



CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

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Catholic Charities honors Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company employee for service through personal commitment

(Baltimore, November 2, 2020) - In gratitude for 20 years of exemplary and humble service to neighbors in need, Catholic Charities will recognize a long-time employee of one of the state's leading employer insurance companies.

As part of Catholic Charities' weeklong #AMovementToServe event celebrating service, Nov. 8 – 14, Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company Community and Public Affairs Manager Carolyn Gutermuth will receive the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to an individual or group who exemplifies and significantly supports compassionate caregiving and service through personal commitment to Catholic Charities' work. Gutermuth is deserving of this award for her volunteer work at My Sister's Place Women's Center.

"This award and recognition are definitely a group effort," said Gutermuth. "I am the cheerleader and the one who organizes volunteers, donations and event attendees on behalf of Chesapeake Employers Insurance. Without the full support from our CEO Tom Phelan, senior leadership, our board and more than 400 employees, I wouldn't be able to do much of what I've done in the past."

For the last 20 years, Gutermuth has served the women at the center through donation drives, personal gifts and personal commitments.

"Chesapeake Employers Insurance transformed its community giving into a formal program back in 2000," said Gutermuth. "I was appointed the chair of the program and am so fortunate to have overseen how the program has grown and expanded. Our top leadership has been supportive of all that we do."

Two other long-time servants will also be honored during Catholic Charities' #AMovementToServe.

The Anne Lindsey Otenasek Youth Service Award goes to **Vinay Khosla**. The Dulaney High School senior has organized members of the Dulaney Key Club to volunteer at Our Daily Bread Employment Center to serve meals. He has also volunteered at St. Vincent's Villa for the annual Season of Wonder, which includes wrapping presents and decorating various parts of the residential treatment center for children as young as 5 who have significant behavioral or emotional challenges. When the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the country, Khosla helped organize Baltimore County Mask Makers to provide masks at a time when there was a dire need. This award is in memory of Anne Lindsey Otenasek, an energetic teenaged Catholic Charities volunteer who died in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. The youth service award in her name honors and perpetuates her spirit and personal commitment to helping others. It is given to a high school or college individual or group that shows outstanding volunteer commitment to Catholic Charities.

Mary Anne O'Donnell will receive the Msgr. Arthur F. Valenzano Joyful Servant Award. Commissioned to recognize a joyful life and spirit in service, the award honors the spirit of the late rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who served on the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees until his passing in 2015. O'Donnell recently retired after six years as the assistant director and chief administrative officer for Catholic Charities of Baltimore. During her nearly 25-year career with the agency, she has worked tirelessly for the people of Maryland, beginning as director of Sarah's House, then director of Community Services, and initiating, overseeing and implementing countless initiatives and outreaches.

"It is my esteemed privilege to recognize Mary Anne, Carolyn and Vinay for their contributions to our mission," said Catholic Charities Executive Director Bill McCarthy. "When people like this offer their selfless acts of kindness, they are part of the reason our agency is able to continue to do the works in communities and make an impact throughout Maryland."

#AMovementToServe is a virtual week-long shared celebration recognizing those who serve and those who are served as individuals of value and dignity, with special thanks to those who support the organization's work. In addition to our three awardees, Catholic Charities will also honor five employees with its Mission in Action Award for extraordinary examples of commitment: Edwina Bell, director of nursing at St. Elizabeth Rehabilitation & Nursing Center; Joyce Brunson, housekeeper at St. Vincent's Villa; Johanna Miller, program supervisor at Villa Maria Community Resources Behavioral Health Clinics; Michika Karim, child care at Sarah's House; and Tamara Williams, case manager at My Sister's Place.

The awardees will all be recognized in video as part of the week-long virtual #AMovementToServe event. The week will also feature podcast conversations with experts discussing senior care, homelessness & poverty prevention, workforce

development, immigration, behavioral health, and intellectual & developmental disabilities. Find all content at catholiccharities-md.org and on the Catholic Charities Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn feeds.

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About Catholic Charities of Baltimore

Catholic Charities of Baltimore is Maryland's largest private provider of human services, with more than 80 programs in 200 locations to serve children and families experiencing homelessness and poverty, individuals with intellectual disabilities, immigrants and seniors without regard to religion, race or other circumstances.

www.catholiccharities-md.org.