

Metairie Academy

Crafty fourth and fifth grade students from Metairie Academy used their skills to delight the preschool students at Catholic Charities' El Yo Yo Head Start Center recently. Metairie Academy teacher Caroline Avengo was teaching her students to knit and decided that her classes could create toys for the students at El Yo Yo. Mrs. Avengo and fifteen of her students knitted 43 stuffed toys for the youngsters at El Yo Yo. The fourth and fifth graders took a field trip to visit the younger children at the Head Start facility to distribute the toys and enjoy snack time with the preschool students.




notes from the Heart

June 2012

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Chair Couple Announces ACA Name Change

We are honored and delighted to lead the fundraising effort for this year's Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (formerly known as the Archbishop's Community Appeal, or ACA). Why the change in campaign name? Archbishop Gregory Aymond and the Catholic Charities Board of Directors thought it most appropriate to rename this annual giving campaign in memory of Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, its founder, as a way of honoring his life's legacy of service to the poor in our community.

Whether it was opening the Seminary pool to the Summer Witness campers in the 1960s so they would have a cool place to swim and play, or establishing our Food For Families/ Food For Seniors program to ensure that our seniors had adequate food and nourishment, Archbishop Hannan made a lasting impact on our community. And that impact lives on today through the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA), which continues to raise unrestricted monies to fund the programs of Catholic Charities.

The focus of the campaign remains exactly the same as that of the Archbishop's Community Appeal, only the name has changed. As the chair couple for the 2012 Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal, we stand on the shoulders of many great chairmen and women before us who have successfully led the campaign since its creation in 1966 following Hurricane Betsy. Now in its 46th year, the campaign raises funds for many of the same needs and challenges facing our community. And we continue to count on our friends and supporters like you for the monies needed to fund the valuable programs of Catholic Charities.

A gift to the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal is one that allows Catholic Charities to remain agile in delivering services to those most in need. And with its efficient use of funds, Catholic Charities is able to direct \$.94 of every dollar directly to services, with just \$.06 for overhead.

There will be more information to come regarding the 2012 campaign. We're counting on your prayers and support to help us make this year's efforts something that Archbishop Hannan would be proud of.



Byron and Shannon Adams

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans provides life-giving services through 42 programs and 2 affiliated ministries

ACCESS Brunch

ACCESS Jazz Brunch co-chairs Louise Jardell and Jean Rice are celebrating a big success. A sell-out crowd of about 250 supporters gathered at the Audubon Tea Room in Audubon Park on June 3, 2012 to enjoy wonderful food, music and fellowship. The menu included chicken Caesar salad, mushroom bisque, eggs Florentine, grilled fish with lemon herb sauce, pasta and sautéed vegetables. Music was

provided by New Orleans Banjos + 2 and local Christian singer-songwriter Lorraine Hess, who is releasing a Christmas album and donating the proceeds from her concerts to ACCESS.

Guests also bid on a variety of auction items,



which included an autographed Saints football and a framed and signed Terrence Osborne print.

St. Catherine of Sienna received the Outstanding Pro-Life Parish Award for their pro-life efforts. School principal Frances

Dee Tarantino was on hand to accept the award.

ACCESS Jazz Brunch is an annual event and the single largest fundraiser benefitting the ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Centers, which provide free and confidential pregnancy testing, services and support to mothers facing a crisis pregnancy in the prayerful hope that they choose life for their unborn babies. The event is planned by the ACCESS Advisory Board. Mary Fonseca serves as president and Gayle Gaubert is vice president.



Leaving a Legacy

This spring Catholic Charities was honored to be the beneficiary of two generous bequests.

The first was made by Dennis J. Monroe, Sr., a gentleman whose life was itself a gift of service, both to his country with more than 20 years of distinguished service to the United States Army and Air Force, as well as to the community of Los Angeles where he lived and worked. In both military service and career, Mr. Monroe was recognized with numerous awards and commendations. Yet throughout his life, he remained a humble man who, in the words of Mr. Monroe's nephew, Joseph Boucree, "was never one looking for recognition." With this generous bequest, made simply through his life insurance policy, Catholic Charities will receive a lovely gift that provides valuable care and services to those most in need in our community.

The second bequest was made by Mildred Wild, a lady who grew up during the Great Depression and lived to be 99 years old. Ms. Wild began working when

she was just 18 years old, and her honest, hard work ethic assured her own, as well as her mother's, financial independence upon retirement. Ms. Wild was an astute manager of her portfolio; she was frugal, not frivolous, with money. Ms. Wild's careful management of her assets and her thoughtful remembrance of Catholic Charities upon her death has blessed our organization with a gift that enables us to respond quickly to the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

We share these two examples to demonstrate how simple it is to leave a legacy gift to an organization that is meaningful to you. Planned gifts do not have to be complicated or come from only wealthy individuals. To learn more about how you can make a planned gift to Catholic Charities please contact Helen Read Smith, Director of Development, at hsmith@ccano.org, or (504) 592-5688.

Catholic Charities is humbled to be lovingly remembered by two honorable and charitable people whose generous spirit will live on through our organization for a long time to come.

Prayer Reflection

On Friday, May 18, 2012, Tom Costanza, Director of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Justice and Peace, participated in a prayer walk in the troubled Central City neighborhood. Tom has participated in 7 prayer walks through distressed neighborhoods over the past 9 months. Tom penned this reflection after that Friday night walk.

We walked around Central City this evening and prayed. We walked with Pastor Melvin Jackson, Sr. who leads a small church in the area. He longs for the time when all churches 'hit the streets'. Daniel and Denise, two MICA Project staff members, joined us.

We prayed for and with mothers who only asked that their children be safe. We prayed with a young boy who just said, "Pray to stop the killing of my friends and children." His ambition in life is to be a drummer. We prayed that he becomes the best drummer he can be.

We prayed for a young man who had just been beaten up by some bullies at gunpoint. His face was still bleeding. His mother and grandmother told us they reported the incident to the police, but an hour after the incident, the police had not responded. In fact, I saw no police at all during our two hour prayer walk. The woman took her son to the hospital. What must it feel like to be that young man and to live in fear of being shot and to be his mother who feels helpless to protect her son? Her face was worn, troubled and tired.

We prayed with maybe 80 people in a short period of time. On this warm night, everyone was out on their stoops, even though they all know it is a dangerous

neighborhood. They will not let their lives be controlled by violence.

We prayed for Jesus Miracle Ministry which was serving delicious chili to obviously down-and-out men. We prayed with a young man who appeared to be about 20 years old who wanted help finding a job. Everyone we encountered believes in God and joined us in prayer with the knowledge that God has not forsaken Central City. Maybe we have, but God has not.

Not everyone has forgotten. I reflected on programs like Catholic Charities St. John the Baptist Community Center, Café Reconcile, Café Hope, the Ashe Cultural Center and people like Pastor Jackson and Denise and Daniel who literally poured themselves out to the people.

All of us who walked this night were thankful that everyone we approached was open to prayer. As I walked along, one lady said, "Someone told me to call Catholic Charities and here you are." Thank you, God, for small miracles. We pray that God continues to work in the lives and community of the people of Central City.

We pray for peace, Amen.

CCUSA Centennial Awards

Fr. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, awarded several Centennial Awards to New Orleanians who have exemplified the mission of Catholic Charities in providing service to the poor. Two of the recipients received their awards at a recent luncheon at Café Hope in Marrero.

Sr. Anthony Barczykowski, D.C., executive director of the Department of Community Services of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and former director of Catholic Charities, received the CCUSA Centennial Award for her service to the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Dr. Norman Francis, president of Xavier University, also received the prestigious award. Dr. Francis has led Xavier University since 1968, making him the longest tenured current

leader of an American university.

Fr. Larry personally presented the awards to Sr. Anthony and Dr. Francis. The Centennial Awards commemorate the 100th anniversary of CCUSA.

