



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.



**Build a better world said God
And I asked how?
The world is such a vast place and so
complicated now
I am small and useless
What can I do?
God in all His wisdom said,
“Just build a better you.”**

– author unknown

*I am calling
on you to be
our partner in
building a better
world through
the programs of
Catholic Charities.*

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans:

We work to build a better world by helping all of those who seek our assistance to be the “better” versions of themselves. As the world becomes more complicated and the struggles more challenging, I am calling on you to be our partner in building a better world through the programs of Catholic Charities.

I am grateful to all who believe in the mission of Catholic Charities and support us with their time, talent, and treasure. A better world is in reach for all of us when we work together in spirit and grace.

God bless you,

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CORNERSTONE:

Catholic Charities' Cornerstone program is always looking for mentors, especially male mentors. If you're interested in being a mentor, contact Kristina Gibson at kgibson@ccano.org.



ESL AND FAMILY LITERACY:

Trainings to volunteer for ESL (English as a Second Language) and Family Literacy will be held virtually. All volunteers must attend the Immigration and Refugee Services (IRS) training first.

IRS August 17 at 6PM
ESL August 24 at 5PM

Family Literacy September 2 at 5PM
IRS September 8 at 6PM

For more information, contact Sami Barefield at sbarefield@ccano.org.

View volunteer opportunities by visiting www.ccano.org/volunteer or contact Shannon Murphy at smurphy@ccano.org.

Client Benefits from Ciara Independent and Health Guardians Programs Working Together

Tremayne Pierce was referred to Ciara Independent Living by Healthcare for the Homeless in January 2019. He was experiencing homelessness and was temporarily staying at a local shelter. While living at Ciara Independent, he was able to gain independence and maintain part-time employment. Ciara assisted with case management and behavioral health services.

In February 2021, Tremayne began to experience physical health challenges, which led to many emergency room visits and hospitalizations. From there, he was referred to Health Guardians, who assisted with health care coordination. He was then diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, which required ileostomy surgery. When Tremayne received the news of his diagnosis and surgery, he became hesitant to follow through with medical treatment.

Health Guardians' patient navigator, Paula Stewart, was able to help Tremayne cope with his diagnosis by motivational interviewing, which encouraged him to follow through the care plan provided by the GI specialist. Health Guardians also assisted Tremayne with transportation and accompanied him to doctor's appointments to ensure clear communication was established. Both Paula and Ciara's coordinator, Brittany Simmons, collaborated to ensure Tremayne understood the severity of his diagnosis and the importance of better managing his healthcare.

In May 2021, Tremayne underwent ileostomy surgery successfully. Paula provided ongoing assistance during his recovery process. Also, during this period, Tremayne was reconnected to his immediate family who continues to provide him ongoing support. Tremayne's health has improved tremendously and he has gained confidence in managing his overall healthcare.

Today, Tremayne is grateful for the services provided by Ciara Independent Living and Health Guardians. Currently, he is attending outpatient behavioral health groups. Tremayne says, "I'm happy to one day be able to go back to work and live self-sufficiently now that my health is improving."

For more information about Ciara Independent, visit www.ccano.org/ciara.

For more information about Health Guardians, visit www.ccano.org/health-guardians.



Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal Announces 2021 Chair Couple

Gifts to the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) raise crucial unrestricted funds that allow Catholic Charities to respond swiftly, effectively and compassionately in times of crisis or disaster.

THANK YOU to everyone who has made a gift to our 2020 Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) Campaign!

We are excited to announce Jacqueline and Renny Simno will serve as 2021 Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) chair couple!

Please keep them in prayer as they lead our AHCA fundraising efforts which benefit all Catholic Charities programs!

"For decades, the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal has provided Catholic Charities with the opportunity to assist so many people throughout our community," Jacqueline and Renny said. "We look forward to working with the campaign's dedicated volunteers, who with Archbishop Aymond, Sr. Marjorie Hebert, and the Catholic Charities leadership team ensure that the essential programs and services of Catholic Charities continue to make a meaningful impact and preserve Archbishop Hannan's mission."

Gifts to the AHCA raise crucial unrestricted funds which support ALL Catholic Charities programs.

Your donation supports a local charity that best understands local needs. We serve the 8 civil parishes that make up the Archdiocese of New Orleans: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. John, and Washington parishes.

Help us in providing unrestricted funds that allow us to help our neighbors in need!

For more information or to Donate, visit www.ccano.org/ahca.



Mullin Landscape Donates School Supplies to Cornerstone Kids Mentees

Mullin Landscape recently donated school supplies and backpacks to Cornerstone Kids 40 mentees. The backpacks were filled with notebooks, binders, pens and pencils with a stationary pouch and a motivational poster!

Students were thrilled to receive the school supplies and backpacks for the upcoming school year.

Cornerstone Kids is a mentoring program for at-risk youth ages 9-17 who have at least one incarcerated



Cornerstone Kids is always looking for looking for mentor volunteers-

parent or relative. The program promotes positive social-emotional development by engaging youth in a supportive one-on-one mentoring relationship.

For more information, visit www.ccano.org/cornerstone/

Cornerstone Kids is always looking for looking for mentor volunteers (especially male mentors).

If you are interested in being a mentor or for more information, contact Kristina Gibson at (504) 310-8772.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Paola Foresti Pinto ESL Summer 2021

Paola Foresti Pinto, a rising junior at Tulane, is a volunteer and intern for Catholic Charities' English as a Second Language program this summer. In her position with the program, she co-teaches two ESL classes a week, and does translation of documents in to Spanish and Portuguese. She also works with the ESL Student Advisory Council. This consortium of ESL and Family Literacy clients, as well as ESL site facilitators, discusses ways to improve classes and offerings for students. Paola also helped at the World Refugee Day celebration that CCANO's Immigration & Refugee Services program held earlier this summer.

Paola started volunteering with the program because she herself is an immigrant and so the cause is very important to her. Born in Mexico, raised in Brazil and Costa Rica, Paola moved the U.S. to attend Tulane where she is majoring in Psychology and Latin American Studies.

In addition to wanting to work with a cause close to her heart, Paola also was interested in seeing if teaching ESL classes or working with immigrants and refugees may be something she wanted to do in the future as a career. "I learned a lot about teaching. It's weird - they kind of throw you into teaching classes but you get the hang of it," she says of her experience in the classroom. She mentioned she also gained a lot of skills with translating - something she hadn't done in an organized manner before.



Throughout her volunteer experience, Paola looked forward to connecting with ESL students during classes. "It was fun to engage with the students," she said, "It's really cool to hear all their different experiences."

Paola's favorite part of her internship experience was volunteering at the World Refugee Day event when clients and staff came together to celebrate immigrants and refugees and their many unique cultures, experiences, and contributions. She loved being able to see all the different cultures being celebrated and the culmination of all the planning work that went into it.

When asked why others should volunteer with CCANO's ESL program, Paola said, "The staff and students are all really nice! English is so crucial to living in the U.S., and it is great to see the students progressing and knowing they'll be better able to navigate the country and have more opportunities in their lives with this new skill!"

For more information about ESL, visit www.ccano.org/english-second-language-classes/.

For more information about volunteering, visit www.ccano.org/volunteer.

