

The Miracle at St. Martin's

Catholic Charities breaks ground on 178 units of affordable housing

Braving windy and cold conditions the morning of November 21, Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, District of Columbia Mayor Adrian Fenty and Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr. joined Ed Orzechowski, president and CEO of Catholic Charities, and other city officials to break ground on the miracle that is St. Martin's Apartments.

St. Martin's Apartments is Catholic Charities leading effort to be part of a long-term solution to the region's housing crisis. The miracle, as described by Orzechowski, comes in the closing of the project: financing was locked down in September, during the upheaval of several major Wall Street firms. It took great commitment on the part of several District agencies, private funders and members of the St. Martin of Tours Parish, community and interfaith networks to get the project underway.

"Without community members going door-to-door to solicit support and members of the Washington Interfaith Network rallying at hearings, this project would not be underway and working families would not have hope that this city believes in a better way to house working families," said Orzechowski. "It took tremendous leadership on many fronts to maintain affordable housing as a priority in spite of turbulent times."

When completed in 2010, the project will offer 178 units of quality housing at affordable rates in the heart of D.C. Of those units, 128 will be one and two bedroom apartments for working families. Fifty junior units will be set aside for formerly homeless individuals, using housing as a foundation to rebuild independence. The project will feature 140 underground parking spaces, a tree-lined courtyard and community meeting spaces. The project will stand on land donated by the Archdiocese of Washington.



(l to r): Ed Orzechowski, Archbishop Wuerl and Mayor Fenty at the future home of St. Martin's Apartments.

Catholic Charities
The James Cardinal Hickey Center
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Washington, DC 20001

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Everyday Miracles

Fortitude Housing

After 44 years, one man is home at last



Walter Johnson (right) clasps the hands of his case manager, Michael Barton at the front door to his new apartment. After spending 44 years on the streets, Mr. Johnson takes pride in his apartment, keeping it neat and tidy, well decorated during the holidays and always welcoming to family for visits.

Forty-four years—that’s how long Walter Johnson was homeless. At the start, he was 19 and reeling from the death of his parents without direction. Homelessness went from a situation to a lifestyle. He hustled for money and worked odd jobs, often depending on the generosity of strangers for his next meal. In his final days on the streets, home was a tent he shared beneath Interstate 395.

Now Walter is in a much better place, and it happened so fast he still pinches himself. “One day a man came down to us and asked if we wanted apartments. The next day we were moving in,” said Johnson, 64. That man was Michael Barton, his future case manager at Catholic Charities.

Walter was one of 12 charter clients for the Fortitude Housing program, which moved a small group of chronically homeless individuals from the streets into apartments.

The goal was to remove an individual from the crisis of homelessness, enabling him to address other risk factors, such as substance abuse, unemployment and lack of formal education. Case managers meet with clients multiple times each week, connecting them with important resources.

The results speak for themselves. Walter depended on alcohol while homeless. Now he is clean. His health was ailing. Michael helped Walter get health insurance, apply for disability and arrange for vital heart surgery.

Walter’s apartment is clean, well-kept and furnished simply. He uses his kitchen often. His best dish is pot roast. On Sundays, he usually gets together with his family for dinner. “It’s just really, really good to have a place of my own,” Walter said. “In a million years, I never thought I would have my own place.”

What's New

Anchor Mental Health Celebrates 50 Years of Service



Anchor has been teaching job skills to adults with mental illness for 50 years.

Since 1958 Anchor Mental Health has served adults with mental illness in the Washington-region, a tradition of excellence spanning 50 years. Monsignor John G. Kuhn founded Anchor as a drop-in social club for people struggling with mental illness. Today, Anchor is a full-service mental health center serving more than 800 adults of all races, religions and ethnic backgrounds with the common need of help for mental illness. Anchor recently launched ChAMPS, a mobile psychiatric program bringing in-home crisis care to children. Hermano Pedro Day Shelter is open weekdays to provide meals, showers, clothing, case management and mental health counseling to individuals who are homeless. A luncheon to celebrate 50 years of service will be held on June 3 at the Army Navy Club in D.C.

Kennedy Institute Recognized by American College of Physicians

The Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute will receive the “Edward R. Loveland Memorial Award” for a Distinguished Contribution to the Health Field by the American College of Physicians for its work helping adults and children with developmental disabilities. The award will be presented in a ceremony in April 2009. The Kennedy Institute, founded in 1959, serves individuals with developmental disabilities, by operating a school for children and adolescents, a summer program and other education and employment programs for people of all ages.

The **Catholic Charities Foundation Golf Tournament** has supported the Montgomery and Prince George's County Centers for 16 years, infusing the programs with unrestricted funding that is crucial for helping clients during the coldest time of the year.

Driving for a Cause

The tournament happened on a beautiful fall day at Bethesda Country Club and raised more than \$152,000. A grand total of 130 golfers took a swing at winning the "best ball" format tournament, which featured many longtime partners of the Catholic Charities Foundation. Despite the slow economy, participants generously gave to set a new fundraising record and equip Catholic Charities with the resources to aid families facing foreclosure, trying to heat their home or struggling to put food on the table. Special thanks are given to Ted Donatelli, who has chaired the tournament for the last four years.

(l to r) Adam Fried, Dave Barra, Larry Esposito, Fred Netting and Michael Curtin, chair of the Catholic Charities Foundation Board of Directors



(above l to r) Ted Donatelli, Lou Donatelli, Chris Donatelli and Ed Harrington

To support Catholic Charities by donating or volunteering, visit CatholicCharitiesDC.org or call 202-772-4394.

Pepco Gives \$65,000 to Warm Homes This Winter

For the second year in a row, Catholic Charities' Montgomery County Center will receive a boost in emergency funds from the PHI Community Foundation. The funds were raised at the Third Annual Pepco Golf and Tennis Classic and will help low-income residents, including seniors, in Montgomery County pay electric and gas bills this winter. Last year, Catholic Charities received \$75,000 from the same tournament, tallying a valuable \$140,000 in two years.

Qualifying families and individuals receive a one-time financial assistance toward paying their electric or gas bill, as well as help with energy conservation and money management. Catholic Charities' family support workers also provide case management services and referrals to other community services, as needed.

"Pepco is proud to partner with Catholic Charities' Montgomery County Center, knowing the center works each day with families and individuals who are most in need of assistance," said Kim Watson, Pepco vice president of Maryland affairs.



(l to r) Catholic Charities Montgomery County Center Family Support Worker Haregewoin Kefyalew, Catholic Charities Metro Regional Centers Director Trinette Hawkins, Catholic Charities Foundation Director of Planned Giving and Major Gifts Alicia Figueiredo, Pepco Vice President of Maryland Affairs Kim Watson and Pepco Regional President Thomas H. Graham.

President's Message



Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

From our humble beginnings helping orphaned children find homes, Catholic Charities has always provided housing to those in need. Today we are the area's leading provider of shelter, operating emergency, transitional and supportive housing programs serving a minimum of 1,400 people each night of the year, as well as hypothermia shelters on the coldest nights.

This experience has taught us that nothing is more intricately linked to the success of a person than housing. While our current programs meet an incredible need, it is time to create permanent housing with support services that strengthens families and uplifts entire communities.

St. Martin's Apartments housing project (page 1) is that next step. When working families have money after paying the rent, their children have warm clothes, nutritional meals and school supplies. When a formerly homeless individual has a place to call home, the pursuit of education and eventually better employment becomes an achievable dream.

Catholic Charities, with the help of many partners, is bringing quality apartments to a neighborhood where people want to live. Among those partners, we are most grateful to Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl and the Archdiocese of Washington for donating the land and garnering support and expertise for the project. I also warmly thank Father Michael Kelley and the congregation of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church for their grassroots advocacy efforts which generated much support.

St. Martin's apartments represent a vision for our city where housing is a basic right, not a luxury. It represents partners across the private and public sector sowing seeds of prosperity and potential for all, believing it both fiscally wise and morally imperative. Regardless of the economy, this vision is our hope, demonstrating the compassion that defines us as a people of faith and action.

Sincerely,

Ed Orzechowski, President and CEO

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Catholic Charities Event Calendar

February

2009 Catholic Charities Foundation Benefit Gala

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009

6:30 p.m. to midnight

*Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
2660 Woodley Park Road, NW
Washington, D.C.*

*Contact: Sarah Arnett (202) 772-4392
Sarah.Arnett@CatholicCharitiesDC.org
Tickets and sponsorships still available!*

March

2009 Spanish Catholic Center Benefit Gala

Saturday March 28, 2009

7:00 p.m. to midnight

*Location: Organization of American States, Hall of the Americas
17th & Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.*

*Contact: Diana Angel (202) 772-4334
Diana.Angel@CatholicCharitiesDc.org
Tickets and sponsorships still available!*

Catholic Charities' Impact Magazine is a quarterly publication sent to all donors, volunteers and other stakeholders who support Catholic Charities and its programs, clients and services in the Archdiocese of Washington. The publication seeks to keep all stakeholders informed of recent news, share inspiring stories of personal and institutional success, discuss challenges and needs, and invite the greater community to join us in our mission to strengthen the lives of those in need by providing help that empowers and hope that lasts.