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The Krewe of PACE GNO presented Love Is In The Air, Fairy Tale Love Stories

PACE GNO had an exciting Mardi Gras Ball this year with the theme, Love Is In The Air, Fairy Tale Love Stories. With King Reginald Johnson and Queen Sarah Dickerson presiding of the royal court. The Royal court include Gold Duke Mr. James Cole & Gold Maid Ms. Claudia Webster, Purple Duke Mr. Percy Smith & Purple Maid Ms. Anna James and Green Duke Mr. Bobby Robinson & Green Maid Ms. Theresa Barnes. With a lively performance by Wendell Brunious and his band much fun was had by all! Sister Marjorie Hebert gave the toast.



www.ccano.org
(504) 523-3755 | ccano@ccano.org



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS



FEBRUARY 2023

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.

Dear Friend,

As we further advance into 2023, we have new developments here at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The Advancement Department at Catholic Charities has a new director. Samuel Rottman holds a Master's in Business Administration degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Bachelor of Criminal Justice from Loyola University New Orleans. Before accepting this position, Samuel served as the Development Coordinator for the Southern Dominican Province. Additionally, his nonprofit experience includes serving in social service areas such as Teach for America, the Louisiana Interchurch Conference and Boys Hope Girls Hope. He comes to Catholic Charities knowing the importance of both service and faith.



"Catholic Charities is well known throughout the community for offering life-giving programs for those who are most in need. This work is the result of the volunteers, staff, and donors who work diligently and offer of themselves to care for the vulnerable. I am a firm believer that everyone, regardless of your background, can play an important role in supporting Catholic Charities through their varied gifts and talents. I am humbled to have the opportunity to work with the team here at Catholic Charities and share in this ministry." (From Samuel Rottman)

We look forward to Samuel moving CCANO into the future.

God bless each of you!

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



PARISH APPEAL

Catholic Charities serves
over 50,000 individuals
in need throughout the community.
Please join us in this important mission by supporting CCANO
in next weekend's second collection on February 25-26
at your local church.
Donate at www.ccano.org/collection



A Collaboration to Assist Asylum Seekers

Immigration attorneys along with their legal teams and social service case workers joined forces for an all-day workshop to assist individuals facing a filing deadline to prepare their asylum applications.

"This required the entire team and took months of planning. Each one of the team played an instrumental role in making it all work and run smoothly," said Shaula Lovera, Division Director at CCANO.

Raquel Fonte, (pictured), Senior Staff Attorney at CCANO Immigration & Refugee Services, primarily handles cases involving unaccompanied minors. However, in response to the increased legal assistance needs of recent arrivals, including single adults and families, she and her Legal Assistant, Ana Mendieta, organized a full day event providing help with a critical part of the asylum process for a severely underserved segment of the immigrant community. "We had individuals from Venezuela, Mexico, Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Haiti at the asylum clinic. Eighteen people walked out with an application packet to be filed, and two were taken on by our program as new clients, due to the compelling circumstances of their particular cases."

Those interested in participating in the clinic were identified and signed up by the reception office at

Immigration & Refugee Office located at St. Lawrence in Metairie, where the clinic was held. Participants were scheduled to first meet with legal assistance for a preliminary intake, then moved through stations set up to prepare the various parts of the application. Each participant received an attorney consultation as well as access to social workers who were there to provide support and information regarding services and resources available to newcomers.



"It was such a successful event that we already are in the planning stages of the next one!" Proclaimed Raquel. "Besides getting to provide a valuable service for individuals who otherwise would not be able to access legal services, this was a great opportunity for our legal and social services teams to collaborate in person and in new, creative ways," she added.

For more information about Catholic Charities Immigration & Refugee services go to: <https://www.ccano.org/immigration-services/>

Volunteers at Food For Seniors on the Westbank

Food for Seniors is a program designed to provide seniors 60 and older who meet federal income guidelines with a nutritional monthly box of food. We are so grateful to all our volunteers who assist us with this mission. Celebrating many years of service with CCANO, Lydia Fonte, was on hand to guide and instruct our volunteers. Thanks to ALL for continuing to work in service to our community.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Cheryl and Barbara of Padua House



What were you doing in the 80's?

Cheryl Taulli, Food Service Manager started working for Padua House May 26, 1982. In 1989, Barbara Cola joined the Padua House family as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant).

Both agree it is family. "Working at Padua is not just a job. You love what you do. The kids, as we call them, are our family." Cheryl continues, "It's so amazing to watch someone's life turn around completely with the proper care that we offer here at Padua. It's a calling to the mission to treat everyone with dignity and respect and love."

Padua Community Services offer comprehensive and specialized care for children and adults with intellectual disabilities through Padua House Residential Program and Padua Community Homes. Padua programs provide housing and care ensuring that all residents have quality individualized care based on their specific needs. Barbara says, "The clients have kept me here all this time. You do the smallest thing, and you see the appreciation in their face. If you are having a bad day, take a walk and visit one of our clients and they will turn your day around."

Both of these dedicated employees have endless and often uplifting stories about the clients that have moved into their facility and their hearts over the years.

Cindy Distefano, Division Director over Padua House said, "I am grateful for their dedication to Padua and CCANO. They live the CCANO mission everyday through the love and joy they bring to the Padua residents."

To find out more about Padua House please visit: <https://www.ccano.org/padua/>

BUCKLE UP FOR LIFE

A collaboration of many organizations came together to ensure the safety of children from our Immigration and Refugee Services. Coordinated by Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services, Buckle Up for Life provided car seats to families in need. Along with teddy bears donated by New Orleans Police & Justice Foundation, parents were instructed the proper installation and use of car seats.



Collying Salinas, YMCA's director of the Buckle Up for Life program says, "We all are happy to serve and educate our community. Our goal is through education to help save lives of our children." This is accomplished with help from YMCA, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, Louisiana State Police, LSU Health Sciences, University Medical Center and Terrebonne General. All part of the Louisiana Passenger Safety Team.



CCANO Around Town

The theme of this year's GO (Gulf Coast Faith Formation) Conference was, "Behold, I make all things new!". It was held on January 13th and 14th at the Ponchartrain Center in Kenner, LA. CCANO was represented by our Office of Justice & Peace, our Parish & Community Ministries and our Volunteer Director. Cindy Self said, "It was good to finally network in person with parish and school leaders after not meeting for three years due to the pandemic. It's a great opportunity to connect with our Catholic Community."

