



GIVING BACK

INSIDE: FOOD HELP | SUMMER SERVICE | BACK TO SCHOOL

SUMMER 2021

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD



Time flies when you're having fun! I must be having fun because it is hard to believe that I started in my current role at Catholic Charities 10 years ago this summer. The days are not always easy — in fact, sometimes they are quite stressful — but I have had a great decade of fun and fulfillment helping serve those in need.

I came to Catholic Charities after more than 20 years as a pastor in three parishes, which I absolutely loved. A friend told me at the time, "You are now pastor to the poor." I believe he was exactly right. I may not be a pastor in a geographic parish, but I do feel like one in a demographic parish.

For the last decade, I have given my all to shepherd and assist those who are most vulnerable and in need. If serving the vulnerable and needy becomes your vocation or a part of your life, I promise you will be as happy as you can imagine helping those who come your way.

I love to sit down and talk with those who are struggling with life's difficulties, to look them in the eye and listen to their heart. My knowledge of the poor and the vulnerable comes less from studies and research and more from personal experience in a shelter, a food line, and any number of our 56 programs.

I am extremely grateful for the superb staff I have at Catholic Charities. They are talented, gifted and dedicated in so many ways. Our executive team does the heavy lifting, allowing me — and the rest of the agency — to concentrate on service.

Thanks to them, my job has changed through the years. I now focus on four main priorities. One is spending as much

YOUTH DRAW ON ART NIGHTS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES

By Alex Gangitano and Margaret Crilley



Earlier this year, the **Enzler Society** launched a monthly paint night series for the clients at Catholic Charities' Youth Transitional Program (YTP), a transitional shelter for college-aged men. Paint night is led by local artist and Maryland native, **Kasey O'Boyle**, who teaches visual art at the Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac.

When approached to lead the sessions on behalf of the Enzler Society, O'Boyle was quick to get involved.

"When asked if I would teach the youth at YTP, I automatically said yes, and I think God compelled me. For me, making art has led to a wonderful career and beautiful life, and I believe my talent and knowledge are gifts that God wants me to share," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

personal time as I can with those in need — those who need a word of encouragement, a friendly ear, a hand up or a heartfelt prayer.

I am also challenged to set the vision for the agency, to make sure we stay on track with our Catholic faith and our call to live that faith as best we can by serving all who come our way, regardless of race, religion, gender, or anything else.

Along those lines, I am called to find resources, which primarily include money to keep our programs operating and dedicated people to make it all happen. We try hard to

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

OUR COMMUNITY.
OUR COMMITMENT. OUR LEGACY.



OUR COMMUNITY.
OUR COMMITMENT.
OUR LEGACY.

IMMENSELY GRATEFUL

We can't thank you enough for your gifts to the campaign.
We extend our sincere appreciation to

CAMPAIGN CHAIRS | CAMPAIGN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MANY INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS
FOUNDATIONS AND BUSINESSES
THE LEADERSHIP TEAM AND EMPLOYEES OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

With your support, we can sustain the essential programs and services
of Catholic Charities for years to come.

There's still time to give to Catholic Charities' campaign before
it wraps up at the end of the summer.

Visit catholiccharitiesdc.org/ourcampaign
to learn how your gift matters and to donate.

Campaign@cc-dc.org

OUR COMMUNITY.

OUR COMMITMENT. OUR LEGACY.

SERVICE EXCELLENCE: PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

COMMUNITY GIVEAWAYS BRING FOOD WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST

By Thomas Canary, Summer 2021 Intern, University of Maryland



On a recent summer afternoon, a dozen volunteers braved 100-degree heat to distribute 250 boxes of food, each representing a week's worth of meals, to those in need in the community surrounding **St. Michael the Archangel** Parish in Silver Spring.

Many in our area struggle to have enough food, a situation made worse by the pandemic. Ninety percent of respondents to a new Capital Area Food Bank Hunger Report say their food insecurity is directly related to the pandemic.

Since January, we have worked closely with communities such as apartment complexes and churches like St. Michael the Archangel to make much-needed food more accessible, particularly to those without access to a vehicle.

Joe Dempsey, director of special projects, says: "We can bring food right where we know it is needed. We can drop food off in the community room of an apartment complex or senior assisted living facility, and residents can take the elevator down and pick their food up right there."

This direct approach allows Catholic Charities to connect with a facility's staff and residents, assess their needs, and find ways to fulfill those needs on a regular basis.

What makes Catholic Charities' food assistance different from other giveaways is the food itself. Fruits and vegetables are distributed in 10-pound boxes. Frozen protein items such as fish, poultry and sausage are handed out in plastic bags. Precooked meals made by our KitchenWork program feed a family of four.

Receiving this fresh, nutritious food makes a difference to those being served.

Lisa Taylor, chair of the St. Michael the Archangel Parish council, says having access to food is important to her community. "We have about 60 percent of our parishioners who are lower income, so we appreciate the need that they have. We should, as brothers and sisters in Christ, continue to serve and help those who cannot help themselves."

Members of the parish certainly took this message to heart, giving their time and energy to help facilitate the recent distribution.

Catholic Charities' distributions are not exclusive to parishioners or community members. Anyone in need can come and receive food. Signs, social media posts and more were used to advertise the St. Michael the Archangel distribution event to the greater Silver Spring area, bringing in community members by car and by foot. A group of construction workers working on the sidewalk across the street even came by after their shift to bring food back to their loved ones, a symbol of the power that food has to bring people together and build unity.



Community food distributions are funded through the summer thanks to the support of the **City of Gaithersburg, Seneca Creek Church, Holy Trinity Parish, Brookfield Properties, Montgomery Housing Partners, Amerigroup Insurance and Total Wine & More**. With additional financial support, Catholic Charities can keep them going beyond September, which will be important because the pandemic and its related food insecurity are not going to end immediately.



OUR COMMUNITY.

OUR COMMITMENT. OUR LEGACY.

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR START OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT KENNEDY



Students and teachers at the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute have Sept. 7 marked on their calendar. On that special day, the Kennedy School reopens for in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year.

The school for children and young adults with developmental

disabilities suspended its in-person learning in March 2020 when the pandemic hit.

“Students, staff, parents and guardians have all expressed their enthusiasm for opening day, as it has been a very long 1½ years,” Principal Dr. Cheryll James says. “All are ready to get back to in-person learning and those face-to-face connections.”

While the pandemic has been a tragic event, it moved the school to be “creative in developing and implementing different approaches to learning, engagement and working toward common goals,” James says.

In the last year, classes and related services were continued remotely after the school adopted online learning platforms. Home visits to students were increased to support engagement in learning, and mandatory meetings with parents were held online.

“Let us just say that we tapped into our creativity to make things happen,” James says.



The school worked closely with the leadership of Catholic Charities, local educational agencies, D.C. government and community partnerships during this unprecedented time to ensure students had technology and curriculum materials and parents had access to information and resources.

Many of the new approaches to learning adopted during the pandemic will continue. “The pandemic truly forced us to come together as a village to be successful in supporting our students and each other,” she says.

One highlight of the past academic year was 2021 graduation, when a beautiful ceremony on the campus of The Catholic University of America was held for three graduates.

“The three, along with all the other Kennedy students, persevered and overcame numerous obstacles during this pandemic,” James says. “It was the perfect day, and I am not sure who was prouder — the graduates, their families, the staff or Catholic Charities’ leadership team members — as all were beaming with pride.”

2021

Sept 10: In the Name of the Mother Golf Outing

Blue Mash Golf Course

5821 Olney Laytonsville Rd., Laytonsville, MD 20882

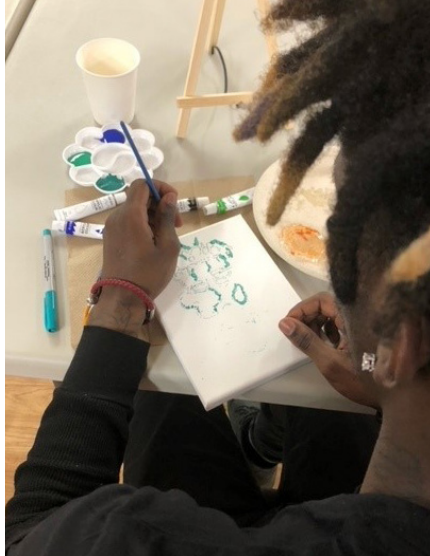
In honor of his late wife Megan McConville, former Catholic Charities board member Kevin McConville established this event to provide financial support to mothers diagnosed with cancer. Please join us for a fun day of golf while supporting a great cause!

For more information on sponsoring or attending, please contact Kimani Superville. at: Kimani.Superville@cc-dc.org or visit catholiccharitiesdc.org/event/inmgolf.



ART NIGHTS CREATE SAFE SPACE FOR YOUTH TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



O'Boyle has inspired the youth to express themselves through art, which has proven to be a form of therapy for the clients in the program. Especially after living in the shelter through the COVID-19 pandemic, art therapy has been a critical outlet for them.

"As much as this work is about the art, it's hopefully also about human connection," O'Boyle said. "I decided

to go [to the shelter] in person because I wanted to be really present, with them and for them. When you make art, you can experience a range of emotions: frustration, elation, confusion, pride. And letting others in on what you're feeling can be a vulnerable process that requires trust. That's why it's important for me to be there in person."

Thanks to generous donations from members, families and friends, the Enzler Society is able to provide all required art supplies, as well as dinner, for the clients. Anyone who wishes to donate can contribute \$30 to sponsor a YTP client to participate in a paint night session.

Paola Flores, program manager at YTP, has been thrilled with the program, and she sees firsthand how the clients have embraced these sessions.

"Art therapy is a sense of self-expression. I believe in the ability of connecting self with healing through creative freedom," Flores said. "The clients we serve have a lot of traumas that they faced at an early age. The clients enjoy this time to express themselves differently — creating something, as well as working on their inner healing. Art has a special way of reminding us that there is beauty in life even during the darkest hour."

The clients at YTP have painted everything from the Washington, D.C., flag and scenes of nature to abstract art and color shapes.

Sheldon Smith, a YTP client, said he likes art therapy because painting soothes him. He painted a planet on one of the paint nights because it fell on Earth Day.

"I felt relaxed while painting, as I always do, but it felt good to paint with the other guys so that maybe they'll feel relaxed, too," he said.

Another client, Delonte Walls, said that art therapy allowed him to express himself.



"I painted a blue broken heart because, at the time, that's how I was feeling, I was feeling kind of sad, but I'm not in that place anymore so the next session I'll paint something different," he said.

It's been so wonderful hearing about how the clients can express themselves and cope with their feelings through these paint nights. O'Boyle and the Enzler Society overall are eager to see what future paint nights can bring to the YTP clients.



"Ultimately, I hope that art making creates a safe space for the youth to experiment, make mistakes, feel pride, and feel God's love," O'Boyle said.

Please reach out to the Enzler Society if you would like to donate to a future paint night by emailing EnzlerSociety@cc-dc.org. We appreciate your support.

(Alex Gangitano and Margaret Crilley are among co-chairs of the Enzler Society, a group of young professionals who raise awareness of Catholic Charities' mission through volunteer services and community networking.)

CCLN SUPPORTERS TAKE TO THE COURTS



Supporters of Catholic Charities Legal Network took the courts — tennis courts, that is — in June to celebrate and support the Legal Network’s pro bono civil legal services for the poor. Thank you to tournament chairs **Kristen Billings** and **Courtney Carroccio** and to the dozens of players who showed their support on tennis and pickleball courts around the DMV during this year’s **Tennis and Pickleball Tournament**.

CORPORATE SERVICE PROJECT FILLS THE FOOD VOID



Employees at the **American Public Power Association** assembled almost 500 Cup of Joe breakfast bags during a community service project in June. Cup of Joe provides important nutrition to the 1,500 men and women who stay in homeless shelters each night and others experiencing food insecurity. For information about how your organization can help address hunger, visit <https://bit.ly/3dWbkKo>.

8TH GRADE CLASS MAKES DONATION

We like the creativity that champions of Catholic Charities bring to their support. Before members of the 8th grade at **Our Lady of Mercy School** graduated, they sent us a generous donation. What was the origin of the donation? A “free dress” fundraiser. Just like these young supporters, we’ve always liked free-dress day!



83.33 SOCIETY WELCOMES SUMMER WITH PICNIC

“Trust in God that he is doing something through you.” That was **Father Mark Ivany’s** message to members of the 83.33 Society and their families, as they gathered in mid-June for a Mass and family picnic. 83.33 is a Catholic

Charities giving society for young professionals. Its gathering at the Carderock Recreation Area in Maryland was its first since Father Ivany was named the group’s chaplain. During

Mass, he read from the parable of the mustard seed and offered prayers for those who work with the poor and those who support them. 83.33 Society founding chairs **Caitlin Chalke** and **Matt Carroccio** spoke to the group about its upcoming activities and volunteer events. To learn more about the 83.33 Society, visit <https://bit.ly/3i0jEuV>.



2021

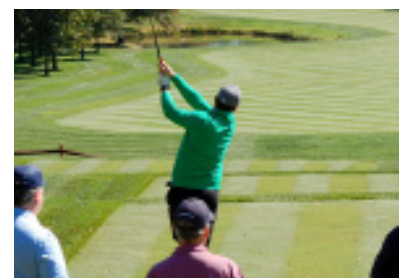
Sept 28: Catholic Charities Legal Network 18th Annual Golf Tournament

Westfields Golf Club

13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton, VA 20124

Catholic Charities Legal Network will host its 18th annual Golf Tournament at Westfields Golf Club in Clifton, Va. Join us for a round of golf while enjoying food and drink.

For more information on sponsoring the event or attending, please contact Jim Bishop at James.Bishop@cc-dc.org or visit catholiccharitiesdc.org/CCLN-Golf.



AROUND THE AGENCY

INTERNSHIPS ALLOW STUDENTS TO APPLY EDUCATION TO REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES WHILE SERVING OTHERS

By Thomas Canary, Summer 2021 Intern, University of Maryland

Each year, thousands of people volunteer with Catholic Charities, from spending a few hours packaging food with a scout group to taking on multiple legal cases pro bono. But there is one group that serves in yet a different way: interns.

This summer, 19 undergrads or recent graduates are volunteering as interns across 12 programs at Catholic Charities. Each is gaining experience and knowledge in a field that interests them while also making significant contributions to the agency's mission of serving those most in need.

Like so many other things, the internship program was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most interns are working partially or entirely virtually. While many live in the Washington, D.C., area, some have taken advantage of the virtual nature of the internship and are serving from places across the country.

Natalie Eilerman is from Knoxville, Tenn., and studies at the University of Dayton in Ohio, but she ended up with Catholic Charities through an employee who is a Dayton alum. Eilerman is interested in a career in social work, so her time with the Family Rehousing Stabilization Program (FRSP) is relevant to her goals. FRSP helps families living in shelters to find housing and continues to work directly with them to achieve independence.

For her biggest and most impactful project this summer, Eilerman has "been working on a big Excel spreadsheet with a lot of affordable or low-income rentals in D.C. I have been getting in contact with properties and landlords to help our case workers and social workers in the future." These

connections will speed up the process of helping families to reestablish themselves and find permanent residences.

Kendra Blandon is spending her summer with Immigration Legal Services (ILS). In addition to the behind-the-scenes work that might be typical of an intern, such as drafting immigration forms, she has had the opportunity to directly serve several clients.



Interns include (from left) Thomas Canary, Marion Delaney, Natalie Eilerman and Chris Scott

Blandon is fluent in Spanish and English, so she has played a critical role in helping ILS attorneys to translate evidence and other important information. She conducted interviews with one client, helping her to prepare an asylum affidavit.

A law student at Georgetown University, Blandon is helping to prepare a brief for another client who has a unique set of circumstances — a case she finds particularly interesting and challenging. Although the internship will be over by the time

the case goes to court in November, Blandon will have the opportunity to come back, join her collaborators and see the results of her hard work in action.



She is thankful for the opportunities and is excited that her department "wants to know how they can keep me involved and follow up on projects that I have spent so much time on."

Christopher Scott is also with ILS. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, he has an interest in immigration public policy, so he has found his work this summer to be enjoyable and beneficial. He has done interlingual interpretation work for an attorney and client as well

as operate ILS's busy intake phone line, which he says was "a challenging experience, but very rewarding because I had the opportunity to engage directly with potential clients."

Scott says, "The work my coworkers and I are doing has a major impact on our clients' lives." Often, though, those who serve with Catholic Charities find that they have grown and benefitted from their service just as much as their clients have, and the summer interns can attest to that.

INTERNSHIPS ALLOW STUDENTS TO SERVE OTHERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

He says he “gets a very strong sense of satisfaction from the work that I’m doing and the impact I’m having. I’m so grateful that I can help other people in such a profound way.”

Of course, every Catholic Charities intern knows that the experience would not be complete without significant involvement from the program’s supervisor. Sandra Maciuba, quality assurance manager for Adult and Children Clinical Services, oversees two interns this summer: **Jie Chen**, an accounting master’s student at the University of Maryland, and **Catalina DeSouza**, a public health student at George Washington University.

Maciuba says the work done by the interns is vital to her program and directly benefits its clients. In addition, interns are “a breath of fresh air,” she says. “They bring different and new experiences and help us to try new things.” An internship with Catholic Charities gives students an opportunity to take their education and apply it to real-life experiences, all while doing important work and serving those most in need.

(Thomas Canary is a senior in the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland. A marketing and management major, he is a communications intern.)



GETTING OUR AREA VACCINATED

With getting shots into arms an essential tool in battling COVID-19, Catholic Charities’ medical staff did extensive outreach to clients across the area to ensure everyone

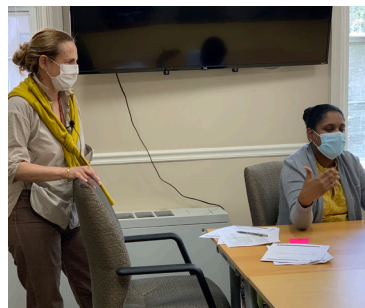
who wanted to get vaccinated had access to a vaccine. In an educational video and a slideshow produced as an encouragement, medical staff members talked about why they chose to get vaccinated. Five vaccination clinics were held at our Anchor location and Spanish Catholic Center in D.C., and vaccinations also were given at the Catholic Charities Center in Silver Spring. This public health effort began in mid-May with two volunteer nurse practitioners helping to administer the vaccine at the first clinic. With our allotment of vaccines now used, no additional clinics are currently being planned.



GROWING AN AWARENESS OF HEALTHY EATING

A new project from the Southern Maryland Food Bank — Plant It Forward — encourages individuals and families facing food insecurity to learn to grow fruits and vegetables. Funded by a generous donation from the **Wills Group**,

the initiative is giving out 150 garden kits that include pots, a window box, soil, a watering can, compost, a trowel, vegetable seeds, and strawberry, cherry tomato and green pepper plants. To inspire would-be gardeners, the food bank provides a demo and tutorials from the **University of Maryland Extension**. After completing an introductory workshop, recipients become members of the Southern Maryland Food Bank’s Garden and Recipe Club, where they receive healthy recipes and support one another’s gardening efforts.



MAKING JOB INTRODUCTIONS

By turning to remote learning, Catholic Charities’ job training and educational programs continued to prepare people for employment during the pandemic. In late spring,

we hosted interviews with **Green JobWorks LLC** for a dozen participants in our training programs. By offering an introduction to an employer at Catholic Charities’ location in Northwest D.C., we simplified the application process for people eager to get to work and expedited hiring for a company seeking to find warehouse workers, delivery drivers, construction workers and others. Additional job fairs are planned.

OFFERING FREE DENTAL CARE AT MISSION OF MERCY

Through the years, the Mission of Mercy has provided free dental care to thousands of adults in need. Because of COVID-19 health considerations, this year’s Mission of Mercy will take the form of 10 one-day dental clinics. The free services will take place monthly at our three dental facilities, with the first clinics on Sept. 18 at the Catholic Charities Center in Silver Spring, Oct. 16 at the Susan Denison Mona Center in Temple Hills and Nov. 20 at the Spanish Catholic Center in Northwest D.C. The services of volunteer dental professionals will be needed, as will volunteers to serve as greeters and interpreters. To find how you can help, email MOM@cc-dc.org or visit <http://bttr.im/xzc6g> for details.

DEACON CANDIDATES SPEND THE SUMMER IN SERVICE 'SEEING GOD IN OTHERS'

Two men preparing to become permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of Washington are volunteering in summer service projects with Catholic Charities, one teaching English as a second language and the other serving dinner and hosting trivia contests for those residing at Adam's Place Shelter.

The two are among dozens of deacon candidates who have contributed to Catholic Charities programs over the years, as three summers of ministry work are required during the five-year deacon formation.

"Deacon candidates are a welcomed addition to our cadre of volunteers," says Maggie O'Neill, director of Volunteer Engagement. "We appreciate their dedication. I love hearing from them that, through summer ministry, they have gained an appreciation for the life experiences of the people accessing services at Catholic Charities."

Summer ministry is an important part of a deacon's formation, especially for those who have no experience in social services, says **Joe Petrizzo**, one of nine men ordained permanent deacons in June. Petrizzo, now a deacon at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Silver Spring, volunteered with Catholic Charities for two summers. "It broadens your perspective," he says.

Last summer, he spent the pandemic organizing food for distribution to the hundreds of people who lined up regularly at the Catholic Charities Center pantry in Silver Spring. Because of COVID-19, he worked behind the scenes with staff, whom he found to be welcoming, energetic and, above all, dedicated to clients.

A longtime social worker, Petrizzo once lived in community with the Franciscan Conventual Friars. Now the director of behavioral health at Holy Cross Hospital, he says summer ministry serving the vulnerable brought him back to his roots of being in service to others.



Joe Petrizzo and his wife, Mary, at St. John the Evangelist Church

In 2019, he spent two nights a week at Catholic Charities' New York Avenue Men's Shelter giving out dinner, delivering mail and talking with the men. "Just listening to some of the guys and letting them tell their story and not judging them and being present. I really valued that."

Not far from Capitol Hill, the shelter is in the shadow of power brokers and those of means. "And then you have the guys who have nothing or almost nothing who are living in the homeless shelter," he says.

He encountered men with mental illness and substance abuse and a few who just didn't want to be helped. But "they're survivors," he says of those he met. "You have to have skills to survive."

The real value of service, he notes, is "just being able to see God in others."



SAVING SMILES WITH THE HELP OF SPECIALISTS

Dental staff members teamed up with **RCT Endodontics** for a "Save-a-Smile" event on May 15 that provided critical endodontic treatments for people in need. Dr. Lucciola Lambruschini, director of Catholic Charities' dental program, says, "Many of our low-income patients decide to risk losing their teeth or go to an unlicensed clinic instead of coming forward for professional root canal treatment." Our providers, Dr. Nasser Nazemzadeh and Dr. James Garner, along with dental assistants Carolina Chauca, Karina Flores and Yolanda Torres, sterilization techs and the non-clinical team came together with the dental practice for a day of service that provided 22 root canals and \$36,277 in total donated treatments. All patients were appreciative, but one — a new mother — stood out because of the relief two root canals had on her health and well-being. The next endodontics day will be held this fall and hosted by **Dr. Kim Menhinick** of Advanced Endodontics Associates. Dr. Menhinick, a pro bono volunteer, was recently presented with the Committee Member of the Year Award from the District of Columbia Dental Society.

DINNER DELIVERY ALLOWS VOLUNTEERS TO CONTINUE TO SERVE DURING PANDEMIC

By Thomas Canary, Summer 2021 Intern, University of Maryland

Food delivery took off during the pandemic, as people looked for ways to stay socially distant. It also helped a volunteer activity at Catholic Charities thrive at a time when few other volunteer opportunities could.

Dorothy Day Place is a transitional housing program for men and women in Rockville that helps those who previously experienced homelessness to find and prepare for life with a permanent residence. In addition to shelter and valuable resources to help secure housing, residents of Dorothy Day Place are given daily breakfast and dinner.

For many years, volunteers have helped to provide residents some dinners. But since early 2020, dinners for those staying at the shelter have been cooked and delivered almost entirely by volunteers thanks to a concerted effort to generate volunteer support.

Volunteers sign up ahead of time to provide 20 dinners for a particular date. They then prepare the food and deliver it to Dorothy Day Place during the day. At dinnertime, staff members heat up and serve the food.

Because dinners can be delivered without contact, the program became one opportunity for volunteers to continue serving despite the restrictions of the pandemic.

Kenny Swift is an administrative assistant at Dorothy Day Place who, among other things, helps to coordinate the dinner donation program. He understands just how important it is to have this volunteer activity in place. "The cost savings are important," he says.

Swift also thinks there is a benefit to those who give their time and effort to provide food. "People get a chance to participate," he says. "They get an understanding of how they can share what they have in their own lives with those who are struggling at the moment."

One volunteer who has given more time than most is **Mary Jane Reese**. Now a mother of five, Reese has been involved with Dorothy Day Place since college, giving her time and talents in various capacities over the years. Recently, prior to COVID-19, she helped to organize a monthly game night for the residents. When that became impossible, she sought out another way to help.



Working with Dorothy Day Place staff and another volunteer, **Suzanne Krudys**, Reese played an instrumental role in bringing about the current iteration of the meal donation program. Together, Reese and Krudys revamped the scheduling system, reached out to past volunteers, and ensured that a consistent supply of dinners would be brought in to feed the residents. She continues to reach out to potential donors, and she serves as a contact point for those looking to help.

Reese found that operating an ongoing volunteer program during COVID-19 brought both benefits and challenges. The ability to give back in a safe and socially distant way was a great outlet for those who volunteer and donate regularly, as well as for those who wanted to do what they could to contribute in a time of need.

At the same time, though, she notes that "a lot of people miss the interaction. You aren't serving meals and talking to clients. Not being able to see that is difficult." Whether or not the interactions are direct, though, the significant positive impact these donors have on the lives of those at Dorothy Day Place is undeniable.

Swift is grateful for the work Reese has done and says that the best way to help is to visit <https://bit.ly/2UpMEDu> and sign up to provide a dinner like a casserole or pasta dish on an upcoming day.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR ONGOING ROLES

The Volunteer Engagement Office has begun recruiting caring individuals for ongoing volunteer roles. If you're interested in learning how you can make a difference by donating your time, please join us for a virtual open house via Zoom from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 30. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3B9DdIN>. Ongoing roles require a weekly commitment to service over the course of a year. New opportunities are available for volunteer fitness instructor, barber, job coach, CPR trainer, interpreter and leadership development specialist. Ongoing volunteer roles require an application, a conversation with program staff about expectations, and orientation and training. For more information and to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/3kt258G>.

INSTITUTIONAL GIVING: PARTNERS INVEST IN OUR PROGRAMS

SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Child Development Center in Washington received COVID relief funds to help offset revenue shortfalls that resulted from reduced capacity during the pandemic. **The DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education** partnered with the **Low-Income Investment Fund**, a national Community Development Financial Institution, to disburse grant funds. The Office of the State Superintendent also supplied the Child Development Center with essential personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the pandemic.

The Maryland State Department of Education awarded grant funds in support of the Community Companions program in Montgomery County. The state department's **Childcare Relief Fund** helped providers offset the costs of reduced capacity and essential supplies such as PPE. Catholic Charities, which reopened the Community Companions classrooms in March 2021, is very grateful this funding is helping us sustain one of our hallmark Kennedy Institute programs.

SUPPORTING SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mission and Ministry Impact, a long-standing supporter of the Trafficking Victims Assistance Program, has awarded Catholic Charities a generous grant award in continued funding. The assistance program serves 40 clients across the D.C. area as they work to reestablish their lives and

strengthen their economic and emotional stability. We assist with their basic needs such as food, clothing and housing, which allow survivors to build a stable foundation on which they take the next steps to secure employment and build healthy relationships. Support from Mission and Ministry Impact will address ongoing program needs beyond our current funding sources and provide a continuous spectrum of trauma-informed and victim-centered services.

IN OTHER INSTITUTIONAL GIVING

The Sisters of the Holy Cross have awarded funding to support the Newcomer Network, allowing it to provide bilingual, culturally competent counseling services to immigrants dealing with the effects of trauma.

Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development awarded our medical clinics a **Community Development Block Grant** to help support the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This funding will help our medical clinic staff serve 800 low-income, uninsured Prince George's County residents each year during a two-year grant period. ... **The Raskob Foundation** has awarded the Spanish Catholic Center

a grant to help cover costs for our continued biweekly distribution of grocery packages and bagged lunches, as well as van rental and driver expenses. ... **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

renewed an annual grant for the Rapid Rehousing program in Montgomery County, which provides rental assistance and comprehensive case-management services for those experiencing homelessness.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS DONORS THAT HAVE COMMITTED CRITICAL COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING:

- William S. Abell Foundation
- Albertsons Companies Foundation
- Anima Christi Retreats
- Anonymus
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Bank of America Foundation
- BB&T/Truist
- B.F. Saul Company
- Capital One
- CareFirst
- Catholic Charities USA
- Charles County Charitable Trust
- Charles County Regional Medical Center
- Cheniere Energy
- Chesapeake Charities
- A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation
- DC Advisory Neighborhood Commission
- DC Mayor's Office of Community Affairs
- DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, via the Washington Area Community Investment Fund
- Delta Dental Community Cares Foundation
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- Dr. Bronner's
- Ernst & Young
- FEMA's Calvert County Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- FEMA's Charles County Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- FEMA's DC Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- FEMA's Montgomery County Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- FEMA's Prince George's County Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- FGS Company
- Georgetown University
- Georgetown Visitation
- Goya Foods
- Philip Graham Fund
- The Griffin Family Foundation
- HHS CARES Act Provider Relief Funds
- Healthcare Initiative Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Maryland Community Health Resources Commission
- Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
- Maryland Emergency Food Program
- Maryland State Department of Education
- Mary's Center and Briya Public Charter School, in partnership with the Bainum Family Foundation, A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, Esther A. and Joseph Klingenstein Fund, The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, and the Richard E. & Nancy P. Marriott Foundation
- Mission & Ministry Impact
- Montgomery County DHHS/Healthcare Initiative Foundation
- M&T Foundation
- W. O'Neil Foundation
- PNC Foundation
- Pohanka Foundation
- Prince George's County Administrative Office
- Prince George's County Council
- Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development
- Prince George's County Executive
- Raskob Foundation
- Nora Roberts Foundation
- RSM US Foundation
- Share Our Strength No Kid Hungry
- Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary
- Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus
- The Community Partnership
- United Way of the National Capital Area Emergency Assistance Fund
- UMD Charles County Regional Medical Center
- Waldorf Toyota
- Walmart Foundation
- Wawa Foundation
- WesBanco
- West Ex Group
- Wills Group
- Numerous Family Foundations and Thousands of Individuals

find the best people who have a passion for taking care of those in need. I must say, we have experienced this passion in more ways than ever during the pandemic. Countless people sent us donations and participated in our programs through their own personal generosity. I could not be more grateful.

Finally, I see myself as the main cheerleader for our agency, and I am proud to do that. The work is difficult. Our staff, volunteers and donors need to know how much they are special, appreciated and loved by all of us at the agency and by those they serve.

These last 10 years have gone quickly. I am heading into my mid-70s and realize that retirement is closer than it once was. God willing, I hope to continue working at least two more years, when I will then celebrate 50 years as a priest. For however long I continue, I plan to enjoy every month, every week and every day of this journey as we celebrate together the Church's commitment to the poor and those in need.

As I look ahead, succession planning is among my priorities — ensuring that the agency has a stable of talented and caring professionals leading the staff and its mission for years to come.

In the coming year, I also will be working on another priority: growing our **Good Samaritan Society** and building on our commitment to sustainability.

The Good Samaritan Society is the group of people who have named Catholic Charities in their wills and estate planning. These commitments are very important to

the long-term health and sustainability of the agency and its programs.

Jesus said we will always have the poor with us, and I realize that now more than ever. No matter what we do or how hard we work, there is someone else who needs help. I also realize more than ever how much the poor are a gift. Jesus said that in feeding, clothing, sheltering and taking care of those in need we do the same for him. Our service is a gift to the poor and a gift to ourselves. They see Jesus in us, and we see Jesus in them.

When I go to bed each night, I ask myself one question: Did I help somebody today? In the last 10 years, I have been able to answer yes, and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to help others and to lead such a wonderful group of people. That's what gives me strength. That's what gives me hope for the future. That's what makes my ministry so fulfilling.

What a blessing it is to be a priest, and what a particular blessing it is to be a pastor to the poor.

(This column was first published in the Catholic Standard, where Father John Enzler's "Faith in Action" column appears regularly.)



"Joy and fulfillment come because you do your best and give of yourself. That brings an inner peace that cannot be replicated by money, successful careers, fame or anything else. I think those who are most peaceful and joyful have found that through service — to the poor but also to those they encounter every day — they experience the very presence of God more deeply."

– Rev. Msgr. John J. Enzler –

