On a crisp fall day, Bottney sat in her dining room and gazed toward her living room window in St. Paul’s Frogtown neighborhood.

“I’m going to put our Christmas tree right there,” she mused. “We don’t have much. It might just be a two-inch tree, but it will be beautiful!”

Bottney and her girls moved into a house this fall after finding refuge at Catholic Charities’ Family Service Center over the summer. The shelter provided the family a safe, secure place for them to stay and three meals each day.

When they arrived at Family Service Center, Bottney, 26, Desire, 3, Destiny, 1 and the youngest, newborn Dominique, had just spent a month living in the family car.

“Making a bottle in a car isn’t easy. Coming to Family Service Center was like a blessing from God,” Bottney said.

At Family Service Center, staff work to connect clients to resources that match their circumstances. Through connections there, and a lot of leg work on Bottney’s part, they were able to find a house they can afford with the support they still need through a partner program.

While challenges remain, when Bottney and her girls walked through that door, they were one step closer to stability, and another brick was laid in the foundation for the girls.

“I want my girls’ future to be better than mine. I want them to live a life where they don’t have to struggle,” Bottney said. “They mean the world to me.”
Philip is thankful to be home again

Philip lives on a quiet street in a small apartment complex. The home may be simple, but has made a marked difference in his health and overall quality of life.

“My life has changed because of how I can prepare my own meals. I am on a low sodium, low potassium diet. When you have a stable environment, a home, you can manage your life and your health.” – Philip

He was able to make the move from shelter to a home thanks to Catholic Charities’ case manager Tonya Lenox and the Redirecting Users of Shelter to Housing (RUSH) program, funded in part by the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations.

FACT: Philip is not alone. Between 2009 and 2015, the number of adults 55 and older experiencing homelessness increased 58 percent metro-wide. (Wilder Research, 2015.)

RUSH program brings people home

Philip was an optometrist in his home country of Nigeria, but was unable to practice in the United States. He had a cleaning business in Moorhead, Minnesota for more than a decade, but became homeless after going bankrupt nearly five years ago.

Philip suffers from myriad health challenges. He is easily fatigued, has lost toes due to diabetes and suffered infections because wounds were unable to heal properly while sleeping in the shelter. The stability of home has changed Philip’s life—and his health—dramatically.

Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations changing lives

Each year at the Saint Nicholas Dinner, Catholic Charities honors an organization that has gone above and beyond as a true partner in advancing the mission of Catholic Charities with the Community Service Award.

This year, that award will be presented to the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations. Most recently, they have provided critical support and leadership for two initiatives focused on short- and long-term needs for emergency shelter and safe, permanent housing.

Winter Safe Space is a unique, 64-bed emergency shelter created in partnership with the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County to provide respite from the dangerous winter weather. With funding and other support from the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundations, this expanded shelter resource is meeting a critical need.

The foundations are a driving force behind another high-impact cross-sector collaboration of more than a dozen partners called Outside-In, which includes the RUSH program. These initiatives provide dedicated funding, coordination and other support to secure safe, stable housing for individuals experiencing homelessness – some who have been homeless for decades and struggle with physical and mental health challenges.

Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations President and CEO Dr. Eric Jolly said of the award, “Receiving the Catholic Charities Community Service Award is something that lets my staff know, that day in and day out, every seemingly small thing they do can add up to some big change in the world.”

FACT: Since its inception, the RUSH program has been able to find homes for 68 people like Philip.
Pat & Sandy Baldwin: Living a life of distinction

Every Fourth of July, Pat and Sandy Baldwin’s family gathers for a day of badminton, boating, and sandcastles. One of their traditions is a new edition of the family T-shirt. Each family member has a unique number, displayed on the back of the shirt. New members know they are truly part of the family once they get their number, and they are proud to belong.

“Catholic Charities does what Jesus asked us to do, and that’s love our neighbors and to take care of the poor, take care of the needy.”

–Pat Baldwin

It’s those values of counting and belonging that symbolize the Baldwin’s involvement with St. Joseph’s Home for Children and makes them the recipient of this year’s Life of Distinction award, presented at the Saint Nicholas Dinner.

Through Pat and Sandy’s generosity, children staying at St. Joseph’s get reinforcement that they matter and belong in our community. They donated a passenger van which allows staff to bring those staying at St. Joe’s to typical events kids enjoy, such as swimming, baseball games and community activities.

Pat and Sandy are also at the forefront of new initiatives in Catholic Charities’ Children and Family Services. Their generosity funded the integration of a trauma-informed framework into our day-to-day work with children. Early results are proving that using a trauma-informed approach can help kids be more resilient and reduce stressors toxic to their development. The Baldwins want children to know “Every child has special gifts with which they can create full, happy lives.”

Ericher this year, Catholic Charities adopted a new strategic position that more clearly recognizes the many barriers those in our community face. As a result, we are focused on reducing the lasting impacts of trauma in our clients’ lives and helping to prevent further traumatization. Though we continue to explore new ways to incorporate trauma-informed approaches across the organization, we are already seeing more hope among those we serve and reduced stress among caregivers.

We are able to take this innovative approach thanks to generous financial support from Pat and Sandy Baldwin and all of you. Thank you!

FACT: 74 percent of homeless adults across Minnesota reported having experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (or ACE). (Wilder Research, 2015.)

FACT: The Centers for Disease Control has determined that individuals who experience multiple ACEs (such as child abuse and neglect, the loss of a parent, and placement in foster care or institutional setting) are “at significantly heightened risk of lifelong health problems, low life potential, and early death.”

“Catholic Charities does what Jesus asked us to do, and that’s love our neighbors and to take care of the poor, take care of the needy.”

–Pat Baldwin

We are so thankful for General Mills!

For the sixth year in a row, General Mills returned to Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center Wednesday, November 14, to serve a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all of the fixings! In addition to dinner, children had the opportunity to play games, do crafts and decorate cookies. Each family went home with heaping bags full of General Mills’ pantry items.

Thank you, General Mills!

Thank you for sharing your time and talents! Visit cctwincities.org/volunteer.

Visit cctwincities.org/donate.
People power fuels Catholic Charities

Every year, more than 600 Catholic Charities staff are building relationships with more than 23,000 men, women, and children across our community to help them take the next step—whatever that might be. Philip needed Tonya to see a future in his own apartment; Bottney trusted in KaTina and together they worked until she crossed the threshold into her own home.

All of us have experienced a challenge or two that had us calling on our network of support to see us through to the other side. Those we serve face challenges that are often many and complicated—and their support networks are often similarly stretched. Catholic Social Teaching challenges us to not only see our neighbors as part of one human family but also to provide the capacity to grow in community.

We are tremendously grateful that this community sees those experiencing homelessness, sees the children in need of safety and stability. Sees our elderly neighbors who need help in attending to basic daily needs. This holiday season, we celebrate the support you and the community provide so we can be there, in relationship, to respond to and fuel the potential of Philip, Bottney and many others each and every day.

Support Catholic Charities’ Giving Tree by purchasing a gift that will be distributed to children and adults receiving services provided by Catholic Charities.

December 8-22
Macy’s Court, Mall of America

Laurie Ohmann
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Every day, with every brick and every nail, we get closer to completing Dorothy Day Place. Dorothy Day Residence will provide homes to 177 people who desperately need them and St. Paul Opportunity Center will provide hope and help to thousands working to reach their full potential. Together, we are responding to urgent needs in our community. You made this possible. Thank you!

You can make a difference

Dozens of new voters made their voices heard on November 6 thanks to the voter outreach work of the Catholic Charities Advocacy Team. If you want to get or stay involved with our advocacy efforts, sign up at cctwincities.org/action to get alerts throughout the legislative session and be the first to know when you can affect positive change in our community.