We’re so thankful for YOU!

Every year, Catholic Charities and the people we serve benefit from your incredible generosity. Your kindness and compassion provide hundreds of meals to those who are hungry, refuge for those who are homeless, and comfort to children who are abused or neglected. We are so grateful for this support!

From December 12–23, Catholic Charities will be at the Mall of America’s Giving Tree. We hope you will stop by to say hello—and consider selecting an ornament from the tree and purchase a gift to help those in need.

Items collected at the Giving Tree will be distributed to people who are moving from a homeless shelter into a place of their own, as well as to children, immigrants and refugees, and the elderly we serve every day. You will also have the opportunity to make a financial contribution.

Please visit our wish list (http://www.cctwincities.org/wishlist) as you consider your holiday and year-round giving. Each item extends the hope of a better future to those in need. At this special time of year, we want to take the opportunity to thank you for your support. We couldn’t do this work without YOU.

Holiday donations make a difference!

“Honestly, where would I have gone if I hadn’t been accepted here? It was snowing. It was cold. I was broke. It was a horrible time in my life.” - Norma

Home in time for Christmas dinner

Because of you, an east metro grandmother is no longer sleeping at Dorothy Day Center, but living in an apartment and planning the foods she will make for Christmas dinner.

Norma, 60, never imagined homelessness would invade her life. As a married woman, reality has a way of rapidly shifting. On a cold, snowy day Norma went from living in a six bedroom, four bathroom house in Woodbury to a bunk in the second floor women’s shelter at Catholic Charities’ Dorothy Day Center. At Dorothy Day Center, Norma made the best of her situation and worked hard to find her pathway out of poverty. After being homeless for a year, she was able to move into a St. Paul apartment.

Thank you for being part of the solution!

The solution to homelessness is a home. We can’t let up until every person across the state has a safe, stable place to call home. Thank you for being part of the solution!
The Freys: a family legacy

In recognition of their longstanding commitment and support, Catholic Charities presented the Gene and Mary Frey family with the Life of Distinction Award at the St. Nicholas Annual Dinner on December 4. The Frey family has been generous supporters and volunteers with Catholic Charities for more than 45 years. Their commitment and passion for helping others serves as an example for all of us working on behalf of those most in need.

Community service is a Frey family tradition that started when Mary first went to volunteer at Catholic Charities in the late 1960s and continues to this day. Gene and Mary’s children, Carol, Jim and John, each in leadership roles at The Frey Foundation, have followed the example set forth by their parents and shared that love with their children.

In 2013, the Frey family made major capital investments to Catholic Charities’ Higher Ground, an innovative approach to address homelessness and provide opportunity in Minneapolis. This year, the Frey family was one of the very first to pledge their support to the next vision for the Dorothy Day Center which will bring dignified shelter and more housing to Saint Paul.

For the Frey family, it’s not just about giving to Catholic Charities; it’s about community involvement, inspiring others and providing opportunity. As Gene says, “You can’t give people a place to live and then wash your hands of them. You have to give them the skills to live!”

Building a foundation

For parents Samantha and Cody, Catholic Charities’ Family Service Center is providing them an opportunity to get their lives in order so they may transition to living on their own with their 11-month old son.

They look forward to having what they call a “normal life.” They’re working on their son.

“Family Service Center has allowed us to get our plan, set, prioritize and start working on our goals,” Samantha said. It’s also provided them with things many people may take for granted, like three meals a day.

The homeless at the Opportunity Center witness it every week during French Toast Fridays when U.S. Bank employees prepare and serve hot, delicious breakfasts, a tradition three years in the making.

U.S. Bank employees volunteer their time with meal service at both Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Center. During last year’s brutally cold winter, U.S. Bank stepped up and led a sock drive to benefit Catholic Charities clients, collecting more than 10,000 pairs of new socks for those who are homeless.

In addition to U.S. Bank’s volunteer support, they have also provided grant dollars through the U.S. Bank Foundation for programs and services to support the mission of Catholic Charities.

In so many ways, U.S. Bank is a valued friend to Catholic Charities and those we serve.

For many years, Karl slept most nights on a mat at Catholic Charities’ Dorothy Day Center. He was one of those we serve who volunteered to help set the mats out on the floor before bedtime. Each night, he would select the one in the corner, closest to the door. It was his favorite spot.

Those thin mats, he said, were just a spot to sleep, nothing more. They didn’t provide much cushion and he said he could feel the cold air coming up through the concrete floor and through his mat. His dream, the dream which would bring tears to his eyes when he would speak it out loud, was to have a place of his own and to sleep in his own bed.

“You made that dream come true.”

Earlier this fall, Karl moved into a home of his own in downtown St. Paul. With help from Catholic Charities’ Housing First program, Karl is off the shelter floor and in his own bed.

Karl and his family have big dreams for their future. “We want him to learn from our mistakes so he doesn’t need to struggle as we have, to find true happiness inside of himself, to be something special and for him to share his strength with the world,” Cody said.
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You made that dream come true.

Earlier this fall, Karl moved into a home of his own in downtown St. Paul. With help from Catholic Charities’ Housing First program, Karl is off the shelter floor and in his own bed. Catholic Charities staff member Ethan Williams is helping him transition out of homelessness and back into an independent life.

“Other people should have an opportunity to move into their own place, to better their selves. Thank you very much for helping me,” he said.

For more information about Catholic Charities Call 651-789-4400 or visit cctwincities.org/KarlAtHome.

For parents Samantha and Cody, Catholic Charities’ Family Service Center is providing them an opportunity to get their lives in order so they may transition to living on their own with their 13-month old son.

They look forward to having what they call a “normal life.” They’re working on continuing their education so they may earn good paying jobs and provide for their son.

“Family Service Center has allowed us to get our plan, set, prioritize and start working on our goals,” Samantha said. “It’s also provided them with things many people may take for granted, like three meals a day.

The young parents have big dreams for their baby’s future. “We want him to learn from our mistakes so he doesn’t need to struggle as we have, to find true happiness inside of himself, to be something special and for him to share his strength with the world,” Cody said.

Building a foundation

U.S. Bank invests in our community

U.S. Bank, the premier sponsor for this year’s St. Nicholas Annual Donor, has been a strong supporter of Catholic Charities for many years. Through volunteer efforts, financial support and board leadership, U.S. Bank has been a true partner serving those most in need.

U.S. Bank employees support Catholic Charities and their baby’s future. “We want him to learn from our mistakes so he doesn’t need to struggle as we have, to find true happiness inside of himself, to be something special and for him to share his strength with the world,” Cody said.

Please take advantage of this special opportunity by making your gift today!

You can help twice as many people this holiday season through your gifts to Catholic Charities. How? If you make a donation before midnight on December 31, generous donors have pledged to match every single dollar, up to $500,000. We are so grateful for this amazing support!

As we enter the coldest months of the year, significantly more people are knocking on our doors, seeking help, warmth and hope. Your gifts will change the lives of the men, women and children living in poverty in our community.

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Visit cctwincities.org or call 612-204-8374.