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Faith in the Future

OCTOBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



September 24th was a special day. Archbishop Checchio graciously opened his home to Catholic Charities so that we could officially kick off the **Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA)**. This campaign rallies community support, enabling Catholic Charities to meet the pressing needs of thousands throughout south Louisiana. The gathering also happened to fall on the one-year anniversary of Archbishop Checchio's appointment as the new leader

of the Archdiocese of New Orleans by Pope Leo XIV.

I believe his visit to seniors in our PACE program that afternoon last year offered an early glimpse of his commitment to Catholic Charities before he was officially welcomed as Coadjutor Archbishop in November.

That growth has been ever present for more than a century, including when Archbishop Philip Hannan launched the campaign in 1965 to help deliver quality services to those in need. Archbishop Hannan's devotion to the community set a precedent still felt today amongst our life changing programs, including Donneisha, a young woman in our Project SAVE program.



A recent interview with Donneisha for our upcoming Impact Report perfectly captured the power of our domestic violence program. After her terrible experience at such a young age, this abuse survivor is still able to stand tall, exhibiting so much maturity and confidence along the way. I have no doubt her story will serve as an inspiration to everyone.

Victories like Donneisha's make your generosity and contributions to the AHCA that much more important to the men, women and children seeking a silver lining in their lives.

Leading the campaign this year are Chair Couple **Mike and Cindy Nolan**. Mike, a Vietnam veteran, has served in numerous leadership roles. Cindy is a recipient of the Regina Matrum award, which recognizes Catholic women who are models of motherhood. They are both recipients of the Saint John Paul II Award and are examples of faith-filled leadership and service. You can read more about them on the next page.

Thank you to Mike and Cindy for embracing this ministry of service, and to Archbishop Checchio for his prayers and leadership. Most of all, thanks to each of you whose generosity allows Catholic Charities to be a source of hope, dignity and healing for our neighbors in their most difficult moments. May we continue to honor the legacy of Archbishop Hannan by serving with compassion and ensuring that no one faces those moments alone.

With gratitude and blessings,

Cynthia T. Hayes

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

#iGIVECATHOLIC
ON GIVING TUESDAY

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
31	1 	2

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026



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.



Join us in supporting our neighbors and continuing a legacy of compassion. Each year, Catholic Charities' Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA) raises vital funds to help our community's most vulnerable neighbors meet immediate needs and face long-term challenges.

This year, our goal is **\$2 million**. We need your help to make it happen! Your generosity supports life-changing programs and services throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Donate today at www.ccano.org/ahca or scan the QR code to the right. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most.



How Faith Shapes the Nolans' Decades of Service

For Mike and Cindy Nolan, saying yes to service is a way of life. So when they were asked to serve as this year's chairs of the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA), their answer came naturally. "You can't tell Jesus no," Mike said with a laugh. The Nolans may not have known exactly what they were getting into, but they knew they were willing to help. That willingness has shaped decades of service to their church and community.

Their connection to Catholic Charities grew through relationships within the local Catholic community, including their friendship with former Catholic Charities President & CEO Sr. Marjorie Hebert, MSC. Mike served on the Catholic Charities board, while Cindy became involved in efforts surrounding human trafficking and the organization's work to serve people in vulnerable situations. For the Nolans, Catholic Charities represents an important part of the Church's mission: reaching people whose struggles can easily go unseen.

They point to people experiencing homelessness, individuals rebuilding their lives and those with significant physical or psychological needs as examples of people who may exist outside visible society.

"Catholic Charities is helping people that are outside the mainstream of life," Mike said.

That work may not always be easy to talk about or attract attention, but the Nolans believe it is precisely why the commu-

nity must respond. And they believe everyone has a role to play. As chairs of this year's appeal, they want people to understand that, while Catholic Charities needs significant monetary support to serve so many people in the Archdiocese, every gift counts. Others may volunteer their time, make a personal appeal to a friend, spread the word or pray for Catholic Charities and the people it serves.

Cindy describes it as a "big net"—one strengthened when many people participate in whatever way they can.

That spirit of participation is something the Nolans learned from their own families. They said their parents taught them about faith and service primarily through example. They watched their parents participate in their parishes and communities and learned that when something needed to be done, you stepped forward.

The Nolans have carried that lesson into their own lives and hope to pass it on to their children and eight grandchildren.

For them, faith is not simply something to profess. It is something to live.

Now, as they lead the AHCA, they invite others to do the same—not necessarily by following their path, but by finding their own way to serve.

Everyone has something to give. And when the call comes, the Nolans believe the answer should be yes.



Honoring the Foster Grandparents Who Inspire Tomorrow

Throughout September, the AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program celebrated Grandparents' Day across nine partner centers. Our Foster Grandparents bring patience, care and one-on-one support to children, helping students overcome academic challenges and build confidence. We are proud of the meaningful difference our Grandmas make in the lives of children and their school communities.



AHCA Campaign Launches

Special thanks to Archbishop Checchio for welcoming us into his home to celebrate the kickoff of the annual AHCA campaign. The evening was a wonderful launchpad for our fundraising efforts for the upcoming year.



Claudia and M. Cleland Powell III



Cynthia Hayes, Darryl and Louellen Berger



Rev. Leon Poche, Jr., Very Rev. Charles Benoit, J.C.L., V.E., Very Rev. Patrick Williams, V.G.



Mike and Cindy Nolan, Gayle Benson, Archbishop Checchio



Peyton Fine, Paul Fine, Amelie Lagarde



Most Rev. Alfred Hughes, S.T.D., Archbishop Checchio



Deacon Jody and Christine Fortunato, Cynthia Hayes