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“There are things to do out here in the garden. This is like home for me,” said 13-year-old Alex.*

Alex is a quiet, yet smart gardener. She tends to the garden like a painter busy at her canvas. The produce that isn’t eaten in the field is brought into the kitchen at St. Joe’s and the food is served at mealtime. More important than the harvest, Teske said, is the opportunity to work with children one-on-one. “I’m there to listen. They can share what’s on their hearts and minds or just be out there.”

READ MORE: cctwincities.org/Garden

*Name has been changed.
**Art, family create beauty at Northside**

This summer, children at Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center have been busy creating public art. With day, glare and great, they worked with artist Anne Krock and Free Arts Minnesota mentors to create a mosaic about what family means to them.

There is a house, lots of smiling faces, a basketball hoop, a plane, parents and hearts. Lots, and lots, of hearts. Children 6 to 12-years-old spent eight weeks working on the piece. They first went to Walker Art Center for inspiration, then talked about family and the importance of relationships in their lives.

"Each day, we would build and continue. Each day, there was some authentic learning," Krock said.

Free Arts Minnesota has a tradition of bringing art enrichment to children at Catholic Charities. During the school year, Free Arts mentors come to Northside and Catholic Charities’ St. Joseph’s Home for Children for weekly mentorship programs.

“Many mosaic really gives us a chance to offer the children immediate artistic instruction while allowing them to leave a piece of themselves to document Northside’s history in North Minneapolis,” said Keith Kozenki, Senior Director of Child and Family Services.

The activity was made possible by the voters of Minnesota through the legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

**READ MORE:** cctwincities.org/NorthsideArt

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**Family grows with love**

Leroy can still remember that night he first laid eyes on his now wife Pat. They were in Germany during the war. He was a fighter pilot in the Air Force; she was a nurse. Their first two dates were to church.

“Actually,” Pat jokes, “Three of them take after his mother and three of them take after my mother.”

They raised their children on a farm in Belle Plaine, teaching their children the value of family and hard work. For Leroy and Pat, family is love, not blood.

“I don’t know what I would’ve done without my family,” Leroy said. “We both have had wonderful lives and we are thankful.”

**READ MORE:** cctwincities.org/Schwartz

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**Homes for our heroes**

Catholic Charities has a long history of working to get America’s veterans off the streets and into homes.

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Patrick Edrey is on Catholic Charities’ Housing First team. He came on board this year with the charge of finding homes for vets in need and collaborates with partner agencies to get them in homes.

“Vets, in general, are averse to asking for help. They have more barriers than most people on the streets,” he said.

Since Edrey joined the team, more than a dozen veterans in Minneapolis have moved into permanent homes. We are working to see similar success in Saint Paul. The new vision for the Dorothy Day Center supports the State’s Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness for Veterans.

**READ MORE:** cctwincities.org/IronMike

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“I thought he was kind of a wimp so I said ‘well, you can take me to Mass’,” she jokes now, her love evident for the man she’s been with for over 50 years. Their first two dates were to church.

While their love story begins in Germany, their family story begins with Catholic Charities. Together they adopted six children through Catholic Charities.

“Our children are all angels,” Leroy said. “Actually,” Pat jokes, “Three of them take after his mother and three of them take after my mother.”

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READ MORE: ctwincities.org/Schwartz

Decorated vet fighting for tranquility, home

On the streets of Saint Paul, he goes by the name Iron Mike. He carries a cane, though he doesn’t always need it. His right forearm speaks of his military record with a fading tattoo. He’s up all of the hours on his belt, his pants a bit too large or his body too small.

Mike, 69, is both a former sailor and a U.S. Marine. His home, or the closest thing to it, is a thin mat on a hard floor at Catholic Charities’ Dorothy Day Center.

The son of a WWII vet, Mike earned a Purple Heart fighting for the Vietnam War. Military service was in his blood. Mike remembers signing a paper when he was just 6-years-old, saying he was enlisting. But serving was hard on Mike’s mind and body. While he worked for years, got married and had children, the images of war never left him. He had a safe place to sleep each night and food for his belly. Because of generous people like you, he had a place to turn when everyone else had turned against him. He had a safe place to sleep each night and food for his belly. He had a place to turn when everyone else had turned against him.

Mike lives with his wife and grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. "I want to see my grandchildren," he said. "I'd like to have a nice apartment and have peace and tranquility and go to church."

"I don't mind sleeping on the floor, but I wish there was enough room for my ears to wiggle," he jokes. "I complain about this place just like everyone else, but deep down my honest opinion is, thank God for this place."

Last year, nearly 400 military veterans received help at Dorothy Day Center. Your support provides shelter for people like Mike who are in need of a pathway home.

"I want to enjoy and see my grandchildren," he said. "I'd like to have a nice apartment and have peace and tranquility and go to church."

READ MORE: ctwincities.org/TrelMike

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Since Edney joined the team, more than a dozen veterans in Minneapolis have moved into permanent homes. We are working to see similar success in Saint Paul. The new vision for the Dorothy Day Center supports the State’s Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness for Veterans.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVES THOSE MOST IN NEED.

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You are an integral part of the Catholic Charities family

Thanks to your support, some of the most vulnerable members in our community—our children—have brighter futures. You help ensure they have a place to play and learn and heal.

In this issue of VOICE, you will read about kids at our Northside Child Development Center who shared their hearts with the community—sculpting tiles that depict the meaning of the word “family” and creating a colorful mosaic of their stories. You will also read about kids at St. Joseph’s Home for Children who find healing and hope in a community garden.

Both in the garden and in the mosaic, you see lots of smiles, you see fun, you see heart, you see hope. As members of the Catholic Charities family, each of you bring these same gifts to our work and to the people who rely on us every day. I see firsthand that—when we come together—we have the power to create change and build brighter futures not only for our kids but for our entire community.

Thank you for all you do. And thank you for being an integral member of our family.

Kathleen M. Cooney
Chair, Board of Directors

Tim Marx
President & Chief Executive Officer

cctwincities.org
Phone: 612-204-8500
Minneapolis, MN 55403
1200 Second Avenue South
of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Published by Catholic Charities

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READ MORE: cctwincities.org/Garden

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Together, we’ve reached another milestone in building a stronger community

Thanks to your support, Catholic Charities reached a significant milestone in building a community where everyone is able to reach their full potential. This month, nearly $100 million in business and community leaders marked the groundbreaking for Higher Ground Saint Paul, the first phase of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center.

At the ceremony, campaign leaders announced that $32.6 million has been raised toward the $40 million private capital campaign to fully fund the new vision. The project—a new $23.6 million has been raised toward the $40 million private capital campaign to fully fund the new vision. The project—an innovative model to prevent and end homelessness—has an estimated cost of $100 million and will be funded by an historic public-private partnership.

The 15 regional and statewide leaders who are spearheading the fundraising campaign were announced, including co-chairs Doug Baker, Jr., Chairman & CEO of Ecolab; Mary Brained, CEO & President of HealthPartners; and Andy Cecere, Vice Chairman & COO of U.S. Bank.

State and local public officials made remarks, including Governor Mark Dayton, Commissioner of Minnesota Housing Mary Tingelhoff, Ramsey County Commissioner Tino Carter, and Saint Paul Deputy Mayor Kristin Beckmann.

“We have great momentum, a ‘dream team’ of campaign leaders and a generous community that is stretching to make it happen,” said Doug Baker. “We’ve come a long way, and we’ll keep working until we reach our goal to build dignified shelter, permanent homes and pathways out of poverty for those most in need.”

READ MORE: DorothyDayCampaign.org
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“Each day, we would build and continue. Each day, there was some authentic learning,” Krocek said.

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