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Notes from the Heart

News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

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Archbishop of New Orleans

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Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans provides life-giving programs that deliver health and human services to the most vulnerable and needy throughout 8 civil parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. We serve people regardless of race, religion, age, ethnicity or economic status.

Called to be Good Samaritans

Dear friends of Catholic Charities,

Let me first begin by thanking you for all that you do to support the work of Catholic Charities. As long as there is a need to be filled in the community, Catholic Charities will be present to provide help and hope to individuals and families. In this newsletter we've highlighted stories from our ministries that you have played a role in making possible. As I've quoted before, Pope Francis, while addressing the 2014 annual Catholic Charities USA gathering, referred to Catholic Charities as, "the engine of the Church that organizes love." You are a part of this love, and our work would not be possible without your time, prayers and donations.



In a recent gathering, we were asked to reflect on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. As we know, the Parable of the Good Samaritan was told in response to

"...our work would not be possible without your time, prayers and donations."

the questioning of the commandment to love thy neighbor as thyself. Jesus is asked, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). In His response, He tells of a man who fell victim to robbers and lay beaten in the street. In his need, this man was ignored by two passersby and finally

cared for by the Samaritan. The Samaritan did not stop to question the man's race, religion, class, or creed – the only requirement for him to show compassion was need. Likewise, Catholic Charities cares for those in need regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or economic status. We see this as we work with disaster victims in LaPlace and the North Shore, and with neighboring

Dioceses of Baton Rouge and Lafayette – people from all walks of life coming together to comfort support, and assist their neighbors in need. It is not always convenient to put into practice this love for our neighbor, but necessary as we follow the teachings of Christ to foster a more just and compassionate society.

In the same 2014 address to Catholic Charities USA, Pope Francis said that like the Good Samaritan and Innkeeper, "we are called to be in the streets, inviting and serving those who have been left out." As long as we are able, Catholic Charities will continue to care for our neighbors in need and be the Good Samaritan. You, through your support and assistance, share our role of being the Good Samaritan. I thank you again for your support and prayers.

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
President/CEO

Southeast Louisiana Flood Relief

Thank you to everyone who donated to help support those affected by the recent flooding in Southeast Louisiana! Because of your heartfelt generosity, we will be distributing \$267,208 to our fellow Catholic Charities agencies of Baton Rouge and Lafayette to assist in both immediate and long-term recovery.

The Diocese of Lafayette and Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge are providing direct assistance to those affected by the floods in their region. You can visit their websites to make a donation or get more information on how you can help.

We'd also like to thank everyone who volunteered to help sort donations at Catholic Charities Diocese of Baton Rouge on Saturday, August 27!



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SAVE THE DATE:

- **September 13** Volunteer Information Session, 4PM
- **September 27** Monthly Peace Prayer Walk, 6PM at St. Katharine Drexel Parish
- **October 21** Symposium for Systemic Change & Criminal Justice Reform, 9AM – 2PM at St. Agnes Church

For more information on all of Catholic Charities' upcoming events, check out our website www.ccano.org!

INTRODUCING THE 2016 AHCA CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN: Mr. Paul L. Fine

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans is proud to introduce Mr. Paul L. Fine as the 2016 Chairman of the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA). Mr. Fine, who was born and raised in New Orleans, has been married to his wife, Mary Beth, for 30 years. The two have five children – Peyton, 22; Patrick, 19; William, 17; Michael Paul, 12; and Kathryn, 10.

Over 25 years ago, Catholic Charities invited a host of young individuals, including the Fines, on a bus tour to bring awareness of our programs and services to a younger generation. Those who had supported Catholic Charities' work since the time of Archbishop Hannan's summer swim program for disadvantaged youth were now growing older, and the tradition of service and giving would soon be in the hands of the next generation. The tour visited several programs, including a Food for Families/Food for Seniors distribution and a summer volunteer site.

"We were impressed with the breadth of services being provided," Mr. Fine recalls. Following the bus tour, the Fines signed on as AHCA volunteers, helping raise undesignated funds to serve the most vulnerable in our community and spread the word about the mission and work of Catholic Charities.

In 2003, Mr. Fine was appointed to Catholic Charities' Board of Directors. During his tenure as a Board member, he visited many Catholic Charities programs and truly got to know the clients we serve. His most moving experience, he says, was visiting Padua Pediatrics. "It was heart-breaking to see the kids so totally dependent on the people providing care to them. At the same time, it was uplifting to see God's hand working through the dedicated staff who lovingly face the challenge of taking care of the Padua patients every day."

Mr. Fine served as Chair of the Board of Directors and continued to be amazed at the extent of Catholic Charities' services, from adult day health care to full service community centers, Head Start programs, refugee relief services, abused women's homes and everything in between. Of his time serving in Catholic Charities' leadership, Mr. Fine says, "I met many amazing people and was inspired by their dedication to serving the poor and vulnerable in our community."

While he no longer serves on Catholic Charities' Board of Directors, Mr. Fine has continued to stay



Left to right – Joe Toomy, Paul Fine, Jack Jensen and JT Hannan.

involved over the years. He will lead the AHCA campaign into its 51st year of serving the poor, vulnerable and struggling in our community.

Catholic Charities and Mr. Fine are excited for what is sure to be another wonderfully successful campaign and a true testament to the lasting legacy of Archbishop Hannan.

The Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) is an annual, volunteer-driven fundraising campaign which supports the work of Catholic Charities. The campaign was started in 1965 by Archbishop Philip M. Hannan in the wake of Hurricane Betsy and in response to the overwhelming needs of the poor in New Orleans. Gifts to the AHCA raise crucial undesignated funds that allow Catholic Charities to respond swiftly, effectively and compassionately to those most in need.

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"My family is very blessed, and I know that we are called to share our gifts with others," he commented.

September marks the beginning of the annual Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA). Now in its 51st year, the AHCA mobilizes the community to raise much needed unrestricted funds. Began by Archbishop Hannan in response to the overwhelming need following Hurricane Betsy, today the campaign underwrites all 30 life-giving programs of Catholic Charities. Unrestricted funding allows Catholic Charities to respond quickly in times of crisis, such as tornadoes and flooding in LaPlace and the North Shore, as well as to fill gaps where economic issues force governments to cut support for social service programs. This year led by former Board Chair, Paul Fine, the 2016 AHCA aims to raise \$1.8M to serve the most vulnerable in our community.



Rapid Rehousing Brings Hope & Stability to Families in Need

In 2009, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded grants to 23 communities to implement the Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program (RRHD). New Orleans, whose homeless population had risen by as much as 85 percent in the years since Hurricane Katrina, was chosen as a grantee. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans was one of two agencies in the area chosen to implement the program's three-year pilot project. The program, which uses the housing first model, officially began on August 1, 2010.

The Rapid Rehousing program assists families with the identification of available housing in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. Assistance is also offered with move-in, short-term rental assistance, case management and linkages to community-based services. To be eligible, families must be living in an emergency shelter, on the streets or in a place not meant for human habitation.

Shawanda Holmes knows all too well what it's like to live somewhere not meant for human habitation. She and her three children lived across the street from the shotgun double they now call home. At the house across the street, walls moved if they were bumped into, mold grew from numerous places, water dripped from the ceiling and tarps covered missing portions of the house's exterior, leaving the home's interior exposed to the elements in many places. One day, one of her daughters took a wrong step, and her leg fell through the floor. Two of the children suffer from lead poisoning due to the house's paint.



Fearful for her family's safety and well-being, Shawanda decided her family couldn't live like this any longer. She went to the Social Security office to fill out paperwork, and after showing the social worker photos of her home, they agreed with her. Social Security referred her to Catholic Charities' Rapid Rehousing program where she was connected with case manager Eola Roy.

"Ms. Roy has been a blessing," Shawanda comments, smiling. Thinking about where she'd be without Ms. Roy and the Rapid Rehousing program, Shawanda shakes her head, saying, "We'd definitely be at a shelter somewhere. That house was horrible and we had to get out fast. We wouldn't have been able to find a new place on our own."

Ms. Roy helped Shawanda find available, appropriate housing for her and her children. Finding a house near her children's current school and an



already in-place support system was critical as Shawanda didn't want to disrupt their young lives any further. The program helped the Holmes family pay the initial deposit and offered them short-term rental assistance. Ms. Roy also helped her acquire food vouchers and fill out paperwork with the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) to receive more long-term rental assistance.

Now, Shawanda and her children, who just went back to school, are all settled in their new home. Since the program also contains a case management element, Ms. Roy drops by to check on them regularly, and she and Shawanda speak on the phone often. She commented, "This mom's faith, hope and determination are admirable. It's my pleasure to be of service to this family who was not looking for a hand out, but a hand up."

Hope & Healing for North Shore Residents

CCANO is proud to announce our Spirit of Hope North Shore Floods Response Disaster Case Management Program serving Washington and St. Tammany Parishes. Spirit of Hope provides disaster case management services by assigning a single point of contact to those individuals or families who were impacted by the March 2016 floods. Our case managers help these households return to a state of self-sufficiency by working with them to identify their unmet needs, presenting these needs to groups providing assistance to flood victims and coordinating with volunteer groups for home repairs. Spirit of Hope case managers also help clients get connected to services, help with applications and appeals, and assist with finding housing, home repairs, transportation and other essential services.

If you were affected by the March 2016 floods and need help, please call 985-605-5843, or visit <http://www.ccano.org/disaster-response-services/>.

SITE LOCATIONS

North Shore Pastoral Center
69090 HWY 190 Service Rd
Covington, LA 70433

Annunciation Roman Catholic Church
517 Avenue B
Bogalusa, LA 70427

Holy Family Roman Catholic Church
1220 14th Ave
Franklinton, LA 70438

St. Luke the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church
910 Cross Gates Blvd
Slidell, LA 70461

Monday through Thursday 9:00AM - 5:00PM by appointment.