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Notes from the Heart

APRIL 2023

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.



Dear Friend,

This month at Catholic Charities we are celebrating volunteers! We are grateful for all the many groups, such as the Rice University students, who spent their spring break working with our refugee program and the Fulbright Scholars who packed boxes for our Food for Seniors program. With SERVE just around the corner, we want to encourage students who are required to do service hours each year to consider volunteering this summer with us.

Another big event we have coming up is GiveNOLA day! This year GiveNOLA day will be on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023. Make a difference by joining us for the 24 hours of giving to benefit CCANO programs. Read some of our success stories on our GiveNOLA webpage and in this current newsletter.

A special thank you to all those who consistently show up and volunteer to contribute to our promise to help our neighbors meet immediate needs and face long-term challenges. Your generous time assists us by offering the tools needed to face the next challenge independently with strength and the resources needed for an improved quality of life.

As you celebrate Easter, may you remember God's perfect love for all people and may that love fill you and your family with hope for the days to come.

God bless each of you!

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



Once again the Council of Catholic Schools Co-op Clubs held a Clothe A Child event to purchase Easter outfits for our Head Start children. We are grateful for volunteers and donors like you!! If you are interested in finding out how you can volunteer check out opportunities at www.ccano.org/volunteer-opportunities

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



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS



Early Giving Starts
April 17, 2023

GIVE NOLA DAY
TUESDAY
MAY 2
#GIVENOLADAY • GIVENOLA.ORG



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Valarie Maronge

"Thank you for listening to me!" Valarie Maronge, Administrative Coordinator for the Northshore office of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, hears this often. As the primary triage contact for assistance, Valarie listens and evaluates what program can best accommodate the need of the individual who is calling or emailing. "I cannot believe you are still on the phone with me!" insisted a caller who had spent nearly an hour explaining why she was having trouble paying her rent and mentioned she truly "felt heard" by Valarie.

In August 2022, Valarie started with CCANO at the front desk in our Northshore office. This office houses the Northshore branches of CCANO's Counseling Solutions Program, Spirit of Hope, Bethlehem Housing and Cornerstone Builders.

Having come from the medical field, Valarie has the skills required to listen and screen callers to assign them to the appropriate case manager who can then assist the individual with a plan of action. "I am very passionate about helping the community and hearing each individual story," Valarie states, "I can listen. I cannot give advice but I can give resources."

Valarie sees a path within CCANO to take on more administrative duties. "When I see the result of an individual who calls needing help from one of our programs, I connect them with the appropriate program, and then the programs collaborate in helping these individuals work towards success. I feel optimistic about the work we do here at Catholic Charities."

...the programs collaborate
in helping these individuals
work towards success.



FROM THE Office of Justice and Peace

On Ash Wednesday, Kevin Fitzpatrick assisted Deacon Michael Taylor (Blessed Trinity Parish) in the distribution of ashes to over 100 staff and residents at the Orleans Justice Center. Many of the recipients of the ashes were thankful since they would have no other opportunity to receive ashes that day.



volunteers



Without the help of over 2,000 volunteers each year,
we would not be able to make the difference
we do in our community!
Thank you to all those who have
and continue to volunteer with
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans!!

SUCCESS STORY FROM KETTLY PROPHETE, CASE MANAGER ST. CHARLES PARISH

How do we know we are making a difference?

Our case managers in St. Charles Parish have certainly had their share of disaster response in the past several years. In particular Hurricane Ida did severe damage to this parish. Kettly Prophete is a case manager that was working out of a trailer just after this storm. Ms. Savitri Willis is one of our clients from this parish and when asked to tell us her story she was happy to share.

Savitri Willis was thrilled to be able to submit her success story. "God puts people in our path for a reason," Savitri said. *Here is her story.*

It is an honor and a privilege to share my success experiences that I have had with Catholic Charities, specifically working with Ms. Kettly J Prophete. I thank God for human beings like her.

Ms. Prophete has not only proved to be a great person, which is number one and most important and that allows her to wear her job title as case manager very well. Ms. Prophete has proved over the years of me coming in contact with her to be a great listener and mentor for me as well.

Upon walking to the door of the Catholic Charities in St. Charles Parish and ringing the doorbell, a lady met me at the door and asked, "what was my story," because I guess everybody has a story, but what she didn't realize, asking me to tell her my story was a release. Talking and having people just listen to you or your story is great therapy for me.

Ms. Prophete has helped me (not knowing) how critical circumstances really were, she was always willing to help whenever she could within the guidelines of her employer.

Ms. Prophete has shown much respect to herself, to her employer, and most of all to her clients. I do not know Ms. Prophete personally, but only on the business level and not one time has she ever not shown respect, courtesy or professionalism to me as a client.

I'm grateful, today and feel I will continue to have trials and tribulations, like everyone else but I know I can get through it now.

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Student Volunteers Make An Impact

A group of ten Rice University students, visiting New Orleans through the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program offered by the Center for Civic Leadership, decided to volunteer with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans this year. ASB is a nationwide program that provides college students the opportunity to work on specific service-oriented projects with several community-based organizations over the course of spring break. The students worked with CCANO's clients to navigate the bus system here in the greater New Orleans area.

Denise Maldonado explained, "Our intention was to help aid and promote the missions of our community partners by providing trauma-informed care, empathetic understanding, and personal insights to the service work opportunities we had during our visit to New Orleans. Thank you for your interest in featuring our group — it truly means a lot to us, and we greatly appreciate the opportunity to continue our collaboration with Catholic Charities."

Cindy Self, Volunteer Director for Catholic Charities said, "It was a lot of fun getting to know them individually during the onboarding process and during their time with us. While helping our clients navigate public transportation, I witnessed the CCANO mission in action as they walked beside the most vulnerable, working to meet their needs. The students found ways to communicate with our clients, proved that laughter has no language barrier, and made an impact in the lives of our clients and employees alike."

This summer is a great opportunity for high school students that need service hours to volunteer with CCANO. SERVE which stands for "Students Engaging in Reflective Volunteer Services" has been working with students since 2009. This year, the week of June 5th-9th we will be at Food for Seniors in Harvey, which is both a warehouse and a distribution center. Students will help pack boxes of food and possibly assist with loading the boxes into our participants' vehicles. Then in July we will have two weeks open at PACE, Catholic Charities Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly, which is in the Bywater. Students can choose between the weeks of July 10th-14th or July 17th-21st and will interact directly with our seniors in the adult day center. SERVE concludes with a day of reflection on July 25th at the CYO office in New Orleans.

For more information on our SERVE program and how you can volunteer go to: www.ccano.org/volunteer-opportunities

