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Notes from the Heart

News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
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.

The Potential of Each Human Person

Dear friends of Catholic Charities,

Every year during the month of May we celebrate Mother's Day and the love and faith of Mary, the mother of Jesus and the Church. Catholic Charities traces its roots of providing for vulnerable populations in Louisiana back to the arrival of French explorers and the Ursuline nuns in 1727. For nearly 300 years, Catholic institutions of education, healthcare, and social services have provided for the poor, the orphaned, the sick, the hungry, and any and all in need throughout Louisiana. While the needs of the community have changed, the need still exists and most likely always will.

Mother's Day and the approaching Pentecost also remind us of the miracle of each and every life. We here at Catholic Charities celebrate life and "respect the dignity and potential of each human person." Each and every person on this Earth is a unique individual formed in the likeness of God. We must remember this as we give people the tools to make a better life for themselves and their families. Each life bettered by the work of Catholic Charities is worth the time and effort spent. As Pope Francis said, "The law of love is written once and for all in the heart of man, written with the fire of the Holy Spirit."

As employees and supporters of the good work of Catholic Charities, it is important that we remember why it is that we continue this work. Celebrating Mother's Day reminds us of the hope and faith that Mary held in her heart even during her darkest hours following the death of her son. This faith she held until the resurrection of her son renewed all life in this world. We must continue to hope and strive for a better future for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.



The statue of Our Lady under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor came to New Orleans in 1810. Over the following two centuries, the Ursuline Sisters have shared this devotion to Our Lady of "Quick Help" with many who pray to the Mother of God in moments of pain or need, joy or thanksgiving, or simply out of desire to live their lives with deepening fidelity and love.

Let us continue to love unconditionally, like a mother's love for her child. And as we transition to the summer season, let us continue to petition our mother, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, just as the Ursuline nuns did, to be with us and strengthen us through the hurricane season.

"Our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, spare us from all harm during this hurricane season and protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature."

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

Thank You, GiveNOLA Donors!

Thank you to the more than 100 donors who helped us raise \$14,525 on GiveNOLA Day! With your help and a generous \$20,000 donation from the Donald Palmer Charitable Foundation, we raised a total of \$34,525 in just 24 hours!

Your GiveNOLA donations are used as undesignated funds that allow Catholic Charities to serve those most immediately in need in our community. In the past year, these funds helped CCANO respond quickly and efficiently to natural disasters across our state, bringing hope and help to those affected.

Overall, GiveNOLA Day 2017 raised \$4.9 million for more than 700 non-profit organizations.

This day serves as a reminder of how generous and caring our community is.



Thank you again to all who gave so generously on GiveNOLA Day! Please take time to reflect on what these gifts mean to the vulnerable, needy and at-risk individuals in our community served by Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.



In the midst of spring cleaning? Clear out space in your garage by getting rid of that old car and donating it to Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans! Visit ccano.org/donate-items or call (504) 592-5694 for more information.

Notes from the Heart
Sign up to receive our bi-monthly e-newsletters in your inbox at ccano.org!



Padua Celebrates 40 Years of Service!

April 2017 marked 40 years of service at CCANO's Padua Community Services! Padua offers comprehensive care for children and adults with disabilities.

In January, St. Elizabeth's Guild generously donated \$55,000 to Padua to purchase a new generator. This generator will allow Padua to seamlessly provide services to their residents, especially those with specialized medical equipment, in the event of a storm or power outage. Thank you, St. Elizabeth's Guild!



SAVE THE DATE:

June 27
Peace Prayer Walk
6PM
at
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish

CCANO Continues to Bring Relief to New Orleans East

On February 7, 2017, an EF-3 tornado devastated New Orleans East. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans was on the ground later that same day offering counseling, helping to distribute food in collaboration with Second Harvest Food Bank and helping those affected begin their journey to recovery.

In the six weeks that followed, Catholic Charities conducted intake and assessments for more than 400 individuals and families at the City of New Orleans Emergency Shelter and FEMA Disaster Resource Center. This process involves documenting the unmet needs of each client, which allows them to be prioritized by severity of need and level of vulnerability.

Additionally, CCANO housed and provided intensive case management to more than 30 individuals whose homes were uninhabitable due to the storm's damage. All of these individuals were elderly, disabled or families with young children. Catholic Charities also offered 1,190 hours of disaster case management and facilitated 80 hours of volunteer labor.

Moving forward, Catholic Charities will function as part of a cooperative body of nonprofits, faith based and community organizations and government agencies making up the Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG). The group's ultimate goal is to provide permanent disaster-resistant housing to replace those destroyed and re-establish a healthy, functioning community that will sustain itself over time. CCANO's role will be to continue providing disaster case management for individuals and families affected by the tornado whose needs have not yet been met through the usual recovery process.



Thank you to all who donated to our recovery efforts! With your generous support, we have helped, and will continue to help, hundreds with counseling, case management, legal support and connections to countless other resources. To date, we have received over \$149,000 in donations and grants to help us bring aid and relief to those in need.

Blue Jays' Generosity Benefits Tornado Victims

In the wake of February's destructive tornado in New Orleans East, faculty, staff and students at Jesuit High School knew they wanted to help in any way they could.

The school partnered with Youth Rebuilding New Orleans (YRNO), a local volunteer organization, and the Cummings-Wilson AME Church, which sustained significant damage from the tornado, to have students help remove debris and clean the church.

The school also raised over \$3,500 through collections in their homerooms. The fundraising effort was schoolwide, with donations coming in from everyone from eighth graders to seniors to teachers and everyone in between. The inten-

tion, said Mr. Kevin Murphy, Jesuit's Director of Community Service Programs, was to give the funds to Jesuit families affected by the storm.

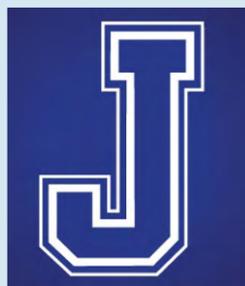
However, the Blue Jay families whose homes had been damaged were able to pick up the pieces on their own. So, Jesuit began looking for organizations who were on the ground helping those in New Orleans East who needed it most. According to Murphy, donating the funds to Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans seemed like a perfect fit.

"Jesuit's mission is to develop in our students the competence, conscience and compassion to live their lives as men of faith and men for others. When a natural disaster hits our community,

we think it's important to do whatever we can to assist," Murphy shared.

These funds will help Catholic Charities continue our long-term recovery efforts in the area. CCANO will continue to provide case management and help those affected by the tornado meet their needs and regain normalcy and self-sufficiency.

Thank you to the young men, teachers and faculty of Jesuit High School for their generosity and support!



Forum on Poverty Brings Community Groups Together

On May 15, 2017, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans convened a group of over 25 organizations for a community-wide Forum on Poverty. The forum sought to address the multi-dimensional issue of poverty in our community and explore ways to move people towards self-sufficiency.

of Greater New Orleans, Second Harvest Food Bank, Bridge House Grace House, Hagar's House, YMCA, the Family Justice Center, Family Service of Greater New Orleans, Covenant House and Kingsley House. Thank you to all who attended, and we look forward to continuing our work with these groups in the fight to end poverty!

Attendees represented a range of faith-based, health care, business, advocacy, education, human services, government and informational organizations. Participating groups included the Louisiana Public Health Institute, Christian Unity, St. Vincent de Paul, 6th Baptist, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, Catholic Charities, Baptist Community Ministries, the Kellogg Foundation, the Downtown Development District, Metro for Community Advocacy, VIA Link, the City of New Orleans' Social Services and Health Departments, Loyola University, Total Community Action, Volunteers of America, United Way of Southeast Louisiana, Unity



ACCESS Offers Quality Care & Peace of Mind

Each year, more than three million babies are born in the United States, and more than 60,000 of those babies call Louisiana home. While pregnancy can be an exciting time, it can also bring financial, personal and family concerns. Luckily, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans' caring and knowledgeable ACCESS Pregnancy Services staff is here to help.

ACCESS provides free, confidential pregnancy testing, ultrasound and case management services for women, couples and families welcoming new life. Pregnancy education is also available on topics including nutrition, parenting, childbirth, breastfeeding and newborn care. Professional counseling and other services are available by referral.



For those who might have questions and concerns, but are not yet ready to make a face-to-face appointment, telephone services are also available. Our trained client advocates will listen to clients' concerns and help find answers.

ACCESS also has a mobile unit, which makes stops Tuesdays through Thursdays in various locations in the Greater New Orleans Area and St. Tammany Parish. All ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Centers, including the mobile unit, are certified Medicaid Enrollment Centers. Staff are available on-site to help clients prepare and submit Medicaid applications online, ensuring speedy processing.

The support and care clients receive from ACCESS Pregnancy Services doesn't end with the birth of their child. With the average child using 2,500 diapers before their first birthday, it's no wonder one in three families struggle to afford diapers. The ACCESS Diaper Bank offers a monthly supply of diapers and wipes to help families defray the cost of raising their new baby. The Diaper Bank distributes an average of 9,000 diapers each month.

For more information on ACCESS Pregnancy Services, including the mobile unit's current schedule, visit www.ccano.org/access-pregnancy-services.

CCANO Celebrates a Successful 2016 AHCA Campaign

On April 19, 2017, donors, volunteers and supporters of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans' annual Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) campaign gathered at Café Reconcile to celebrate another successful year. This year marked the 51st year of the campaign, which raises undesignated funds that allow Catholic Charities to respond swiftly, effectively and compassionately to those most in need in our community.

Under the leadership of Chairman Paul Fine, the 2016 AHCA campaign raised over \$1.8 million. These funds will help CCANO bring hope and help to the homeless, the elderly, at-risk youth, pregnant women, individuals with developmental delays and many more.

Guests enjoyed the sounds of the Joe Simon Jazz Band and the tastes of some of Café Reconcile's best dishes including artichoke and boursin beignets, boudin sausage, crab cakes, BBQ shrimp and grits and more.

Archbishop Aymond thanked the volunteers, many of whom have volunteered for years, for their commitment and dedication to the campaign. "Through your volunteer work with Catholic Charities, you are the hearts and hands of Jesus in our community," he shared.

Archbishop Aymond and Sr. Marjorie Hebert, President and CEO of Catholic Charities, presented Mr. Fine with a gift in gratitude of his leadership, hard work and dedication to the 2016 campaign. Mr. Fine also gave a word of thanks to the many volunteers and donors who helped surpass this year's goal of \$1.8 million and made the campaign a success.



Laurie Oertling, Byron & Shannon Adams, Mike Read



Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Sr. Marjorie Hebert, MSC and Paul Fine



Al & Debbie Suffrin

The night's activities concluded with the introduction of the 2017 Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal campaign chairman, Mr. Tommie Vassel.

Thank you to all who made the 2016 campaign such a success, and we look forward to what is sure to be a successful 2017 campaign under Mr. Vassel's leadership!