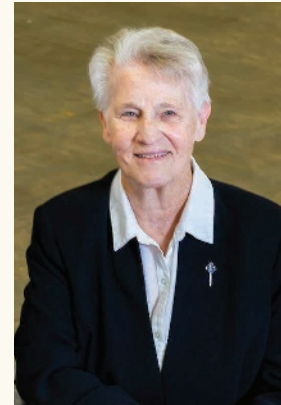


MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Early on a Saturday morning last month, I joined almost 50 Catholic Charities volunteers for a prayer walk around the neighborhood near Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, where we stopped along the way to pray for our agency, clients, and volunteers.

Held during the midst of our yearlong centennial celebration and during National Volunteer Month, this year's walk held special significance. It also served as a testimonial to the power of giving back and the stories of the people who have benefitted from the work of our volunteers throughout the last 100 years.

Following the walk, we gathered in Schulte Hall for a ceremony, where we recognized some of the volunteers who are helping shape the face of Catholic Charities in the work they do. It is heartening to see the gamut of men and women who remain committed to upholding the mission of Catholic Charities, including:

- **Whitney Warren**, a junior from Mount Carmel Academy, who has been volunteering her time and talent for various projects
- **Mike Basile**, a volunteer ESL instructor for Refugee Services for the past three years
- Volunteers from **Magnolia Community Services** (pictured below) and **St. Michael's Exploration Academy**, who regularly pitch in with our programs and help during the busy Christmas Adopt-a-Family season at Catholic Charities



These volunteers are just a sample of those that have chosen to give a part of themselves to Catholic Charities and the voiceless we have served over the last century. Engaging the hearts and minds of everyone that comes through our agency is equally as important as the services we provide during times of need.

My hope that Saturday morning was that our prayers for helping hands will always be heard, and that for generations to come, our volunteers will continue to serve the voiceless with the caring and compassion that sets Catholic Charities apart.

God Bless,

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, msc

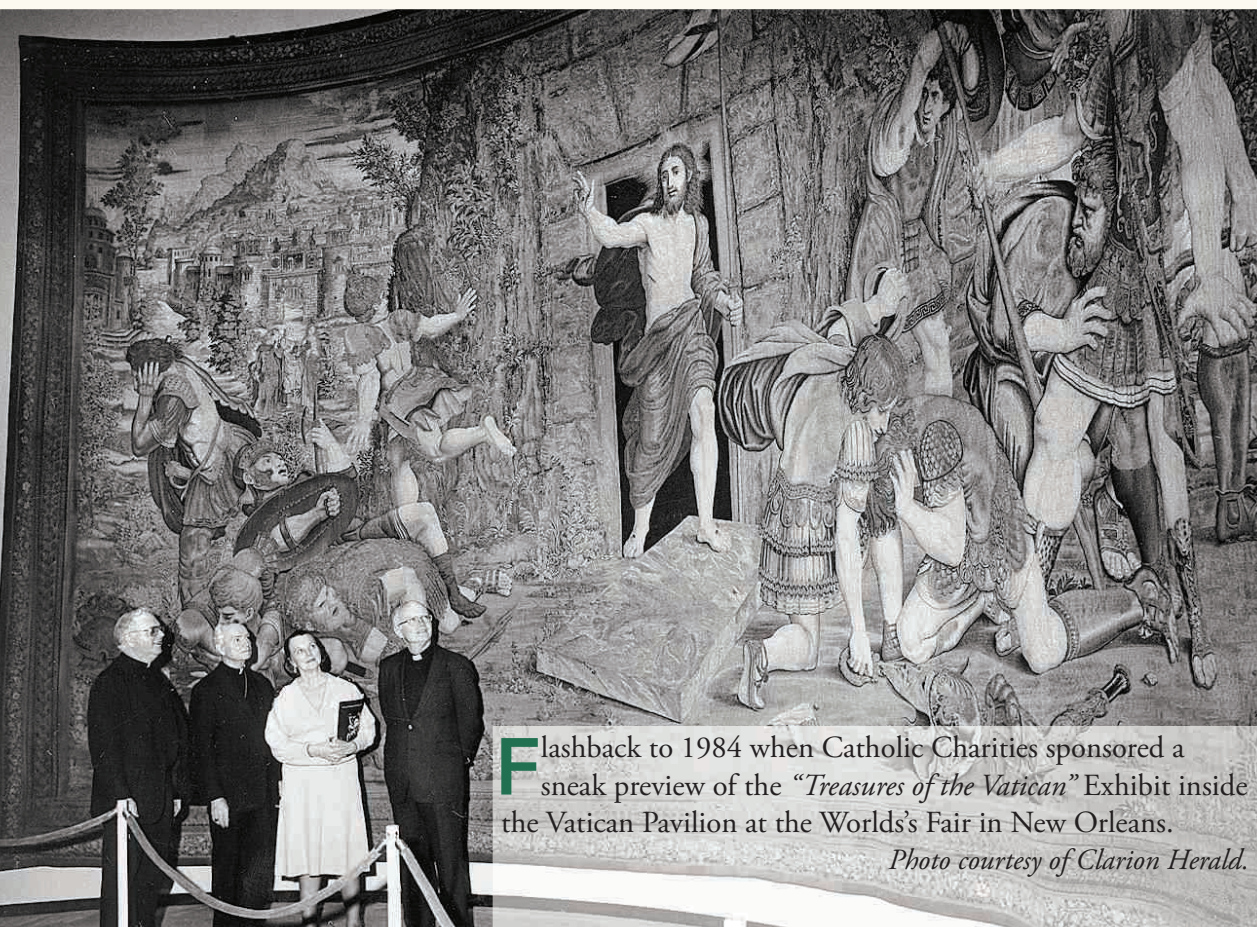
Sister Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
President & CEO



Whitney Warren and Sr. Marjorie Hebert



CENTENNIAL moments



Flashback to 1984 when Catholic Charities sponsored a sneak preview of the "Treasures of the Vatican" Exhibit inside the Vatican Pavilion at the World's Fair in New Orleans.

Photo courtesy of Clarion Herald.



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.

www.ccano.org
 504.523.3755



@cathcharitiesno

Please remember
Catholic Charities in your will.

Catholic Charities Inspires Legacy Society Donor to Pay it Forward

Following a job with the VA Hospital in New Orleans, Donald Seals found himself working in a copy room at Catholic Charities in the 1980s. Although his time there was brief, the impact it had on the rest of his life has been nothing short of monumental.

During its centennial year, Catholic Charities is highlighting individuals who have included Catholic Charities in their will or planned giving as part of its latest initiative, the **Legacy Society**. The men and women included in this group have made a meaningful commitment to sustain the future of Catholic Charities for the next *Century of Service*.

And in the case of Donald Seals, getting to know Sr. Anthony Barczykowski, former longtime executive director of Catholic Charities, lead to thinking differently about the legacy his grandparents left him.

Born in New Orleans and raised in Baton Rouge by his grandparents, Donald graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a degree in psychology, taught math at Eleanor McMain for a couple of years, which was followed by a stint in the U.S. Army. After his time in the military, Donald worked at the VA Regional Office as a Rehabilitation Counselor. At a challenging point in his personal life, meeting Sr. Anthony was just what Donald needed to lift him up.

“She showed me a lot of things about myself. We shared cooking notes and became close. She changed my life. I just fell in love with her. That helped me when I needed it most,” Donald said.

From the moment he met Sr. Anthony, Donald would

always keep Catholic Charities close to his heart. The decision to leave all of his possessions to Catholic Charities was an easy one to make.

“Whatever I had, I wanted Catholic Charities to have it,” Donald added.

Donald also speaks fondly of his grandparents, sharing that his grandfather “taught him everything he knows,” including gardening, which he still does to this day. Preserving those memories of his grandparents is just as important to Donald as keeping their legacy alive. Their love, along with the kindness of Sr. Anthony, has set Donald on a path of a life well lived and his desire for someone in need to one day have the chance to live a life with dignity and hope.

Donald is an example that no matter where someone is in their life, there’s always an opportunity to give back and leave your legacy for the next generation.

For more information on the Legacy Society, visit www.ccano.org/legacy-society or contact Samuel Rottman at srottman@ccano.org or 504-592-5688.



Spirit of Hope Program Helps Navigate Complex Rebuilding Process

On April 5th, Westbank resident Betty Thomas was greeted by a group of family and church friends at her Shirley Drive home for a welcome back celebration following lengthy renovations. The day was long overdue since her home was heavily damaged by Hurricane Ida in 2021.

Known for her baking skills in the kitchen, Betty was referred to as the “Ooey Goopy Cake Queen” during her homecoming, which also included representatives of the numerous organizations that helped get Betty back in her home.

The celebration was a stark contrast to the last few years, where Betty, 78, was uncertain what each day would bring.

The stress of rebuilding following a natural disaster can be difficult for most people, but even more so for the elderly and disabled. Navigating the red tape and minutiae of getting approval and paying for repairs, finding reputable contractors, all while finding a place to sleep each night, is in itself a full-time job. That’s when someone like Cheryl Strickland can be your biggest champion.

Cheryl is the Disaster Case Management Program Liaison Supervisor for Spirit of Hope, Catholic Charities disaster response program that provides supportive services for the families and individuals living in Louisiana’s coastal parishes.

“When Cheryl came on board, everything kind of came together. She con-



Friends and family joined Betty Thomas (far right) in her renovated kitchen at her homecoming, including (L to R) Mary Ussin, Estelle Johnson, Tammy Mosley, Eula Lee Nicholas, and Brenda Foucher.

nected the dots. I didn’t know where to start,” said Mary Ussin, MBU Professional Services Advocate for Seniors, and family friend of Betty, who also organized her coming home party.

“It’s nice to have someone in your



Betty Thomas and Cheryl Strickland from Spirit of Hope.

- corner who knows the processes.”
- Cheryl ultimately worked with several nonprofits and organizations that could help with Betty’s home repairs, including:
- A total interior gutting from Divine Demolition, made possible by donations from friends, family and fellow church members of Olive Branch Baptist Church
 - Dumpster donation from Demo Diva for commencement of project
 - Interior rebuild from Project 1 Developments
 - \$15,000 fortified roof from Rebuilding Together New Orleans, who also donated materials for the drywall
 - United Way, which donated \$20,000 in materials and labor
 - The Salvation Army, which provided \$15,000 in materials and labor
 - Hands on New Orleans, which contributed \$1,154 for materials and labor; and
 - Youth Rebuilding New Orleans, which also donated a dumpster and recruited youth volunteers to clear the overgrown property
- Cheryl recognizes how much independence and having your own space means to a person.
- “Being able to help someone get back in their house is where my heart is at. It’s all about the survivors and Ms. Betty is able to be back in her home and live independently and not have to go to a nursing home,” Cheryl said.
- Hopefully being back home will now allow Betty to relax a little and once again share some of that infamous Ooey Goopy Cake with friends and family.



Earn required service hours at Summer SERVE

(Students Engaging in Reflective Volunteer Experiences)

Week 1: June 10-13
Week 2: July 8-11

Engage in meaningful volunteer opportunities with other high school students this summer at our PACE of Greater New Orleans program.

Sign up at ccano.org/volunteer-opportunities/



a Century of Service throughout the year

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ JUNE

Catholic Charities Staff Day

■ SEPTEMBER

Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal kickoff

■ NOVEMBER 17

Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral for all staff, donors, volunteers, and supporters

Stay tuned

More details and information will be shared on CCANO.ORG



WHITE COAT CEREMONY INSPIRES KIDS TO PURSUE HEALTH CAREERS

The Louisiana Department of Health and the Area Health Education Centers for a Healthy Louisiana recently held “A Rainbow of Short White Coats” program at Catholic Charities’ Incarnate Word Head Start to inspire minority students to pursue careers in healthcare. The day culminated in the White Coat Ceremony where the kids received a doctor’s white coat and stethoscope.