

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE

WINTER 2017-18

Special Edition Annual Report

Inside this issue:

- Learn how your contributions are changing lives
- Innovation at Higher Ground Saint Paul
- Saint Nicholas Annual Dinner honorees



2017 Highlights

- **Home sweet home:** Higher Ground Saint Paul provides dignified shelter and homes to more than 500 people each night.
- **Nourishing our neighbors:** More than one million meals served at Catholic Charities sites metro-wide.
- **Teamwork:** Our amazing volunteers gave nearly 150,000 hours of their time serving those most in need.

You are making a difference
A message from our CEO



In the pages that follow, you will have the opportunity to meet some truly incredible and resilient people. Brenda. Bob. James. Neighbors in need of a safe place to land, support to help them to the next leg of their journey. With your support, Brenda had a place to stay while she figured out her next steps. Bob had a safe place to heal and now has a home of his own. James will never forget his experience – it continues to guide his journey.

lives are changed. We learn the depth and resiliency of the human spirit.

However you support Catholic Charities, my wish for you is the same. That your life is somehow changed for the better because you know that you are making the difference for Brenda. For Bob. For James.

Thank you!

Tim Marx
 President and Chief Executive Officer

As we walk with each of the men, women, children and families we serve – our own

Once homeless, he uses his experience to help others

Moving forward, but never forgetting



It's been nearly 20 years since James Ahlman slept in a shelter, but the memory of his time there is always close to mind.

"The experience makes me a better person, not just in my personal life but exponentially in my professional life," he said.

He began his adulthood working in bars and restaurants to pay the bills and at nonpro ts to feed his soul. He was a functioning alcoholic going to school and living in student housing, until he was evicted because of his drinking and taken to the county detox center. From there, he found Catholic Charities.

He remembers being told that if he ever couldn't get into Dorothy Day Center to go to the hospital and to sleep under the big heating vents because they put out enough heat so he wouldn't freeze to death. Being told where to sleep so he wouldn't die was a punch in the gut. "I thought, this isn't good. I'm getting advice on how not to freeze to death. I had never thought of that," he said.

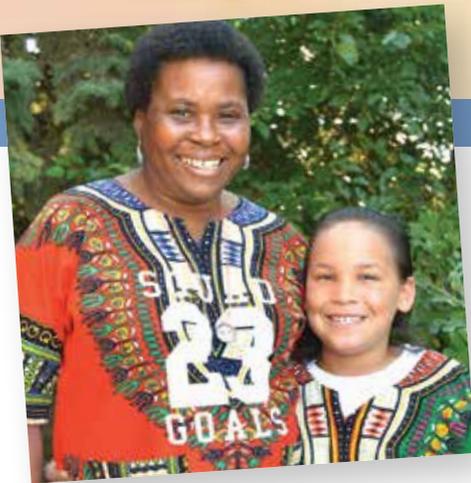
An AA meeting at Dorothy Day Center changed the course of James' life. From there, James got into treatment, and has been sober ever since.

"I can't go down West Seventh Street without thinking about the whole

experience. I don't want to forget—in a good way—I think it's important for my recovery not to forget."

Today, he works as the clinical director at Hazelden Betty Ford Addiction Treatment Center and is pursuing his master's degree. He has dedicated his career to serving others because of his experience with Catholic Charities.

James is not alone. When given opportunity and because of your support, our clients are able to move past barriers and truly make a positive difference for others.



Grandmother thankful to Family Service Center

Catholic Charities' shelter provides families with a safe, stable place to sleep and get back on their feet

Brenda and her grandson Andre moved into Catholic Charities' Family Service Center on a warm June day. There, they were provided a room to share, access to meals, and the support of staff working to help them reach their next stepping stone on their pathway out of poverty.

Family Service Center provides families with a safe, stable place to sleep and get back on their feet. Brenda and Andre are grateful for their time at Family Service Center—thankful to have "a roof over my head and privacy—my own closet—my own bed—my own space."

Brenda, who has raised her grandson since he was two-weeks-old, was the friendly face at a Bloomington discount store for more than a decade. She would spend two hours each day commuting—she loved her work so much she said the time was well spent—until cancer got in the way.

"When I got sick, I wasn't able to work anymore, so I wasn't able to pay the rent," Brenda said.

She regularly spent long days at the hospital receiving chemotherapy. Andre

spent those days with her, keeping busy reading his favorite Dr. Seuss books.

Because of your generous gifts and hard work by Brenda and staff at Family Service Center, Brenda and Andre are no longer experiencing homelessness.

They moved into an apartment this fall and Brenda is receiving treatment for her cancer.

"Since we've been here, people have been helping me," she said. "I am so thankful."

