

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE

JULY / AUGUST 2015

With your support, meals nourish hope and health

Inside this issue:

- Opportunity Center provides tools for self-sufficiency
- Amanda dreams of a bed off the floor, security
- From homeless to counting blessings

Every morning just after sunrise, a line forms outside of Catholic Charities' Opportunity Center

At month's end, when dollars are running short, the line of hungry souls waiting for a meal grows a bit longer. The line is made up of both people who are experiencing homelessness and those who have a place to sleep each night but are trying to make their few dollars stretch.

"Today we had French toast for breakfast, and I just love that," said Tony, a 57-year-old Army veteran who was one of the last through the door on a recent summer morning.

"I remember the meal they had the first day I came here. It was cold outside and I had a hot bowl of chili," he said.

Meals are served at many Catholic Charities' sites in the metro area. Men, women,

children and families depend on Catholic Charities for more than 3,000 meals and snacks every day.

"Catholic Charities is a consistent, reliable source of prepared, hot meals for those most in need in the Greater Minneapolis-Saint Paul region," said Kathleen Turner, who manages the food service program.

"Our meal program provides a significant, and in many cases, primary food resource for those we serve," Turner said.

Your gifts and time spent volunteering in our kitchens provided more than one million meals this year alone. The need is great, but with your gifts, we will work together to provide nutritious food to those most in need.



Proud grandfather. Twins fan. Volunteer.

Ron goes by a few labels. Homeless is one he is working to leave behind. The 60-year-old has been experiencing homelessness since October, when his daughter lost her apartment and he had no other place to sleep. She dropped him off at a Minneapolis shelter and he's been trying to get out ever since.

“Being homeless, it’s really a big puzzle and you have to have patience.”

A vital piece of that puzzle for Ron has been Catholic Charities’ Opportunity Center, calling it a “full-service deal.”

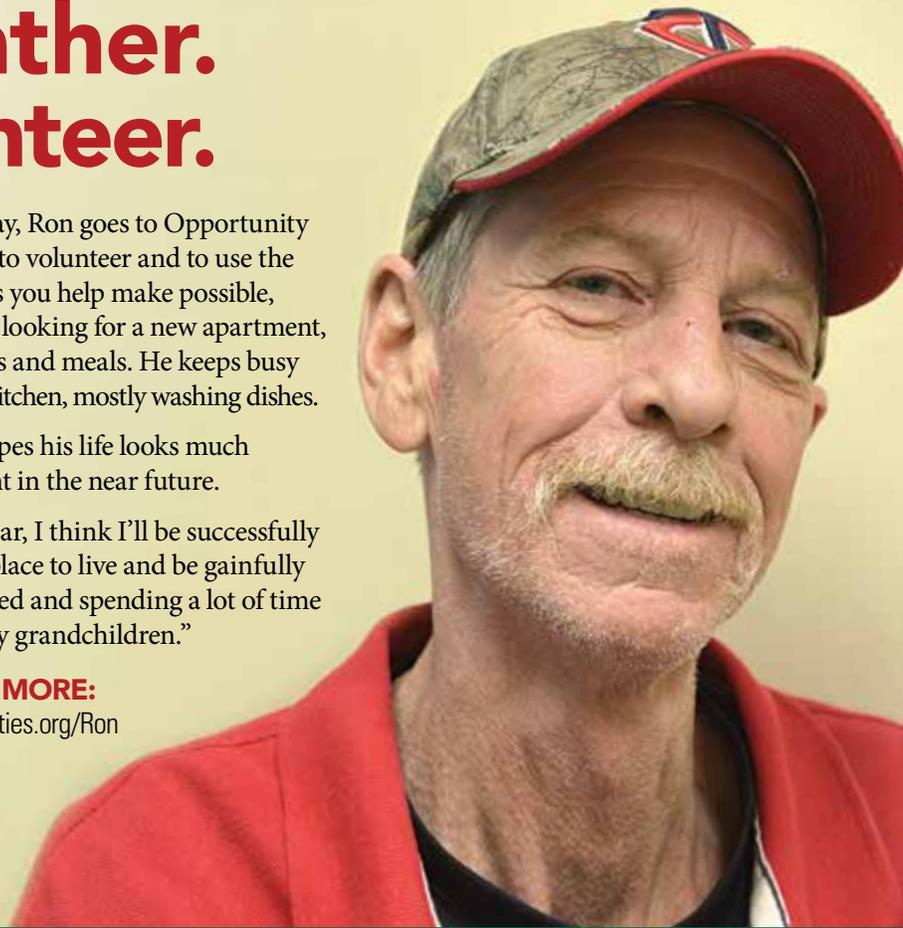
“Catholic Charities has given me peace of mind, knowing someone has got my back,” he said. “There’s a whole building full of people here that are willing to help—from the smallest of things to looking for housing.”

Each day, Ron goes to Opportunity Center to volunteer and to use the services you help make possible, such as looking for a new apartment, haircuts and meals. He keeps busy in the kitchen, mostly washing dishes.

Ron hopes his life looks much different in the near future.

“In a year, I think I’ll be successfully in my place to live and be gainfully employed and spending a lot of time with my grandchildren.”

READ MORE:
cctwincities.org/Ron



Because of your advocacy

Catholic Charities, in partnership with many others, was able to secure significant funding increases for housing, child care, and child protection. One notable increase was an additional \$2 million per biennium to the Homeless Youth Act, which will now receive over 35 times the amount of funding it was allocated just three years ago. To find out more about what happened this year at the legislature, check out our updated agenda at cctwincities.org/PolicyBriefings



Volunteers in action



Comcast Cares volunteers served at Dorothy Day Center helping with food service and landscaping.



Students from Cretin-Derham Hall helped with cleaning, yardwork and painting at Hope Street.



Deloitte volunteers painted, cleaned and shared lunch at Northside Child Development Center.

Thank you to our individual and corporate volunteers who give generously of their time and talents to brighten the lives of all those served through Catholic Charities. We are so grateful!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS! VISIT CCTWINCITIES.ORG/DONATE

From homeless to counting their blessings

By the looks of it, Thomas and Yolanda are a content, happy couple. They live in a North Minneapolis duplex and are able to take time to enjoy life's simple pleasures, like going to see the Minnesota Twins play the Boston Red Sox at Target Field.

It wasn't long ago they were in a Minneapolis homeless shelter, suffering from health challenges and wondering if they would ever have the blessing of a house key again.

Thomas was born with a bone disease and had other health issues that needed attention. Yolanda was recovering from a car accident and was unable to work.

Catholic Charities' staff worked with Thomas and Yolanda to get them in a home and connect them to the services they needed most.

Yolanda, who has always loved cooking, is participating in the Culinary Skills Training Program at Catholic Charities' Opportunity Center. She hopes to find a job after completing her coursework.

"I love to cook but I want to learn the right way to make the sauces," she said. "I'm learning so much."

The couple has been in a duplex for nearly two years and are working their way toward independence. They credit Catholic Charities staff with changing their lives.

"It's more than a job to them. They really check on us," Thomas said.

READ MORE:

cctwincities.org/ThomasAndYolanda

Twins open their gates

Thanks to the Twins Community Fund, more than 4,000 of those served by Catholic Charities will get to the ballpark.

The tickets are shared throughout the agency to families at Northside Child Development Center, teens at Hope Street Shelter and to men and women who are experiencing homelessness who otherwise wouldn't be able to experience such luxuries.

Rod Wooten, who works helping people find permanent housing, shares tickets with clients at Catholic Charities' Opportunity Center. "It's a nice outing for some of our clients who normally wouldn't get to see a game in person," he said. "I can't even put a price tag on maintaining people's spirit."

CATHOLIC CHARITIES PROGRAM

TOURS

Higher Ground Minneapolis
Thursday, August 13, 9:30 a.m.

St. Joseph's Home for Children / Hope Street
Thursday, September 10, 11:00 a.m.

Northside Child Development Center
Tuesday, October 13, 8:30 a.m.

RSVP: Call 612-204-8442 or email ellen.sexton@cctwincities.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Walk to End Hunger
Thursday, November 26
Mall of America

Join or make a pledge the Catholic Charities Team at walktoendhunger.org

Save the Date

Saint Nicholas

2015 Annual Dinner

Thursday, December 3
Marriott City Center, Minneapolis

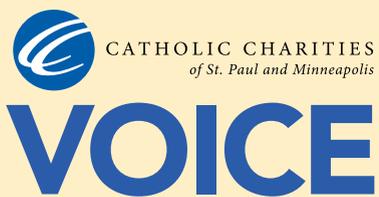
CCTWINCITIES.ORG/SAINTNICHOLASDINNER

Each year, Catholic Charities provides more than one million meals and snacks to people in need.

You can make a difference every day in the life of someone struggling with poverty. Become a **Meal of the Month Club** member and provide a nutritious, hot meal or snack to the men, women and children who come to Catholic Charities seeking help.

- **\$35 monthly gift** provides 14 meals each month
- **\$100 monthly gift** provides 40 meals each month
- **\$250 monthly gift** provides 100 meals each month
- **\$500 monthly gift** provides 200 meals each month

To learn more and become a monthly meal donor visit cctwincities.org/Meals



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President & Chief Executive Officer
Kathleen M. Cooney
Chair, Board of Directors



Catholic Charities is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, meeting the highest standards of professional performance.



Your many acts of kindness

Last fall, Ron lost his home and his job. But he didn't lose his optimism. Like so many of the people who come to us for help, Ron volunteers his time to help make life a little better for others. He says, simply, "When I see something that needs to be done, I do it."

Every day, I see that same can-do spirit of generosity across the Catholic Charities family: you see people in need, and you step forward to help. It's really that simple. And you help in so many ways.

In this issue, you will read about how your generosity makes a difference in the lives of people like Ron. You help people without a home or without a job get back on their feet. You help provide nutritious meals for people who are hungry. You help those with special health concerns get the care they so desperately need. And your many acts of kindness—from your calls to legislators to your volunteer and financial support—are coming together in a tangible way as we launch a capital campaign to build a new vision for the Dorothy Day Center.

All of us, together, are changing lives.

Thank you for all you do to make our community a better place.

Tim Marx
President and Chief Executive Officer

Helping Amanda

Amanda has been at Catholic Charities' Dorothy Day Center for one month—one long month. This is Amanda's first time in a shelter. She hopes it is her last.

"Sleeping on the floor isn't a good thing for me, but you can't really complain. This is a place to put our heads. We get three meals a day and we get a snack at nighttime," she said.

She suffers from anxiety and recently fell down on a Saint Paul sidewalk, unable to breathe or talk. Another person who sleeps at Dorothy Day Center recognized Amanda and got her help. She was taken to the ER at St. Joseph's Hospital, her body having a physical reaction to the panic she feels every minute of every day.

The way Amanda sees it, the keys to a one bedroom apartment have the power to turn her whole life around. She would have peace of mind, which would help her manage her anxiety. She could rest when her body needs it.

The new vision for the Dorothy Day Center provides opportunities for people like Amanda. With your help, Higher Ground Saint Paul will provide dignified, safe shelter. We are building a facility with dedicated mental health services on-site. Instead of mats on the floor, guests will sleep in bunks, single rooms or efficiency apartments. Thanks to your generosity, the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center will provide easy access to community activities, promote overall wellbeing and access to pathways out of poverty.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW VISION FOR THE DOROTHY DAY CENTER: DorothyDayCampaign.org

READ MORE: cctwincities.org/Amanda

