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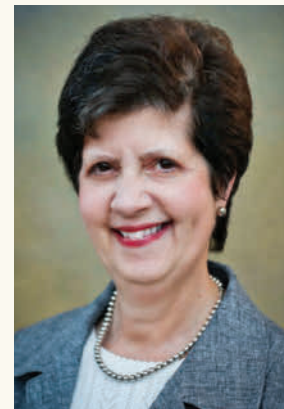


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# Faith in the Future

JUNE 2026

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



*“It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.”*

A favorite quote of mine for as long as I can remember, these powerful words from “The Little Prince” have become particularly relevant to me in my role here at Catholic Charities over the last 18

months.

Perceiving the world with empathy and acting with kindness is how I try to live my life and also propels our mission of advocating for the voiceless in every corner that Catholic Charities reaches. From School-Based Counseling in St. Charles Parish to Padua House in Belle Chasse, our agency’s footprint is widespread.

When a segment about Padua House from WWL-TV’s Meg Farris hit my inbox one evening last month, I was not prepared for how much her story would impact me emotionally. Cheryl Taulli, who has been employed with Padua House for 44 years, spoke of her deep devotion to ensuring the residents are taken care of and fed. Her story is indicative of this agency’s mission to respect the dignity and potential of all people. She is confident in how she has led her life, and puts her faith into action with her heart and time.



Padua House’s Cheryl Taulli checks in with Jeremiah.

The experiences of Cheryl and other seasoned employees of Catholic Charities bring to mind the dedicated work of our volunteer seniors in the Foster Grandparent program. Just as they faithfully serve as mentors and watch over children throughout area schools, we always strive to take advantage of any means to support them and provide the resources they need and deserve.

It was encouraging to see that they had the opportunity to participate in a year-end, in-service gathering in May. The **NOLA Ready Presentation** included representatives from Emergency Management and the Health Department. The discussion included hurricane preparedness, how to sign up for text alerts from Smart911 and NOLA Ready, and a citizen health assessment.

Just as they have spent their retirement years strengthening the bond between school and home for children, it is only fitting that we try to provide resources that advance our enduring commitment to compassion, service, and community.

As we strive to uplift those around us, let’s not forget the power of a simple hello. Knock on a neighbor’s door or take the time to call that family member you might be concerned about. Your kindness can be life-changing.

I hope you have a safe and happy summer.

With gratitude and blessings,  
*Cynthia T. Hayes*

Cynthia T. Hayes  
President and CEO  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans



Arielle Johnson with the New Orleans Health Department assists Foster Grandparent Joycelyn Richard.

## ‘Padua is a mission’

### WWL-TV Highlights Cheryl Taulli, Food Service Manager at Padua House for the last 44 years

For decades, Cheryl Taulli has transformed lives at Padua House in Belle Chasse with her unwavering dedication. Giving daily hugs to residents and even sleeping on her office floor during storms, her compassion creates a haven of safety and love for all!



Reporter Meg Farris recently highlighted Cheryl as part of WWL-TV’s new series, America 250: Red, White and You.



Scan the QR code to watch on your phone.



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)



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Please remember Catholic Charities in your estate planning.

# Volunteer Continues Decades of Dedication to Project SAVE

For Vicki Gordy, Project SAVE was never just a workplace—it has always been a ministry, a family, and a calling that has shaped more than 25 years of her life.

When Vicki was offered a part-time role by the previous Project SAVE director over two decades ago, she jumped at the opportunity, which also gave her time to take care of her own family. As a single mom, she had some doubts that she could make it work, but her previous domestic violence ministry work with her church prepared her for what would ultimately be the right choice.

For someone that always declared she would never retire from Project SAVE, it's difficult to fathom how Vicki would ever veer from her lifelong path of assisting victims of domestic violence at Catholic Charities. However, following the birth of her first grandchild a few years ago, Vicki's priorities shifted, although not completely.

Before she retired in 2024, Vicki made arrangements to volunteer at Project SAVE a few hours a month.

For Project SAVE director Allyson Tuttle, it was a seamless transition.

"Vicki has always been an integral member of the Project SAVE team. As our office manager, she kept the office organized and running smoothly. She has a strong dedication to serving others and always has a positive attitude. She has always been committed to our program and the mission of Catholic Charities," Allyson said.

Vicki valued serving as the first point of contact for people needing assistance, many at the lowest point of their lives. She credits the whole team for its impact in the community.

"It's really the attorneys who do the big work in court, but I still felt like I was a part of the ministry. To see that it was making a difference in the lives of people was something that meant a lot to me," Vicki said.

When asked what she would tell someone who has an opportunity to share their gift of time in a similar capacity, Vicki says, "It's an opportunity to minister to people in a very tangible way and make a difference in the lives of not just clients, but their children and families too."

For more information on volunteering with Catholic Charities, visit [ccano.org/volunteer-opportunities](https://ccano.org/volunteer-opportunities).



# Congrats to the 2026 Head Start Graduates!



# Lemonade, Laughter, and Community Spirit at Padua House

Lemonade Day at Padua House this year was an opportunity for residents to participate in the annual tradition, where they set up camp outside to sell lemonade, food, and treats.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing staff, their little helpers, and our supportive neighbors who made this day brighter!



# Wayne Plaisance Named New Director of PACE GNO

Please join us in welcoming Wayne Plaisance as the new Executive Director of PACE GNO. Wayne brings decades of leadership experience in healthcare, finance, operations, and senior services throughout Louisiana. His distinguished career includes executive leadership roles with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, Holy Cross College, Notre Dame Health System, and most recently Trinity Health PACE Alexandria, where he successfully expanded access to comprehensive care for seniors across Central Louisiana.

Widely recognized for his servant leadership philosophy and commitment to faith-driven, community-centered care, Wayne is passionate about promoting dignity, wellness, and independence for older adults. We are excited to have him join our team and look forward to the expertise, vision, and compassion he will bring to PACE GNO.

