

compassion *in action*

A newsletter from Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Washington

Rooted in Hope. United in Mission.

More than 1,000 guests attended the 41st anniversary Catholic Charities Gala on April 18, 2026. We are pleased to share that Catholic Charities raised nearly **\$3.4 million!** This extraordinary support will enable us to continue our vital work serving our neighbors in need, especially during such an urgent time. Our success would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and guests. A special thank you to our exceptional Gala Co-Chairs, **Lulu & Geoff Gonella, Beth & Brian Lemek, and Connie & Chris Mitchell**, the dedicated Gala Committee, and the NextGen Host Committee.

Following a heartwarming program which featured a spotlight on Catholic Charities' Angel's Watch shelter, guests danced the night away to the tunes of Kristen and the Noise. The NextGen After Party, attended by 140 young professionals, rounded out the incredible celebration. Please save the date for the 2027 Gala on April 10th!



Restoring Dignity: One Case Manager's Mission to Help Trafficking Survivors Heal

Sister Mary Jean Doyle has led Catholic Charities DC's trafficking victims' assistance program (TVAP) for more than eight years, serving victims across Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. She has provided a judgment-free space that is filled with compassion, support, and advocacy for survivors who have endured exploitation and trauma.

"You see these people who have been stripped of their human dignity, they're traumatized," explained Catholic Charities DC's case manager Sister Mary Jean Doyle. "And you go to them, sit with them, and listen. Once they develop a sense of trust, you build on the support we can give them." As trust grows, she connects clients to practical support such as clothing, food, transportation, schooling for their children, employment assistance, and legal services.

One former client, labor trafficked after arriving from Africa, came to Catholic Charities DC seeking help. Through TVAP he was reunited with his wife and children and rebuilt a stable life. He still sends Sister Mary Jean a Christmas card each year to say thank you. His story is one of many lives changed through her work.

As with so many of our case managers at



Catholic Charities DC, who go above and beyond, what makes Sister Mary Jean so successful is that she helps clients recognize their own strength and serves as a trusted advocate and friend. We strive to make sure every client has the support and resources they need to take back their lives and create a better future. If you are interested in supporting Sister Mary Jean's efforts to ensure that local survivors receive support in the years to come, please scan the QR code on the back and select the Trafficking Victims Assistance Program as the gift designation.



A. James & Alice B. Clark Service Impact Award

At the recent Catholic Charities DC Gala, Sister Mary Jean was named the first recipient of the A. James & Alice B. Clark Service Impact Award in recognition of her faithful service. This award recognizes a Catholic Charities volunteer or group of volunteers who embody Jim and Alice Clark's goals of investing in people and empowering them to achieve self-sufficiency while exemplifying the Clarks' values of hard work, integrity and giving back. Congratulations to Sister Mary Jean for being the first honoree of this award, and thank you to the Clark Foundation for their generous support of our mission.



A New Chapter for the Conway Education Center

On February 11, the legacy of the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute took a transformative step forward with the dedication of the **Conway Education Center**, a state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant facility designed to strengthen inclusive education in the nation's capital.

"This Center, like the Joseph P. Kennedy School before it, is more than just a structure," said Jim Malloy, CEO and president of Catholic Charities DC. "For 67 years and counting, the school and child development center represented dignity, possibility, and our unwavering belief that every child deserves an environment designed to enable their success and unleash their God-given potential."

“Watching my son thrive here is a gift that I will always treasure. This new facility opens the door to endless possibilities for our children and young adults.”



Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser joined Cardinal Robert McElroy and community leaders at the dedication, thanking Catholic Charities for "continuing to invest in Washingtonians," and noting that "education is the great equalizer."

The new center was made possible in part by a generous gift from the Bedford Falls Foundation, established by philanthropist Bill Conway. "I was in one of the classrooms and on the wall there is a sign and it says, 'when you walk into this classroom you are respected, loved, wonderful, extraordinary, special, important, strong, amazing, tough, understood, super, cared for, smart, and you are the reason we are here,'" said Bill Conway. "And that's the reason we are here today."

Designed with accessibility and student dignity at its core, from improved ramp access to a welcoming courtyard, the new facility reflects years of planning and collaboration among staff, architects, and builders.

For families like Adenrele Davis's, there is a real impact. A staff member and mother of a student, she said, "Watching my son thrive here is a gift that I will always treasure. This new facility opens the door to endless possibilities for our children and young adults."



The Next Generation of Catholic Charities DC Philanthropists in Action

In February, members of our 83.33 Society gathered at Georgetown Prep for a very special Cocktails & Conversations event. Mark Shriver, President of Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School and longtime Catholic Charities supporter, spoke to the attendees about the importance of incorporating service into all aspects of personal and professional life. He kicked off his remarks with his favorite MLK, Jr. quote about servant leadership and shared several personal anecdotes about the broad range of service endeavors his family has embarked upon



over the years. The 83.33 Society supports Catholic Charities through philanthropy and family-friendly volunteerism. Our next member event will take place in June. To learn more and become a member, please visit www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/8333Society.

Also, in February our NexGen Gala Host Committee kicked off their efforts at a happy hour hosted by Katie & Clark Pastrick. The Host Committee, co-chaired by Caroline Donatelli and Lydia Sanchez, served as the promoters of this year's Gala After Party. This post-Gala gathering for young professionals provides an opportunity for engagement for the next generation of Catholic Charities supporters and champions. 140 tickets were sold, making it the largest NextGen After Party to date. If you are interested in joining the Host Committee for the 2027 Gala, please reach out to Events@cc-dc.org.

How You Can Help

Your gift will make a life-transforming difference for those we serve throughout the District and the surrounding Maryland counties. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in our mission.



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