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# SAVE THE DATE

**GiveNOLA Day  
is Tuesday,  
May 6, 2025**

GiveNOLA Day is a 24-hour event hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. The funds raised will be used for unrestricted support for the programs of Catholic Charities, which provides the ability to spend money on the most urgent needs of the community. Early giving opens up Monday, April 28th.



Bookmark our GiveNOLA page by scanning the QR Code with your phone.

*Project SAVE client  
Allison Murphy*

**GIVE  
NOLA  
DAY**

GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION



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](http://www.ccano.org)  
**504.523.3755**



@cathcharitiesno

Please remember  
Catholic Charities in your will.

# Faith in the Future



APRIL 2025

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



This Easter, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is important to remember, just as His life was renewed, all of us, no matter our faith, should recognize the importance of rebirth every day. Without second chances, our lives would be unnecessarily compounded by an uncertain future.

I believe all those who work and volunteer for Catholic Charities throughout nearly two dozen programs are upholding our mission to give people new beginnings.

This especially rings true during the month of April, recognized nationally as **Second Chance Month**.

Families struggling to have children have been given a second chance through Adoption Services. Victims of domestic violence have been given an opportunity for a fresh start with the legal assistance of Project SAVE. And incarcerated men and women have been given another chance at beating the odds through the guidance and assistance of the Cornerstone Builders program.

Speaking of Cornerstone, staff from this program are holding a Second Chance Job Skills Fair later this month, where they will help formerly incarcerated men and women with a hands-on event focused on building their resume, mastering interviews, and enhancing professionalism. The journey doesn't suddenly stop when a client has found a job or a place to live either. The dialogue

and guidance extend far beyond the normal services offered, with case managers in Cornerstone making themselves available anytime their help is needed.

As a volunteer with several area organizations, I appreciate the selflessness I observe daily throughout my community and the people who volunteer with Catholic Charities. In this issue, we spotlight **Jacob Gustin**, a student at Brother Martin High School who has been spending time with the residents of Padua House. Volunteering and doing his part in assisting those who aren't always able to have their voice heard is truly a calling, a vocation found through so many other volunteers within our agency.

I hope the examples of volunteers like Jacob and programs such as Cornerstone inspire you to take a moment to acknowledge someone in your life that is sharing their gift of time or seeking a new beginning. It's refreshing to see that there are still many others who adhere to values that help continue to move people forward.

With gratitude and blessings,

*Cynthia T. Hayes*

Cynthia T. Hayes

President and CEO

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans



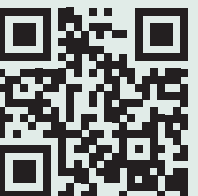
*Jacob Gustin,  
Volunteer*

## THANK YOU for your support of AHCA



For 59 years, the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal has helped raise funds for Catholic Charities to assist your neighbors during times of urgent need within our nearly two dozen programs, including disaster response, education and senior care & support.

We are truly humbled by the incredible generosity you've shown! As we near our \$1.75 million goal this year, please consider making a donation of any amount. Your gift will sustain Catholic Charities' future for helping people seeking light beyond the darkness.





## CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

# Jacob & Jeremiah's Journey at Padua House

*During National Volunteer Appreciation Month in April, we highlight Jacob Gustin, a volunteer at Padua House. His special bond with one of its residents is a beautiful reminder of the impact kindness can make.*

When Brother Martin High School junior Jacob Gustin was looking to fulfill some volunteer service hours last year, he did not know he was going to find the perfect opportunity almost in his backyard: Padua House.

Located near his family's home in Belle Chasse, Padua House is a residential program for those of all ages with intellectual disabilities who are medically fragile.



Like many teens his age, Jacob is your typical busy high school student. While studying and preparing for college next year, Jacob works at Creole Creamery and is a member of his school's powerlifting team. But he still makes sure to visit Jeremiah at Padua House about once a week.

"Best Friend! Best Friend!" yells Jeremiah each time Jacob walks in the door at Padua, his favorite part of his regular visits. Jeremiah has been a resident of Padua for about 20 years since suffering a life-changing brain injury at the age of three.

"It makes him happy to have someone to talk to and I am very grateful to make his life, even if it's for just a couple of hours, a little bit better," Jacob says.

From time to time, Jacob also helps feed some of the other Padua residents, many of which are unable to verbally communicate. Although being nonverbal could be seen as a deterrent, Jacob has discovered the magic of the fist bump as a universal greeting.

Volunteering at Padua House has been an eye-opening experience, to say the least, for Jacob. It has also helped him be more appreciative of his blessings and understanding of his place in this world.

"If you only understood how lucky you are to have this life and how much good you can do for the Padua residents. You can really make their day a lot better by just talking to them for a little bit," Jacob says.

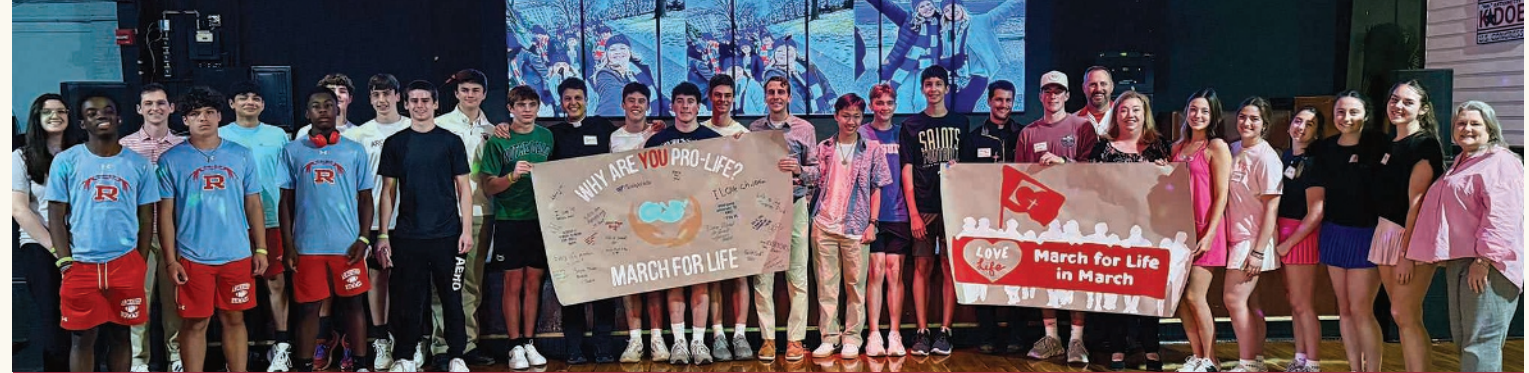
Even with college on the horizon, Jacob remains committed to returning to Padua House and visiting his "best" friend Jeremiah.

For more information about volunteering, visit [www.ccano.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.ccano.org/volunteer-opportunities).

## Indiana Catholic High School Students Embrace Power of Service in New Orleans

Twenty-three students from the music department at Guerin Catholic High School in Noblesville, Indiana embraced an "alternative" Spring Break adventure in New Orleans! They visited both locations of PACE, where they spent time with the clients, played games and even helped lead some outdoor Tai Chi sessions.

The students also performed for the residents of Padua House in Belle Chasse. Huge thanks to everyone involved for making this trip so special!



## Students gather for March for Life Event at Rock 'n' Bowl



A heartfelt thank you to the amazing high school students who joined us at Mid-City Lanes Rock 'n' Bowl for Pregnancy Services' March for Life event! Special guest speaker this year was Alex Lorio, Campus Minister from Archbishop Rummel High School, who spoke about his pro-life beliefs and the importance of prayer.



## Padua House Staff Recognized for their Service



Padua House staff were recently recognized for going above and beyond during the historic snowfall in January. Pictured (L to R): Catherine Cole, Julia Allen, Zina Drummond, Bernadette Murphy, and Kerry Jones (Marie Hyppolite not pictured). They were joined by Stephanie Mills, Division Director (back left); Tanna Barthelmy, Director of Padua House (back right); and Deacon Martin Gutierrez, Vice-President Mission & Community Engagement.

## PACE Visits the Aquarium



Exciting day for our PACE participants as they visited the Audubon Aquarium in New Orleans!