

Blessings



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

Serving Local Families in 2019

First a heartfelt thank you to our volunteers and supporters who serve families in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Your support provides these works of mercy in Greater Cincinnati. Please continue to pray and serve through God's love through Catholic Charities.



162,967

Volunteer hours served families through Catholic Charities



2,346

Individuals received Emergency Assistance (+10%)



2,274

Individuals participated in health days and fairs



10,027

Individuals received care from Client-Direct Services



NEARLY

4.5 million

Meals to hungry families in the Archdiocese (+13%)



82

Parenting Education families strengthened



1,086

Children counseled in Early Childhood Mental Health (+8%)



177

Individuals comforted by the Caregiver Assistance Network



312

Individuals established Medical, Vision or Dental Home



Refugee Youth Exchange at St. John the Evangelist Church



On the afternoon of Saturday, December 12th, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio and St. John the Evangelist Church in West Chester brought parish high school students and refugee high school students together for a cultural awareness event. The purpose of the event was to "share" cultures in different ways and included creating pizza from scratch and youth ministry games. 20 individuals attended the event, new friendships were made and a great time was had by all.

CEO Message



Ted Bergh, CEO of Catholic Charities
Southwestern Ohio

Catholic Charities will continue to be God's mercy to families in greater Cincinnati whether through delivering food to hungry families in rural counties or finding a way for a young mother to be fitted for prosthesis to care for her children. (See stories in this edition of *Blessings*.)

All works of mercy are accomplished through God's grace and the acts of the people of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Catholic Charities is the conduit for your prayers and sharing your gifts to serve families who struggle with poverty and other vulnerabilities.

These works of mercy combine the skills of social service professionals with the heart of the church to serve over 10,000 individuals (not including those who received 4.5 million meals through the Second Harvest Food Bank and Food for All pantries.) Every one served has a face and a story like the individual stories included in this issue of *Blessings*.

A scripture passage that inspires me in this work is:

"Let your love for one another be constant, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be mutually hospitable without complaining. As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure you have received. The one who serves is to do it with the strength provided by God. Thus, in all of you God is to be glorified through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 4:8-11)

Thank you for sharing of your gifts and God's constant love with one another though the many works of Catholic Charities.

Ted Bergh

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Archbishop of Cincinnati

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Food for All Program at St. Mary – Bethel



On Friday, January 10th, Catholic Charities' Food for All program visited St. Mary Parish in Bethel for its once a month food pantry distribution. The pantry opened at St. Mary's at 11:00 AM. 271 individuals and 117 households were served. 73 of the households were senior households – those with individuals 60 years old or older.

Sarah McCall found out about the Food for All pantry at St. Mary Parish a year ago. Her son informed her about it. "I live on social security. After I pay my bills, I have \$60 a month to live on. \$20 goes toward gas, the rest toward food. This church and the Food for All program has



been such a blessing to me. I love the fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as, the sweet people who are here to hand out the food."

Mary Jo Burns is a Food for All pantry volunteer. She learned about the program after it came to life from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's One Faith, One Hope, One Love campaign. She has been volunteering once a month for over a year now. Mary Jo shared, "I see the older population and working poor coming through the pantries... It is great to see community building, trust and faith between parishes and parishioners for the local neighbors."



The Food for All program was created by partnering with social service agencies and churches in rural eastern counties of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and reduces hunger in food deserts. Every month, Catholic Charities travels to Clermont, Clinton, Highland, Brown, Adams and Hamilton counties with food. Working with local organizations, a pantry is set up for the day. Food is both purchased and donated from the Freestore Food Bank. Volunteers set up the food for distribution at each site.

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

White Mass Honors 88 Caregivers

Caregivers from across Greater Cincinnati gathered at a special Mass on Sunday, November 17th at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in downtown Cincinnati to honor 88 caregivers. Called the "White Mass" in honor of the clothing traditionally worn by members of the caring professions, the mass and reception that followed recognized those who care for others. The primary celebrant was Bishop Joseph Binzer of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The Catholic Charities Caregiver Assistance Network, the Knights and Dames of the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Saint Peter and Chains Cathedral

began sponsoring the White Mass in November in 2004. November is National Family Caregivers Month, a time to reflect on the loving service of more than 44 million Americans who care for a family member, friend, or neighbor.

The White Mass honors family caregivers as well as those who work or volunteer in health care facilities across Greater Cincinnati this year. Honorees will receive a white sash and a white rose along with a certificate acknowledging



his or her exemplary care and service. Catholic Charities invited nearly 900+ nominees from previous years to participate in welcoming new honorees.

IN HONOR:

The following gifts were made to honor the following individuals:

Greg and Janet Buening

Ariel Miller

Julie Fasick and Keith's Wedding

Kathleen Malkin

Donald Frericks

Amy Carlier

Michele Head

Lauren Zauche

Margaret Hopkins

Glenn and Gracie Kuper

Lawrence Kramer

Heather Thompson

James Kroger

Stephanie Snyder

Merry Christmas George and Judy Lahner!

Mary Scaggs

Mark Meilke

Caroline Schlager

Anne Ramsay

Mark VanderLaan

Sara and Lucas McGuire

Sylvia Pacheco McGuire and
Josh McGuire

Mark & Jeanne Schlagetter's 50 Years of God's Blessing

Karen Stockstill

Mary T. Schuster

Joseph and Kathleen Schuster

Bobby Shields

Anonymous

Michelle Spott's Birthday

Bridget Spotts
Martha Torres Byrne

Virginia Swanton

James Swanton

Victor and Mary John Trouy's 65th Anniversary

Anonymous
The Family of Victor and
Mary John Trouy

Clients of Wahl Marketing Communications

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William Wallace

Katie Waterson

Learning to Walk Again



Juanita, a 24-year old from Honduras, recently had emergency appendix surgery. Medical complications from the surgery led doctors to amputate her left arm and right leg. Juanita was in need of a prosthetic arm and leg and did not know what to do. As a mother with young children, she received case management through Su Casa's program for mothers with young children.

Juanita met with a Su Casa case manager and shared her dream to walk and hug her children again. Juanita informed her case manager that she did not have health insurance and was unable to pay for her prosthetic limbs out-of-pocket.

Su Casa researched different prosthetic and orthotic companies in the tristate area. After consulting with different providers, Su Casa partnered with Rocco Prosthetic & Orthopedic Center, Inc. Juanita's story touched their heart and aligned with their service mission. A prosthetic arm and leg were to be fitted at a fraction of the total cost. With funding from Su Casa, through our special donor fund for severe situations like Juanita, a new prosthetic arm and leg now became possible.

With the help of Su Casa, Mr. Richard Rocco, Jr., owner of the prosthetic center, welcomed Juanita and took care of all of her needs. He shared many of his client stories, and all of the stories had a message of hope and faith.

Juanita is now learning to use her new arm and leg thanks to the advocacy of Su Casa and the generosity of Mr. Rocco and donors to Su Casa's special needs fund.

Overcoming Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Deborah's PTSD began at a young age. While in college, she experienced sexual trauma. After 25 years of dealing with the trauma on her own, she reached out to Catholic Charities Mental Health Counseling for help.

Deborah was paired with a Catholic Charities counselor and shared her story. Through her mental health counseling, she was provided an outlet to tell her story, taught skills to deal with anxiety, coached in ways to improve personal strength and self-esteem, and assisted in gaining insights into unproductive behaviors.

After a number of meetings with her mental health counselor, Deborah's stress and anxiety have reduced, her relationships with her immediate and extended family have greatly improved, and she has decided to pursue extended graduate education to forge a new career path.

Catholic Charities strives to help clients achieve improved mental health and overall wellness. Our program provides highly individualized care and strives to strengthen our community one individual, couple, and family at a time.



To learn more about Catholic Charities' Mental Health Counseling, visit ccswoh.org/services/counseling.

IN MEMORY:

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

Jerry Alcott

Peggy Holliday

Michael J Batterberry

Richard and Julia Batterberry

Valerie "Cookie Bergman

Dan Sauer

Randy and Sherree Sauer

John Luke Breitenbach

Michael Lukens

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Sandy Tyjewski

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Theodore Longshore

Our beloved son,

Andrew C. Meyer

Christopher and Susan Meyer

John Showalter

Jolene Logan

Marilyn Sullivan

Sue Wiedeman

Kathleen Deasy Witchger

Joe and Colleen Furey

Buckle Up For Life



On Friday, December 20th, Su Casa Hispanic Center and Children's Hospital partnered to present a Buckle Up For Life presentation to Hispanic/Latino parents in the Hamilton area at St. Juliet Billart Parish.

13 parents attended the event where they learned the importance of car seat safety for children, age and weight guidance, car seat installation, and different types

of car seats for different child weights. Each parent who participated, received a free car seat and had it installed in their car that day.

Gloria Del Castillo, Senior Specialist – Communication Engagement Trauma Center from Children's Hospital expressed, "It has been a great experience to get to work with Su Casa. Our primary focus for Buckle Up for Life



is to address health disparities that are related to motor vehicle crashes that result in injury and death. Now, there are great disparities in the Hispanic community. Hispanics are three times less likely to wear restraints, which puts them at a higher risk of injury and death in a crash. So for us, Su Casa has allowed us to reach out to a target community we want to work with."

December Adopt-A-Family Events

In December, Su Casa Hispanic Center hosted two Adopt-A-Family Events. The first event took place on December 7th at the AMIS School. 201 families received holiday presents for their children. Su Casa would like to thank P&G, 5/3 Bank, Thermofisher Scientific, multiple

parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and our dedicated volunteers for making this event happen.

The second event took place on December 3rd at Su Casa Hispanic Center. 50 families received holiday presents for their children. Su Casa would

like to thank "A Brighter Day for All" for sponsoring this event.

Each event not only offered presents for the children, but also food, games, and the chance to meet with Santa. Approximately 1,200 individuals were impacted by these two events.



Seeking Green Card

Maria, originally from Nicaragua, had lived in the United States for 12 years. She had always aspired for a green card in order to live and work permanently in the United States. A friend directed her to Catholic Charities' Immigration Legal Services and she made a phone call to set up a meeting.

Catholic Charities helped lead Maria through the general green card application process which included:

- Immigration petition sponsorship
- A visa application with the U.S. Department of State
- A provisional waiver
- Application decision

After 2 ½ years working with Catholic Charities, Maria is proud to say she is now a green card holder and is grateful to Catholic Charities for guiding her through the process.

Catholic Charities provides immigration legal services as part of its mission to "serve the community to in turn serve the vulnerable." The agency welcomes the stranger through its refugee resettlement services, Su Casa Hispanic Center, and immigration legal services.

To learn more about Catholic Charities immigration legal services, visit ccswoh.org/immigration.



RESERVE YOUR TABLE NOW FOR THE 21TH ANNUAL Su Casa Awards Dinner



Friday, April 24, 2020

Xavier University's Cintas Center

Su Casa's premiere fundraising event supports a wide range of services benefitting vulnerable Hispanic / Latino immigrant families in Greater Cincinnati.

6 pm ... Reception, cash bar & auction

7 pm ... Formal dinner with entertainment and awards

9 pm ... DJ & Dancing



Hispanic Center of Cincinnati
A Program of
Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio

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

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WELCOME & SERVE FAMILIES



For more than 100 years, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio has welcomed and served local families in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This is achieved through comprehensive services:

- Legal Immigration
- ESOL Classes
- Case Management
- Employment Readiness
- Emergency Assistance
- Su Casa Hispanic Center
- Food for All
- Counseling
- Family & Parenting
- Senior Services
- Caregivers
- Refugee Resettlement Services

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