories.

“Shortly after moving to Barrington, I received a call from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) program asking if I would be interested in working with recent survivors of a suicide loss. As LOSS was my saving grace in the aftermath of my own dad’s death from suicide, I was grateful for the opportunity to give back. It was there I realized the purpose in my own pain. In my own practice, I spend the day walking alongside others as they work to find purpose in their pain. I will forever be grateful that they choose me to walk alongside them.”

JLH

YOUR GENEROSITY

#GIVING TUESDAY

Thank You for Your Support!

\$78,838 RAISED

Your gift will help a person or family in need overcome a crisis and give them the tools they need to rebuild their life.



CONTACT US

By Mail 

EMAIL communications@catholiccharities.net

MAIL Catholic Charities c/o Spirit Magazine
721 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago IL 60654

GET IN TOUCH

On the Web

FIND US at [ccofchicago](https://www.facebook.com/ccofchicago) on    

VISIT US at www.catholiccharities.net/spirit



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Chicago, Illinois 60654

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2020 UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

**Saturday
March 21**



Benefiting
Catholic Charities
Programs in the
Southwest Region

Silver Lake Country Club
Orland Park

FEBRUARY

**COMPASSION IN ACTION
DINNER**

Saturday, February 22
Idlewild Country Club
Flossmoor
(708) 333-8379

MARCH

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CELEBRATION**

Thursday, March 12
FitzGerald's, Berwyn
(708) 329-4022

**HELPING HANDS
DINNER & AUCTION**

Saturday, March 21
Silver Lake Country Club
Orland Park
(708) 430-0428

APRIL

**HOLY FAMILY VILLA
DINNER**

Sunday, April 5
Gaelic Park, Oak Forest
(630) 257-2291

**HEARTS FOR HOPE
DINNER & AUCTION**

Saturday, April 18
The Cotillion, Palatine
(847) 376-2118

**LEGAL LIFELINES
COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

Thursday, April 23
Union League Club
of Chicago
(312) 655-7290

ART OF CARING

Saturday, April 25
The Deer Path Inn
Lake Forest
(847) 782-4115

**BLOSSOMS OF HOPE
BRUNCH**

Sunday, April 26
Drury Lane
Oakbrook Terrace
(312) 948-6797

JUNE

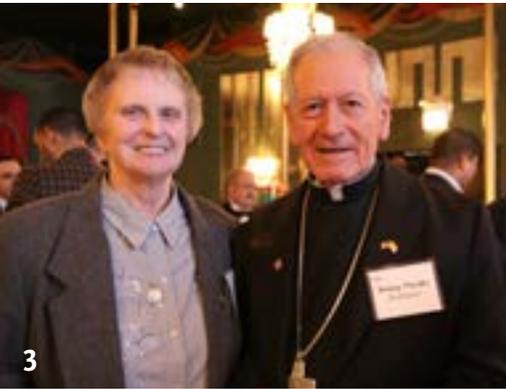
**DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER
LUNCHEON & BOUTIQUE**

Thursday, June 4
North Shore Country Club
Glenview
(847) 376-2121

**CITY SOUTHWEST
STORY: BUILDING OUR
COMMUNITY RECEPTION**

Wednesday, June 10
St. Ignatius College Prep
Chicago
(773) 349-8835

www.catholiccharities.net/events



1 d'Vine Affair

Perez and Glunz Jr host The House of Glunz vintner's table.

2 Tuesday Night Suppers

Volunteers for the weekly Tuesday night dinner.

3 Ayudando Nuestras Familias

Sister Joellen Tomas and Bishop Placido Rodriguez

4 Gibson's New Year's Event

Elegant young guests at the New Year dinner celebration at Gibson's Steakhouse.

5 Thanksgiving Day Supper

Family volunteers at Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Day Supper.

6 Harvest of Hope

Heart of Charity Award presented to Phil Andrew (second from left) by Rev. Patrick McGrath (center).

7 Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball

Couple enjoys the evening on the dance floor.

8 Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball

(left to right) Acting President, Kathy Donahue, Cardinal Cupich, Marge & Liz Livingston, event Chaircouple Jerry & Judy Castellini.

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 22

Compassion In Action Dinner

Join us for the 16th annual Compassion in Action Dinner at Idlewild Country Club in Flossmoor. The event benefits Catholic Charities programs in the South Region and includes the presentation of awards, a silent auction, and raffle prizes.

THURSDAY • MARCH 12

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Celebrate St. Paddy at the legendary Fitzgerald's Night Club in Berwyn. Proceeds support Catholic Charities New Hope Housing Program in the West Region. The event features great Irish entertainment by the McNulty Irish Dancers, the Shannon Rovers, and members of the Irish Musicians Association-Chicago. Highlights include a fantastic grand raffle prizes and a terrific silent auction.

SATURDAY • MARCH 21

Helping Hands Dinner & Silent Auction

The Helping Hands Dinner and Auction is on Saturday, March 21 at the Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. More than 250 guests are expected to attend this annual event in support of Catholic Charities programs in the Southwest Region. Highlights include the presentation of awards, a silent auction, and raffle prizes.

SATURDAY • APRIL 18

Hearts for Hope Dinner & Auction

The 31st Annual Hearts for Hope Dinner & Auction is on Saturday, April 18 at The Cotillion in Palatine. More than 300 guests are expected to attend. Enjoy music by 7th Heaven, a silent and live auction, and recognition awards for members of the community. Proceeds support the wide range of services provided by Catholic Charities in the Northwest Suburbs.

THURSDAY • APRIL 23

Legal Lifelines Cocktail Reception

The Legal Lifelines Cocktail Reception will be held on Thursday, April 23 at the Union League Club of Chicago. More than 200 guests are expected to attend this annual event in support of the Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Program.

THURSDAY • APRIL 23

Art of Caring

The Women's Board of Lake County Services 31st Annual Art of Caring event will be held on Saturday, April 23, at the elegant and historic Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest. Enjoy a fabulous reception and dinner, unique live auction, and entertainment. Proceeds benefit programs in Lake County.

SUNDAY • APRIL 26

Blossoms of Hope Brunch

The 30th Annual Blossoms of Hope Brunch, benefiting the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) program, will take place on April 26 at Drury Lane in Oak Brook Terrace. This event features an amazing array of raffle and pick a prize items and the famous Drury Lane Sunday Brunch Buffet.

THURSDAY • JUNE 4

Diamonds Are Forever Boutique & Luncheon

The 6th Annual Diamonds Are Forever Boutique & Luncheon will be held at a new venue, the North Shore Country Club in Glenview. Shopping at the boutique and the silent auction begins at 10 a.m., with the luncheon and fashion show at noon, followed by more shopping. Several vendors will be displaying their unique creations for purchase. Catholic Charities will receive a portion of the sales receipts and all proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Programs in the North Suburbs.



1



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4

1 COMPASSION IN ACTION

Couple enjoys dinner at the Southwest Region event benefiting Catholic Charities Southwest Region programs and services.

2 ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Fitzgerald's, benefiting Catholic Charities New Hope Apartments for homeless women.

3 Legal Lifelines

Legal Lifelines Cocktail Reception benefits Catholic Charities invaluable legal services to clients.

4 Art of Caring

The Art of Caring benefits Catholic Charities Lake County services.

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

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

www.catholiccharities.net/events