

The Newsletter of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

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Throw Me Somethin', Mister!

St. Mary of the Angels Head Start got into the carnival spirit with a Mardi Gras Parade on February 28, 2014. Photo on right by Beth Donze, The Clarion Herald.



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ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

March 2014

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.

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

A familiar symbol to Catholic Charities is the heart. It reminds us that we are to foster love, charity and friendship in all that we do. The Scripture reminds us that charity is the greatest of the virtues and that love of God is first, second is the love of our neighbor. Our staff is challenged daily to demonstrate this heart of service that is dictated by Scripture.

This agency flourishes because our staff, our donors and our volunteers give of themselves. They give their time, their talents and more with love to serve with us in ministry. We are 550 employees, 11,000+ volunteers, and 100,000+ clients. We are many hands, but we show that we are one heart in Jesus Christ as we make a daily commitment to serve, to support and to love as Jesus loved.

This Lent, I hope you are able to find some time for reflection on how each of us are called to the service of one another and how we can translate that call into action. We might begin by expressing gratitude to God for all that we have been given—family,

Many Hands, One Heart

friends, a home, a job, ability to think, mobility to move about, our many freedoms, etc. We might also identify the many unique gifts of mind, body, and spirit that have been given to us as individuals. After recognizing these many gifts for which we give thanks, we must decide: What can we do with our gifts? How can we best use our gifts?

As we reflect on Jesus' sacrifice for us and await his glorious Resurrection, I thank you for deciding that your gifts, your talents and your time are shared in part with Catholic Charities. Thank you for being our partner and friend in ministry.

May we experience many Lenten graces as we journey these 40 days!

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.

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President & CEO



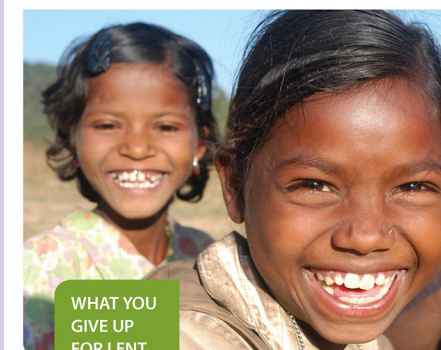
"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40)

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) plays an important role in fulfilling Jesus' call to care for those suffering and marginalized in our world today. Catholic Relief Services, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) international humanitarian aid agency, is deeply committed to fulfilling the Church's mission of mercy and justice. Through aid, resettling of displaced individuals and families, and advocating on behalf of victims, Catholic Relief Services lives the call to serve as Jesus served. CRS assists the poor and suffering in nearly 100 countries without regard to race, religion, or nationality.

This Lent, CCANO's Office of Justice and Peace is once again leading the charge for the CRS Rice Bowl Campaign! We encourage you, your family, your school and your parish to participate by collecting funds in a rice bowl bank, through prayer and through sharing info on the work of CRS! Download the CRS Rice Bowl app and get more info and Lenten reflections at crsricebowl.org. Follow Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans on Facebook and Twitter for great CRS Lenten reflections and activities.

Need a CRS Rice Bowl? Contact Morgan in the Office of Justice and Peace at 504-615-4775.

FOR LENT FOR LIFE



WHAT YOU
GIVE UP
FOR LENT
CHANGES
LIVES

JOIN CRS RICE BOWL TODAY!
crsricebowl.org

ARCHBISHOP HANNAN COMMUNITY APPEAL EXCEEDS GOAL!

We are pleased to report that this year's Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) has exceeded its goal of \$1.965 Million and raised a **total of \$1,965,979!** Our thanks go out to our many dedicated volunteers, generous donors and this year's AHCA Chairman, JT Hannan. We are able to serve so many because of your leadership and support!



Gifts from the Heart

When Melissa and Jean-Marc Pellerin were planning their wedding, they knew they wanted their big day to be more than just a big party. They wanted their day to be a celebration of the love they found in one another. So, when it came to putting together a wedding registry, instead of a blender or a toaster or something that comes with a gift receipt, Melissa and Jean-Marc asked their guests to give a gift from the heart. In lieu of traditional wedding gifts, they asked their friends and family to make a donation to Padua Community Services in honor of their wedding.

Melissa who works with the Louisiana Restaurant Association was introduced to Padua's ministry to the disabled and the elderly through the Louisiana Hospitality Foundation's (LHF) annual "Santa Drop-off" at Padua House. "I had seen pictures and I had heard about Padua, but we wanted to learn more," Melissa said. She and her now-husband Jean-Marc, who works with his family's manufacturing business Pellerin-Milnor, decided to take a tour of Padua House with LHF's President of the Board of Directors David Blich and his wife, Margaret. After their visit, they knew they wanted to do something to help. "It was Jean-Marc's idea," Melissa said. "We felt like it was important to bring attention to Padua and our wedding was a really good opportunity to do that. We really wanted to do this."

Padua Community Services provides comprehensive and specialized care for children and adults through Padua House, Padua Community Homes and Padua Home and Community Services. Care includes residential sites as well as in-home care and adult day health care for clients with a range of developmental and physical disabilities who often have nowhere else to go. Padua provides individualized care plans for each client that includes stimulation and activities that ensure quality of life. "Padua really allows these children and adults to live with dignity and purpose," Melissa said after visiting Padua House.



Although some guests were a bit surprised by their registry request, Melissa and Jean-Marc's friends and family ultimately responded with a huge outpouring of love and support for this cause. Through their guests' generosity, Melissa and Jean-Marc raised over \$9,890 for Padua. "I did not dream that we would raise so much!" Melissa said. "In the end, everyone was supportive and it showed."

Melissa and Jean Marc Pellerin were married on October 26, 2013 at St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans followed by a reception at the Audubon Tea Room, and according to Melissa, "It was a beautiful day!"

Catholic Charities is honored and blessed to share in Jean-Marc and Melissa's special day in such a unique and extraordinary way!

Parish Appeal Update

THANK YOU to the many parishioners who generously supported Catholic Charities in the February 8 and 9 second collection. Over 71 parishes have sent us support so far, helping us raise over \$150,000 to support the most vulnerable and needy in our archdiocese! We're still receiving incoming collections from various parishes. We will keep you updated on the final total!

"Show Your Heart Day" with Our Catholic Schools

Over 30 Catholic schools throughout our archdiocese participated in our first "Show Your Heart Day" this year. Students were allowed to wear their favorite red shirt to school on Valentine's Day or a day designated by their school if they donated \$1 or more to Catholic Charities. As a result to date, students, parents and teachers raised over \$12,500 to support our programs and ministries, and many schools are still sending in support! We can't wait for Show Your Heart Day on February 14, 2015!

Pictured above: (LEFT) Sr. Pam Weathersby (at left) and the student council at St. Rita School present Sr. Marjorie Hebert with their school's "Show Your Heart Day" donations. (RIGHT) Students at St. Catherine of Siena School show their hearts and their spirit in their favorite red shirts for "Show Your Heart" Day.



Women's Health on Wheels with ACCESS Mobile Pregnancy Center

Support and health services for women are being made more accessible and available throughout South Louisiana with the launch of the new ACCESS Mobile Pregnancy Center. This health facility on wheels offers all the services of the brick and mortar ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Center located in Metairie on Aris Avenue including: on board ultrasound, four-minute pregnancy testing, and pregnancy and adoption-related services like prenatal nutrition and diet information, parenting and birthing classes and videos, doctor referrals and assistance in filling out Medicaid applications. In addition, the mobile unit is equipped as a diaper bank, distributing diapers, baby wipes and layette baskets for new mothers.

"We are so pleased to expand the service area of ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Center to women with this new mobile center," said Sr. Marjorie Hebert. "We hope our big pink and purple bus will soon be a familiar site in many neighborhoods throughout our archdiocese. Our doors are open and ready to assist women in need of support and information."



ACCESS Staff Member Linda D'Aquila (left) meets with the Theriot family, Harley, Chris and Baby Adalynn, on board the new ACCESS Mobile Pregnancy Center at the Hope Haven stop on the Westbank.

From March – May 2014, the mobile center will be at the following locations from 9:30am-3:30pm:

Tuesdays: KENNER in the Divine Mercy Church Parish parking lot, 4337 Sal Lentini Pkwy
Wednesdays: COVINGTON in front of the Covington Food Bank, 840 N. Columbia Street
Thursdays: MARRERO at Hope Have, 1101 Barataria Blvd on the Westbank

Support and Services Where They Are Needed Most

The mobile center will be rotating its schedule to new locations every three-months to reach out to under-served communities. "We see there is a need out there for low-cost health services and education for women on their options. Some of our clients don't even understand how they got pregnant," said Elaine Parra, staff member of the Mobile Pregnancy Center. "We give them information they need and let them know that there is support available for them," Parra said.

As a pro-life ministry, ACCESS will also be frequenting schools and campuses throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans as a teaching tool for students. Since it hit the road in late fall of 2013, it has also established a presence on South Claiborne Avenue around the site of the new Planned Parenthood facility. "We know that's where we need to be – to be that life presence in stark contrast to their presence," ACCESS Program Director Michelle Black said.

The ACCESS Mobile Pregnancy Center will be blessed and officially commissioned for service by Archbishop Gregory Aymond at the ACCESS Jazz Brunch on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at the Audubon Tea Room. Tickets are still available by contacting Michelle Black, Director of Pro-Life Services, at 504-885-1141 or email mblack@ccano.org.

For more information on ACCESS and the new ACCESS Mobile Pregnancy Center, visit www.accesspregnancy.com. No appointment is necessary for the Mobile Center. Walk-ins are welcome and encouraged! If you are interested in scheduling an appointment or would like more information on the mobile center, call 504-427-1278.

Answering the Call to Serve: AHCA Volunteer William Steen

Cold calling can be a daunting task for anyone, whether you're a brand new hire or a CEO. However, reaching out to someone with a simple phone call is one of the most effective ways our volunteers support us. We're blessed to have a group of dedicated volunteers who are willing to boldly and proudly reach out to people in our community to help us meet our Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) goal each year. One dedicated volunteer is William Steen. An attorney and CPA, Mr. Steen has been an AHCA captain and frequent volunteer at the AHCA phone bank for over 6 years. "It's a great cause and if you look at the list of all of the ventures that Catholic Charities helps, it is really worth my time to help make sure Catholic Charities can continue all their work in the community."

Although Mr. Steen would like to downplay his contributions, the person to person outreach done on behalf of Catholic Charities is an integral part of how we are able to continue our range of services. "I know it's very important to the cause, but I can't say it's a huge time commitment," Steen said jokingly. In addition to his involvement with our AHCA, Mr. Steen is also Chairman of the St. Angela Merici Pastoral Council, President of the Board of Directors for St. Michael Special School and on the Board of McDonogh City Park Academy. "I enjoy the involvement and it's rewarding for me," Steen said.

Many thanks to volunteers like William Steen for helping us exceed our AHCA goal this year! We couldn't do it without you!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT