

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE

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The season of giving

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"A lot of kids will end up having a better start in life because they came here first."

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.



"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 for their children.

"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."

Cayla said she wants to be a police officer when she grows up; Amiah plans to become a teacher. Their parents are confident their daughters are receiving the tools they need to succeed.

"A lot of kids will end up having a better start in life because they came here first," April said.

READ MORE: cctwincities.org/April

The Herriges: A life of distinction

A simple trip to First National Bank 25 years ago has had such a positive impact on the lives on hundreds of children.

At this year's Saint Nicholas Dinner, the Life of Distinction Award was presented to Ken and Mary (Betty) Herriges. They have been supporters of Catholic

Their relationship between Catholic Charities 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

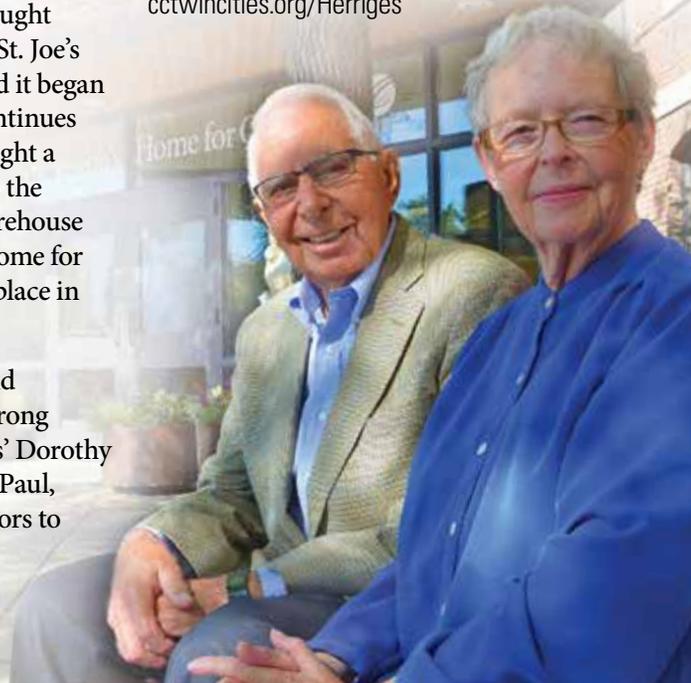
to this day as they recently brought a truck full of toys and bicycles to the Catholic Charities' In Kind Warehouse on the campus of St. Joseph's Home for Children. St. Joe's has a special place in their hearts.

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 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 that we are blessed and that is part of the reason for giving."

READ MORE:
cctwincities.org/Herriges



"It touched my heart that children have a safe place to go when they're in trouble in their home." —Mary Herriges

Charities for decades. But when Ken made that errand in the early 1990s, he spotted a large brick building that warranted a second look. When he saw the sign for St. Joseph's Home for Children, it brought him back to his high school days at Cretin High School, when St. Joe's was located near his school. While he knew of and supported Catholic Charities, this visit made him realize the breadth of services offered throughout the greater Minneapolis-Saint Paul region.

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.

