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KEENAGER *'Young At Heart'* NEWS

July
and August
2023

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A Publication of **Catholic Charities** of the Archdiocese of Chicago

Food Services Offer Nourishment, and Much More

Catholic Charities Food Services are always striving to respond to client needs in the most effective ways possible. Our extensive network of food pantries, community meals, Tuesday Night Suppers, WIC Food Centers, and home-delivered meals to seniors works to ensure that anyone who comes to Catholic Charities hungry will find fresh, nutritious food, supportive assistance, and access to our other programs and services that might be helpful to them as they strive for their greatest level of self-sufficiency possible. Many of those we serve are supported multiple times a month and by several programs.

For example, last year:

- 40,590 people received food from our 11 food pantries, on nearly 175,000 occasions;
- 29,300 sit-down and To-Go meals were served at our community suppers;
- 51,501 mothers and caregivers visited our WIC Centers, many of whom traveled from 19 counties in and around Illinois; and
- 17,000 seniors received warm and nutritious meals, in-person and home-delivered.

In this issue of Keenager News, we take a closer look at how Catholic Charities food pantries, in particular, provide grocery essentials and follow a "Choice Model" that allows clients to select their groceries, instead of receiving a prepared package. The four stories on pages eight and nine illustrate how our food pantries are a source of continuity and stability in the lives of many people going through challenging times. We thank Elaine, Emma, Tanisia, and William for sharing their

experiences, and we salute all of our talented colleagues and generous volunteers who work tirelessly to help sustain and enhance our nutrition programs throughout the year.

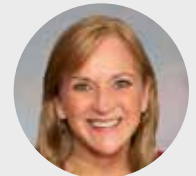


Guests line up outside of 721 N. LaSalle Street on a recent Tuesday afternoon to receive a hot meal and access to other Catholic Charities programs and services. Many asylum seekers also attend a weekly Mass at this time celebrated by Fr. Wayne Watts.

CONTINUED ON PAGES 8 AND 9 →

Greetings from the Editor

KATIE MCDONNELL BREDEMANN



Greetings, Keenager Readers! We dedicate this edition to the serious issue of food insecurity and how Catholic Charities eases this burden for tens of thousands of people in Cook and Lake counties. Don't miss our Page 5 tribute to the Albertine Sisters, and Happy 4th of July! There are only three years left until we celebrate our 250th Birthday as the United States of America!

For the Keenager News Team, *Katie McDonnell Bredemann*

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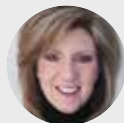
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SPECIAL DATES

July 2023

Birthstone: **Ruby**

Flower: **Larkspur**

7/4 Independence Day

7/17 Catholic Charities Golf Classic

7/23 World Day for Grandparents
and the Elderly

August 2023

Birthstone: **Peridot**

Flower: **Gladiolus**

8/6 Feast of the Transfiguration

8/12 International Youth Day

8/15 Feast of the Assumption

**For more news and information about
events, visit catholiccharities.net.**

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

The Chicago Housing Authority recently received tickets to a Cubs game, sharing the tickets with residents at one of their 54 senior apartment buildings at which we provide Service Coordination. Leaders from Catholic Charities Senior Impact Area joined the seniors for a night at Wrigley Field. A great way to kick off summer! To learn more about Catholic Charities Senior Services, or volunteer to assist seniors, visit ccofchicagovolunteer.com.



Seniors Celebrate Cinco de Mayo, Learn More About Catholic Charities

More than 100 seniors attended the festive South Chicago Senior Drop-In Center Cinco de Mayo Celebration that also served as an opportunity to inform seniors about Catholic Charities senior programs. Local aldermen, City of Chicago representatives, and other community partners came and shared resource information with seniors in attendance. To learn more about all that our ten Senior Drop-In Centers offer, visit catholiccharities.net.

Volunteers Needed at St. Vincent's Orphanage 2023 Reunion

Sunday, September 24 at Noon, 721 North LaSalle Street, Chicago

St. Vincent's Orphanage served tens of thousands of women, children and families at Catholic Charities for 91 years. To learn more about attending or helping with this heartwarming reunion of St. Vincent's adoptees, parents, employees and their families, contact Lisa Francis, lfrancis@catholiccharities.net or call **(312) 655-7093**.

Learn More about Catholic Charities through our Monthly Eblast

Send an email to partners@catholiccharities.net to receive our monthly eblast that includes news and details about upcoming events.

There's New Hope for Families Facing Homelessness

The Voice of Charity

SHARON LOVE

Department Director,
New Hope Apartments



A place to call home. It is a universal desire shared by people around the world. But in my 29 years at Catholic Charities, I have seen how very difficult it can be for some individuals and families to find and keep stable housing as life experiences present serious challenges for them to overcome.

Natshun is one of those people. She fled a violent home with her nine-year-old son, Anthony, and was living in hotels. Concern for his wellbeing drove her to seek help at Catholic Charities, and a community service center run by the City of Chicago.

After speaking with one of our intake specialists, Natshun was welcomed into the New Hope Apartments Rapid Rehousing program. She began looking at apartments in the western suburbs, but she ended up choosing an apartment in Berwyn found by her case manager. In April, 2022, Natshun and Anthony moved in, with a voucher to shop for furniture at the Chicago Furniture Bank. Looking back, Natshun says, "The blessings were flowing in one after the other."

Natshun had never imagined she would find herself without a place to live. She has a college degree and worked as an accountant. Complications from her daughter's birth in 2001 caused her to develop epilepsy, and doctors told her in 2007 that she could no longer work or drive.

Disability payments allowed Natshun to maintain her housing until 2019 when costs rose beyond what those funds could cover. She moved in with family members, but that situation turned out to be contentious and violent, and by 2022, she had to leave. As Natshun explains, "When people hear domestic violence, they always think of a partner, but it can go deeper than that."

Catholic Charities New Hope Apartments Rapid Rehousing program provides security deposits and rental support for people who face homelessness. Participants must engage with their case managers to receive additional support services that assist them as they regain self-sufficiency. These services can include counseling, substance use treatment, employment services, eligibility for entitlement benefits, financial literacy, and childcare.

According to Natshun, once she and Anthony were settled, her feelings of depression subsided, and she was able to focus on her primary goal of getting back to work so she could provide more stability for Anthony and feel more empowered in her own life. Her case manager helped Natshun believe in herself, as she offered guidance on updating her resume, drafting cover letters, and researching job opportunities. Natshun says, "Catholic Charities helped me remind myself of who I am and that I can do better."

Finding work was not easy, given the gap in Natshun's work history, but she started a job doing data entry in early 2023, and she is optimistic. She is going through a trial phase to ensure that her health stays strong and her disability does not interfere with her job performance.

Natshun acknowledges feeling nervous about being able to maintain her stability once she is no longer part of the Catholic Charities program. Her rent is \$1,500 a month, and disability only pays \$1,800, leaving very little to cover other bills.



Natshun and her son, Anthony have found stability, safety, and more at Catholic Charities New Hope Apartments.

But we have tried to reassure Natshun that Catholic Charities will continue to assist where we can as her journey to independence continues. I started as a case manager, and clients like Natshun are the reason I continue to do this work. We say, "How can I help you?" every day, and I am proud to work for an organization that meets people wherever they are to help and accompany them through difficult times in their lives.

Food Drives Help Catholic Charities Fight Hunger

Words for the Spirit

REVEREND CHARLES T. RUBEY

Associate Administrator,
Founder and Director, LOSS Program



One of the ways people often show their affection for their friends and family members is to make a special meal or a special dessert for them to eat. I remember as a child that my paternal grandmother would make a special meal that she brought with her to this country. She was from Germany. It was called sauerbraten. It was delicious and we would always look forward to this homemade delicacy. She would spend weeks preparing for this meal. When the day arrived, we would all gather at her home for the big treat. The anticipation was almost as enjoyable as the meal. There were all sounds of great

enjoyment and relishing the tastes of this treat. My grandmother would very quietly accept all types of praise for this special meal. There would be a huge crowd of family possibly 20 or 30 participants. All of us would dive in and relish every bite. Sauerbraten was certainly my grandmother's very special meal, and it made her happy that her cooking pleased us all so much. She was a very modest person, and she would accept our gratitude humbly.

We are living in a very polarized world. There are millions of people who are living in poverty and people are dying each day because of food insecurity. At Catholic Charities, we feed the hungry all through the year. When I sit in my office and look out the window, I see homeless people lining up daily so that they can get a meal. When we reach the maximum number of people who can sit down and receive a hot meal, we hand out bagged meals to everyone else who needs one. Also, our food pantries are inundated with requests for food. All basic grocery needs are available, including fresh vegetables that are part of our service. Participants choose the groceries they need most, to prepare meals at their homes. This is only a small part of our efforts

to respond to people who are experiencing food insecurity.

What can people do to assist us in our mission to help people who are hungry? One suggestion is to organize food drives to help stock our food pantries with nourishment for those people who are starving. Our mission is to help people who are very vulnerable. One of the basic needs people have is to feed themselves and their families with nourishing food. We do our part to help people who are experiencing food insecurity. The challenge is to educate people on how to address this life-saving effort. The question is, "What can I do to help alleviate the problem?" Please give some thought as to ways you might be able to help us at Catholic Charities respond to the Gospel tenet to "Feed the Hungry."

To learn more about holding a food drive, with your family, neighbors, fellow parishioners, or friends, please go to ccofchicagovolunteer.com, email volunteer@catholiccharities.net or call **312-655-7053**.

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.*

PB

BCB

CJ

JJ

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.

Albertine Sisters Celebrate 20 Years of Service at Catholic Charities

Many people associated with Catholic Charities dedicate their time, treasure, and careers to our mission as a way of putting their “faith in action.” In seeking the best ways to do this, the Albertine Sisters offer us extraordinary examples to try to follow, as they celebrate 20 years as our fellow staff members.

Francis Cardinal George, OMI welcomed the Albertine Sisters to Catholic Charities in 2003. Currently, six Sisters work in teams of three at two of our service locations:

Working in the Lake County Food Pantry in Round Lake, and living in the convent at St. Joseph Parish in Libertyville:

Sr. Katarzyna Radczuk
Sr. Edyta Ksiazczak
Sr. Helena Gronka

Working at the St. Blase Food Pantry in Summit, and living in the convent at Incarnation Parish in Crestwood:

Sr. Jolanta Jarosinska
Sr. Anna Domian
Sr. Ani Maria Sfantec

Officially known as the Congregation of Albertine Sisters Serving the Poor, this Order of religious Sisters was founded by St. Brother Albert Chmielowski on January 15, 1891 in Krakow, Poland. Inspired by the life of St. Francis of Assisi, Brother Albert gave up his life as a successful painter to help abandoned and poor people, in whom he saw the face of Jesus. He spent the rest of his life trying to restore to society those who had fallen by the wayside. Today there are approximately 400 Albertine Sisters serving around the world, with 15 of these in the United States. In addition to the six Sisters working for Catholic Charities, nine Sisters live and work out of their American motherhouse in Hammond, Indiana.



The Albertine Sisters enjoy the Catholic Charities All-Staff Day at Pinstripes Bowling in Oakbrook with members of the South/Southwest Regional Office. Pictured are (left to right): Anel Navarro, Sister Nikola, Sister Hiacynta, John Laucis, Sister Beniamina, Sister Edyta, Sister Anna, Sister Kate and Christopher Torres.

Sr. Katarzyna, fondly known as Sr. Kate describes how the Albertine Sisters serve Catholic Charities clients while also fulfilling the responsibilities that they have to their religious Order. She says, “We work among the people, but we also have a life of prayer. If we are not in the chapel, any work we do, any service we do is our prayer to God. Our work is devoted to God, and in the presence of God. When someone comes for help, it is Jesus coming for help. That is how Brother Albert saw it, and that is how we see it, too.”

Sr. Nikola also sees her work at Catholic Charities as her way to serve God. She says, “I love serving others and Catholic Charities enables me to do so. My work at this Institution is, for me a service rendered to others as if to Jesus himself, according to his own words; ‘Whatever you did for the least of My brothers you did it to Me.’ This means that I am to give not only food, but to also give myself: my time, strength, smile, and good word.”

She adds, “In this difficult world, as it is currently, I know that what I do is only a small drop of what is needed; however, if we gather such drops of goodness together then the whole world will be filled with the very goodness of God.”

Reflecting on the long partnership between Catholic Charities and the Albertine Sisters, Sr. Beniamina says, “When I think about this anniversary my heart is filled with gratitude for God’s blessing, for choosing me to work at the St. Blase Food Pantry. For almost 12 years, I have had the opportunity to be a caring mother, sister, and friend to those in need.”

She continues, “The most beautiful experience in my ministry to our needy brothers and sisters is that the more we give, the more we receive from our benefactors. God provides so that no one leaves without our help, and he sends us those who share what they can.”

Stories emerge on an ongoing basis of the Albertine Sisters going out of their way to help Catholic Charities clients with a team spirit, resourceful ideas, and kind smiles. We congratulate our six colleagues, and the Albertine Sisters who came before them on this special occasion, and we thank them for the many ways they witness a message of mercy and hope in the world. We are blessed to know and work with them.

To learn more about the Albertine Sisters, visit: albertinesisters.org.

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Albertine Sisters Celebrate 20 Years of Service at Catholic Charities



Upper Left: The Albertine Sisters serve in many ways to ensure that client needs are met at our food pantries. They also recently received special recognition on their 20th Anniversary at Catholic Charities from Sally Blount, President and CEO (back row, second from left) and Sharon Tillmon, Senior Director, Community Food and Essentials (back row, far right). Sr. Delegate Danuta Karwacka (back row, second from right) also attended this ceremony.

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Navy Pier: The Fulfillment of Daniel Burnham's Vision

Chicago History

MARY ELLEN KASTENHOLZ

Volunteer Writer



On July 15, 1916, Municipal Pier in Chicago, designed by architect Charles Summer Frost and built atop 20,000 timber logs from Oregon, opened to the public. The 3,300-foot-long pier cost \$4.5 million to construct. The design was based on the 1909 Plan for Chicago by Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett. It was meant to be a place for public indoor and outdoor recreation and to serve as a shipping hub for cargo and passenger ships. Events and expositions were anticipated to be held here.

Less than a year later, the United States declared war on Germany and the pier became an important military facility, housing soldiers' barracks, a Red Cross station, and a detention center for draft dodgers! In 1927, the name was changed to Navy Pier to honor naval veterans of WWI.

During WWII, the pier became a training center to more than 60,000 military personnel, including 15,000 fighter pilots. Two Great Lakes passenger steamers were transformed into freshwater aircraft carriers – significantly shorter than ocean aircraft

carriers – making it challenging to take off and land. It is estimated that more than 100 planes ended up in the bottom of Lake Michigan, with many remaining there today. The pier contained a 2,500-seat theater, a 12-chair barber shop, tailor, cobbler shop, soda fountain, and kitchen.

In 1946, the military moved out and the University of Illinois at Chicago took over Navy Pier to house the GI Bill students and create a temporary campus until 1965. More than 100,000 students attended classes from 1946–1965.

The largest Great Lakes passenger ship, a converted Naval ship named the SS Aquarama, was docked at Navy Pier as a floating entertainment area in the summer of 1955. In 1959, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited Chicago to celebrate the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. It was the first Chicago visit of a reigning British monarch.

After the departure of the temporary U of I campus, space and activities on Navy Pier were underutilized for many years. In 1976, the East End buildings were renovated bringing Chicago Fest, but maintenance was inconsistent and the pier fell into decline again.

In 1989, the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) was created to maintain and operate Navy Pier as well as McCormick Place. The City of Chicago's Urban Land Institute is credited with bold and creative space ideas and in 1995 Navy Pier was redesigned and opened to the public with mixed use venues for offices, retail, dining, entertainment, and cultural spaces. A Ferris Wheel, inspired by the 1893 Columbian Exposition became operational.

In January 2006, proposals were sought to update the space for the 21st Century. The Urban Land Institute submitted a comprehensive plan in 2010 to create a concert venue, enlargement of the Shakespeare Theatre space and additional restaurants. Renovation of commercial areas around the Pier's entrance and more park space to enjoy the lake proximity were included. Other ideas were to enlarge and upgrade the Ferris Wheel and add a hotel.

The Centennial Vision redevelopment plan (2012–2013) was created, to bring Navy Pier to a world-class, year-round space. The Polk Family Foundation donated money for a fountain and entrance park and the Ferris Wheel was replaced and upgraded. The second phase brought the creation of the 240 room Sable Hotel as well as many upgrades inside the original structure to include more year-round entertaining, and many outdoor attractions with the north-side boat docking facility for recreational boating. The Grand Ballroom continues as a popular special event venue.

Since its reopening in 1995, Navy Pier has become one of the most visited destinations in the world, welcoming more than 186 million guests, including a record-breaking 9.3 million guests in 2016. Daniel Burnham would be well pleased.

For more on the history of Navy Pier visit 100yearsofpier.com.

Sources: Photo and content sources: navypier.org; home.chicagohistory.org

“The lakefront, by right belongs to the people....it should be made so alluring that it will become the fixed habit of the people to seek its restful presence at every opportunity.”

Daniel Burnham, 1909



Left: An early photo of Municipal Pier, which later became Navy Pier

Right: Today's Navy Pier is a bustling hub of activity in the City of Chicago.

← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago Food Pantries

If you or someone you know needs assistance, call the pantry nearest you for days/hours of availability. If you would like to make a donation in support of our food pantries, please visit catholiccharities.net.

COOK COUNTY

Casa Catalina: (773) 376-9425
4537 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60609

**Catholic Charities North/Northwest
Regional Office:** (847) 376-2100
1717 Rand Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016

**Catholic Charities West
Regional Office:** (708) 329-4044
1400 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero, IL 60804

St. Blase Parish: (708) 563-2407
7438 W. 61st Pl., Summit, IL 60501

St. Irenaeus Parish: (708) 300-2390
78 Cherry Street, Park Forest, IL 60466

St. Sabina Parish: (773) 846-3018
1120 W. 79th St., Chicago, IL 60620

St. Thomas of Canterbury: (773) 878-5507
4827 N Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60640

St. Vincent Center: (312) 655-7700
721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60654

LAKE COUNTY

**Catholic Charities Waukegan
Regional Office:** (847) 782-4100
671 S. Lewis Ave., Waukegan, IL 60085

**Catholic Charities Schreiber Center
Round Lake:** (847) 546-5733
101 N. Cedar Lake Rd., Round Lake, IL 60073

Catholic Charities Food Pantries Fight Hunger, Brighten Lives



St. Blase Food Pantry Offers Food, and Compassion

Once a month, with challenged vision, 73 year-old Elaine of Chicago's West Lawn neighborhood, drives herself to Catholic Charities food pantry at St. Blase Parish in southwest suburban Summit where she shops at the food pantry and also picks up a senior box filled with nonperishable food.

Elaine, who relies on Social Security disability, leads a four-person household, consisting of her adult daughter, a disabled adult son and her brother, while her husband currently resides in a long-term care facility.

She has been coming to the St. Blase pantry since 2010. Some pantries offer pre-filled bags of food but, at St. Blase, Elaine gets to do her own shopping. This is one of many ways Catholic Charities strives to respect the dignity of clients while helping them meet the needs of their family.

She says, "They give you a lot of things that you need. The table is great because you get vegetables and you get bread, which can tide you over."

Elaine's experience with food pantries began when her husband Daniel got laid off from his job of 32 years as a forklift driver. A string of illness then impeded his ability to work. To help her family, Elaine closed down the home day care she had run for 10 years and picked up a job as a team lead at a Target store,

which brought in more money. But after five years, a spinal stenosis diagnosis forced her to go on disability.

She explains, "It's a challenge constantly trying to make things work, pay the bills, you know, and then you gotta have food, right? So, I do what I have to do."

The St. Blase Food Pantry, which used to get visits from about 600 families per month prior to the pandemic, now gets 800 to 1,200 visits per month from families throughout Cook County. More visits are increasingly coming from immigrant families.

Elaine hopes that the St. Blase Food Pantry remains a constant resource in the community. She says, "I just hope they never close because I would be lost."



St. Sabina's Food Pantry Sustains Families in Need

She needed food. Today. Emma, 28 found Catholic Charities food pantry at St. Sabina's Parish by searching online. She called and was relieved that she could be helped right away.

Emma has been going to food pantries since 2017, when she had her child. She's had stints driving trucks and now provides home care through an agency, but she has always needed supplemental assistance for herself and her daughter.

"Chicken is high, higher than it's ever been before. And eggs? Even at the cheapest grocery store, it's a lot. And my daughter is growing, eating more," Emma says. She noticed the rising food prices after the pandemic slowed down. Because of inflation and the recent reduction in SNAP benefits that provided emergency pandemic relief, Catholic Charities is seeing many more people who are facing food insecurity.

Cassandra Reed, Coordinator of Family Stabilization Services at St. Sabina Food Pantry, knows Catholic Charities food pantries will continue to rise to the challenge. “The food depository keeps us well stocked,” Reed says. “And we’re here, we’re always here, we’re going to be here. You’re not going to walk out without food.”

At other food pantries, Emma was relegated to strict “this or that” choices: broccoli or potatoes, five bananas or a few oranges. But she says that, at St. Sabina, the people were nice, and she came away with both enough food and a variety that left her excited to cook.

Emma is extremely grateful for the assistance she received from Catholic Charities and thinks her introduction to the St. Sabina Food Pantry was meant to be. She says, “God put us on earth to help each other. I didn’t know anything about [St. Sabina] before today but God led me here. And he led these people to help me. They didn’t have to help me but they chose to.”

For Cassandra, it wasn’t a choice: It was a calling. She says, “Catholic Charities is mission-driven. We are mission-driven. That’s why we show up, every day.”



Fleeing Gun Violence, a Family Finds a New Life and Community in Uptown

Though Tanisia, 47, had previously worked in Uptown, moving there with her husband and six children was a big leap of faith. They were fleeing the violence and instability of a West Side housing project that would soon be demolished, leaving all of their friends and family.

Uptown was indeed quiet, peaceful and welcoming. The family of eight was helmed by two working parents who were not receiving any

government assistance, but with six children ages 10–15, including Tanisia’s two younger sisters, they needed help. The St. Thomas of Canterbury Food Pantry was a godsend – Tanisia could access the pantry in the morning or afternoon, a big plus that allowed her to adjust around her work schedule.

“This pantry saved us from going hungry plenty of nights,” she says. “And Catholic Charities kept up with us. They would check to see what the kids needed, get them shoes and clothes and coats, even toys.”

A diagnosed diabetic, Tanisia was more than 350 lbs. when she moved to Uptown, citing genetic predispositions and the stress of being a busy mother as factors in her compromised health. Seven years ago, she suddenly lost her sense of sight. When she disclosed her condition to the food pantry volunteers, they helped her make healthy choices, gave her advice about cooking methods, and in the last three years, Tanisia has lost more than 150 lbs.

“It was hard,” Tanisia said, “but I got really serious about my health. The people who shop with me, they make sure I have all the fruits and vegetables they can give us, they make sure I have lean meat to help control my blood sugar. They keep me on a plan.”

Today, her children are adults; she is a grandmother of two teenage girls, and in 2021, she became a widow. Tanisia speaks out as an advocate for food assistance and education. She says, “I think we need to teach nutrition. We need to have nutrition classes: what to eat, how to eat it, and how to portion our food.”



Grateful in Lake County

The Village of Round Lake is nestled in the western part of sprawling Lake County. On the surface, it wouldn’t seem as though there’s

need for a food pantry here. But Catholic Charities food pantry at the John and Kathy Schreiber Center for Human Services is busy throughout the year.

“I actually never thought that I would need help with food,” says William, a landscaper by trade. A seasonal downturn in the landscaping business left him food insecure. He says, “The folks here have been great in providing me with healthy food, and conversation, too.”

William had an expired LINK card that left him with few options. Now coming to the food pantry once each week allows him to leave with a healthy assortment of food.

He continues, “I’m fortunate that food is the only thing I need to get by, but it’s very clear that others here need financial help and counseling. I rely on these people, but so many more people need them even more than I do. Without them, I would be starving.”

Lisa Roti, Regional Director for Lake County, says that the Schreiber Center, with Catholic Charities Waukegan office serve more than 62,000 Lake County residents each year.

She explains, “The food pantry and our meal programs are popular, but we also have programs for seniors, youth mentoring, workforce development, and information and referral to other resources if needs go beyond our services. “We are a very real conduit for people to find happiness and hope in their lives.”

Opened in 2021, the Center was made possible through a gift from John and Kathy Schreiber. It now brings the full strength of Catholic Charities programming to Lake County communities that might be forgotten.

William says, “The people who work and volunteer here are nothing less than spectacular, not just to me, but to everyone.” As he picks up his coat and hat to head home, William takes one last look into the facility, adding, “Thank you, and God bless you for everything that you do.”

Ed and Joan Malszewski Celebrate Their 77th Wedding Anniversary

For many Chicagoans, playing and watching softball are two of the most enjoyable ways to spend summer evenings. For Ed and Joan Malszewski, this favorite Chicago Park District pastime led them to their courtship, marriage, and a remarkably long life together, as they recently celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary.

Ed and Joan both grew up in Bucktown. Ed played softball at Holstein Park, and Joan would go with her sisters to watch the games. Social dances organized by the park allowed Ed and Joan the opportunity to get to know one another and start dating. In October 1945, Ed was drafted into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a month after World War II ended in the Pacific, and so their romance became long-distance through letters between Chicago and Fort Belvoir, Virginia where Ed was stationed.

In early 1946, Ed received notice that he was being relocated to Hawaii and, with their parents' permission, Ed and Joan were married on May 9, 1946 at St. John Berchman's Parish in Chicago, on a Thursday morning before the transfer occurred. Joan was just 19 years old, and Ed was two months shy of his 19th birthday on the day they were wed.

Ed became an Army Corporal, working as a topographic draftsman in Hawaii. Upon their return to Chicago, Ed and Joan lived in a two-flat apartment in the Belmont-Cragin neighborhood and welcomed three daughters to their family. In 1967, they moved to Mount Prospect and have lived there ever since. They currently are members of St. Alphonsus Parish.

Ed worked as a machinist, rising to the rank of foreman at two companies over 46 years (35 years at the first and 11 at the second). Joan stayed home to raise their daughters and, after they entered junior high, Joan used her culinary talents to become a bank cafeteria cook, then the cafeteria manager over 11 years.

As their daughters grew up, Ed and Joan took driving trips with them, Joan enjoyed quilting, and both Ed and Joan played golf and traveled to PGA tournaments where Ed volunteered as a marshal. Since their retirement, they have vacationed in Hawaii, traveled to Europe, and visited the east coast numerous times to visit one of their daughters and her family.

Ed and Joan now also have five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren who range in ages from one to 19 years old. Joan turned 96 on May 8, 2023, and Ed will be 96 on July 10, 2023. They continue to enjoy a full and happy life with their growing clan.

When asked what the key is to their long marriage, Ed and Joan say, "We're compatible – we enjoy the same things especially watching sports, traveling and spending time with our family. We never let an argument last more than a day." They add, "We've always agreed to continue to talk to each other and, as the years change, we also have continued to look for the things we have in common. And every night, we end our day with a kiss."



Keenager News extends warmest congratulations to Ed and Joan as they celebrate this wonderful milestone.

Here's to many more years of your "Happily Ever After!"

Top: Ed and Joan on their Wedding Day.

Middle: The Malszewski's enjoy a round of golf.

Bottom: Ed and Joan Malszewski in a recent photo.

AbbVie Continues Generous Support for Lake County Veterans

Twenty Lake County veterans received new Huffy bicycles, plus helmets, locks and other safety accessories, courtesy of AbbVie's Employee Resource Group for Veterans.

The bicycles were distributed in the parking lot of Catholic Charities Waukegan Regional Office through our Veterans Bicycle Program, an initiative within our Veteran's Employment Program. Created by Lake County Job Developer Mitch Siegel, the Veterans Bicycle Program helps veterans "Go the first mile and/or the last mile," as Mitch says, to get to their new places of employment on time, since public transportation is only available in certain places across the large geographic area comprising Lake County.

New and gently used bicycles are donated to the program, and Mitch has several skilled volunteers who refurbish the used bicycles so that they are safe and ready to give to a veteran to ride.

The twenty new bicycles were recently distributed to veteran clients who came by bus from the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in Waukegan, where they currently live. As Mitch described, "AbbVie made a generous donation to our Veteran's Employment Program. We purchased the bicycles from Walmart, and I worked with Alex Garcia at the Waukegan Fountain Square Walmart store. When I told Alex about the Veteran's Bicycle Program, he and his team assembled all of them at no-charge. Then, when I went to pick up the bicycles, Alex gave us a gift card to help pay for the helmets and other safety accessories. We are so grateful to AbbVie, Walmart and our other community partners who continue to help in significant ways as we all try to help veteran clients establish homes, stable lives, and new careers."



Top Left: Twenty Lake County veterans received new bicycles and safety accessories courtesy of a donation from AbbVie, Inc. pharmaceutical firm.

Top Right: Left to Right: Jeff Cercy, General Manager, AbbVie Healthcare Policy, Mitch Siegel, Catholic Charities Lake County Veteran's Employment Program, and Lisa Roti, Catholic Charities Lake County Regional Director work together in support of Lake County veterans.

Bottom Left: Lake County community partners attending the bicycle distribution event included: First Row, left to right: Noam Wittlin, Program Manager, Homeless Veterans Program, James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC); Mitch Siegel; Jeff Cercy; Terri Washburn, U.S. Navy Veteran and Peer Support Specialist, James A Lovell FHCC; and Kelly McDonald, Community Employment Coordinator, James A. Lovell FHCC. Back Row, left to right: Dustin Hoffman, U.S. Navy Veteran and Intern, Catholic Charities Veteran's Employment Program of Lake County; and Bob Hutchins, Employment Specialist, Veterans Path to Hope.

Bottom Right: Jeff Cercy assists a veteran named Tim to ensure that his bicycle helmet fits properly.

Jeff Cercy, General Manager of AbbVie's Healthcare Policy Division, was pleased to see how much the bicycles meant to the veterans. He said, "Seeing the veterans receive the bicycles is fantastic. For some of them it is their only means of transportation to get to work." Jeff added, "Our Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) at AbbVie allow employees to network and build a sense of community within our staff. Everyone agrees that supporting the Veteran's Bicycle Program is a way we can give back to our brotherhood and sisterhood who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces."

One of the bicycle recipients is a veteran named Frank who served as a 2nd Class Machinist-Mate in the U.S. Navy for eight years and three months. He is looking for an

engineering job. Frank said, "Mitch is great. He is helping me work on my resume, giving me pointers, and suggesting jobs to apply for. And now to have this bicycle too? It's fantastic."

Phil, another veteran receiving a bicycle, served in the U.S. Army in Frankfurt, Germany for four years. As he started his bike ride back to the Lovell Health Care Center, he said, "This is awesome. I'm just starting in the (Veteran's Employment) program, but already things are working out. I'm really grateful to all of the organizations, including Catholic Charities for helping us out. It's nice to have people think of us."

To learn more about helping and hiring veterans, call Catholic Charities **Veteran's Employment Program at (847) 782-4219 (Lake County) and (773) 808-2954 (Cook County).**



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Bernardin Manor

1700 Memorial Drive
Calumet City, IL 60409
(708) 832-1700

Bishop Goedert Residence

53 Tripp Avenue, Building 53 (Hines VA Campus)
Hines, IL 60141
(708) 273-6600

St. Francis Of Assisi Residence

12218 S. Will-Cook Road
Palos Park, IL 60464
(630) 343-1880

Frances Manor

1270 E. Golf Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016
(847) 390-1270

Donald W. Kent Residence

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(708) 481-1200

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** These properties ONLY accept applicants 18 years or older with a verifiable physical disability and a need for the features of an accessible unit.

*** This property has single room occupancy units with a preference for homeless veterans 18 years or older.

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TTY for all properties listed (312) 948-6992



www.catholiccharities.net/housing

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from The Recipe Box

Spicy Chicken Kabobs – Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

1 and ½ lbs. boneless chicken breasts
1 small onion, quartered
1 small green pepper, quartered
Cherry tomatoes

Basting Sauce:
2 T. olive or vegetable oil
2 T. melted butter
1 clove garlic, pressed
1 t. each of dried basil, oregano and thyme, mixed together
2 T. lemon juice
1 t. paprika
1/8 t. cayenne pepper

PREPARATION

Cut chicken into 1 and ½ inch strips. String chicken, onion, green pepper and cherry tomatoes alternately on four skewers. Mix all ingredients for basting sauce. Grill skewers brushing frequently with basting sauce. Cook seven to eight minutes or until chicken is fully cooked. Serve immediately.

Chocolate Éclair Cake – Serves 12

INGREDIENTS

1 box graham crackers
2 packages French Vanilla pudding
3 and ½ cups milk
9 oz. non-dairy topping (Cool Whip)

Cocoa Glaze:
3 T. butter
2 T. cocoa
1 and ½ cups confectioners' sugar
2 t. light corn syrup
2 t. vanilla extract
3 T. milk

PREPARATION

Line bottom of 13x9x2 inch pan with whole graham crackers. Cook pudding according to package instructions using only 3 and ½ cups of milk. Fold non-dairy topping into pudding. Spread half of pudding mixture over graham crackers. Put on another layer of crackers, refrigerate two hours before frosting with the coca glaze.

Cocoa Glaze: Melt butter over low flame and add cocoa, mixing well. Remove from heat; add remaining ingredients and mix well. Frost top layer of graham crackers and refrigerate 12 hours, covered, before serving.

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Humor & Nostalgia

Wit and Wisdom from Some Favorite TV Comics:

Milton Berle: "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."

Goldie Hawn: "The beauty of getting older is the surprise of what else you can do to make the world a better place with the wisdom you have accrued over the years."

Carol Burnett: "Before you go to bed, write down three 'gratefults' for the day and three 'did wells' (they can even include something as simple as doing the laundry) – the results are amazing."

Jerry Lewis: "It'll keep you alive for another ten years if you get yourself a laugh once a day; either provoke it or look around in the wildest laboratory of all – the public."

Eddie Murphy: "Anything you have to acquire a taste for is not meant to be eaten."

Dick Van Dyke: "Anyone who doesn't sing and dance at every opportunity is missing out on the joy of life."

Ruth Buzzi: "Life has all sorts of hills and valleys, and sometimes you don't end up doing what you had your heart set on, but sometimes that's even better."

Flip Wilson: "You can't expect to hit the jackpot if you don't put a few nickels in the machine."

Red Skelton: "I believe each of us is put here for a purpose – to build and not to destroy. If I can make people smile, then I have served my purpose for God."

Lucille Ball: "One of the things I learned the hard way is that it does not pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself."

Jimmy Durante: "Make someone happy, make just one someone happy, and you will be happy too."

Bob Newhart: "I think that what comes through in Chicago humor is the affection. Even though you're poking fun at someone or something, there's still an affection for it."

Source: azquotes.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

HAPPY HUNDREDS

Peter L. 100 on 7/7
Sarah G. 100 on 8/4

EXTRAORDINARY EIGHTIES

Mary Kay A. 80 on 8/3

BELATED BIRTHDAYS

NIFTY NINETIES

Andrew P. 90 on 7/24

June H. 100 on 5/16

Yolanda O. 100 on 6/29

Anniversaries

ANNIVERSARIES

Joseph and Rosemary M. 68 on 7/2
Carl and Cathy L. 65 on 7/26
Michael and Janice G. 50 on 8/4
Stanley and Irene W. 50 on 8/11
Robert and Rosemary H. 75 on 8/28

BELATED ANNIVERSARIES

Frank and Shirley M. 50 on 6/2