



Catholic Charities

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Inspiring Hope, Building Futures.

Support our Frontline Staff Poetry Assignment

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt our daily lives, we find ourselves with an ever-increasing need for comfort and reassurance that we will get through this as a community. While the government and health officials encourage all nonessential employees to stay at home, that option is not available to many of our Catholic Charities staff members who work on the front lines of this crisis. Just like the healthcare workers, transportation employees, and grocery store workers, these employees provide necessary services that cannot be taken away. Without our frontline staff, many people would go without food, shelter, and adequate medical care. We invite you to show your support for our frontline staff to help keep them motivated and make them feel appreciated while they put their health at risk to serve others. Our staff leave the safety of their homes every day to provide care to those who need it most.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit letters to LettersOfSupport@cc-dc.org
- The goal is to thank the staff for the work they do to provide support for the poor and marginalized and to keep them motivated throughout the crisis.
- Submissions can be in the form of poems (free verse, sonic, haiku, limerick, etc) or short letters and should be less than one-page typed.
- Selected submissions will be published on the Catholic Charities website, and they will be distributed directly to staff at our shelters, pantries, and clinics.
- Questions? Email LettersOfSupport@cc-dc.org

The submissions will go to support the following employees:

- **Shelter staff**
 - *Where:* Harriet Tubman Shelter, Bakhita Shelter, Adam's Place, 801 East, and New York Ave Shelters, and scattered-site housing.



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- *Who:* Social workers and case managers who work closely with the homeless population in D.C.
- *Why:* These workers continue to support their clients by providing a place to sleep as well as food and mental and physical health services. People experiencing homelessness are among the most medically vulnerable as they often have preexisting conditions and lack access to adequate medical care. These essential workers continue to provide necessary care for our most marginalized population. Without their hard work and dedication, hundreds more people would be without shelter each night.

- **Food Program staff**
 - *Where:* SHARE Food Warehouse, pantries at Spanish Catholic Center in D.C. and Catholic Charities Center in Wheaton, St. Maria's Meals.
 - *Who:* Social workers and other staff who coordinate and distribute food donations.
 - *Why:* The pandemic has caused a severe food shortage at many of our food banks at the exact time when the need for donated goods has increased exponentially. Our staff works tirelessly to provide nourishment to members of our community who are most in need of support. Without their dedicated effort, many families in the DMV would lack access to nutritious food. The food pantry staff continue to come into the office so people can bring home food to their families.

- **Medical Clinic staff**
 - *Where:* D.C. and Maryland Medical Clinics
 - *Who:* Doctors, nurses, and administrative teams who continue to operate our clinic.
 - *Why:* Like their colleagues around the world, our healthcare professionals are committed to providing quality services to their patients during this time of crisis. Our trained health professionals treat non-coronavirus related patients, while our clinic administrators ensure that all operations continue to run as smoothly as possible while providing excellent patient support.