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KEENAGER NEWS

'Young
At Heart'

May and June
2024

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Issue No. 03

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

Mother's Day Appeal Affirms Those Striving for Greater Self-Sufficiency



Catholic Charities Family Self-Sufficiency Program participants celebrate their accomplishments in this five-year program at an annual Achievement Celebration.

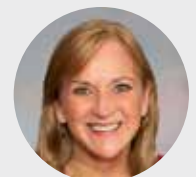
As the month of May begins, and the world is renewed and brighter each day, we are reminded of the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit with us. In many ways, the power and strength of the Holy Spirit can be seen as an anchor in our lives. Similarly, Catholic Charities is an anchor in the lives of those we serve. With our 2024 Mother's Day Appeal, we are raising funds for the thousands of mothers who count on us to be a source of strength, helping them eliminate barriers that prevent them and their children from achieving meaningful goals for themselves. Our work helps provide stability in families and increases their chances for future success. Like the Holy Spirit, we accompany mothers and children on their journey, with love, as we have been doing for more than a century in Chicago.

As an example, meet Samara*, a single mother of two who joined Catholic Charities' Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program in December 2017. At that time, she had no support system, and she struggled to maintain an income and provide a stable household.

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Greetings from the Editor

KATIE MCDONNELL BREDEMANN



Happy May and June, Keenager readers! What a joyful time of year this is, as we celebrate Mother's Day, May Crownings, Graduations, Father's Day, and celebrations of all kinds as the warm weather calls us outdoors. Thank you, in advance, for whatever you can contribute to Catholic Charities' Mother's Day Appeal, and our Spring Keenager News Appeal (remit envelopes enclosed). Both of these are vital to our work in the months ahead. Thank you, too, for being our loyal readers and friends!

For Catholic Charities, *Katie McDonnell Bredemann*

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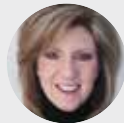
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SPECIAL DATES

May 2024

Birthstone: **Emerald**

Flower: **Lily of the Valley**

5/5 Cinco de Mayo

5/9 Feast of the Ascension

5/12 Mother's Day

5/13 Our Lady of Fatima

5/27 Memorial Day

5/29 Feast of Pentecost

June 2024

Birthstone: **Pearl**

Flower: **Rose**

6/14 Flag Day

6/15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

6/16 Father's Day

6/19 Juneteenth

6/20 Summer Solstice

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



Global leadership team members at Hallow, the top app for Catholic and Christian prayer, recently helped make lunches, sort clothes, and set tables at 721 North LaSalle Street during a break in their spring meetings.

Thank you, Hallow! To learn about more volunteer opportunities at Catholic Charities' food pantries and clothing rooms, visit ccofchicagovolunteer.com.



Recent pop-up events were held in partnership with Project Linus, Jesus, Shepherd of Souls Parish, Calumet City Resources, St. Mary Magdalene Parish, and Franciscan Health, Olympia Fields to provide basic personal provisions to hundreds of community members in the South/Southwest Cook region. Thank you to these generous community partners, volunteers, and extra staff who pitched in to make these events possible!

To learn how your business can join in the work of Catholic Charities, email volunteer@catholiccharities.net.



Seniors at Marian Catholic High School created 50 bags of personal items for Kolbe House guests (<https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/kolbe-house-jail-ministry>). Catholic Charities S/SW Cook Regional Office worked with parishioners and St. Vincent DePaul Society members from St. John Neumann Parish, Homewood to collect the donated items. Included were new blue jeans, jackets, socks, underwear, toiletry packs, and shoes.

For information on how your parish or school can plan a service project, email volunteer@catholiccharities.net.

Visit catholiccharities.net to learn more about our programs, services, and upcoming events.

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.

Mother's Day Appeal Uplifts and Empowers Vulnerable Moms

Voice of Catholic Charities

COLLEEN KENNEDY

Vice President,
Institutional Advancement



“Dearest mothers, thank you, thank you for what you are in your family and for what you give to the Church and the world.”

– Pope Francis¹

Motherhood is a beautiful and awesome responsibility. As a mother myself, I can attest there is nothing like it. It offers countless opportunities to experience love beyond all imagining.

And yet raising children can be incredibly hard work. This is especially true for mothers who are struggling to meet day-to-day needs, facing homelessness, or experiencing violence.

Thanks to the charitable gifts that Catholic Charities receives every year from generous community members like you, no mother has to do it alone.

Mothers caring for their children in extraordinary circumstances are particularly close to our mission at Catholic Charities. Through your partnership and generosity, mothers receive intensive and compassionate accompaniment, no matter where they are in their journey. Our teams offer moms hope, respect, and a full range of programming to empower them to care and advocate for their children, including:

- Deep support during pregnancy and the critical early years of their child's life, including doula services, home visits up to age three, and parenting support groups.
- Food and other supports for moms and children who are at risk nutritionally or who are experiencing food insecurity.
- Patient and intensive case management that helps equip mothers to achieve long-term financial stability and build a confident future for themselves and their children.
- Safe and secure housing, and space and time to heal from domestic violence. Our two residential campuses for survivors of domestic violence, along with our community-based services, provide mothers with the resources and community they need to chart a safer, happier path forward.

Poverty and its related challenges run deep, often spanning generations. At Catholic Charities, we are committed to helping each mother who passes through our doors overcome challenges and find stability so they—and their children—can thrive.

Consider Crystal*, a teen mom from Chicago's far south side. When she was pregnant, Crystal started visiting our WIC grocery center in Roseland to make sure she was getting the nutrients she needed for herself and her baby. These included fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain products, dairy, and protein—all foods that are difficult to find and pay for when living in a food desert. There, she was introduced to the Roseland Adolescent Parenting Program.

Now, Crystal receives weekly home visits from a case manager who makes sure that her daughter is meeting milestones and that Crystal has what she needs to maintain a stable living situation and stay focused on her educational goals. Her case worker counseled Crystal on the benefits of breastfeeding and when and how to introduce solid foods to her daughter. She's also encouraged Crystal to

join a Catholic Charities' parent support group to meet other moms of young children, learn more about how to encourage her daughter's brain development, and make new friends who understand what she is going through. Reflecting on her experience with Catholic Charities, Crystal says, "There's always someone who's in your corner. Anything you need support with, they will support you."

Every day, Catholic Charities welcomes mothers like Crystal with arms wide open, ready to accompany them with courageous compassion and walk alongside them in solidarity and faith-filled hope and joy. We are a cornerstone human services organization for our region, and we cannot do this without your partnership.

Through your inspiring gifts to our annual Mother's Day Appeal, we have accompanied countless mothers as they strive to provide what is best for their children. We will continue to do so thanks to your support this year. Together, we not only honor mothers, but we also uplift them. We empower mothers to succeed today, multiplying hope over generations.

Learn more about the **2024 Mother's Day Appeal** at www.catholiccharities.net/give/fy24sp/.

Colleen Kennedy is Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Annual and Major Giving, for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. 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. For more information on how Catholic Charities supports and empowers mothers in need, or to make a gift, visit catholiccharities.net.

* Name changed to protect her identity.

¹https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150107_udienza-generale.html

Enjoy Spring, and Stay Positive

Words for the Spirit

REVEREND CHARLES T. RUBEY

Associate Administrator,
 Founder and Director,
 LOSS Program



Spring is always a bright, joyful time of year. I hope you will be able to enjoy the longer hours of daylight and be outside more as the weather warms up in Chicago. It is so important for us to find activities that help us feel enthusiastic and positive about our lives. Keeping our spirits up can affect our health in more ways than we might realize. It can be hard—sometimes very hard—to stay upbeat and positive. But the rewards are worth the effort.

Through more than 50 years of working at Catholic Charities, 45 of them in the LOSS program, I have met many people who were struggling, some very seriously. Many of them needed food, shelter, and clothing, and Catholic Charities has been there to provide those basic needs to them. Others were wounded by unfortunate events in their lives,

such as career or financial difficulties, illness in their family, or problems in their personal relationships. At LOSS, I work with many people who are experiencing the indescribable pain of losing a loved one to suicide.

I have found that, even though each person’s life and journey is unique, there are strategies that I have seen to be helpful to those who want to live a more positive, hopeful life. Some of them are listed here. Perhaps you can read through them and see if any apply to you.

- Accept yourself for who you are; be able to list what you like about yourself
- Don’t expect yourself to be without flaws—only God is perfect
- Communicate your feelings, with people who support you and want the best for you
- Consider a journal—many people find it to be a wonderful daily habit to write down your thoughts and feelings
- Surround yourself with people who want to be happy and positive, too
- Set reasonable goals for anything that you want to improve in your life, and stay focused as you work toward those goals
- Be gentle with yourself—give yourself credit for trying to be the best person you can be

- Smile more, eat well, get enough exercise and sleep, stay active, and laugh, every day
- Focus more on the blessings than the challenges in your life
- Trust in God

If you have never thought much about the benefits of staying positive, this list may seem rather daunting. But it does not have to be. Decide what strategies apply most directly to you and start from there. Hopefully, over time, you will see how your mind, body, and spirit can work together to help you handle whatever comes your way, when you incorporate at least some of these strategies in your life.

Always remember, too, that you are never alone. Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, have faith in God and faith in me ... I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” John 14:1-12 The more that you look for Jesus in your life, the more you will find Him there. That fact can bring us great peace, and confidence, too, as we welcome every new day.

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.

	NLZ	DLR	GG	
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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.

Seasons of Transformation

Spiritual Matters

KEARA ETTE

Director, Faith and Mission



Like many lifelong Midwesterners, I love seasons. Spring and summer are my favorite, as I love to be outside and warm at the same time. But I also love some others that are less commonly celebrated: I love football season and St. Patrick’s Day season, and my kids and I love what they affectionally call “firefly season.”

I can’t help but think that my Catholic roots fostered this deep love for the seasons, which invite both recognition of and deepening engagement in life’s rhythms and mysteries. As a child, I didn’t particularly like the Lenten season because of all that it demanded of me. Only in adulthood have I developed a deep gratitude for that carved-out period of time and its ancient spiritual practices through which God is working on us. I’m grateful for the ways the prayers, the liturgies, and the music invite us back to the essentials—to

those things that are most important. But like the Sunday readings in Lent remind us, ours is not about finding a thing (even a good thing) and staying there.

Like he did with his closest disciples, Jesus leads us back down the mountain where the trials of life occur, and where we encounter our own personal crosses. The crosses in our lives are all those challenges and those times when we say to ourselves, “How could this have happened?” Or “This isn’t how it was supposed to be.” We find ourselves at the foot of the Cross with the dying of relationships, hopes, plans, or even the people we love. The church celebrates the Paschal Mystery in the Triduum (“three days”: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday), which invites the community to reflect on (and walk alongside with) Jesus’ suffering, his death, and the time of grief and waiting.

And then there is Easter. Jesus’ disciples, it is fair to say, were not expecting the Resurrection. But for all the Christians since, Easter is the promise. What remains surprising to each of us is what Easter is going to look like in our journey, for Resurrection is not resuscitation. Things will never go back “to the way they used to be,” and the scars of the crosses we have carried will remain. But for those who wait in hope, for hope, Easter will come—sometimes in the most unpredictable ways. After the loss of a job, maybe Easter looks like a new employment

opportunity coming through; after financial loss, Easter might come in finding peace settling into a new way of living more simply.

But even Easter—this season that goes all the way until May 19 this year—is not the END of the story. Christians are “an Easter People” not only because of the grace received in the Resurrection. For the last movement of Easter is one of our most critical: the sending forth. Like so much of our lives, this journey through the seasons was never linear with defined starting and stopping points. And it is never just about a “vertical” relationship (God and me), but one that is also horizontal (God in the relationship between me and my neighbor). Rather than serving as a conclusion at the end of the Easter season, Pentecost is a launching pad that sends us out on mission. Pentecost reminds me that my journey is unique, but it is not mine alone. It is a journey taken alongside my neighbors, fellow children of God. Their lives, their freedom, their dignity is bound up with my own.

So as our seasons change from spring to summer, from Easter to Ordinary Time, may the God of life who makes all things new inspire and strengthen us for our mission of transforming the world: one day, one smile, one kind word at a time.

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The Voice of Charity



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← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After an initial assessment, Samara obtained a position as a part-time certified nursing assistant. She worked toward obtaining a commercial driver's license, and then began to earn an even higher income as a school bus driver.

Through her quarterly appointments with FSS staff members, Samara learned to plan budgets that were focused on reducing her owed balances and maintaining stable housing. As a result, Samara has been able to eliminate her car loan, reduce her credit card debt, and improve her budgeting skills. Samara's case managers also encouraged her to return to school to focus on her primary goal of becoming a registered nurse.

Samara struggled from a number of setbacks, including having her car damaged in a drive-by shooting in her neighborhood. Catholic Charities was able to assist her with a housing move to a safer apartment. Once established, Samara enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program at Harper College. She continued working part-time, while attending classes online and in person. Balancing work, school, and family was a challenge, but Samara knew she could count on the support of her case manager, Anita. During monthly check-ins,

Samara and Anita identified stress points and ways to create time for self-care. By the end of 2021, Samara successfully graduated as an LPN.

Samara encountered another obstacle after taking her licensure exam. She passed the exam but was informed her background check did not clear due to incidents in her younger years. With hard work and Anita's guidance, Samara was able to expunge her record and complete her LPN. In 2022, Samara finally received her license and began her first full-time position earning \$32 an hour, which is a 440% increase in wages since her entry into the program. Obtaining her license also allowed Samara to enroll in a bridge program through Harper College that allowed her to transfer into the nursing program and complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Having a good, stable job has allowed Samara to find additional satisfaction and stability. Samara graduated from Catholic Charities' Family Self-Sufficiency Program in November 2023 with a bank balance of \$8,000. To this day, Samara continues to work full-time, attend school, maintain

housing, and make her utility payments on time. Samara's hard work and determination made all of her achievements happen, as Catholic Charities Family Self-Sufficiency Program provided professional guidance, practical assistance, and encouragement along the way.

Stories like Samara's show how effective Catholic Charities programs can be in helping people learn how to advocate for themselves, remove barriers to success, and achieve their dreams. We believe in and see the potential of every person who reaches out to us for assistance. Your donations allow us to continue our work, enriching lives and nourishing spirits across Cook and Lake counties, and we count on the Holy Spirit to guide all that we do.

Learn more about the **2024 Mother's Day Appeal** at www.catholiccharities.net/give/fy24sp/. Thank you in advance for your generosity. **Happy Mother's Day** to all moms, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, religious sisters, and all women who spread motherly care and kindness wherever they go. May 12 is a day to celebrate you, and all of the goodness that you bring to the world!

* Name changed to protect her identity.



Show **single moms** they are **not alone**

THIS MONTH, AND ALL YEAR LONG.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago



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The Edgewater Neighborhood: The Gateway to the Northside

Chicago History

MARY ELLEN KASTENHOLZ

Volunteer Writer



The most recently established of Chicago's 77 official Community Areas, Edgewater (contained within Devon Avenue on the north, Foster Avenue on the south, Ravenswood Avenue on the west and Lake Michigan on the east) evolved in the 1880's from agriculture and small settlements to the residential development of summer homes for the city's wealthy elite. During this time, orchards and "truck farms" (from the French word *torquer* meaning barter, referring to vegetables raised for market), along with dense woods in Lakeview Township, of which Edgewater was part of, were being purchased and cut down for future development.

In 1885, John Lewis Cochran, a prominent developer, named the northeastern section of Lake View, Edgewater. He built the first subdivision in the area, and many of these homes still can be found in the Lakewood Belmont Historic District. Several years later, Edgewater was celebrated as the only adjoining suburb of Chicago with electric lighting. The population grew from 2,000 to 45,000 between 1870 to 1887. Lake View needed to be annexed to Chicago in 1889 to obtain more public service access.

By the early 1900's, Edgewater was considered a prestigious community. Mansions monopolized the lakefront and large, single-family homes were dispersed internally in the former farming village of Somerdale

(now Andersonville). The Edgewater Beach Hotel was a symbol of prosperity when the "sunrise" yellow hotel was opened in 1916 at 5349 N. Sheridan in a very desirable lakefront location. Though the famous hotel was torn down in 1970, the "sunset" pink Edgewater Beach apartment building remains a landmark at the northern tip of Lake Shore Drive.

The building boom in Edgewater peaked in 1926, and property values rose until 1928. As the growing affluent population grew quickly, developers enlarged Edgewater, naming a section Uptown. This new area became the commercial center of Edgewater with entertainment, night life and tall commercial buildings. In the late 1920's, when Community Areas were first chosen, the Edgewater area was included as a section of Uptown, and this lasted until 1980.

When the movement to the suburbs in the 1950's began, many Uptown/Edgewater middle- and upper-class families left, resulting in a rise in crime and disrepair. Lake Shore Drive was extended to Hollywood Avenue and, from the 1950's to the 1970's, high-rise condominium buildings along the lakefront property expanded. This is how Edgewater earned the title, "Gateway to the Northside."

The Chicago City Council and local business owners began making a revival in the 1980's, and Edgewater separated from Uptown, becoming its own Community Area. Older buildings were refurbished and new businesses and condominiums have sprung up. Edgewater is now known for its antique shops, especially the Broadway Antique Market and Brownstone Antiques.

Many of the streets in Edgewater were named by the developer John Lewis Cochran. He was originally from Philadelphia where he sold tobacco. When he came to Edgewater in 1885, he brought his love of Pennsylvania geography



The original Edgewater Beach Hotel, from a 1916 postcard.
Source: [wikipediacommons.com](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edgewater_Beach_Hotel_Chicago_1916.jpg)

and culture with him and named many streets after train stations on the former PRR line. These avenues are Ardmore, Thorndale, Bryn Mawr, Berwyn, Devon, Rosemont, and Wayne. Within Edgewater are several other landmark neighborhoods, one being Bryn Mawr.

Catholic Charities has numerous programs serving Edgewater residents today. For example, the Edgewater Satellite Senior Center is located at 5917 N. Broadway Avenue in Chicago. It is one of ten active drop-in centers where seniors can find a wide range of weekday recreational, educational, and social activities. Each senior center also provides healthy and nutritious meals for breakfast and lunch. Programs are open to all seniors in the community, and Catholic Charities Senior Centers' staff members are on hand to help seniors find connections to local resources, as well. For more information on the **Edgewater Satellite Senior Center**, call (312) 742-5323.

Help Mothers in Need

Your gift to the 2024 Mother's Day Appeal will help mothers overcome challenges so they—and their children—can thrive.

Give securely at
catholiccharities.net/donate

Partner Profile: Kathy Delaney, Ph.D.



Throughout its history, Catholic Charities has been blessed by a wide variety of professionals who share their expertise for the benefit of our clients. Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Kathy Delaney is one of these generous friends, whose contributions over six years to our Behavioral Health Services team have been deeply appreciated.

Kathy knew early in her career that she wanted to dedicate her life to assisting children with mental health concerns. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Georgetown University and a Masters degree in Nursing from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She became a psychiatric nurse practitioner and earned a doctorate in Psychiatric Nursing from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. She first became involved with Catholic Charities in 2018, when Licensed Clinical Therapist Jessica Mead approached her about volunteering in the Behavioral Services Department. Kathy started by providing psychiatric consultation services to the Catholic Charities counseling team. The Catholic Charities team needed additional support for youth clients who had psychiatric needs. Soon, Ellen Tannenbaum, Department Director, Youth Counseling Programs, asked Kathy to meet weekly with the Behavioral Services team to share what she considers

to be the most current, accurate research on mental health issues involving children.

On Friday mornings, Kathy provided a 10-minute presentation on children's behavioral health research. Then she stayed for 90 minutes longer to hear what other topics staff members wanted to learn about to better inform their work. Her "10 Slides, 10 Minutes" presentations included topics such as the relationship between anger and trauma, mindfulness and craving, and resiliency and self-control. The literature and research presented provided background, statistics, and reasons behind behaviors.

Before the pandemic, these meetings were in person, and since then, they have been held via Zoom. As needed, in many instances families were also referred to Rush for psychiatric services. Later, Catholic Charities was awarded a grant that allowed Kathy and her colleagues to work with clients of all ages. Over the years, Kathy grew in her appreciation for the professionalism of Catholic Charities counseling team in assisting young clients. She says, "Ellen's team is very mission-driven. Confidentiality is paramount to their work. They understand the population they are treating, some of them as young as three and four years old."

When asked about the best ways to address the serious issues experienced by children being treated, Kathy said broadly, "Focus on the work we're doing to change these kids' lives. Think of the positives rather than the negatives." She continued, "My job, and the therapists' jobs, are to help the kids see that they are not defined by their current situation and their mental health issues." Kathy sees therapists as being "the bridge, or tether," between the child, their family and essential services. She adds, "Working with children is fascinating because they always display an element of hope about their outlook on life. It really was a great privilege working with youth and the Catholic Charities group."

Kathy has now retired from her teaching role. She is Professor Emeritus at Rush University College of Nursing. Grateful for her years of contributing to the Catholic Charities' mission, she says, "It is such an impressive organization. I especially admire how much Catholic Charities staff members are concerned about keeping their teams strong. They continuously look for training opportunities and ways to support one another for the greater good of the people they serve."

Ellen already sees the lasting impact that Kathy has had on the work of the Behavioral Health Services staff. She says, "Kathy was always very generous to say that her research and residents gained a great deal of value from this partnership as well. Truly, she will be missed."

Catholic Charities is tremendously grateful to Kathy Delaney for her many contributions to our counseling programs. We wish her continued success helping children regain strong mental health and learn how to maintain it throughout their lives.

For more information on Catholic Charities Behavioral Health Services, call (312) 655-7725.



The Adult Protective Services Program (APS), within the Illinois Department in Aging, investigates reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-neglect of adults aged 60 or older, and adults aged 18-59 with disabilities.

To learn more, call 1-866-800-1409

WIC Food Centers Announce New Initiatives



Catholic Charities Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Centers have supported families in underserved neighborhoods in Chicago since 1993. Currently, 14 WIC Grocery Food centers provide economically challenged women and children with quality food products obtained with benefits provided through the Supplemental Nutrition Program. In addition, the WIC Food Centers offer nutrition education, cooking classes, breastfeeding support, and social service referrals to help mothers and children get the best start possible together as a family. The WIC Food Centers aim to combine food security with public health initiatives to improve birth outcomes, support healthy eating habits, and set the foundation for positive child development and future life success.

In 2024, two initiatives are being planned to expand WIC access in Chicago. Shivonnia Dickson, Vice President, Children and Families, explains, "This year, we are looking forward to starting a **Mobile WIC Grocery Initiative** that will expand WIC access to serve more families in Chicago. A 28-foot WIC mobile food truck will provide a condensed shopping experience seven days a week, piloted to residents in the Austin, West Garfield, and East Garfield neighborhoods. These communities are food deserts with minimal food stores readily available, and the residents struggle to use their WIC benefits."

Shivonnia continues, "The mobile truck will be fully stocked with the basic grocery store items featured in WIC Food Centers, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, infant formula, eggs, milk, and cereal. We hope to serve 400 mothers each month through this mobile truck program. We are very excited for it to begin."

The second new WIC initiative in 2024 is called the **Moms Hub**. It aims to promote self-efficacy through pregnancy support, parenting classes, case management for housing, and to provide additional Catholic Charities and external partner program referrals. It is a holistic approach to removing barriers to success, beyond the nutrition goals of the WIC Food Centers. Shivonnia explains,



"Both programs are scheduled to begin in July 2024. We hope to eventually reach other neighborhoods with the mobile truck. As for the Moms Hub pilot program, we will start that in five of our WIC stores and assess it from there. We look forward to doing whatever we can to help our moms be more efficient in their day-to-day lives."

For more information, visit wicgrocery.org or call (312) 655-7700.



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Partner Profile: St. John Neumann Parish

JULIANA LOPEZ
Communications Intern



Parishioners at St. John Neumann Parish, Homewood have been selflessly dedicated to the mission of Catholic Charities for many years, through the active parishes of St. Joseph, St. Anne, and St. Emeric that joined to form this new faith community in 2022. These parishioners have continued to offer critical support in recent weeks, through a variety of generous outreach efforts that have assisted people in need and created greater awareness of Catholic Charities' work in the South/Southwest Cook region.

Dedicated volunteers helped establish the Monday Night Supper at St. Anne's Parish in Hazel Crest years ago, and this wonderful community meal continues today, as 60-80 meals are prepared and distributed in the St. Anne's Community Room each week to those facing food insecurity.



Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, St. John Neumann parishioners have held various pop-up events to collect, then distribute donations of food and produce in the summer, and "Coats for Kids" in the winter. This past winter, children from more than 45 families were assisted, and items extended beyond cold-weather clothing to include blankets, school supplies, underwear, and socks. The "Coats for Kids" project was done in conjunction with the United Way, Franciscan Health, and the Rotary Club of Park Forest-Chicago Heights.

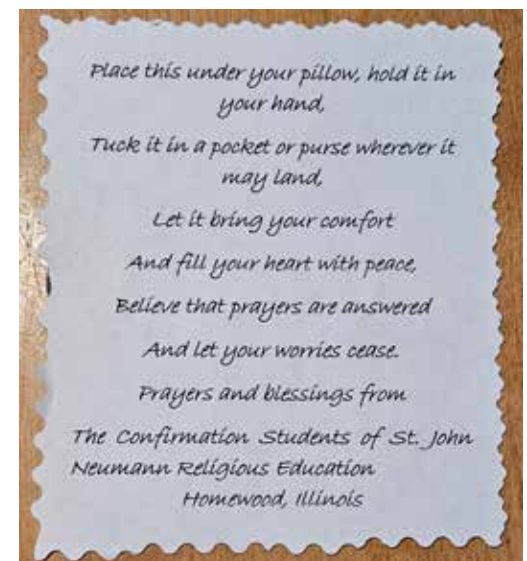
Parishioners also established a new coat collection and distribution program this past winter to guests of the Monday Night Supper at St. Anne's Community Room and the Tuesday Night Supper at St. Augustine Parish in Midlothian. St. John Neumann sponsors a quarterly food drive, which replenishes supplies for Catholic Charities' food pantry on the campus of the former St. Irenaeus Parish in Park Forest. St. Irenaeus merged with Jesus of Prague Parish and St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish to become St. Veronica Parish in Flossmoor.

The parish religious education program also got involved recently, as Confirmation candidates and their parents gathered after Mass to create "Blessing Bags" for elderly and homeless neighbors. These "Blessing Bags" were equipped with soap, toothpaste, shampoo, and snacks, supplied by Catholic Charities' South/Southwest regional office. St. John Neumann



parishioners added a crocheted prayer cloth, in the shape of a cross, with a prayer card attached. A hand-written greeting from each Confirmation candidate was included, as well. Once the 100 plus bags were assembled, they were delivered to a nearby Housing Forward shelter, with the remainder going to the South/Southwest regional office, for distribution to clients who seek assistance at that location.

St. John Neumann parishioners have said that they want to help illustrate the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy through these charitable acts. At Catholic Charities, we continue to be inspired by the ways they joyfully do this, so well, as they join in our mission of faith and service.



St. John Neumann parishioners, pictured below, create "Blessing Bags" for elderly and homeless neighbors.



June H. Turns 101



Keenager News was delighted to have the chance recently to speak with reader June H. She will be celebrating her 101st birthday on May 16. June currently resides at the Senior Living Center in Lisle, and she is enjoying life there. After raising her family, she worked in the insurance division in the Elmhurst School District for 25 years. She then volunteered at Elmhurst Hospital for another 26 years, welcoming people who came to the hospital and helping them get to where they needed to be. When asked if she had a secret to her long life, June said, "I have always liked helping people. Also, I am so thankful that my kids are beautiful people, and they married beautiful people too." We wish June a very Happy Birthday and a year ahead of good health and many joyful new memories with her family and friends.

From Ron T.: Everybody Loves a Baby...

As I walked in through the vestibule with my wife Juli to attend Mass, I noticed a young woman with a baby carriage near the rack of votive candles. The woman was alone, so I thought the mother found the carriage more convenient than dragging a car carrier, bottles, toys, and diapers into church.



When the time came to receive the Holy Eucharist, "Mom" got in line ahead of us. The carriage was not in front of her, but by her side allowing Father Tim to distribute Communion. Father paused for just a second to look into the carriage after giving Communion to the woman. I cannot describe the look on Father's face when I approached him for the Eucharist immediately afterward (I was next in line). Either the kid was really cute, or Father just had a religious experience. When I walked back to our pew, I thought I must see for myself. So, I turned my head to try and get a glimpse inside the carriage. I did, but I could not see much because of the blanket.

"Mom" pushed the carriage just ahead of us as Juli and I walked through the narthex after Mass ended. I waited until we were both in the car before I commented on my casual observation. I did not want to embarrass the mother. "Did you see the hair on that kid?" I asked Juli.

"What? Are you talking about the woman with the carriage? There was a little dog in that carriage...maybe a therapy dog."

Didn't know the dog was Catholic.

From Mary H.

Thank you for the wonderful articles, jokes, and puzzles. I feel the love of God, his mother, and the assistance of St. Jude to help me get to the correct solutions. God bless all the Earth Angels at Catholic Charities.



*"O Mary, we crown thee
with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels,
Queen of the May."*



Memorial Day 2024 and the 80th Anniversary of D-Day



American soldiers bravely storm the beaches of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944.

This Memorial Day, we are called once again to NEVER FORGET the ultimate sacrifice made by members of the American armed forces who gave their lives, throughout our history, in service to our nation.

In particular, on June 6, ceremonies will be held around the world, especially at The Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. On that fateful day in 1944, thousands of American soldiers joined an Allied force of 150,000 men from 12 countries in storming the beaches of Normandy. This vast operation, given the code name Overlord, was the largest amphibious invasion in military history, bringing together land, air, and sea forces to take over five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the Normandy coast. It was the turning point of World War II, beginning the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control.

The Normandy American Cemetery is located on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach. It contains the graves of 9,387 United States military personnel, most of whom died on D-Day and in the days shortly thereafter. Another 1,557 names are inscribed in the Walls of the Missing in the cemetery chapel. Directly above the chapel door is an engraved replica of the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military honor. To learn more about the 80th Anniversary events, visit <https://www.abmc.gov/>

Five years ago, Keenager News published a **special edition** commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. We continue to salute all of our readers who were part of D-Day, and all of our readers who served in other ways during World War II. Your patriotism and sacrifices united America in ways never seen before, or since. And your legacy as The Greatest Generation will live on forever.

Sources: [abmc.gov](https://www.abmc.gov/); [wikipediacommons.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:US_Soldiers_Boarding_Landing_Craft_D-Day.jpg)



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from **The Recipe Box**

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Mother's Chocolate Cake

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter or margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 3 oz. unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups sifted cake flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 4 oz. pkg. of instant chocolate pudding mix
- ½ cup milk

PREPARATION

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, and grease and flour an 8-inch springform pan. Beat together the butter and sugar in a large bowl. Add the eggs and beat until light and fluffy. Beat in the chocolate and vanilla. Separately, sift together the flour, baking soda, and salt.

Add the dry ingredients to the butter and egg mixture, alternating the sour cream, pudding mix, and butter mixture. Stir in the milk to thin the batter. Pour batter into the pan and bake for 50 to 55 minutes. Cool in the pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Take cake out of the pan and onto the rack. Let cool completely. Frost as desired.

Cherry Rhubarb Jam

INGREDIENTS

- 5 cups rhubarb
- 1 cup water
- 5 cups sugar
- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 2 pkg. (3 oz.) cherry gelatin

PREPARATION

Cook rhubarb in water until tender. Add sugar and cook for a few minutes, stirring constantly.

Add pie filling and cook for 6 to 8 minutes more. Remove from heat and add gelatin.

Stir until completely dissolved. Pour into jars and seal. Store in the refrigerator or freezer.

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Humor & Nostalgia

Happy Mother's Day

A mom's recipe for iced coffee: 1. Have kids. 2. Make coffee. 3. Forget you made coffee. 4. Drink it cold.

Silence is golden. Unless you have kids. Then silence is suspicious.

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He said, "Call for backup."

A toddler can do more in one unsupervised minute than most people can do in a day.

Why was the house so neat on Mother's Day?
Because Mom spent all day Saturday cleaning it.

What do alien moms like to drink? Starbucks.

What do you call a mom that can't draw? Tracy.

"It's okay, honey, all I need is a combined total of three hours of sleep."
Said no mom. Ever.

Why did the cookie cry? Because its mom was a wafer too long.

What kind of flowers are best for Mother's Day? Mums.

Happy Father's Day

Why don't they have Father's Day sales? Because Fathers are priceless.

What did the baby corn say to the mama corn? Where's popcorn?

What did the cheerleader bring her dad for breakfast on Father's Day?
Cheerios.

What did the puppies make their dad for Father's Day breakfast?
Pooched eggs.

What did the waiter say to the daddy dog when he served Father's Day dinner? Bone-appetit!

Why did the kids give their dad a blanket for Father's Day? Because they thought he was the coolest dad.

"Dad, did you get a haircut?" "No, I got them all cut!"

What are dads' favorite Father's Day treats? POPsicles.

Why wasn't one Father's Day gift better than the other? It was a tie!

Where do dads go to dance on Father's Day? Golf clubs.

Sources: *Countryliving.com*; *the pioneerwoman.com*; *parents.com*

KEENAGER NEWS

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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

June H. **101** on **5/16**

NIFTY NINETIES

Betty K. **90** on **5/14**

Bernardine W. **90** on **6/16**

BELATED BIRTHDAYS

Margaret K. **90** on **1/24**

Oyemola K. **80** on **2/21**

Lucy F. **80** on **3/31**

Alvaro V. **104** on **4/25**

Anniversaries

Marshall & Diane P. **50** on **5/26**

Frank & Shirley M. **51** on **6/2**

Richard & Beatrice A. **65** on **6/6**

Andrew & Mary Ann P. **70** on **6/18**

David & Dorothy S. **73** on **6/30**

BELATED ANNIVERSARIES

Marion & Margaret K. **58** on **4/23**

Edward &
Mary Katherine N. **56** on **4/24**

Alvaro &
Teresa V. **72** on **4/26**

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