



# GIVING BACK

INSIDE: VICE PRESIDENT FOR MISSION | ST. JUDE'S PROJECT | PHILANTHROPY

SPRING 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN



During spring in years past, I enjoyed colorful spring blooms as I drove through the District and Maryland on my way to meet with donors and visit our programs. I was filled with hope for a winning season as I watched the Nats come to bat in the season opener. I felt the promise of a bright future as

I baptized little ones and prepared engaged couples for their summer weddings.

But this May brings a much different spring.

Like most of you, I'm holed up at my home. Working remotely from St. Bartholomew's in Bethesda, I'm keeping current on the status of our programs and the needs of our community. After mastering Zoom and Microsoft Teams, I'm using these new tools to communicate with our staff, the archdiocese and other partners. But I keep my old staples — email, phone calls and text messages — handy as I do frequent check-ins with friends, volunteers and donors.

There is much to say, as the need of the community gets bigger and bigger every week.

With each new food pantry distribution, we see more and more people seeking help. The long lines include the poor we've served for years. But there are many new faces. In fact, at least two-thirds of those coming to one of our pantries are people who have never been there before now. They are the restaurant workers and other laborers who have been laid off as this public health crisis also became an economic crisis.

To respond, we at Catholic Charities — often the last resort for people in need — are focused on addressing basic needs: food, shelter, emergency financial assistance and health care.

We cannot — and won't — abandon our God-given call to take care of those in need.

## WE CONTINUE TO OPEN OUR HEARTS AND HANDS IN THIS CRISIS



At no time during Catholic Charities' more than 90-year history has its work been more essential than it is today.

While clients are counting on our continued service, many people suffering from the economic fallout of the pandemic are coming to us for help for the first time.

Two paths are being taken in our fight against COVID-19: meeting the basic needs of food, shelter and medical care for those in need, and modifying many other programs to overcome challenges to safety and health.

Our response to this global public health emergency has become personal, with some individual employees

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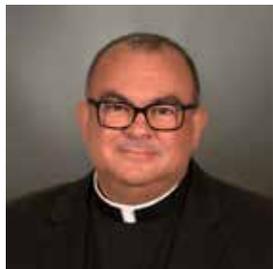
We are all facing worries this spring. So, I'm especially grateful to you, our supporters, for remaining committed to our work.

While staying at home, I've picked up a new habit — an hour-long walk before dinner. The walks are so reflective, so invigorating. It is in these quiet times that I think of you, pray for you and give thanks for you.

Msgr. John J. Enzler  
President and CEO  
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

# AROUND THE AGENCY

## WITH A FOCUS ON MISSION, FATHER CHARLES JOINS AGENCY



As pastor at three parishes over the years and as vicar general for the Archdiocese of Washington, Rev. Msgr. Charles Antonicelli has collaborated with Catholic Charities DC.

Now, he's putting those experiences and knowledge to work in a new role, as vice president for mission at the social services agency.

In February, Father Charles took on a dual role – the position at Catholic Charities and as pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church, adjacent to the James Cardinal Hickey Center.

A member of Catholic Charities' executive team, he says he's learning "about the many facets of Catholic Charities from Father John, the executive team and the staff so that I can assist them in fulfilling the mission of Catholic Charities.

"I hope to be a real help to Father John and Catholic Charities and continue his outreach to those in our community who can help Catholic Charities have the resources it needs to care for the poor well into the future."

On Wednesday evenings during this COVID-19 pandemic, Father Charles can be found ministering to those who come to St. Maria's Meals along G Street NW. "After being a pastor at several parishes," he says, "I have developed a pastoral heart and a real love and respect for the poor and marginalized."

Father Charles arrived in Washington in 1983 to attend Catholic University Law School. After returning home to New Jersey to practice law for two years, he came back to the District in 1988 and made the decision to enter the seminary. After studying in Rome from 1988 to 1993, he was ordained a priest in Washington by Cardinal James A. Hickey.

The inspiration to join the priesthood came from his early years in Jersey City, N.J. "I grew up in a family that practiced their religion, and I was fortunate enough to go to Catholic schools all my life," he says. "I had a wonderful example of priestly service in my parish priest and became more involved in my faith through a parish retreat. My mother went to daily Mass and prayed the Office of Readings, and she was an inspiration for me as well."

His time as a priest has had many memorable moments, Father Charles says, from training altar girls for the first time at Blessed Sacrament as a newly ordained priest to restoring St. Joseph Church on Capitol Hill to serving as vicar for canonical services and then vicar general for the archdiocese.

He also finds inspiration in living in Washington. "I love that it is a capital city, with all the excitement and culture that brings. The museums and monuments are my favorites," he says.

Noting that he has been working on projects with Father John since the early 2000s, he says, "My respect for him and for the incredible job he does led me to inquire about the possibility of working with him again at Catholic Charities."

As for the work ahead, Father Charles says of helping Catholic Charities fulfill its mission: "I have worked in the administration of the archdiocese for the past 20 years, so I have a sense of the larger mission of the Church in the

Archdiocese of Washington and how it works, and how we are all working to assist the archbishop in his ministry to the people of God here in this local Church."



### BEING HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

President and CEO Msgr. John J. Enzler was presented with two community awards this winter. On Jan. 22, he was among those honored by D.C. Councilmember Anita Bonds with a Community Cornerstone Award. Recipients were celebrated for their extraordinary impact on the quality of life and well-being of District residents. In March, the 24th annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner for Potomac Community Resources honored Father John for visionary leadership.

# 'WE CONTINUE TO OPEN OUR HEARTS AND HANDS'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and clients affected. But working together and working smart, the staff is taking innovative approaches to ensure our services continue safely and, in the case of food distribution and shelters, actually increase.

"It is a frightening time for the community, but we continue to open our hearts and hands and reach out to any and all who are in need," Msgr. John J. Enzler, president and CEO, said.

Homeless shelters are open 24/7, requiring additional staffing, cleaning and health screening. Our resourceful housing staff is working closely with D.C.'s Department of Human Services.

"Food service has grown exponentially, and we're proud of it," Father John said. Across the agency, 150 percent more people are being served food than before the crisis.

Three food pantries are offering regular giveaways, and large-scale food distributions are being held in Prince George's County and elsewhere, with cars lining up for miles to receive food packages created by our SHARE Food Network. The Southern Maryland Food Bank is providing food packages to school children, seniors and hungry families in various effective efforts.

"Catholic Charities has transitioned to direct services. Shelter and food are paramount now," he said.

For the most part, medical care is being done remotely, with more than 1,000 telehealth appointments conducted in the past few weeks. Emergency and post-operative needs are met with in-person appointments using proper safety precautions. An additional 1,400 telehealth appointments have provided behavioral health care.



"Ensuring the safety and health of our staff and community is at the core of every conversation about our next steps and the decisions we make," said Patrick Dunne, chief operating officer.

Some programs have been suspended because of the nature of their work.

With the closure of schools, Kennedy School has closed. Dental Clinics are closed, as well, following guidance from professional dental associations.

But many programs, such as legal services, language and workforce development programs and other services, were modified by our creative staff and now are being done remotely.

Father John noted a "sense of appreciation that I hear over and over again" as he speaks to people in the community. "We're doing a lot of good work to meet the challenge," he said. "Our staff, I call them heroes."

## TESTIFYING BEFORE PANEL ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS



Two representatives of Catholic Charities — Celia Sterling and Jim Feroli — testified about the positive impact of the strong partnership between the agency and the District of Columbia before a Committee on Government Operations'

hearing. Sterling told the committee that support from the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs allows Catholic Charities to offer low-income immigrant residents the opportunity to participate in high-quality job training. Feroli said Immigrant Justice Legal Services grant awards allow Catholic Charities to provide legal training on the representation of asylum applicants, immigrant children and immigrant victims of domestic violence. Councilmember Brandon Todd called Catholic Charities and others testifying "trusted organizations that residents can turn to when they need help."

## GRADUATION FROM JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS



The Culinary Training Program in Partnership with STEP (Service Workers Training and Education Partnership) graduated its first group of students in early March. In the program, students receive English classes, hands-on culinary training and job-placement assistance. At

graduation, two students already had been placed in full-time positions and several others had job interviews set up. Jobs also were in the future for 40 people who graduated in January from the bank teller training program, a nine-week course.

# ST. JUDE'S PROJECT IS ESSENTIAL LINK IN CARE OF HUNTINGTON'S PATIENTS

"Huntington's Disease is like having Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS all in one."

That's how Paul Esquivel describes the rare disease affecting his wife, Liz.

The Esquivels' lives changed in a flash after Liz was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease, a hereditary and incurable neurodegenerative disorder, in 2015. They moved quickly to build a comprehensive medical team at Georgetown University Medical Center (GUMC) to ensure Liz received the best care. Overwhelmed with information they struggled to understand, it wasn't until their social worker at GUMC connected them with Catholic Charities' St. Jude's Project that they were able to put all the pieces together.

St. Jude's Project — a unique collaboration with GUMC that is unlike any other service in the country — is a special Catholic Charities' program that provides critical and compassionate support outside of a clinical setting at no cost to families and patients whose lives are affected by Huntington's Disease (HD) and other life-limiting conditions such as Parkinson's. The program developed a special approach to care to address gaps in social work services specifically for patients with neurodegenerative disorders and their caregivers, which it calls therapeutic patient navigation (TPN).

This innovative approach was created to work with a population that has traditionally been underserved and incorporates and expands upon several traditional models of care to best serve the unique needs of these patients and their caregivers. TPN helps patients reduce barriers to health care, giving them better access to preventative and sustained health care.

"There was a perception that it was a hopeless condition, and I really want to work to change that," said Dr. Karen Anderson, director of the Huntington Disease Care, Education & Research Center at GUMC in an interview with MedStar Health. "It's true there is no cure, but there's so much that can be done to make the condition easier for people who have it and for their families."

Funded by the Griffin Foundation, St. Jude's Project employs a full-time social work manager and incorporates the work of graduate social work students. Each member of the St. Jude's staff specializes in HD and is well-versed in the disease's progression, making them an integral part of

the patient's care team. They help with everything from coordinating medical care to providing emotional support to 22 current clients, 10 of whom were diagnosed with HD, and their caregivers.

"The project was designed to see if we can use all the outreach potential at Catholic Charities to embrace the HD community," said Jack Griffin, a lifelong friend of Father John Enzler whose involvement in HD charitable acts is motivated by personal experience. His wife was diagnosed with HD eight years ago.

Like many spouses of HD patients, he found the diagnosis and effects of the disease complicated. The medical care system does not address the extensive follow-up care needed by patients, caregivers, spouses and family members, he said. The home front of patient care is at the forefront of his mind. Through difficult firsthand experience, he learned all too well about the significant care gap that exists outside the clinic.



LIZ & PAUL ESQUIVEL  
WITH THEIR DAUGHTER KATHRYN

"Given the nature of HD, which has a 50 percent probability of being inherited, many HD families are overwhelmed and have significant economic issues," he said. "Catholic Charities in this region has extensive human resources, which can provide outreach and care to those in need outside of a clinical setting." He believes the collaboration between GUMC and Catholic Charities will increase the possibility of reaching the estimated 70 percent of people affected by HD but are not yet identified or receiving care.

Because of the project's uniqueness in the medical system, Jack also sees great potential to continue to expand the program to serve patients of other diseases who need extensive after-clinic care, including Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis, and to replicate the program. It can "benefit a lot of people, not just HD patients," he says.

St. Jude's staff members travel across the District, Maryland and Virginia to meet patients where they are and accompany them to medical and therapeutic appointments. They become the communications hub for HD patients' care teams, communicating observations and questions to doctors, and translating complicated medical information to patients. St. Jude's patients and caregivers receive critical emotional support to tackle challenges like depression. A hallmark of St. Jude's TPN model is that it treats caregivers both as a vital member of the care team, but also as a patient who requires special education, support and services.

Before her diagnosis, Liz thought something might be wrong when she noticed one of her hands started shaking involuntarily and she started dropping things while working as a receptionist at a doctor's office. Paul urged her to see a neurologist thinking she might have multiple sclerosis, a theory that was ruled out after three MRIs and a series of other tests. It wasn't until her doctors conducted genetic tests that it was determined Liz had HD, which breaks down nerve cells in the brain and weakens one's physical and mental abilities.

The revelation came as a shock to Liz and her medical team, as HD is exclusively inherited from a parent with the disease. Additional genetic testing revealed that, unbeknownst to him, her father carried the gene, despite never showing symptoms.

Molly Bayer, a graduate student at George Mason University, is the Esquivels' St. Jude's social worker. "She keeps us up to date on what's happening in the HD world," Paul said. "Molly has been a tremendous support to our whole family and is essential to Liz's care team."

Esther Hanson inherited HD from her mother. She showed no symptoms at first and was diagnosed only after undergoing an MRI for an unrelated injury three years ago. Esther, a former professor, is still largely asymptomatic but reports that she tends to drop things and fall occasionally. But, having been a caregiver for her mother for 15 years, Esther witnessed the disease's progression firsthand and understands what she's facing.



ESTHER HANSON

"At the beginning, it was forgetting things and dropping things and not sleeping," Esther said. Then, she had trouble with movement and, eventually, she couldn't eat with a knife and fork.

Esther also has a full care team, including physicians, neurologists, a physical therapist and a mental health professional. She, too, was referred to St. Jude's and Clinical Manager Lindsay Reep to help connect the dots.

"Lindsay is an integral part of my care team," Esther said. "She makes everything connect. She helps us navigate and coordinate everything, eliminating the heavy logistical burden off my family. Without her, I wouldn't be able to function."

Lindsay keeps Esther's family updated with news from her care team and takes her to appointments. Caring



LINDSAY REEP

for her emotional health as much as her physical health, Lindsay also has been Esther's cheerleader and one of her biggest supporters. That has helped with her depression, a symptom of Huntington's.

Lindsay and Esther regularly practice meditations and mood-booster exercises. Lindsay is also Esther's advocate in the HD community; she attends medical conferences and

meetings to learn the latest in HD research and treatments.

"Managing the St. Jude's Project has been an incredible experience," Lindsay said. "Being able to connect families with resources and provide support has been so beneficial to the HD community."

Jack, a graduate of Georgetown University and a retired U.S. Army lieutenant, led a successful career in real estate development in the Washington, D.C., area. He leveraged his professional abilities and success to help others in need through housing and education nonprofits. Upon retirement, he founded the Griffin Foundation and spent 22 years providing leadership and seed funding to deserving nonprofit organizations in our region. The foundation now focuses on "expanding care and outreach to HD patients and families."

With his initial donation of seed funding to establish the St. Jude's Program, Jack has created an innovative model of access to quality, holistic care that extends far beyond the clinic. His philanthropic investment in Catholic Charities has touched and improved numerous HD patients' lives and the lives of their eternally grateful families and caregivers – the home front of patient care. Jack says to continue this legacy of care, adequate funding will be critical to meet the expanding needs.

Despite knowing how the disease will affect their lives in the future, Liz and Esther both say they just want to live in the moment.

"We want to live with our faith in the moment," Liz said. "There is love all around."

*To learn more about this unique program or to discuss ways in which you can support the ongoing work, please contact Chief Development Officer Tara Arras at [tara.arras@cc-dc.org](mailto:tara.arras@cc-dc.org).*

# RELATIONSHIPS BUILT THROUGH ST. JUDE'S REAFFIRMS INTERNS' PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS

St. Jude's Project would not have the positive impact on its clients without the work of the program's graduate students, who provide critical support to patients while gaining valuable real-world experience as interns.

"This program ... provides graduate student interns with a unique learning opportunity," said Lindsay Reep, St. Jude's clinical manager. "It allows students to practice their clinical skills, while increasing their knowledge of community resources and partnerships."

Three students in Master of Social Work programs at The Catholic University of America (CUA), George Mason University (GMU) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) are currently working as part of the St. Jude's Project.



**MOLLY BAYER**

"Having the privilege of engaging, individually, with clients," said Molly Bayer, a graduate intern studying at GMU. "Learning about them, their strengths, their challenges, their families, their abilities — is the biggest reward of working in the St. Jude's Project and pursuing an MSW."

While the students had limited knowledge of Huntington's Disease (HD) and other neurodegenerative diseases when they first joined St. Jude's, they have become well-versed in the complex challenges facing these patients, their caregivers and broader communities.

"This project serves so many people who are often left behind by society," said Michalah Arnold, a CUA graduate student. "When someone receives a diagnosis like

that, it very rarely affects only the diagnosed individual. It forces you to think of different ways that you can help the client, their family and their community so that the individual can achieve a greater level of well-being."

Aiding their clients navigate the physical and emotional tolls of HD during their eight-month assignment has helped these students become skilled, adaptable and compassionate social workers.



**IPHIGENIE LEONARD**

"I wanted to intern at St. Jude's because I wanted to experience working with a different population," said Iphigenie Leonard, who studies at UMB. "The most important thing that I've learned is that this kind of work requires patience when supporting clients."

Resilience is frequently discussed and researched in social work, Molly said. "I have learned — from each of my clients — what resilience looks like in all of its varied forms. I have come to understand that resilience is unique to each individual, involves adaptation and self-motivation, and can be buffered by a supportive community."

Though their work is often challenging, the relationships these students have built with families affected by life-limiting illnesses have reaffirmed their passion for helping others.



**MICHALAH ARNOLD**

"I love seeing the smiles that light up a client's face when we arrive for visits and hearing that they're always happier after talking with us," Michalah recalled about her work. "Watching their lives change when we connect them with a much-needed resource — such as affordable medical equipment, home modification, in-home care, telehealth and housing resources — these are just a few of the moments that remind me how rewarding social work can be."

# WORKING TOGETHER: \$1 MILLION DONATED TO COVID-19 RESPONSE



The Washington community has opened its heart in an extraordinary way to Catholic Charities and embraced its COVID-19 response. As of early May, 1,000 individuals, foundations, corporations and governments have donated an astonishing \$1 million in gifts and pledged commitments to help Catholic Charities meet the unprecedented needs posed by the pandemic.

“Catholic Charities is the provider for so many people who have no place else to go,” President and CEO Msgr. John J. Enzler said. “We’re proud of that fact, and we can be that for many years to come thanks to the support of so many.”

Cash donations have ranged from \$5 to \$100,000 from an array of individuals and organizations. About \$16,000 worth of personal-care and pantry products such as infant formula, soap and shelf-stable food, and grocery gift cards has been donated through an Amazon wish list. A Holy Week Virtual Drive held in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Washington drew gifts from 366 donors totaling \$86,500. On May 5, Do More 24 synced with #GivingTuesdayNow, a global movement for generosity in this unprecedented time of need. This 24-hour campaign resulted in more than \$50,000 in donations, including a generous match from an anonymous donor.

Donations have been put to use almost immediately.

They have benefitted programs across the area, from a men’s shelter in D.C. and a women’s shelter in Southern Maryland to a food pantry in Montgomery County and a food truck in Charles County. And they have reached a diversity of people, from workers in Northwest D.C. and families in Southeast D.C. to seniors in Silver Spring, Md., and school children in Calvert County.

“I am overwhelmed with the support,” Brenda DiCarlo, director of the Southern Maryland Food Bank, said of the donations. “I promise we will support our communities to the best of our ability during this time.”

No one is more grateful than consumers of our services. One called after receiving a grocery gift card from a community support worker. Tearfully, she expressed her appreciation for the gesture and the help of the support worker.

## AMONG THE MANY OTHER DONORS:

- **The A. James and Alice B. Clark Foundation** was a leading donor to support our emergency fund early on. With its generous donation of \$50,000, we can assist individuals and families in underserved neighborhoods, including Wards 7 and 8 in the District.
- **The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbia** donated \$50,000 to support our three food pantries.
- **Cheniere Energy**, long-time volunteers supporting St. Maria’s Meals, provided \$25,000 to help with food distribution.
- **Chef Luigi Diotaiuti** of **Al Tiramisu** restaurant in the District delivers hot meals to McKenna House on Fridays.
- **Ed Treacy**, a local **Domino’s Pizza** franchisee, delivered 250 hot pizzas to clients through the Catholic Charities Center food pantry as part of Domino’s nationwide “Feed the Need” program.
- **World Central Kitchen**, under the leadership of **Chef José Andrés**, arranged for local restaurants to prepare and deliver four hot dinners each week to the 90 residents sheltering in place at Angel’s Watch through the end of June.
- **Coastal Sunbelt Produce** donated multiple pallets of fresh produce to the Southern Maryland Food Bank.
- **Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMEC)** donated 966 pounds of food to the Southern Maryland Food Bank.



ED TREACY



SMEC DONATION

# INSTITUTIONAL GIVING: PARTNERS INVEST IN OUR PROGRAMS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS PLEASED TO HIGHLIGHT RECENT GRANT AWARDS FROM SOME OF OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS.

**The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation** is providing continued funding to help increase access to oral health services at **Catholic Charities' D.C. Dental Clinic** and reduce emergency dental visits in hospitals. The Cafritz Foundation's funding allows the D.C. Dental Clinic to provide dental treatment for low-income, uninsured individuals, encouraging improved dental hygiene, oral health education and screening for other general health indicators. This longstanding support of the D.C. Dental Clinic has allowed Catholic Charities to provide critical dental care and oral health education to thousands of individuals.

**Catholic Charities' Choice Food Pantry** provides nutritious food to low-income individuals and addresses food insecurity in underserved communities in Montgomery County. Funding from the **William S. Abell Foundation** enables Catholic Charities to buy food that provides more variety and nutritional choices to our clients. In addition, we will offer holiday food packages and emergency grocery gift cards to those in need.

Additional generous grant funding from the **William S. Abell Foundation** will support **Catholic Charities' Angel's Watch Shelter**, a source of safety and new beginnings for single women and families experiencing homelessness in Southern Maryland. Since moving into a new facility, the shelter is serving an increased number of adults and children. As our participants work to secure permanent housing and regain their self-sufficiency, Angel's Watch alleviates the burdens of hunger and food insecurity by providing meals and food. Funding from the William S. Abell Foundation will ensure that Angel's Watch can provide staple food items for about 100 participants each month.

Catholic Charities is pleased to continue a successful partnership with **Exelon/Pepco** to support meal programs and legal services in the coming fiscal year. Exelon/Pepco employees volunteer throughout the year at **St. Maria's Meals** and supported an inaugural sponsorship of the program's bikes, which distribute meals in the community. Catholic Charities' annual **Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless** is hosted at Pepco's Edison Gallery.

**Exelon/Pepco** also has awarded continued funding to the **Catholic Charities Legal Network** to support legal assistance with employment, family law, debt and bankruptcy, landlord/tenant law, public entitlements, and will and probate matters. The legal network lowers barriers

Bernadette Antoon and Catherine McCafferty of Catholic Charities attended a grantee orientation



hosted by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Catholic Charities is honored to have been selected as one of 20 organizations receiving a Community Grant from the AAMC this year. The AAMC's generous

support will allow Catholic Charities to provide free vaccines to D.C. residents receiving treatment at our medical clinic. The funds are also helping to cover the cost of personal protective equipment for our medical staff during the COVID-19 crisis. Shown with them is Dr. David J. Skorton, president and CEO of AAMC.

to legal assistance for low-income individuals and educates the community with high-impact legal education seminars.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRITICAL COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING:

Anonymous  
William S. Abell Foundation  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Bank of America Foundation  
BB&T/Truist  
Catholic Charities USA  
Capital One  
Charles County Charitable Trust  
Charles County Regional Medical Center  
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FGS Company  
Georgetown Visitation  
The Griffin Family Foundation  
Mission & Ministry Impact  
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Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Share Our Strength No Kid Hungry  
Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus  
Waldorf Toyota  
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# UNTIL WE GATHER AGAIN, OUR THANKS FOR STANDING BY US



The 2020 Catholic Charities Gala did not go on as planned because of the public health emergency. But sponsors and donors remained committed to our largest fundraiser of the year, thanks to the goodness of our community.

We extend our gratitude to the gala chairs, executive committee and 83.33 Society, who worked diligently to plan an event that would celebrate Catholic Charities' assistance to those in need. And we thank our sponsors — those individuals, companies, foundations and others who stood by Catholic Charities even as the gala was not held.

Because of the pandemic, we had to make the heartbreaking decision not to hold the gala on April 4. Our main priority is, and always will be, the health and safety of all those connected to the agency – clients, staff, volunteers and donors.

While we were unable to gather for what would have been the 35th annual gala this spring, we look forward to the next time we all can be together.

In the meantime, our work is more important than ever, and we will be able to tackle these new challenges together.

We are grateful to the top gala sponsors:

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Archdiocese of Washington

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## BEVERAGE UNDERWRITERS

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## DECORATIONS UNDERWRITER

Perfect Settings

# INSPIRATIONAL VOLUNTEERS HONORED WITH CARITAS! AWARDS

TWO EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN HONORED WITH SPECIAL AWARDS AS PART OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES' CARITAS! RECOGNITION PROGRAM.



KATHLEEN MCGUAN

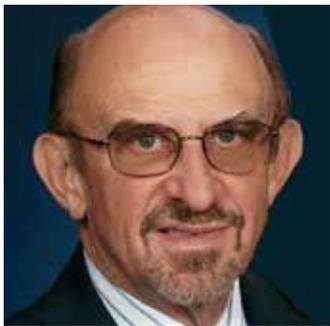
Kathleen McGuan, a volunteer with Immigration Legal Services, is the recipient of the Father John O'Connor Award, and Joe Weiss, a Dorothy Day Place volunteer, was presented with the Msgr. Geno Baroni Award.

The annual Caritas! awards honor inspirational volunteers who embody the mission of Catholic Charities and touch the lives of the people in our care. Honorees are selected from among those nominated by Catholic Charities staff.

The Father John O'Connor Award is given to a group or an individual who has shown exemplary leadership and service for the poor and outcast.

Kathleen, the recipient, has been a volunteer attorney with Immigration Legal Services (ILS) for more than 2 ½ years. "Kathleen has demonstrated an understanding of the needs of ILS clients and ILS staff and has helped in every way possible during her time as a volunteer," said Jennifer Bibby-Gerth, ILS senior managing attorney. "She is also willing to help with any matter that comes up at the last minute."

The Msgr. Geno Baroni Award is given to an individual who has been a strong advocate for the oppressed through his or her activities in the archdiocesan community.



JOE WEISS

Joe, the recipient, has volunteered with Dorothy Day Place for more than six years, providing donations for clients' emergency needs. "Joe uses his own resources and time to provide food and clothing to clients who are in dire need of this support. He responds to these urgent calls without hesitation," says Henry Stemler, social work manager at Dorothy Day Place. "This has brought significant comfort to clients displaced by homelessness."

In addition to these two outstanding volunteers, four other volunteers were recognized for their contributions: Marissa McKeever, who volunteers with the Health Care Network; Mary Lu Carnevale from the SHARE Food Network; Ethan Bishop from the Volunteer Engagement Office and HOPE Corps; and Valerie Johnson from the Housing and Homelessness Services Department.

Catholic Charities also acknowledged the longtime service contributions of three volunteers, who, after years of service, are retiring from their roles: Dr. Robert Donahue, Dr. Elvira (Mimi) Bonilla and Ines Campusano.

In past years, a Caritas! event has been held in April, gathering together about 150 volunteers and staff members for a celebration of volunteerism. Because of the health crisis, this year's event has been postponed. Nevertheless, all the award recipients receive our hearty congratulations and thanks for lending their hands and hearts to the mission of Catholic Charities.



## A CAPITALS EXPERIENCE

Donors mingled at a March 4 Washington Capitals game, an experience generously provided by a longtime friend of Catholic Charities. It was an enjoyable evening, despite the Caps' 5-2 loss to the Philadelphia Flyers. Said Tom Wilbur, "It was such a special treat to gather with Father John and fellow supporters of Catholic Charities to cheer on a hometown team."

# VOLUNTEERISM



## COATS OF MANY COLORS CLOTHE MANY

Hundreds of pieces of winter gear for children, women and men were donated to Catholic Charities' Coats of Many Colors Drive. In late January, the gear was sorted, displayed and given out to more than 60 people by about 20 volunteers, including groups from the Junior League of Washington and Women of Lyn, at St. Francis Xavier Church. It was the second giveaway of the cold-weather season, as a similar event in November benefitted about 200 people.



## VOLUNTEERS FUEL THE FOOD PIPELINE

Even before the coronavirus emergency, there was a real and regular need for food assistance. In February, before the suspension of volunteer activities, dozens of volunteers ensured two Catholic Charities programs — the SHARE Food Network and Cup of Joe — were successful in their mission. Volunteers supporting SHARE repackaged potatoes and chicken into smaller quantities for distribution. Among the volunteers were groups from the local Top Teens of America organization, which is affiliated with Top Ladies of Distinction, and Young Marines of Oxon Hill, Md. Following the SHARE activity, 43 other volunteers packaged 2,000 Cup of Joe snack packs, which were distributed the following week to people leaving homeless shelters. The volunteers included families, members of the St. Matthias the Apostle youth group and members of Women of Lyn. Among them were Nick and Ellie, an engaged couple, who sought out a volunteer activity for Valentine's Day weekend. It was their first time volunteering with Catholic Charities.



## LORAS COLLEGE ALUMNUS HOSTS IOWA VOLUNTEERS

Catholic Charities' Father John Enzler was thrilled to see athletes from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa — his alma mater — contribute to Catholic Charities' work serving the poor during their visit to Washington, D.C. The men's volleyball team, which was visiting the nation's capital for a tournament, packed Cup of Joe breakfast bags that are distributed to those leaving homeless shelters each morning. The volunteer activity gave the athletes a chance to do community service and bond as a team.



NICK & ELLIE

# How You Can Volunteer

CATHOLICCHARITIESDC.ORG/VOLUNTEER

## ASKING FOR SEWN FACE COVERINGS:

Do you have these things already in your home: a sewing machine, cloth and elastic, a printer, an envelope or box, and a couple dollars to pay for shipping? If so, we need your help. Please consider sewing cloth face coverings for our staff members working at homeless shelters and food distribution programs and for homeless shelter residents. With your help and generosity, we can continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to keep our community safe. We are not able to find surgical masks to purchase, so we are turning to you, our talented supporters. For details, visit <https://bit.ly/2ydVokQ>.

## CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS:

We are on a mission to eventually host knitting and crochet nights at two of our women's shelters. These therapeutic art activities will help promote a sense of community at the shelters and aid residents' overall mental health. We are looking for volunteers to lead sessions once a month for at least three months and to make donations to help kickstart the knitting or crocheting groups. For more information, please contact Nadia Cisneros at [Nadia.Cisneros@cc-dc.org](mailto:Nadia.Cisneros@cc-dc.org).

## SEEKING PRO BONO ATTORNEYS:

If you are a barred attorney, become a volunteer for Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Service (ILS) or Catholic Charities Legal Network (CCLN). ILS focuses on the provision of direct legal immigration services to foreign-born individuals and their families, trains lawyers to provide pro bono services and educates community groups on the latest immigration issues. CCLN provides legal services for civil cases on a range of issues, including child custody and visitation, consumer and bankruptcy cases, employment and discrimination cases, landlord-tenant and home foreclosure cases, public entitlement cases, wills, estate and advanced medical directives. Volunteers must be in good standing with the District and/or Maryland bar associations. For information and to sign up, visit <http://bttr.im/udfxs>.

## SEEKING FINANCIAL MENTORS:

The Financial Stability Network provides pro bono financial services to those who otherwise would not have access to financial education and mentoring. Mentors act as coaches to low- and moderate-income individuals, assisting them in achieving their financial goals. Volunteers meet with clients once a month for about an hour-long coaching session. For information and to sign up, visit <http://bttr.im/3iwac>.



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