

DEAR FRIENDS,

AS THE DAYS GROW SHORTER, we often crave more light and, thus, enjoy the many holiday traditions that bring light into our lives and homes this time of year. For those who aren't able to see the light, Catholic Charities consistently strives to be a light and a beacon of hope. We work diligently to help those we serve see their own light—their own talents, skills and passions.

Whether offering encouragement and a smile to a 3-year-old child at Head Start, celebrating the independence of a senior who is accomplishing more today than she ever imagined or guiding a young

father working to provide a better life for his family, Catholic Charities joins them on their uniquely personal journeys. By partnering with you to provide care and services to improve lives, we are able to extend the hand of love and hospitality each day to our brothers and sisters who are vulnerable.

Pope Francis recently encouraged us to: "...let us open our eyes to our neighbor, especially to our brothers and sisters who are forgotten and excluded. That is where the Church's magnifying glass is pointed." By focusing on people who are typically forgotten and excluded

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DECEMBER 2016

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.

Catholic Charities Hosts "Hungry for Change: How Our Daily Bread Transforms Lives"

As part of **Our Daily Bread's** 35th anniversary commemoration, Catholic Charities held a forum on poverty and the need for a response that is grounded in social justice. The panel discussion took place on October 26 at Loyola University Maryland.

Two distinguished keynote speakers addressed the audience. **Kathryn Edin, Ph.D.**, a Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University and co-author of *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*, spoke about the extreme poverty faced by many Americans, and specifically by many in Baltimore.

Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, executive director of Pax Christi USA, exhorted the audience to address deeply entrenched poverty and inequality in Baltimore by committing to social justice and taking decisive action to ensure a more equitable society.

"Catholic Charities is committed to advancing the conversation about poverty, especially in our own Baltimore community, where a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line," said Bill McCarthy, executive director of Catholic Charities of Baltimore. "We were very pleased to sponsor this forum and thrilled to have had two extremely distinguished speakers address the experience of poverty and our moral imperative to work for systemic change to ease our neighbors' hardship."

In addition to this forum, other ODB 35th anniversary commemorative events included an interfaith prayer service, volunteer appreciations and regional receptions. ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/our-daily-bread



Above, **Sr. Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN** with **Bishop Denis Madden**. At left, **Dr. Kathryn Edin**

Participants from left to right are: **Greg Conderacci** (moderator), **Rickey Penn** (Christopher Place Employment Academy, Class 40), **Jackie Spelman** (32-year volunteer at Our Daily Bread), **Mike Buckley** and **Jeannette Sufilita** (husband and wife, longtime volunteers in the Work 4 Success program at ODBEC) and **Jerry Pryor** (Christopher Place Employment Academy, Class 12, and now a CPEA case manager).

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT IN ACTION

Baltimore Women in Action (BWIA), a philanthropic giving circle supporting Catholic Charities, will donate the stockings and stuffers for approximately 100 children in residence at St. Vincent's Villa this Christmas season. Some of the founding members are pictured here from their stocking event in 2015.

Many of the BWIA members will gather at St. Vincent's Villa on Thursday, December 15, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. to fill the stockings and have lunch together. If you are interested in donating to or participating in this event, please contact Terry Weigel at 667-600-2031 or tweigel@cc-md.org.

If you wish to learn more about Baltimore Women in Action, please contact Terry. BWIA will host a celebration and recruitment event in early January that you can attend and learn more about this wonderful group of women donors. ■



Let Every Heart



Prepare Him Room

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. —ROMANS 15:13



ESPERANZA CENTER DEDICATES NEW BUILDING

Our colleagues at the **Esperanza Center** were thrilled to dedicate a new building on Baltimore Street that will house their family reunification services and the new Anti-Human Trafficking program.

The building was a generous gift from the board of Food for Thought, an after-school tutoring and nutrition program for Baltimore students. Sr. Mary Ann Hartnett, SSND, who ran Food for Thought for more than two decades, was honored at the dedication with a plaque that will hang on the building.

Thank you also to our good friends and partners at the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for their help and support in providing these crucial services for new immigrants to the Baltimore area! ■

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



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Christopher Place Employment Academy Marks 20 Years of Changing Men's Lives

EMPLOYERS, facilitators, volunteers and colleagues joined the **Christopher Place** men and staff members at **Our Daily Bread Employment Center** on November 3 to commemorate CP's 20th anniversary and show continued support to the men as they transform their lives.

Participants at the event commended the men as they've chosen new paths on the road to self-sufficiency. Over the past 20 years, CPEA has helped nearly 1,000 men change their lives. The success rate of the program is 80% of men graduating and holding the same job a year later. The men earn an average hourly pay rate of \$13.50.

Catholic Charities has enjoyed collaborative and beneficial relationships with our employers over the past 20 years. The mutual trust we have built comes from employers knowing that we will connect them with great job candidates and help them build a well-trained and dedicated workforce. We appreciate our employers' commitment to CP men, and we know that we are placing them in work environments in which they'll thrive. ■



Alicia Wilson from **Sagamore Development Company** (one of the companies that hire men from CPEA)

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

GRADUATION DAY



Program Graduates and **Talmadge Ellerbe** (left), **Anita Donaldson**, **Amy Collier**, **Penny Lewis** (right)

Our colleagues at **St. Edward's Workforce Development Center** automotive training program celebrated the graduation of the third cohort on October 19. The Workforce Development Center is one of Catholic Charities' newest programs and was launched in January of this year in partnership with the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA) and One Baltimore for Jobs (1B4J), an initiative of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development.

Program participants received 12 weeks of hands-on experience repairing cars, along with job readiness workshops, mock interviews and job placement assistance. Upon completing the program, all participants receive at least two certifications, including Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Since the beginning of 2016, a total of 34 people have graduated from St. Edward's, and 24 are already employed in the automotive repair industry.

Congratulations to Paulette, Terricka, Michael, Timothy, Keith, Rodney, Christopher, Robert, John and Reginald! ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/st-edward

Catholic Charities Receives Several Grants to Support Programs in West Baltimore

CATHOLIC CHARITIES has received six grants for programs that provide access to mental health services, employment training and placement assistance, violence prevention and access to food for residents of West Baltimore.

The grants include:

- **\$50,000** from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield to **Villa Maria Community Resources** to support the growth of trauma-informed behavioral health services for children at the Safe Kids Zone in Penn North through the establishment of a therapeutic after-school program;
- **\$35,920** from Behavioral Health System Baltimore to **Baltimore Child and Adolescent Response System (BCARS)** to provide mental health and substance-related disorder services at the Youth Opportunities Center in West Baltimore;
- **\$65,000** from the Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation to **St. Edward's Workforce Development Center**, which provides job readiness training and placement assistance to residents of Baltimore City;

- **\$30,000** from the Maryland Emergency Food Program (MEFP) for food programs at five parishes in West Baltimore: St. Peter Claver, St. Gregory the Great, St. Edward, St. Cecilia and the Church of the Immaculate Conception (Baltimore);
- **\$40,000** from the Walmart Foundation to provide case management services to the residents of West Baltimore served at **St. Edward's Workforce Development Center** and other food pantry locations; and
- **\$20,000** from the T. Rowe Price Foundation for the **St. Edward's Workforce Development Center (ODBEC West)** to provide job readiness training and job placement assistance to young adults in West Baltimore.

In addition, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants were recently awarded to our partner organizations and will also provide funding for Catholic Charities' programs in West Baltimore. ■



A Family's Call to Serve

AS THE VOLUNTEER resource manager at **Sarah's House** for the past 16 years, I have had the privilege to witness countless acts of generosity toward our guests. Like so many other Catholic Charities' programs, Sarah's House relies greatly upon community support in order to fully realize our mission to serve families in need. This support takes several forms, from a high school student tutoring a child to a local church serving a monthly meal. But when I consider the impact that a family can make in the lives of our guests, I look no further than the example of the Wecker family.

Inspired by a sense of gratitude and a call to action to help underprivileged children, the Wecker family has supplied backpacks, towels, sleeping bags and flip flops to the children who attend a week-long summer camp. They have also supplied many items for transitional housing including sheets, towels, dishes, silverware, pots and pans, microwave ovens, toasters and coffee makers.

Each year, our fully licensed childcare center serves more than 75 children, ranging from 6 weeks to 12 years old. The Weckers have donated breakfast foods, peanut butter and jelly, juice boxes, meats and cheeses, after-school snacks, books, shoes and diapers for the children.

"We are blessed to be a blessing to others," **Don Wecker** said of his family. Through their commitment to Sarah's House since 2004, the Wecker family has literally impacted the lives of hundreds of kids. Harriett Smith, our childcare director, adds, "The Weckers have been a true blessing in carrying out their late father's legacy of the importance of giving. They are a blessing to the children and staff of Sarah's House because they are selfless providers who constantly put the needs of others first." ■

—**Bruce Clopein**, *Volunteer Manager, Sarah's House*

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/sarahs-house

An added comfort for our behavioral health clients

"One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling blue is that he doesn't try to find out why."

—**AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

VISITORS TO OUR outpatient sites in Dundalk, Cumberland and Millersville are likely to experience not only a warm and caring staff, but on many days, the warmth and care of the program dog.

Zoe, Ben, Marv and Jake are canine members of the Villa Maria Behavioral Health Services teams. They have been a source of comfort and happiness for many children and adult clients.

As any pet lover would expect, interactions with dogs in a mental health clinic can sometimes bring out positive responses in the people we serve much more readily than even our most experienced clinicians.

ZOE

Zoe, a mixed breed rescued puppy, is a therapy dog owned by Sarah Rojas, office manager at our Anne Arundel County site in Millersville. Zoe assists in calming down clients who are dealing with a variety of symptoms, such as anxiety, hyperactivity and anger.



BEN

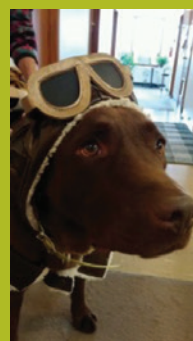


Ben, a Labrador Retriever, is a Pets on Wheels volunteer that owner and Program Supervisor Suzie Templeton brings to her program in Dundalk a few days a month. He greets everyone who comes to the door and makes the clinic

a warmer and happier place. Ben has helped make it easier for children to open up in therapy. He also was recently featured in a story in the Catholic Review, "Gentle Ben' a vital member of Catholic Charities' therapy team in Dundalk."

MARV & JAKE

The outpatient clinic in Cumberland is fortunate to have two dogs—Marv and Jake, both Labrador Retrievers, owned by Lisa Serfass and Karla Diehl, respectively. Clients ask what days Marv and Jake will be there so they can schedule their appointments on those days.



One client said the only reason he came back to our clinic after having had bad experiences at other clinics was that we must be different because we had a dog. Lisa recounts how a young girl had been able to reveal her own sad experiences and feelings by initially attributing them to the clinic dog before being able to acknowledge them as her own.

So if you need to schedule a visit to any of these three clinic locations, do so on a day when you can spend a happy minute with one of our furry friends, and thank them with a scratch on the back for what they bring to our organization. ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/mental-health



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AT THE *Basilica*

A concert benefiting the programs of Gallagher Services

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.

at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

FEATURING

Concert Artists of Baltimore
Edward Polochick, Artistic Director

Morgan State University Choir
Dr. Eric Conway, Director

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY

Justin Tucker

Placekicker for the Baltimore Ravens



TICKETS

\$125 per ticket / \$50 per ticket for guests 35 and under (sponsor underwritten, 100 available)

Ticket includes: Parking and a Wine, Cheese and Dessert Reception following the Concert

TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION:

Visit cc-md.org/ChristmasFestival or call 410-547-5591



OUR JOURNEY,

Catholic Charities' 2016 Annual Report, can be viewed at cc-md.org/2016AnnualReport



Save The Date!

26th Annual A Taste of Maryland Dinner & Auction

Benefiting Our Daily Bread Employment Center

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017

New Location: B&O Railroad Museum



For more information: **Terry Weigel**, Associate Director of Program Giving,
667-600-2031 or tweigel@cc-md.org

For the first time in 26 years, *A Taste of Maryland* will be held at the B&O Railroad Museum. With your participation, we can make *A Taste of Maryland 2017* our biggest and best yet.



**Also new this year is THE AFTER PARTY
for young professionals, 9 p.m.–12 a.m.**

Tickets: \$50 per person before January 20, limited quantities available. For more information: **Julie Kolankiewicz** at
667-600-2016 or JKolankiewicz@cc-md.org

DEAR FRIENDS,

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in our communities, we have the opportunity to learn from them and to work together to create dynamic changes in their lives and ours.

We invite you to join us in being light and seeing light in the eyes of those in need this holiday season.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you!

Peace,

William J. McCarthy, Jr.
Executive Director

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Open your heart and make your gift today at cc-md.org/Blessings. Lives are improved and our community is stronger because of you and your generous support. Thank YOU!



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. We also 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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