

FRIEND,

With these longer, hotter days, we see more of our communities – people mowing lawns, children playing, voices carrying from a few yards over, music turned up loud. It can sometimes be tempting to stay in our cooled homes with fans or air conditioners humming away, keeping the outside noises low.

Yet, when we listen to the sounds around us, we form connections. Connection is a basic human need. It is the beginning of encounters that enrich our lives as we share part of the path.

You have helped Catholic Charities connect with our neighbors—be they persons in need or a community in

“Connection is a basic human need. It is the beginning of encounters that enrich our lives as we share part of the path.”

search of collaboration to address a challenge—to shape our purposeful work. In this issue of Blessings, you will see how we’re working with residents revitalize the Cherry Hill Town Center. You’ll read how a concrete company lays the foundation for kids’ summertime memories. You’ll find out how a younger generation is getting involved, and you’ll learn about how we protect some of the most vulnerable people we serve. We share it all because you matter, too.

Communities get stronger when we reach out to accompany individuals on their path to a better life. We all play a role, and no role is too small when we’re open to hearing the need for compassion in action, and answering the call.

I wish you a summer filled with joyful sounds and love between neighbors, and I hope you include us among them.

Bill



William J. McCarthy, Jr.,
Executive Director

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.

Summer is the backdrop for meaningful memories

During those beautiful long summer days at camp, children experience a list of firsts – their first time swimming, fishing, kayaking, splashing on a beach, hiking or climbing.

These experiences contribute to the development of a healthy, happy child. At Sarah’s House family emergency and supportive housing shelter in Anne Arundel County these opportunities are made possible thanks to the generosity of the Schuster Concrete Company.

“These memories will stay with them for a lifetime and let them know they are valued and loved.”

—Alexis Tucker
Sarah’s House Child
Care Director

Beginning the first week after the last day of school, 10 to 15 children from Sarah’s House, wake before dawn every Monday and Tuesday and board a Schuster Concrete Company bus to ride across the Bay Bridge to the Eastern Shore to attend camp at the magnificent 500-acre River Camp Farm, owned by the Schuster Concrete Company. Over the course of the summer, nearly 40 children from Sarah’s House will enjoy time at the camp.

“The farm is an amazing oasis where our children play safely, relax and explore,” said Alexis Tucker, Sarah’s House child care director, who serves as the primary chaperone. “These memories will stay with them for a lifetime and let them know they are valued and loved.”



Alexis Tucker with campers



Lots of laughs as children ride flat bed truck to the dock



Kayaking on the Chesapeake

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

Help us to
provide care and services to children
and families, seniors, immigrants, individuals with
developmental disabilities and people living in poverty
throughout Maryland.

Share your blessings and make a new gift to Catholic Charities today.
cc-md.org/blessings

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. — JAMES 1:17

Why get involved?

ASK A MILLENNIAL



members of The Alliance

Marc Boles, Jack Linehan, and Mark Bridge

Ninety percent of millennials—those born between 1981 and 1996—believe they can make a positive impact to make the world a better place to live. Volunteering is an essential part of their efforts.

That's true for Jack Linehan, a health care lawyer. Ten years ago, despite working long hours to make partner at Epstein Becker Green, he wanted to give back to his community. With Catholic Charities, he found, he could give exactly as much time as he wanted. He's served at Our Daily Bread Employment Center and its Christopher Place Employment Academy, and he does pro bono legal work with the Esperanza Center.

"I don't view it as something that competes with my work and family life," Linehan said. "It's another avenue to explore things."

Getting involved with Catholic Charities can mean professional growth and connection, too.

Since July 1, 2018, nearly 1,400 people 40 and younger have volunteered with us. Linehan and a few other young professionals developed The Alliance, a social and volunteer organization that supports Catholic Charities.

"We have no qualms with saying, 'Be part of something to support this important cause, but in the meantime, have fun, meet people, network,'" he said.

Linehan pointed out that involvement with Catholic Charities lets young people in a high-need, high-potential region see their impact right away.

"It's eye-opening, but it's also inspirational," he said. "You see human struggle and also overcoming. It can be an emotional and fulfilling experience, the sort of experiences you might not have in your ordinary job."

Linehan and his wife plan to be involved for many years—maybe even into retirement. ■

To learn more about The Alliance, visit alliancebaltimore.org



(l-r) Kristin King, Callai Reed, Jack Linehan, members of The Alliance for Catholic Charities, serve dinner to the participants of Christopher Place Employment Academy

A new way to help: PLANNED GIVING

Bruce Palmieri is a professional financial planner, but deciding how he and his wife Tracy would structure a larger charitable gift was a new experience for him.

"Most people tend to give little gifts at various times throughout life, without a plan," he said. "When making a major gift, you need to ask yourself, what resonates with my interests?"

For the Palmieris, the answer was easy. Bruce has been a member of the Catholic Charities Planned Giving Committee since 2011, including three years as chair. As a volunteer, he understood the depth and breadth of our programs for people experiencing poverty.

Tracy valued early education. She spent 28 years as the owner and director of a preschool in Baltimore County. Her experience with small children taught her that early education helps them succeed in

life and school. She respected the work of Catholic Charities' Head Start programs and lauded their impact in disadvantaged communities.

The Palmieris opted for a **DONOR ADVISED FUND**. It allows them to recommend where the funds go, while a third party helps manage and grow the gift. That extends their legacy of giving over years. This approach also made taxes a bit easier for them.

"Catholic Charities does so much for so many. It really does portray the adage, 'give a man (or woman) a fish and you feed them for a day; teach them to fish and you feed them for a lifetime,'" Palmieri said.

For more on planned giving or whether a donor advised fund is right for you, contact Gen Haines at ghaines@cc-md.org or call 667-600-2014. ■



Bruce and Tracy Palmieri

"When making a major gift, you need to ask yourself, what resonates with my interests?"

To learn more, contact Gen Haines at ghaines@cc-md.org or 667-600-2014.

Protecting vulnerable individuals

FOR SOMEONE TO ACCEPT HELP, THEY FIRST NEED TO FEEL SAFE. That is a special priority when it comes to the children, older adults, and adults with disabilities whom Catholic Charities serves.

Every employee working with these individuals must first pass a background check. Those working directly with them then go through significant training, both when they're hired and throughout their employment with us. In many cases, that includes learning to recognize and respond to crises, trauma, and abuse. For many, we require certification in CPR and first aid. We meet staffing ratio requirements for children, seniors, and adults with disabilities, too.

We put extensive consideration into our facilities, materials and equipment. That can include, for example, daily checklists for buildings and vehicles. We maintain emergency management plans designed specifically for these groups and the locations where we serve them.

We also encourage everyone around the children, older adults, and adults with disabilities to speak up if they have concerns about safety, wellness, or other issues. We have detailed procedures for reporting those concerns.

"It's really about the staff knowing the person they're serving," said Gallagher Services Administrator Kathy Clemente. "When they know each other well, our staff can advocate for the people we support."

Additionally, we comply fully with local, state, and federal licensing and regulations. All of this work is important to our commitment to honor the dignity of each individual. ■



A vision for a stronger Cherry Hill



A rendering of plans for the Cherry Hill Town Center renovation

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME for the South Baltimore neighborhood of Cherry Hill, and Catholic Charities is proud to be part of it.

Originally built for African-American GIs returning from World War II, Cherry Hill has since endured 70 years of underinvestment. Now, the community's master plan includes three new schools, new housing, a new recreation center, and a renovated and reinvigorated Cherry Hill Town Center.

Catholic Charities has owned the town center since 1997 and has served the Cherry Hill community for more than 20 years. Community engagement and workforce development are high priorities in our strategic plan, because we know that they make lives better and contribute to thriving communities.

Our model for engagement is rooted in listening. Through long and rich conversations, the community has guided us to plan for a space that attracts businesses, promotes entrepreneurship and job opportunity, encourages community gatherings, and provides fresh food options to Cherry Hill residents.

Catholic Charities has committed to a \$4.5 million renovation, updating the façade and exterior and improving the food court. It will also turn 4,400 square feet of retail space into a community hub with a cafe, a meeting area for community events, pop-up stalls, and a healthy-food-focused community kitchen and food education space.

In the legislative session that ended April 8, the Maryland General Assembly provided \$250,000 for this project. The remainder will come through Catholic Charities' targeted fundraising efforts for the center. ■

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/cherry-hill

Volunteers needed when temperatures soar!

WE NEED YOU. Summer prompts a surge in the need for food, shelter, child care, counseling, and other related services. At the same time, volunteers go on vacation and students take breaks from structured service activities while school is out.

“Need does not take a break during the summer,” said Catholic Charities Director of Mission Integration Allison Stone. She previously served as volunteer coordinator for Our Daily Bread Employment Center, where she saw the change each day. When school is out, students experiencing poverty may not have the food they need. That often means there are more people served in meal programs.

“Instead of a single visitor coming in for a meal, we’ll have a mother, father, or grandparent arriving with children in tow,” Stone said.

The decline in volunteers is most significant from mid-July to mid-August. It greatly impacts the number of casseroles prepared and donated to Our Daily Bread Employment Center for its hot lunch service.

Now, you can see why we need you. Please consider joining our community of volunteers. Whether you opt to make a casserole for Our Daily Bread Employment Center, help with property maintenance, serve as a mentor, or whatever you choose, you will be a valuable partner in our movement to improve lives. ■



Student volunteer at Our Daily Bread Employment Center—many are needed in the summer

Find opportunities that match your interests at cc-md.org/volunteer, Our Daily Bread Employment Center volunteer line 667-600-3438, or volunteerodbec@cc-md.org

**YOUR
OPINION
MATTERS**

**What do you
think about
the Blessings
quarterly
newsletter?**

Does this newsletter help you understand Catholic Charities’ work?

What do you enjoy reading about?

What would you like to learn more about?

Would you prefer an email newsletter?

**The first 25
people to
respond will
receive a \$5
Amazon.com
gift card!**

You can share your thoughts by completing a two-minute survey online at **cc-md.org/survey**. ■

**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

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BLESSINGS

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volunteers are needed every
day at Our Daily Bread
Employment Center.
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volunteer!
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