



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN



Do you remember turning 21?

A milestone in the transition to adulthood, 21 is a time of excitement, a time when our thoughts are filled with the possibilities of what can be.

I remember it well. A political science major at Loras College, I was weighing my future in the tumultuous late 1960s as our country was calling for justice and dealing with political upheaval and a crisis over an unpopular war.

Sadly, many of the same challenges exist today. What is different is that today we are also living through a worldwide pandemic that has brought fear and uncertainty.

But, as we begin the year '21, I am focused not on what frightens us but on the excitement of what can be. In doing so, I look no further than to you for inspiration.

Through the years, I've gotten to know well the generosity of the Catholic Charities community. But even I was surprised at the outpouring of support late last year for our Virtual Food Drive.

As we approached the end of 2020 and completed the 25th community food distribution, it was unclear whether Catholic Charities could continue investing so heavily in food assistance. But you came to our aid — and the aid of thousands of our hungry neighbors — by giving to the Virtual Food Drive.

Because of the generosity of more than 680 people and organizations, we can commit to increased food assistance through June. This means that our three food pantries will continue to give out a greater number of food packages and large-scale community food distributions will be held once a month in locations stung by the pandemic.

As '21 begins, we also are redoubling our efforts to provide vital services, particularly basic needs. With a growing

CARING FOR THE SOUL BY CARING FOR THE MIND

Catholic Charities' Behavioral Health Services supports and empowers vulnerable adults struggling with mental illness, guiding them on their road to self-sufficiency. Conditions like substance abuse and bipolar disorder might not be obvious to some, but they present significant and unique barriers to success. If left untreated or unsupported, persistent mental health challenges can prevent people from securing employment or housing, perpetuating cycles of poverty.

One of these people is Amr Fadl, who arrived in the United States in 2009 after leaving his native Sudan to continue his education and pursue a career in computer science. Though he was on his own here, he had a constant companion: depression.

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number of medical volunteers, our Volunteer Medical Clinic in D.C. is about to expand its hours.

Our job training programs – green construction, electrician and bank teller – begin new courses this month, and ESOL classes start for the winter session. Our COMPASS program is hosting a 12-week nutrition and wellness program for its members in partnership with Giant Nutrition.

With new and additional funding, our Welcome Home Reentry Program is enhancing services for the formerly incarcerated. In an exciting pilot program, it will place 20 returning citizens in housing, which is an important step in their transition back into the community.

Through these and many other programs, we are working to bring God's love to others by meeting the basic needs of those in poverty.

Yes, our community — our world — faces challenges, and there will be obstacles ahead. But just as I was excited at 21, I am hopeful and optimistic that in the year '21 Catholic Charities will definitely be part of the solution.

PROGRAMS

NEW PRINCIPAL LOOKS FORWARD TO REUNITING KENNEDY SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Catholic Charities is proud to announce that Cheryl James, Ph.D., a dedicated educator, has been promoted to the role of principal of the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute.

James brings to the position more than 20 years of diverse experience as a teacher, administrator and official with the Maryland State

Department of Education. She decided to pursue a career in education after working at IBM for many years, where she found her passion by volunteering for the Junior Achievement program, teaching high school students about business.

After obtaining her master's degree, she became a math and science teacher and was named teacher of the year by the Corcoran Gallery. She later held administrative positions, from business manager to principal, at charter schools before transitioning into program and compliance roles with the Maryland and D.C. governments. In these positions, she supervised close to 2,000 findings of noncompliance that were more than five years old, and she helped establish the first State of Maryland Charter School Principal's Institute.

"It was these positions that required me to spend a great deal of time visiting and spending time in schools," she said. "I realized how much I missed being around the students and the energy found in actual school buildings. I found myself missing what I call the 'lightbulb' moments when you actually get to see the positive impact firsthand of when the students are grasping a concept, be it academic or social."

This desire and dedication to seeing students succeed led her to the Kennedy School, a day school for children and young adults ages six to 22 with disabilities, where she was assistant principal for three years.

As principal, James is eager to build on the school's mission to develop students with disabilities and make it a national

model to help similar students transition into lives of purpose and passion. Her vision includes supporting staff with the necessary tools, increasing community partnerships, growing enrollment and establishing innovative programming like incorporating the arts.

Although James has taken on this new role in an uncertain environment, she and her staff have worked tirelessly to minimize the impact of the pandemic on student learning.

"We have done a great job of staying connected to students and families through our remote learning," James said. "We use Zoom primarily to provide instruction, but we also use other platforms to enhance students' learning, therapeutic services and regular check-ins. We also conduct numerous home visits to deliver work packets, progress reports, certificates of accomplishments, and even food baskets and holiday gifts, and to check on students who have been absent from classes."

Because the pandemic happened so suddenly, neither staff nor students were able to properly prepare to learn from home for an indefinite amount of time. To resolve the technology gap many of the students faced, James and her staff mobilized quickly to ensure students had access to computers donated by a generous community partner and WiFi hotspots so they could participate in remote learning.



Although they are apart, James works with staff to make schooldays as normal as possible. To ensure students are engaged, teachers still closely monitor attendance and follow truancy protocols. Still, students report that they miss being in school and the socialization they experience from classroom learning. This is something James misses as well.

"Some of my favorite moments are when students support and help each other," she said, "particularly when it involves a student who would have previously never done anything like that. I miss events like the prom, which really showcases a

different side of the students. They all seem to take on a different personality that allows their light to shine in a whole different way. Events like this bring up a variety of emotions, as you will find yourself laughing and crying all at the same time."

James looks forward to the day when students and staff can reunite in the Kennedy School's classrooms, so that she can share her love and commitment to learning, which she considers her specialty as an educator.

"I truly believe that learning is a lifelong journey and not simply a destination."

PROGRAMS

SERVING IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS: SPANISH CATHOLIC CENTER ADDRESSES PANDEMIC'S IMPACT

The pandemic has been devastating to the area's immigrant community. Struggling with unemployment and hunger, many have been left without access to unemployment benefits, stimulus funds or health care.

In response, the Spanish Catholic Center has been a vital source of support, with staff providing resources to protect their clients' minds, bodies and spirits as the crisis continues.

Many of the families who come to the center in Northwest D.C. have been forced to make an unimaginable choice because of the pandemic: put food on the table or put their household at risk of contracting the virus.

Julieta Machado, director of immigrant services, and her staff work diligently to alleviate these added stresses by connecting people to basic necessities. Starting in March, the center's food pantry has distributed food to up to 650 families each week, six times more than before the crisis.

Recipients regularly started queuing up at 4 a.m. each Wednesday and waited for hours in a line that wrapped around city blocks just to ensure they received groceries.

As temperatures dropped in late fall, Machado adjusted the timing of the distributions to later in the morning, limiting how long clients had to spend in the cold as an added layer of safety.

Staff members use all client interactions to provide education about COVID-19 and what people can do to keep themselves and their families safe. The center sets an example by requiring social distancing at its food distributions, providing face masks and distributing soap and hand sanitizer.

Even though the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application process has been simplified, many clients still find the process overwhelming. Staff is available to explain the application process and offer options on how to obtain the required documents.

Catholic Charities' new Volunteer Medical Clinic is located at the center, providing primary care to people without access to medical care through public benefits or private insurance. In November, staff worked with the George Washington University Medical Center to provide flu

shots to 150 immigrant clients at Catholic Charities' Susan Denison Mona Center.

Beyond caring for clients' physical well-being, center staff in D.C. and Gaithersburg also support their mental and emotional health by continuing to offer programs that empower them to build better futures. While programs like our job training and ESOL classes have moved online, students are more committed than ever to improving their lives. This winter we will welcome 20 students in our bank teller training program, approximately 24 students in the Green Construction Pre-Apprenticeship program and more than 80 students in our ESOL program.



Despite a volatile job market, the center still provides one-on-one employment assistance, helping multiple clients secure jobs each month.

Building on the center's mission and a legacy of caring for immigrants, we launched our Newcomer Network in late 2020 to welcome and support newcomers to this country. This new service will enhance and expand Immigration Legal Services and provide easy access to a range of other services using our model of intensive case management to immigrants living in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Currently operating in a pilot phase, this innovative program will take a holistic approach to help those new to our country become more stable, empowered and connected to their communities.

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

9 large-scale
community food distributions
served the food insecure.



980,584
pounds of food —
the equivalent of 1.2 million
meals — were distributed by the
Southern Maryland Food Bank.



2,524 people
were assisted by the Spanish
Catholic Center food pantry.

Almost 193,000 people in Washington and suburban Maryland received food, shelter, medical care and other services in the last fiscal year. With the support of our many donors and volunteers, we provided care, compassion and hope to 34 percent more people than in the previous year.

Our annual report:
catholiccharitiesdc.org/20192020annualreport

CARING FOR THE SOUL BY CARING FOR THE MIND

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"It's like a cloud that constantly follows me and doesn't go away," Fadl said.

He developed PTSD after experiencing significant trauma growing up in a country ravaged by war. Too afraid to talk about his pain, he fell into an endless cycle of depression and anxiety that impaired his day-to-day living. He experienced a variety of life-limiting symptoms, including the inability to focus, overwhelming feelings of despair, lack of energy and motivation, memory loss and procrastination, and he panicked easily — even over minor things.

After settling in D.C., he searched desperately for employment. But his negative mental state, exacerbated by an increased sense of loneliness, made it challenging to secure and keep a job.

"I thought everyone would want to avoid me because of my mental health and because I'm an immigrant," Fadl said. "No one wanted to help."

While he felt alone, he suffered from a common condition.

According to DC Health Matters, a coalition of area hospitals and community health centers, 14.3 percent of D.C.'s population has been diagnosed with a depressive disorder.

Asking for help is often difficult for people with mental health issues. But Fadl found the strength to take that courageous first step in early 2015 when he was referred to the Behavioral Health team at Catholic Charities DC's Anchor Mental Health. Anchor's licensed clinicians and mental health specialists partner with clients to map out comprehensive care plans that include medication management, individual and group therapy, and other community support services.

For Fadl, the staff quickly assembled a care team, including a social worker and a psychiatrist, who worked to develop a full treatment plan. Six months into treatment, the team added an employment specialist through the supported employment program, who offered guidance to help prepare him for job opportunities.

From connecting him to classes at the University of the District of Columbia to conducting mock interviews, supported employment prepared him to reenter the job market. Finally feeling empowered and more confident, he taught himself important new technical skills necessary to land his dream job.

Six months later, he landed that job, becoming a configuring engineer, working with developers to maintain digital infrastructure systems. While mental health issues still affect him, he is excited about the job and is committed to succeeding.

Fadl said he's now a much better communicator after working with supported employment, and that he thinks more clearly and strives to focus on the present.

Last year alone, almost 2,000 adults and children received behavioral health support. Comprehensive mental health services were provided to 1,006 adults. Crisis-trained case managers were deployed to assist 712 children and their families in emergency situations, and 236 school-aged children were supported.

When asked what advice he would offer others facing similar challenges, he said, "Be persistent. Be resilient. Focus on the end goal. It's all in the brain."

Behavioral health staff remain committed to the clients they serve, even during the pandemic. They keep clients engaged to reinforce their sense of community and connection. They are also on the front lines. From delivering groceries to securing housing, the behavioral health team is dedicated to doing what is necessary to ensure their clients feel supported.

The New York Times article "How the Pandemic Has Been Devastating for Children from Low-Income Families" chronicled the struggles of two D.C. families who have been using the services of our COMPASS and School Based Mental Health programs. KaShawna Watson, a program manager, told the newspaper that "months of virtual learning, protests against police brutality and financial turmoil have taken a toll on young people in the Seventh and Eighth Wards."

The article: [catholiccharitiesdc.org/nyt-article](https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/nyt-article)

AROUND THE AGENCY

REMEMBRANCE: SISTER JANICE HEISEY



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Sister Janice Heisey, I.H.M., on Nov. 30 at the age of 90. From 1985 to 2015, Sister Janice managed the Spanish Catholic Center's dental clinic, ensuring those in need had access to critical dental services.

Sister Janice, a member of the Order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, joined Catholic Charities DC after

several years of teaching science at parochial schools and working as a medical technician. Sister Janice was committed to treating patients with compassion, and she inspired generations of providers to care for underserved people — including Dr. Lucciola Lambruschini, our current director of dental services.

"I am so grateful to have had Sister Janice in my life," Dr. Lambruschini said. "She was determined to help others and inspire us to be better. One-third of her life was dedicated to our dental clinics. It really warms my heart to learn how she impacted us as human beings, not only by assisting those in need but showing us how to contribute for a better world."

In 1994, the DC Dental Society named Sister Janice as its humanitarian of the year in recognition for her work serving the poor. In her more than 30 years as administrator, she helped grow the clinic from a minimal operation in an apartment building to the two comprehensive care facilities we know today.

She continued to support the Spanish Catholic Center's dental clinic even after her retirement in 2015, recruiting countless volunteer providers to offer pro bono services to patients in need.

Sister Janice will be missed by the entire Catholic Charities community, but her legacy lives on in the hearts and smiles of the patients she helped.

VIRTUALLY CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY, OUR COMMITMENT AND OUR LEGACY



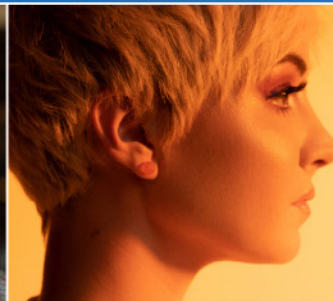
BRINGING THE GALA AND MUSIC TO YOU!

Join us for a twist on our annual Catholic Charities Gala, now virtual with:

José Andrés
Chef and Humanitarian
Honorary Gala Chair



Maggie Rose
Entertainment



SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

For more information, visit CATHOLICCHARITIESDC.ORG/GALA or contact Kimani Superville at 202.772.4331 or Events@cc-dc.org.

'I NEED A MIRACLE EVERY DAY'

By Stephanie Lennon,
Development and Communications Committee

If you are a fan of the band The Grateful Dead, you will recognize that phrase as both the title and the refrain of one of its most well-known tunes. And, although the song itself has nothing to do with religion, it's catchy and reveals a truth about real life. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., is comprised of real people who need miracles every day. Catholic Charities employees, donors, volunteers or clients — we all need miracles.

That's a tall order to fill! So, how do we even begin to tackle that one?

My mind continually turns to Jesus' pivotal miracle of the loaves and fishes. From the meager contents held in the food basket of a young boy, Jesus was able to feed thousands of people. A beautiful aspect of this story is found when you realize that Jesus did not choose to perform this feat alone. Instead, he chose the boy to help him and then he engaged his followers and each person there to pass the miraculous food onward to others until it was dispersed throughout the crowd and everyone had their fill.

Jesus knew that Our Father in Heaven would provide for his people. He actually KNEW this. Everyone else just had

to obey Jesus' command to sit and be ready to receive, to take the loaves from him and give them to each other. The miracle took place at the hands of Jesus and through the loving obedience and faith of the people.

Therein lies our blueprint for creating miracles! If you can give something to others in need, give it. Once it is given, God will then ensure that the miracle will follow. It doesn't matter if the gift is meager. What matters is faith — faith that follows from obedience and love.

Here, at Catholic Charities, we put our trust in God's miraculous transformations, and we have faith that his love will impel all of us to give what we can so as to create miracles every day. We see it happen all the time.

Please consider including Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., in your estate plans. A little can go a long way!



Stephanie Lennon and members of her family

For more information about including Catholic Charities in your estate planning, visit catholiccharitiesdc.planmygift.org.

LEAVING A LEGACY: CREATING A LASTING IMPACT AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES



In a gathering of our Good Samaritan Society, Msgr. John J. Enzler said Catholic Charities is blessed to have such a committed group of supporters, adding that they "exemplify what it means to give."

A Jan. 21 virtual gathering of society members replaced a Mass and brunch held annually as a time of fellowship and stewardship for the many donors who have named Catholic Charities in their estate plan.

During the Zoom event, members and friends of the agency were able to visit with Father John and listen

as special guest Charles Abell, an attorney with Furey, Doolan and Abell LLP, discussed tax-efficient giving strategies and ways to create a legacy at Catholic Charities.

Abell began by talking about the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. "Christ could have been talking about Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities does all of those things," he said. "Indeed, if Jesus wanted to talk about Catholic Charities, he could have extended that list and included things like jobs, medical and dental care, and empowering people with disabilities or mental illness. It's such a broad reach... For me, I'm always thankful to Catholic Charities because, in a lot of ways, this is my opportunity to connect with and to serve these brothers and sisters in Christ."

83.33 SOCIETY STARTS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ON PATH TO PHILANTHROPY

In the hopes that young professionals would begin to see themselves as philanthropists, Catholic Charities DC created the 83.33 Society and invited those early in their professional careers to join a movement to inspire and grow commitment.

So far, more than 75 young professionals have joined the society as founding members, committing to making a donation of \$83.33 a month or \$1,000 annually.



Among them is Chris Connolly, who said the motivation to commit stemmed from his upbringing and lessons learned while at Gonzaga College High School.

“‘Be a Man for Others’ is not just Gonzaga’s motto, but it is the school’s guiding principle,” he said. “If one has the financial means to participate in charitable giving, then there is a moral obligation to help the less fortunate. If money is tight, there are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer one’s time. Catholic Charities was a natural fit for our family.”

Connolly said his commitment is based on the gospel’s mandate to love your neighbor, as well as the imperative to do right by your neighbor. “While we all go through struggles, be it personal or professional, there are thousands in our community who cannot endure these hurdles because they are not equipped to succeed, or they



are not granted the opportunity to succeed. We have the ability to help those people, whether it be family, friends or complete strangers.”

He and his wife, Michelle, have attended the annual Catholic Charities Gala for several years. But it wasn’t until their involvement in the 83.33 Society that they learned about the vast community outreach of the agency. “Catholic Charities is in the business of saying ‘Yes’ to those in need — regardless of social, economic or religious background. Who would not want to support an organization that is making a difference each day?”

The Connolly commitment to Catholic Charities is multigenerational. His parents

have been involved with Catholic Charities for decades, including chairing the annual gala in 1990. “They, along with many friends, opened our eyes to the great people working within Catholic Charities, and the value their services bring to those seeking assistance,” he said.

Connolly described commitment and fulfillment this way: “Michelle and I are looking to achieve a better sense of community and to pass along the values and morals our parents instilled in us to our children. We fundamentally believe that a lot of good can be accomplished by getting many like-minded people together to achieve a common goal.”



LEAVING A LEGACY: CREATING A LASTING IMPACT AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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Throughout the program, Abell offered tips for impactful charitable giving, and helpful questions for consideration were offered.

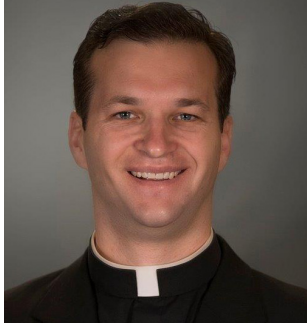
Father John emphasized the importance of finding your passion for what motivates you to support the good work of Catholic Charities. Finding ways to become involved through volunteerism is a wonderful way to deepen that understanding, he said. Encouraging all family members to participate in charitable works helps to create that strong foundation. Involving children and grandchildren early in these actions and decisions will influence and shape their philanthropic futures, he noted.

MATTHEW 25:

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?”

If you have named Catholic Charities as a beneficiary of a deferred gift, please let us know. We would be honored to welcome you into the Good Samaritan Society and steward your philanthropic intentions. We hope to gather in person for our annual Mass and brunch in spring 2022.

83.33 SOCIETY WELCOMES FATHER MARK IVANY AS CHAPLAIN



A friend to many Catholic young professionals in the D.C. area, Father Mark Ivany was excited to learn about the 83.33 Society, a group of fellow emerging philanthropists who work together for benefit of Catholic Charities.

"I've been a donor to Catholic Charities for the past several years," said Father Mark, director of priest vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington. "Joining my friends in a group that leverages our consistent and collective giving was an easy decision."

The son of retired Maj. Gen. Robert and Marianne Ivany, Father Mark traveled the globe with his military family that also included three siblings. He was a Division II All-American lacrosse player at Massachusetts' Merrimack College in 2000. Following college, he worked in the U.S. Senate and the Office of Congressional Affairs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. During this time, he continued his love of lacrosse as a coach at Gonzaga College High School, where friendships with members of the 83.33 Society developed.



Father Mark is a 2008 graduate of the Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange, N.J., where he earned master's degrees in divinity and systematic theology. He was

ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington and began his pastoral work at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, where he served until 2011. He was installed as pastor of Assumption Church in Southeast D.C. in 2012 and soon after partnered with Catholic Charities to renovate and expanded the parish food pantry into the Pope Frances Outreach Center, which now provides Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to over 3,000 children and seniors, while also distributing food and clothing to families and individuals year-round. In 2015, Father Mark was assigned to St. John Paul II Seminary in Northeast D.C., where he has served in different capacities.

As chaplain to the 83.33 Society, a new group of young professionals and supporters, Father Mark will provide spiritual support to its more than 75 members. Those involved in the society provide recurring donations of \$83.33 a month, which is the equivalence of \$2.75 a day and the cost of feeding a Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe breakfast to a person who is homeless.

"It's important to me," he said, "to try to live and cultivate a culture of giving to those in need as our Catholic faith teaches us."

IT'S A WRAP: DRIVE COLLECTS AND DISTRIBUTES 1,300+ COATS

With winter upon us, two events organized by the Volunteer Engagement Office and held at St. Francis Xavier Church in Southeast D.C. distributed about 1,000 coats to those who might not otherwise have them.

To prepare for the distributions, the communities of DeMatha High School and St. Raphael School of Rockville each donated hundreds of new and gently used coats, hats and gloves. Members of the Women's Ministry of St. John Neumann Church of Gaithersburg were among the many others from D.C. and suburban Maryland who donated winter wear.

Thanks to the help of volunteers like members of the Maryland organization

of the nonprofit Who Is Hussain, who served at a January distribution, the outerwear was sorted, organized and given out.

At a November distribution, almost 100 clients were served with the help of 22 volunteers. Seventy-five clients were given winter wear in January with assistance from 28 volunteers.



Volunteers at the January distribution

The strong number of donations meant that more than 150 coats were distributed at 801 East Men's Shelter, Mulumba House and the Youth Transitional Program, a transitional shelter service. Additionally, more than 100 coats were given to those at our Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter, and 200 were passed out at the New York Avenue Men's Shelter thanks to donations to Angel Tree.

INSTITUTIONAL GIVING: PARTNERS INVEST IN OUR PROGRAMS

SUSTAINING EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Charles County Charitable Trust

The Charles County Charitable Trust has provided generous support for our Southern Maryland Food Bank throughout the public health crisis. In November and December, we received two additional grants from the trust, totaling \$35,250, to provide special holiday meals to Charles County residents. With a grant of \$9,250, the food bank provided holiday meal boxes of non-perishable items, such as canned vegetables and instant potatoes, for 300 low-income seniors. An additional grant of \$26,000 allowed the food bank to distribute 800 SHARE food packages to 17 of our partner pantries throughout Charles County. The packages included frozen proteins, fresh produce, dry goods and a 20+ pound turkey. Grant funds were made available through Charles County's CARES Act award.

William S. Abell Foundation

The William S. Abell Foundation also has awarded us several generous grants to support our emergency food assistance efforts during the pandemic. In December, the foundation awarded us a \$25,000 grant for the food pantry at the Spanish Catholic Center in Northwest D.C. These funds will allow us to provide nutritious food packages to 1,000 low-income households during the ongoing public health crisis and help cover transportation costs to deliver food to our distribution site. We hope that, by providing critical food each week, we can alleviate some of the suffering and decrease the level of food insecurity experienced by a significant number of low-income, marginalized individuals.

ENHANCING AND EXPANDING REENTRY SERVICES

Bob Barker Foundation

We are pleased to announce a new partnership with the Bob Barker Company Foundation, which awarded Catholic Charities a \$16,000 grant in support of our Welcome Home Reentry Program. This funding will allow the program to enhance its comprehensive array of services for returning citizens, including a mentor program that matches clients with volunteers who provide individualized support during the first year after leaving incarceration. We are honored that this generous award includes funding from the company foundation, as well as a personal contribution from its founders, Bob and Pat Barker.

DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants

In December, the DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants awarded Catholic Charities a grant of \$664,786 to launch a reentry housing pilot program. This funding will allow the Welcome Home Reentry Program to provide housing for up to 20 adult male returning citizens, helping us meet a critical need among our reentry clients. Thanks to the support and partnership of Catholic Charities' Homeless and Housing Services Department, pilot program participants will live in our Mulumba House and McKenna House residences in Northwest D.C. In addition to housing, the reentry team will connect participants to additional support and a host of other services.

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

- William S. Abell Foundation
 - Albertsons Companies Foundation
 - Anonymous
 - Association of American Medical Colleges
 - Bank of America Foundation
 - BB&T/Truist
 - Capital One
 - CareFirst
 - Catholic Charities USA
 - Charles County Community Trust
 - Charles County Regional Medical Center
 - Cheniere Energy
 - A. James and 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 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
 - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 - Maryland Community Health Resources Commission
 - Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Maryland Emergency Food Program
 - 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
 - Prince George's County Council
 - Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Nora Roberts Foundation
 - Share Our Strength No Kid Hungry
 - Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus
 - 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

VOLUNTEERISM

FATHER JOHN EXPRESSES THANKS TO PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL



More than 50 members of the President's Council gathered virtually in December for a Mass and conversation with Father John Enzler.

During his remarks, Father John called members of the council ambassadors and described them as "a group of people who believe in service to others." He thanked members for their support during the unprecedented year, saying in what "you do, we are grateful."

He specifically thanked Ann Davis and Lynda Camalier for leading the council's Angel's Tree efforts for their fifth and final year. With the efforts of the President's Council and others, 1,656 children from 717 area families received Christmas gifts, a record number for the annual program.



After Father John said a Mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Scott Lewis, executive director of enterprises, education & employment, reported on the work of the agency's food programs. Twenty-five community food distributions were held during 2020, and three food pantries ramped up service during the pandemic, he said. In total, 75,169 grocery boxes and 60,393 family meals — a total of 1,219,783 meals — were distributed by staff and volunteers.

"We distributed food with a good spirt," Lewis said, adding that a smile was behind the mask of each person who served. Recipients were "treated with kindness and love."

The need for food grew exponentially during the pandemic, he noted. "This is the kind of work you want to do," he told the group. "It makes me proud to be a part of it."

The food programs, Father John said, show how "as a community, you can help meet people's needs."

"Whether you were serving or being served, there was a sense of hope."

OBSERVING THE WEEK OF SERVICE



The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Service kicked off with 30 volunteers sorting and packing food at our SHARE Food Network warehouse on MLK Day, Jan.18. Members of our Enzler Society along with young adults, high school students

and parents with children turned out to help Catholic Charities' employees organize food and assemble packages that were distributed as part of the SHARE network and at our Montgomery County Family Center food pantry. The Volunteer Engagement Office identified numerous remote and in-person volunteer opportunities for the service week.



PLANTING, TENDING, HARVESTING

With COVID-19 making outdoor activities preferable, helping at the urban farm at our Susan D. Mona Center in Temple Hills, Md., became a popular volunteer activity. Late in the fall, a group of volunteers assisted urban farmers from the University of Maryland College of Agriculture in finishing up work from the growing season and preparing for spring planting. Garlic was planted, and two bell pepper beds were amended. Beds of kale, collard greens and spinach will remain over the winter for harvest in the spring and use by our KitchenWork program.

SPRINGING INTO SERVICE

Recruiting soon will be under way for volunteer opportunities in six programs. Applications for our "Spring into Volunteering" campaign open Feb. 15 and continue to March 31.

Please consider contributing your talents, energy and enthusiasm as a volunteer. Opportunities are:

- Trafficking Victims Assistance Program: Mentor
- COMPASS: Literacy volunteer
- Parish Partners: Special events coordinator
- Immigration Legal Services: Immigrant family support volunteer (bilingual)
- Immigration Legal Services: Attorneys and interpreters
- Volunteer Medical Clinic: Doctors, health care portal assistants, safety officers, eligibility specialist, interpreters
- Catholic Charities Healthcare Network: Bilingual volunteers to interpret at doctors' offices.

Additional information and applications are available at catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer.

VOLUNTEERISM

HOLIDAY PROJECTS: BRINGING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THOSE IN SHELTERS

Faced with the need for COVID-19 safety measures, Catholic Charities DC launched “Operation Christmas Cheer” — a series of clever volunteer opportunities that met volunteers’ strong desire to serve during the holiday season and benefitted D.C. homeless shelters.

Volunteer projects that respected social distancing rules were created by our Volunteer Engagement Office, from virtual caroling to creating a “party in a box” to decorating the outside of homeless shelters.

In the end, 30 groups or individuals added to the joy of the season in 41 holiday projects at Catholic Charities.

2 groups brought gift bags for staff to 6 shelters, totaling 140 gift bags.



9 groups brought gift bags for clients at 10 shelters, totaling 859 gift bags.



3 groups decorated the outside of housing locations.



7 groups brought a “Party in a Box” to 11 shelters.



2 families did caroling via video



6 groups brought baked goods to 9 shelters.



THE POWER TO IMPROVE LIVES

ANGELS WORK OVERTIME TO BENEFIT CHILDREN

A record-setting giving effort ensured that children across the area had a joyful Christmas. More than 1,650 children from 717 families received holiday gifts through our annual Angel Tree, an increase of more than 65% over 2019. The program brought Christmas cheer to children affiliated with 15 Catholic Charities' programs, the Montgomery County Family Center and the Spanish Catholic Center. Contributions from 484 donors were used to provide electronic gift cards, which parents used to buy their children toys and gifts.

BOUNTIFUL RESPONSE GREET'S VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

Our second annual Virtual Food Drive was met with an extraordinary response by our community, raising more than \$198,000 from 611 very generous donors. The remarkable performance far exceeded our goal and last year's total.

The kindness and caring of those who gave to the Virtual Food Drive mean that thousands of hungry and food insecure people will receive healthy and hearty meals and bags of groceries.

The drive benefits the Southern Maryland Food Bank, Cup of Joe project that provides breakfast for those in our shelters, Spanish Catholic Center food pantry, food preparation KitchenWork program, SHARE Food Network, and Montgomery County Family Center food pantry.

The drive's success also means that there is funding to continue large-scale community food distributions. The first distribution of 2021 brought grocery packages and hot meals on Feb. 5 to three senior centers in Southeast D.C., an area hard hit by the economic crisis. Monthly community food giveaways will continue through June.

ANNUAL DINNERS SERVE UP WARMTH OF THE HOLIDAYS

Because a special meal is a universal way holidays are celebrated, hundreds of people who are homeless and hungry were welcomed to Catholic Charities' annual Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners.



Sloppy winter weather did not deter staff from serving up a Christmas tradition on Dec. 16. More than 125 people were given a holiday meal under the portico of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. The feast was made by our KitchenWork pilot job training program and served by staff and volunteers. Each recipient was given two hot meals and a gift card as a Christmas gift.

"So many people are feeling isolated," said Amanda Chesney, executive director of housing and homeless services. "But this environment is exponentially harder on residents experiencing homelessness. Our dinner not only provides food, but also a renewed sense of community."

Our Thanksgiving dinner tradition is so strong among people who are homeless that a line started 1-1/2 hours early for the Nov. 24 meal hosted at Pepco Edison Place Gallery in a partnership between Catholic Charities and Pepco. Catholic Charities staff gave each recipient two hearty meals to go, while its volunteers passed out chocolate bars, masks and hand sanitizer. Pepco, led by President and CEO David Velazquez, provided attendees with winter coats and personal-care packages.



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