



notes from the **Heart**

The Newsletter of
Catholic Charities
Archdiocese
of New Orleans

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Youth Volunteers Keep Service in Summer!

SERVE volunteer Manuel Molina takes a ride down the slide with his Head Start buddies at St. John Head Start. SERVE (Students Engaging in Reflective Volunteer Experiences) has been in full swing throughout this June and July. Over 100 high school student volunteers are joining us this summer as volunteers. Through service projects at Ozanam Inn, Head Start Centers, Second Harvest Food Bank and community summer camps, our SERVE volunteers are making fun memories while also making a real difference in our communities!

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.

Not Just by the Numbers

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

The long days of summer are here, but our local heat and humidity does not slow us down at Catholic Charities! From our summer SERVE volunteer sessions for our youth to the ongoing construction of our new PACE site on the West Bank, we are abuzz with activity during these summer months.

June and July signal the start of a new fiscal year for our agency. We're wrapping up many year-end details and our Planning and Evaluation Department is in the process of calculating our service numbers from this past year, 2013-2014. It's always gratifying to see the many hours we have dedicated to helping those in need and even more impressive when we calculate that final number of total clients served. I'm looking forward to sharing these with you in our annual report this fall.

These numbers are important for our agency, but it is important to remember that the numbers on a page aren't the heart of who we are as an agency. I am grateful we can say that we serve over 100,000 individuals and families annually, but it's the "one" – the individual that we are serving, the smile we are able to give to someone in need, the hand we can hold when someone feels lost or forgotten - that truly makes these numbers impactful. These numbers come from our staff members taking the time to help an individual find the resource they need, get that helping hand or access the services to help them get to a better state in life.

We serve from one heart to another. Each one in those numbers is a unique story, and we are blessed and proud to be able to offer our service and ministry to make their story a positive one.



Pictured: Louise Head Start students enjoyed a Splash Day and Snoball Day to celebrate summer. Sr. Marjorie stopped by for the fun. More photos inside!

As we close the books on this past year and start a new chapter, please continue to pray for our staff and our clients. Thank you for your continued support as a partner in our ministry, helping each one and giving hope to the many that we are called to serve.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, continue to watch over us during this hurricane season! We pray for God's blessings upon those we serve, our donors who give graciously and generously, our volunteers who are our partners in ministry and the energized staff who compassionately serve!

Sincerely,



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



The 2015 Second Collection for Catholic Charities is Saturday, February 28, 2015 and Sunday, March 1, 2015.

Through the generosity of the parishioners of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the efforts of our Catholic Schools, you helped us raise a total of **\$243,802** through our annual second collection in 2014. These funds are crucial in enabling us to assist the poor and vulnerable throughout our archdiocese. Thank you for your support! For ways to get involved now, visit www.ccano.org/waystogive.

SAVE THE DATE!

Meet Catholic Charities!

Going to work every day at Catholic Charities is more than a job – it's a ministry of the heart! Meet the people serving in our many programs providing hope and help each day to those in need.

Meet Monetta Clark of Ciara Permanent Housing

With over 30 years on staff at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, Monetta Clark has a wealth of history about her program, Ciara Permanent Housing. Through hurricanes, funding cuts and other challenges, Monetta is the first to tell you it's not about her, but about the people she's had the pleasure of working with and serving all these years. "It's been the best job I could have ever had," Monetta said, "but it's not about me, it's really about everything that went together to make this program work."



Originally begun as Ciara House, a residential facility for people with mental health issues, the program would eventually evolve into the Ciara Permanent Housing. Today, Ciara provides permanent housing to severely chronically homeless and persistently mentally ill. Clients are referred from organizations, accredited homeless shelters or homeless outreach workers. Case management services are provided to program participants to assist them in maintaining permanent housing with the Continuum of Care.

"There is a lot of risk involved in working with people with mental illness," Monetta explained, "But having the support of Catholic Charities – Sr. Anthony Barczykowski (President/CEO of Catholic Charities at the time of Ciara's founding), Dr. Elmore Rigamer and all the departments of the agency – really helped this program succeed."

As a Mental Health Specialist, Monetta helps oversee three Ciara apartment sites for independent residents who have been chronically homeless due to health issues and circumstance. The apartments are rented to residents at an affordable rate that would otherwise be impossible to find in the normal housing market. "It does wonders for people when they know they are able to pay their own rent," Monetta said.

The residents at Ciara Permanent Housing have a safe place to call home and also achieve a sense of community and normalcy. Many residents

struggle to find that sense of acceptance as many come to Ciara from homeless situations.

"Ciara really becomes a community," Monetta said. "Sometimes our residents come to us feeling like they're an outcast, but here, they have people around them who understand where they're coming from who were in a similar situation."

Ciara Permanent Housing helps people to a better life Monetta says. "This isn't just a hand out. Our residents build on the support we're able to give them and they live the best life they can. It really helps people do better."

The community Ciara has built over the years extends past the front doors of Ciara's properties. Many former residents still keep in touch. "We still hear from people that were with us 20 years ago!" Monetta remarked. "They know how to find us. We have the same phone number since we started 32 years ago!"

To learn more about Ciara Permanent Housing, call them at their same number, (504) 861-0643. Thanks to Monetta and the many staff, present and past, of Ciara, providing the homeless a safe place to call home.



Leaving a Legacy

We appreciate your partnership in our ministry. Gifts from donors like you allow us to aid the most poor and vulnerable in our region. Do you know there are other ways to help aside from annual support?

Your Will: Your generosity can be extended beyond your lifetime by simply naming Catholic Charities in your will. A bequest of a specific amount or a percentage of the residue of your estate allows you the flexibility of supporting the future of Catholic Charities while ensuring the ultimate care of loved ones.

Life Income Plans: Certain planned giving strategies allow you to improve your financial situation while supporting our work. Some options allow you to decide how much you wish to receive, while others provide a hedge against inflation. Many options give you tax advantages. In partnership with the Catholic Foundation, we are happy to provide more information about these options.

Questions? Please call Helen Read Young at (504) 592-5688.

Summer Treats and Fun With Head Start

The discovery of a snoball machine in the attic of Louise Head Start meant a special summer treat for our Head Start students! They were able to enjoy a sweet taste of the season before they left for summer break.

Incarnate Word Head Start received a very special treat with a visit from Rita Benson LeBlanc on their Splash Day/Snoball Day (pictured bottom left). Ms. LeBlanc helped serve the students snoballs and also showed them her shiny Super Bowl Ring! Staff and students were excited to welcome their new friend and celebrate the end of a great year!



Supporting Good Works: David Blossman, Abita Brewing

When you think of Louisiana, the first things that come to mind are the great food and drink that are so integral to the fabric of our Louisiana culture. You might think of a crawfish boil, and what would a crawfish boil be without an ice cold beer? One of the many icons of our state is the familiar label of the Abita Brewing Company usually always present at a crawfish boil or cochon de lait. It's about as Louisiana as you can get! The people and culture of our state are an important part of Abita's philosophy.

So, in 2010 when the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill impacted many of our coastal Louisiana families and industries, Abita Brewing knew they wanted to do something to help the people of our state. "Abita Brewing has been so fortunate to have such great fans that support us throughout the years," said David Blossman, President of Abita Brewing. "After the Oil Spill, we

knew there was a big need. We wanted to do something about it and we're lucky that we were able to do something about it."

Abita Brewing's President looked to Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans to supply this aid. "Growing up in this area and seeing the good works that Catholic Charities did, there was a big trust there that we could make an impact by working with Catholic Charities," David said.

One hundred percent of the funds donated by Abita Brewing went directly to aiding those affected by the Oil Spill. Catholic Charities worked closely with Blossman and Abita to ensure that the support would give direct assistance in conjunction with establishing long-term recovery plans for those affected. "Catholic Charities had an immediate game plan, but also one that would continue to help people in the overall scope of recovery," Blossman said.

The foundation that Catholic Charities was able to lay through the services established in the aftermath of the Oil Spill continues today through Spirit of Hope workforce development and mental health ministries. David continues to support Catholic Charities as a member of the North Shore Advisory Board and as an individual donor. David remarked, "Catholic Charities does great works here and you know when you're supporting Catholic Charities, good things are going to come from it."

From the Catholic Charities Family to the Abita Brewing Family, thank you for your continued support and trust to do good works in our community!