

Blessings



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

Su Casa Hispanic Center Health Fair

On Saturday, September 14th, the Su Casa Hispanic Center celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with a Health Fair at the AMIS School in Roselawn. The event included mammograms, health and dental screenings, vision exams, and more for the Hispanic/Latino community in Greater Cincinnati. 167 households were

served and 779 people were able to improve their health.

Su Casa and Catholic Charities would like to thank our main partners/sponsors of the event:

- Cancer Support Community
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

- The Freestore Foodbank
- The Healthcare Connection
- Healthy Moms & Babies
- P&G
- Proscan Imaging
- UC Health & Medical School

In total, there were 26 partner agencies and over 60 volunteers who participated in the event.



Senior Corps RSVP Food for All Pantry Support

On Tuesday, August 10th, the Senior Corps RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Team led its monthly fresh produce pantry at St. Joseph Church Mobile Produce Pantry. Food was donated by the Freestore Foodbank, students from St. Joseph Catholic School set the pantry up, and RSVP as well as IPSOS volunteers distributed the fresh produce to over 100 individuals in the West End Community.

The purpose of the Senior Corps RSVP Food Pantries is to provide access to fresh produce in food deserts - areas of the city where it is no longer available. Senior Corps has provided this service for two years at St. Joseph Church's Food for All Produce Pantry in the West End and Church of the Resurrection in Bond Hill.

To learn more about volunteering opportunities at Catholic Charities, visit ccswoh.org/how-to-get-involved/volunteer.



CEO Message



Ted Bergh, CEO of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio

working through Su Casa she has found a safe place to live, a way to gain immigration status, steady work, income, and hope for the future.

This edition also highlights Catholic Charities' AccuracyNow Language Services program which provides timely and accurate interpreters and translators. It has grown to provide interpretation and transcriptions in 120 languages, telephone interpreters and document translation services.

This issue of Blessings samples only a few of the thousands of local families who experience life-changing works of mercy through your prayerful support of Catholic Charities. In the words of Pope Francis, "...without a witness to mercy, life becomes fruitless and sterile as if sequestered in a barren desert." Thank you for your confidence and enabling our mission to serve local families who experience poverty and vulnerability.

With peace,

Ted Bergh

This edition of Blessings focuses on telling the stories of how Catholic Charities serves local families. An example is the cover story where the Su Casa Health Fair welcomes 167 families to Cincinnati through referral to local health care providers and performs screenings to diagnose healthcare needs.

This is not the only service Catholic Charities provides locally. The Food for All program continues to serve healthy food in food deserts. This work of mercy brings food to rural communities, as well as, in the center of Cincinnati. In this edition, the work to bring fresh produce to Seniors who have limited access is highlighted.

Discovering Mercy - a Prophetic Message in Turbulent Times is also featured in this edition of Blessings. The redesigned speakers series presented by Catholic Charities highlights local efforts by Catholic organizations and other groups.

On Page 4 is a story about Adela. When she arrived in Cincinnati from Honduras, she was 9 months pregnant and homeless. Through kindness and

LEADERSHIP

Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr,
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Board of Directors

Joel Handorf, *Chair*
David Bruno, *Immediate Past Chair*
Debbie Kokoruda, *Vice-Chair*
Tom Steele, *Treasurer*
Ron Jackson, *Secretary*
Mark Alexander, *MD*

Bill Goslee
Rebecca Johnson
John Kronenberger
Dave Lohbeck
Claver Pashi, PhD
Khem Rizal
Katherine Sheridan, MD
Jacqueline Rioja Velarde
Jim Wahl

Ted Bergh, *Chief Executive Officer*
Tony Stieritz, *Chief Operation Officer*
Ross Hallman, *Chief Financial Officer*
Dan Sarell, *Director of Mission Advancement*
David Taylor, *Director of Marketing & Communication*

Discovering Mercy

A Prophetic Response to Turbulent Times

Catholic Charities' Enlightenment Series has a new name. The series will focus on **Discovering Mercy in Turbulent Times**. Five areas of current concerns are presented from a Catholic perspective. The focus includes Holy Scripture, Catholic tradition and teaching, letters from the church magisterium, and contributions by Catholic writers. The **Discovering Mercy** series highlights local efforts by Catholic organizations and other groups. It will encourage participants to take a faith-based action to encounter and positively change the world.

Topics include:

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

The Earth and everything in it are part of God's beautiful creation; we are called to both protect it and ensure that all of God's creatures enjoy its bounty. Participants take a deeper dive into Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, and the many issues of justice that weave into God's call to care for creation.

UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH

Awareness is rising of the mental health crisis that is prevalent in our nation and in the world. Learn what the term mental health care means, understand how care for yourself and your loved ones who may be suffering from mental illness, and courses of action.

FOOD FOR ALL: HUNGER IN OHIO

The Food for All Program is reducing hunger in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Learn how Catholic Charities is combatting hunger in rural and urban food deserts in light of Pope Francis' call to end hunger. Let's work together to reduce poverty and hunger in our community.

DISMANTLING RACISM

Racism is called America's original sin, and there have been decades of marginalization, oppression and prejudice against African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics and diverse ethnic groups. We are all children of God with human dignity



to protect. The Catholic Church continues its commitment to welcome and protect the vulnerable in our churches, communities, neighborhoods, and families. Learn more about the roots of this intrinsic evil, how it is present today, and how we can work to change our behaviors.

PROTECTING OUR NEIGHBORS: A RESPONSE TO GLOBAL MIGRATION

In a time of increased suffering and fear among our brothers and sisters in the immigrant and refugee communities, men and women of conscience ask themselves: How can I live in solidarity with the oppressed? Protecting Our Neighbors seeks to inform listeners on the global migration crisis and how to act strongly in our faith on behalf of the oppressed.

Trained discussion leaders are ready to serve your parish and the broader community at no cost to you.

To schedule a speaker, contact Maddie Lees, Parish Outreach Coordinator, at 513-672-3714 or mlees@ccswoh.org.

Adela's Journey

Adela, a mother of four from Honduras, lived in fear every day. Her children were grown up, her husband had left her, and she was pregnant. Violence against women was extremely high in her country. She couldn't live this way anymore and knew she needed to make a change.

So her journey to the United States began. Adela did not share how she travelled from Honduras to Mexico to cross the border, but she managed to find a way. She was processed through immigration, temporarily detained and released. Her journey continued to Cincinnati where a fellow Honduran lived. She did not know this individual well, but arrived at her door and was soon asked to leave.

Upset, confused, depressed, Adela was nine months pregnant and homeless. She made her way to nearby bus stop bench to sit and began crying. Another individual sat down next to her and began speaking to her in Spanish. "Que esta pasando?, What is going on?," he said. The gentleman she met was also from Honduras and he invited Adela to stay at his house until she got settled in Cincinnati. He also introduced her to the Su Casa Hispanic Center. He told her, "They will have everything you will need to get settled here." The next day, Adela visited Su Casa and received a MARCC ID and baby care necessities. Su Casa then did not hear from Adela for weeks.

Adela gave birth to her daughter. Dealing with postpartum depression, she still knew it was important to start working on a job and housing for her and her child. She arrived at Job & Family Services with her paperwork, but was denied help due to an error on the forms she filled out. She also had a court date in Columbus and had no transportation there.



Devastated, Adela could only think of one place to go for help in this time of need – Su Casa. She called Su Casa, where she encountered the mercy of caring staff. She was able to work through Su Casa to:

- Travel to her immigration court date in Columbus
- Receive mental health counseling
- Establish residency in the U.S.
- Attend madres (parenting skills) classes

Adela and her daughter are now settled in Cincinnati. Adela has a full time job and they have an apartment to live in. She has reached out to Su Casa and

"Thank you for all you have done for me and my daughter. I feel that I have found a safe place and a way to support myself and my child."

Catholic Charities to say, "Thank you for all you have done for me and my daughter. I feel that I have found a safe place and a way to support myself and my child."

Jenn's Battle



Jenn just turned 17 years old when she came to Catholic Charities' mental health services program. Her school referred her for counseling due to her struggle with suicidal thoughts, being bullied at school, skipping and failing classes, and fighting with other students.

Catholic Charities diagnosed her with anxiety and depression and supplied her with mental health counseling. Jenn was also referred to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center for psychiatric and physical health counseling. She has been working through past trauma, and has been able to learn healthier ways to cope.

Jenn has been in Catholic Charities care for over a year and a half now. Trusting her life to God through confirmation is a big part of her journey during this time. She is making much healthier choices and is stronger in her ability to advocate for herself. She is thriving at school and excited to graduate at the end of this academic year - she's even on track to complete all of her required credits a semester early. Her counselor here stated, "I could not be more proud of this young woman and all of the work she has put in to healing herself and changing her life, despite the many obstacles that she has faced. She is amazing and inspiring!"

IN HONOR:

The following gifts were made to honor the following individuals:

Sara and Lucas McGuire
Sylvia Pacheco McGuire and
Josh McGuire

IN MEMORY:

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

Terri Emery
Tom and Brenda Wimberg

Marilyn Sullivan
Rebecca Wagner

IS YOUR CAR DRIVING MORE STRESS THAN MILES?

Donate it to Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio!

We provide free and convenient pick-up for almost any type of vehicle.

Call 855-500-RIDE (7433) or go to
careasy.org/nonprofit/catholic-charities-southwestern-ohio.



UC Medical School Students visit Su Casa Hispanic Center



On July 25th, Dr. Christine O'Dea from the University of Cincinnati Medical School brought students to the Su Casa Hispanic Center. The purpose of the meeting was to educate the students in the growing Hispanic/Latino population's language and culture. Four clients who

work with Su Casa shared the stories of their journeys to the U.S. as well as how local healthcare providers have helped them and their families with services they could not receive in their home countries. All presentations were shared in Spanish.

Su Casa's partnership with the University of Cincinnati Medical School has been taking place for over 8 years now.

To learn more about the Su Casa Hispanic Center program and the services it provides locally, visit ccswoh.org/services/sucasa.

Welcoming the Stranger

On Thursday, September 12th, Su Casa Hispanic Center led a Welcoming the Stranger presentation at the Community of the Good Shepherd in Montgomery. The purpose was to share Su Casa's life-saving mission: To provide an array of services to the Hispanic/Latino community of the Tri-State area while supporting efforts toward self-sufficiency.

Five members of the Su Casa Team shared the work that Su Casa does directly

helping migrants and refugees in our community in the following service fields:

- Emergency Assistance - Miriam Ortega
- Family Reunification - Sandy Rodriguez
- Health Promotion Services - Sara Obando & Mariela Baltodano-Murillo
- Education Services – José Nine

The event was moderated by Dr. Julian Guitran and 70 people attended. The response to the panel discussion led to additional invitations to share Su Casa's story across the community.



Public Launch of AccuracyNow Language Services

Catholic Charities' AccuracyNow Language Services delivers interpretation, translation, over the phone interpretation and transcriptions in 120 different languages in a precise, exact and timely manner. It provides income to over 500 interpreters/translators who are independent contractors.

The need for translators and interpreters in Cincinnati has grown. Many public services are required to provide services in the client's native language. Many businesses who choose to hire skilled workers who are not English speakers are engaged with AccuracyNow to conduct interviews.

AccuracyNow Language Services was created to bridge the language gap in Cincinnati. The mission is to provide non-English speakers the ability to communicate with providers to access medical, legal, conference, education, and social services.

If you know of an organization or individual who needs interpretation and/or translation services OR if you are looking for a job opportunity in the interpretation field, please call (513) 672-3949.



Champions of Mercy 2019

Acts of mercy occur every day. Since 2016, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio has recognized individuals and groups who share mercy and inspire others to do so. The recognition takes place at a private annual awards event and this year, it will be taking place at Our Lady of Light on Thursday, November 7th.

This year's awardees are:

- Sr. Ann Gorman, RSM, St. Boniface School
- Zoey Harig, Mt. Notre Dame School
- Jewish Community Relations Council
- Ann Millacci, St. Columban School
- The Peace and Justice Committee of St. Anthony Parish



If you are interested in nominating an individual or group for the 2020 Champions of Mercy, please reach out to David Taylor at dtaylor@ccswoh.org for more details.

Serving Hamilton, Butler, Clermont,
Warren, Brown, Adams, Highland, Clinton,
Champaign, Logan & Clark Counties

Mid-Pointe Tower
7162 Reading Road, Suite 600
Cincinnati, Ohio 45237
513-241-7745

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

*If you choose not to receive further communications
from Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio,
please contact Spring Duncan at 513-672-3736
or sduncan@ccswoh.org to be removed from our
mailing list.*



SERVE, ENLIGHTEN, EMPOWER



For more than 100 years, **Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio** has served local families in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Our programs have changed over the years, but our commitment to serve the poor, protect the vulnerable and welcome the stranger locally in Greater Cincinnati has not wavered.



**Catholic Charities
Southwestern Ohio**
Serve | Enlighten | Empower

**Your support is essential to sustaining works of mercy.
DONATE TODAY at www.ccswoh.org/donate**



AGENCY
PARTNER