

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



# VOICE

SPRING 2020

## Honoring the past. Building the future. All of us, together.

### Inside:

- 150 years of Catholic Charities
- Advocating for the unsheltered
- Social Justice Assembly highlights

## A 150-year old partnership

In 1869, Assumption Parish in downtown Saint Paul created the St. Joseph's German Catholic Orphan Society to care for children left parentless by the hazards of pioneer life and the Civil War; and so began the early days of Catholic Charities. They could not have known that 150 years later, Catholic Charities would still be here, ever-evolving and responding to the most urgent needs our community faces.

Much has changed since 1869. But one thing remains more important today than ever: Catholic Charities is a living, breathing public-private partnership.

Individuals and families, donors, volunteers and advocates – all of you – bring our mission to life through your generosity and hard work. And the

impact of your contributions is leveraged and maximized by critical public-sector investments from the State of Minnesota, counties and cities where we operate.

### JOIN US DURING OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY SPOTLIGHT WEEKS

Throughout 2020, we will be hosting four special Spotlight Weeks to highlight key areas of Catholic Charities' mission brought to life through this public-private partnership.



Consider planning an activity for your family or organization during one of these weeks, which will include volunteer, education and advocacy opportunities:

**February 6-14:** A recent spotlight on Aging and Disability Issues

**May 7-15:** Spotlight on Housing and Homelessness Issues

**August 27-September 4:** Spotlight on Children and Families / Early Childhood Education

**September/October (Date TBA):** Spotlight on Opportunity Centers, Employment Support

### BUILDING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER.

Contact [events@cctwincities.org](mailto:events@cctwincities.org) to learn more about getting involved during Catholic Charities' 150th Anniversary year. Thank you for being a critical part of the community that brings our mission to life!



CELEBRATING

BLACK

HISTORY MONTH

*In February, the entire nation commemorates Black History Month. For the students at Northside Child Development Center in Minneapolis, it's a chance to celebrate the accomplishments of historic black leaders they admire.*

*This year, students researched black leaders and put together performances displaying their life stories and significant influence on culture, politics, social justice, sports and more.*

*We are so proud of what these young students have accomplished and can't wait to see what they achieve with these role models!*



***"We no longer have to worry about what will become of us."***

## Facing life's obstacles together

Until recently, Booker and his wife Linda had a place to call home, a duplex they shared with Linda's adult son. When that duplex was sold and everyone was asked to leave so rent could be raised, they were left with few options. Booker, 65, has been with Linda since 1980. They are a true team facing life's obstacles together.

"I love how she loves me," Booker said. "We have been through the ups and the downs together."

That love is unconditional, not only for Linda but also her son. They both suffer from schizophrenia and are unable to work. Booker takes care of them and recalls the request Linda's mother made nearly 40 years ago.

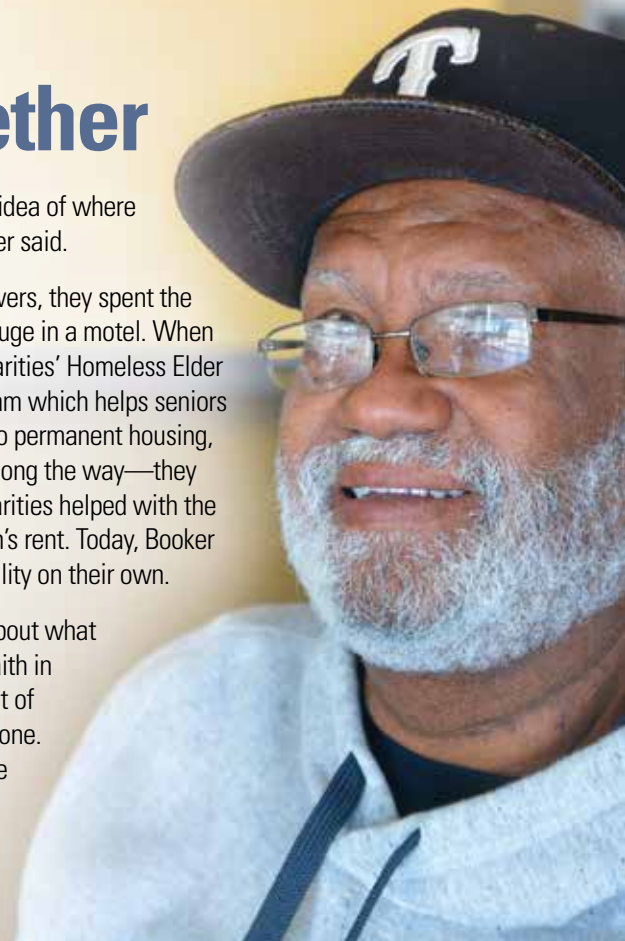
"Her momma said 'take care of my baby,' and I try to live up to that," Booker said. "Linda is an anchor for me. I know I need to be there for her."

When Linda was taken off a medication, it had a negative reaction which led to a string of challenges that affected their housing search.

"We were so stressed with no idea of where we were going to sleep," Booker said.

Waiting and searching for answers, they spent the little money they had taking refuge in a motel. When a friend suggested Catholic Charities' Homeless Elder Program—an innovative program which helps seniors transition from homelessness to permanent housing, providing supportive services along the way—they finally found hope. Catholic Charities helped with the damage deposit and first month's rent. Today, Booker and Linda are maintaining stability on their own.

"We no longer have to worry about what will become of us. It gives us faith in people, too," Booker said. "A lot of times, it feels like you're in it alone. It is good to know that someone out there is willing to help you. That kind of thing can make a change in people."



# Investing in Minnesota's Emergency Services Program

On those extraordinarily cold Minnesota nights, public, private and nonprofit leaders quickly enter crisis-mode. Cross-sector leaders work together to ensure no one is left outside in the cold facing hypothermia, frostbite and even death.

The number of people who are unsheltered in our community and across the state is growing quickly. Statewide, unsheltered homelessness has increased by 62% since 2015. While we have not quite reached the level of headline-making cities like Portland and San Francisco, we are catching up quickly. The number of unsheltered persons in the Twin Cities region (55.2%) has increased at more than six times the national rate (8.7%) in the past year.

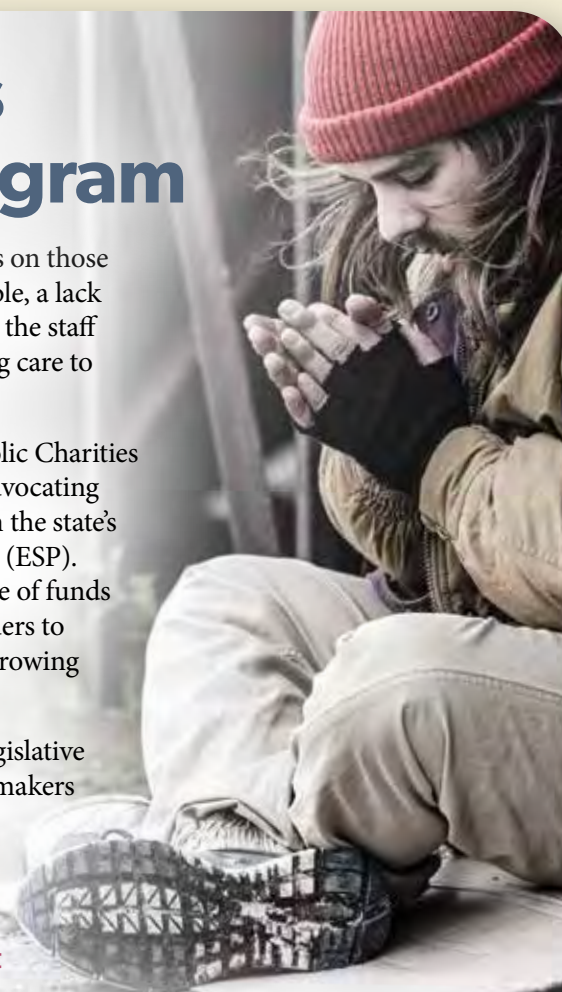
Unfortunately, as more people experience homelessness and more pressure is put on the state's shelter system, it is more difficult than ever to meet the need. Even when shelters or spaces that could

be used as emergency shelters on those bitterly cold nights are available, a lack of operational resources limit the staff available to provide life-saving care to those desperately in need.

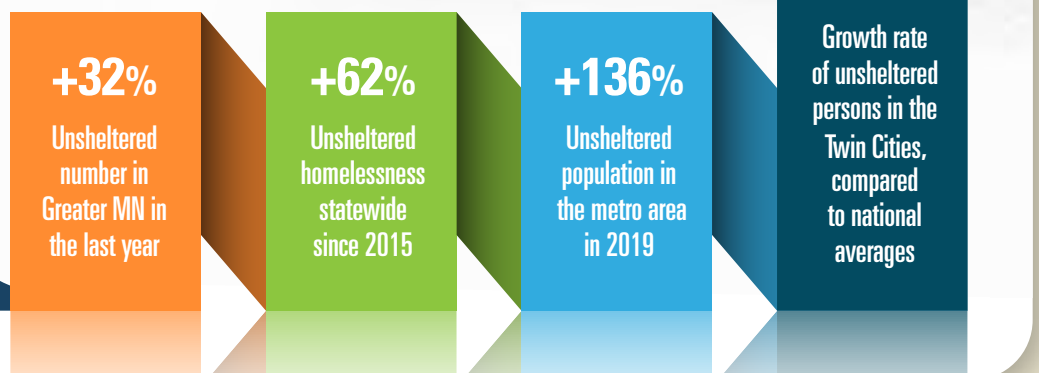
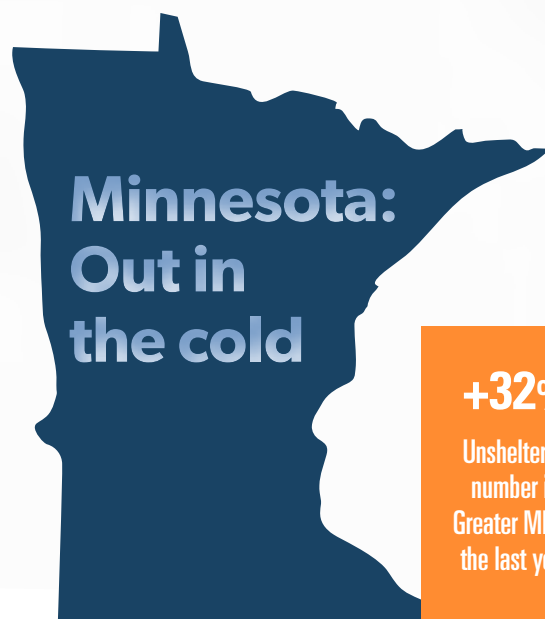
This legislative session, Catholic Charities and our many partners are advocating for a significant investment in the state's Emergency Services program (ESP). ESP is the most flexible source of funds for Minnesota's shelter providers to immediately respond to the growing unsheltered crisis.

We need your support this legislative session. Please urge your lawmakers to invest in ESP to ensure all Minnesotans have access to safe shelter.

**Get involved and learn more at**  
[cctwincities.org/unsheltered](http://cctwincities.org/unsheltered)



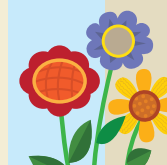
*Minnesota's housing crisis is impacting Minnesotans at every point in the housing continuum, but no group is in more danger than the unsheltered—the dramatically increasing number of people living in their cars, under bridges, in stairwells and other places not meant for human habitation. This population is growing quickly, and it is time for Minnesotans to act.*



## SAVE THE DATE! THE 2020 DOROTHY DAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020**  
**SAINT PAUL OPPORTUNITY CENTER**

At the 2020 Dorothy Day Breakfast we want to honor YOU for being the "yes." The completion of Dorothy Day Place would not have been possible without your incredible philanthropic support and volunteer efforts at Catholic Charities. The event is free to attend, but seating is limited. Register today at [CCTWINCITIES.ORG/DDCBREAKFAST](http://CCTWINCITIES.ORG/DDCBREAKFAST)



## Help us recognize our 150th Anniversary!

What better way to honor 150 years of service and impact than by connecting with those who made it all possible? We hope you will join us during our 150th anniversary year through a series of opportunities:

1. Volunteer at one of our sites.
2. Learn about the issues.
3. Raise awareness about current needs.
4. Advocate for new policies.
5. Visit one of our locations.
6. Engage creatively at work or home.
7. Share your story with others.
8. Invest in Catholic Charities with a gift.

Contact [events@cctwincities.org](mailto:events@cctwincities.org) to learn more about how your organization can get involved during Catholic Charities' 150th Anniversary year. Thank you for being a critical part of the community that brings our mission to life!



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
of St. Paul and Minneapolis

**FACT:** Since Higher Ground Saint Paul opened, capacity has increased by nearly one-third.



# Mark your calendars

For more information on all of our events, visit [cctwincities.org/events](http://cctwincities.org/events)



## Homeless Day on the Hill

Wednesday, March 11, 2020  
Minnesota State Capitol Complex



## Dorothy Day Community Breakfast

Thursday, May 7, 2020  
Saint Paul Opportunity Center



## 2020 Saint Nicholas Dinner

Thursday, December 3, 2020  
Saint Paul RiverCentre



# VOICE

Published by Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis  
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**Tim Marx**

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

**Kathleen Erickson DiGiorno**

*Chair, Board of Directors*



CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVES THOSE MOST IN NEED.

## We can do so much more, together...



The legacy of Catholic Charities is really a story of the countless people whose paths have crossed with ours for 150 years and counting. Our impact, together, is so much more than what any of us can do on our own.

Did you know that over 80 percent of the funding for emergency shelter and services at Catholic Charities comes from private funds and our own reserves? Last year, Catholic Charities provided more than 16,000 adults, children and families with overnight emergency shelter, meals, health care, personal care such showers and haircuts, access to housing and employment assistance, and specialized services to veterans and youth.

Unfortunately, public funding for programs like ours has not kept up with the rapid growth in emergency services needs. The Office for Social Justice is working hard with statewide public and private partners to increase these critical dollars.

Thank you for being a part of the Catholic Charities story – this public-private partnership is changing lives every day. We are stretching to respond to the increasing needs of our most vulnerable neighbors – your compassion, time and voice makes this possible.

See you out there!

Wendy Underwood

*Vice President, Social Justice Advocacy and Engagement*

## You can help those most in need for the next 150 years.

Leave a charitable bequest to Catholic Charities— and you create a personal legacy that endures forever.

be  
THE yes



For a free tool to help you with estate planning, contact: [paul.deakins@cctwincities.org](mailto:paul.deakins@cctwincities.org), or call 612-204-8472.

## 2020 Social Justice Assembly

# Exploring the Twilight of Life



Nearly 200 friends, community members, donors, staff and advocates convened at St. Catherine University in early February for the 2020 Social Justice Assembly. This year's event explored the barriers people encounter when aging without a support system,

the role poverty and inequity play in aging and the impact it has on our community.

Older adults (55 and older) have experienced the greatest increase in homelessness, up 25% since 2015,

according to the most recent Wilder survey. In response to this increasing need, Catholic Charities' services to low income older adults and individuals living with disabilities have doubled in volume over the last several years. This includes specialized services

and response systems to serve elders experiencing homelessness and relying on emergency shelters such as Higher Ground Saint Paul.

Attendees heard from a panel of experts including **Allison Liuzzi**, Project Director of Minnesota Compass, **Peter Cox**, MPR News reporter covering aging, **Pahoua Hoffman**, Executive Director of the Citizens League and Catholic Charities board member, and **Melea Blanchard**, Program Manager of Catholic Charities' Homeless Elders program.

*Thank you to HealthPartners and St. Catherine University for their support in keeping this event open to the public and free.*

**FACT:** In 2019, Catholic Charities Aging and Disability Services increased 8.5%.