

FRIEND,

SPRING IS AN UPLIFTING TIME OF YEAR – a chance to renew our energy and our hope after what always feels like a long, dark, cold (and, this year, very wet) winter. The world outside wakes up again, and we greet it with new plans and positivity. The things we look forward to in winter start becoming reality in spring.

Spring can also be a time to turn contemplation into celebration. Lent gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we can reshape our lives and commit to a greater love. Easter is the joy of seeing that greater love take hold.

The things we look forward to in winter start becoming reality in spring.

In this issue of “Blessings,” you’ll see how some of the people we serve have renewed their lives by allowing us to help turn their hopes into realities. From Head Start families to a parent finding a fresh start at Sarah’s House, the stories here show the everyday power of our mission. They show what can happen when we begin with hope, and walk forward together with purpose toward a better reality.

Because you are part of that journey, those renewals can happen all year long. Together, we sow the seeds of a better life for Marylanders in need.

Thank you for helping bring spring to people’s lives, and may Lent renew your spirit for the joy of Easter!



Bill

William J. McCarthy, Jr.,
Executive Director

SPRING 2019

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.

Springing ahead with year-round learning in Head Start



WHILE MANY OF US ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING BREAK, school-age children are counting down the days until summer.

To provide meaningful and fun experiences during summer, Catholic Charities offers year-round programming at its Head Start and Early Head programs in Baltimore City, Carroll and Harford Counties. During June, July, and August, children enjoy festive, fun camp-like activities along with academic lessons. The year-round programming helps prevent the “summer slide,” a tendency for students to lose what they have just learned in the previous months.

It also provides the caregivers and parents access to food pantries, clothing, shelter, counseling, English classes for speakers of other native languages, job training, life skills classes, substance misuse treatment and prevention, services related to domestic violence, relationship and parenting education, and assistance for families of incarcerated individuals.

“All of these wraparound services help families build self-sufficiency and stay involved in a child’s education. In fiscal year 2018, every Carroll County family that expressed interest in a service received it,” explained Carroll County Head Start Education Coordinator Amy Hammond.

Summer fun at Head Start of Baltimore City

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Escaping danger and finding safety at Sarah’s House

FOR A YEAR-AND-HALF, Reginald Johnson fought the idea of turning to Sarah’s House, Anne Arundel County’s only family shelter, to help him and his four children get back on their feet.

The crisis in Johnson’s family revolved around his wife’s untreated addiction. It caused instability and hampered Johnson’s ability to work.

“I never felt safe leaving the children with their mother,” said the 55-year-old Anne Arundel County native. “I didn’t want them to be around her when she was using. I did not want to take any chances.”

So for 18 months, he and his children stayed with friends or family. Their routine abruptly ended one summer night when a drug dealer threw a firebomb into a vacant Baltimore City rowhouse adjacent to where they were staying. Johnson and the children escaped, and he realized, “...perhaps I did not have the right people in my corner.”



Reginald Johnson and family

The next day he scheduled a tour of Sarah’s House. He was struck by the peaceful atmosphere, the children playing safely in a magnificent park, clean apartments and rooms, and a welcoming dining hall.

“It was not at all what I imagined a shelter would be,” he said. Then, he and his children moved in.

Johnson once again works as a cook at a local pizzeria. He is also accessing other job training opportunities sponsored by Catholic Charities and Sarah’s House. The required 40-hour work week is valuable structure, he said. His children are enrolled in school and in Catholic Charities Head Start program, and they love coming back to Sarah’s House at the end of the day.

Within a year, Johnson plans to move his family into an apartment in Anne Arundel County.

“They give you structure so that, when you go out into the world, you can look at things differently,” he said. “A lot of good has come out of this experience.”

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

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. — 2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

BUSINESSES AND FOUNDATIONS GIVING BACK

A special thanks to our corporate & foundation partners who generously donated \$10,000 or more during fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 in support of our mission. Thank you for empowering our clients to move forward.

- Abell Foundation
- Aegon Transamerica Foundation
- Allegis Group, Inc.
- Allegis Group Foundation
- Anne Arundel Women Giving Together
- Archdiocese of Baltimore
- Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.
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- University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center
- The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.
- Walmart Foundation/CCUSA
- Wells Fargo Bank
- The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Inc.
- WPW Foundation

Mother-daughter duos share love beyond family



Jayme Limpert and Avery Burrows

MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIPS can be a deeply special bond that is made even stronger through shared experiences like volunteering.

That's true for Jayme Limpert and her 10-year-old daughter, Avery Burrows. Once a month, Limpert and daughter volunteer in the Child Care Center of Anna's House, Catholic Charities family shelter in Harford County.

"As a mom, I love the perspective this opportunity provides us," Limpert said. "It's important that we see firsthand how all people

live. Together, my daughter and I show patience and love to others with no selfish outcomes expected."

In Anne Arundel County, volunteer and mother Patricia Morgan, says her commitment to serve is rooted in Biblical teachings. "To those whom much is given, much is required," Morgan states.

Her commitment has inspired four generations of women from her family to volunteer at Sarah's House, Anne Arundel County's only family shelter.

Her enthusiasm has also inspired her colleagues from Nationwide Insurance in Columbia, Maryland to also volunteer.

"Every time we serve, I learn something new about the challenges facing families. It's a blessing to know these guests and see them move forward in life." ■



Sarah's House volunteer, Patricia Morgan (c) with her family including mother, Karen Prince (l); daughter, Lassandra Morgan (r); and the Matriarch, 92-year-old grandmother and volunteer, Mary Smith

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

"It's not a duty. It's our passion."



(back row l-r) Plano-Coudon staffer Darryl Richardson, Thomas Koch, Pippa Duggan, Andrew Hooker, Ryan Corrigan, (front row l-r), Lauren Lustgarten, Shay Felzener

IT'S ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS that you don't forget, according to Brett Plano.

"I was serving breakfast at Our Daily Bread Employment Center when I noticed a middle-aged man shaking terribly as he sat at the table," Plano recalled. "He said he had never been inside a 'soup kitchen' or a 'homeless shelter.' He never before had to ask for help. I reassured him that things would get better."

That connection motivates Plano and Ryan Coudon, co-founders/co-owners of the Plano-Coudon Construction Company, to make philanthropic giving and volunteering an integral part of their company. They foster philanthropy by making \$100 donations per employee to charitable

causes. They also offer employees one day off a year to volunteer.

Plano and Coudon are models in philanthropic giving. Plano serves on the Board of Catholic Charities of Baltimore, Howard County Conservancy, and Mount Saint Joseph High School, his alma mater. He's also the 2019 chair of the Taste of Maryland Benefit Dinner for Our Daily Bread Employment Center. Coudon serves on the Board for the United Way of Central Maryland.

"We believe in giving back to the community that has allowed us to grow. It's not a duty. It's our passion," said Plano, who started the company with Coudon after graduating from Virginia Tech and working as engineers in the construction industry. In 2019, the company celebrates 20 years of service.

Once a month, you will find Plano and members of his staff serving breakfast at Our Daily Bread Employment Center. In December, his team served a festive Christmas lunch.

"There is nothing that can ruin my day when I spend the morning at Our Daily Bread," said Rosalind Gray, a former Plano-Coudon Construction administrative assistant.

What strikes Plano and his staff the most about Our Daily Bread Employment Center is the guests' gratitude, and how humbling it is to encounter and serve people in need.

"Some of our (Plano-Coudon) staff get quite emotional when serving breakfast at Our Daily Bread particularly at the end of the month when people are running low on funds," Plano said. "That is when you'll find grandparents bringing their grandchildren in for breakfast."

"Honestly, there's something so incredible about meeting the needs of others," Plano said. "It may not solve all their problems, but you can help to make things better." ■

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

W

Working toward a sustainable future

“SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL AND IN NEED OF HELP,” was how Derek Shaw, an unemployed 54-year-old described himself when he first arrived at My Brother’s Keeper for lunch. “Every day 50-70 people come to My Brother’s Keeper needing a meal,” said Program Director Kevin Mason, “and they’ll gain access to so much more.”

“They know when they come to My Brother’s Keeper that this is a no-judgment zone.”



My Brother’s Keeper Program Director Kevin Mason (front/center) surrounded by volunteers, staff, and people served through the program

Community Support Specialist Janet Addison helped Shaw find a place to live and get medication to treat his schizophrenia. Once those critical elements were in place, he returned to work as a landscaper.

“My Brother’s Keeper is a ‘no-judgment zone,’” said Mason. “The last thing we want is for anyone to feel ashamed. We’re living and breathing the mission.”

My Brother’s Keeper joined Catholic Charities in July 2018. Now, the program offers a hot lunch every day of the week and on-site counseling, workforce training, and job placement.

Finding work and housing is key to coming out of poverty. That’s why Catholic Charities operates five workforce development programs in Baltimore (see sidebar at right). At My Brother’s Keeper, guests can access the following services:

- Partnership with Mayor’s Office of Economic Development to connect clients with jobs;
- Access to reliable mental health and substance misuse programs;
- Advice on accessing and managing benefits (i.e. letting them know they will not lose disability benefits if they get a job.)
- Assistance to expunge certain qualifying legal records that can make it hard to be hired;
- Computer classes and trainings on managing the workplace and enhance their skills; and
- Free bus pass given to client during their first month on the job! ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/my-brothers-keeper

HELPING MARYLANDERS FIND WORK

Our Daily Bread Employment Center Client Services

A holistic approach to training individuals for work and placing them in available jobs.

Work 4 Success

Housed at Our Daily Bread Employment Center, this intensive two-week work readiness program assists clients with job searches, interviews, job placement, and retention. Participants also have access to case management, transportation to interviews, and business attire.

Christopher Place Employment Academy

Housed at Our Daily Bread, this 18-month residential program serves men transitioning from homelessness and substance misuse to stability and self-sufficiency.

Learn To Earn

Based at My Sister’s Place Women’s Center, this culinary and clerical internship program prepares women for work in those fields and assists with job placement.

St. Edward’s Workforce Development Center

This West Baltimore program started in 2015 and provides job training along with wrap-around services and job placement. The center also hosts a two-week soft skills and resume-building workshop every month, as well as, a 12-week automotive technician training program operated in partnership with Vehicles for Change. ■

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

SPRINGING AHEAD WITH YEAR-ROUND LEARNING AND SUMMER FUN AT HEAD START CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Carroll County Head Start celebrates fall

For Heather Jenkins, whose daughter is enrolled in Carroll County Head Start, the program has made a huge difference in her child’s well-being and development, and in her own peace of mind. “The staff are so supportive and display such love and eagerness to serve our children,” she said. “That level of care allows me to feel completely comfortable with the safety and welfare of my child.”

Early Head Start and Head Start are designed to develop social, emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math skills children from birth to age 5. These skills are strong predictors of success.

“We know that achievement in one area results in growth in another,” explained Carroll County Head Start Education Coordinator Amy Hammond. “You can see that with an infant, for example, when a baby learns to pull herself up, she is expanding her reach and see things differently. That supports her cognitive and language development.”

HOW TO HELP! Donate Pull-Ups, diapers and wipes, or serve as a classroom or administrative volunteer. ■



Books and babies: a natural fit at Catholic Charities Head Start

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

Carroll County Head Start and Early Head Start: 667-600-2571

Harford County Early Head Start: 667-600-2160

Catholic Charities Head Start of Baltimore City: 667-600-3783

CARROLL COUNTY HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START FY2018

Catholic Charities also operates Head Start & Early Head Start programs in Baltimore City and Harford County

SERVED

195 FAMILIES

all of whom received some type of non-academic support, e.g., job training, housing assistance, etc.

SERVED

228 CHILDREN

all of whom are up-to-date on health care, including immunizations

100%

of the children and pregnant women served are at or below the federal poverty line

AT LEAST

88%

of children aged 3 and up meet widely held expectations for development in all areas

Bring on the B-I-N-G-O!

Mark your calendars for the annual **Bridesmaids' Bingo** fundraiser on **Wednesday, May 15** in support of My Sister's Place Women's Center and the Women's Center Lodge.



Susan Cashman, My Sister's Place Women's Center 2019 Woman of the Year

At the event, the Center will present Susan Cashman with the 2019 Woman of the Year Award. Cashman has been a vital supporter of the Women's Center and its Lodge since 1994. From 2006-2008, Cashman served as a member of the Women's Leadership Council.

Once a month, Cashman leads a team of volunteers from St. Ignatius, the Jesuit Church of Baltimore on N. Calvert Street, to serve breakfast at My Sister's Place. During the holidays, she coordinates St. Ignatius' gift card drive to benefit the women of the Center.

Join us to play, win, and celebrate the volunteers of My Sister's Place while recognizing the exemplary work of Susan Cashman.

Tickets available at cc-md.org/BINGO or call 667-600-2027.

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

Tops again!

Catholic Charities has been named a Baltimore Sun Media Group Top Workplaces, for the sixth time! "We are better at serving others when we work well together, and that's what this distinction confirms," said Executive Director Bill McCarthy.

The recognition comes through an impartial and confidential employee survey conducted by Energage, which ranks workplaces on organizational alignment, effective execution, genuine and meaningful connection with employees, and managing employees well.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Catholic Charities is the largest multi-service charitable organization in Maryland. Serving all, we provide innovative programming to accompany people on life's journey including assistance to those living in poverty, individuals with developmental disabilities, immigrants, older adults, families and children in crisis.

Catholic Charities, Communications Department
Telephone: 667-600-2000 | Email: info@cc-md.org
Website: www.cc-md.org
Rena Daly, Managing Editor | 667-600-2007

You can make a positive difference in the lives of your neighbors in need by supporting Catholic Charities programs.

To make a gift, please visit:
cc-md.org/blessings
or call 667-600-2021.

Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 6, 2019: 29th Annual Bull and Shrimp Roast benefiting Sarah's House
 - April 12, 2019: 27th Annual Breakfast Benefiting Anna's House and Early Head Start of Harford County
 - April 28, 2019: Catholic Charities Head Start of Baltimore City Bull Roast
 - May 6, 2019: 30th Annual Gallagher Services Golf Tournament
 - May 15, 2019: Bridesmaids' Bingo benefiting My Sister's Place Women's Center
 - June 17, 2019: Blase Cooke Classic Golf Tournament
 - July 15, 2019: Catholic Charities Golf Open Tournament
- For more information: cc-md.org/events

Catholic Charities of Baltimore
Communications Department
320 Cathedral Street
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