

Fall 2022
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Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Chicago



SPIRIT

God is young!
Remergence
and renewal
coming out of
the pandemic



Who We Are

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

was founded more than a century ago to meet human need through the Mission of Charity. A trusted partner and steward, we have grown to be one of the largest human service providers in the Chicago metropolitan region. We accompany anyone in need, regardless of faith, gender, race, or ethnicity.

We partner with mission-driven people and organizations across Cook and Lake counties to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need, as we:

- **Improve** lives and nourish spirits by meeting need within a faith-based community of respect, compassion, stewardship, and excellence.
- **Strengthen** and empower people, families, and communities by building programs that promote lasting, positive change.
- **Create** and share opportunities for living out our faith and values through service, community and network building, and dialogue—being present to our times through the eyes of faith.

Spirit Magazine—September 2022

Spirit magazine, a triannual publication of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, features news, stories, events, and information that are examples of our witness, designed to inspire our readers and offer a message of mercy and hope to a world in need.

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Our Inspiration: God is Young!

Dear Friends,

It is so good to see **Spirit** magazine in print again. There is much to share!

Confronted with **the first global pandemic since our founding in 1917**, the last two years have been busy ones at Catholic Charities, and financially challenging—despite record-breaking fundraising. The call to serve people in need across our region has never been greater.

By necessity, **we put many external relations functions on hold**, as more staff and financial resources were pivoted from mission engagement to client care. But **now is the time to re-emerge, to walk boldly into a new chapter of service together.**

I have found great comfort in this quote from Pope Francis' book, *God is Young!*:



“God is young! God is able to renew and rejuvenate Himself and all things continually... He is young because “He makes all things new” and loves innovation; because He astonishes and loves astonishment; because He dreams and wants us to dream...”

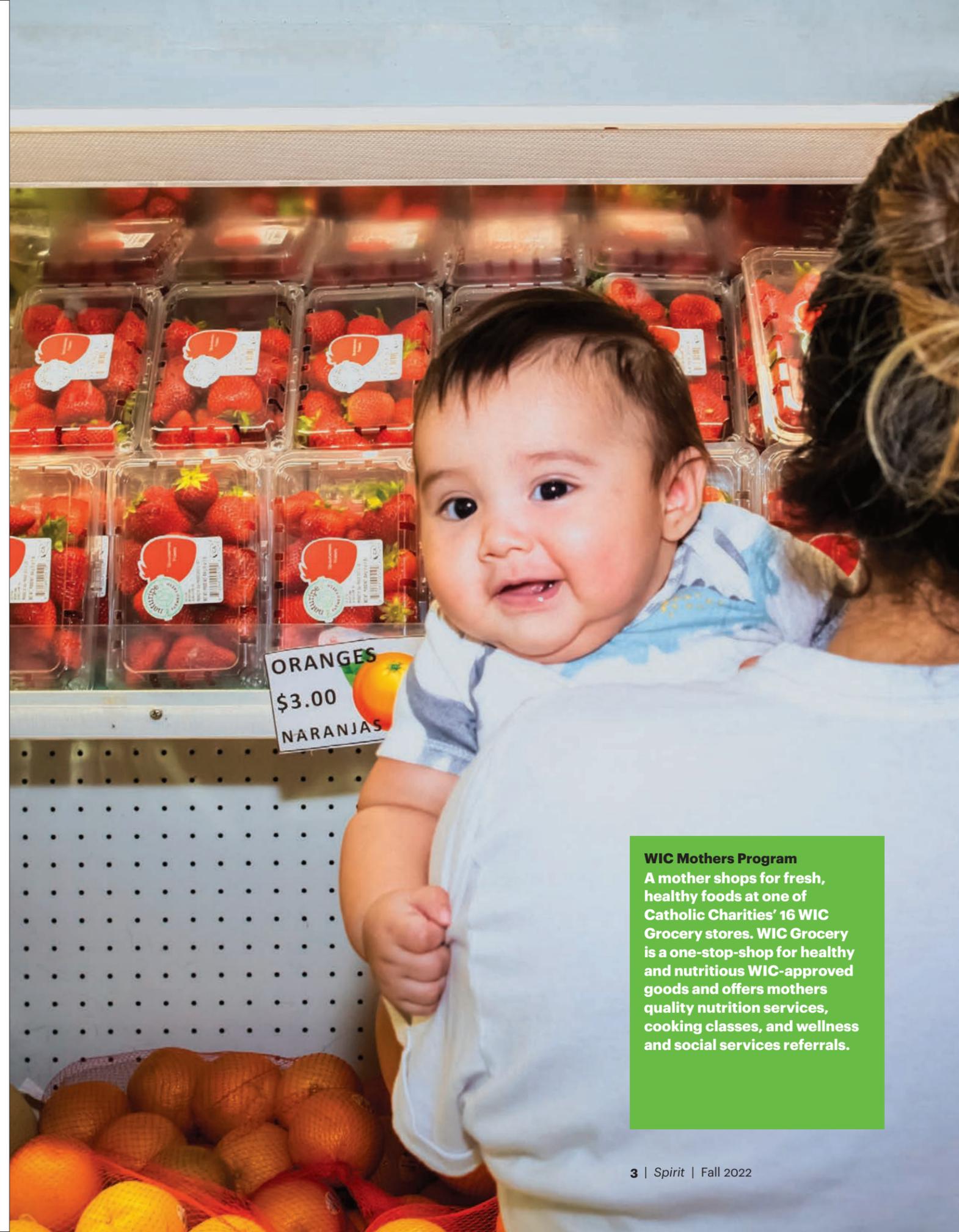
What a wonderful thought.

For more than 100 years, Catholic Charities has been an anchor institution for our region. As we carry with us that amazing legacy, we must also embrace the best attributes of a young organization. And so, **undertaking God's call to rejuvenation and renewal, Catholic Charities is growing young again!** “Young” so that we can best fulfill the mission of charity that was bestowed upon us in 1917. “Young” so that we can continue to innovate, astonish, and dream. And “young” so that we are fortified to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need, as we emerge from the pandemic.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sally Blount'.

Sally Blount
President and CEO



WIC Mothers Program
A mother shops for fresh, healthy foods at one of Catholic Charities' 16 WIC Grocery stores. WIC Grocery is a one-stop-shop for healthy and nutritious WIC-approved goods and offers mothers quality nutrition services, cooking classes, and wellness and social services referrals.



Teen Mothers Support
A teen mother attends her graduation celebration from one of our Adolescent Parenting Programs, which provide parenting education, support, and specialized groups to pregnant and parenting teens.

Reemergence and Renewal

By Sally Blount, President and CEO

With a staff of 1,200 serving nearly 500,000 individuals each year, Catholic Charities is emerging from the pandemic fortified to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need.

The Call to Renewal

During the pandemic, Catholic Charities underwent its **first leadership transition in 25 years**, and with that a movement from clergy to lay leadership. It is an honor and a deep responsibility to be called to undertake this change. Leading Catholic Charities is by far the most meaningful work I have ever undertaken. It is also the most challenging—especially amidst a pandemic. **My thanks to the many, many people who have walked beside me these past two years, as we have brought Charities through this critical period and as we have undertaken God's call to rejuvenation and renewal.**

I am grateful for the steady and courageous leadership of Board Chair **Mike Monticello** and former Chair **Dr. Janice Klich**. Under Janice and Mike's guidance, the Board took the opportunity to simplify and strengthen our fiduciary oversight, moving from a 50-person to an 18-person Board of Directors—allowing us to bring more focus to our work.

It is with great sadness that we share the news of Vice Chair **Emile Johnson's** recent passing. His wisdom and grace also were pivotal to undertaking this critical change management initiative (*see page 17*).

The Call to Simplicity

In Programs, with **Kathy Donahue's** retirement in 2021, we welcomed Chief Program Officer, **Ami Novoryta**, and elevated long-time Charities leader **Gina Cleggs** to Senior Vice President. Prior to joining us, Ami was Chief Strategy Officer at Heartland Alliance. Ami and Gina spent the first 18 months in their new roles studying all our programs and contracts to determine how we might best serve as we exited the pandemic. There were many insights about redundancies that had developed across our Service Areas and contracts that no longer fit our mission and calling.

• We narrowed our focus by exiting some programs in late 2021 and moving from six Service Areas to four Impact Areas: Immediate Access and

Basic Needs; Children, Youth, and Families; Seniors; and Housing.

• The article on pages 8 and 9 tells the story behind the Organize to Thrive initiative, which is part of our ongoing effort to make it easier for our clients and staff to navigate our organization and access the resources they need.

None of this work would have been possible without the extraordinary leadership of long-time Charities' staff member **Elida Hernandez**, who was promoted to Chief Finance and Administrative Officer. Elida has done an outstanding job marshalling us through the pandemic financially, with the wise partnership of our Board Finance Committee chair **Therese Krieger** and Audit Committee chair **Kevin Cleary**.

Elida partners daily with our new Senior Vice President of People and Culture, **Erica O'Malley**, and our new General Counsel, **Maria Simon**.
(continued on page 7)

Key Partners in Renewal



Gina Cleggs
Senior Vice President, Seniors and Affordable Housing



Kevin Cleary
Board Member; Chair, Audit Committee



Elida Hernandez
Chief Finance and Administrative Officer



Emile Johnson
Former Vice Chair, Board of Directors



Therese Krieger
Board Member; Chair, Finance Committee



Michael Monticello
Chair, Board of Directors



Mark Noetzel
Former Vice Chair, Board of Directors Member, Cardinal's Council



Ami Novoryta
Chief Program Officer



Erica O'Malley
Senior Vice President, People and Culture



Tom Powers
Chair, Regional Mission Board, Lake County Member, Cardinal's Council



Maria Simon
General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer



Anne Kelly Williams
Board Member; Chair, Community Engagement and Partnerships



Phil Zepeda
Vice President, Communications



Kathy Donahue
Former Acting Administrator, President



Dr. Janice Klich
Former Chair, Board of Directors

They, too, have been taking their units through processes of review and simplification to increase effectiveness. Erica is a former partner with Grant Thornton, and Maria joined us from the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Call to Community

Community is core to Catholic Charities' mission and culture. In 1917, we were founded in a spirit of increasing impact for those in need by building community around mission.

As we studied how we might serve more effectively, the Board identified the need to revitalize how we build community around mission engagement.

Under the thoughtful leadership of former Board Vice Chair **Mark Noetzel**, the recommendation was made to transition our Board of Advisors to three partners' groups: Partners in Mission, Partners in Giving, and Partners in Prayer.

- And, on page 10, our Regional Mission Board Chair for Lake County, **Tom Powers**, shares how this new approach is "localizing" how we build community and serve.
- This new mission engagement strategy is summarized on page 11.

- Also, we are launching the St. Martin de Porres Society to foster conversation and debate at the intersection of economic growth, social justice, the mission of Charity, and the practice of mercy. Details about two upcoming events are on page 18.

Key to building community is communication. **Phil Zepeda** joined us as Vice President of Communications, coming to us from the McCormick Foundation. Phil is overseeing the renewal of our visual identity, publications, and soon-to-launch new website. We are also thankful that **Anne Kelly Williams** has agreed to chair our new Board committee on Community Engagement and Partnerships.

With gratitude, respect, and awe, a special THANK YOU to our employees who have served tirelessly over the last two years.

Fulfilling our mission would have been impossible without:

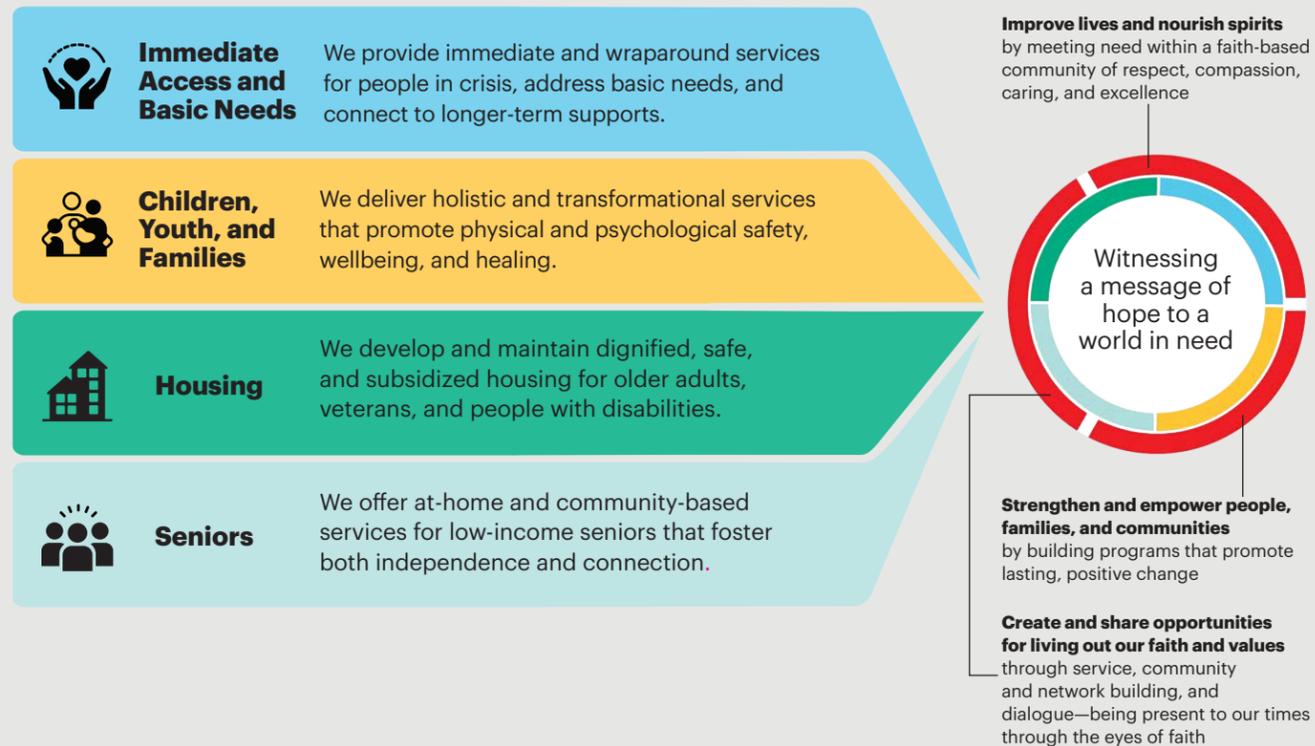
- the energy, steadfastness, and compassion of hundreds of staff who physically came to work each day
- the connection, hope, and support offered to thousands via telehealth by our social workers

- the ingenuity and flexibility of our team leaders across Charities who continually problem-solved, filled in, and pivoted.

I thank everyone who found the strength and heart to work through the uncertainty, burn-out, and heartache over and over and over again.

Organized to Thrive

Consolidating and simplifying how we serve, our programs are now organized around four Impact Areas



Simplifying How We Serve

By Ami Novoryta, Chief Program Officer

All organizations must periodically rethink how they operate and serve. Within Catholic Charities, the challenges exposed by the pandemic, along with the strengths we leveraged to overcome them, turned out to be a wonderful starting point for us to reflect on who we are and what we are called to do.

Starting in Spring 2021, our team engaged in an 18-month period of rigorous learning, listening, and visioning. Our goals: optimize the organization of Catholic Charities programs and services to deepen impact on peoples' lives, increase access to and referrals among teams, and become the most trusted partner for mission-driven organizations in the Midwest.

Catholic Charities has always had a strong entrepreneurial culture, which established and grew programs and teams to serve our communities in wonderful ways. However, what flourished in one region, sometimes did not in another. When we analyzed not just who our clients are, but where we serve them, we saw we were missing opportunities to maximize efficiencies and share best practices across programs, and in some cases, we had erected unintended barriers that were preventing our clients from receiving all the help we could provide.

As a clearer picture of our operations emerged, we began to conceive a simpler way for Catholic Charities to

organize and deliver its programs and services. To start, we mapped the Catholic Charities ecosystem and considered it within the larger socio-economic landscape of our region. Knowing there was profound need across Cook and Lake counties, we wanted to figure out how we can serve more deeply. We conducted an organization-wide survey of employees; held focus groups and one-on-one conversations with frontline staff; and reviewed facility usage, funding trends, and internal systems infrastructure.

Taking into account everything we learned, we worked with our leaders and teams across Catholic Charities to conceive and transition to a more streamlined structure that we believe will make it easier for our staff to accompany those we serve. Our work is now organized around four Impact Areas, through which we offer nearly 40 programs at more than 80 locations. The graphic on the left summarizes our new structure.



Our aspiration:
To become the most trusted partner for mission-driven people and organizations in the Midwest

As we organize to ensure our clients will continue to thrive, we are also building out three functional areas that will serve as connective tissue across Catholic Charities and enable us to deepen our impact. Through the Charities Hub and regional welcoming centers, we will meet clients where they are and streamline their process for accessing critical services and supports. In our Client and Community Impact area, we will continue our commitment to continuous program improvement, learning that is rooted in data and impact, and building a community of support for teams to engage more successfully.

Moving forward, we will be empowering and equipping our leaders and teams with additional professional development and coaching. Our amazing staff is at the heart of our success at Charities. We are stronger when we invest in amplifying their impact.

Localizing Our Touch through Regional Mission Boards

By Tom Powers, Chair of the Catholic Charities Regional Mission Board in Lake County



While our new Regional Mission Board structure will be consistent across all regions, its design provides flexibility for each region to respond to the needs and engagement opportunities within its local communities, including the ongoing operation of current volunteer activities.

What Makes up a Regional Mission Board

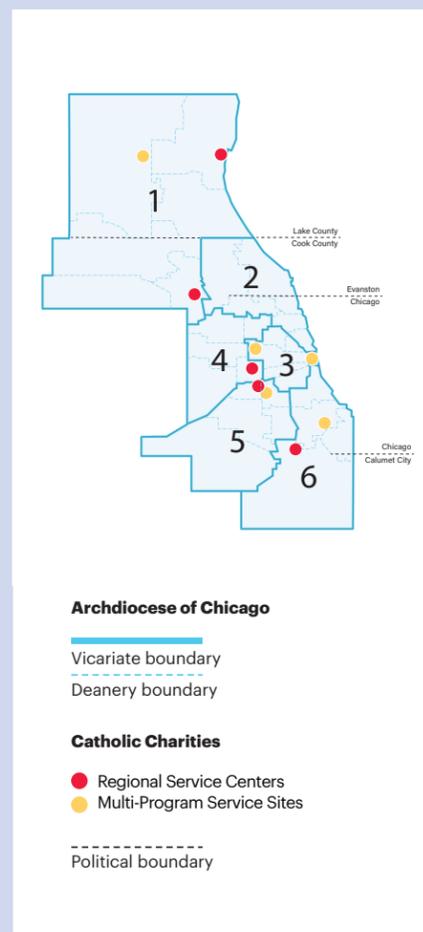
Each Regional Mission Board is comprised of the following key leadership groups:

- The **Parish Outreach Committee and Community Outreach Committee** are both tasked with connecting Catholic Charities services to parishes and communities, as well as connecting those who want to serve with opportunities to do so, either with us or with the local parishes.
- The **Membership Engagement Committee** will onboard and train new members, and connect them with specific opportunities to keep them engaged.
- The **Advocacy Liaison** will offer opportunities to advocate for policies that will benefit those we serve and advance the cause of mercy.
- The **Partners in Giving Liaison** will ensure the Regional Board and local volunteers are aware of all Catholic Charities events and any other opportunities to participate in fundraising activities.

Our new model for Regional Mission Boards was informed by contributions from leaders throughout Cook and Lake counties and serves as an excellent framework for increasing our outreach efforts at local level.

Throughout its history, Catholic Charities' strength has come from our community of partners coming together committed to collaboration and service. With Partners in Mission (see page 11), anyone who wants to be involved in service to our clients on the local, parish, or regional level can choose from a wide range of volunteer opportunities available at "hubs" in the six vicariates that contain all parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

In addition, strengthening and empowering our local Mission Boards will offer more opportunities for people to support and serve while connecting more clients in need to our programs and services, locally in their community.



We Need You

All these local committees need your contributions to fuel our work. Send us an email at partners@catholiccharities.net to signal your willingness to help make a difference in the lives of more people in need.

Please join us!

Faith and Service: Transitioning from Advisors to Partners

By Phil Zepeda, Vice President of Communications

Revitalizing mission engagement within our Catholic Charities community and localizing our touch are at the core of how we hope to partner with our incredible network of supporters and advocates going forward.

In June 2021, more than 600 members of our Board of Advisors were redeployed from "Advisors" to "Partners." Our emerging vision for rejuvenating this community after the closures of the pandemic and reimagining how it can serve with us sits on three pillars of the Mission of Charity: mission, giving, and prayer.

Partners in Mission

Parish outreach and partnership, network and community building, and faith in action

We want to foster greater parish connectivity and engagement, empower and support community building, and promote service and accompaniment by continuing to create disciples, ambassadors,

and advocates on behalf of our Church and the Mission of Charity. As we work toward these goals, we will focus on three distinct elements of mission engagement: service, education, and advocacy.

Partners in Giving

Fund- and friend-raising through our annual giving campaigns and signature fundraising events

As we move to a new operating model for the 2020s that is less reliant on government contracts and more tailored to private funding, our goal is to raise \$50+ million per year by 2030. To achieve these goals, we must unify and expand our generous community and rich tradition of giving. This means that the financial support of our partners and community is our number one need after service.

Partners in Prayer

Worship and prayer around the needs of our region

As Catholics, we always start from a place

of humility before God, knowing that God works through us. As a community of faith, we depend on the Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us. We rely on the intercessory support of the Communion of Saints. Prayer is our foundation. In this next chapter, our vision is to convene and catalyze a group of mission-driven people to create a discipline of prayer on behalf of those in need and the works of Catholic Charities, so that the spirit of witness might grow and flourish throughout our region.

Our Call to Serve

As Catholics, we are called to community, we are called to service, and we are called to hope. In short, we are called to be builders—to believe that a better world is possible and to labor on behalf of that belief. We welcome and encourage your continued partnership with us in any of these Partner groups. For more information, contact Katie Bredemann at partners@catholiccharities.net or 312.217.9145.

Partners in Mission

Regional Mission Boards in the six Vicariates of the Archdiocese of Chicago

- + Connecting service opportunities and people who want to serve
- + Parish-based engagement and Mission Teams where like-minded partners join in service projects together
- + Creating greater awareness of our programs and services
- + Opportunities to advocate for policies that benefit people who are suffering

Partners in Giving

Celebrating our shared commitment to helping those in need

- Expanding our generous tradition of Regular and Planned Giving and support for vital appeals while enjoying Catholic Charities events together with our families and friends throughout the year
- + **Hope Fund:** Up to \$999 annually
 - + **Mercy Fund:** \$1,000–\$4,999 annually
 - + **Cornerstone Fund:** \$5,000–\$9,999 annually
 - + **Saint Katharine Drexel Society:** \$10,000+ annually

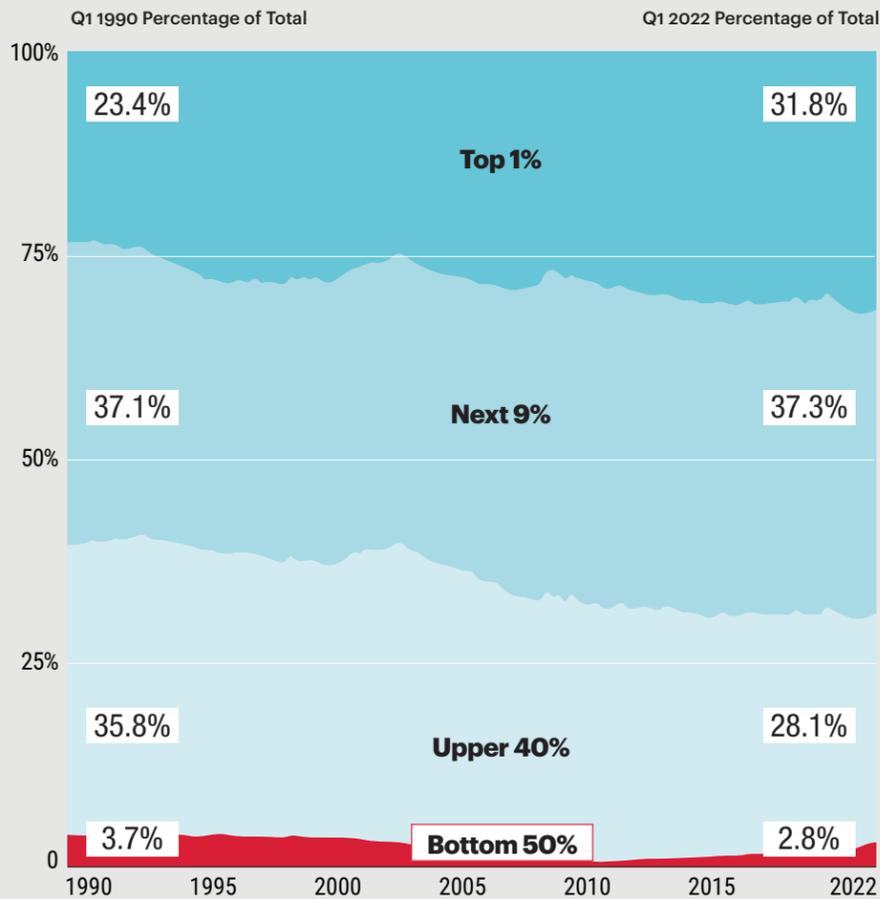
Partners in Prayer

The continuation of ongoing opportunities for prayer in support of our work, our clients, all who are involved with Catholic Charities, and the needs of our world.

Growing Wealth Inequality in Our Country

The Majority of All Wealth in the U.S. is Controlled by the Top 10%

Percent of Total U.S. Wealth Earned by Each Wealth Group, Q1 1990–Q1 2022



When you think about **just \$500 a week to support a family of four, it's harrowing, but hard to grasp.** Income only tells one part of the picture. Wealth is another component. **The bottom 90% of American households combined control less wealth than the top 1%.** And, since 1990, the amount of wealth controlled by the top 1% of Americans has grown from 23% to 32%. In that same timeframe, the amount controlled by the bottom 90% has decreased from nearly 40% to 30%.

Source: Distributional Financial Accounts: Levels of Wealth by Wealth Percentile Groups, available at [federalreserve.gov](https://www.federalreserve.gov) [last accessed June 20, 2022]

The Face of Poverty in Our Region

Wealth inequality widened dramatically in the decade preceding the pandemic; all research suggests it's grown even worse. **50% or more of the 6 million people living in Cook**

and Lake counties have little or no savings—they are a paycheck away from zero. Yes, there are jobs, but rapid inflation and the rising cost of gas, childcare, and elder care make it

prohibitively expensive for many to work. The numbers below support what we know from our work walking alongside the individuals and families we serve.

What Does it Mean to Live Below the Federal Poverty Line in 2022?

The U.S. government defines the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) by annual household income. While this number is adjusted annually for inflation, it is widely considered inadequate and outdated. Households typically qualify as "low income" at 200% of the FPL.

To determine eligibility for certain social services, the U.S. government defines the Federal Poverty Line by annual household income. This number is adjusted annually for inflation.

\$13,500
for 1 person
(\$260/week)

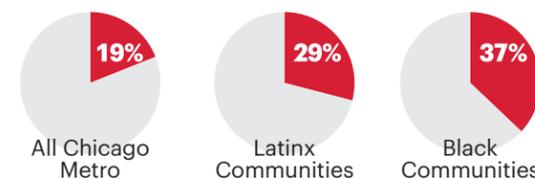
\$27,750
for a family
of 4
(\$533/week)



Nearly **1 in 8** people in Cook and Lake counties is living below the poverty line, or **676,000 of our neighbors.** In Chicago's Austin neighborhood, that number rises to almost **1 out of 3.**

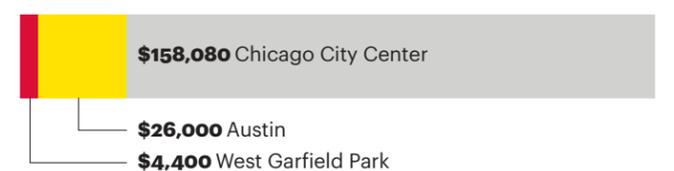
Wider Disparity for Communities of Color

Percentage Experiencing Food Insecurity in Chicago Metro Region, 2020



Income and wealth are also tied to other issues, like food insecurity. In the Chicago metro region, **19% of all people faced food insecurity in 2020.** That number is **higher in Latinx and Black communities.** Just behind food insecurity is shelter; **nearly 1 in 3 Illinois renters are not confident they can pay next month's rent.**

Median Net Worth per Household



In some suburbs north of Chicago, the median net worth approaches \$1 million. Just a few miles away, in the city center (which includes the Loop, Gold Coast, and South Loop), the median net worth for households is close to \$160,000. In Austin on the city's west side, this figure is \$26,000; just to the south in West Garfield Park it's \$4,400.

Source: Urban Institute, *In Chicago, Neighborhoods Have Stark Differences in Economic Opportunity* (February 1, 2022), [urban.org](https://www.urban.org)

Addressing Behavioral Health

By Mindy Walch

Over the past two years, Catholic Charities has grown and strengthened our diverse behavioral health services for adults and children, pivoting to telehealth during the pandemic to support existing and new clients, and expanding to address a pressing need for trauma-informed counseling and case management for youth and families impacted by community violence. Promoting mental well-being is integral to all our programs.

Deepening Access to Mental Wellness on the West Side

To help solve Chicago's growing mental health crisis, residents of the West Side mobilized to create the Encompassing Center. After the community worked to get a referendum passed mandating tax revenue to expand mental health services in the Near West Side communities, Catholic Charities was chosen to provide case management, mental health, and substance use services at the center. In only two and a half years, the Center has reached more than 600 clients with counseling and case management, all of whom are residents of the West Side. In one year, it doubled the number of clients served due to expanded outreach and its growing recognition as a trusted provider. By providing the community with a safe space for healing and connection, the Center is helping to address systemic inequalities and deliver counseling services with care, respect, and excellence.



Cards and notes of support and encouragement from donors are displayed at House of the Good Shepherd domestic violence shelter for women and children. House of the Good Shepherd opened one of the first domestic violence shelter/programs in Chicago in 1980. Since then, it has helped more than 6,000 vulnerable women and children leave behind the cycle of violent homes, step out of poverty, and embrace a future full of hope and independence.

Extending Our Reach to Survivors in Need

Catholic Charities' Domestic Violence Counseling program serves as a haven of support for survivors of domestic violence, particularly during the pandemic when incidents of abuse were alarmingly high.

In FY22, program referrals increased by 75 percent, a reflection of not just significant need, but also our dynamic partnership network and the trainings we offer to other providers and parishes that help ensure survivors receive support with diligence and expediency. We also opened a counseling and outreach program in Chicago's Austin community, helping to meet local needs for women and their children.

Scaling a Model of Support for Survivors of Suicide Loss

During its 43 years of operation, Loving Outreach for Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) has developed a specialized and comprehensive program model that addresses the unique needs of survivors of suicide loss, compassionately accompanying them on their grief journey. In addition to touching the lives of those in the Chicago region, LOSS is often consulted by national and international organizations as they seek to create their own support services for survivors of suicide loss. In fact, online platforms that grew out of necessity during the pandemic have enabled LOSS to serve clients throughout the US and overseas. Today, support groups and speaker presentations can be accessed anywhere via telehealth platforms and the LOSS YouTube channel. More than 500 people have participated in our online support groups, and 1,500 people have attended our Grief Speaker Series since April 2020.

Building Community with Seniors

By Mindy Walch

From a shared midday meal to a wide variety of activities and events, the Josephine P. Argento Senior Center, one of 12 Catholic Charities senior centers and located within our Bernardin Manor senior housing residence in Calumet City, always has something fun going on to keep seniors active and engaged.

Recently, the Center had the honor of being chosen by the National Council on Aging (NCOA) to participate in its study on the growing importance of senior centers nationwide.

It was exciting for Argento Center participants to let NCOA know how vital the Center is to their physical and mental health. Magnolia Chandler, a 10-year Bernardin Manor resident

and Center participant, says, "Every day I thank God that I get to wake up in my beautiful apartment and come here to the Center to be with my friends for fun and fellowship. Sometimes seniors don't have as much to do, but there is something here for us every day to keep us active and healthy."

Magnolia attributes the success of the Argento Center to its dynamic director, Robert Boyd, a former cruise director who has led the Center since 2012. "Rob is wonderful. There is nothing he won't do for us. He is just a real, real blessing—so respectful and kind to all of us. I feel like he is one of my sons."

Rob, on the other hand, attributes the success of the Center to the residents. "I just do what they tell me to do,"

he laughs. "All the members of the Senior Council come up with the ideas for the parties, events, activities, food... I am grateful to them for making my job easier! And they help whenever needed. I know I can count on Magnolia and the other residents to make our activities a success."

Magnolia and Rob are grateful for each other, and for Catholic Charities. "I don't know what I would do without the Center and my home in Bernardin Manor," Magnolia says. "I am grateful to Catholic Charities for all of it, everything." Rob adds, "I am eternally grateful to Catholic Charities for giving me the opportunity to serve the seniors here. They bring joy to my life and make me smile every day!"



Robert Boyd and Magnolia Chandler

"Every day I thank God that I get to wake up in my beautiful apartment and come here to the Center to be with my friends for fun and fellowship."

Magnolia Chandler,
Bernardin Manor resident

Ascension-St. Edmund Parish

By Mindy Walch

Catholic Charities’ parish partnerships have always been instrumental to our efforts to meet growing needs throughout the Archdiocese. But over the past two and a half years, these partnerships have become even more important.

During the pandemic, many Catholic Charities food pantries and emergency assistance sites saw double and triple the number of people needing assistance. In recent months the organization has seen another surge in need as the working poor struggle with rising food and gas prices. Mike Waters, Regional Director of Catholic Charities West-Cook Region, says “Our food, pantry traffic was up more

than 50 percent from June 2020 to June 2021 and we are on pace to feed 25,000 people through our Cicero pantry this year.”

Ascension-St. Edmund Parish* in Oak Park has been critical to helping Catholic Charities meet this increased demand. Each week it provides a large donation of fresh fruits and vegetables—this is on top of the fresh produce Catholic Charities is able to grow itself thanks to the parish’s Knights of Columbus, who helped clear land and build the garden beds at Cicero office. The garden is now able to produce about 200 pounds of fresh produce each year.

Another blessing is that the Knights organize a weekly diaper drive at the parish, which last year provided a whopping 17,455 diapers and 462 boxes of wipes to food pantry clients. “The importance of the diapers cannot be overstated,” says Mike. “Every diaper that a family does not have to buy means that money can go toward rent, gas, or medicine. And it is just as important for our seniors who use adult diapers.”

The parish also organizes an annual fall coat drive and regularly helps with Catholic Charities’ Evening Supper Program.

“We like partnering with Catholic Charities because they do wonderful, amazing work for the poor and marginalized,” says Rev. Rex Pillai, who was recently named Ppastor of the unified Ascension-St. Edmund Parish.

Fr. Rex explains that service is a part of the parish culture. “Our parishioners want to share what they have received with others. This is just something we do as Catholics and as disciples of Christ. It is nice to see because it is exactly the kind of compassion and kindness we need in today’s culture.”

Ascension-St. Edmund Parish truly embodies the Catholic Church’s mission of charity. Catholic Charities is grateful to partner with them to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need.

*Ascension and St. Edmund Parish merged on July 1, 2022



Ascension-St. Edmund Parish

Honoring Our Cherished Partners



Emile Johnson (1955-2022)

It is hard to put into words what Emile Johnson means to Catholic Charities, and to the thousands of people he has had a positive impact on with his warmth, smile, kindness, and contagious passion for service.

Emile, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, passed away on July 21 at the age of 67 after a brief illness. His life was full of devotion to his family, community, and Catholic Charities.

Emile first became involved with Catholic Charities as an executive with a global healthcare company that supplied our 16 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Centers. Later, having started his own canned foods business, Goode Foods, he continued to offer extraordinary support to our WIC Centers and shared his joy for educating the public about the importance of good nutrition and healthy eating.

Emile was elected to Catholic Charities Board of Advisors in 2013 and to the Board of Directors in 2018, serving on many committees including: Benefits; Development; 100th Anniversary; Golf Invitational; and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. He was a member of the Presidential Selection Committee involved in the search for the new President of Catholic Charities in 2019. As Vice Chair of the current Board of Directors, Emile served on the Executive Committee.

Emile often spoke passionately about his lifelong commitment to giving back, in service to God, including a conversation years ago with Cardinal Bernardin, who asked him to become more involved with Catholic Charities. In response to this request, Emile recalled saying, “As I consider this, I will ask for you to pray for me.”

I always ask clerics to pray for me! And those prayers brought me here to you.”

As committed as Emile was to Catholic Charities, and other philanthropic pursuits, Emile was even more dedicated to his family. Join us in keeping Emile, his wife, Shari, his son, Andrew, and his daughter, Caitlin, in your thoughts and prayers.

Joe Luby and Toni Laurent

Catholic Charities also remembers former Chair of the Board of Directors, Joseph F. Luby and Toni Laurent, former Board President Ron Laurent’s wife.

For more than 30 years, Joe Luby was a dear friend, generous supporter, and dedicated leader for Catholic Charities. After serving as a member of the Veteran’s Committee and Chair of the Human Resources Committee, he went on to lead the Board as Chair from 2010-2012. He continued his service on the Board of Directors as Past President until January of this year, always displaying a real heart for the employees. A compelling ambassador for Catholic Charities, Joe introduced many of his friends and family to the mission he so passionately supported. We remain grateful for Joe’s wisdom, his leadership, and his steadfast belief in our mission.

Mrs. Lutonia (Toni) Laurent, friend and generous volunteer for many years at Catholic Charities, and wife of Ron Laurent, former Catholic Charities Board Chair, was active in the Community Development & Outreach service area. She participated in a number of Springfield Lobby Days, meeting legislators to advocate for the clients we serve, and was a regular volunteer at the Golf Invitational. Toni and Ron Laurent were the recipients of the Catholic Charities Mandatum Award at the 2007 Gala of the Arts. We are deeply grateful for Toni’s selfless dedication to Catholic Charities.



Joe Luby



Ron and Toni Laurent

Upcoming Events



St. Martin de Porres Society Event
Wednesday, September 28
 Virtual Event

Fr. James Martin, SJ in conversation with Sally Blount, Catholic Charities President and CEO. The Society provides opportunities for intellectual discovery, dialogue, and debate on the Mission of Charity, the needs of our region, and the power of faith in serving.

[Register today at athenaeumcenter.org.](http://athenaeumcenter.org)

St. Martin de Porres Society Gathering
Monday, October 3

The Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, Chicago
 Join the host committee and fellow members of the Catholic Charities community for a special Athenaeum Center event as *New York Times* columnist and prolific author Ross Douthat speaks on Christian Faith and Political Power.

[Register today at athenaeumcenter.org.](http://athenaeumcenter.org)



House of the Good Shepherd Glow of Hope Brunch
Sunday, November 6
Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago

This gathering supports the women and children who have left violent home situations and are now residing at the House of the Good Shepherd as they plan for a safer, healthier future.



33rd Annual Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball
Friday, December 2
Hilton Chicago

One of Chicago's most popular black-tie galas of the Christmas season. Gather your friends and family members for a festive evening of dinner and dancing.



D'Vine Affair
Sunday, January 29, 2023

One of Chicagoland's premier wine tasting events, the D'Vine Affair raises funds for Catholic Charities programming in Cook and Lake counties.



First Look for Charity / Chicago Auto Show
Friday, February 10, 2023
McCormick Place, Chicago

Come get a sneak peek at the latest in automobile innovation in this special preview event prior to the public opening of the Chicago Auto Show. Proceeds from the event support Catholic Charities and other select non-profits in Chicagoland.



Art of Caring
Saturday, April 29, 2023
Exmoor Country Club, Highland Park
 The Catholic Charities Women's Board of Lake County hosts this signature fundraiser, bringing together civic, philanthropic, and community donors to support Catholic Charities and its critical programs and services in Lake County.



Blossoms of Hope Brunch
Sunday, April 30, 2023
Drury Lane Theatre & Events, Oak Brook

The Blossoms of Hope Brunch supports the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program, providing support services for individuals and families who have lost a loved one to suicide.

Events Roundup



Spring Partner Gatherings
 Catholic Charities welcomed more than 250 Partners to four Spring Gatherings this past May to share insights on the Regional Mission Board structure, which is designed to spur local engagement and fuel greater parish involvement. Longtime supporter Mary Feeley (pictured) shared her inspiring volunteer journey with Catholic Charities, which excited attendees about our future.



CCAC Golf Invitational
 Hosted at the Olympia Fields Country Club, golfers at this year's Invitational were gifted a beautiful day to hit the links. We extend our deep thanks to event co-chairs Marty Andre and Mike Smith (pictured left to right).



Charities Golf Classic
 Playing at two Lake County courses, Knollwood Club and Shoreacres, the 2022 Classic brought together more than 160 golfers in support of our mission work. Notable appreciation to those individuals leading the way for the Classic, including co-chairs John Brinckerhoff, Matt Davis, and John Cortesi (pictured left to right).

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago Board of Directors

Michael Monticello, Chair
 Kevin W. Cleary
 Janet Zukowski Elwart
 Martha FitzGerald
 Mark Hoppe
 Steve King

M. Therese Krieger
 Clement V. Martin
 Charles W. Mulaney, Jr.
 James N. Perry
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Ways to Give

Thanks to you, Catholic Charities improves lives; nourishes spirits; strengthens and empowers people, families, and communities; and creates and shares opportunities for living out our faith and values. **Your gift** ensures we can meet the needs of hundreds of thousands of individuals and families across Cook and Lake counties as we witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need.

Thank you for helping us, one person, one heart at a time.

Give Online or Over the phone

To give online or over the phone please contact us!
www.catholiccharities.net
312.948.6864

Donate by Mail

Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Chicago
P.O. Box 7154
Carol Stream, Illinois 60197-7154

The Saint Katharine Drexel Society

The Drexel Society recognizes individuals and families who have contributed \$10,000 or more during the past fiscal year. Named for the patron saint of racial justice and philanthropists, the Drexel Society convenes our most generous and loyal donors through exclusive events and communications.
Contact Mike Daigler,
Vice President of Principal Giving, at
mdaigler@catholiccharities.net.

Make a Planned Gift

Making a gift in your will can translate into a meaningful legacy. The Legacy of Hope Society honors people who include us in a will or trust or make another type of planned gift to help ensure our programs continue for years to come.
Contact Nancy Haws, Director
of Major Gifts, at 312.655.7348 or
nhaws@catholiccharities.net.

Make a Corporate Gift or Sponsor an Event

Catholic Charities offers sponsorship opportunities for fundraising events throughout the year.
Please contact
donor.relations@catholiccharities.net
or 312.948.6864 for more information.



With gratitude to the heart of Catholic Charities—the hundreds of front-line workers who have served tirelessly throughout the pandemic.



721 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654
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catholiccharities.net



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago was founded more than a century ago to meet human need through the Mission of Charity.

We partner with mission-driven people and organizations across Cook and Lake counties to witness a message of mercy and hope to anyone in need, regardless of faith, gender, race, or ethnicity.

With gratitude to the amazing front-line teams who bring our mission to life each day.