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Notes from the Heart

NOVEMBER 2023

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.

Dear Friend,

There are many things for which I am *grateful* this time of year. Not only do we get a break from the unrelenting Louisiana heat of the past few months, but as we near the holiday season, I am reminded to be thankful for good health and, even with so much uncertainty in the world, that there is still hope and help available for those who are most vulnerable. With this said, each fall, I am *grateful* to kick off our annual Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) campaign.

Started in 1965 by Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, the astounding response each year to this vital appeal speaks volumes about the impact & need of Catholic Charities' numerous programs, including housing, homelessness, seniors, children, families, health and behavioral health, immigration, justice, employment and disaster response. For some, your support allows us to pay for the many expenses not covered by governmental funding or foundation grants. **Our goal this year is \$1.75 million, and I am proud to say that 94 cents of every dollar raised from the AHCA goes directly to client services.** I am also *grateful* for the thoughtful leadership of Anne and Jack Dardis, who will serve as our AHCA campaign chairs this year. You can read more about this inspiring couple on the next page.

In addition to launching the AHCA campaign, Catholic Charities, along with the New Orleans Council on Aging, was fortunate to partner with Entergy New Orleans in September for their Heat Relief Financial Assistance Program. Catholic Charities helped distribute more than \$400,000 for energy bill relief for low-income households and for elderly or disabled customers impacted by the extreme heat. As always, I am *grateful* for this opportunity to put our faith and values into action.

I am humbled by the challenging work happening behind the scenes at Catholic Charities and beyond. With more than 73,000 people assisted last year, it shows that there is strength in unity, and I am *grateful* to be a part of it.

God Bless you and your family,
Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
Sister Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
President & CEO



Women's Giving Circle Creating Lasting Impact

Thank you to the members of the Women's Giving Circle of the Catholic Community Foundation for their incredible support over the last six years! We are so incredibly grateful for their recent contributions to Adoption Services, Bethlehem Housing, Cornerstone Builders, and Pregnancy Services at Catholic Charities. Their generosity is making a real difference in our community, and we are eternally thankful.

Together, we are making a difference!



www.ccano.org
(504) 523-3755



@cathcharitiesno



Each year, Catholic Charities raises funds through the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA). This annual campaign continues Archbishop Hannan's legacy of service to the poor in our community by raising crucial, undesignated funds which support all of our life-giving programs. Help us reach this year's goal of \$1.75 million by donating today!

Visit our website to donate online at www.ccano.org/ahca or scan the QR code with your phone.





Dardises Blessed to Honor Memory of Archbishop Hannan as AHCA Campaign Chairs

If you ever have the opportunity to meet Anne and Jack Dardis, you will often hear the words “very blessed.” It is easy to see why. Both native New Orleanians and lifelong Catholics, they have been married for 56 years, raised 10 children, and spend as much time as possible doting over their 35 grandchildren (with one on the way.)

Anne and Jack acknowledge their good fortune and strong familial bonds would not be possible without a solid foundation rooted in faith. Through their long involvement within the community and shared personal experiences, they are keenly aware that many others are not always as fortunate as they are. This has also made them mindful of the impact of the annual Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA), and how its success each year supports the 23 essential programs at Catholic Charities.

The AHCA was named in memory of Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, its founder, as a way of honoring his life’s legacy of service to the poor in our community. The annual volunteer-driven campaign supports the works of Catholic Charities, raising funds for the many challenges facing our community.

In recognition of Archbishop Hannan’s compassion for the impoverished, Anne and Jack have resolved to do their part, stepping up to serve as 2023 AHCA campaign chairs.

Anne and Jack see this as an opportunity to share that the story and needs of Catholic Charities cross all boundaries, including faith.

“We are blessed to have this opportunity to serve. A lot of the programs Catholic Charities provides are not exclusive to Catholics. I think that it is important to note it is a community appeal, not a Catholic appeal,” Jack said.

The opportunity to serve as chairs is a full circle moment for Anne. Not long after launching the campaign (formerly the Archbishop’s Community Appeal) in 1967, Archbishop Hannan asked her father, Harry Charbonnet, to serve as the first chair of the campaign. She just simply hopes she and Jack can help make a difference, much like her father did nearly 60 years ago.

Anne added, “It’s a great opportunity for people to help all of God’s special and needy people and there are so many of them.”

PACE Holds Inaugural STAR Awards

PACE GNO services (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly in the Greater New Orleans area) held its inaugural STAR Awards ceremony on September 1st at the Shirley Landry Benson Center in the Bywater. It was an opportunity to celebrate PACE participants and recognize their fantastic achievements with great food and music.

Thank you to everyone who made this celebration one to remember!



L to R - Lajhyra Hawkins, C.N.A., participant Katherine Jones (Most Likely to Make You Laugh Award) and Joanice Cook, R.N.



PACE Cheerleader Award: Claudia Webster



Rec Achievement Award: Gayle Edmond



Tallest Participant Award: Stanley Taylor



Tai Chi Award: Theresa Barnes with Margaret Hildreth, physical therapist

Counseling Solutions Opens New Slidell Office

Counseling Solutions is excited to announce its expansion to Slidell!

Counseling Solutions aims to promote social, emotional and behavioral growth in parent-child relationships. Staff at the Slidell location are here to help with Play Therapy for ages 4-11 and Attachment-Based Family Therapy for ages 12-18. Services on the Northshore are completely free.

The Slidell office is located at 770 Gause Blvd, Ste. C. For more info, please call 985-785-2113.



Shell NORCO Staff Volunteers at Food for Seniors

Thank you to the awesome folks from Shell Norco who volunteered at our Food for Seniors Warehouses in August! Twenty-eight of them showed up to pack boxes at both the Townsend and Hayne locations, and they did a fantastic job! We can’t thank them enough for their hard work. Is your team interested in volunteering with Catholic Charities? Please visit ccano.org/volunteer-opportunities to learn more.



Archbishop Hosts Annual Respect Life Student Meeting

Respect Life moderators and club officers from local Catholic high schools gathered for the annual Respect Life Student Meeting at Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond’s residence. In October, Catholic Charities celebrates Respect Life Month and recognizes the dignity of life from conception to natural death. The event was sponsored by the Respect Life Office, which works to create an environment of peace, understanding, and forgiveness, and in turn, fosters a culture that respects and values every human life.



#iGIVECATHOLIC
SAVE THE DATE
iGiveCatholic
Tuesday, November 28th

Every year, organizations across the globe celebrate generosity on #GivingTuesday. Fueled by a distinctly Catholic faith, Catholic Charities participates in this day through #iGiveCatholic which rallies the Catholic community to share its blessings and put our faith in action. This year, #iGiveCatholic is on Tuesday, November 28th, and all gifts will benefit the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal.