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# KEENAGER NEWS

'Young  
At Heart'

March  
and April  
2023

Volume No. 55  
Issue No. 02

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## Parish Partnerships Further Mission, Enrich Lives

### St. Francis de Sales Parishioners Support Veteran's Employment Program and Diaper Depot



Volunteer Tony Sansone, who reconditions computers, and Tom Powers, RMB Chairperson of Lake County with the donated laptops.

As Catholic Charities expands its work on the local, regional level, and benevolent people are hearing more about the serious needs of those struggling in their own communities, new stories are emerging about networking, and teamwork that are happening in Cook and Lake counties to help Catholic Charities clients forge a better, more stable path to the future.

Tom Powers, Regional Mission Board (RMB) Chairperson of Lake County, was recently part of a collaborative effort that resulted in 40 laptops and two generous financial contributions being donated to Catholic Charities Veteran's Employment Program and Diaper Depot in Lake County.

Last Fall, Tom and his wife Elaine had lunch with their pastor, Fr. David Ryan of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lake Zurich. Tom mentioned that he is volunteering with Catholic Charities Veterans Employment Program, and he described the Computer Program and the Bicycle Program that are part of this larger initiative. Fr. Ryan asked Tom to introduce him to Mitch Siegel, Veteran's Job Developer in Lake County, who coordinates these programs.

**CONTINUED ON PAGES 8 AND 9** →

## Greetings from the Editor

**KATIE MCDONNELL  
BREDEMANN**



### Happy Almost-Spring, Keenager Readers!

We hope you are well and finding much to smile about we gain more daylight every day and start watching the earth renew itself as temperatures rise. In this issue we celebrate parish partnerships and the ways they continue to be vitally important to the work of Catholic

Charities: those that happen in a short amount of time and those that have lasted over many years. These partnerships are focused on believing in the potential of people who are struggling – providing the assistance they need as they work towards becoming self-sufficient. Also, be sure to read Fr. Rubey's column on the upcoming Blossoms of Hope Brunch, and Mary Ellen Kastenholz' story on the history of Hull House. It's an exciting time to be involved with Catholic Charities! Visit [catholiccharities.net](http://catholiccharities.net) to learn more. We wish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day, and a Blessed Easter!

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### SPECIAL DATES

#### March 2023

Birthstone: **Aquamarine** / Flower: **Daffodil**

**3/6** Casimir Pulaski Day  
**3/12** Daylight Savings Time Begins  
**3/17** St. Patrick's Day  
**3/19** Feast of St. Joseph  
**3/25** Feast of the Annunciation

#### April 2023

Birthstone: **Diamond** / Flower: **Daisy**

**4/1** April Fool's Day  
**4/2** Palm Sunday  
**4/9** Easter Sunday  
**4/16** D'Vine Mercy Sunday  
**4/18** 2022 Taxes Due  
**4/22** Earth Day  
**4/29** Art of Caring Event  
**4/30** Blossoms of Hope Brunch

**For more news and information about events, visit [catholiccharities.net](http://catholiccharities.net).**

## KEENAGER NEWS

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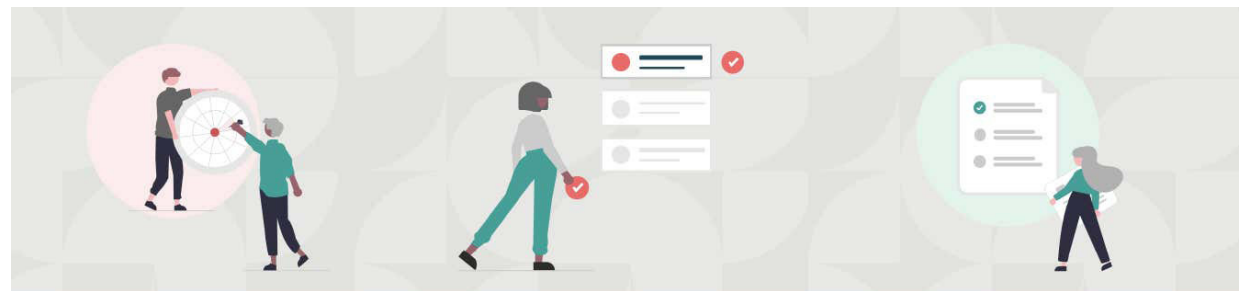
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## National Council on Aging Creates Job Skills CheckUp

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has created a free online tool to help seniors who are preparing to find a new career. The free online tool is called the Job Skills CheckUp, and it is partially funded by the IBM corporation.

Included are tips and links to resources that can help seniors learn more about creating resumes, interviewing, creating a professional network, and learning new skills that can make them eligible to apply for more employment opportunities.

According to the NCOA, "The goal of the Job Skills CheckUp is to empower older job seekers to build their confidence while creating a personal plan to land a job they love."

Through a series of initial questions, the Job Skills CheckUp helps seniors narrow-down what types of jobs they might want to

consider, and the kinds of jobs for which they are qualified. The NCOA does not collect any personal information, but users are invited to save the results of their searches if they would like to do so.

The Job Skills CheckUp is the latest addition to the NCOA's "Age Well Planner," which has current information and online resources on other topics relevant to seniors such as a Falls Free CheckUp, a Budget CheckUp and a Medical Cost Estimator. All of these tools are aimed at helping seniors stay informed on key issues that relate to their health and financial security.

Founded in 1950, the NCOA is the oldest organization in the United States that is focused on older adults. To learn more, visit [ncoa.org/age-well-planner](http://ncoa.org/age-well-planner).

Source: [ncoa.org](http://ncoa.org)



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**Catholic Charities Mission**

Catholic Charities partners with mission-driven people and organizations across Cook and Lake Counties to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need. We are called to serve and accompany anyone, regardless of their faith, gender, race, or ethnicity.

Catholic Charities is an equal opportunity employer.

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### Thought for the Day From a poem written by Mary Oliver, called "Don't Hesitate"

*"If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. Whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb."*

Use every opportunity to recognize, and relish happy moments that come into your life each day. We think this is a very positive thing to think about, and we hope you do too.

# A Harbor in the Storm for Survivors of Domestic Violence

## The Voice of Charity

**AIDA SEGURA**

Director, House of Peace



I did not plan on a career supporting survivors of domestic violence when I completed my degree in pastoral counseling, but now I could not imagine a more spiritually fulfilling role than the one I have as program director at House of Peace in Waukegan.

House of Peace is one of Catholic Charities' two transitional homes for those recovering from domestic violence, but it is not a shelter. It is a home that welcomes six families every six months and offers them the space and the resources to heal, empower and sustain themselves.

My colleague, Deborah Hammond says, "It's a magical place," and it is.

We opened in 2011 in a building that had been the rectory for Most Blessed Trinity Parish. It was born from an idea that Fr. Dan Harnett, who was then the parish's pastor, presented to me.

I started out as a counselor at St. Pius in Pilsen where I soon discovered an unmet need for domestic violence services and ultimately provided them. I left that role to perform mission work in my native Peru and returned to the Chicago area in 2011. It was then that Fr. Harnett approached me.

He also had spent time in Peru and now saw a need in the Waukegan parish, which includes many poor and immigrant families. He knew of my background and called on me to help him build a supportive community for those coming out of violence.

Community members helped renovate the old rectory into a home for these women and children. A local grocery store allows them to shop for free, a local dentist provides dental care, and many other community members support the House of Peace families.

The women who live there also support each other. House of Peace has a staff of six (mostly women who once lived there), but it is community-run. This means the women organize themselves and take turns with cooking, cleaning, childcare and other tasks. This helps restore their decision-making ability. They have access to counseling, art therapy and other trauma-informed care, as do their children, who also are deeply affected by living in homes that include violence.

Women who live at House of Peace receive assistance in finding jobs, apartments, service providers and rental assistance (another Catholic Charities program). I'm proud to report that *not one* woman who has come through the program has returned to a relationship with domestic violence.

In addition to the six-month transitional living program, House of Peace offers a support group called Phoenix—open to residents, former residents and women who are seeking resources but remain in their relationships. This is distinctive because many domestic violence programs only offer services to women who have left the home. The Catholic Charities mission is to meet people where they are.

When women decide to attend Phoenix and discover the supportive community that accepts them, they keep coming. Many eventually find the strength to leave their abusers.

What is beautiful about this program is it reminds us that when we focus on the benefits of communal support, women can really flourish and turn their lives around. I hope the House of Peace approach is replicated in as many places as possible.

*Learn more about this and other Catholic Charities services on our website, [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net). If you are a domestic violence survivor looking for resources, please call (877) 863-6338.*



## Join us for the Blossoms of Hope Brunch on April 30

### Words for the Spirit

**REVEREND CHARLES T. RUBEY**

Associate Administrator,  
Founder and Director, LOSS Program



I am delighted to share with you that the LOSS Program is able to hold its annual Blossoms of Hope Brunch in-person again this year. It will be held on Sunday, April 30 from 11:00am-2:00pm at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook. For the last three years, due to COVID, we have gathered virtually, which has been a wonderful option to stay connected. But we very much prefer gathering in-person. In 2019, we had over 950 people in attendance at the brunch. The vast number of attendees are survivors of a completed suicide. Many members of the LOSS community want to support the brunch because the program helped them in the immediate aftermath of the loss of their loved one. At the brunch, LOSS participants are able to see other LOSS members with whom they might have met in a group. They reconnect at the gathering and share stories about how they are progressing. There is such a feeling of

warmth and camaraderie. It is quite amazing to see such fellowship among the attendees.

We have a speaker at the brunch who has professional experience in the field of suicide. The speaker shares his or her expertise with the people in attendance. The more people learn about suicide, the better they are able to cope with the loss of their loved one. Suicide is a different form of death. If someone dies of cancer or heart disease, those left behind know why their loved one died. With suicide, survivors do not know precisely why their loved one died. There are many questions that survivors have to grapple with.

Survivors often blame themselves for the death of a loved one, and think they were a poor parent or a poor spouse or a poor child depending on who died. However, the fact of the matter is that no one is to blame for someone who completes suicide. I have learned over the years that someone who completes suicide has suffered from the pain of mental illness. I have learned that the pain of mental illness is as severe as Stage 4 cancer or some other fatal illness. People who complete suicide died of a fatal mental disease. Survivors are comforted learning this.

We will be glad to welcome Monica Pedersen as Mistress of Ceremony for the 2023 LOSS Brunch. Monica is a charming woman and has become the star of the brunch. The people love

her because of her warmth and positive attitude toward life. She is in demand because of the way she connects with people. We are fortunate to have Monica each year. I have known her since she was 16 years old. I met Monica in the aftermath of her twin brother's suicide. I worked with Monica as she grieved the death of her brother. We have been close all these years, and we are deeply indebted to her for being such an integral part of the brunch.

The Drury Lane in Oakbrook has been an ideal place to have this in-person event. The food is outstanding and the atmosphere is so welcoming for all those who attend. I am looking forward to this year's brunch, to see everyone there. The LOSS program continues to offer help to all those who have been affected by the death of a loved one to suicide, wherever you are in the grieving process. For more information on LOSS, visit <https://www.catholiccharities.net/behavioral-health-programs/loss-loving-outreach-to-survivors-of-suicide> or call 312-655-7283. To learn more about the 2023 LOSS Blossoms of Hope Brunch, visit <https://www.catholiccharities.net/events/blossoms-of-hope-brunch> or call 312-948-6864.

I wish you a Blessed Easter.

Keep on Keepin' On,

## † ST. JUDE NOVENA

*May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us; St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us; St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.*

PNB	PB	NLZ	BTV
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The Novena is a nine day devotion. Say the prayer nine times a day. If you would like to acknowledge your gratitude for its influence in your request, contact Keenager News at (312) 655 7425 and we will include your initials in the publication of this Novena. No payment required.

## St. Helena and the Relics of Jesus' Cross

As we journey through Lent, we are reminded about the beautiful symbols in the Catholic church that help us grow in appreciation for all that Jesus endured so that we each might have the hope of eternal life with Him. One of the most inspiring stories about symbols, from our early Church is that of St. Helena (248-329 AD) and what she did to ensure that relics of Jesus' Passion and Death were preserved for all generations to follow.

St. Helena was the mother of Roman Emperor Constantine (ca. 280-337 AD). She was born into humble beginnings, married Constantius Chlorus and gave birth to Constantine. Though Constantius divorced Helena to marry the step-daughter of Emperor Maximianus Herculius, to advance his standing in Roman society, Constantine remained loyal to his mother. Growing up, he saw Christians persecuted for their faith, with many put to death. Constantine became involved in a series of civil wars within the Roman Empire, and had a faith conversion during the Battle of Milvian Bridge. Emerging victorious, he credited the Christian God for this outcome.

Constantine became Roman Emperor in 324 AD and he immediately brought Helena into his court, giving her the title Empress Augusta. Constantine stopped the persecution of Christians, and allowed Christians to practice their faith in public, after they had done so in hiding for 300 years. Helena also began to embrace Christianity and, with her son's support, between 326-328, Helena travelled to the Holy Places in Judea to retrieve whatever relics remained from Jesus' life there.

Helena had churches constructed, including the Church of the Nativity, in Bethlehem. In Jerusalem, on the site where Calvary existed, a temple had been built and dedicated to the God Venus. Helena had this temple destroyed, and she authorized an excavation, which revealed remnants from the three crosses.



*Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, located in Rome, Italy*

Tradition holds that Helena brought a woman near death to the crosses. The woman placed a hand on all three crosses and when she placed her hand on the third cross she suddenly recovered. Helena declared the third cross to be the True Cross and, on this site, Constantine ordered the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to be built.

Returning to Rome, Helena brought back parts of the True Cross and created a chapel in her palace to preserve them. The Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem was eventually built over the site of Helena's palace. Today, the basilica is the worship site of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem Parish, established in 1910, and the relics are in the same chapel within the basilica created by St. Helena. They are in precious reliquaries, protected by a glass case and displayed for pilgrims to venerate. Included are:

- Three fragments from the True Cross\*\*
- A nail used in Jesus' Crucifixion\*\*
- Two thorns from Jesus' Crown of Thorns
- A finger believed to belong to St. Thomas, who at first doubted Jesus' Resurrection
- A fragment of the cross of the "Good Thief," crucified next to Jesus
- Small pieces of the Pillar on which Jesus was scourged;

- Small pieces of the Holy Sepulchre (Christ's tomb);
- Fragments of the crib of Jesus; and
- A wood fragment from the Title of Jesus' cross; in Hebrew, Latin and Greek is reads, "Nazarene." Carbon-dating has revealed this was most likely a medieval copy of the original relic.

*\*\* These are believed to have been retrieved by St. Helena, with the subsequent items added over time by others.*

While in Jerusalem, St. Helena also found, and shipped to Rome the marble steps that are believed to be the stairs on which Jesus climbed during his trial before Pontius Pilate. Today, these stairs are in the Sanctuary of the Holy Stairs (Scala Santa) in Rome. Pilgrims ascend the stairs, on their knees, in prayer.

There are many online and print resources describing how these relics have been venerated by popes and used in liturgical processions over the centuries. St. Helena died around 330, with Constantine maintaining his steadfast devotion to her. Because of her deep faith and her charitable works, St. Helena is viewed as a key figure in helping Christianity spread throughout the known world. May St. Helena inspire us to help continue to build the kingdom of God today.

*Sources: [santacroceroma.it/en](http://santacroceroma.it/en); [catholic.org/saints](http://catholic.org/saints); [biography.com](http://biography.com); [ncregister.com](http://ncregister.com); [aleteia.org](http://aleteia.org)*

## Hull House's Role in Social Reform

### Chicago History

MARY ELLEN KASTENHOLZ

Staff Writer



In 1889, Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr co-founded Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago named after the original homeowner, Charles Jerald Hull. They leased the dilapidated building at the corner of Halsted and Polk (800 South Halsted) for 25-years rent free from Hull's niece, Helen Curtin. The house opened to serve recently arrived European immigrants on Sept. 18, 1889.

The two women had been traveling in London and came across Toynbee Hall, known as a social reform center in the East End, where a group of university men lived among impoverished immigrants in a settlement house and provided social and recreational gatherings. These two New Women (a term used for educated and single women dedicated to social reform) found

it an appealing model and returned to the United States filled with a purpose. They opened Hull House to provide a greater civic and social life, investigate and improve the conditions of Chicago's industrial districts, and initiate educational and philanthropic endeavors for the immigrant and impoverished neighborhood. They began to offer free concerts and lectures, and managed clubs for children and adults. The residents were college educated women who came to live at Hull House and volunteer to teach classes to immigrants and poor communities, and provide programs that led to social reform.

By 1911, Hull House had expanded to 13 buildings to include an art gallery, public kitchen, coffee house, gymnasium, swimming pool, cooperative boarding school for girls, book bindery, art studio, music school, circulating library, an employment bureau and labor museum. In 1912, a children's summer camp known as Bowen Country Club completed the complex. During the first two decades, thousands of immigrants were drawn to Hull House. By 1920, there were nearly 500 settlement houses in the U.S. with Hull House being the premier location.

Great respect had grown for Jane Addams and, in 1905 she was appointed to the Chicago

Board of Education. In 1910 she received the first Honorary degree ever awarded to a woman from Yale University. It was also in this same year that her autobiography, *Twenty Years at Hull House* was published. She and the Hull House residents worked tirelessly to bring about reforms and increase educational opportunities. Their work resulted in establishing a kindergarten for children left at the settlement while their mothers worked in sweat shops. Reforms such as establishing the first juvenile court in the United States, projects in Urban Planning, and creating a branch library system were accomplished. At the state level, Hull House was influential in child labor laws, occupational safety and health provisions, compulsory education, immigration rights and pension law. These led to national attention, bringing reform to child labor laws, women's suffrage, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation and other platforms for the Progressive Party agenda in 1912. Addams seconded the nomination for Theodore Roosevelt for President and campaigned for him promoting women's suffrage.

Renovations continued at Hull House with the changing needs of the communities over the years. Jane Addams remained the Head Resident until her death in 1935. She had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, though poor health resulting from a heart attack in 1926 prevented her from attending.

Most of the Hull House buildings were torn down for the construction of the University of Illinois, Chicago campus in the mid 1960's. The original building and one other building remain and operate as a museum. In June, 1965 Hull House was designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark and, in October of 1966, it was named to the National Registry of Historic Places. Hull House became an official Chicago landmark in 1974. Jane Addams's impact on social reform continues to be seen in every community across the United States today.



**Left:** Jane Addams, right answers reporters' questions with Lillian Wald, left, another highly-respected social reformer.

**Right:** Jane Addams Hull House Museum, Chicago

Sources: [janeaddamshullhouse.org/history](http://janeaddamshullhouse.org/history);

<https://www.hullhousemuseum.org>; [commons.wikipedia.org](https://commons.wikipedia.org)

# Senior Drop-In Centers Have So Much to Offer

Catholic Charities Senior Drop-In Centers offer numerous benefits to older adults.

In partnership with the Chicago Department of Family & Support Services, Catholic Charities is honored to operate eight senior centers in neighborhoods throughout the City of Chicago. We also operate a center in suburban Grayslake in partnership with the Village of Grayslake, and in Calumet City in partnership with AgeOptions. These centers are vibrant hubs of activity for older adults that offer health, recreational, educational, social, and nutritional programs to promote healthy aging.

Petra Gutierrez is the Lead Senior Center Manager of Catholic Charities North Center Senior Center in Chicago. She says, “One of the most important benefits of senior centers is to provide opportunities for socialization. The harmful effects of social isolation—such as impaired mental performance, a compromised immune system, a heightened

risk of chronic disease, and depression—are particularly concerning for older adults. With games, parties, classes, shared meals and more, we offer a host of opportunities for fun and friendship.”

The communal activities within the senior centers are designed to provide other benefits too, such as interesting classes that stimulate the brain by learning something new, exercise classes that help with physical fitness, regular health screenings and nurse visits that provide preventative health care, tax and financial workshops that improve economic health, and hot meals that provide balanced nutrition.

Each of Catholic Charities’ 10 centers have activities tailored to meet the needs and wants of seniors in their specific communities. For example, chair Yoga and Tai Chi are popular activities at our North Center, but Edgewood residents love belly dancing, and Austin and Portage Park can’t get enough line dancing. Similarly, Bingo is the reigning game in our English-speaking locations, while Lotería rules in the predominately Spanish-speaking centers. And in West Town and South Chicago, Catholic Charities Drop-In Centers offer a bilingual combination of the games where English speakers can learn some Spanish and vice versa.

Catholic Charities Senior Centers are open to all adults age 60 and older. Our staff have the knowledge and experience to help older adults understand other services that might be available to them and are thus often the gateway for a variety of needed programs.

If you or someone you know could benefit from all a center has to offer, see list nearby or visit [catholiccharities.net/community-care/senior-centers](https://catholiccharities.net/community-care/senior-centers). As Petra adds, “We are always open to hearing what activities our seniors would like to do. They make suggestions and we do our best to make them happen. It is wonderful to know we are helping to enrich seniors’ lives. They want to make the most of everyday, and our senior centers help them do just that.”



Seniors enjoy an exercise class at the North Center Senior Center.



## There’s So Much Waiting For You At Catholic Charities Senior Centers

Ping pong, book clubs, dancing, field trips and, best of all, good company!

### SENIOR CENTERS OPERATED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES

*These drop-in centers are places where older adults can come together with their peers and enjoy a wide variety of enjoyable activities that promote healthy aging.*

<p><b>Edgewater</b> 5917 N. Broadway St. Chicago, IL 60660 (312) 742-5323</p>	<p><b>Englewood</b> 653-657 W. 63rd St. Chicago, IL 60621 (312) 745-3328</p>
<p><b>South Chicago</b> 9233 S. Burley Chicago, IL 60617 (312) 745-1282</p>	<p><b>North Center</b> 4040 N. Oakley Ave. Chicago, IL 60618 (312) 745-4029</p>
<p><b>Austin</b> 5071 W. Congress Pkwy. Chicago, IL 60644 (312) 743-1538</p>	<p><b>West Town</b> 1613 W. Chicago Ave. Chicago, IL 60622 (312) 743-1016</p>
<p><b>Roseland</b> 10426 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60628 (312) 745-1500</p>	<p><b>Portage Park</b> 4100 N. Long Ave. Chicago, IL 60641 (312) 744-9022</p>
<p><b>Grayslake Senior Center</b> 50 N. Library Ln. Grayslake IL 60030 (847) 543-1041</p>	<p><b>Josephine P. Argento Senior Center</b> 1700 Memorial Dr. Calumet City, IL 60409 (708) 832-1208</p>

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES ADULT DAY CENTERS

*Supervised day care and programming in a pleasant, safe environment to help frail adults stay engaged, and enjoy socialization and recreation as their health is monitored.*

<p><b>Accolade Adult Day Care</b> 112 S. Humphrey Ave. / Oak Park, IL 60302 (708) 445-1300</p>
<p><b>St. Ailbe Adult Day Care</b> 9249 S. Avalon Ave. / Chicago, IL 60619 (773) 721-0177</p>
<p><b>Ada S. Niles Adult Day Care</b> 6717 S. Elizabeth St. / Chicago, IL 60636 (773) 488-5400</p>

## ← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tom and Fr. Ryan met with Mitch, and Mitch shared more about the network of contacts that he and Bernie Gresham, Catholic Charities Veteran's Job Developer in Cook County, have built to assist veterans pursuing new careers. Fr. Ryan pledged to connect Mitch with Alan Weir, the St. Francis de Sales Parish Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 309, who he thought might be able to assist.

Upon hearing details about these veteran programs, Alan also pledged his support to Mitch. Alan happened to share the same information with another parishioner, Alan Czarnik, who took it upon himself to check with his employer, Screen Americas, in Elk Grove Village (screenamericas.com), to see what might be possible. As a result of all of these positive conversations, on December 6 Screen Americas donated 37 gently-used laptops to the Computer Program, and Alan Czarnik personally donated a new, high-volume printer, as well. Alan Weir and Boy Scout Troop 309 followed with a donation of three laptops to add to this extraordinary parish effort.

In early November, Fr. Ryan was approached by a couple in the parish wanting to make an anonymous donation to a worthy cause. Fr. Ryan shared what he had learned about the Veterans Employment Program, and the couple donated \$1,000 to support the initiative.

Just before Christmas, this same couple reached out to Fr. Ryan, looking to make another anonymous donation. Fr. Ryan told them about the Diaper Depot in Lake County, another Catholic Charities initiative Tom and Elaine Powers told him about. This generous couple donated \$500 to the Diaper Depot – a beautiful gesture to provide care for infants during the Christmas season.

The Diaper Depot operates out of the Schreiber Center for Human Services in Round Lake. Its Lead Volunteer is Don Rosanova, the former President of the Mariano's food chain which operates 45 stores across Illinois. Catholic Charities is tremendously fortunate

to have Don offering his time and vast retail experience for the benefit of our clients. The Diaper Depot is a large and well-run distribution center that works with Catholic Charities programs, plus nearby parishes and community organizations to ensure that diapers and their accessories get to young parents who are very much in need of them. Because of generous donations from individuals, parishes and local organizations, the Diaper Depot distributes 20,000 diapers a month. As Don Rosanova explains, "Talking about diapers is one thing, but what's really nice is talking about God's children- the babies- that we are really taking care of. We are providing diapers for 400 babies each and every month."

Upon hearing of the donation of 40 laptops to the Veteran's Employment Program, Mitch Siegel said, "We are immensely grateful to Alan Weir, Alan Czarnik, Tom, and Fr. Ryan for their teamwork and generosity. Last year, Catholic Charities assisted nearly 500 veterans with housing case management and employment programs. The Veterans Employment Program is all about eliminating barriers to employment. Some veterans who come to us are homeless, many are recovering, and our goal is to help improve their lives of those of their family members." Mitch continued, "We hold workshops in the Lovell Federal Healthcare Center in Waukegan, and this new donation of laptops will allow us to update the Computer Lab there that is more than 15 years old. Our veteran clients will be able to pursue new careers with current, reliable laptops."

Seeing how this series of events transpired, Tom Powers said, "It was great to be part of this. These programs provide vital services, are well-run and effectively engage volunteers, parishes, and community partners to maximum benefit." Tom added, "When people see how well Catholic Charities programs are run, they know their donation is going to the right place. We're excited to see how this expands in 2023 and beyond at St. Francis de Sales Parish."

Alan Czarnik said, "God works in mysterious ways. This really all started from a parking lot conversation I had with Alan Weir after a Scout



Lisa Roti, Lake County Regional Director,  
in the Diaper Depot

meeting. A very simple conversation turned into something really rewarding. Tom opened my eyes to all that Catholic Charities does for veterans. Fr. Ryan often speaks about the debt of gratitude that we owe to veterans too. I'm really glad this all fell together so nicely." Alan Weir added, "We hold the Troop 309 Bike Repair Service Project every year, gathering 20-40 used bicycles, and showing the scouts how to recondition them before we give them to underprivileged kids. We try to teach them to ask themselves, 'How can we make it better for someone who doesn't have what I have?' Once we told the scouts about the veterans needing laptops, it became a bigger opportunity to teach the same lesson."

Reflecting on the generosity of these good people in his parish, Fr. David Ryan said, "This is the Holy Spirit at work. That's what happened here. I'm sure of it."

Anyone is invited to share your stories with us at [communications@catholiccharities.net](mailto:communications@catholiccharities.net). Because of your generosity, Catholic Charities is amplifying its impact across Cook and Lake counties, strengthening individuals, families, and communities, one person at a time.





**Top left:** The Diaper Depot distributes 20,000 diapers a month. **Top right:** Job Developer Mitch Siegel gives a refurbished laptop to Angel, a veteran pursuing a new career.  
**Bottom left:** Job Developer Bernie Gresham gives a refurbished laptop to a veteran named Angela. **Bottom right:** The Veteran's Employment Program is active throughout Cook and Lake counties.

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## Building Community Across ZIP Codes: Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish and St. Thomas of Canterbury School

Our Front Page story features a wonderful collaboration between parishioners at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lake Zurich that is benefitting Catholic Charities Veterans Employment Program and Diaper Depot in Lake County. In a similar way, we also highlight a parish partnership in Cook County, between Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish (SSJFX) in Wilmette and St. Thomas of Canterbury School (STC) in Chicago.

"It's about building community with those less fortunate than ourselves," says Fr. Wayne Watts, Associate Administrator of Catholic Charities and Pastor of SSJFX. "When we acknowledge that all that we have and all that we are comes from God, we can't help but want to devote our lives to God's service, generously giving back, and joyfully attracting others."

The friendship between these parishes started more than forty years ago, when St. Francis Xavier and St. Thomas of Canterbury became "twinning" parishes. In the Renew My Church program, St. Francis Xavier merged with St. Joseph to become one parish, and St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish merged with St. Ita and St. Gregory the Great to become Mary, Mother of God Parish, with Fr. Bob Cook as its Pastor. St. Thomas of Canterbury School now resides on the campus of St. Ita Church, in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago.

St. Thomas of Canterbury School primarily serves nearly 300 students of established parish families as well as first-generation immigrants from 37 countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Vietnam. This diversity of culture enriches the learning experience for students immensely.

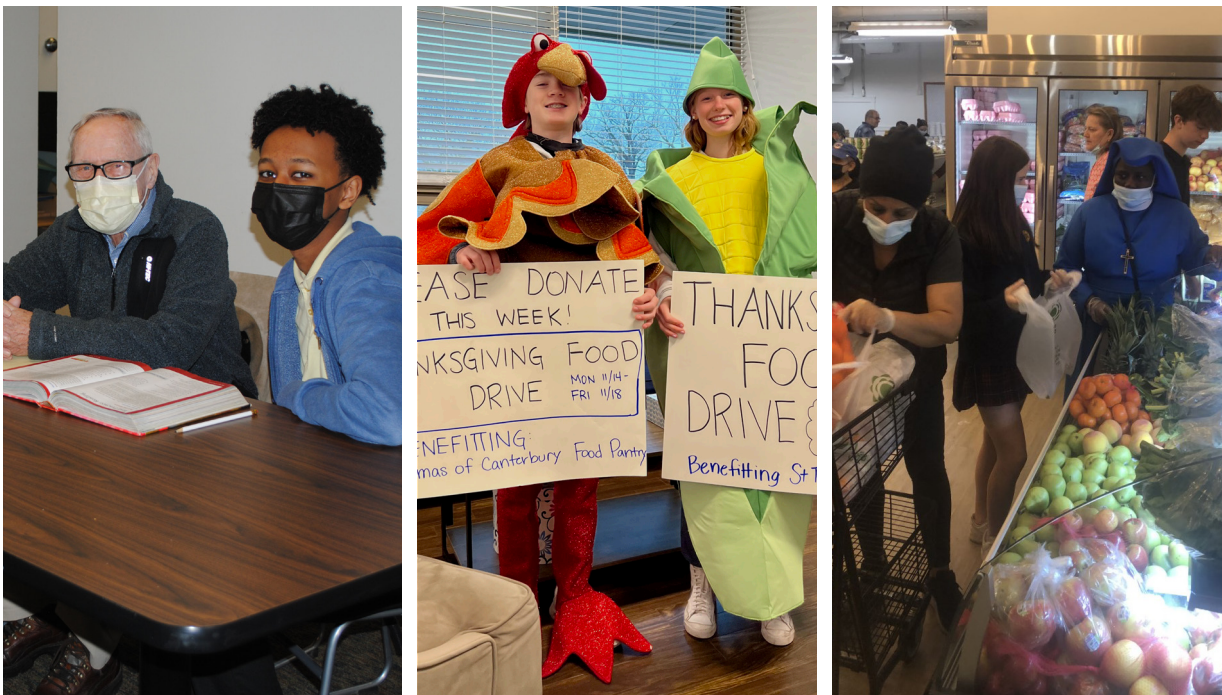
More than 95% of school families have incomes below the poverty line. The students work hard and are grateful for the opportunities given to them. Many STC graduates go on to attend respected public and Catholic high schools and major colleges and universities.

Christine Boyd is Principal of STC, and she has been committed to its mission for 31 years. She says, "The partnership between St. Thomas of Canterbury School and Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish has truly saved and been the very lifeblood of the school!"

SSJFX offers parishioners the opportunity to put their faith in action at STC through:

- Monthly financial collections at Mass;
- Regular Food Drives and holiday meal collections that support the parish Food Pantry, operated by Catholic Charities and serving more than 100 families a week;
- Volunteers offer their time and financial support to the parish Soup Kitchen;
- Clothing and financial donations assist school and parish families through the refugee support program;
- Dozens of SSJFX parishioners go to STC every week during school hours to tutor students in math, history, and English; and
- Many SSJFX parishioners have made generous contributions to the STC scholarship program for many years. Most recently, Fr. Wayne led a parish campaign through Empower Illinois to raise enough funds to "clear the waitlist" for tax credit scholarships so more than 130 students could receive a Catholic education at STC this school year. Empower Illinois allows Illinois income-tax payers to donate money to an authorized scholarship-granting organization and then take 75% of the amount off their state income tax bill. As Fr. Wayne said, "It's the best bang for your buck in philanthropic support."

Through these charitable works, SSJFX parishioners know their contributions of time and treasure are helping STC students and families maintain stability in their lives and pursue their dreams. In addition, many say their



**Left to right:** SSJFX volunteer Jim McCabe with STC 8th Grader Dagmawie Anchale; SSJFX students help with a holiday Food Drive for the STC Food Pantry; and volunteer at the Food Pantry.

lives are enriched by getting to know members of the STC community, seeing the impact that their kindness is having in their lives.

The dedication of SSJFX tutors continues to have an especially powerful impact. As Christine says, "Volunteer tutors work with small groups or individual children, kindergarten through eighth grade on a range of skills. Frequently, tutors work with newly arrived students who are struggling not only with English, but also adapting to the new culture. A number of SSJFX tutors have given their time and devotion at STC for more than 20 years."

Christine adds, "These tutors bring us a richness that we could never afford to offer to our students. We have lawyers, architects, bankers and those representing many other professions who willingly share their experiences with our students. It enriches their lives so much, and helps them dream of what they might become, and how they might give back later in their lives."

One tutor is missed in a particular way this winter. Christine explains, "Mike Eberle was a longtime SSJFX algebra tutor who passed away in January, five days before his 100th birthday. Mr. Eberle was a survivor of the Battle of the

Bulge in World War II and, when asked to share his wartime experiences with older students, he willingly shared his perspectives on principles that guided his life: faith, gratitude, and service to others."

Another SSJFX group assisting STC families is the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Members of this group have provided clothing, rental assistance and medical consultation and transportation for families in their darkest hours. Additionally, funeral expenses have been made available for families, as needed. As President Brian Avery explains, "We have tried to be responsive to varying needs at STC School, including helping recent immigrants who only receive a set amount of aid to help them settle. It typically lasts less than a year, and then families are expected to be self-sufficient, often with little or no English spoken by the parents. We also have helped STC School overcome financial shortfalls, and when needs go beyond our capabilities, we refer clients to Catholic Charities and other agencies. Our members have helped set up classrooms prior to the start of the school year, and we also work with families who need help navigating the high school admission process. We try to help wherever we are needed."

Last Fall, as asylum seekers began arriving in Chicago, Catholic Charities joined with other agencies in trying to assist them at a multi-agency resource center (MARC). Other asylum seekers began arriving on the doorsteps of parishes, including all three rectories in Mary, Mother of God Parish. As Fr. Bob tried to address their immediate needs, he called Fr. Wayne, concerned about the approaching cold weather. Within five days SSJFX parishioners collected 500 coats, with the parish teen group sorting and bagging them for delivery to STC. Regarding this show of support, and of the partnership, in general, Fr. Bob says, "Our parish is so grateful for its partnership with Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish. Its longtime support of our Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry and school has made a profound difference in the lives of so many people. We are particularly grateful to Father Wayne Watts for his leadership and embrace of our mission."

Fr. Wayne regularly shares his gratitude to the SSJFX community for the ways this partnership continues. In a recent bulletin column, Fr. Wayne said, "I share Fr. Bob's fervent thanks. We really are one body of Christ and one Church, no matter what the ZIP code is."

## Tutoring at St. Thomas of Canterbury School

by Alicia Resnick

*For the past 25 years, one of the joys of my life has been to tutor at St. Thomas of Canterbury School. I believe I started just about the time Miss Christine Boyd, the charismatic principal, took over the operation of the school. Her leadership is key to the job of tutoring and teaching.*

*Miss Boyd knows how to use tutors. You always end the tutoring time feeling confident that you have been of service. Whether it is one-on-one tutoring, or the special privilege of teaching a class, you sense that this is indeed God's work.*

*The student body is composed of children new to this country: some are second generation American, most are first generation, and some are brand new to the United States. It is such a privilege to help these children navigate their school lives, and they are so responsive. Teaching them vocabulary, listening to them read,*

*helping them with assignments: these are jobs that do not demand any special training, and the "payoff" is pure satisfaction.*

*I have been able to help a student who is so new to our country that we have to talk about American foods. I have tutored children who have gone to Ivy League schools. And I have taught children who share their family recipes with me!*

*One thing is certain: there are never any disciplinary issues. Sometimes I feel as though I have stepped back in time to my own Catholic grammar school days. There is always respect and gratitude from the children, from the teachers, and from Miss Boyd.*

*One more thing: it is good for the soul to be in a building populated by these children. When a third-grade class walks by my desk in the hallway, the sweet smiles and waves are a special reward for this old tutor!*



## Irish History in Chicago

*March 17, 1962 was the first time the Chicago River was dyed green; in recent years as many as 400,000 Chicagoans watched as 40lbs. of green dye was used to start the celebration.*

*The first St. Patrick's Day parade in Chicago was held in 1843 and it became an official city event in 1956.*

*As of 2020, for the second year in a row, Chicago was ranked as the Best City in the USA for St. Patrick's Day Celebrations, according to WalletHub Reports.*

*Source: chicagoist.com; urbanmatter.com*

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### Potato, Cabbage and Corned Beef Casserole

#### INGREDIENTS

6 cups (3/4 lb.) green cabbage, shredded	1/2 cup (2 oz.) Swiss cheese, shredded
1 large sweet onion, chopped	Salt and Pepper to taste
1/2 lb. lean corned beef, shredded	1 lb. red potatoes, peeled and sliced thin
2 Tbsp. chopped parsley	3/4 cup low-fat chicken broth
1/4 tsp. thyme	

#### PREPARATION

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease (or spray with non-stick cooking spray) a 3-quart casserole. Layer with half of the shredded cabbage and onions, sprinkle with half of the shredded corned beef. Sprinkle with half of the parsley and thyme. Add salt and pepper, if desired. Arrange half of the potato slices over the mixture, then repeat layers (cabbage, onions, corned beef) ending with the remaining sliced potatoes. Pour the chicken broth over the mixture and sprinkle with the cheese. Cover and bake in a 350-degree oven for 45 minutes. Remove cover and bake an additional 15 minutes or until top is brown.

### St. Joseph's Day Bread

#### INGREDIENTS

1 and 1/2 cups warm water	2 tsp. salt
2 pkgs. dry yeast	4 and 1/2 cups flour
2 Tbsp. shortening	1 egg, beaten
1 Tbsp. each: sugar and olive oil	1/4 cup sesame seeds

#### PREPARATION

In small bowl, combine water, yeast, shortening, sugar, oil and salt. Let stand 5 minutes. Place 2 and 1/2 cups of flour in large mixer bowl. Add liquid mixture. Beat on low speed or stir by hand until all ingredients are thoroughly blended. Stir in as much of remaining flour as you can mix in with spoon.

Turn out onto lightly floured surface. Knead in enough of the remaining flour to make dough that is smooth and elastic, in about 6-8 minutes. Shape into ball. Place in slightly greased bowl; turn once to grease surface. Cover.

In warm place, let rise until doubled. Punch down; divide dough into six equal pieces. Cover. Let rest 10 minutes. Roll each piece into a 12-inch-long rope. Using three ropes per loaf, braid and secure ends. To braid dough, begin in middle of ropes and work toward ends. Braid loosely to allow dough to expand.

Place on greased baking sheets. Cover. Let rise until nearly doubled. Brush sides and tops of loaves with beaten egg. Sprinkle with sesame seeds. Bake at 400 degrees 25 minutes or until bread is golden. Yields two loaves.

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 L T Q I M R S M U R P H Y S O D R R S M  
 A Y Y F F J O Y R A K X T G U N E X H Y  
 N L M N P T E C D W I P E P E C K G A R  
 T S G F K Z H D A A K R W Y D H D A U R  
 I F A D O A Y P L L G S C C I O N L G E  
 C A X Z N M O G R Y L A Y Y S F A W H K  
 K I B V A M G H D O L A R N X G K A N V  
 N B C C N R L A S L V D G P X V R Y E M  
 F Q T F A Q L L A I O I N H E F O A S R  
 Z V N F B L Y G I I R Y N U A S C R S H  
 Y N T O B L H E G E M I H C O N B M Y D  
 Y O R I S A B K F O N S A T E H S S S H  
 N V P Q N I Q D X C T O W O T F F E K Y  
 V Q F S K C I N N I H S F R A V A L Z E  
 R J N W M F C X M W L V I E S Q W S O C  
 A J I R W X H M G H Z P F N I E V D W W  
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 V Y I D Q S T P A P M Z G Z X T F T L U  
 E F P N P U L R N H L Y H O R A Y U B T  
 R U A O E A T Y U G R W A R Y I R O B E  
 K I N Y S H K P J R V M Z D O N W W Q U  
 B G S U Q Y R K L W F G K D W N G I S H  
 E W R U M I V B O Y H L A J K S M R Y O  
 I W A U R R L Q A H I X H A O I Q L X R  
 P K P N V C J I C M S I Z O N X U O A H  
 E J R I A P R A J C O F O I E Q D Z Z G  
 S Y Y U J N C O R D D H C D N W H I P V  
 C H D R O G O E W J V R A P I B H T I R  
 F C R E V G F F W N G E O X L L M P C I  
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### Easter Symbols

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- CROSS
- CROWN
- CURTAIN
- EARTHQUAKE
- HAMMER
- LAMB
- LINEN
- NAIL
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- SILVER
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# Humor & Nostalgia



## Back By Popular Demand: **The Best of Hal Roach**

Hal Roach was an Irish comedian who entered the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest engagement of a comedian at the same venue: 60 years at the Irish Cabaret in Jury's Ballbridge Hotel in Dublin. He was warmly known as the "King of Blarney." Hal Roach's good, clean humor made him one of the most likeable performers of his generation. See what we mean, below.

Dolphins : Animals that are so intelligent that, within a few weeks of captivity, they can train a man to stand on the edge of their pool and throw them food three times a day.

The likelihood of getting lost in Ireland is directly proportional to the number of times the direction-giver says, "You can't miss it."

I went to Macy's, to the men's department, and I said, "Can you show me the cheapest suit in the store?" The fellow says, "You're wearing it."

This fellow Casey went to the dentist. He said to the dentist, "All my teeth are turning yellow. What can I do?" And the dentist said, "Wear a brown tie."

An Irish plumber looked at Niagara Falls. "Well," he said, "I don't know now, but I think I can fix this."

The teacher says to a student, "Name two days of the week beginning with the letter T." He said, "Today and tomorrow."

The same teacher says to another student, "If I lay six eggs there, and I lay eleven eggs over there, how many eggs would I have altogether?" And the kid said, "I don't believe you can do it."

An old lady walked up and said, "Can you see me across the street?" The fellow said, "Stay there, and I'll go over and have a look."

Flanagan went to the bank to cash a check. The teller said, "Can you identify yourself?" He took a mirror from his pocket. And he said, "There's no doubt who that is. That's meself entirely."

How many times in an Irish pub has somebody walked up to you and said, "Don't look now, but look who's behind you?"

Nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give. Good night.

Sources: [Irelandcalling.com](http://Irelandcalling.com); [Azquotes.com](http://Azquotes.com); [imdb.com](http://imdb.com)



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### Birthdays and Anniversaries

To protect the personal information of our readers, we list the first names and last initials of all who have submitted birthdays and anniversaries to us. Thank you for your understanding.

#### Birthdays

##### **BELATED BIRTHDAYS**

**80** on **2/14/23** Geraldine L.  
**102** on **1/24/23** James K.  
**100** on **1/18/23** Tony H.  
**80** on **1/15/23** Jackie B.  
**80** on **1/14/23** Sherry C.  
**100** on **12/18/22** Delphia C.  
**104** on **12/2/22** Victoria Mc.  
**90** on **11/30/22** Dorothy S.  
**100** on **10/8/22** Stephanie Z.

##### **EXTRAORDINARY EIGHTIES**

**80** on **3/25** Mary Ann S.  
**80** on **4/5** Daniel Z.  
**80** on **4/16** Alice O'D.  
**80** on **4/20** Patricia Z.

#### Anniversaries

##### **BELATED ANNIVERSARIES**

**54** on **2/7/23** Bob & Betty B.

##### **ANNIVERSARIES**

**57** on **4/23** Marion & Margaret K.