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Partnership opens doors, expands opportunity

At Catholic Charities, we experience firsthand the value of partnerships—whether they are public-private partnerships, partnerships with other nonprofits that help those we serve, or the partnership of each of you—our donors, volunteers, and advocates.

Your support is invaluable in so many ways. You are supporting people in need of extra medical care through the Medical Respite program where Melvin had a chance to heal. Your support also provides kids the opportunity to learn and grow each day at Northside Child Development Center.

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The Dorothy Day Community Breakfast was a time to celebrate 37 years of caring for our most vulnerable neighbors in Saint Paul. As construction continues on Phase II of Dorothy Day Place—Saint Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Residence—we are so grateful to be part of many cross-sector community partnerships to end homelessness.

More than 300 community members gathered at Saint Paul RiverCentre to not only celebrate how far we have come together, but to look to the future. Remarks were made by Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and Bremer Financial Corporation CEO and President Jeanne Crain, who is serving as a co-chair of Governor’s Task Force on Housing. A highlight of this year’s breakfast was the presentation of the 2018 Dorothy Day Community Service Award to Dominium. We are so thankful for their unprecedented philanthropic support, and pro bono work in the development of the Dorothy Day Place campus, providing not only their expert advice throughout the construction process but tireless advocacy in the community for affordable housing.

Because of your support, children at Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center are beginning a wonderful summer of fun and enrichment! Not only are they having fun, but the team at Northside is working to ensure the school age children stay ahead of the game academically.

Denise Williams comes to work each day at Catholic Charities’ Higher Ground Saint Paul Medical Respite Program as a behavioral health professional. In that role, Denise provides assessments, counseling services and client-specific mental health referrals.

“It’s about pushing people to see everybody as worthwhile. You don’t know what past experience has led them to that place. It’s not about what people deserve. It’s about what they need. There is wisdom there, there is a story there.” — Denise Williams

Fact: 100% of Northside kids receive some funding aid.

Northside provides childcare and early childhood education to more than 90 families each year

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Michelle Trafas has spent the last 20 years at our St. Joseph’s Home for Children. She now works in Central Intake of the emergency shelter meeting children who need an out-of-home placement for their safety. The days can bring heartbreak, but hope shines through.

“This place has given me more laughter than it has anything else.” — Michelle Trafas

Mark Armstrong is a case manager at Higher Ground Saint Paul. As a case manager, Armstrong advocates on behalf of individuals living in permanent supportive housing at Higher Ground Residence. He knows how to help those experiencing homelessness because he was once in that place.

“The main work, to me, is allowing individuals to realize they have opportunity again.” — Mark Armstrong

Fact: The 6,000 individuals who sought services at Dorothy Day Place in 2016 hailed from 67 of Minnesota’s 87 counties.
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Construction update

Every day, we notice more progress on the construction of Saint Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Residence. Dorothy Day Residence will provide homes to 177 people who desperately need them and Saint Paul Opportunity Center will provide hope and help to thousands working to reach their full potential. You made this all possible.

Thank you!
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Ryan Petersen
Vice President of Development

Catholic Charities’ clients have been running with Mile in My Shoes since the first MiMS team laced their shoes in 2014 and we have seen amazing transformations firsthand. Shelter and housing guests enjoy not only physical but mental health benefits.

The teams are growing, with our Higher Ground Saint Paul team nearly 20-members strong! MiMS provides our clients with the necessary running gear and volunteer run mentors join clients for twice weekly runs.

Mile in My Shoes
started running with clients at Higher Ground Minneapolis in 2014 and has expanded to five teams across the metro. The team at Higher Ground Saint Paul was formed in 2017.

Higher Ground Saint Paul runners completed their first timed mile in late April. They’ll run their first 5K June 3.

If you’d like to volunteer as a run mentor or become a “fundracer” to help outfit runners, visit mileinmyshoes.mn

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Visit cctwincities.org/challenge for details

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Fact: According to Wilder’s 2015 Survey, 51% of homeless adults suffer from a chronic health condition.