

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015



Breaking ground for a better future

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 300 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 \$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 Brainerd, 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 Tingenthal, Ramsey County Commissioner Toni 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



Art, family create beauty at Northside

This summer, children at Catholic Charities' Northside Child Development Center have been busy creating public art. With clay, glaze and grout, they worked with artist Anne Krocak 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,” Krocak 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 groups.

“This 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 Kozerski, Senior Director of Child and Family Services.

The activity was made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to the legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

READ MORE: cctwincities.org/NorthsideArt

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.

“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 called her husband for 55 years.

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

“If it weren't for Catholic Charities we wouldn't have a family,” Pat says sitting at the kitchen table of her Belle Plaine home, an electronic picture frame behind her

flashing photos of their six children, 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

“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.”

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





Homes for our heroes

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

There are beds at some of our shelters designated solely for those who have served our country and we have staff whose primary focus is to help veterans.

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.

"I want to see my grandchildren.

I'd like to have a nice apartment and have peace and tranquility and go to church."

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 used up all of the holes 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 in 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 and an addiction to alcohol robbed him of those he loved, robbed him of security and a home.

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.

Homeless for 14 years, Mike won't complain about sleeping on the floor—it's good for his bad back—but he doesn't relish the tight quarters.

"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: cctwincities.org/IronMike

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

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.

Keith Kozerski
Senior Director of Child and Family Services

Plants, spirit grow in St. Joe’s garden



You wouldn’t know it’s there unless you took time to look, but a garden grows, in the southeast corner of Catholic Charities’ St. Joseph’s Home for Children campus. About a tenth of an acre in size, the garden is a place to grow fruits and vegetables.

Because of your support, it’s also a place to grow the spirit.

This summer, Amy Teske, chaplain with Catholic Charities’ Spiritual Care program started tending to the garden and working with the children at St. Joseph’s Home for Children. They spend quiet time in nature, and tend to the plants while also tending to their spirit.

“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.

What will be your legacy?

You already value and support Catholic Charities' mission. Have you considered leaving us a gift in your will to help complete our work in the future? If you've ever thought about leaving a legacy gift, but aren't quite sure how to go about it, contact Paul Deakins at 612-204-8364, or email paul.deakins@cctwincities.org.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
of St. Paul and Minneapolis



U.S. Bank invests in our community

U.S. Bank is an incredible community partner and wonderful supporter of Catholic Charities. Hundreds of U.S. Bank employees volunteer at Catholic Charities sites each year, including the Executive Team who showed up ready to work hard on a recent evening to serve dinner to guests at the Dorothy Day Center. Thank you!

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TO THE MAX

DAY



NOV 12, 2015

GiveMN.org/Organization/CatholicCharities

WALK TO END HUNGER



SIGN UP NOW!

Thanksgiving morning, Mall of America

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

Registration is open

Saint Nicholas 2015 Annual Dinner

Thursday, December 3
Marriott City Center, Minneapolis