



## News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese 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.

## Showing compassion to strangers in need

Dear friends of Catholic Charities,

**T**hank you for your outpouring of generosity over the holiday season. Your gifts of prayer, time, and treasure have positioned Catholic Charities and all those it serves to begin the New Year strong. Thank you for taking to heart the challenge to see the face of Jesus in every person, familiar and strange. Like the homeless young mother and foster parent to whom our Savior was born, you have shown compassion to strangers in need.

caring for our families, and going to sleep at night. As we become consumed with our daily routines and our own personal struggles, I challenge you not to forget the spirit of Christmas and those resolutions you made during the excitement of the New Year.

*"We have become partners of Christ, if only we hold the beginning of the reality firm until the end." – Hebrews 3:14*

We must hold these resolutions firmly until the end. We must remember to be more like Jesus in all our actions throughout the entire year, not just the holiday season. We here at Catholic Charities are in the stages of finalizing our five-year strategic plan. These can be seen as a set of resolutions to guide us in our decision making and actions. As always, you are a part of this plan. Catholic Charities counts on your support to enable us to follow Christ's command to go out and do good work.

Thank you for your support and Happy New Year to you and your families.

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



The holy days of the Advent season and the excitement of the New Year bring a renewed sense of faith or strengthening of convictions to many, and rightly so. The miracle of our Lord incarnate brought here to show us how to be human should prompt us all to take time to reflect. Many of us make New Year's resolutions to work on ourselves internally. This is a great place to start as we should not only be able to see the face of Jesus in others, but in ourselves. When we show compassion to others, we become more like Christ.

Following the feast of Epiphany, we return to Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. We return to the daily grind of waking up in the morning, working our jobs,

## Notes from the Heart

News from Catholic Charities  
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[www.ccano.org](http://www.ccano.org)  
(504) 523-3755 | [ccano@ccano.org](mailto:ccano@ccano.org)

Thank you,  
St. Elizabeth's Guild  
for your continued  
and generous  
support!





# Isaiah 43 celebrate a successful year

On January 14, 2017, mentors, mentees, community leaders and many more associated with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans' Isaiah 43 Parenting and Mentoring program gathered to celebrate another successful year at the annual Peacebuilders Brunch.

The purpose of this annual event is to bring the program's participants from different schools and parishes together to connect with the overall mission of Isaiah 43: to strengthen and support families to bring about a change in the culture of our society. This year, the brunch was held at Schulte Hall, an event space located at the Notre Dame Seminary, and catered by Café Reconcile. The event was appropriately themed "Everyone has something to give."

Kristina Gibson, Isaiah 43 Program Director, commended the group on all they were able to accomplish together in the past year. In 2016, Isaiah 43 completed **27 parenting workshops**, logged **500 hours of mentoring activities**, completed **25 Peace Prayer Walks and other community events**, received **1,000 hours of volunteer support** and added **29 new mentees** and **10 new mentors**.

The program also partnered with Catholic Charities' Cornerstone Kids, a mentoring program for children with at least one incarcerated parent, to sponsor group activities and complete a new mentor training manual.

"2016 represented a year of growth for Isaiah 43," Gibson commented. "We focused on strengthening the level of

support provided to Isaiah 43 parish ministries through our parish leadership development services, and also added Family Resources services to provide more individualized support to our families."



"Everyone has something to give."



Participants were also excited to discuss what's to come in the New Year: additional parenting and mentoring workshops, more group outings, continued monthly Peace Prayer Walks and the addition of new participants, just to name a few.

Last, but most certainly not least, some of the program's stand-out participants were honored for their commitment, service and support of Isaiah 43. Mrs. Jennifer McGowan received a Peacebuilder Award for being an active parent. Mrs. McGowan, who has participated in the program since its inception in 2012, has not missed a single meeting! She, her husband and their children are all involved in various aspects of Isaiah 43.

Ms. Jeanine Gabriel received a Peacebuilder Award for Outstanding Ministry Leadership. Mrs. Jennifer McGowan (pictured on the cover with Sr. Marjorie Hebert and her daughter) received a Peacebuilder Award. Finally, a Peacebuilder Award for Outstanding Community Partnership was presented to The Peace Center and St. Rita Parish and School.

Speaking to the group, Sr. Marjorie Hebert, President and CEO of Catholic Charities, shared, "Each of us has something planted in us by God to give another. So many of you have given this unique gift planted in you by partnering with us through Isaiah 43."

We look forward to another year of strengthening families and communities through this wonderful program!



## PACE Expands Service Area

PACE Greater New Orleans (the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), an affiliated ministry of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, has expanded its service area to provide a full continuum of primary care services to include elderly residents of Kenner and the Westbank who reside in zip codes 70037, 70056, 70058, 70062, 70065, 70072, 70094 and 70123.

With the expanded area, qualified seniors in parts of Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes can benefit from PACE GNO's comprehensive healthcare program and services which include Adult Day Health Center services, preventive primary care, acute and long-term specialty physician care, medications, rehabilitative therapy and person care services.

With an expanded service area, PACE can ensure that more seniors across the Greater New Orleans Area are getting their health care and other needs met in one location," said Sr. Marjorie Hebert, President and CEO of Catholic Charities. "Seniors can enjoy their independence and time outside their homes while receiving the support and care they need so families can keep their loved ones at home for as long as medically and socially feasible."

The Adult Day Health Center provides seniors and their families with an alternative to nursing home care. The Center offers an engaging and safe environment that enhances the physical health and mental wellness of participants while supporting caregivers with resources such as support groups and networking opportunities with other families.

"PACE GNO serves as the primary care provider for our enrolled seniors," said Executive Director of PACE GNO, Michelle Robinson, NFA, MBA. "We manage each senior's unique health needs with an individual care plan that can include medications, social services, personal care and dietary services, all in a single location," added Robinson.

PACE GNO is located at the Shirley Landry Benson Center in the former St. Cecilia Church at 4201 N. Rampart St. in the Bywater. Transportation is provided between the homes and the Adult Day Health Center as well as to appointments with specialists and other activities.

To qualify, seniors must be age 55+ and certified by the State of Louisiana to need a nursing home level of care. Enrollment is open to new participants on the first of each month. Interested seniors or family members can call 504-835-0006 to learn more about how to qualify and the enrollment process, or visit [www.pacegno.org](http://www.pacegno.org).



## ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD GENEROSITY AND DEDICATION BENEFITS CATHOLIC CHARITIES PROGRAMS

On January 12, 2017, the St. Elizabeth's Guild held their first meeting of the New Year and presented checks representing their 2016 donations to various Catholic Charities programs. In total, the Guild donated \$101,000 to five programs!

**Padua House** received **\$55,000**, which will be used to purchase a new generator. This will allow Padua to seamlessly provide services for residents, especially those with specialized medical equipment, in the event of a storm or power outage.

**St. John the Baptist Head Start** received **\$29,000**, which will be used to replace ceiling tiles and install a new security buzzer system at the facility. These additions will ensure the health and safety of the Head Start students and staff.

**Isaiah 43** received **\$7,000**, which will be used to purchase new materials for parenting and mentoring workshops. These materials will give parents, mentors and mentees the proper tools to get the most out of the workshops.

**Therapeutic Family Services** received **\$5,000**, which will be used to host Easter, Christmas and Back-to-School parties, in addition to other small events throughout the year. These events help families provide their foster children with a full childhood experience.

**Cornerstone Kids** received **\$5,000**, which will be used to provide assistance with school supply and uniform purchases, funding for educational experiences for mentors and mentees and an annual Christmas party. These activities help children with an incarcerated parent(s) build self-esteem and develop health, positive relationships.



L to R - Ronna Trager, Padua House; Mamie Hall-Landry, Therapeutic Family Services; Kristina Gibson, Isaiah 43; Rhonda Taylor, Head Start; Leo Jackson, Cornerstone Kids.

St. Elizabeth's Guild has been an immensely generous donor to the children's programs of Catholic Charities for more than 40 years. Sr. Marjorie Hebert, President and CEO of Catholic Charities, commented, "I'm continually amazed by how ordinarily St. Elizabeth's Guild makes extraordinary things happen for Catholic Charities."

Following a delicious lunch, the Guild installed their new officers. The 2017-2018 St. Elizabeth's Guild officers are Kathi Zimmerman, President; Kathleen Robert, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Cindy Paulin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Joan Ingram, Corresponding Secretary; Casey Klamman, Recording Secretary; and Karen Piliie, Treasurer. Catholic Charities looks forward to working with these new officers in the upcoming year.

Thank you, St. Elizabeth's Guild for your continued and generous support!

We are so close to reaching our campaign goal for the 2016 Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal! We are a little over \$40,000 away from making our goal! Gifts to the campaign help raise crucial unrestricted funds, which allow Catholic Charities to respond quickly and effectively to the most pressing needs of our community. Thank you to each and every person who has generously donated to this year's campaign. If you've not yet made your donation, visit [www.ccano.org/ahca](http://www.ccano.org/ahca) to donate today!

**Catholic Charities**  
Archbishop Hannan  
Community Appeal