Catholic Charities serves those most in need.

Thank you for saying yes
This community needs people like you who care enough to take action.
Every time you give, volunteer or advocate—you are joining hands with children, their parents and our neighbors facing homelessness, navigating the impacts of trauma and dealing with barriers that stand in the way of stability and success.
Thank you for caring. Thank you for doing something that really matters.

Catholic Charities can say YES to the most challenging issues in the Twin Cities region because you say YES to taking action. Catholic Charities does the work of prevention through early childhood development, school-based counseling and working with parents, which allows us to see the significant benefits of taking care of our kids and supporting caregivers.
Unfortunately, we also see impacts of crises and trauma as people show up to our shelters in need of short-term relief as well as long-term support. Our community needs you and we appreciate your generosity of time, expertise, passion and resources to accomplish a bold vision of poverty for no one and opportunity for everyone.

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Volunteering helps you meet new people, learn new skills and see the impact you make. There are many ways to volunteer. Visit cctwincities.org to learn more.

For Lacretia and her children, Catholic Charities’ Northside Child Development Center is so much more than a place for the kids to be when she’s at work.

“Northside, really, they’re a second family,” Lacretia said.

Lacretia works at Nellie Stone Johnson School in North Minneapolis. She loves working in the classroom, and it’s providing her great experience as she works to finish her teaching degree. She appreciates Northside’s curriculum focus and she knows her kids aren’t just having fun—they’re preparing for the future, even during summer break.

Her 9-year-old daughter, Iyanna, has come out of her shell at Northside and being able to get onsite help from Northside staff with her math homework has made a world of difference.

“She’s sweet and shy. Right now, I’m working on her confidence. She’s like a second mom to my kids. She’s a good helper.”

Donald is 6-years-old and has ADHD, which Lacretia credits Northside staff with her math homework and being able to get onsite help from Northside staff with her math homework has made a world of difference.

“Northside helps family achieve goals

Inside this issue:
• Most one of our favorite volunteers
• Read what happens when you say yes
• Dorothy Day Community Breakfast highlights

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Established 1916

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Jane McDonald Black
President and Chief Executive Officer
Tim Marx
Phone: 612-204-8374
To donate: 612-204-8374
To: cctwincities.org

Dorothy Day Community Breakfast

The Dorothy Day Community Breakfast was a time to celebrate 38 years of caring for our most vulnerable neighbors, in Saint Paul. We are grateful to be part of many cross-sector community partnerships and thankful for everyday heroes who change lives every day. We were pleased to recognize our wonderful community partner, 3M, with the 2019 Community Service Award. In all the ways an organization can hope for, 3M is a partner and neighbor to Catholic Charities – through volunteerism, philanthropy and advocacy. As a unique public-private partnership, Catholic Charities relies on the support of our corporate and foundation partners, such as 3M and 3Mgives.
George volunteers in honor of family

George Hernandez has a routine.
Five days a week—it six if more help is needed—the 87-year-old catches the 6 a.m. bus and sets out to do some good. His is a familiar face on the Dorothy Day Place campus. When George is around, individuals who walk across the street from Higher Ground Saint Paul know they will start the day receiving George’s gentle smile along with their morning meal.

I serve the tray to them and get to know me. I really enjoy my work and I enjoy the company,” he said with a smile. “You should do something in your life to help people who don’t have enough. It’s a good feeling.”

As a 7-year-old his parents took him to see Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker” and a fire for ballet, classical music and theater was lit. George credits his parents for the gift of culture. He returns that gift each day he volunteers in honor of the memory of his parents and his sister.

“My folks would demand that I do volunteer work, and my sister was the same,” he explained. “I enjoy it because I’m doing something for someone. My folks would demand that I do volunteer work, and my sister was the same,” he explained. “I enjoy it because I’m doing something for someone.

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Arthur, a US Army master sergeant, completed three deployments and experienced homelessness once he returned home. The Catholic Charities’ Minneapolis Opportunity Center became a sanctuary where he could receive services and support from caring staff. “This is my refuge from sun up to sundown. I owe it all to this place,” he said. Thank you for your generosity. Arthur has moved into an apartment of his own to begin a new chapter in his life. With your support, we are working toward a vision to end veteran homelessness. Through the unique and unprecedented coordination of public and private partners, service providers, evidence-based practices, Minnesota has seen a 56 percent reduction in veteran homelessness since 2010. Governor Tim Walz, a 24-year veteran of the Army National Guard, has committed to eradicating veteran homelessness by Veterans Day, 2019. Catholic Charities will serve as an active ally in reaching this historic milestone, leading the way to fulfill this paramount commitment to our state’s veterans. Together, we can provide stability for the veterans who have given so much to protect our freedoms.

Your actions are saving, changing lives!

Yes. It’s a word that opens doors, addresses need and inspires action. Because of you, Catholic Charities is able to say yes to those most in need—not only for our programs, but throughout our community.

When people were struggling at encampments, you joined us in a community effort to help our neighbors. With your support, we were able to say yes to providing meals at the Minneapolis Navigation Center.

When there simply wasn’t enough shelter, you helped us expand emergency shelter capacity and extend service hours at Higher Ground Saint Paul.

When temperature plummeted, you said yes again, and we were able to partner with Ramsey County to provide life-saving shelter at St. Paul’s Union Depot.

You also said yes when we added shelter beds at Winter Safe Space in downtown Saint Paul and agreed to open one month earlier and stay open one month later than last year. You said yes to staff working extra hours to get people out of shelters and into homes.

You did not just provide shelter from cold temperatures. You provided opportunity and resources. Simply put, you saved lives.

Tracy Berglund, Catholic Charities’ Senior Director of Housing, worked with her team throughout the winter to ensure people had a place to come in from the cold both at Catholic Charities’ shelters and at Winter Safe Space. It took a lot of creative thinking; it also took everyone in the community pitching in to make it happen.

“In addition to serving more people by expanding overall capacity each night, Winter Safe Space has also increased the number of people housed from last year,” Berglund said.

As of late April, 20 people had left Winter Safe Space and moved into a home of their own, eight others had completed the process and were on waiting lists. Catholic Charities’ program manager April Witschen has been managing the Winter Safe Space effort and echoed the need for teamwork during challenging times.

“There was a lot of coordination that had to be done to make sure clients were safe during the coldest days,” she said. “It is nice to see other organizations and the community stepping up and working with us for the safety of everyone.”

“Because you said yes, next winter will look much different for those experiencing homelessness. Dorothy Day Residence and Saint Paul Opportunity Center, opening this fall, will provide homes, opportunity, nutritious meals, specialized services and trauma-sensitive case management.”

Thank you for saying yes to those most in need.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVES THOSE MOST IN NEED.

Because of you, Catholic Charities serves nearly 400 veterans every year by providing critical services to meet specific needs. Dignified shelter and housing, access to benefits, medical care and employment support provide a path to a brighter future. It is difficult work that requires creativity, commitment and tenacity—and can only happen with the vision, trust and resources of steadfast donors and community partnerships with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans and others.

Arthur recently picked up a nickname—‘The Milkman.’ He delivers and stocks the breakfast and most of the lunch food and supplies multiple times each week. Individuals who first refuge at the Navigation Center are served nutritious grab and go breakfast and lunch meals and a hot entree every evening which is prepared by C&C Foods in the kitchen at Catholic Charities’ Glenwood Residence. Because you said yes, we have served nearly 80,000 meals to those most in need at the Navigation Center!...
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