We have pledged as a community—as a state—to get homeless vets off the streets and into homes. Catholic Charities partners with other agencies to identify homeless veterans and move them from a registry into their own homes.

This summer, there were 500 veterans added to the registry. Of them, 310 were placed into permanent housing. With support and positive relationships between clients and staff, the program is succeeding in helping veterans find and keep a roof over their heads.

Richard and Wade will forever be veterans, but they pray they’ll never be homeless again. Both moved into their own apartments this year.

Richard served in the Marines 1972-1976. "My life is better now than it was out there," Richard said about his time on the street. "My name is on this place. I have keys in my pocket. I have a strong desire to be independent and work and make my own way."

"Catholic Charities changed my life. It got me off the streets, got me a roof over my head back in my old neighborhood and got me almost back to normal." —Wade
Most people know 3M as a company that’s prided
A life of distinction
and support
dedication
longstanding
recognized for
families we serve each year.
Charities and the thousands of children, youth, adults and
demonstrated a steadfast commitment and support of Catholic
us realize the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center, 3M has
blankets to stock our warehouse and providing funds to help
From serving meals at Family Service Center, making
partner with Catholic Charities.
3M receives Community Service Award
A positive partnership
3M recognizes for longstanding dedication and support
recognizes an individual or family in
the community who actively lives the
mission of Catholic Charities
Tim has been giving back to the agency
during decades, serving as a board member,
program director and donor. Welsh not only shares his time
and talents with Catholic Charities, but also an active, civic leader truly working to make a difference for those most in need.

"He has taken to heart the core
mission of Catholic Charities and
lived it his entire life," said Catholic Charities’ President and CEO Tim Marx. "He has brought that spirit
to many other community ventures that are so important to the work of Catholic Charities."

Tim Welsh is such a friend to
many of us here at Catholic Charities.
We are a stronger community because of 3M’s support, their
financial donations, their board leadership and their amazing
staff who spend endless hours working together with us at Catholic Charities and across the community," said Jordan.

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"The mission of Catholic Charities is extraordinarily
important and it’s serving a critical need. I couldn’t be more proud to be affiliated with it." — Tim Welsh

Home for the holidays
Family Service Center provides stability, hope
For Vonda and her children, homelessness
started on a rainy Louisiana evening more than one year ago.
"My mom was there out when it was raining at night," 24-year-old Vonda recalls, her memories of that painful night as clear as her motivation to not let family history repeat itself. She headed north to put distance between her and a life of struggles.
"I didn’t think I’d amount to anything if I stayed there," she said. Despite the pain of leaving, she says it worked for the best.
"I pushed myself harder to find stability
on my own," she said. "I want a better
environment for my kids. I want positive vibes." Since coming to Catholic Charities’ Family Service Center this summer, Vonda is heading in a positive direction. She became a student at St. Paul College, starting her educational journey to become a clinical psychologist. Jaden is thriving in his first grade class. He looks forward to having a home soon, so he can invite friends over to play
with him. Kaison goes to daycare and celebrated his first birthday at Family Service Center.
"Family Service Center has given me peace of mind. It
gave me a stable home so I could go to school and take
care of my kids," Vonda said.
While she is still struggling, Vonda knows her hard
deer will pass. Last year, the family was coach hopping at Christmas time.
This year, she is
already thinking about the food she’d like
to cook for the holidays.
I want a safe and homey place, a family
place," Vonda said. "It doesn’t have to be
big, as long as I have my own place. I just
want to wake up in the morning and cook my
own breakfast."

For decades, serving as a board member,
Tim has been giving back to the agency
donating to Catholic Charities and across the community," said Jordan.

We have come a long way since we first shared our vision for
the future of the Dorothy Day Center. This December, the
doors will open to Higher Ground Saint Paul – the largest
public-private partnership in our state’s social service history.
No one will spend another night on the cold floor of the
Dorothy Day Center. Instead, Higher Ground Saint Paul will
provide dignified shelter and permanent homes for over 47 men and women each night. However, we are not done yet.
With the community’s support, we will begin construction
this spring on the Saint Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy
Day Residence, which together will provide critical services
and much needed additional housing for our most vulnerable neighbors.
We are incredibly grateful for both the public and private investments
in this project thus far. Because of you—our
generous donors, amazing volunteers and advocates in the community—we are creating hope and pathways out of poverty.
Volunteers from Ecolab work to assemble
185 welcome baskets for individuals moving
into housing at Higher Ground Saint Paul. The
baskets, made possible by a generous donor,
include basic household necessities including
cookware, towels and cleaning supplies.

Volunteer housewarming
As the construction workers move out, our
volunteers are moving in and getting Higher Ground Saint Paul ready for our residents and guests. Volunteers will be washing and folding more than 700 sets of sheets, wiping down furnishings and making beds. Organizations and individuals are collecting and assembling items for hygiene kits and welcome baskets.
When Higher Ground Saint Paul opens, volunteers will
be there to help our guests navigate a new
routine.
We have said it before and we’ll say it again. We
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If we're lucky, we all have a friend we can count on through many phases of our lives. Tim Welsh is such a friend to Catholic Charities.

Welsh accepted Catholic Charities’ Life of Distinction Award at the 2016 St. Nicholas Annual Dinner. The award recognizes an individual or family in the community who actively lives the mission of Catholic Charities.

Tim has been giving back to the agency for decades, serving as a board member, volunteer, volunteer consultant and donor. Welsh not only shares his time and talents with Catholic Charities, but also an active, civic leader truly working to make a difference for those most in need.

“He has taken to heart the core mission of Catholic Charities and lived it his entire life,” said Catholic Charities’ President and CEO Tim Marx. “He has brought that spirit to many other community ventures that are so important for families we serve each year.

“My mom threw us out when it was raining at night,” 24-year-old Vonda recalls, her memories of that painful night as clear as her motivation to not let family history repeat itself. She headed north to put distance between her and a life of struggles.

“I didn’t think I’d amount to anything if I stayed there,” she said. Despite the pain of leaving, she says it worked for the best.

“It pushed me harder to find stability on my own,” she said. “I want a better environment for my kids. I want positive vibes.”

Since coming to Catholic Charities’ Family Service Center this summer, Vonda is heading in a positive direction.

For Vonda and her children, homelessness started on a rainy Louisiana evening more than one year ago.

“The mission of Catholic Charities is extraordinarily important and it’s serving a critical need. I couldn’t be more proud to be affiliated with it.” — Tim Welsh

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