



DEAR FRIENDS,

WHEN FRANCIS X. GALLAGHER SERVICES FIRST OPENED ITS DOORS IN 1977 TO SERVE CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, we had no way of knowing how many lives would be touched through the individuals supported and staff over these 40 years. As it evolved from its one location on Pot Spring Road to the comprehensive services it now provides to adults in over 50 locations, the heart of our work to treat people with dignity remained. Thankfully, celebrations abound at Catholic Charities, and Gallagher is only one of many to highlight. We've just celebrated our first year of conflict mediation work through Safe Streets and our work to develop employment opportunities through St. Edward's Workforce Development Center—

both in west Baltimore. Sarah's House, serving families experiencing homelessness, celebrates 30 years of service this year. While every day we work with people facing challenging struggles, we see hope in each small step they take, in each new volunteer, in each gift you offer to help us improve lives. We highlight many of these celebrations in this issue, to say thank you for the time, effort and support you offer in so many ways. You help us continue to cherish the Divine within each person in need in our communities, cities and throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Peace,

Bill

William J. McCarthy, Jr.
Executive Director



JUNE 2017

BLESSINGS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Inspired by the Gospel mandates to LOVE, SERVE and TEACH, Catholic Charities provides care and services to IMPROVE the LIVES of Marylanders in need.

1977-2017

40 YEARS AT GALLAGHER SERVICES

Meet the nine original residents of Francis X. Gallagher Services



Recently, the nine original residents of Francis X. Gallagher Services gathered for photos. From left to right: Thomas Billings, David Dixon, Eric Ritter, Sherman Washington, Bryant Olivis, Dawnette Howard, Sean Ball, John Coles and Arthur Rutledge.

NOW



YOUTH ESOL SERVICE DAY

RECENTLY, members of the Esperanza Center's Youth ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Program participated in a service learning day, cleaning up wetland areas near the Inner Harbor. The project was done in partnership with our friends at the Living Classrooms Foundation, who helped create an amazing experience! ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/esperanza

THEN



Sean Ball



David Dixon



Bryant Olivis

IN 1977, a building on Pot Spring Road in Timonium, previously called Villa Louise, was transformed into **Francis X. Gallagher Services**, a new program serving children with intellectual/developmental disabilities (ID/DD).

Gallagher's mission – then and now – is to open doors to a fuller life for people with ID/DD. Thirteen children from Rosewood Center (a state institution) moved into Gallagher Services in that year...the beginning of 40 years of service. ■



Thomas Billings



John Coles



Sherman Washington & Dawnette Howard



Arthur Rutledge

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/gallagher

GALLAGHER SERVICES

40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

September 15, 2017

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

An outdoor picnic will be held in our pavilion at Gallagher Services
2520 Pot Spring Road
Timonium, Maryland 21093

Invitations will be forthcoming.



“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.” — PROVERBS 3:27 NIV

Springtime Fun



MANY THANKS to all of the volunteers, participants, donors, staff and attendees who contribute to the continuing success of these important services!

SARAH'S HOUSE ANNUAL BULL ROAST

THE FESTIVITIES HELD TO BENEFIT SARAH'S HOUSE went into high gear April 22. A full house, a lively DJ, delicious eats and exciting prizes made this party fun for all. Energetic movers and shakers of all ages kicked up their heels on the crowded dance floor. Hard-working volunteers from the area, including some military personnel from Ft. Meade, made sure the event went smoothly. Thank you to everyone for their support. Don't miss next year's party! ▀



SARAH'S HOUSE
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION



To learn more, visit
cc-md.org/sarahshouse



BRIDESMAIDS BINGO

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE BINGO, FOOD, DIAMONDS, CHAMPAGNE, DANCING AND RAFFLES ALL ON ONE NIGHT? You get a great fundraiser for My Sister's Place Women's Center (MSPWC). This 15th annual event honored Kathleen Reid as Woman of the Year, and over 300 attendees listened to Precious Carter talk about her personal journey and how My Sister's Place gave her hope and renewed confidence. ▀



MY SISTER'S PLACE
WOMEN'S CENTER
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

To learn more, visit
cc-md.org/mspwc

GALLAGHER SERVICES
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION



To learn more, visit
cc-md.org/gallagher

28th Annual Gallagher Services Golf Tournament

THE TOURNAMENT SWUNG INTO ACTION at the Hunt Valley Country Club on May 1 after a fortifying breakfast and a shotgun start. Thirty-six teams of four (166 golfers) tackled 18 challenging holes and a putting contest. After the game, all of the participants enjoyed dinner and festivities while perusing the silent auction items. Next year's event is eagerly anticipated and scheduled for May 7, 2018. ▀

40th Anniversary Celebration: See front page

SAVE THE DATE

DRAGON BOWL FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES



SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

THIS BOWLING TOURNAMENT WILL REUNITE SPONSORED TEAMS OF DRAGON BOAT PADDLERS for a fun-filled evening of competition, team spirit and support for Catholic Charities. Thanks to your generous support of the 2016 Dragon Boat Races, \$750,000 was raised for people in need across the state of Maryland. Why wait until 2018 to do it all again? Rally your team now for this fun evening and support the important work of the over 80 programs that provide services to 160,000 individuals and families every year. ▀

Hello, my brother has died in Nigeria and I want to adopt his children...

Hello, I have adopted a baby in Nigeria and I need help to bring him here...

Hello, I have called six places and no one can help me...

The Struggles and Blessings of Adoptions from Nigeria

CALLS LIKE THESE — at first, one or two a week and then, three or four a day—started pouring into the **Catholic Charities’ Adoption Program** about a year or so ago.

For over 35 years, this program worked primarily with families adopting from Asian or Latin American countries. Adoptions from Nigeria and other West African countries were not the program’s area of expertise. On the other hand, they seemed to be *nobody’s* area of expertise. Due to a new federal adoption law, adoptive families needed U.S. adoption agencies to assist them in bringing children to the U.S. Most other U.S. adoption agencies were unwilling to step into this uncharted territory.

Over the years, Catholic Charities has been willing to take big, bold steps in order to help the most vulnerable people. It did so, again, for orphans in Nigeria.

In short order, contact was made with the central adoption government entities in Nigeria where a partnership was developed with an ethical and competent children’s advocacy organization in Lagos and an

adoption conference was planned and held July 2016. Thirty five people attended the first ever Nigerian-American adoption conference about child welfare and adoption laws in Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria on July 9. The event included government officials, judges, attorneys, orphanage directors and U.S. Embassy staff.

The purpose of this, of course, is to help children find permanent families. Most of the children in Nigeria who need families live in orphanages until families can be found. Orphanages in Nigeria are no better (and somewhat worse) than orphanages in other parts of the world. There are few toys or supplies. There are no playrooms or playgrounds. Sometimes there are fans and electricity. There are never enough caregivers or food. When Catholic Charities staff shows up with some clothes, notebooks, pencils or crayons, the orphanage directors are inordinately grateful. They pray with us. They bless us. They thank us — over and over.

Through us, they are blessed. Through them, we are blessed. Thank YOU for the abundance of blessings that you help create for these children. ■

39TH ANNUAL ED BLOCK COURAGE AWARDS

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 11, the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation brought NFL players from 18 teams to spend the morning at **St. Vincent’s Villa**. After breakfast, the players were treated to dance and music performances, received hand-painted medallions and played games with the children.

The players were in Baltimore to be honored by the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation for their commitment to the principles of sportsmanship and courage. Award recipients are selected by a vote of their teammates on all 32 NFL teams.

The foundation supports “Courage Houses,” centers that provide help and healing to children who are victims of abuse, violence and neglect, in 25 NFL cities. St. Vincent’s Villa was the first facility to be recognized as a Courage House.

The NFL players who visited St. Vincent’s Villa were **Cameron Wake** (Miami Dolphins), **Nate Solder** (New England Patriots), **James Wright** (Cincinnati Bengals), **Jason McCourty** (Tennessee Titans), **Matt Paradis** (Denver Broncos), **Jon Condo** (Oakland Raiders), **Terrell McClain** (Dallas Cowboys, now with Washington Redskins), **Nolan Carroll** (Philadelphia Eagles), **Niles Paul** (Washington Redskins), **Pernell McPhee** (Chicago Bears), **Joiqye Bell** (Detroit Lions), **Jayrone Elliott** (Green Bay Packers), **Teddy Bridgewater** (Minnesota Vikings), **Kemal Ishmael** (Atlanta Falcons), **Tim Hightower** (New Orleans Saints), **Kevin Pamphile** (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), **Patrick Peterson** (Arizona Cardinals) and **Alec Ogletree** (Los Angeles Rams). Retired cornerback **Samari Rolle** represented the home team Baltimore Ravens! ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/svv



To learn more, visit cc-md.org/adoptions

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ANNA’S HOUSE

“You want to make some type of mark in this world”

FOR KAREN BENDER, volunteer service and career occupy parallel tracks; she works as both an occupational therapist at a hospital in Harford County and as a substitute teacher at the Children’s Christian Center in Bel Air. Karen also spends much of her free time volunteering with the children at **Catholic Charities’ Anna’s House** in Bel Air. Anna’s House is a shelter that provides transitional and permanent housing and other vital services for women and children experiencing homelessness in Harford County.

For the past four years, Karen has spent most of her Monday and Thursday evenings as the lead volunteer in the child center at Anna’s House, caring for the children as their mothers receive life skills training. While the child center provides care for children from birth through age 16, Karen spends most of her time with toddlers and preschoolers, playing games, singing songs and doing arts and crafts.

Volunteering to work with children is an ingrained habit for Karen. As a preteen, Karen got involved with a Head Start program in her native Hamburg, Pennsylvania, and she has done volunteer work with children ever since.



Karen Bender

Finding Anna’s House was fortuitous. “I was looking for volunteer opportunities, so I attended the Harford County Volunteer Expo, and that’s where I met Cindy Hanley (the volunteer manager at Anna’s House).” After learning about the types of volunteer work available at Anna’s House, Karen was sold.

In her role as lead volunteer, Karen is in charge of the other volunteers who work with her; many are students from local high schools who come to Anna’s House as part of their service learning requirement. “I kind of feel that I’m mentoring them and helping them learn leadership skills,” she said.

“Karen is dedicated to serving our children and mothers and has been exceptional,” said Cynthia Wood, the director of Anna’s House. “Her wisdom and caring heart are amazing blessings to Anna’s House.”

Karen teared up as she talked about these challenges and how it inspires her commitment to help others. “You only have so much time in your life,” she said, “and when it’s over, you want to make some type of mark in this world.” ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/annashouse



MSPWC SEMINARS



MY SISTER'S PLACE WOMEN'S CENTER recently held several professionalism seminars for our current interns and alumni.

1st Annual CREW Career Day – April 27: A group from CREW Baltimore (Commercial Real Estate Women) led a full day of workshops for our current internship class that focused on resume building, mock interviews and professionalism in the workplace.

led workshops on resume building, mock interviews and entering the construction field and provided information on Project JumpStart, a construction training program in Baltimore. In addition, they donated professional clothing, handbags, shoes and accessories to MSPWC.

8th Annual WABC (Women in Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.) Women's Empowerment Day – May 3: The Women in ABC Committee hosted its annual Women's Empowerment Day professionalism seminar. Women who work in the construction field

Workshop with BGE – May 9: The current interns toured BGE's offices and call center. They shadowed call center representatives as they answered customer calls and attended a workshop on how to cater their resumes to the customer service field. ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/mspwc

St. Edward's Grads

ST. EDWARD'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT recently graduated six new students from the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) program. The ceremony on April 26 highlighted these dedicated men, their efforts and achievements! ■



From left to right: Penny Lewis, Ricky Sasser (graduate), Clinton Ruffin (graduate), Anita Donaldson, Amy Collier, Tenaya Goode, Anthony Jones, Senator Barbara Robinson, Kwame Ware (graduate), Travis Jones (graduate) and Jeanette Jones in the back. Missing from the photo are graduates Frank Baker and Alexander Clark.

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/sewdc



Hope.

Your gift matters, and it matters NOW!
Please help restore hope and dignity to neighbors in need with your gift today. Thank You!

To donate online, please visit cc-md.org/blessings

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

From our roots in the late 1700s to today, Catholic Charities is Maryland's leading nonprofit provider of human services, serving over 160,000 individuals and families every year. Last year, we provided more than 589,000 meals to people who were hungry. With compassion and respect for people of all faiths, races and circumstances, we improve the lives of children and families, seniors, people living in poverty, immigrants and people who are intellectually disabled. As part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, we cherish the Divine within all whom we serve in 80 programs throughout Baltimore City and nine counties.

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- SAVE THE DATES:**
- BLASE COOKE CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT: June 19
 - CATHOLIC CHARITIES GOLF OPEN: July 10
 - SARAH'S HOUSE 30TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT: September 7
 - GALLAGHER SERVICES 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: September 15
 - DRAGON BOWL: September 18
 - TEN OAKS CUP POLO MATCH TO BENEFIT ODBEC: October 7
 - CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL CELEBRATION: October 11

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