Home for the holidays
You’re giving people the comfort of home

Because of you, there are hundreds—even thousands of people—who are able to enjoy the comfort of home this holiday season.

Instead of worrying about how they will stay warm when they must leave the shelter on cold winter mornings, they are waking up in their own bed and planning their day. There are families who are able to decorate, bake and be together on Christmas morning. There are youth who don’t dread winter break—because a school building is no longer their only option for shelter during the daytime.

This summer, we told you about Ron. He was sleeping in a shelter and spending his days volunteering at Catholic Charities’ Opportunity Center while he worked to get his life back on track. At that time, he said, “In a year, I think I’ll be successfully in my place and have a roommate, a pet cat. I’ll be able to spend a lot of time with my grandchildren.”

We’re happy to tell you, Ron now has an apartment of his own, but still comes to Opportunity Center to volunteer and wash dishes for the breakfast meal.

Last winter, you read about Jane. A senior citizen who got around with the help of a walker, she had been sleeping at Dorothy Day Center for two years. This summer, she moved into an apartment, and now has a roommate and a pet cat. Last year, 609 individuals and families left homelessness and found a home. Thanks for your generosity. Just imagine what we can do this year!

Thank you!

Building strong beginnings

For April and her husband Cleveland, bringing their daughters Amiah and Cayla to Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center was one of their best parenting decisions.

“This has been the best experience ever,” April said. Amiah recently made the transition from Northside to Prodeo Academy, a charter school in northeast Minneapolis. Her sister, Cayla is in the toddler room at Northside.

For this and so much more, we thank you. As the coldest months of the year are upon us, please keep those we serve and all those in need in your thoughts and prayers. This holiday season, your gifts will be doubled by other generous donors, up to $500,000 through December 31. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Wishing the best to you and yours for this Christmas and Holiday Season.

Tim Marx
President and Chief Executive Officer

Published by Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
1200 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Phone: 612-204-8300
To donate: 612-204-8324
To volunteer: 612-204-8435
(cctwincities.org)

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

Inside this issue:
• Community partners who make a difference
• Providing for those in need this holiday season
• The comfort of home

POVERTY FOR NO ONE. OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE.

December 12-23
Macy’s Court, Mall of America

Thank you!

This summer, with your help, Eckla and her three sons moved into an apartment. This was the first key she’s had in two years.

READ MORE: cctwincities.org/40
YOUR YEAR END GIFTS WILL BE MATCHED!

Your generosity during the holiday season will go twice as far, providing much-needed meals and shelter to those who are homeless during these cold winter months. When you give by December 31 your gift will be matched by a generous group of donors who have pledged to match gifts up to $500,000! Together we can change the lives of thousands of men, women and children who need your help each and every day of the year.

GENERAL MILLS has a tradition of community service

Giving thanks

For the fourth year in a row, a group of cheerful volunteers came into Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center on a November evening to serve Thanksgiving dinners to the families there. General Mills has made that errand in the early 1990s, when St. Joe’s was located near his school. While he knew of and supported Catholic Charities for decades. But when Ken and Mary brought several bicycles to St. Joe’s that Christmas and it began a tradition that continues to this day as they recently brought a truck full of toys and bicycles to the Catholic Charities’ In Kind Warehouse on the campus of St. Joseph’s Home for Children. St. Joe’s has a special place in Ken and Mary’s hearts.

Their generosity expands beyond the walls of St. Joe’s. They are strong supporters of Catholic Charities’ Dorothy Day Center in downtown Saint Paul, where they were early contributors to the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center which will provide dignified shelter, housing and services to those in need.

"It’s contagious—the joy, the spirit of giving," said Scott Yokiel, General Mills. It takes a little bit of stuffing, we make all of those things," said Olmscheid. "Donors make the warehouse exist. We couldn’t do it without the community’s support.”

Please visit our website and check out the wish list. Together, we can meet the basic needs of so many. "The support the warehouse provides to those most in need—you can’t put words on it. You hand over a pot and a pan to cook in and yes, you have something to cook with, but it also feeds the spirit,” she said.

READ MORE: cctwincities.org/warehouse

Serving others part of culture at Securian

Twice each month, a group of employees from Securian Financial Group in downtown Saint Paul leave their offices and walk a few blocks to Catholic Charities’ Dorothy Day Center to serve lunch, and kindness, to the souls who line up there for the comfort of a hot meal.

It’s something Securian has been doing since 2001, and something they plan to continue, even after the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center is realized.

“Its really neat to see first hand how Dorothy Day Center is helping people,” said Rob Strange, a manager at Securian who has been coming to serve for the last 16 years.

READ MORE: cctwincities.org/Securian

General Mills Foundation has a tradition of community service

Giving thanks

This time of year, on the east end of the St. Joseph’s Home for Children campus, Gretchen Olmscheid, warehouse manager, feels a little bit like a kid anticipating the arrival of Santa. “It’s contagious—the joy, the spirit of giving,” she said.

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““It’s really neat to see first hand how Dorothy Day Center is helping people,” said Rob Strange, a manager at Securian who has been coming to serve for the last 16 years.

READ MORE: cctwincities.org/Securian

YOUR GIFTS CHANGE LIVES! GO TO CCTWINCITIES.ORG/DONATE OR CALL 612-204-8374

Help us fill the shelves this holiday season

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVES THOSE MOST IN NEED.
A simple trip to First National Bank 25 years ago has had such a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of children. At this year’s Saint Nicholas Dinner, the lives of children will be changed for the better. This year-end appeal comes with a new vision for the Dorothy Day Center in downtown Saint Paul, where they were early contributors to Catholic Charities. Their relationship between Catholic Charities and the Herriges has flourished ever since that fateful errand to the bank.

"It touched my heart that children have a safe place to go when they’re in trouble in their home,” Mary said. “I wish they would grow up in a family that is like ours. I just hope they grow up happy and healthy!”

Ken and Mary brought several bicycles to St. Joe’s that Christmas and it began a tradition that continues to this day as they recently brought a truck full of toys and bicycles to the Dorothy Day Center in downtown Saint Paul.

Their generosity expands beyond the walls of St. Joe’s. They are strong supporters of Catholic Charities’ Dorothy Day Center in downtown Saint Paul, where they were early contributors to the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center which will provide dignified shelter, housing and services to those in need.

"It’s hard to imagine what it would be like to live like that. They need the help,” Ken said. “We’re pretty proud of our support of Catholic Charities. I feel this is a blessed and that is part of the reason for giving.”

READ MORE: ctwincities.org/Herriges

General Mills has a tradition of community service

Giving thanks

For the fourth year in a row, a group of cheerful volunteers came into Catholic Charities’ Northside Children Development Center on a November evening to serve Thanksgiving dinners to the families there.

General Mills has made a tradition of serving Thanksgiving dinner at Northside the Thursday before the holiday. They also send families home with heaping grocery sacks of General Mills’ food.

"The community action committee put together this event and said, you know what, out of the brands General Mills has, we can actually put together almost a complete Thanksgiving meal, whether it’s mashed potatoes or green beans or stuffing, we make all of those things,” said Scott Yokiel, General Mills. It takes a bit of planning and 40-50 volunteers to bring the dinner to fruition each year, and folks from General Mills do it eagerly.

"General Mills event has plenty of volunteers and lots of positive energy. Not too often do the families get to sit back and enjoy a meal together and on this night, that’s what happens,” said Kim Osborn, program director at Northside.

Their impact is not only felt at Northside, but at sites throughout the agency. For more than three decades, General Mills and the General Mills Foundation have shared gifts of money, time and resources with Catholic Charities. General Mills is recognized this year as recipients of the Community Service Award, which is presented to an organization at our annual Saint Nicholas Dinner for outstanding partnership in advancing our mission.

"Thank you, General Mills!"}

"It’s something Securian has been doing since 2001, and something they plan to continue, even after the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center is realized.

"It’s really neat to see first hand how Dorothy Day Center is helping people," said Rob Strange, a manager at Securian who has been helping people at Securian for more than 14 years.

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READ MORE: ctwincities.org/Securian
Giving thanks because of you

This holiday season, we are so very grateful... for you! You have helped us accomplish so much for those we serve at Catholic Charities.

In the last year:
- You gave hope and support to nearly 30,000 men, women and children
- You provided more than 432,000 nights of emergency shelter
- You generously served more than 1 million meals to hungry individuals and families

For this and so much more, we thank you. As the coldest months of the year are upon us, please keep those we serve and all those in need in your thoughts and prayers. This holiday season, your gifts will be doubled by other generous donors, up to $500,000 through December 31. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

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“We’re happy to tell you Ron now has an apartment of his own, but still comes to Opportunity Center to volunteer and wash dishes for the breakfast meal.

Last winter, you read about Jane. A senior citizen who got around with the help of a walker, she had been sleeping at Dorothy Day Center for two years. This summer, she moved into an apartment, and now has a roommate and a pet cat. Last year, 638 individuals and families left the Dorothy Day Center while they worked to get their life back on track. At that time, he said: “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.”

“With Amiah starting school, I see how much work they did to prepare her for kindergarten,” she said. “A lot of why I think she’s doing so well in kindergarten are the foundations that were laid here.”

April remembers the day they toured Northside and how impressed they were with the facility and the staff who would care and love them and how impressive their children will care and love them. “It’s always the best situation when a parent can know that those taking care of their children will care and love them as you can,” April said. “I’m confident in Northside staff in every aspect.”

“Building strong beginnings

For April and her husband Cleveland, bringing their daughters Amiah and Cayla to Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center was one of their best parenting decisions.

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For April and her husband Cleveland, bringing their daughters Amiah and Cayla to Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center was one of their best parenting decisions. "A lot of kids will end up having a better start in life because they came here first."