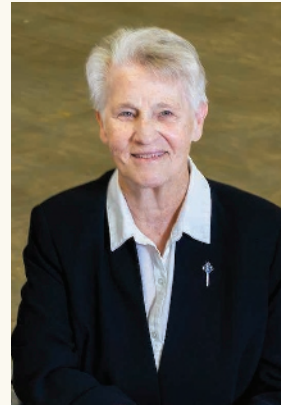


MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Last month as I glanced over the audience during our Centennial Mass at St. Louis Cathedral, it began to really hit me. Two significant milestones in my life have come to pass this year - a *Century of Service* for Catholic Charities, and my retirement as President & CEO.

Being in the Cathedral during our final centennial event was overwhelming. I was honored to share this significant milestone with colleagues, friends, and family. I was also humbled by the kind words Archbishop

Aymond shared with parishioners about me and my place in Catholic Charities history.

It's probably no surprise to anyone that has ever met me that I will be the first person to tell you that my role in the Catholic Charities narrative wouldn't be worth mentioning without the support of the unwavering resolve of the staff and volunteers. They have made difficult days easier for thousands in the community I call home.

Throughout our nearly two dozen programs, I have been

fortunate to meet many men, women and children looking for reassurance and a sliver of light during some of the bleakest moments of their lives. A hand on a shoulder, a prayer said out loud, and an attentive ear can mean the world to someone. But all of that would be meaningless if we couldn't back it up with the services that we have offered and the compassionate people throughout our organization who make it happen.

As I close this chapter with Catholic Charities, my heart overflows with gratitude. Each smile, each story shared, and every moment spent serving together will forever be cherished. The greatest gifts I have received over the last several months have been the memories and stories over the last dozen years that everyone has brought back to life. Thank you for the lessons learned and friendships forged. I leave with a grateful heart.

Here's to carrying the mission forward!

God Bless,

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.

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



In 2016, Sr. Marjorie led the Krewe of St. Mary of the Angels Head Start & Early Head Start for their Mardi Gras parade.



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.

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AHCA Chair Continues a Legacy of Compassion

As Catholic Charities celebrates its centennial year, the theme of *legacy* resonates deeply in the stories we've shared. Trey Reymond, who is serving as the 2024 chair for the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA), is yet another example of an individual, fueled by the legacy of his family, helping lead Catholic Charities' vital campaign into the next *Century of Service*.

The annual AHCA, which is powered by the dedication of volunteers, supports Catholic Charities and addresses pressing community challenges. This year's goal is \$1.75 million to support the nearly two dozen programs Catholic Charities operates to serve those most in need.

Serving as this year's campaign chair is a natural fit for Trey, a local attorney. His father, Leon J. Reymond, served as AHCA chair in 2001, and has been an invaluable resource as Trey works to help the agency live up to the legacy of Archbishop Philip Hannan, a stalwart champion of those facing crisis in the Archdiocese.

"My father's life-long work for the good of society is an inspiration to me. He made his difference through Catholic nonprofits, including Catholic Charities. He is still very interested in the organization and is always eager to offer advice," Trey said.

Some of Trey's first memories as a young professional include participating in bus tours that visited the various ministries of Catholic Charities. He has been involved with the boards of several organizations, including the Catholic Community Foundation and the Daughters of Charity (now Ascension DePaul

Services). As a board member with LCMC Health, he was instrumental in securing a \$15,000 gift for Catholic Charities to use this year for Thanksgiving baskets for families in need.

Faith and family play a significant role in how Trey conducts his life. It's these same qualities and character that Trey hopes to instill in his own children.

"My faith dovetails with my work for Catholic Charities and its mission in that doing for others is a central teaching of Christ and what the Catholic faith is about. It's important to give back and make sure everyone has an opportunity in life for a hand up when they need it," Trey said.

Trey is also particularly honored to have the opportunity to serve as chair during the centennial celebration of Catholic Charities.

"Catholic Charities has a great tradition of helping the less fortunate in our community and to play a part in such an organization during a year of celebration is a true honor. This milestone causes us all to reflect on the impact that Catholic Charities, its employees, and its volun-

teers have had on our city. It's also a great honor to work with Sr. Marjorie in her final year prior to retirement. She's been a Christ-like force leading Catholic Charities for more than a decade and her accomplishments speak for themselves," Trey said.

As the centennial celebration for the agency concludes, it's vital to ensure the legacies of those before and after us continue to be highlighted. They serve as examples of benevolence in a world that can often be filled with challenges.

Visit ccano.org/ahca to make a contribution.



Trey Reymond (far right) at his alma mater University of Notre Dame with his son Lee and father Leon, Jr.

Cornerstone Client Rewrites Her Own Story

A moment can create a ripple effect that can set you down an unexpected path. For Danena Williams, one bad decision in her twenties would see her face seemingly impossible challenges over the course of nearly two decades.

As an accounting major at Grambling State University, Danena was charged with two counts of armed robbery and sentenced to 20 years in prison. It was her first run in with the law. For any ordinary person, they might call it a day. Danena deeply regrets her actions. Her remorse fueled her drive to break the mold, finding ways to pursue opportunities and regain control of her life.

"I stayed focused on making the best of the time. Twenty years is a long time, and I didn't want it to be wasted time. I took every class, every program, every certification, and finished my accounting degree. Everything they had I did," Danena said.

Nearing her release after 17 years, another opportunity came in the form of Millie West, case manager for the Cornerstone Builders Re-entry program at Catholic Charities. Cornerstone provides services to individuals and families who have been impacted by incarceration. The program helped set her up in transitional housing. After four months, she would move into her own apartment, with Cornerstone paying her first month's rent.

"Millie also took me to Walmart to go grocery shopping to get clothes and essentials, plus Cornerstone assisted with the initial set of parole fees. It was the opportunity of a lifetime," Danena said.

But this opportunity almost didn't happen.

During her incarceration in 2015, Danena was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and given two months to live. This diagnosis put her faith to the test. Throughout her life, even while in prison, Danena has always tried to find the positive in the midst of the negative.

"I'm a fighter and a firm believer in God and the amazing things He has done. I prayed and stayed connected to Him," Danena said.



Danena proudly stands in front of her first home.

Following nine months of chemo in prison, Danena went into remission the following year and has remained cancer-free.

She continued to rewrite her story following her release, which included finding a job, purchasing a car and eventually saving enough money to buy her own home. Cornerstone, along with other organizations, assisted her with navigating the home buying process.

Danena received another opportunity to help others in similar situations when she was asked to visit the state penitentiary for women (LCIW) and speak with prisoners during job fairs. She realized, as hiring manager at IHOP, she was in a place to hire incarcerated people when they are released. So far, she has hired seven people.

"People who are incarcerated and those who are formerly incarcerated need to see that you can come home and have a good life. You can beat the odds. Just because a person makes a mistake doesn't make them a bad person. Just because someone has been incarcerated doesn't mean change can't happen," Danena said.

CENTENNIAL MASS



On November 17th, our community came together with staff, volunteers, and supporters for Catholic Charities' Centennial Mass at the beautiful St. Louis Cathedral. With principal celebrant Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, we honored our rich history and embraced a future of compassionate service. Let's continue this vital mission side by side, serving



those in need for another century!

Photos courtesy of the Clarion Herald.





Catholic Charities

Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal

Join us in honoring the incredible legacy of Archbishop Philip Hannan. Each year, Catholic Charities proudly presents the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) to raise essential funds for our life-changing programs. This year, we aim for a goal of \$1.75 million! Your generous donation can transform lives and uplift those in need. Together, let's continue this vital mission. Support Catholic Charities today and make a real difference. Scan the QR code or visit www.ccano.org/ahca.

