

A close-up, profile view of Reverend Larry J. Snyder, looking slightly to the right. He has grey hair and is wearing a dark blue clerical suit with a white collar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus red.

# CharitiesUSA

THE MAGAZINE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA ■ WINTER 2015 ■ VOLUME 42 ■ NUMBER 1

**SISTER  
DONNA  
MARKHAM**  
CCUSA'S NEXT  
PRESIDENT

**KEEP  
THE DREAM  
ALIVE**  
MASS & AWARDS

**SOCIAL  
MEDIA**  
101

**REVEREND  
LARRY J. SNYDER**

**PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA**  
2005-2015





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LAST ISSUE: FALL 2014



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Rev. Larry Snyder

**Managing Editor**  
Ruth Liljenquist

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**Contributing Writers**  
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**Editorial and Business Office**  
2050 Ballenger Ave., Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22314  
**Tel:** 703-549-1390 • **Fax:** 703-549-1656  
[www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org) | [info@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](mailto:info@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org)

**Catholic Charities USA** is the national office for one of the nation's largest social service networks. Member agencies and institutions nationwide provide vital social services to over 10 million people in need, regardless of their religious, social, or economic backgrounds. Catholic Charities USA supports and enhances the work of its members by providing networking opportunities, national advocacy, program development, training and consulting, and financial benefits.

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# “GREAT NECESSITIES CALL FORTH GREAT LEADERS.” —Abigail Adams

When Rev. Larry Snyder took the helm of Catholic Charities USA in February 2005, CCUSA was supporting several Florida agencies in responding to the devastation caused by four hurricanes that swept through the state the summer before. The response effort was considered large, but before 2005 was out, CCUSA would be involved in a far larger disaster response effort—a nationwide, network-wide, multimillion-dollar response to the unimaginable disaster of Hurricane Katrina.

Hurricane Katrina set the stage for Fr. Snyder's presidency. Unprecedented as it was, it required an unprecedented response, and Fr. Snyder, as president, was the one tasked with making it happen. In this first great necessity of his tenure, he guided the Catholic Charities network in a timely and resourceful response effort, one with lasting effect in people lives and far-reaching impact on our network's disaster response capability.

Yet even in the midst of this devastation, a disaster of greater proportions was exposed—the manmade disaster of poverty, long hidden, long ignored, and affecting many millions more Americans. Answering the plight of the poor, which also required an unprecedented response, became the next great necessity of Fr. Snyder's presidency. We set the goal to reduce poverty by half by 2020, a goal that over the last several years has reshaped our network in amazing ways.

Other great necessities have followed: the Great Recession, a housing crisis, major cuts in agency budgets, increased need for assistance for struggling Americans, more disasters, and even a necessity to acknowledge and celebrate our 100 years of service and to inspire and strengthen the men and women of Catholic Charities in their challenging and ongoing work.

In this issue of *Charities USA*, we take a look back at Fr. Snyder's tenure and pay tribute to his work and dedication to our network and to the millions of Americans who live in poverty.

Great necessities call forth great leaders, that is true. But great leaders also know how to turn very difficult times into big successes, embracing opportunities for renewal, growth, and innovation. There can be no question that Father Snyder has done that. Thank you, Fr. Larry. ■

**Ruth Liljenquist, Managing Editor**  
*To comment on this issue, please write to Ruth Liljenquist at [rliljenquist@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](mailto:rliljenquist@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org).*

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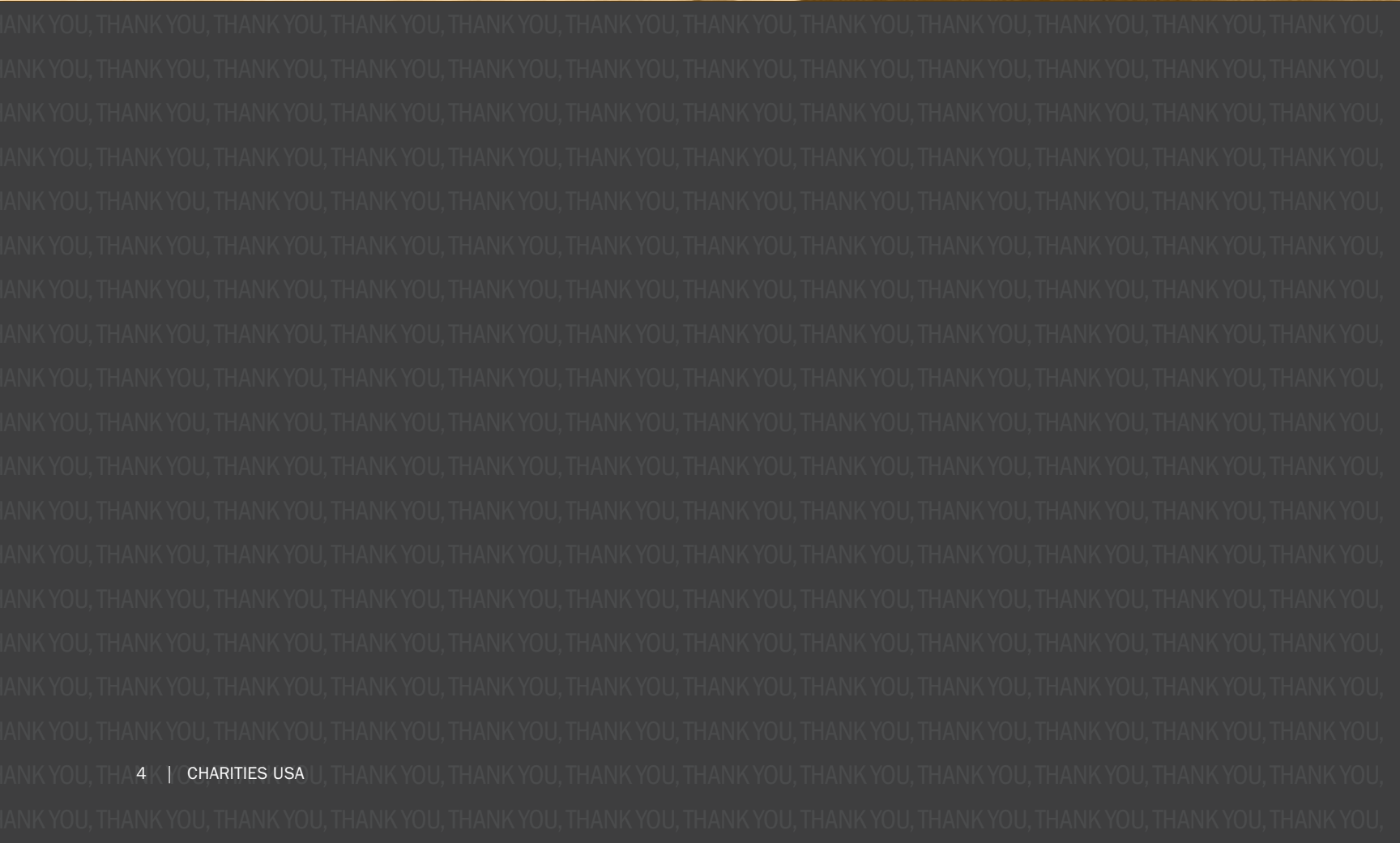
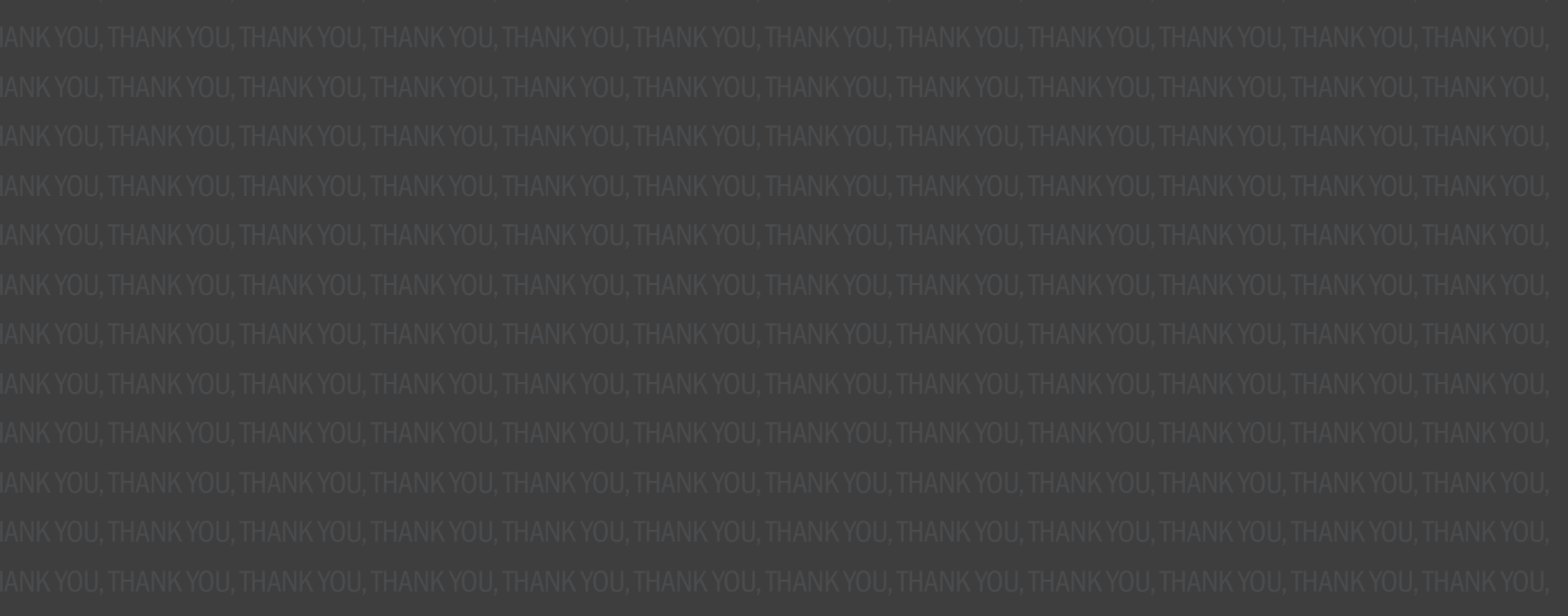
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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

My dear friends, writing to you now seems overwhelming. Where do I start? How can I possibly capture the last ten years? And after all of our time together, what more can I possibly say?

Only one thing remains to be said—a heartfelt “thank you.” I have been incredibly blessed to lead this amazing organization. Together we have accomplished so much. We have joined together to respond to communities and colleagues struck by natural disasters. We have advocated for those we serve, those in poverty, by being their voice, by telling their stories. We have called on our government to fulfill its duty to those in need. We have searched for innovative and effective strategies to reduce poverty in America. We have made a difference one child at a time, one person at a time.

In doing all of this, we have done nothing more than what our faith requires, than what being a good citizen demands. I have frequently said that I am privileged to work with the most wonderful people in the world. Some might dismiss this as hyperbole, but I am convinced of it in my heart. You have inspired me, and your faith and prayers have supported me.

I love you, I thank you, and I wish you a most heartfelt farewell. May God continue to bless you and the great work of Catholic Charities.

President, Catholic Charities USA | 2005-2015





# REVEREND LARRY J. SNYDER

PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA

2005-2015

In July 2014, Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, announced that he would step down from the presidency in early 2015, ten years after taking the position. Over this past decade, he has led our network with dedication and vision, and we wish to pay tribute to him and to his remarkable service to our network and nation.

**The challenge of any leader is to take the vision of the organization's founders and mission and turn that into a solid path forward. Over the past ten years, my understanding of and goals for our work together were not things I came up with on my own. For the past ten years I have tried to keep us faithful to the Gospel and to that vision, which we have received from our earliest days. Thank you for walking with me on that amazing journey of putting faith into action. I am so incredibly blessed.**

—Rev. Larry Snyder, 2014 Annual Gathering Address

## Humble Servant Leadership Wrapped Up in a Bold Vision

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Fr. Larry Snyder. After witnessing his ten years of bold and visionary leadership, it would be hard for me to exaggerate the pervasive impact he has had at the national office and in our network of agencies, not to mention the national and international church at large. The trick is summing it all up to do justice to a legacy that will surely outlive him.

Fr. Snyder's many accomplishments are each imbued with his own distinct brand of humble servant leadership wrapped up in a bold vision. "Internal integration and external engagement" was his mantra, challenging those charged with supporting him to think and act anew.

And so it began in 2005, with Fr. Snyder retooling the internal operations of the national office and reorganizing and revitalizing the board of trustees to ensure that Catholic Charities would continue to develop into *the* preeminent social service organization. At the same time, he aggressively and tirelessly began building up a wide range of partnerships and collaborations. This work took him across the country, into the halls of Congress, the Oval Office, the boardrooms of many great organizations, and overseas to the Vatican, where he opened new doors with Caritas Internationalis and the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, positioning Catholic Charities as a recognized champion for the poor within the context of the larger church's mission. These efforts did not go unnoticed. Just three years into his presidency, he was named to *The NonProfit Times* "Power and Influence Top 50."

With Fr. Snyder vigorously leading the campaign to reduce poverty, our advocacy efforts took on a new urgency and sophistication with the development and introduction in Congress of our first ever poverty reduction legislation, the National Opportunity and Community Renewal Act. This along with white papers, poverty summits and opportunity roundtables gave voice externally to Fr. Snyder's broad vision of partnerships, collaborations and problem solving, while internally he worked with our network to develop effective poverty reduction services, individualize opportunity plans for clients, embrace social innovation and pursue research on the most effective poverty reduction tools with the prestigious University of Notre Dame.

Further, Fr. Snyder enhanced support and assistance to our local agencies, providing personal presence and engagement with Catholic Charities leaders and staff through innumerable visits and also spiritual enrichment and personal rejuvenation through opportunities like the O'Grady Institute, the New Diocesan Directors Institute, and both national and new regional gatherings. But it was when crisis struck that Fr. Snyder was at his best, immediately there on site to offer encouragement, perspective and help. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Sandy tried his leadership capabilities and the response capacity of the entire organization as nothing else did, but ultimately led to expanded disaster operations, a ground-breaking multimillion-dollar federal contract to provide disaster case management throughout the country, and a new grantee relationship with the American Red Cross.

I have had something of a unique lens through which to view Fr. Snyder's unfolding legacy. We started out together as participants in CCUSA's Leadership Institute in 1992, when we both had assumed agency directorships in Wichita and Minneapolis respectively. As the years progressed and Fr. Snyder went on to become our national president, I went on to serve on the CCUSA board and as board chair, which gave me a broader and different perspective on his extraordinary talent and dedication. I have known him as a pastor, a teacher, a gracious host, and, indeed, a leader extraordinaire! I would say, however, that underlying all this, he is a man of faith who has more than generously put his gifts at the service of us all, a priest who has understood some vital things: the need we have had for ongoing inspiration to meet the day-to-day demands of our dedication, the need we have had for hope amidst the despair of so many, the need we have had to keep the story of the Man Jesus alive and burning in our hearts. That, in a nutshell, says it all!

With a very grateful heart, I say thank you, Fr. Larry, from all of us. We wish you, "Godspeed!" ■

**Janet Valente Pape**

Former Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Wichita





# A LOOK BACK AT FR. SNYDER'S TENURE

Nelson Mandela once wrote, “A real leader uses every issue, no matter how serious and sensitive, to ensure that at the end of the debate we should emerge stronger and more united than ever before.” After ten years at the helm of CCUSA, Fr. Larry has left us a remarkable legacy. Making his mark as one of the more innovative leaders, Fr. Larry has worked with some of our nation’s most prestigious nonprofit associations and has received numerous awards. Collaborating with other leaders, he has led the way with creative ideas that have helped us understand how combatting poverty is critical in our quest to live the gospel. I will remember him most for his relentless pursuit of social justice and fairness for the most vulnerable among us. I will miss his presence, his compassion, and that when given the choice to sit it out or dance, he “chose” to dance.

**Sister Linda Yankoski**  
President/CEO of Holy Family Institute  
Current CCUSA Board Chair

Fr. Snyder brought a strong, identifiable vision to his presidency of Catholic Charities USA. Ten years later I see clearly that he translated that vision into strategies and actions that have realized his vision for Catholic Charities agencies across the country: namely that Catholic Charities agencies should become empowered and in that empowerment become even stronger advocates and servants for the poor. The generous and imaginative impulses that led Fr. Snyder to the creation of programs such as the O’Grady Institute and the partnership with the University of Notre Dame have commissioned, enabled, and qualified Catholic Charities agencies to become better, more able instruments of God’s love for the poor and vulnerable.

All accomplished by a man who understands that the canons of the arts, learning, culture, and the Catholic imagination are alive and sacred, and inspire us in this 21st century to be more creative leaders of Catholic Charities agencies.

**Kevin Hickey**  
Executive Director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden  
Chair of the Council of Diocesan Directors

## 2005

Rev. Larry J. Snyder becomes president of Catholic Charities USA on February 1.

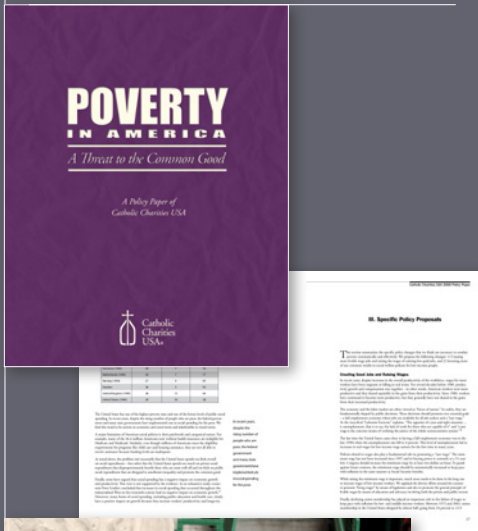
CCUSA publishes “Justice for Immigrants,” a policy paper advocating for immigration reform.

Fr. Snyder leads the first Catholic Charities delegation to the Vatican to meet with Caritas Internationalis and Vatican officials overseeing the church’s charitable works.

In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, CCUSA and the entire Catholic Charities network launch a nationwide disaster response effort. CCUSA receives and administers more than \$163 million in donations. This effort strengthens the network’s ability to respond to major disasters.

## 2006

CCUSA publishes “Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good,” a policy paper calling attention to the high number of Americans living in poverty.



## 2007

CCUSA initiates the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America with the goal to cut poverty in half by 2020.

Fr. Snyder is named to the Vatican’s Pontifical Council *Cor Unum*.

The CCUSA Board approves a newly revised Catholic Charities USA Code of Ethics.

## 2008

CCUSA publishes, “Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good,” a policy paper exploring the connection between racism and poverty.

Fr. Snyder is elected to the board of the Independent Sector and named to *The Non-Profit Times* “Power and Influence Top 50.”



## 2009

CCUSA publishes, “The Home is the Foundation,” a policy paper on affordable housing.

Fr. Snyder is appointed to the Obama Administration’s Council of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

CCUSA hosts the first Msgr. O’Grady Institute, a two-week study-abroad institute for diocesan directors, exploring the foundations of charity in the Catholic Church and building connections with the church offices that oversee the charitable work of the church.

CCUSA convenes ten Centennial Leadership Summits in major U.S. cities in 2009 and 2010, bringing together civic leaders, elected officials, philanthropists, service providers, and interested citizens to address poverty in their communities.

CCUSA enters into a multi-year contract with the U.S. government to provide case management services for Americans in need of assistance as a result of disasters.

## 2010

CCUSA holds the first “Keep the Dream Alive Awards and Mass,” honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and people who have followed in his footsteps by working to eliminate racism and create equal opportunity for all.

Fr. Snyder launches his “Think and Act Anew” blog and publishes *Think and Act Anew: How Poverty in America Affects Us All and What We Can Do About It*, a book exploring innovative ways to reduce poverty.

CCUSA’s centennial celebration culminates in the Centennial Gathering in Washington, DC, exactly 100 years after the historic founding meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Charities in 1910.

CCUSA introduces the National Opportunity and Community Renewal Act, which calls for major reform of our nation’s safety net programs.



When I met Fr. Larry in 2005, I was immediately struck by how being a teacher is such a central part of who he is. From his ability to explain difficult concepts in a way that is both informative and engaging to his love of knowledge and lively discussions, Fr. Larry possesses all the elements of an exceptional teacher. More than anything else, I think of him as a wonderful teacher from whom I have learned so much over the last ten years. That is why I am so happy for him to be returning to the academic world at St. Thomas. We all remember our favorite teachers and the lessons we learned from them. I will always remember Fr. Larry as one of the best teachers I ever had, and the lessons he taught me about compassion and caring will stay with me for the rest of my life.

**Keith Styles**  
Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel  
Catholic Charities USA

I want to express my deep appreciation for the excellent leadership Fr. Larry Snyder has provided as president of Catholic Charities USA. His sincerity, dedication and clear vision to provide opportunities for directors across the country to further develop leadership skills, enhance mission-based services and strengthen the formation of the heart has been outstanding. I am so grateful I was able to attend the O'Grady Institute in Germany/Rome and again in Jerusalem. Both experiences expanded my view of the important work of Caritas in other countries. I will never forget these powerful life changing opportunities and the memories shared with others on the trips. I wish Fr. Larry only the best as he begins a new chapter in his life. His legacy will extend into the future as the network continues its mission to work to reduce poverty across the country.

**Nancy Galeazzi**  
Executive Director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines  
Former Chair of the Council of Diocesan Directors

I've been around this network for some time now and have been fortunate to know and work with five presidents of Catholic Charities USA. All were inspirational leaders and all have uniquely shaped CCUSA, but it is Fr. Larry Snyder that I really know best. This is mostly due to my serving concurrently with him as a trustee of CCUSA. I know him as president of CCUSA but also as an international traveling companion, a dog-lover, and a musician, having even shared the stage and performed together on occasion. I also have known him as a priest and one of the best homilists I have ever heard.

He approaches each of these roles in exactly the same way—with the highest standard of excellence and with great thoroughness and attention to detail. Whether preparing for a musical duet or a meeting in the Oval Office, Fr. Larry settles for only the best and for a job well done.

This is how Fr. Larry led CCUSA through some very challenging, but also some exciting times. During the worst economic crisis in our nation since the Great Depression, Fr. Larry became one of the leading and prophetic voices

on behalf of those falling into the disproportionately widening gap along the wealth distribution continuum.

It is in the context of this public space where I think Fr. Larry leaves his distinct mark on our movement. He helped re-focus a national conversation on poverty and as a consequence squarely branded CCUSA as a national leader in service provision, advocacy and research focused on eliminating poverty.

History surely will acknowledge Fr. Larry's mark on CCUSA. While I will miss him, as will many of you, working shoulder to shoulder with us each day, I know that his influence will be evident in our future efforts.

Well done, Fr. Larry.

**John Young**  
President of Catholic Charities of Yakima  
Former CCUSA Board Chair

2011

CCUSA convenes the first Poverty Summit in Fort Worth, Texas, in partnership with representatives from several national human service organizations, to call attention to poverty in America and build energy and will for addressing it.



2012

A new partnership between CCUSA and the University of Notre Dame creates the Lab for Economic Opportunities, which will use academic research methods to identify the most effective poverty reduction programs.

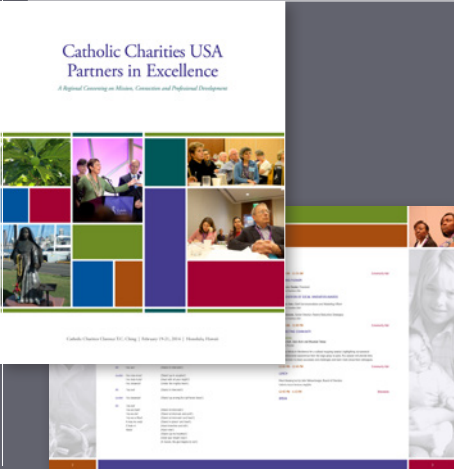


LAB FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

2013

CCUSA launches Partners in Excellence, a series of ten regional gatherings to engage Catholic Charities staff members in the national movement to reduce poverty, increase understanding of our Catholic identity, build capacity in local agencies and recognize social innovation.

CCUSA convenes the first Social Venture Boot Camp at the University of Notre Dame in partnership with the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship and the Mendoza College of Business.



2014

Marking the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, CCUSA calls together several national humanitarian organizations to educate the public about poverty, innovate by elevating creative anti-poverty solutions, and act to reduce poverty with newfound knowledge and strategies.

CCUSA convenes the third Poverty Summit in Washington, DC, bringing together lawmakers for a bi-partisan discussion about poverty reduction and safety net reform.

CCUSA convenes the first two meetings of its Opportunity Roundtable, bringing together a group of former policymakers, researchers, and advocates to discuss the future of anti-poverty reform and to offer feedback on CCUSA's poverty reduction ideas and efforts.

2015

Fr. Snyder completes ten years at the helm of Catholic Charities USA, stepping down on January 31.



“A real leader uses every issue, no matter how serious and sensitive, to ensure that at the end of the debate we should emerge stronger and more united than ever before.” — Nelson Mandela



# WHERE HAS FR. LARRY BEEN?

*in the world*

Without a doubt, Fr. Snyder traveled more than any past president of Catholic Charities USA. His travels took him far and wide, from Hawaii to Jerusalem, from Alaska to Mexico. More than likely, he traveled to somewhere near you.

**In the Nation's Capital** Fr. Larry attended hundreds of meetings, conferences, gatherings, receptions, press conferences, hearings, board meetings and other events in the Washington, DC, area, including over 40 visits to the White House, over 130 visits to Capitol Hill and over 50 visits to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**In the Wake of the Storm** In the five years following Hurricane Katrina, Fr. Larry traveled to Louisiana and Mississippi more than 10 times to visit impacted agencies, assess their needs and coordinate CCUSA's support. During Fr. Snyder's tenure, CCUSA responded to 420 disasters impacting 161 agencies across the country.

**Representing Catholic Charities** Fr. Larry represented the Catholic Charities network at over 450 conferences and meetings across the country and overseas. He played a big role in the non-profit world, representing CCUSA and serving as chair of Leadership 18 and serving on the board of Independent Sector.

**Visiting Members** During his tenure, Fr. Larry visited 113 of the 169 diocesan Catholic Charities agencies across the country. That's roughly 70 percent of all agencies.

**In the Office** At CCUSA's offices in Alexandria, Va. Fr. Larry was present at over 30 board meetings, 110 staff meetings, and 30 network-wide trainings and gatherings.

**When In Rome** Fr. Larry traveled to Rome over 20 times, leading three trips with members of CCUSA's Board of Trustees, three trips with the O'Grady Institute, and making over 15 trips in relation to his work with Caritas Internationalis and the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum*.

**Out of the Country** In addition to his trips to Rome, Fr. Larry attended Caritas meetings in Guadalajara, Mexico, and Montreal, Canada; led the O'Grady Institute to Germany, Greece, Turkey and the Holy Land; and traveled to Belgium for the celebration of the canonization of St. Damien of Molokai.

**At Notre Dame** Fr. Larry traveled to the University of Notre Dame over 25 times to attend CCUSA seminars and institutes held there and to meet with university officials and faculty to develop the Lab for Economic Opportunities.

**Gatherings of Our Network** Fr. Larry attended over 40 regional and national gatherings of our network, crisscrossing the country to attend ten Annual Gatherings, ten Centennial Leadership Summits, ten Partners in Excellence events, and over ten Parish Social Ministry Regional Gatherings. He also attended over 30 CCUSA institutes and trainings.







# SISTER DONNA MARKHAM

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA'S NEXT PRESIDENT

On January 12, the Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) Board of Trustees announced that Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD, president of the Behavioral Health Institute for Mercy Health, has been selected as its next president. Sister Donna, the first female president to lead CCUSA in its 105-year history, has a proven track record in organizational leadership. She will be seated officially as CCUSA's 10th president on June 1, 2015.

"After a nationwide search, Sister Donna was selected based on her extensive relevant experience, her demonstrated leadership skills and her deep sense of commitment to the poor," said Sister Linda Yankoski, chair of CCUSA's Board of Trustees and president and CEO of the Holy Family Institute. "She has served national and local nonprofit organizations within the Catholic community at the executive and leadership levels and brings a breadth of creativity, perspective, and experience."

"I am both honored and humbled to engage in this enormously important ministry," said Sister Donna Markham, incoming president of CCUSA. "There can be no greater call than to serve and advocate on behalf of persons who struggle to get by in a world where they are all too frequently relegated to the margins of society and where they long for dignity, hope and compassion. I feel blessed to walk among the many dedicated Catholic Charities workers across the country who daily make the Gospel come alive through their care for their sisters and brothers in need."

Sister Donna is an Adrian Dominican sister and board certified clinical psychologist. In her current position for Mercy Health she is engaged in leading the transformation of the delivery of behavioral health-care services across seven major geographic regions. Prior to joining Mercy Health, Sister Donna served ten years as the president of the Southdown Institute in Ontario, Canada, and as prioress of the Adrian

Dominican Congregation. She also served for eight years as a member of CCUSA's Board of Trustees, two as board chair.

"Sister Donna's appointment promises a seamless transition at the end of ten years of outstanding leadership by Fr. Larry Snyder," said Bishop David A. Zubik, episcopal liaison to CCUSA's Board of Trustees. "I welcome Sister Donna's appointment in my capacity as liaison between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and CCUSA. I will do all in my power to support her leadership and passion in working to respond to the growing needs of the underprivileged, especially following the example of our dear Pope Francis. I look forward to working closely with Sister Donna in advancing the strong ties that already exist between Catholic Charities and the USCCB."

Sister Donna received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Detroit and was named a Fellow in the American Association of Clinical Psychologists. She was awarded the prestigious Harold S. Bernard Training Award from the American Group Psychotherapy Association in February 2014.

Sister Donna's appointment has been praised by many, including her Dominican Sisters.

"We, Donna's Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, are so proud but not in the least bit surprised that our Sister Donna Markham has been chosen to lead Catholic Charities USA—the first woman to serve as president of the organization in its 100-year-plus history," said Sister Attracta Kelly, prioress of the Adrian Dominican Congregation. "At a time of ever-pressing need and growing despair in our world, Donna's visionary leadership, indomitable spirit, and sense of compassion will combine to make a real and lasting difference for Catholic Charities and all of the people throughout the country who are blessed by the wonderful service Catholic Charities continues to provide to those on the margins."



**I am both honored and humbled to engage in this enormously important ministry. There can be no greater call than to serve and advocate on behalf of persons who struggle to get by in a world where they are all too frequently relegated to the margins of society and where they long for dignity, hope, and compassion. — Sr. Donna Markham**



# KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

MASS & AWARDS CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

By Tina Baldera

On Friday, January 9, 2015, Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington held their annual joint celebration in honor of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—the “Keep the Dream Alive Mass & Awards” at the historic Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Washington, DC. The Most Reverend Martin D. Holley, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, presided at the Mass, and Fr. Larry Snyder, president of CCUSA, delivered the homily.

At the event, CCUSA presented Keep the Dream Alive Awards to three people who inspire the nation to keep alive the dream of King through their work of reducing poverty in America.



**I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”**

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Pictured top left: Monsignor Raymond Gerard East and bottom left: Bishop Martin D. Holley



## Keep the Dream Alive Award Winners

- **Monsignor Raymond Gerard East** (pictured on previous page) is pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Southeast Washington, DC, and has worked in the areas of liturgy, youth ministry and evangelization. From 2002 to 2008, he served as director of the Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Black Catholics, overseeing the Council of Black Catholics, which advises the director on matters of importance to the African-American community and church in the Archdiocese.
- **Sister Kateri Mitchell, SSA**, is the first Native American woman executive director of the Tekakwitha Conference, which ministers to and represents Indigenous Catholics in North America. In January 2008, Sister Kateri was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the first Native American Catholic on the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. She has served on various local boards and commissions in the areas of Indian Family Health and poverty issues relating to greater well-being of the Indigenous community.
- **Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ**, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, oversees the charitable arm of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, providing oversight of the different ministries and programs in the areas of emergency assistance, pregnancy care and immigration services. Sister Norma was instrumental in quickly organizing community resources to respond to the 2014 surge of Central Americans seeking asylum in the United States and setting up humanitarian respite centers in McAllen and Brownsville, Texas.

### Faith Does Justice Award Winner

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington honored Cathy L. Lanier, the chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) of the District of Columbia, as its 2015 Faith Does Justice award recipient. Lanier works to reduce violent crimes by building strong relationships with community partners and members. These enhanced police-community ties have opened avenues of communication, giving victims and witnesses the courage to come forward and share information that helps the MPD ensure justice. These valuable partnerships have played a key role in Lanier's success. From 2008 to 2012, the city experienced a 53 percent reduction in homicides, ending the year of 2012 with a total not seen since 1961.



Pictured top right:  
Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ  
and bottom right:  
Sister Kateri Mitchell, SSA

## Honoring Committed Men and Women

The Keep the Dream Alive Awards honor men and women who are committed to working to reduce poverty in America, strengthening interracial and intercultural relations, and practicing servant leadership, wherein one is a servant first and contributes to the well-being of the people and community that he or she leads. Recipients have a proven track record of:

- **commitment** as exhibited through publications, projects, advocacy, or partnerships through the avenues of parish, community, diocese, Catholic Charities, or other social service agency;
- **positive interaction** with persons who are poor and disenfranchised and among persons of different racial and cultural backgrounds; and
- **inclusion** of the marginalized and traditionally under-represented groups in their decision-making processes.

This annual celebration, which began in 2010, is held in January, the same month as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, which honors King nationally as a champion for social justice, racial equity, diversity and inclusion.

Recent events in the United States, particularly the deaths of African-American men during confrontations with police and the ensuing unrest and protests, have exposed the divisive effects of poverty and racism in our country. King's dream is not yet realized, which is why the work of Keep the Dream Alive and Faith Does Justice awardees is so critical. We can find inspiration and hope in these servant leaders who have kept alive King's dream by demonstrating a commitment to poor and disenfranchised people while building bridges among persons of different racial and cultural backgrounds.

As we continue to face the challenges of poverty and racism, which are explored in Catholic Charities USA's policy papers, "Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good," and "Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good," we are reminded of the foundation that our Catholic social teaching provides, calling us to recognize and honor the human life and dignity of every person. As Catholic Charities, we live out this call by providing critical human services, advocating for justice in social structures, and calling the entire church and other people of good will to do the same. ■

*Tina Baldera is CCUSA's training manager for social ministry and the staff liaison to the Racial Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Professional Interest Group. To access the policy papers mentioned above, visit [www.scribd.com/CatholicCharitiesUSA](http://www.scribd.com/CatholicCharitiesUSA), click on Collections, and then on Policy Papers.*



# THE PILLARS OF POVERTY REDUCTION

When Catholic Charities USA launched the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America eight years ago, we identified five areas of need that we as a nation must address to bring about poverty reduction. These five areas—the pillars of our poverty reduction strategy—are food security, health, housing, education and workforce development, and family economic security.

Nearly every Catholic Charities agency offers programs and services that address at least one of these pillars, if not all of them. As we continue forward with the campaign, we want to call attention to the good work of Catholic Charities agencies across the country in meeting these five areas of need and helping people move out of poverty.

## FOOD SECURITY



### Healthy Eating on a Budget

Catholic Charities of North Louisiana

By Anita Crafts

Understanding the importance of sharing meals in strengthening familial bonds, Catholic Charities of North Louisiana (CCNLA) has developed a suite of services that ensures that clients not only have access to adequate food, but that they learn and enjoy the process of preparing and serving food as well.

CCNLA's Family Strengthening Program consists of emergency assistance and financial education services. Emergency assistance includes help with enrollment in SNAP and other state benefit programs. Although intended as a supplement, SNAP provides the main source of food dollars for many clients, and unfortunately, they often buy foods that appear inexpensive, are overly processed and lack nutritional value.

No one understands this better than Gilda Rada-Garcia, CCNLA's benefits enrollment specialist, which is why she and a group of volunteers began developing the Healthy Eating on a Budget Initiative as part of our financial education. This initiative helps our clients see that healthy foods can be less expensive, more enjoyable and just as quick to prepare. They discover how to provide better nutrition for themselves and their families in ways that make the entire process more enjoyable.

Because our clients are diverse, our Healthy Eating options are as well. Trained volunteers conduct grocery store tours in English or Spanish, focusing on healthy selections like produce and whole grains and teaching clients how to read nutrition labels and compare

unit pricing. The grocery stores support our efforts, often giving incentives such as fresh fruit or gift cards to participants. We also have biweekly nutrition and cooking classes to show how easy healthy cooking can be. A volunteer chef demonstrates how simple it is to prepare healthy dishes, often using fresh produce and herbs from the community garden on our campus. Our clients have the opportunity to work with volunteers in the common area of the garden or work one of the smaller individual plots with specialty items. Gilda is currently developing cooking classes for children so they may help prepare family meals.

In fulfilling our motto to "Provide Help, Create Hope," CCNLA helps clients get what they need and also gain the knowledge to manage their resources in ways that benefit their families. The Healthy Eating on a Budget Initiative strengthens families by teaching them how cooking and eating together can be enjoyable for every family member and how instilling good practices can carry over into other areas of daily life. ■

*Anita Crafts is the grants specialist for Catholic Charities of North Louisiana.*





## A High Five for Behavioral Health

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Washington

By Erik Salmi

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington recently became the first behavioral health services provider in the District of Columbia to earn the highest distinction given by the city's Department of Behavioral Health: a five-star rating. The secret to their success is simple.

"We focus on creating a consumer-centered atmosphere, one where consumers are empowered by having a choice in their care," said Karen Ostlie, director of the agency's Behavioral Health Services.

Behavioral Health Services is a core service provider to more than 1,000 adults and has also served more than 300 children through its mobile outreach. We offer daily support groups, ongoing supported employment opportunities, mobile crisis intervention teams specializing in both adults and children, medication management and much more. Our on-site kitchen partners with our employment division to teach food prep skills to clients in a safe and constructive environment while providing thousands of meals each month to homebound seniors.

In April, a young man who had been a client receiving ongoing treatment for mental illness with substance abuse issues spoke at our annual black-tie gala. He shared his story of first experiencing hallucinations on a family trip and about the decade of drug abuse that followed as he tried to cope. Finally, through on-

going support and relationships with our staff, he has recovered and built a new life. He got married, he's a new father and he's currently studying at Columbia University to be a doctor.

Of course, not every client's success story has quite that incredible of a trajectory. Many of our clients quietly rebuild. One woman endured years of traumatic domestic abuse from her husband. She had always lived with depression, long before she knew what depression was. Today, she thrives living in a shared home, receiving ongoing support and finding therapy in leading a support group for victims of domestic violence.

Our ChAMPS program is a mobile outreach team that responds to emergency calls from youth or their parents and teachers. We often also are called in after a tragedy in the community to help provide grief counseling, especially in hard hit neighborhoods where violence is too common.

For all of the staff working in Behavioral Health Services, the five-star rating is a public recognition for their years of hard work and dedication to those who struggle with persistent and ongoing mental illness—some of the most vulnerable people in Washington, DC. ■

*Erik Salmi is director of communications for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington.*



## A Venture into Modular Housing Construction

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

By Ruth Liljenquist

Developing affordable housing in Northern California's Bay Area is an expensive proposition. Land comes at a premium and labor costs are high. So when Dan Wu and his colleagues at Charities Housing, the affordable housing development arm of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, noticed the beginning of a movement in modular housing construction among market-rate housing developers, they were interested.

"We figured that if modular construction was good for market-rate developers, it had to be good for affordable housing developers," said Wu, executive director of Charities Housing.

Charities Housing finally decided to see how good. They chose their project carefully—a mid-size complex of 59 studio apartments that was already in the works. The project would combine traditional site building with modular construction using fully-finished manufactured housing units trucked to the site one by one.

The construction is now underway, and it's been an interesting journey for Charities Housing as they have faced a number of new issues: making design modifications to support the units and accommodate utility hook-ups, coordinating the shipping schedules and storage of the modular units, working with the bank to manage the risks of transporting the modular units, and just handling the learning curve of a different kind of construction for everyone involved.

Wu and his colleagues have learned some valuable lessons: 1) get the modular unit manufacturer involved early to get their input on design and to learn the constraints of modular construction; 2) get the general contractor involved early so he can become fully informed about the construction process and to make clear responsibilities; 3) make the modular unit manufacturer a subcontractor to the general contractor to ease construction management and clarify responsibility for future warranty service requests.

The 59-unit complex will be completed in spring 2015. If all goes to plan, this project will cost about 5 percent less than it would have with traditional site building. With the high cost of development in the Bay Area, those few percentage points mean significant savings—half a million dollars by Wu's estimate. In a place where the cost of housing is a primary contributor to poverty, those savings can help fund future development, giving more residents affordable housing options.

Even if the savings aren't quite that much, Wu is pleased with the endeavor. "We felt it was worth our time to jump into it, to see if it would work. I'm happy we did it." ■

*Ruth Liljenquist is managing editor of Charities USA.*





## Improving Financial Security through Tax Assistance

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio

By Kimberly Pine

The San Antonio Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program has provided low-income working families and individuals in San Antonio and Bexar County, Texas, with free tax preparation assistance for over 40 years.

In 2001, VITA became a community-run effort when the IRS turned the operation over to local communities. Today, San Antonio's VITA partnership consists of The United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, the city of San Antonio, and a variety of community partners representing for-profit, non-profit, higher education and government entities. They've all come together to make the San Antonio VITA Program the second largest program in the nation.

What makes the San Antonio VITA Program successful is the number of volunteers that donate their time and effort to provide low-income families with tax preparation assistance and help them claim important tax credits such as the Earned Income tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit.

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio plays a vital role in the VITA Program. Each year Catholic Charities VITA staff members recruit over 800 volunteers, train 550 volunteers and place over 300 volunteers at participating VITA sites. For the 2013 tax season, VITA was able to serve over 32,500 families, secure \$58 mil-

lion in tax refunds and save the community \$7.8 million in tax preparation fees. This would not have been possible without the help of over 300 VITA volunteers placed throughout 21 VITA site locations, logging over 10,000 volunteer hours.

VITA's focal point is to provide families and individuals with financial stability not only by assisting with free tax preparation but also providing extended services such as the SaveUSA Program. SaveUSA is funded through United Way and is offered to eligible tax filers who open a SaveUSA account. They can receive a 50 percent "match"—up to \$500—when they save part of their refund for a full year.

The VITA program is one of the most impactful ways Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio helps low-income individuals and families improve their financial security. Tax refunds and credits used and saved wisely can propel families to a better and more secure quality of life. ■

*Kimberly Pine is the director of the VITA program for Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio.*



## Safe Kids, Healthy Families

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Pueblo

By James Dilorio

Catholic Charities Diocese of Pueblo is excited to announce its newest program: SafeCare Colorado. As part of a group of cornerstone prevention programs included in Gov. John Hickenlooper's 2013 child welfare plan, "Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy 2.0," SafeCare offers pro-active, in-home, voluntary services that support families in understanding the health, development and safety needs of young children.

SafeCare is a nationally recognized, evidence-based, in-home program that provides direct skills training to parents in the areas of parenting, child safety and child health. SafeCare is a voluntary, home visiting program for families who do not currently have an open case with the Department of Social Services (DSS).

A review of Colorado's substantiated child abuse reports shows that young children under age five are at the greatest risk for child abuse or neglect. SafeCare gives counties the opportunity to provide services to families after DSS involvement is closed to prevent future interactions with the child welfare system. Additionally, SafeCare gives counties the opportunity to provide services to families before they become involved with DSS, thereby preventing child maltreatment, abuse or neglect.

In the first program year, which started in September 2014 and will run through June 2015, Catholic Charities expects to reach 130 families. Ida Rhodes, director of programs at Catholic Charities Diocese of Pueblo said, "SafeCare will strengthen families and will

reduce the amount of stress that children may suffer early in life. Stress in childhood can disrupt early brain development and compromise functioning of the nervous and immune systems, which can lead to serious health problems later in life. SafeCare will create healthier southern Colorado communities."

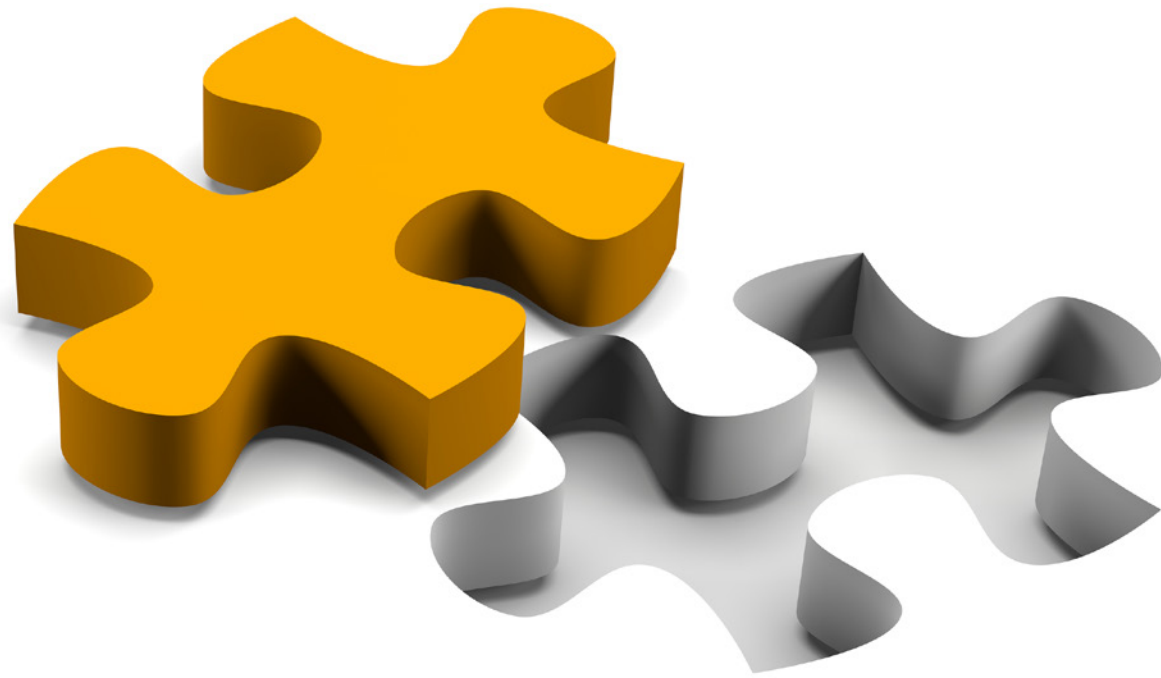
Emilee Alcon, SafeCare program coordinator for Catholic Charities, has hired three employees and will add one more. These five home visitors will bring SafeCare to Pueblo, Custer, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties for parents of children birth to five years of age. Alcon said, "We want to be proactive and reach these families before there is a crisis."

SafeCare will improve the lives of these families by teaching parents child safety, child health and healthy parent/child interactions. A typical SafeCare family would be any family who needs to learn how to reduce safety hazards in the home or what to do when their child is sick or if the parents want to know how to become more interactive with their young children.

Joe Mahoney, executive director of Catholic Charities Diocese of Pueblo, said, "We are very pleased to offer another service in close collaboration with local departments of social service agencies in a regional approach, sharing expertise and resources." ■

*James Dilorio is communications and development coordinator for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Pueblo.*





# FROM HEART HEALTH TO THE HOME DEPOT

## NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PROVIDE BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

What does heart health and The Home Depot have to do with each other? They both relate to partnerships Catholic Charities USA has entered into to provide direct benefits to member agencies. These benefits include access to program curricula, trainings, funding, discounts and personnel services.

### Programmatic Benefits

CCUSA's partnerships with Share Our Strength, the American Heart Association, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau provide benefits to member agencies that allow them to offer valuable tools, resources and knowledge to their clients.

- **Share Our Strength's** "Cooking Matters" curriculum aims to help low-income families stretch their food budgets to eat more healthily and

make the most of federal food and nutrition programs. Participants learn how to shop more strategically, use food nutrition information to make better food choices, and make delicious, affordable and healthy meals. Member agencies can access the curriculum for free through CCUSA's partnership with Share Our Strength. Agencies also can apply for funds to support the purchase of a \$10 gift card for every client that participates in the grocery store tour. Twelve agencies are now using the "Cooking Matters" curriculum with their clients.

- The **American Heart Association's** (AHA) "Simple Cooking with Heart" curriculum emphasizes the health benefits of preparing and eating meals at home; encourages the consumption of more heart-healthy foods—fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts/seeds/legumes and fish; and provides recipes, culinary skills instruction and plan-

ning tools to promote healthy home cooking. To promote the curriculum, AHA has prepared education kits, with recipes, shopping lists, and a DVD with demonstrations of cooking skills and techniques. Catholic Charities USA has partnered with the AHA to distribute the kits through member agencies to families who can benefit from them. The free curriculum is a great resource to member agencies in further promoting healthy eating among their clients.

- The mission of the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)**, a newly-created federal agency, is to "make markets for consumer financial products and services work for Americans." Many Americans do not fully understand the financial products they sign up for, such as mortgages, student loans, car loans and credit cards. This often results in major financial problems. To prevent this, CFPB has developed a training for human services workers to give them the tools to help their clients become better educated about financial products and thus empowered to make good financial decisions. To date, CFPB has provided two trainings for Catholic Charities staff members.

"These programmatic resources give case managers and direct service staff members in our network new tools to help their clients," said Jane Stenson, CCUSA's senior director of poverty reduction strategies. "With these resources, our staff members don't have to be nutrition experts or financial services experts to provide valuable tools and information that will improve their clients' lives."

### Human Resources and Financial Benefits

Other CCUSA partnerships benefit members by providing services and financial advantages and funding that help member agencies in the management and administration of their agencies and programs.

- CCUSA's partnership with **The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance** gives member agencies an edge in recruiting talented people to intern or work in their agencies. The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance works to strengthen the workforce of nonprofit organizations by preparing and certifying college students and young professionals interested in careers in the nonprofit sector and then connecting them to internship or work opportunities at its national nonprofit partners and their affiliates. These national partners include the Boy Scouts of America, Feeding America, Volunteers of America, YMCA and others.

- **Verified Volunteers** makes the process of screening volunteers easier for nonprofits and service organizations as well as for the volunteers they recruit. For nonprofits, getting background checks done can be a time-consuming and expensive process. Further, volunteers who want to give their time at multiple organizations have to submit to multiple background checks. With Verified Volunteers, volunteers only have to submit to one background check, which can be verified for any nonprofit they wish to volunteer at. Verified Volunteers can also help service organizations manage the screening process, reducing time and cost. CCUSA's partnership with Verified Volunteers gives member agencies a 20 percent discount on Verified Volunteers services.

- CCUSA recently entered into a partnership with **Entravision**, "a Spanish-language media company utilizing a combination of television, radio and digital operations to reach Latino consumers across the United States, as well as the border markets of Mexico." As the humanitarian crisis caused by the influx of unaccompanied children crossing our national borders escalated in 2014, Entravision approached CCUSA about a partnership to use its media resources to create visibility, foster support and raise funds to help unaccompanied minors in need. Through this partnership, funds raised by Entravision will be donated to CCUSA for distribution to agencies serving unaccompanied minors.

- In 2014, Catholic Charities USA and **The Home Depot** entered into a partnership to help member agencies save on costs. Using its own data, The Home Depot saw that Catholic Charities agencies were spending over \$20 million annually at The Home Depot stores. The company entered into a partnership with CCUSA to provide greater benefit to members—a 5 percent discount on all purchases under \$1,000, and an up to 20 percent discount on purchases over \$1,000.

"We know that the work of our member agencies is varied and complex," said Kristan Schlichte, CCUSA's senior director of membership. "One of the ways we serve our members is by looking for partnerships and services that can help them in their work, whether it's in management, human resources or in direct services to clients." ■

*For more information about the member benefits mentioned in this article and other benefits, including partnerships with Unemployment Services Trust and Advantage Trust, please contact Kristan Schlichte at [kschlichte@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org](mailto:kschlichte@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org).*



# SOCIAL MEDIA



## MAXIMIZING YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

By Chasity Cooper

Tweets. Likes. Clicks. Shares. Millions of people worldwide are using social networks not only to communicate, but to advocate for causes, raise money and expand their reach. And the best part is that it can be used at little to no cost!

At Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), we use tools like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to not only connect with supporters of our mission and to share principles of Catholic social teaching, but also to showcase the wonderful work of our member agencies across the country. To the unfamiliar, the world of social media can seem a bit daunting at first, but there are so many tools available to make the transition into using online media easy. Every organization or company wants thousands of followers, fans, retweets and shares, but knowing your brand and how to effectively communicate your message will make or break your impact in the online community.

In order to maximize your online presence, it is important to have a strategy, know your audience, and try new techniques that will encourage and increase engagement on and offline.

### Create a Strategy

Experts in social and digital media claim that effective planning will bring forth the best results for a brand. But your strategy will greatly depend on the frequency and content of your social media use. Do you post multiple times a day? Do you post on one channel more than another? Do you know what type of content resonates best with your followers: status updates, articles or photographs?

The best way to answer these questions is to first take an audit of your social media performance. You can use free tools like Facebook Insights or Twitter Analytics to determine the type of content your audience best responds to. Once you've collected this data, you can build a social media editorial calendar that will help you plan when to share content on your social media channels. As CCUSA's digital communications associate, I plan our content on a quarterly basis, keeping in mind any major holidays or observances that we could acknowledge and create content around. For example, January was National Poverty in America Month, so we highlighted how Catholic Charities agencies nationwide work to reduce poverty in our country. Not only does this drive more traffic to our website and social media channels, but it gives us a chance to spotlight your hard work and dedication.

Specifically as it relates to Twitter, the proper use of hashtags can truly push your content beyond the limits of your followers. For example, if you release a report on the effects of poverty on inner city youth, you could tweet: "Did you know 4 out of 5 inner city youth are impacted by #poverty? Read more about it in our annual report (link inserted here)." By hash-tagging poverty, Twitter is able to aggregate the number of users that are discussing the topic of poverty, the frequency at which they share information and where across the world the topic is trending.

### Know Your Audience

So you have over 1,000 followers on Twitter and 3,000 fans on Facebook—that's great! But do you know what type of user makes up your audience? Believe it or not, your audiences can vary from

Facebook to Twitter and even to Instagram. In analyzing CCUSA's social media reach, I've noticed that the audience on Facebook is much larger and vocal than our followers on Twitter, which is fine. Twitter is much more immediate, and with a shorter character limit, your audience will expect you to share more often. As for platforms like Facebook, Google+, and even Instagram, you're allowed a longer character count, which means you can share more information at one time. In understanding how your audience engages with your shared content, you will be able to adequately determine what will prompt them to act when you put out the call. Furthermore, the more you know your audience, the better equipped you are to meet them where they are.

### Try New Techniques

Want to experiment more with social media? Try crowdfunding—the practice of raising money for a particular venture or project from a large number of people strictly using the Internet. #GivingTuesday, an online fundraising campaign that happens every first Tuesday of December, has grown tremendously since its inception in 2012. This past #GivingTuesday, a number of Catholic Charities agencies and affiliates used social media to share information about the various programs they support. You also can take crowdfunding a step further. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton worked with a social media consultant to create a fundraising campaign on Indiegogo that ran through the early part of January 2015 to generate support for an afterschool addiction treatment program.

As we begin a new year, take the opportunity to enhance your efforts in connecting with your followers online. From holiday contests to awareness campaigns, there are so many ways to interact with your supporters online and get them to support your organization's mission in the best way possible. ■

*Chasity Cooper is CCUSA's digital communications associate.*





DISASTER RESPONSE

# A CALL INTO DISASTER MINISTRY

REMEMBERING HURRICANE SANDY

By Rev. Thomas F. Ryan

I've often heard the phrase, "They didn't teach us that in the seminary," but during my priesthood I've only felt its meaning twice. The first was on September 11, 2001. I was pastor to a parish in the city of Perth Amboy, NJ, within view of Manhattan. How do you lead a parish through a terrorist attack and then later years of war? The second time was 11 years later, when Hurricane Sandy blasted the community surrounding Our Lady of Victories Church in Sayreville, NJ, where I am pastor.

On October 28, 2012, shortly after we locked up after a busy Sunday schedule, the rectory telephone rang. On the phone was the president of our parish finance committee. He explained that local officials were going door to door advising residents on certain streets to prepare for the approaching hurricane. He also asked if he could park his car in the parish parking lot, which along with the church is on higher ground.

That phone call was our parish's introduction into disaster ministry. We had all heard the advisories on the news and had made the usual preparations—storing garbage cans in the garage and tying down anything that could possibly blow away—but the need to move cars and evacuate was a new experience.

The following day, Monday, October 29, was the day that changed our neighborhood and parish. The rains began and the wind picked up as the day progressed. We closed the office early, and from time to time throughout the day, I walked around the property making sure everything was still secure. Shortly before nightfall, we lost electricity. And then darkness fell.

The only lights visible were emergency lights shining through windows and the lights of passing emergency vehicles. Around 8:30 pm, however, I saw unusual lights in the church, like flashlights moving around in the sacristy. I became rather concerned, and after getting the rectory dog, Clancy, and jangling every key on my key ring loudly, I nervously opened the door to the church. To my relief, I found the church custodian and his family sitting in the sacristy. They had evacuated their house just as a tidal surge was approaching. With no time to even get in their car, they ran to take shelter in the church. We sat the night out in the rectory, waiting to see what the next day would bring.

The days that followed were uncharted territory for me. I went to visit families in the devastated areas of our neighborhood. I visited the senior center that had been converted into a shelter where people could get a warm cup of coffee or a plate of food. I heard the experiences of so many who were evacuated, even some by boats.

The next day I drove to the police department for a community meeting. We discussed the need for a site for the collection and distribution of materials to the residents. I offered the parish hall.

Almost immediately, we began to collect donations of food, clothing, cleaning supplies and other needed materials at the parish. Despite the streets blocked by water, fallen trees and other debris, residents from all over the region brought donations, some by foot, some by car. Volunteers from the parish and other groups—scouts, teachers and others—all managed the site, which was ideally located to meet the needs of the most devastated families in our community.



When access to our area was restored, representatives of the Diocese of Metuchen and the diocesan office of Catholic Charities came to our aid. This was new. We were used to being part of so many programs to donate our goods and now we were on the receiving end. Soon representatives of Catholic Charities USA were on the scene. Fr. Larry Snyder, Kim Burgo and others committed their assistance. In addition to technical assistance, Catholic Charities USA coordinated a community needs assessment with the assistance of employees of Catholic Charities in Metuchen and Camden.

As time went on, volunteers organized activities to lift the spirits of impacted families. They organized a Thanksgiving dinner at the parish, which provided an opportunity for many residents who had been dispersed to other areas to see each other again. Volunteers also helped organize a Santa's Workshop to distribute donated toys and gifts to residents of the affected regions in Sayreville, South River and South Amboy.

A year later, in the fall of 2013, Mennonite volunteers assisted with rebuilding efforts. Housed in a vacant convent at Sacred Heart Church, South Amboy, they worked with Catholic Charities of Metuchen, repairing homes selected by the agency with grant money for materials from Catholic Charities USA. As a gesture of appreciation, the eighth grade students of Our Lady of Victories School organized a dinner for the volunteers before they left.

Two years have passed since Hurricane Sandy. Nearly half of the homes that suffered substantial damage have been purchased through the Blue Acres program, which will preserve these flood-prone areas as open space. More homes are in process. Recovery work still continues with assistance from local agencies and our parish's long-term recovery committee and St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Our parish's call into disaster ministry brought about many good things. The parish and local community took on leadership in meeting the needs of our residents and managing the amazing response from so many both inside and outside of our state. Our relationship with Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen was strengthened as we saw the response and concern of its director, Marianne Majewski, and her staff. We also were introduced to Catholic Charities USA and benefited greatly from the support that Fr. Larry Snyder and his staff extended. I was particularly grateful for the education on disaster response and spiritual care that I was able to learn and share. And last, through this experience, we had the opportunity to meet so many dedicated and caring individuals. Thank you, Catholic Charities. May God bless you for your dedication! ■

*Rev. Thomas F. Ryan has been a priest of the Diocese of Metuchen, NJ, since his ordination in 1993 and now serves as the pastor of Our Lady of Victories in Sayreville. He was a presenter at CCUSA's 2014 AIDE training.*



# NEWS NOTES



## Catholic Charities Maine Volunteer Honored by News Station

Catholic Charities Maine is proud to note that one of its long-time volunteers was recognized by the local NBC affiliate, WCSH-TV, with a “6 Who Care” Award for outstanding commitment to community service. SEARCH (Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage and Hope) program volunteer Larry Lachance has dedicated more than 35 years to helping vulnerable seniors in the Lewiston/Auburn, Maine, community who wish to remain living independently in their homes. As a SEARCH volunteer and advisory committee member, Larry remains committed to pursuing innovative options for the poor and vulnerable. While the estimated dollar value of Larry’s volunteer effort is more than \$73,500, his contribution to the SEARCH program is truly priceless!

## Catholic Charities Los Angeles Serves Unaccompanied Alien Children

In early June 2014, President Obama declared a state of emergency at our southern border, as people across the nation saw on the news images of young children surrendering to Border Patrol officers and being crammed into cement holding cells. People were shocked and confused, not understanding why this was happening or what our response as a country should be.

For over ten years, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles’ Esperanza Project has been serving the most marginalized of immigration populations – children and adults in immigration custody. Working quietly to help these isolated populations, Esperanza’s staff was not at all surprised at the large number of children crossing the border. They had watched as the nationwide average doubled each year since 2011, going from 6,000 to 12,000, to 24,000 and now over 50,000. They knew the numbers would continue to increase because they were aware of the reasons why the children were coming. The children told stories of gang violence, extortion, forced gang recruitment akin to child soldiers, gang members forcing young girls to become their “girlfriend,” and the police either doing nothing – or worse – colluding with the gangs.

As the news media, lawmakers and foundations struggled to understand this issue, Esperanza served as a valuable resource, explaining our complex immigration detention system, as well as the reasons why the children were coming. Esperanza’s program director spoke at events convened by lawmakers such as California Attorney General Kamala Harris. Esperanza’s directing attorney, Lindsay Toczylowski, spoke to President Obama’s staff and senior administration officials at the White House. Their expertise and years of advocating for this population put them on the radar and resulted in a number of donors and foundations taking notice.

Foundations and individuals who had never previously given to CCLA saw the quality of Esperanza’s work and the grants and donations began coming in, allowing Esperanza to expand its services to more and more children. However, the biggest expansion came on November 1, when CCLA received funds from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to represent an additional 500 unaccompanied children each year. CCLA’s Esperanza Project is now the largest in the country, providing legal services and representation to unaccompanied immigrant children, with 28 attorneys and a total of 60 staff members representing approximately 800 children over the course of the next year.

## Cleveland’s Migration and Refugee Services Awarded Grants of Over \$150,000

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland’s Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) program has been awarded over \$150,000 in recent months to support vital programs to assist immigrants and unaccompanied minors.

MRS received \$81,500 from The Cleveland Foundation to support capacity building of the Immigration Legal Services Program, Friend of the Court and Unaccompanied Minor Pro-Bono Programs to meet the increased needs among families and children. MRS also received \$50,000 from The George Gund Foundation for the Friend of the Court and Unaccompanied Pro-Bono Program. The Community West Foundation awarded \$23,000 to MRS and their

collaborative partners for a public awareness campaign to educate the community about the refugees resettling in the Cleveland area.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland’s MRS program is the largest in Northern Ohio and resettles approximately 300 refugees annually from countries including Bhutan, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Burma, Ethiopia, Liberia, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Burundi, Eritrea, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Mauritania and Cuba.

## St. Patrick Center Opens McMurphy’s Café to Provide Job Training



St. Patrick Center, an affiliated agency of Catholic Charities in St. Louis, recently opened McMurphy’s Café to provide on-site job training for the center’s clients. McMurphy’s Café at St. Patrick Center offers delicious, house-made breakfast and lunch featuring fresh, seasonal produce and many locally-sourced items. The innovative menu, developed by food services director Pete Kolich and his team, features soups, salads, flatbreads, sandwiches, wraps and smoothies. McMurphy’s Café also is proudly serving Starbucks coffee.

McMurphy’s Café at St. Patrick Center is unique because it serves as an employment training program, helping to prepare St. Patrick Center clients for careers in the food service industry. The inaugural McMurphy’s Café class today includes 17 clients. “Our goal is to train and find jobs for 50 clients each year,” said Kolich.

“This project is a great example of our efforts to refine the focus of St. Patrick Center housing, employment and behavioral health programs,” said CEO Tom Etling. “While our new café carries with it the essence of the original McMurphy’s Grill, it has been enhanced to serve our clients and customers more effectively and make a greater impact on our region.”

St. Patrick Center opened the original McMurphy’s Grill in 1990, the nation’s first restaurant for training clients struggling with homelessness and mental illness. In addition to the new McMurphy’s Café, St. Patrick Center also operates McMurphy’s Express in downtown St. Louis.

## Catholic Charities of Tennessee Launches Young Professionals Society

Nearly 150 people gathered on October 18, 2014, at the Aquinas College White House to inaugurate Catholic Charities of Tennessee’s new Young Professionals Society. The new initiative hopes to engage young professionals ages 25-40 who support Catholic Charities’ poverty-fighting work in Middle Tennessee through networking and service events of interest to friends and friends-to-be of all faiths. The Fall Wine Social was

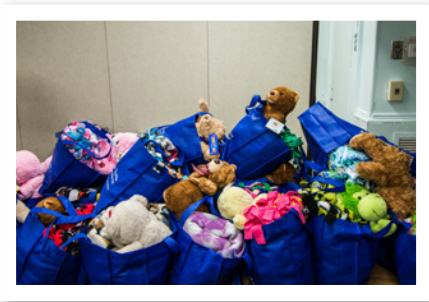


hosted by Aquinas College, with additional support from Kohana Japanese Restaurant and Nothing Bundt Cakes. Catholic Charities’ staff and board members, along with some of their spouses, provided wine bar service.

**Catholic Charities Fort Worth to Work with Community on Service Integration**

Catholic Charities Fort Worth was recently selected by Communities Foundation of Texas as one of only a handful of agencies in North Texas to participate in an extended training and coaching program to support integration of services for the working poor. Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) works with families, companies, and nonprofits to strengthen the community. The participating agencies will come together regularly to learn from each other what practices have been effective based on a set of common metrics.

**Chicago and New York Agencies Deliver Toy Animals to Unaccompanied Minors**



Most Rev. John R. Manz, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, presided over a blessing and send-off ceremony on October 15 of more than 1,300 stuffed animals that were donated for unaccompanied children from Central America. The ceremony was organized by the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office for Immigrant Affairs, in collaboration with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The stuffed animals were collected by a dozen Chicago parishes along with the Archdiocese of Chicago Immigrant-to-Immigrant Ministry, Pastoral Migratoria, for local detention centers housing many of the unaccompanied children. The parishes were exceedingly generous, and the archdiocese had a surplus of stuffed animals. The Office for Immigrant Affairs reached out to the Archdiocese of New York, which has been working with 13 detention centers in New York that house unaccompanied children.

After being blessed by Bishop Manz, all of the stuffed animals were loaded onto a Catholic Charities of Chicago truck and delivered to Lincoln Hall in Somers, NY, an affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York that is housing unaccompanied children from Central America.

**CCHD Awards Grant to Washington State Catholic Charities Agencies**

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development awarded a Strategic National Grant to the three Catholic Charities agencies in Washington State—Catholic Charities Spokane, Catholic Charities of Yakima, and Catholic Community Services of Western Washington. The Strategic National Grant Program provides up to five years of support for organizations working to promote justice or economic development on a statewide, regional or national basis.

The funded project, “The Life to Justice Initiative,” represents the concerted vision of the Washington State Catholic Conference—the bishops of the state with their directors

of Catholic Charities—to unify the Catholic principles of life and justice in a concrete way that reaches every parish in the state. The Washington State Catholic Charities agencies are using the grant to accelerate development of “Prepares,” an initiative to create the capacity within every parish to provide pregnancy and parenting support resources for children up to age five, fathers and pregnant mothers. Additionally, the grant will connect Prepares to two specific initiatives to assist farmworker and African American communities to lay claim to their fair share of justice and economic development.

The African American Initiative will form a network of African American leaders to organize families as effective change advocates, enabling them to access tools and resources that can help them lift themselves out of poverty and create their own future, including better access to education home ownership, and community involvement.

The Catholic Farmworker Initiative will train leaders in Skagit Valley to engage effectively with government decision makers and service providers in the areas of health, education and housing, and promote statewide awareness of the economic and opportunity barriers experienced by all farmworkers. Both of these communities will benefit from the Prepares program’s mission to provide low-income Washington families with resources, services and referrals resulting in healthy birth outcomes and committed, knowledgeable parents.

**Catholic Charities Omaha Opens New Immigration Services Center**



Catholic Charities Omaha recently entered into a collaborative partnership with Christ the King Priory-Benedictine Mission House in Schuyler, Neb., to open a new service center to provide immigration legal services. In October 2013, John Griffith, executive director of Catholic Charities, and Father Mauritius Wilde of Christ the King Priory signed the final collaboration agreement that allows the new center to be located at Christ the King Priory.

The center, which opened in January 2015, provides low-to-no cost immigration legal assistance to individuals and families with low-to-moderate income. In addition to providing immigration services, El Puente, meaning “bridge” in Spanish, seeks to build bridges of understanding between cultures through education and outreach.

“We are excited to formally begin this collaboration with Christ the King Priory to provide much needed services to the Schuyler community,” said Griffith. “Much planning and discussion has gone into this collaboration and we are grateful to have been asked to share our expertise with the Priory and to pursue this venture together. We are looking forward to being able to provide services to Schuyler and the surrounding rural communities within the Archdiocese of Omaha.”

**Commonwealth Catholic Charities Offers New Group Counseling for Teens**

Group counseling works. The dynamics of dealing with issues in a group setting—among people that share common challenges and under the direction of a trained professional counselor—is a proven formula for changing behaviors and developing new attitudes related to various life issues.

Over the years, Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) in Richmond, Va., has provided a number of different group counseling programs tailored to meet the needs of adults in the community. Among the most popular groups are:

- Anger Management: Participants practice positive communication while addressing triggers that lead to anger.
- Batterer Intervention Program: Groups learn the difference between abusive and non-abusive actions and of the consequences of actions that harm others.
- Human Trafficking (John School): Former “Johns” learn how prostitution negatively impacts their family members, the community and trafficking victims themselves.
- Shoplifting: Group members learn to identify triggers that lead to shoplifting and ways to effectively deal with these feelings in order to change behavior.

Given the extensive positive changes that group participants have experienced—with many of them expressing that they wish they had learned these lessons earlier in life— CCC

is launching a series of new groups directed at teens. In January, CCC began offering the following teen-oriented groups:

- Choose Respect: Teaching teens the difference between healthy and abusive relationships, particularly in dating. A separate group for parents will teach ways to identify signs of violence and model healthy expectations for positive relationships.
- Anger Management for Teens: Talking to teens about their anger issues and teaching them how to display their feelings in healthier and more positive ways.

As with adult groups, teen groups are led by certified facilitators and engage participants as they discuss their experiences and give feedback to one another. For more information on CCC’s counseling services, please visit [www.cccofva.org](http://www.cccofva.org).

**CCBQ Gives Out 250 Turkeys to Families of Brooklyn And Queens**



Last November, with the help of volunteers and staff members, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens (CCBQ) distributed 250 Thanksgiving meals to families and individuals at its two main community centers in downtown Brooklyn and Astoria.



Through funds donated by the TJX Foundation, which is affiliated with T.J. Maxx stores, and through a partnership with Fairway Markets, CCBQ was able to provide 200 12-14 pound turkeys. The turkeys were distributed evenly to Catholic Charities' community centers in Brooklyn and Queens for families and individuals. The additional 50 turkeys were donated by the Knights of Columbus of the Immaculate Conception parish in Astoria, NY. The turkey dinner fixings, provided by the Catholic Charities Food Pantry Network, included fresh potatoes, instant stuffing, gravy, corn muffin mix and cranberry sauce.

Volunteers included individuals, students from St. Francis College and clients from the Catholic Charities Long Island City Day Habilitation Program. The volunteers as well as CCBQ staff from the community centers were on hand to help package the turkey meals and distribute them.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens was chosen by the TJX Foundation as the Charity of Choice for the newly-opened T.J. Maxx store in Glendale, NY. At the ribbon-cutting, CCBQ was handed a check for \$5,000 to purchase these Thanksgiving meals.

CCBQ operates a network of 20 food pantries in Brooklyn and Queens, providing food assistance to many families and individuals in need. Last year, CCBQ pantries helped distribute more than 1 million meals to over 115,000 people. The CCBQ food pantry network was chosen to help distribute 300,000 pounds of food donated by Goya Foods.

### Catholic Charities Worcester County's Annual Report Wins Highest Honors



The International Academy of the Visual Arts announced that the 2014 Communicator Award of Excellence was presented to Catholic Charities Worcester County (Mass.) and its executive director, Catherine Loeffler, for the agency's 2013 annual report, "To Wish Upon a Star...." The Award of Excellence is the highest honor given in an international advertising competition honoring the creative excellence of communication professionals. Catholic Charities Worcester County has received awards for its Annual Reports for the last five years.

### San Bernardino & Riverside Agency Offers Skills Training for In-Home Aides

Catholic Charities San Bernardino & Riverside Counties in Southern California launched its first in a series of employment skills trainings for In-Home Personal Care Aides in January. By partnering with The Institute for Professional Care Education (IPCE), the agency is able to offer free employment training classes that include education and skills to those seeking employment in the in-home industry. The in-home care industry has been growing dramatically since 2011 and will continue to grow until 2035 and beyond with the baby boomers reaching age 65 and older.

Many adults of low-income families do not have readily available access to affordable employment training or in a field that matches their local economy. In response, Catholic Charities is offering the 16-hour In-Home Personal Care Aide employment training, which is in compliance with the California Department of Public Health. Upon completion of the training, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion, which they can use in obtaining employment in local in-home care service businesses. With a growing demand for in-home care services, there is an increasing need for additional caregivers. This training will provide participants with the necessary education and skills leading to better opportunities in the health care industry.

"This training is directly connected to our mission of fighting poverty," said CEO Ken F. Sawa. "The need for steady employment cannot be ignored if we are serious about our work. Our In-Home Personal Care Aide Training will provide participants with a leg-up in obtaining employment in the burgeoning Home Care Industry in our inland counties. Trade school certification programs are extremely expensive and unaffordable for low-income families, so I am very excited that Catholic Charities is able to offer free education and skills training for our participants and a practical avenue toward a better future."

### Goya Foods Donates 20,000 Pounds of Food to Catholic Charities San Antonio

Just in time for Christmas, Goya Foods donated 20,000 pounds of food to Catholic Charities, Archdiocese

of San Antonio, Inc. to support its food pantries and emergency food programs throughout the archdiocese. On December 23, 2014, an 18-wheeler filled with food arrived at Our Lady of Guadalupe Community Center and Food Pantry. A team of volunteers unloaded this generous and timely gift of food.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia Siller of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, President/CEO Jose Antonio Fernandez of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc., other community leaders and clients of Catholic Charities were present to receive this most generous gift.

Founded in 1936, Goya Foods, Inc. is America's largest Hispanic-owned food company, and has established itself as the leader in Latin American food and condiments. Goya manufactures, packages and distributes over 2,200 high-quality food products from the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America.

### CCCTX Receives Award from Texas Pregnancy Care Network



Catholic Charities of Central Texas (CCCTX) in Austin, Texas, was recently honored by the Texas Pregnancy Care Network (TPCN) for having the highest client retention rate among non maternity home

TPCN providers. TPCN presented its 2014 Journey for Life Award to CCCTX at its recent conference. A provider's retention rate is determined by the number of times a client returns for services during a pregnancy or the first year of a child's life.

"We are so pleased to learn that our client retention rate is the highest among the network's providers," said Sara Ramirez, CCCTX executive director. "The funding we receive through TPCN is instrumental in our ability to support women and men as they navigate crisis pregnancies and work to give their children a healthy start at life."

TPCN, a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, administers the state-funded Texas Alternatives to Abortion Services Program, a network of pregnancy support centers, maternity residences and social services agencies. Catholic Charities provides TPCN-funded services to eligible clients at its Gabriel Project Life Center locations in Austin and Bryan. Services include one-on-one consultations and an "earn-while-you-learn" program in which parents and parents-to-be can earn points toward needed baby items as they attend classes on topics such as child safety and nutrition, prenatal and postpartum health, and breastfeeding. CCCTX pregnancy and parenting support services are available to parents from conception until their child's first birthday.

CCCTX Director of Social Services Allison Cavazos attributes the program's retention rate to its strong education program and one-on-one sup-

port. "The foundation of our program is building relationships with women and men as they experience pregnancy and grow as parents," Cavazos said. "Our clients repeatedly tell us that while the 'earn-while-you-learn' program is their initial draw to Catholic Charities, they keep coming back for the knowledge and support we provide."

### Catholic Charities in Erie to Welcome Badach as Executive Director

Ann M. Badach has been named executive director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Erie. She is looking forward to the many opportunities she will have to interact with the persons directly involved in the work and services provided by those within the Catholic Charities network.

"It will be a privilege to support and promote the work our affiliate directors and agencies do every day," she said. "Being invited to sit at the table with all of the people who work tirelessly within the organization energizes me."

Badach replaces Mary Maxwell, who is retiring after 11 years as executive director, 22 years as director of the Family Life Office and a total of 35 years with the Diocese of Erie. Badach will work alongside Maxwell through the end of February, officially stepping into the position on March 2. ■



PROVIDING HELP.  
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The path that Abdishukri Abdi followed from a war-torn vil-  
lage in Somalia to a refugee camp in Kenya to an apart-  
ment in Nashville to receiving his U.S. citizenship has been  
a long, grueling journey. Uprooted from his home due to  
violent civil war and forced to live in a refugee camp for  
18 years, Abdi said he often struggled to figure out where  
he fit in, wondering, “Am I going to be a refugee forever?”

Abdi, who was resettled in Nashville by Catholic Charities  
of Tennessee in 2009 and now works for Catholic Charities  
Refugee and Immigration Services as a housing special-  
ist, said during that long time in the limbo of a refugee  
camp, “I felt like I lost my identity....You don’t know where  
you belong.”

Since he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen in November, Abdi  
finally feels like he is “now home.” Home for Abdi and his  
family of nine, these days, is a three-bedroom apartment  
in South Nashville. It’s modest, cozy, and a far, far cry from  
living in a wind- and sand-battered tent with his wife and  
five children in the refugee camp.

Abdi arrived at the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya when  
he was 12 years old and eventually met and married his  
wife Kadijo Mohamed there. She gave birth to five of the  
couple’s seven children there; they have had two more  
children since arriving in the United States. Abdi’s wife  
is not yet a U.S. citizen, but is preparing to take the test.

While working and struggling to provide for his growing  
family in the camp, Abdi began to wonder, “Will my chil-  
dren suffer as I suffered?” Now that his family is settled in  
Nashville, “I am sure they have a bright future.” The school-

aged children are making good grades and the younger  
ones are eager to follow in their footsteps.

Abdi is optimistic about the future. He hopes to move out  
of the cramped apartment and into a house with a yard  
someday. “America is tough if you have several kids and  
do not own a house,” he said. He enjoys his position at  
Catholic Charities, but dreams of becoming a professional  
diplomat or human rights activist one day. “I can’t be pres-  
ident or vice president, but there are some more things I  
can do,” he says with a laugh, almost giddy with excite-  
ment over his new status as a U.S. citizen.

Abdi just missed being able to vote for the first time in his  
life in the Nov. 4 statewide election, but is looking forward  
to casting his first ballot the next opportunity he has.

For now, he is just thankful to be here, and relishing the  
freedom that comes with being a U.S. citizen. “My dreams  
became true and I got resettlement opportunity to USA,  
Nashville through Catholic Charities of Tennessee,” he said.  
“I am just feeling I am at home.” ■

*This story is excerpted from an article titled, “New U.S.  
Citizen Balances Old and New Cultures,” by Theresa  
Laurence for The Tennessee Register, the newspaper of  
the Diocese of Nashville. Reprinted with permission.*

Photo Courtesy of Catholic Charities of Tennessee

CALENDAR

2015 TRAINING & EVENTS

March 22-27	April 17-18	April 22-24	May 15-16
<b>From Mission to Service</b> <i>South Bend, Ind.</i> Kathy Brown kbrown@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>PSM Regional Gathering</b> <i>Charlottesville, Va.</i> Tina Baldera tbaldera@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>Diocesan Dir. Spring Gathering</b> <i>Alexandria, Va.</i> Kristan Schlichte kschlichte@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>PSM Regional Gathering</b> <i>Portland, Maine</i> Tina Baldera tbaldera@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org
May 30-June 13	June 13-19	September 10-12	2015 Training and Events
<b>The O’Grady Institute</b> <i>Freiburg and Rome</i> Kathy Brown kbrown@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>Leadership Institute</b> <i>Lutz, Fla.</i> Kristina Asifo kasifo@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>Annual Gathering</b> <i>Omaha, Neb.</i> Amy Stinger astinger@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>For more information on upcoming events, please visit our website!</b> www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org

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