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Faith in the Future



APRIL 2026

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



I hope you and your families had a peaceful and blessed Easter.

February 11th was a day I will always remember. Much of my attention the weeks leading up to it had been occupied with the logistics surrounding the blessing of the St. Rita building, home to several of- fices, including Catholic Charities. Employ- ees and leadership from throughout the Archdiocese attended this spe- cial celebration, including Archbishops Checchio, Aymond, and Hughes, rep- resenting nearly a quarter of a century of leadership in the Archdiocese.

When I awoke that morning, I was surprised to learn that Archbishop Checchio was also formally named the 15th Archbishop of New Orleans by Pope Leo. Although unexpected and perhaps bittersweet, I couldn't think of a more appropriate day to witness this change of lead- ership, all while dedicating our beautiful building and sharing the day with everyone who makes our work possible.

During the day, I thought about the employ- ees throughout our nearly two dozen programs that are essential to the success of our agency. Equally relevant are the more than 100 years of service volunteers have donated to Catholic Charities. Their compassion and commitment have reshaped lives. Volunteers, spanning generations and ages, share their gifts of time with the community, ensuring no one is left behind.

Daniela Torres Martir is a Loyola student volunteering

with our English as a Second Language (ESL) program, which serves as a supportive haven where adults learn English and gain confidence in everyday conversations. As a college student from Puerto Rico, she works with clients in the program and is a testa- ment to helping people new to the country adapt to everyday life around them.

Vicki Gordy, a former Project SAVE employee, continues to assist those seeking help. The program provides legal representa- tion to survivors of domestic violence residing in Orle- ans Parish. Although Vicki retired a couple of years ago, she still brings her 25 years of institutional knowledge to those seeking a way to start over without living in fear (while also helping take care of her grandchild).

On the following page, you will also see our feature on the Council of Catholic School Cooperative Clubs (CCSCC) volunteers. The group fundraises tirelessly through- out the year for clothing drives.



Their unwavering dedication to the Clothe-a-Child events is nothing short of inspiring. They provided 160 Easter outfits for Head Start children this spring.

I am proud that so many in our community, without fail, continue to represent this agency in positive ways as we continue our next century of service. It is also empowering to know that the empathy and guidance of Archbishops Hughes and Aymond

have complemented our mission of empowering the vulnerable. I look forward to Archbishop Checchio leading us forward with that same compassion!

With gratitude and blessings,
Cynthia T. Hayes
Cynthia T. Hayes
President and CEO
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

SAVE THE DATE

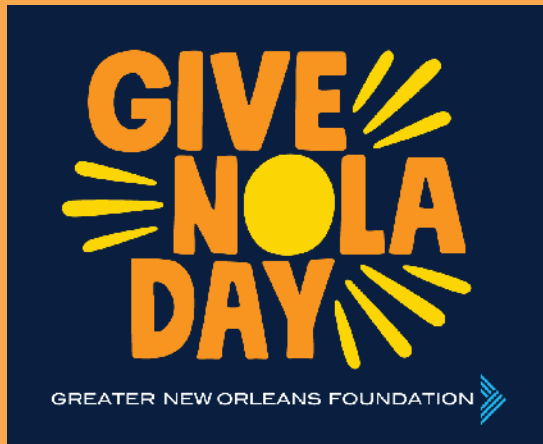
GiveNOLA Day is Tuesday, May 5, 2026

GiveNOLA Day is a 24-hour event hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Funds raised will be used for unrestricted support of Catholic Charities pro- grams, which provide the ability to spend money on the most urgent needs of our community. Early giving opens Tuesday, April 28th.

Bookmark our GiveNOLA page by scan- ning the QR Code with your phone.



*Volunteer Jacob Gustin
with Padua House
resident Jeremiah*



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



@cathcharitiesno

Please remember Catholic Charities in your estate planning.

Loyola Student's Transition from Puerto Rico to U.S. Drives Volunteer Work with ESL

The first few weeks of a college freshman's time on campus are often an overwhelming experience, filled with a mixture of fear, excitement, doubt, and homesickness. For Daniela Torres Martir, coming from Puerto Rico to start at Loyola University four years ago added another level of distress that only compounded her concerns.

But all things must pass and Daniela's anxiety gave way to an amazing college experience. She graduates this May with a



degree in biology. During Daniela's sophomore year, a seminar with English as a Second Language (ESL) made her aware of opportunities to give back.

Her research led her to reach out to the ESL program at Catholic Charities, designed to help adults who speak languages other than English improve their communication skills in everyday life.

"I moved here from Puerto Rico alone. With the way I was raised, it has always been very important to give something back. Although I speak English, my first language is Spanish. I know how difficult it can be sometimes and I wanted to help people who have gone through similar struggles," Daniela says.

Daniela began volunteering in February and was partnered with a young, French-speaking girl. Although Daniela initially anticipated helping a Spanish-speaking person, she has really enjoyed tutoring her new student to learn conversational skills.

"I was kind of nervous at first, but I really love working with her. She's a great kid," Daniela says.

Sessions at Catholic Charities are offered in-person and on-line, with Daniela volunteering virtually.

As we shine a light on the men and women volunteering with Catholic Charities during this **National Volunteer Month**, Daniela exemplifies the mission of this agency and the Ignatian principles that Loyola represents, including service to the needy.

"Volunteering is a very rewarding experience, especially in this ESL program. There's never been a day where I thought I shouldn't have done this. It's always a nice feeling to know that I'm doing my part to help others," Daniela says.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with the ESL program at Catholic Charities, visit www.ccano.org/esl.

Welcome Alaysia, Artur, & Edward to the Padua House Family!



Alaysia



Artur



Edward and his father with Artur

Spring Clothe-a-Child Drive Supports Head Start Students

Thank you to the Council of Catholic School Cooperative Clubs (CCSCC). Your commitment to fundraising and shopping for the spring Clothe-a-Child drive event is unparalleled. Twice a year, the Council comes together to spread joy for families in need.



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Help Support the Zurich Classic

Every ticket purchased for the Zurich Classic of New Orleans brings world-class golf to our city and helps to change lives. Through the Fore!Kids Foundation, last year's tournament generated \$3.6 million in charitable support for 100+ local non-profits such as Catholic Charities, creating meaningful opportunities for children and families in the Greater New Orleans area. When you attend the Zurich Classic, you're investing in the future of our community. Learn more about how your ticket purchase makes an impact at www.zurichgolfclassic.com.



Donation from Country Day Brings Essential Items to Refugee Services Clients

A heartfelt thank you to student Isabel Berry '27, president of the Hispanic Heritage Club at Metairie Park Country Day School. She delivered a generous donation of personal care items to Refugee Services at Catholic Charities, bringing hope and dignity to those in need. Thanks to everyone who contributed essential items like toothpaste, deodorant, and personal hygiene products. Your kindness makes a big difference!



Country Day student Isabel Berry delivers donations to Zenia Vindel and Adam Satterlee