

compassion *in action*

A newsletter from Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Washington

Angel's Watch: A Safe Haven, A New Beginning

For more than 35 years, Angel's Watch has quietly served as a place of safety, dignity, and new beginnings for women and families experiencing homelessness in Southern Maryland. Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, Angel's Watch is always ready to provide shelter, compassion, and a path forward—no matter the day or circumstance.

The shelter includes 30 private rooms and can accommodate up to 120 residents at a time. Unlike a traditional group shelter setting, Angel's Watch offers increased privacy, security, and a sense of stability—giving each person the space and respect they need as they work toward long-term housing. Our experienced staff works closely with residents to help them navigate the barriers that stand between them and a more stable future.

Support at Angel's Watch goes beyond shelter. Residents have access to nutritious meals, laundry facilities, a computer lab, exercise room, library, and even a prayer and meditation room. A secure



playground gives children a safe place to simply be kids.

But while Angel's Watch is a place of hope, the need in our community has never been greater. Right now, more than 600 individuals are on a waiting list for emergency shelter. That number is heartbreaking—and a stark reminder of how under-resourced this vital work remains.



Meet Loretta: How Compass Helped Her Find a New Path

In D.C.'s underserved Wards 7 and 8, our Compass program allows case managers to keep small caseloads so they can build deep, trusting relationships with clients. Known as "partners," these case managers often meet clients weekly in homes, libraries, or coffee shops, tackling everything from mental health struggles to parenting, job searches, and housing.

Take Loretta Jones, a single mother of four, who faced serious personal and health challenges. With the steady encouragement of her Compass partner, Dasia Adams, Loretta made it through a difficult pregnancy, secured a banking internship, and now dreams of launching her own business.

"If it weren't for Compass, my life would be quite a struggle," Loretta says. "But with Dasia walking step-by-step with me, hard days aren't nearly as hard."

Honoring Extraordinary Volunteers

This spring, Catholic Charities gathered with more than 200 volunteers, family members, and staff at the Saint Pope John Paul II National Shrine for our annual **Caritas! celebration**. This event shone a spotlight on seven outstanding volunteers whose dedication and compassion embody the spirit of the thousands who power our mission. Last year alone, over **3,300 volunteers gave more than 68,000 hours** to serve our neighbors in need.

Our honorees this year included: **Dr. Melanie Buttross**, winner of the Msgr. Geno Baroni Award for Advocacy; **Tom Hoopengardner**, named Housing and Homeless Services Volunteer of the Year; **Andy Solberg**, nominated for Catholic Charities USA Volunteer of the Year; **Monica Meyers**, Newcomer Network Volunteer of the Year; **Sister Diane Roche**, recipient of the Father John O'Connor Award for Empowerment; **Richard Rousseau**, Developmental Disabilities Services Volunteer of the Year; **John Salmon**, honored for Adult & Children Clinical Services.

President and CEO Jim Malloy offered heartfelt thanks:

"The heart of this organization sits here. We simply do not exist without the work that you do."

Maggie O'Neill, our director of Volunteer Engagement, added:

"The volunteers we honor at Caritas! stand for the thousands more who give their hearts and time to people during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives."

Maggie is retiring after leading the Volunteer Office the past 12 years. She will be missed.



Partnering for Good: How Businesses Are Changing Lives with Catholic Charities

At Catholic Charities, we believe that lasting change happens when compassionate people — and organizations — come together. That's why we're proud to work alongside businesses who share our commitment to serving those most in need.

Through meaningful corporate partnerships, Catholic Charities can provide critical services such as food and meal distribution, housing and emergency shelters, healthcare and mental health services, job training and employment services, developmental disabilities services, and more. However, these partnerships go beyond financial support, they represent a shared vision of a more compassionate world.

Why Partner?

Mission Alignment: Demonstrate your company's commitment to social responsibility.

Community Impact: Reach those who need help the most, right in our community.

Employee Engagement: Inspire your team with purpose-driven volunteer opportunities.

Let's build a better future, together.

Whether through grants, in-kind donations, sponsorships, or volunteering, your company can make an impactful difference to the most in need in the Washington DC area.

To learn more, please scan the QR code to the right.



A Spark of Hope: William's Journey Toward Stability

At Catholic Charities, case management is about meeting people exactly where they are, offering them respect, compassion, and a steady hand as they move toward stability.

William's Journey

When William Richardson lost his job and could no longer stay in an unstable household, he found himself at our New York Avenue Men's Shelter in late 2021. It took time to rebuild trust, but with patient, consistent support from case manager Donnita Pugh, William slowly began to believe in a new future. Together, they've tackled daunting paperwork, secured vital documents, and mapped out steps toward permanent housing. Today, William is closer than ever to moving into an apartment with the help of a housing voucher. He's also preparing to enroll in a building maintenance certification program that promises a job upon completion.

"Slowly but surely, I'm getting back on my feet," William shares. "I'm closer than I was a week ago, a month ago, a year ago."

Donnita describes her team's work simply:

"It's about letting them know you see them. It's not a cookie-cutter process. We walk with each client at their own pace."



Because of you...

- New York Avenue Shelter served **916 clients**, with **increased engagement in case management**, from last year.
- Compass served **164 people** (65 adults, 99 children) with a **74% goal attainment rate**, helping them build brighter, more stable futures.

Thank You, U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen and SJC Cadet Corps

For the **fifth consecutive year**, first-year students at the U.S. Naval Academy carried on a remarkable tradition. After completing the grueling climb of the Herndon Monument—a rite that marks the end of their plebe year—these young midshipmen removed their shoes and donated them to Catholic Charities. Their well-worn but still sturdy shoes will soon make their way into the hands of men and women who come to our food distributions. Each pair represents more than footwear; it is a gesture of solidarity and care for neighbors facing difficult times. We are profoundly grateful to these future naval officers for helping us meet practical needs with such generosity and heart.

Meanwhile, on Memorial Day, the Cadets of **St. John's College High School Cadet Corps** chose to spend the day not with family cookouts, but in

service to others. They visited Kim Edge and our dedicated team at the 801 East Shelter to honor the many veterans we serve as clients. With great respect, they presented a color guard ceremony and conducted a flag folding clinic that deeply moved all in attendance. Their actions exemplify the kind of servant leadership our community—and our world—so greatly needs.

SAVE THE DATE!

Catholic
Charities Gala is
April 18, 2026

The Next Generation of Catholic Charities Makes its Mark

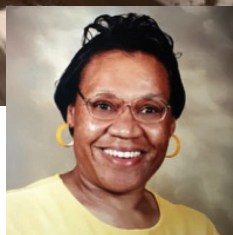
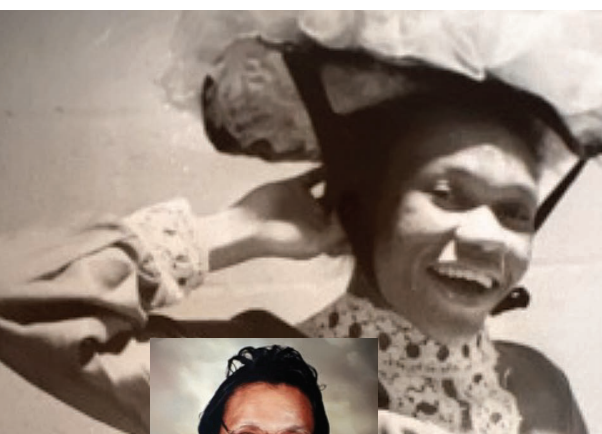
This summer, members of the 83.33 Society and the Enzler Society participated in events that had a direct impact on those that we serve. Members of the 83.33 Society gathered to stuff backpacks of school supplies for local children as they head back to school this fall. Service to others becomes a family affair through our interactive 83.33 Society events.

Members of the Enzler Society mingled with residents of 801 East Men's Shelter for a good old-fashioned game day. The afternoon together



was a great reminder that sometimes the simplest gestures can make the biggest difference.

We are so grateful for the next generation of leaders and change-makers at Catholic Charities who create meaningful impact for those in need in our community.



Giving Back After a Life Well-Lived

Sharlene Hardy was a proud graduate of Kennedy School, where her love for theater blossomed in musicals like *Hello, Dolly!* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. That early support helped her thrive, live independently, and build a remarkable 46-year career with the U.S. General Services Administration.

In 2010, grateful for the start she received, Sharlene notified Catholic Charities of her intention to include us in her estate plans, hoping to support Kennedy School and programs for the poor and homeless. When she passed away last August at 66, she left behind a legacy that will uplift young people with developmental differences for years to come.

"Her gift shows that anyone can make a significant future contribution," shared Kevin Daly, director of leadership and annual giving. "It costs nothing now but is worth so much in the future."

A Critical Time: How You Can Help

Due to policy shifts, families and children across the D.C. area are facing growing insecurity and financial pressures. Some have lost jobs. Many are living in fear of how they will make ends meet. **That's why we need your help now more than ever.**

Your gift will make a life-transforming difference for those who are food insecure, for our unhoused neighbors, or for single parents who've suddenly lost their job or are unable to pay rent.



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