



CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Towson teenager selflessly caters to those less fortunate than himself

(Baltimore, October 30, 2020) - Vinay Khosla, a Dulaney High School senior, is one of three exemplary area servants Catholic Charities will recognize the week of November 8.

Khosla is being honored with The Anne Lindsey Otenasek Youth Service Award for his outstanding selflessness and care for his community. He 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.

"I am so honored and blessed to have been selected to receive the Anne Lindsey Otenasek Youth Service Award," said Khosla. "Catholic Charities has been such a big part of my service journey as well as my growth as both a leader, student, and person. Volunteering at Our Daily Bread Employment Center in Baltimore and at St. Vincent's Villa in Timonium have opened my eyes to the plights of people who live only 15 or 20 minutes away from me, and in this way I have become increasingly aware of my own privilege and therefore obligation to help those around me in any way I can."

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.

"I only hope I have impacted someone's life through Catholic Charities because that is really what this is all about," said the 17-year-old. "I'm excited for my last year of high school and hopefully some opportunities to keep contributing to my community through this amazing organization."

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.

In gratitude for more than 45 years of combined exemplary and humble service to neighbors in need, Catholic Charities recognizes two other pillars of the community.

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.

Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company Manager of Community Relations 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 personifies these qualities in her volunteer work at My Sister's Place Women's Center. For years, Gutermuth has served the women at the center through donation drives, personal gifts, financial support, committee service, and more. She has tirelessly encouraged her circle of professional and personal contacts to become donors and volunteers.

"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.