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# Notes from the Heart

News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

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*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.

## Celebrating Fathers and Father Figures



**W**e celebrate all fathers and father figures here at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans. Our CCANO Board Chairman, Mark Spansel, is a father and a grandfather who was able to take some time to reflect on what it means to be a father.

Mark and his wife, Joy, are blessed with four children, two daughters and two sons. Shelly and Laura are identical twins who are 42-years-old. Erik is 39 and Brett is 27. They also have ten grandchildren, one girl and nine boys, ranging in age from 5 to 14. Shelly has four boys, Laura has a girl and two boys and Erik has three boys. Brett is not yet married!

### What does it mean to you to be a father?

God has entrusted me to a beautiful family, which I cherish deeply. My greatest joy in life has been the nurture and support of His gift of my children through all the stages of their lives. Now that three of them have families of their own, God has multiplied His blessings to us.

### What advice would you like to impart to young men about fatherhood?

Through the many distractions life has to offer, keeping focus on Jesus is our first priority. As fathers, God's will is for us to help form our children to serve Him. The pace of life is difficult to slow down. Taking every opportunity on a daily basis to be involved in their lives, physical and spiritual, achieves God's purpose for us and for them.

## Head Start Transition ceremonies!

The students at Head Start are moving up!

Congratulations to all our students that are now moving on to Kindergarten.

We wish you all the best!



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# What we learned from Hurricane Ida

**M**elissa Burks our DCMP (Disaster Case Manager Program) Supervisor at Spirit of Hope says, an essential part of your preparations for a Hurricane must include **identifying an evacuation location**. This is so important as hotels book up quickly and if you wait till after the damage is done and your home is not livable you will find it next to impossible to get in anywhere, even within our neighboring states. Don't think, "it won't happen to me". When you are prepared, you know you will have a bed to sleep in and a place to take a shower. Second, **prepare to stay a while**.



As we have learned, lights might take weeks, even months to come back on. Repairs take time to complete. Our third important lesson is leave sooner than later. So many of us have made the move to work remotely due to Covid. Take advantage of the fact that most of us can manage to keep working while out of our local area. **Head out sooner than you did during the last event.** Leaving with the early birds not only keeps you from sitting in long, slow lines of traffic, it allows you the opportunity to choose a location closer to home but out of the storm cone. Finally, **apply for help immediately and accurately.** FEMA does not allow more than one person per household to apply for benefits. Have a household meeting with the agenda being how we will handle the next storm. Set up plans for where you will go, how you will get there and who will apply for benefits. Then stick to it and work together. Another hurricane season is here and we are ready. Please go to our website for more information at: <https://www.ccano.org/disaster-response-services/>



## Head Start has a Visitor

**M**ayor LaToya Cantrell visited St. Paul Head Start on May 17. Also in attendance was Jared Green who wrote the book "Madam Mayor". The children were entertained by music from the KinFolk Brass Band. This visit was in celebration that New Orleans voters approved the childhood education millage on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This property tax measure is aimed at creating 1000 or more early childhood seats for low-income children.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Yvette Jordan of PACE Greater New Orleans

**"S**he has truly lived the PACE mission through her work at the Benson Center and in the community outside of her work," says Trisha Ventura, PACE Greater New Orleans, Director of Operations. Yvette Jordan received the St. Louis Medallion this year. Yvette was nominated by Fr. Oswald P. Pierre-Jules, Jr. SSJ from St. David Catholic Church for her service to both her church and her community. Yvette has worked for PACE for 15 years this September. At St. David Catholic Church she is on the evangelist committee to welcome newcomers to her church and really enjoys her outreach activities in the lower 9<sup>th</sup> ward community. "I am very honored to receive this award," says Yvette. We are honored that you are a part of the PACE family and a superior asset to your community. Yvette is a shining example of our motto "Faith in Action". Thank you Yvette.



## From Letters to Boxes

**F**rom letters to boxes, there are so many ways to get involved as a volunteer at Catholic Charities. One of our most dedicated volunteer groups are those that are from **St. Michael Special School in New Orleans**.

St. Michael Special School job training program, Exploration Academy, has been working with Food for Seniors to build skills for future employment of their students. These volunteers work packing boxes at our warehouse once a week for about 2 hours at a time. At the end of this year's program CCANO held a pizza party in honor of their accomplishments and in gratitude for their dedicated service.

Together we hope to expand the partnership with adult volunteers at other CCANO programs.



## Another Hurricane Ida Success story...

**I**n our previous printed newsletter the photo shown next to Candace's success story was actually a photo of Ms. Rosary McCaskill. Ms. McCaskill is another success story although different as she was living with her granddaughter and evacuated to Atlanta. Once returning to check on her property she discovered her home had major damages in particular due to the roof caving in. Our Disaster Case Manager was able to assist her in completing an appeal for additional home repair assistance and she was awarded more money for home repairs. Ms. McCaskill will continue to work with her case manager until recovery is complete.

