Bob will proudly tell anyone who asks that he is 74-years-old. “I thank God that I made 74! If I live to see March the fourteenth I’ll be 75. I feel good,” he said. Catholic Charities is working to help Bob find a permanent home and stay on top of health needs which come with age. Bob became homeless in 2017. He had enough cash to pay rent, but not the $10 for a money order. Between that and a trip to the hospital, his rent didn’t get paid and eviction followed. Even with the trauma of homelessness, Bob counts his blessings, not his problems. “I believe in that man up above. Man, I pray for everybody,” he said. “I bless my food before I even think of eating it. I thank him for waking me up every morning.” While he has back pain and is slow to start walking after sitting awhile, Bob is thankful for his health and the simple joys of life. “I’m homeless. Man. I can’t believe I’m like this, but I’m gonna make it,” he said with a smile.

FACT: Between 2009-2015, the number of adults 55 and older experiencing homelessness increased 58 percent metro wide.

Because of you, Bob dreams of a place to call his own

Bob will proudly tell anyone who asks that he is 74-years-old. “I thank God that I made 74! If I live to see March the fourteenth I’ll be 75. I feel good,” he said. Catholic Charities is working to help Bob find a permanent home and stay on top of health needs which come with age.

Bob became homeless in 2017. He had enough cash to pay rent, but not the $10 for a money order. Between that and a trip to the hospital, his rent didn’t get paid and eviction followed. Even with the trauma of homelessness, Bob counts his blessings, not his problems. “I believe in that man up above. Man, I pray for everybody,” he said. “I bless my food before I even think of eating it. I thank him for waking me up every morning.” While he has back pain and is slow to start walking after sitting awhile, Bob is thankful for his health and the simple joys of life. “I’m homeless. Man. I can’t believe I’m like this, but I’m gonna make it,” he said with a smile.

RESPONDING TO A NEED

Bob is not alone. There are an increasing number of people 60-years-old and greater who don’t have a place to call home. Recognizing their particular needs, Catholic Charities’ Homeless Elder program is a unique model which helps men and women transition from the shelter to permanent housing, combined with support. With your help, we have staff in Hennepin and Ramsey counties to help this vulnerable population find and maintain safe, stable homes.

“It is especially difficult for people to face homelessness for the first time at an advanced age, like Bob did, but he has navigated the experience with dignity and honor and I look forward to the day he moves into his very own apartment again.” —Melea Blanchard, Program Supervisor, Homeless Elders Program

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
VOICE SPRING 2019

Heading home

Inside this issue:
• Northside youth honor legacy of Dr. King
• Solutions to the housing crisis are available
• Dorothy Day Place construction update

POVERTY FOR NO ONE. OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE.
Northside celebrates the life of Dr. King

Children and staff at Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at their annual program. Children and staff read quotes, sang, danced and shared the wisdom and love of Dr. King. With your help, Northside Child Development Center provided education, child care, creative activities and supportive services to 196 children and families this year.

Cakes worth celebrating

Volunteer creates magical cakes for children in shelter

There is nothing like the joy on a child’s face as they sit in the glow of birthday candles and listen to those they love singing “Happy Birthday.” For many experiencing the trauma of homelessness, that is a luxury left by the wayside. Not Catholic Charities’ kids; not when there is a woman like Kathi Donnelly-Cohen in our community.

Twice each month, everyone at Catholic Charities’ Family Service Center will come together to celebrate birthdays of families seeking refuge from homelessness at the shelter.

“Kathi makes wonderful, professionally flavored and decorated pastries and the families and children absolutely love it,” said Catholic Charities’ Food Service Supervisor Michael DeJong.

She also bakes cakes for youth celebrating birthdays at Catholic Charities’ Hope Street and teaches kitchen skills to those in the transitional living program. Hope Street provides homeless youth in our community with food, resources and housing stabilization.

Kathi’s work in the kitchen is carrying on the legacy of her late husband, former Saint Paul Mayor Larry Cohen. Larry served on the Ambassador Committee for our Dorothy Day Place Capital Campaign. Kathi was moved by the struggles of those we serve and wanted to use her skills to bring a bit of joy.

“For being able to make a cake for kids…I just love this,” she said. “It fills a hole in my heart.”

You can make a difference, too! Learn how at cctwincities.org/volunteer

Join Catholic Charities for
Homeless Day on the Hill

Join hundreds of other housing advocates at the Capitol on March 13 to tell lawmakers why stable housing is a priority for you and ask them to match your commitment.

For more information and to register, visit cctwincities.org/hill

BECAUSE OF YOU

nearly 22,000 people who needed help got it. Last year, Catholic Charities:

Served more than 1 million meals to those in need, and

Provided more than 533,000 nights of housing and emergency shelter

To learn more about the wonderful difference you made in the lives of others, view our 2018 annual report online.

FULL REPORT: cctwincities.org/annualreport
Catholic Charities serves those most in need.

You can make a difference.

Be a helping hand, not a bystander. Become a Catholic Charities hero. You can make a difference today. Join Catholic Charities for Homeless Day on the Hill.

Join hundreds of other housing advocates at the Capitol on March 13 to tell lawmakers why stable housing is a priority for you and ask them to match your commitment.

The good news is: there are solutions. The Governor’s Task Force on Housing outlined six goals that will help create a marketplace that works for everyone and create strong communities for all Minnesotans. It will take innovation, partnerships and support from private, public and nonprofit partners to achieve lasting solutions. Most importantly, it will take the ongoing support of Minnesotans like you to advocate for stable housing with your elected officials, local decision makers and neighbors.

The housing crisis is real, but solutions are available.

The rising cost and decreasing availability of housing is affecting Minnesotans at every income level across the state. Families are struggling to find homes in their price range where they can put down roots and raise their children. Employers are struggling to find workers because there’s no housing nearby they can afford. And the most vulnerable among us are riding the light rails all night or spending the night outside because emergency and transitional housing facilities are at or exceeding capacity.

Catholic Charities has witnessed the swelling need in our community firsthand. In 2018, with your support, we provided 533,013 nights of housing and emergency shelter for adults, families, youth and children—an increase of 12 percent from 2017. On any given night, 1,460 Minnesotans come to us for a safe place to spend the night. These trends are concerning for a number of reasons. Not only is it contrary to our values as Minnesotans, it is also costing us in education, health care and economic stability.

The Governor’s Task Force on Housing outlined six goals that will help create a marketplace that works for everyone and create strong communities for all Minnesotans. It will take innovation, partnerships and support from private, public and nonprofit partners to achieve lasting solutions. Most importantly, it will take the ongoing support of Minnesotans like you to advocate for stable housing with your elected officials, local decision makers and neighbors.

The good news is: there are solutions. The Governor’s Task Force on Housing outlined six goals that will help create a marketplace that works for everyone and create strong communities for all Minnesotans. It will take innovation, partnerships and support from private, public and nonprofit partners to achieve lasting solutions. Most importantly, it will take the ongoing support of Minnesotans like you to advocate for stable housing with your elected officials, local decision makers and neighbors.

The Governor’s Task Force on Housing outlined six goals that will help create a marketplace that works for everyone and create strong communities for all Minnesotans. It will take innovation, partnerships and support from private, public and nonprofit partners to achieve lasting solutions. Most importantly, it will take the ongoing support of Minnesotans like you to advocate for stable housing with your elected officials, local decision makers and neighbors.

The Governor’s Task Force on Housing outlined six goals that will help create a marketplace that works for everyone and create strong communities for all Minnesotans. It will take innovation, partnerships and support from private, public and nonprofit partners to achieve lasting solutions. Most importantly, it will take the ongoing support of Minnesotans like you to advocate for stable housing with your elected officials, local decision makers and neighbors.

To learn more about the wonderful difference you made in the lives of others, view our 2018 annual report online.

For more information and to register, visit cctwincities.org/hill

BECAUSE OF YOU

nearly 22,000 people who needed help got it. Last year, Catholic Charities:

Served more than 1 million meals to those in need, and

Provided more than 533,000 nights of housing and emergency shelter

To learn more about the wonderful difference you made in the lives of others, view our 2018 annual report online.

FULL REPORT: cctwincities.org/annualreport

Join Catholic Charities for Homeless Day on the Hill
In my few short months since joining the team, it is clear why our community has relied on Catholic Charities for nearly 150 years, from our staff and clients to our programs and the housing we provide to ensure more Minnesotans have a place to sleep at night. The impact of our work is growing and can be seen across the Twin Cities. Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey have both passed significant local housing investments and are drawing lines to housing as education, health care, and economic stability. Regional business associations have made housing a top legislative priority, and coalitions are going to the Capitol with the largest housing agendas in history. Through this work, Catholic Charities is being called on as a leader in designing, developing, and delivering much needed housing infrastructure and support services.

We are also continuing our work driving racial equity and social justice for those we serve and the broader community. It is an exciting time for you – our thousands of donors, volunteers and advocates – to support these efforts. Join us this legislative session and beyond by signing up for Action Alerts at cctwincities.org/action.

See you out there!

Wendy Underwood
Senior Director, Advocacy and Government Affairs