



Notes from the Heart

News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lloyd A. Tate
Chairman

Mark J. Spansel
Vice-Chairman

Dr. Pierre Detiege
Secretary

Lawrence P. Oertling
Treasurer

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

Jerry Bologna
Stacy E. Bonnaffons
Ron Paul Cheramie
Mason G. Couvillon
Karen S. DeBlieux
Dr. Pierre Detiege
Vaughn C. Downing
Thomas D. Frazel
James T. Hannan
William D. Hoffman
Lisa M. Johnson
Teresa Lawrence
Lawrence P. Oertling
Eugene A. Priestley
Deanne G. Raymond
Mark J. Spansel
Shana Stumpf
Lloyd A. Tate
Regina B. Templet
Rev. John-Nhan Tran
Kurt M. Wigle
Angela A. Wilcox
Qi Wiggins

Sr. Anthony Barczykowski, D.C.
Board Member Emeritus

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.

Project SAVE Provides Client Relief

Catholic Charities Project SAVE program stops abuse through victim empowerment. Project SAVE assists survivors of domestic violence residing in Orleans Parish to obtain free emergency legal representation. Last year, Project SAVE provided 512 legal service hours.

For domestic violence victims, Project SAVE offers comprehensive support for clients. Krystale Agnew first got involved with Project SAVE through the Orleans Court system. The domestic violence coordinator at Orleans Parish Civil District Court referred Ms. Agnew to Project SAVE for legal representation in her Protective Order case. Ms. Agnew and her children have been victims of family violence and she was seeking protection from her abuser.

Once Project SAVE took over Ms. Agnew's Protective Order case, she knew her family was safe, "Having an attorney from Project SAVE was a wonderful experience and gave me and my children a voice in court. Without Project SAVE, I probably would not have been able to hire an attorney, so I am grateful that this resource is available."

Project SAVE Director, Allyson Tuttle, Esq., handled Ms. Agnew's case.

Krystale is extremely grateful for Project SAVE and Allyson, "Working with my attorney, Allyson was super easy. She was friendly, knowledgeable, and attentive. She checked up on me, gave me frequent updates on my case, and helped me get protection for me and my children. Hopefully I won't need help again in the future, but I will definitely recommend Project SAVE to others."



"...Project SAVE was a wonderful experience and gave me and my children a voice in court."

As part of their support to the National Domestic Violence Hotline-through whom Project Save receives referrals- the National Football League made a significant gift to Project Save to help with COVID 19 related work. We are extremely thankful to both the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the NFL for their generosity and recognition of our work.

Learn more about Project SAVE at <https://www.ccano.org/domestic-violence-services/>

Planting Seeds of Good

Dear Friend of Catholic Charities,

In the Catholic Liturgical calendar, October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Throughout history many battles defending Christianity and Christendom were fought in the fall months and therefore led to the dedication of the Holy Rosary in October. The prayers of the rosary were said in order to bring succor and peace to warriors of the faith. As Pope John Paul II, stated on September 29, 2002, "Precisely in this perspective, the rosary reveals itself as a particularly appropriate prayer. It constructs peace also because, while appealing to God's grace, it sows in the one reciting it the seed of good, from which fruits of justice and solidarity in personal and community life can be expected."

We need the "good" seeds more than ever as our region reels from the pandemic, stay at home orders and economic impacts, two hurricanes on top of the everyday "disasters" some in our community face on a daily basis. As you plant those seeds of good during this month of October and through your rosaries, I am asking you to remember Catholic Charities, the work that we do and the people we impact.



God bless you,

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.

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

ARCHBISHOP HANNAN COMMUNITY APPEAL CAMPAIGN

When you contribute to the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal campaign (AHCA), you are changing thousands of Louisianan's lives for the better through housing, education and emergency response.

Donate today to help us create a brighter tomorrow for our community!

For more information, visit <https://www.ccano.org/ahca/> or contact Katie Truxillo at 504-592-5690



SAVE THE DATE!

— OCTOBER 28 —

Pregnancy and Adoption Services
(Formerly ACCESS) College Inn Take
Out Night, 4-11PM

— DECEMBER 8 —

St. Vincent Infant and Maternity Clinic
will host Christmas Luncheon and Mass
at Metairie Country Club at 10:30AM

Holiday Food Basket and Gift Drive

Be an angel to someone in need this holiday season! Please consider adopting a family's holiday wish list this Thanksgiving or Christmas. During the season of giving, you can provide families in need with food baskets, gifts and clothing.

Just a \$50 donation can provide a Thanksgiving meal for a family of 4! To make a donation for Thanksgiving food baskets, visit <https://www.ccano.org/holiday/>

You can also purchase and drop off a basket by downloading and returning the 2020 Thanksgiving Family Adoption Form by November 11. Download the Thanksgiving Adoption Form here: <https://www.ccano.org/holiday/>

If you would like to contribute this holiday season, please consider adoption a family for Christmas by filling out and returning the Christmas Family Adoption form. Download the Christmas Adoption Form here: <https://www.ccano.org/holiday/>

For more information about the Holiday Food Basket and Gift Drive, visit <https://www.ccano.org/holiday/> or contact Volunteer Services at smurphy@ccano.org or 504-310-6962.



Thanksgiving/Christmas Volunteer Opportunity

If you are interested in volunteering for our Holiday Food Basket and Gift Drive, we have volunteer opportunities for Christmas drop-offs on December 9-16. Shifts are 9-11AM, 11AM-1PM, 1-3PM or 3-5PM. Volunteers will help with unloading / loading of gifts and sorting of gifts.

To volunteer, contact Emily Stieber at estieber@ccano.org or 504-310-6960.

Ciara House Client Excels During Pandemic

Catholic Charities Ciara House provides the chronically homeless and mentally ill with safe, stable housing. Ciara Independent Living is an independent living apartment complex for single adults with mental disabilities.

Ciara House resident, George Cummins, grew up in the Czech Republic and moved to the United States in 2008. Beacon Behavioral referred him to Ciara Independent in January 2018. Since being at Ciara Independent, George has received housing with a community of support and care, case management including assistance with coping, independent living skills and transportation to doctor's appointments, access to monthly food pantry and he has been active in the wellness and support groups held at Ciara, along with monthly community meals. When George moved to Ciara Independent, he was a bit shy a reserved, but since he has been at Ciara, he has gained confidence socially and has made many friends while in the program.

Ciara Independent Program Coordinator, Brittany Simmons, works with George and the other residents. "George has been a joy to have in the program and a great example to the other residents as he continues to meet his goals by pursuing his bachelors in philosophy. His hard work and determination has paid off as he excels in learning other languages and translating philosophical literature in English."

As the pandemic started, George took a music theory class at Delgado, which led to him taking virtual piano lessons. This new skill and hobby has been a source of encouragement and positivity during this season of isolation and hardship.

Brittany spoke about how she has seen George grow. "Since George has been with Ciara, I have seen him grow personally, socially and professionally. Through his supportive community at Ciara, he has gained confidence and security in himself, which enable him to achieve his goals. He is now enrolled at Delgado and would like to get a masters and PhD to become a philosophy professor."

George, along with his family, is very grateful for the support and resources that he has received that has assisted with him getting back on his feet. He has enjoyed his time at Ciara and has made life-long friends. "I didn't know what to expect when I was moving to Ciara, but I have gained a sense of security and well founded trust, which has led me to pursue something I never had the chance to do. I felt repressed, but being on my own with support, I feel empowered to keep stepping forward towards my many goals."

For more information about Ciara Independent, visit <https://www.ccano.org/ciara/>



CATHOLIC CHARITIES INCORPORATES ARCHDIOCESE RESPECT LIFE OFFICE INTO PREGNANCY SERVICES

Archbishop Aymond announced a formal partnership between the Archdiocese of New Orleans and Catholic Charities to continue very important work to support the dignity of all human life. Michele Black, Director of Pregnancy and Adoption Services, had led Pro-Life Services for Catholic Charities for many years and will direct the important activities and services of the CCANO Respect Life Offices.

"I am very excited to take on this new responsibility as it will allow Catholic Charities to expand our pro-life program and address the importance of respecting and upholding the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death," Michelle said of her responsibilities of the Respect Life Office.

For more information about Respect Life Office and Pregnancy and Adoption Services, visit <https://www.ccano.org/access-pregnancy-services/>

Office of Justice and Peace and Cornerstone Builders Give Presentation on CCUSA Webinar

Catholic Charities' own Kevin Fitzpatrick, Director of the Office of Justice and Peace, and Stephanie Mills, Community Incentive Grant Director of Cornerstone Builders, gave a joint presentation on a Catholic Charities USA Webinar on the History of the Community Incentive Grant from the Louisiana Department of Safety and Corrections and its implementation at Catholic Charities. The webinar had over 50 participants and was facilitated by Jane Stenson of Catholic Charities USA.

CCUSA Webinar – Working with Those Impacted by Incarceration

October 13, 2020

Presenters–

Stephanie Mills
Re-Entry Project Director
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

Kevin Fitzpatrick
Director of the Office of Justice and Peace
Cornerstone Builders



During the webinar, Kevin Fitzpatrick spoke about the beginning of the relationship Catholic Charities developed with Corrections, which dates back to 2003; the AmeriCorps program at CCANO (2007-2019); and the work CCANO did to pass the Justice Reinvestment Reform Package in the Louisiana Legislature in 2017. The Reform Package led to the savings of millions of dollars at Corrections, which has since been re-appropriated for community members such as Catholic Charities.

Stephanie Mills spoke about the wrap around services, temporary work and job placement that Corner-

stone Builders now provides under the grant. Cornerstone Builders does prison in-reach up to six months prior to release and works with participants once they are released to provide essential needs such as housing, medications and employment.

For more information about Office of Justice and Peace, visit <https://www.ccano.org/office-justice-peace/>

For more information about Cornerstone Builders, visit <https://www.ccano.org/cornerstone/>

Spirit of Hope and Health Guardians Collaborate to Assist Evacuee

This month, FEMA was on-site at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center after a month of advocacy by the City of New Orleans and Catholic Charities. Spirit of Hope continued working with evacuees providing funds for ID's, birth certificates, coordinating transportation with the Red Cross to doctor's appointments, some direct assistance with cards and referring back to FEMA for registration and pending claims information for clients.

There are between 1,200 and 1,500 new evacuees from Texas that have just arrived in New Orleans and beginning to visit the Convention Center.

Once such evacuee, Jessie Smith, had not seen a doctor since evacuating and needed several medications. He needed to establish care with Healthcare for the Homeless clinic, as he was unable to see his regular primary doctor in Lake Charles because of being displaced by Hurricane Laura. Jessie Smith is a type II diabetic amputee among other chronic illnesses. He was in dire need of medication refills and needed to follow up with a medical doctor. Catholic Charities' Spirit of Hope Laura Case Manager, Deacon Larry, collaborated with Health Guardian's Program Director, Paula Stewart, to secure a doctor visit and medications for Mr. Smith.



Health Guardians' partners at Healthcare for the Homeless was able to grant Mr. Smith an appointment in order to fulfill his medication requests. Health Guardians coordinated transportation assistance to ensure his attendance to the appointment. Spirit of Hope also coordinated with Mr. Smith's doctor in Lake Charles.

Food Pantry Volunteer Found Purpose to Give Back

Tim Bollinger is a volunteer of the Food Pantry. He works from home and wanted to give back to the community once COVID-19 began.



Tim speaks about why he decided to volunteer at the Food Pantry:

Why did you decide to volunteer at the Catholic Charities food pantry?
I volunteered to help our community. I always talked about my want to do it, but never acted. With so many people affected by the pandemic, I had to do my part to help.

How has volunteering at the food pantry affected you?
It has made me realize that there is a tremendous need in our community. It has changed me personally on how I look at life. I will continue with volunteering. It has taught me to be more humble, kind and selfless.

What has been your favorite part of volunteering with this program?
Working with all the other great volunteers. Emily Stieber was a big part of me coming back each week.

Why should others volunteer with CCANO?
Everyone has time in their life to give back. Try it! You won't be disappointed.

The Food Pantry is open Mondays through Thursdays, from 9AM – 2PM at 2505 Maine Ave in Metairie. Clients receive a bag of non-perishable food items. Anyone can visit the Food Pantry. Clients can visit the Food Pantry once a month.

The Food Pantry is possible through the generous support of Hancock Whitney!

For more information on the Food Pantry, visit <https://www.ccano.org/press/catholic-charities-food-pantry-will-be-open-mondays-thursdays/>

