

compassion *in action*

A newsletter from Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Washington

Advocacy in Action

Over the past year, Catholic Charities supported more than 160,000 neighbors across the District of Columbia and neighboring Maryland counties. As communities navigate budget constraints and changing access to housing, food, and healthcare resources, our staff continue to advocate for practical solutions that strengthen support for those most in need.

Recently, our Housing Executive Director Amanda Chesney joined social workers from across the country at the National Association of Social Workers Conference in Washington, D.C., where they met with policymakers to share the realities facing vulnerable individuals and families.

"I'm grateful when our elected officials and government administrators care about the

"The best and most practical policies come together when elected officials, local government administrators, service providers, and people with lived experience all have a seat at the table."

context we provide as everyone is making really tough decisions due to budget pressures all around," Amanda said.

She believes the strongest solutions come through collaboration.

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Advocacy is an important extension of Catholic Charities' mission, ensuring that the experiences of the people we serve help inform decisions that shape our communities. We appreciate Amanda advocating on behalf of those we serve.



Creating a Legacy

Each spring, Catholic Charities DC gathers with members of the Good Samaritan Society (GSS) to celebrate a remarkable group of supporters whose generosity will continue serving our community for generations to come.

This year's GSS Mass and Brunch was held at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Bethesda. The morning began with a beautiful Mass



celebrated by Father John Enzler, who reflected on the lasting impact of faith, generosity, and service.

Following Mass, guests gathered for brunch as we recognized members of the GSS, individuals who have chosen to include Catholic Charities in their estate plans through a will, trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or other planned gift.

Their extraordinary foresight ensures that future generations of children, families, and individuals facing hardship will continue to receive food, shelter, healthcare, education, and compassionate support when they need it most.

"You all make us feel that we are part of it. Not just donors, but a part of it. Family like."

— GSS member

We are deeply grateful to every member of the GSS for creating a legacy of hope that will continue transforming lives for years to come.

To learn more about the Good Samaritan Society, visit our website catholiccharitiesdc.planmygift.org.



Celebrating a Milestone

This spring, students in Catholic Charities DC's Green Construction and Leaders in Finance workforce development programs celebrated an important milestone as they graduated alongside family, friends, instructors, and supporters.

The ceremony recognized months of hard work, perseverance, and commitment as participants completed training designed to prepare them for meaningful careers in growing industries.

For many graduates, this milestone marked the start of their job search and the opportunity to put months of hard work into practice.

We congratulate each member of this graduating class and look forward to seeing the many ways they will strengthen our local workforce and communities in the years ahead.



Honoring Those Who Give Back

This spring, Catholic Charities celebrated Caritas in both Washington, D.C., and Southern Maryland, recognizing the individuals and organizations whose generosity and service strengthen our mission.

At the Washington, D.C., Caritas celebration, Kevin and Bernadette McConville were among this year's award recipients, receiving the Philanthropic Service Award for their extraordinary commitment to families in need through the annual *In the Name of the Mother* Golf Tournament.

This year marked the tournament's 21st anniversary. Established in 2005 by Kevin McConville, along with family and friends, in memory of his late wife, Megan McConville, the tournament raises funds to help mothers battling cancer who are facing financial hardship. Over the past two decades, *In the Name of the Mother* has provided assistance with rent, utilities, groceries, medical expenses, house cleaning, wigs, specialty clothing, and other essential needs, ensuring mothers can focus on their health and their families during treatment.

At the Southern Maryland Caritas celebration, Catholic Charities recognized local



Kevin and Bernadette McConville with Kimani Superville.

leaders whose dedication has made a lasting impact on the community. Honorees included Nichelle Alston Jones and Charles Jones of Saving Joy, as well as Yvette Presley, Coletta Treakle, Michele Murphy, and Angela Thompson of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Southern Maryland Chapter. Their commitment to serving others reflects the spirit of Caritas and the partnerships that help Catholic Charities extend hope and support throughout Southern Maryland.

Together, both celebrations highlighted the compassion, generosity, and commitment of the individuals and organizations who make our work possible.



The Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Southern Maryland Chapter.

We are grateful for every volunteer, donor, and community partner who help us continue serving our neighbors in need.

Restoring Hope

For individuals and families navigating the immigration system, legal guidance they can trust can make all the difference. Catholic Charities DC's Immigration Legal Services team provides representation, community education, and access to pro bono legal assistance, helping clients move forward with confidence and hope.

One client, whom we'll call Anna, came to Catholic Charities after years of living in fear while trying to protect her children from domestic violence. Despite relocating in search of safety, she continued to face hardship and uncertainty. In 2024, one of our volunteer attorneys began representing Anna in her asylum case, walking alongside her through every step of the legal process. Although she experienced unimaginable personal loss during that time, Anna was granted asylum in 2025, giving her the opportunity to build a safe and stable future for her family.

Reflecting on that moment, Anna shared: *"When I was granted asylum, I felt so happy I could not stop crying. First, I thank God, then Catholic Charities and my pro bono attorney for defending my case. Without their help, I would not have made it."*

Stories like Anna's are only possible because of the dedication of our volunteer attorneys and the generosity of supporters who make this life-changing work possible.

DC Bar Foundation's 2026 Jerrold Scoutt Prize

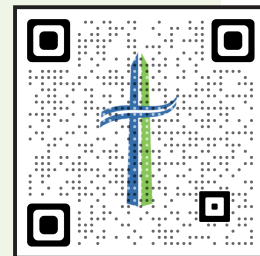
We are so honored and proud that our very own Jacqueline Rishty has been named the DC Bar Foundation's 2026 Jerrold Scoutt Prize awardee!

For 35 years, Jackie has dedicated her career to serving asylum seekers and low-income immigrants facing urgent legal challenges, first joining Catholic Charities as a staff attorney in 1990 and now leading our Immigration Legal Services program as Senior Director. Her compassion, skill, and unwavering commitment have changed countless lives, and we couldn't be prouder to celebrate her today. Congratulations, Jackie! This recognition is so well deserved.

Your Gift Matched Today

Due to the generous support of the William Bingham Foundation, your donation today will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$50,000.

That means your gift today will **double the impact** on vulnerable families.



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Inspiring Hope, Building Futures.

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