

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

# VOICE

SPRING 2018

## Meaningful Milestones

### Inside this issue:

- Advocate for change
- Northside children dream big
- Vikings are community champions

## A year of stability, opportunity and hope

***In the story of Warren's life, this last year has been a chapter full of meaningful milestones.***

Just one year ago, Warren, 55, went from sleeping on the floor of Catholic Charities' Dorothy Day Center to living in his new home on the third floor at Catholic Charities' Higher Ground Saint Paul, our innovative shelter and housing complex which opened early last year.

Having a home, Warren will attest, is not about the possessions one can store, but the opportunities and progress that come with the stability of his own home.

"I have someplace I can call my own and someplace I can feel like I'm doing something," he said.

Indeed, Warren rarely sits around. He is active in his church, runs with Mile in My Shoes, sings with the New Day Street Choir, attends job training courses and is a Catholic Charities

volunteer. The stability of a key of his very own has made this progress possible.

At Higher Ground Saint Paul, Warren has independence but also has the support of his case manager, Marik Armstrong. He has a place to sleep, food to eat and volunteer work to fill his days. He is thankful and proud of how far he has come, and ready to move ahead with his next goals.

Since opening in January 2017, nearly 200 people like Warren have moved into the stability of a home of their own at Higher Ground Saint Paul.



***"Case management is not just access to resources, but helping individuals realize they can articulate hopes and dreams and wishes again."***

*—Marik Armstrong, Case Manager*

*"We cannot wait any longer to deal with the structural causes of poverty, in order to heal our society from an illness that can only lead to new crises." – Pope Francis*

# Advocate for a better tomorrow



*You truly have the power to make positive change. To participate in future events please visit [cctwincities.org/advocacy](http://cctwincities.org/advocacy)*

It is at the core of Catholic Charities' mission to serve those most in need. We do that every day by providing food, shelter, safety and stability to our clients throughout the community. But it is not enough to just serve those most in need. We must also build pathways out of poverty through integrated services and influential systems changes.

That is where the work of the Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice plays an important role. Through legislative and grassroots advocacy, the Catholic Charities advocacy team works to create substantive, positive and lasting change for the region's most vulnerable residents. This work is done in partnership with nearly 3,000 community and grassroots social justice advocates.



*Shannon Smith Jones from Hope Community answered a question at the 2018 Sowers of Justice Assembly. Other presenters included Kevin Ehrman-Solberg project manager at Mapping Prejudice, Adam Belz from Minneapolis Star Tribune and Catholic Charities President and CEO Tim Marx.*

*Are you interested in joining Catholic Charities' advocacy network? Here are a few tips to get started:*

**1**  
Attend a policy briefing

**2**  
Find your legislator

**3**  
Tell your story

Learn what issues the advocacy team is advancing, monitoring and endorsing at the Capitol this year.

Check [www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts](http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts) to find out who represents you and how to contact them.

Don't worry if you're not a policy wonk, legislators want to hear why the issue matters to you in your own words.

*Visit [cctwincities.org/advocate](http://cctwincities.org/advocate) to learn more!*