



# GIVING BACK

INSIDE: CARITAS! HONOREES | 2022 GALA | 801 EAST SHELTER

SUMMER 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN

Over and over this spring, I was reminded of the phrase in Matthew 25 “I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.”

Since mid-April, we have been a friendly, welcoming face to 355 travelers on long and difficult journeys to the United States from Colombia, Angola, Venezuela, Cuba and other countries.

After the governor of Texas announced that his state would bus migrants arriving at the border to Washington, D.C., we were on the street to welcome those who arrived on the first three buses.



Since Catholic Charities’ beginnings more than 90 years ago, our mission has been to respond as best we can to every human being who comes our way. So, in welcoming these weary travelers, we asked: Did they need food after a 30-hour bus ride? Were they dressed appropriately for the weather? Were the babies in need of diapers? Did the woman who was pregnant need medical attention?

From those first arrivals in April until June 8, our staff served as front-line workers assisting migrants, meeting buses one day a week and providing travelers with food, clothing, medical care and information on immigration legal services. When Arizona began sending buses later in the spring, we responded to those arrivals as well. For more than three-quarters of arrivals, D.C. was not a final destination. They have moved on — often with our financial assistance and coordination — to Florida, New York, Michigan, Maine, New Jersey, Illinois and Kentucky, among other places.

Sister Sharlet Ann Wagner, executive director of the Newcomer Network, has led our cross-department response. “We are operating in the spirit of the gospel and serving the poor and most vulnerable,” she says.

## A SPECIAL EVENING BRINGS CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY BACK TOGETHER



It was a family reunion.

After being limited to a virtual event last year, the annual Catholic Charities Gala came back even

stronger in 2022, welcoming more than 1,000 supporters for a night of merriment and mission in person and virtually on April 9.

Rave reviews were in even before the night was over. The cocktails, the company, the food, the dancing and, most importantly, the mission. It was a fantastic evening, as those who attended in person at the Marriott Marquis caught up with friends and family, and those who attended virtually enjoyed lively music and videos that brought Catholic Charities’ mission to life.

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In doing so, Catholic Charities has collaborated with SAMU First Response, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Mutual Aid and smaller organizations, building good will among nonprofits. But our ongoing response was not sustainable from a staffing and resource perspective, given our many other programs and services. We strongly encouraged local and federal government to step up.

On June 8, we transitioned from being a leader in the emergency response to assisting SAMU, which took on the sole leadership role. With a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant, SAMU opened a respite center in Rockville. It also hopes to identify a staging center at Union Station, where Texas buses arrive.

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# AROUND THE AGENCY

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Passengers who cannot travel onward immediately will be taken to Rockville, where they can shower, change clothes and rest while plans are made for the remainder of their journey.



As part of our continuing commitment, we periodically will send a team to assist at the respite center or at the Union Station staging center.

In all that we have done, our goal has been to ease anxieties and provide a little dignity and respect in an inhumane system and situation.

One of the migrants who arrived in D.C. this spring was pregnant. She was hungry, tired and in need of help after the days-long bus ride from Texas. After receiving care and assistance from Catholic Charities, she traveled on to New England to join family and friends. When she reached them, she sent a WhatsApp message in Portuguese to one of our staff members: "Muito obrigada por tanto amor."

"Thank you so much for so much love," it read.

More than 40 members of our staff have shown "so much love" to the arriving migrants — as Matthew 25 inspires.

## SIX GRADUATE FROM KENNEDY SCHOOL

On June 14, family and friends gathered at the Catholic University of America to celebrate the achievements of the Kennedy School's Class of 2022 graduates.

The graduation ceremony began with remarks from Dr. Cheryll James, principal of Kennedy School, and Msgr. John Enzler, who congratulated the graduates for their hard work and dedication.

Located in Northeast D.C., the Kennedy School is a non-public day school for children ages six to 22 who have disabilities. By using a small classroom and team-based approach, the school serves students with autism, intellectual and emotional disabilities, learning disabilities and traumatic brain injuries.



Graduates worked hard through times of uncertainty as they had to transition to online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the students overcame all obstacles and are ready for the future.

Three graduates will be working and gaining skills with United Planning Organization in plumbing, construction and information technology.

Two students have applied to the Bennett Career Institute for cosmetology, and another student is pursuing custodial work.

## Looking Ahead

### LEGAL NETWORK GOLF TOURNAMENT

For 19 years, an annual golf tournament has supported the pro bono legal services that the Catholic Charities Legal Network provides to low-income people. The 2022 event will be held on Monday, Sept. 26. Lunch begins at 11 a.m., and an evening reception will be included. Play for the 18-hole event begins at 12 p.m. For sponsorship information, contact Carolyn Ruyak ([carolyn.ruyak@cc-dc.org](mailto:carolyn.ruyak@cc-dc.org)) of the Legal Network.



11 a.m. Sept. 26  
Westfields Golf Club  
13940 Balmoral Greens Ave.  
Clifton, VA 20124

# AROUND THE AGENCY

## FATHER JOHN MODERATES CANDIDATE FORUM

Four candidates for the position of Montgomery County executive shared their views on issues of social justice at an April 26 forum at the Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville.

The forum was moderated by Msgr. John Enzler with a welcome from Rev. Paul Lee of the Shrine of St. Jude and Larry Couch, co-chair of the Justice & Advocacy Council of Montgomery County.

Candidates Marc Elrich, Peter James, Hans Riemer and Shelly Skolnick participated.



A longtime resident of Montgomery County, Father John noted Catholic Charities' collaboration with the county and his respect for the county council and executives "and the work they do on our behalf." A recording of the event is available [here](#).

## DONORS RESPOND TO HELP MEN DISPLACED BY MCKENNA HOUSE FIRE

When word of a fire at McKenna House spread through the community, supporters of Catholic Charities responded by providing help for the 27 men displaced by the blaze.

A single-room occupancy building on Park Road in Northwest D.C., McKenna House provides housing for up to 31 adults, often serving as the last step for those who are transitioning from homelessness to independent living. On March 29 when the fire broke out, 27 rooms were occupied.

The building sustained extensive damage to the roof and third floor in the two-alarm fire, and there was water damage throughout the building. One resident received non-life-threatening injuries. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Catholic Charities staff members have worked closely with the residents, first providing immediate provisions such as food and clothing and locating hotel rooms. Since then, staff has worked to identify housing for the men.

The plight of the men touched many, with almost 300 people making donations. Their gifts, along with support from the **William S. Abell Foundation** and the **Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation**, raised almost \$115,000.

One person living nearby, who considers McKenna House residents good friends and fantastic neighbors, raised about \$2,500.

Donations are being used for temporary housing and to meet the personal needs of the residents. Gifts also will be used as McKenna House and its furnishings are restored. To make a gift, visit our [web page](#).



## 801 EAST SHELTER MOVES INTO NEW SPACE

The 801 East Men's Shelter moved into a new building on St. Elizabeths East campus in Ward 8 earlier this year. Catholic Charities, which operates the new shelter, was pleased to join Mayor Muriel Bowser, DC Department of Human Services and DC Department of General Services at a Jan. 24 ribbon cutting at the 396-bed facility for single men.

The new 88,000 square-foot building includes three wings that each serves the needs of specific residents: beds in a low-barrier shelter, beds for men who are employed, and beds for seniors or those with medical needs. Other providers offer case management and operate a day center and a health clinic, which also are included in the state-of-the-art building.



Our Housing and Homeless Services Department has been serving those who are unhoused at a previous building called 801 East since 2006. Volunteers have given hundreds of thousands of hours over the years, hosting game nights, resource fairs, resume and mock interview events, hair cutting and grooming events, and pizza nights.

Volunteers also have provided in-kind donations of toiletries and clothing as we serve the most vulnerable with dignity and respect.

During the pandemic, we adjusted our staffing and operations to serve shelter guests 24/7 at 801 East and other low-barrier shelters and hypothermia sites. Operations will continue 24/7 at least through September.

## 'HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL' FOR 1,000 EXPERIENCING 2022 GALA

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When the evening was over, Catholic Charities had raised more than \$3.1 million to support the agency's mission of serving those living in poverty.



Board Chair **Kevin Virostek** called it the most successful gala ever. He then stepped up to take on leadership of the 2023 gala along with his wife, **Mary Anne**, and **Steve and Joanne Virostek**. With a

theme of "Everlasting Legacy," next year's gala will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Msgr. John Enzler's ordination as a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington and his many contributions to the community as president and CEO of Catholic Charities.

The 2022 gala, with the theme "Hope Springs Eternal," was chaired by members of the McMurtrie family: **Maria Andreas Guadalupe, Amanda and Austin Herndon, Lizzy and Billy McMurtrie, and Meghan and Eddie Quinn**.

In his remarks, **Billy McMurtrie** spoke directly to Father John Enzler. "You have led by example. You always start with 'Yes,' and there is not a single person in this room, or watching online, who has ever heard you say you couldn't

help or were too busy. In your years at Catholic Charities, you've championed so many successful programs for the underserved in our community. ... Father John, you are our hero."

In a message to attendees, **Amanda and Austin Herndon** said: "The work of Catholic Charities shows us the good that comes out of giving back to our community, neighbors and all of God's children. We are honored to witness the work that Father John, his employees and volunteers do every day. Their dedication and hard work give us hope and optimism."

Among the guests was **Edna Garcia Semedo**, an immigrant from Africa who shared her life-changing experiences with Catholic Charities in a [video shown](#) during the evening. The assembly applauded to acknowledge Edna and her daughter, making it an affirming experience for her.



### Cardinal Wilton Gregory

noted that Catholic Charities "is, after the government, the single most generous and effective social outreach service in this archdiocese." He told guests, "Thank you for your works of charity and the good works that are done in the name of the archdiocese for people throughout these five counties in Maryland and the District."

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## Thank you to the 2022 Gala Committee

**Chairs:** Maria Andreas Guadalupe, Amanda and Austin Herndon, Lizzy and Billy McMurtrie, and Meghan and Eddie Quinn.

**Gala Sponsorship Committee:** Katie and Bill Breslin, Kate and Vince Burke III, Shannon and Joe Burkhart, Caitlin McNamara Chalke and Chris Chalke, Ellen and Steve Conley, Margaret Crilley, April McClain-Delaney and John Delaney, Anne and Bob Easby-Smith, MaryAnne Fiorita and Guido Adelfio, Alex Gangitano, Lindsay and Patrick Judge, Stephanie and Dan Lennon, Lisa and Brendan Manfreda, R. Scott and Courtney Clark Pastrick, Beth and John Veihmeyer, Mary Anne and Kevin Virostek, Joanne and Steve Virostek, Kara Walsh and Neil Borg, and Kathie and Mike Williams.



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Service was a theme repeated in remarks by Master of Ceremony **Laura Evans**, who told the crowd that Catholic Charities served more people (235,000) last year than the population of Arlington County.



Father John spoke about what it took to make that happen.

“The last 24 months have been the most challenging of Catholic Charities’ 93-year history,” he said. “But the pandemic opened doors for us and sparked creative new solutions for longstanding problems. As a result, Catholic Charities is smarter, stronger, surer of our future. It was an essential evolution because the people we serve need not a handout but a hand up to improve their lives.”

As he looked out into the crowd, he added, “We continued to serve people one by one, day by day, all throughout the pandemic. Thank you for helping to make our evolution possible with your financial gifts and contributions of time.”

For a recap of the 2022 Catholic Charities Gala, visit the [livestream](#). A [gala photo gallery](#), [one-minute video](#) and [program brochure](#) also are available online.



## 2023 Gala

### AN EVERLASTING LEGACY

The 2023 Catholic Charities Gala will honor Msgr. John Enzler as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a priest in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. In his vocation, Father John has presided over more than 2,000 weddings and performed over 4,000 baptisms. With your support, we will toast our good friend Father John and honor a legacy of service. The gala is chaired by Kevin and Mary Anne Virostek, and Steve and Joanne Virostek.

[catholiccharitiesdc.org/gala/](https://catholiccharitiesdc.org/gala/)



April 1, 2023  
Marriott Marquis  
901 Massachusetts Ave. NW,  
Washington, DC 20001

## CARITAS! HONORS VOLUNTEERS FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Outstanding volunteers were recognized during National Volunteer Month for their exceptional commitment to service.

More than 5,000 individuals gave 74,000+ hours of their time and their talents to Catholic Charities in the last fiscal year. The annual Caritas! honors recognize the impact of a group of extraordinary volunteers whose contributions exemplify the mission of Catholic Charities.

"We see in the many contributions of these volunteers how God works in our lives," Msgr. John Enzler said. "We celebrate them and thank them for the difference they make in the lives of those who come to us for help."

Announced at the April 9 gala, Caritas! honors recognized:

- **Dr. Thomas P. Winkler**, who received the Msgr. Geno Baroni Award for Advocacy. Dr. Winkler has always said "yes" to providing quality specialty health care to Catholic Charities Health Care Network clients with ear, nose and throat issues.

In the last fiscal year, he provided 68 consultations and did two procedures and five surgeries. His pro bono contribution was valued in the hundreds of thousands



of dollars. A caring surgeon with 35 years of experience, he thoroughly explains treatment plans to patients and follows up to create for them a pathway to healing.



- **Sister Bernadette Longtin**, who was nominated for the Catholic Charities USA Volunteer of the Year Award. Sister Bernadette has been volunteering with Youth Care Coordination for five years, serving youth

with psychiatric issues when they are discharged from the hospital. She also trains social work students, working with groups of 15 to 25 interns. Not only is she committed to her role as a volunteer, but she also pays it forward by investing her time and energy in working with interns.

- Members of the **McMurtrie Family**, who received the Father John O'Connor Award for Empowerment. The family has supported Catholic Charities since 1994. A conversation between Sandy McMurtrie and Father John led to the creation of St. Maria's Meals, which provides hot meals to people facing food insecurity. The family provides financial support for the meals program, and family members are regular volunteers, serving food and offering encouragement to recipients. Maria Andreas Guadalupe is well known among recipients and often shares kind words and smiles as she serves beverages at St. Maria's Meals.



Four others were named volunteer of the year in specific programs:

- **Bruce Baschuk**, Development Disabilities Services, who collaborated with the department to help staff receive COVID vaccinations. He recruited others to help in the effort: **Bruce Pascal, Tom McHugh, Adam Singer, Margaret Crowley and Timmy Conley**.

- **Isolda Riveralainez**, Newcomer Network. A volunteer since 2004, she contributes excellent administration work two days a week to the Immigration Legal Services program. She lives her faith through her work with those in need.

- **Sister Mary Doyle**, Enterprise, Education and Employment. A volunteer with the Trafficking Victims Assistance Program, Sister Mary goes above and beyond to assist clients. When the child of a client passed away, she helped the client organize a funeral and worked with a funder to request emergency assistance to cover burial costs.

- **Marla Smith**, Family, Parish and Community Outreach. A volunteer with the Welcome Home Reentry program, Smith is a dedicated and inspiring mentor to participants in the program. Throughout the pandemic, she mentored two individuals who are now successfully employed.

Caritas! honorees are chosen from among nominations by the Catholic Charities staff. Hear how they describe the honorees' volunteer work and impact in this [video](#).

## PLANNED GIVING: CREATING A LEGACY IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

A legacy gift is an affordable and easy way to make an impact. There are a number of options available that can provide you with the opportunity to leave a legacy of support while helping ensure Catholic Charities has future financial resources to continue its mission to help those in need.



A will is one way to make a significant impact. Your will is your legacy. It dictates how you will be remembered and can be created to reflect your values. Best of all, it does not affect your cash flow during your lifetime and is easy to revoke if your situation changes.

Betty G. was an elementary school teacher for 23 years and longtime supporter of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities was included in her will to receive a percentage of her estate. The agency recently received a high six-figure gift from her estate.

Donald B. was an Air Force veteran and a man of deep faith. He was a longtime donor and listed the agency as a beneficiary of his IRA account. Last year Catholic Charities received over \$300,000 from his IRA.

Over the years, other individuals make gifts both large and small through their estate. Each is unique to the person making it, yet all are important. By naming Catholic Charities as a beneficiary in your will or IRA account, you add to your legacy and ensure the agency can continue to help those in need.

Those who generously include a gift in their estate plans are recognized by Catholic Charities' Good Samaritan Society.

To learn more about making a legacy gift, contact Kevin T. Daly, director of leadership and annual giving, at 202-772-4313 or kevin.daly@cc-dc.org.

## GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY GATHERS FOR ANNUAL MASS AND BRUNCH

"Good Samaritans are people who step forward," Msgr. John Enzler said in celebrating a group of donors who made a special commitment to Catholic Charities.

He spoke at an annual Mass and brunch for members of the Good Samaritan Society — donors who include a gift for

Catholic Charities in their estate plans — on May 14 at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Bethesda.

"Good Samaritans are people who take care of other people," Father John added in thanking members of the group for their commitment to Catholic Charities. Their gifts, he noted, help ensure the sustainability of the agency. "Thank you for your legacy."



A beautifully presented brunch made by Catholic Charities' food services program followed Mass. Good Samaritan Society members were introduced to Ken Chadwick of the food services program, who described how its catering



work was being used pre-pandemic to train people for employment in the food industry.

That program, KitchenWork, was put on hold as the food services program was needed to supply thousands of ready-to-eat meals for community food distributions during the pandemic.

Catering work is now slowly returning, and it is hoped that the KitchenWork culinary training program can return next year.

The food services program "not only helps the agency provide food to those who need it the most but also to



provide life skills and confidence to people" as they pursue employment, Chadwick said.

## GIFTS TO 'DO MORE 24' HELP RESTOCK SPANISH CATHOLIC CENTER FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry at the Spanish Catholic Center was running on empty after demand created by the ongoing pandemic and rising food prices greatly outpaced our supplies. But those mostly bare shelves have been filled, thanks to gifts during "Do More 24."

Donations made to the one-day fundraiser on May 18 mean that we will be able to restock the pantry with shelf-stable and nutritious food for at least seven months — one month longer than our goal for the campaign.



Located in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Northwest D.C., our Spanish Catholic Center food pantry serves low-income individuals who are often underemployed and in need of supplemental assistance to ensure their family has

enough to eat. Every other week, about 350 food packages and 400 bagged lunches are given out in a food distribution staffed by employees and volunteers.

As the **Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle** noted, Do More 24 was "a way we can help in the battle against food insecurity in our local community."

Thanks to all those who "did more" to support those who are hungry. To learn more about our D.C. food pantry, watch this one-minute [video](#).

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GATHER FOR NETWORKING EVENT

About 30 young professionals joined the Enzler Society for its first networking event since the society paused its activities during the pandemic.

**Peter and Cristina Prominski** hosted the group at their home on June 2, and attendees heard from co-chairs **Alex Gangitano** and **Margaret Crilley** about getting involved in the society.

A donation drive was incorporated into the evening, with attendees bringing food items that included canned goods, pasta and peanut butter to help stock the Spanish Catholic Center food pantry.



The Enzler Society is dedicated to raising awareness about Catholic Charities' mission through volunteer services and community networking. Members look forward to the group's next quarterly networking event in September and new opportunities for volunteerism. For information about the society, visit its [web page](#).

## Looking Ahead

### IN THE NAME OF THE MOTHER GOLF TOURNAMENT

Organized by donors, the In the Name of the Mother charity golf outing provides crucial funding to help mothers battling cancer in crisis. Join us for an incredible day on the course and support important work in our community.

The fund was established in 2005 by Kevin McConville and his family and friends to honor Megan McConville, Kevin's wife, who passed away from cancer in November 2004.

[Events@cc-dc.org](mailto:Events@cc-dc.org)



9 a.m. registration, Sept. 9  
10 a.m. shotgun start  
Blue Mash Golf Course  
5821 Olney Laytonsville Road,  
Laytonsville, MD 20882