

Blessings



Newsletter of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio – an agency of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Hope for World Refugee Day

On Saturday, June 22nd, Catholic Charities invited the community to share hope and solidarity with refugees at the P&G MLB Cincinnati Reds Youth Academy. The day included a family-style picnic, games, children's activities, global music, door prizes, dancing and cultural performances.

Catholic Charities celebrates World Refugee Day every June and was joined this year by presenting sponsors: Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati and the Ursulines of Cincinnati. Additional community partners included the Bhutanese Community of Cincinnati, JANCOA and the Jewish Community Relations Council. Over 225 individuals participated. Debbie Kokoruda, CCSWO Vice-Chair, said, "This event celebrates our commitment to freedom and solidarity with refugees."



Senior Corps Appreciation Tea Party

On Wednesday, June 26th, Catholic Charities' Senior Corps Team led its first Appreciation Tea Party. The event highlights appreciation for individuals in two of Senior Corps' core programs — Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions. Over 70 Senior Corps members were in attendance.

At the event, lunch was served, tea cups were gifted, and music entertainment took place. Seven winners walked away with antique tea pots. A fun time was had by all.

Senior Corps has been a part of Catholic Charities for over 50 years. To learn more, visit ccswoh.org/services/seniors.



185,724

Volunteer Hours in 2018

CEO Message



Ted Bergh, CEO of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio

effort through world wars and regional conflicts so that migrant families reach safety and a decent life for their children. In June, we celebrated World Refugee Day at the P&G MLB Cincinnati Reds Youth Academy with 225 individuals from many different cultures who all now live in our community.

The World Refugee Day Celebration, stories about visiting Findley Market and the Su Casa Summer Enrichment Program for children, included in this Blessings, are antidotal to the terrible events on the news of racially motivated mass shootings, ICE raids to separate families, and news of further reductions in the number of refugees that will be allowed to enter the U.S. in 2019 and 2020.

This almost continuous news of violence to migrants evidences the relentlessly experience of the dehumanizing impact of our own nation's broken immigration system. Each day, we see families being separated, traumatized children from the border coming to us for help, local refugee communities unable to bring their loved ones out of refugee camps elsewhere, and the lives of our neighbors devastated by human trafficking. For us, the issue is personal. As our country devolves into an increasingly polarized culture, we must remember that migrants are God's gift to clearly reveal to us that we are one body in Christ. As we so tragically saw in El Paso, fear and hatred of immigrants are driving people to indiscriminately kill their neighbors. Our own salvation, however, is steeped in our hearts' desires to unify humanity in God's love. The events and actions of Catholic Charities reflect God's love and solidarity with the poor and vulnerable.

Catholic Charities will continue to express God's mercy to local families in the Greater Cincinnati community. Thank you for your prayers, volunteering and financial support. Together we can grow God's love.

With peace,

Ted Bergh

Catholic Charities remains faithful to its mission to serve local families in Greater Cincinnati. All our work is local and focused on improving the lives and resiliency of families. An example is the Early Childhood Mental Health story on page 3 where a child's aggressive behavior was redirected so that he could succeed in pre-school and advance to elementary school. It included improving the parenting skills of the mother. The Early Childhood Mental Health program is a way for children to socialize and participate throughout their school experiences. It enables children to be successful in school and not become estranged and destructive as they advance through their school years.

On page 4 is a story about the Food for All pantry that delivers healthy food to food deserts in Hamilton and nearby counties. The program is providing food to a grandmother who is raising her son's children after his death due to a drug overdose. This program is directed by Catholic Charities staff member April Hoak but is entirely staffed by volunteers and housed in space made available by churches and civic agencies at no cost. This is a very effective and efficient use of resources to deliver healthy food to hungry families.

Many of the families we serve are from other places. This is not new to the work that we do. We have worked with migrant families since our founding in 1916. We have continued this

LEADERSHIP

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Archbishop of Cincinnati

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Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation



Catholic Charities' Butler County office received a phone call a few months ago. It was from a childcare center in West Chester. They were currently in need of help with a 4-year old who showed aggressive behavior toward staff and other children. Connor hit, threw toys and pushed individuals. He was identified as a potential safety risk.

Catholic Charities' Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) consultant, Kathryn Reese, met with Connor's mother and learned that his birth had challenges and impacted her health. Kathryn also learned that Connor had negative experiences at his last childcare center and showed aggressive behavior toward his 18-month old sister.

After the meeting took place, Kathryn provided Connor's mother and father with an action plan for solving Connor's issues. The plan included a focused approach on rebuilding the mother/son relationship, occupational therapy for his sensory issues, and attendance of the summer camp for building of his social skills.

Catholic Charities has heard back from Connor's mother. She has noticed a positive change in her son's behavior through simple things such as listening and following through the first time he is asked to do something – which his mother feels is a BIG accomplishment. The family is now excited for Connor to start his pre-school program this Fall.

Caregiver Assistance Network White Mass Nomination

Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio and The Order of Malta are proud to announce the 15th Annual White Mass to recognize caregivers. It is scheduled for Sunday, November 17th at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains. The mass is to honor those who work in healthcare facilities in our community.

You are invited to nominate an individual, a salaried person or volunteer, that you believe best exemplifies the mission of compassionate caring and can do so by reaching out to Stephanie Ramsey at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral at 513-421-5354 ext. 4010. Nominations are due no later than September 27th.





Food for All: Call to Family, Community and Participation



The fourth Thursday of every month, the morning starts at 7:00AM for the Highland County Greater Life Assembly Church volunteer lunch crew. They gather to make a hot lunchtime meal for their community with the Catholic Charities Food for All Mobile Pantry.

The community neighbors in need not only leave the monthly pantry with a cartful of food, but also a hot lunch for family members. Greater Life Assembly's intention is to offer programs that strengthen the Body of Christ and reach those in need.

At this month's pantry, April Hoak, Catholic Charities' Food for All

Coordinator, met with Stella - a recipient of the pantry. She was so grateful for the pantry, and also the hot meal. "I wasn't sure what I was going to eat for lunch today", she shared. She is a grandmother raising her son's two children. She recently lost her son to an overdose in January. This pantry offers her more than food, it offers her a place where people see her, love her and give her dignity and kindness.

Volunteers feel called to participate in their community, to seek together the common good and well-being for all. The pantry is the way for people to create a community for all humanity and creation.



To learn more about Catholic Charities' Food for All program, visit ccswoh.org/services/food-for-all-pantry.

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Findlay Market Cultural Orientation Field Trip



On July 31st, the Refugee Resettlement Program sponsored a field trip to Findlay Market. The trip introduced newly arrived refugees to one of Cincinnati's historic landmarks.

The field trip included education to use Cincinnati's bus system and streetcar, an

extensive tour of the market, its history, and its diverse global food offerings, as well as lunch. Seven of Catholic Charities' refugee resettlement clients attended and Rachel Burgess, Case Management Supervisor, led the field trip.

To learn more about Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Program, visit ccswoh.org/services/refugees.



IN HONOR:

The following gifts were made to honor the following individuals:

Dr. Marc Alexander

Dr. Richard and Marianne
Roedersheimer
Jessica Thielen

The Cappel's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Julie Dhonau and Nancy Dhonau
Bob and Linda Guerity

Sean Kel's Birthday

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Allana Sarell
Dan Sarell

Christine Voe's Birthday

Marjorie Hamann
Neal Novak
Gerald and Virginia Weale

IN MEMORY:

Gifts to Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio have been made in loving memory of the following individuals:

Beth Burridge

Clarence and Michele Head
Pat and Sue Keefe

Andrew C. Meyer

Christopher Meyer

Jan Whipple

Anonymous

Su Casa Hispanic Center Vacaciones Útiles

Since 2008, Su Casa Hispanic Center has created a warm, nurturing learning environment for children every Summer through the Vacaciones Útiles enrichment program. The program targets Hispanic/Latino children to bridge the academic achievement gap between them and their peers.

More than 50 children entering pre-school through second grade spend the Summer preparing to be better students with hands-on learning exercises that boost critical thinking skills, improve reading and math competency, and enhance social and emotional behavior. The program also includes sports, field

trips, and parent workshops focusing on parenting, child development and nutrition.

Emma O'Connor is one of the teachers of this year's program and taught pre-school. Emma was born in Mexico, spent the first year of her life there, and then grew up in the United States. She visited Mexico every Summer growing up as a child. Her parents knew it was important for her and her brother to not only become fluent in the Spanish language, but also the culture! Emma is interviewed below:

QUESTION: What inspired you to teach at Vacaciones Útiles this Summer?

ANSWER: My passion for the Latin American community. I was in a corporate job forever and I knew I wanted to teach children.

I wanted to bridge the barrier between understanding the culture and language.

QUESTION: Where did your love of working with children come from?

ANSWER: It came from raising my children. I used to take my children to Mexico in the Summer and enroll them in Summer school. I loved seeing them absorb the learning like "sponges". I saw a need for somebody to teach children not just the language, but also the culture.

QUESTION: What age group are you teaching this Summer and what areas are you focusing on with them?

ANSWER: I'm teaching Pre-K and the focus of the learning is speaking English and Spanish. The majority of the day what I'm saying in English, I'm also saying in Spanish and vice versa. Also, the children's attention spans are short, so quite a bit of the learning takes place via song.

QUESTION: What do you think inspires the children the most at Vacaciones Útiles?



Su Casa Hispanic Center Baby Shower

On Sunday, June 23rd, the Su Casa Hispanic Center Team organized a baby shower for pregnant Hispanic/Latino women at St. Julie Billiart Catholic Parish in Hamilton. The focus of the baby shower was to celebrate new life and to offer preparation for the new children coming into the world.

The event was supported with food and drinks from La Soupe Cincinnati and Tortilleria Garcia as well as blankets from Warm Hugs - Dayton. Thirteen mothers attended the event and everyone had a wonderful time.



ANSWER: The socializing and the ability to relate to one another. These children really want to learn. For many of these children, this is their first learning environment.

QUESTION: What rewards do you receive from teaching this program?

ANSWER: Their little smiles. Seeing that they get it. Knowing that they are learning!

QUESTION: What is your hope for the children?

ANSWER: To be able to go to college.

QUESTION: Will you be back next year to teach at Vacaciones Útiles?

ANSWER: YES!!! Absolutely!!!



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"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall
obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

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Su Casa, a ministry of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio,
welcomes immigrant families who are fleeing hunger, gang
violence and human trafficking to find a safe place for their
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of self sufficiency through education, health promotion, legal
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