



150th ANNIVERSARY
CATHOLIC
CHARITIES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE

SUMMER 2020

Meet the helpers.

be
The
helper

VOLUNTEER.
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Together, we've got this covered.

COVID-19 has turned all of our worlds upside down. Already facing record rates of homelessness across the state, the need for life-saving shelter and critical services has only increased since the pandemic took hold.

While so many are safely isolating at home, washing their hands and staying six feet apart, those we serve are often unable to take those precautions. After all, there's no way to stay home if you don't have one.

You have risen to the challenge. We have been overwhelmed by the support of our donors, volunteers, community partners and most of all, our front-line staff and clients. This issue of *Voice* might look a little different—but that's because life looks a little different. In these pages, you will meet some of the helpers who have asked themselves what they can do to make a difference in this time of need and stepped up to do it.

We don't yet know when we will be able to look back at COVID-19 as a memory,

but we do know we will tell the stories of how each of us did our part and how we got through

it together—whether that's donating, volunteering, making masks, or simply staying home. I encourage you to learn how you can help those we serve at Catholic Charities

through these times at cctwincities.org/bethehelper.

Stay safe and be well.

TIM MARX
PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**"You have
risen to the
challenge.
We have been
overwhelmed
by the
support."**



Gratitude from Minnesota's leaders.

The idea of a moment of gratitude right now seems perfect. I can't tell you how grateful I am to the work of Catholic Charities and all of the service providers and folks who work with the homeless. You've always been on the front lines, that's nothing new, and you've always seen the most vulnerable. To know you're out there, I cannot thank you enough.

GOV. TIM WALZ
STATE OF MINNESOTA



I am grateful for the work that many of you do each day to serve and to fight for what people experiencing homelessness need and frankly deserve. We know that for others they have been facing challenges for a lot longer...those are the folks that I am taking extra time to think about, to notice, to pray for, and to find policy solutions for. Normal wasn't working for so many of our Minnesotans, especially our neighbors experiencing homelessness; we can't get back to normal, we have to get back to better. If we stick together, I know we can reach the goal of creating something better than normal, and I look forward to partnering with Catholic Charities all along the way.

LT. GOV. PEGGY FLANAGAN
STATE OF MINNESOTA

A ray of sunshine.



Each morning at sunrise, I marvel that the sun really doesn't care about COVID-19. In spite of all the suffering and tragedy on earth, the sun rose today, and it will rise again tomorrow. We will get through this together.

BRIAN MAHONEY & NANCY COLLINS
DONORS

Being part of the solution.

A friend called me after volunteering at the Distribution Center. I heard something in her voice I had never heard before—a sense that the task was simply overwhelming. How could they possibly feed residents according to the new safety protocols? I knew I couldn't solve the problem, but I could be part of the solution.

TERRY ROWE
DONOR & VOLUNTEER

Northside is a blessing to families.

Having Northside Child Development Center open is a huge blessing to my family with having students at home adjusting to distance learning. It helps me focus on getting them all of my attention during this big change.

NICHELE PARKER
NORTHSIDE PARENT

Thank you to our long-time partner!



We're a proud long-time partner of Catholic Charities, and your work is more important now than ever. We recently expedited and transformed our annual Market Impact Fund to support our local communities across the country with COVID-19 relief and response—including a grant to Catholic Charities in support of the pressing needs they're currently providing to our community's most vulnerable population.

REBA DOMINSKI
U.S. BANK

Thank you, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and KSTP-TV!



"Some Twin Cities kids are going through a lot more than a pandemic. Hennepin County Sheriff's deputies held a parade and dropped off pizza at St. Joseph's emergency shelter in Minneapolis. People in this community really do care about them. Stories like these show us there is good out there, even if it doesn't feel like it."

The joy of service.

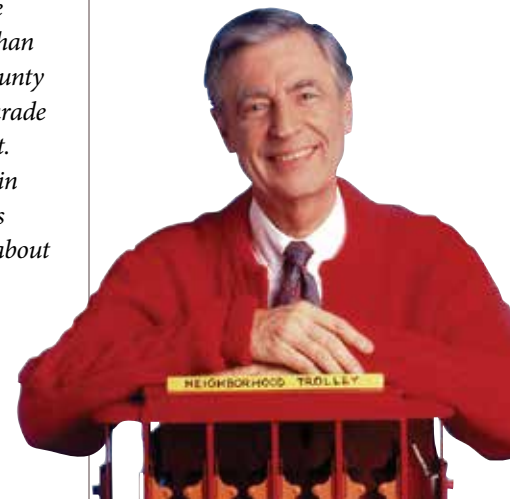
I wanted to do something to help during the pandemic and learned that Dorothy Day Place had increased resource needs in serving people who are experiencing homelessness. It's been a joy and privilege working with staff and other volunteers to prep and serve food for those who are vulnerable.

CINDY JOHNSON
DONOR & VOLUNTEER

Looking for the helpers.

Growing up with parents who couldn't speak English well, I'd often watch public television programs on our black and white TV like Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. I remember a phrase of Fred Rogers' about "looking for the helpers" during difficult times. Throughout my life there were helpers for me and my family. These experiences motivated me to pursue a career in nonprofit service and why I serve at Catholic Charities. Service is not always about giving money. It is also about sharing your talents, time, and network of relationships. This is a challenge no one person or organization can solve alone. I am grateful to be one of the helpers during this time of great need.

PAHOUA HOFFMAN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The blessing of feeling useful.

I'm aware more than ever during this time of crisis how blessed I am to have a home, a loving family and a good job. And Catholic Charities has given me another great blessing—a chance to feel useful during this tough time. It's a small thing to email friends asking for volunteers or a donation, and it's a joyous thing to be able to serve meals. I'm glad I've been able to help in small ways, but it's the front-line staff who are there every day who deserve our most profound gratitude. Like doctors and nurses, grocery store workers, delivery drivers and so many others, they are helping get our city and state through this. Thank you, thank you, thank you to Catholic Charities' tremendous staff!

TOM VITT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
VOLUNTEER



We're in a new kind of marathon.

I couldn't endure this without my "Law and Order" marathons, and I don't think anyone else could either! We are blessed to be in a position to help such a great organization, as you do such a wonderful job helping people that need it the most.

KEVIN MOEHN
DONOR OF SIX TELEVISIONS

Diving head first into the labor pool.

Volunteering as part of the staff Labor Pool has been an incredible experience. I have enjoyed stepping out of my comfort zone and trying new things as well as building some wonderful connections with the volunteers and other Catholic Charities employees that I would have otherwise never met. It has been very enjoyable and rewarding.

HONY YANG
SAINT PAUL OPPORTUNITY CENTER



StarTribune

Hundreds of Minnesota homeless move to area hotels

"The idea is that we're trying to save lives and keep the virus from ripping through this vulnerable population."

MIKE OPAT
HENNEPIN COUNTY
COMMISSIONER

Using both feet of true service.

They say true service has two feet: charity and social justice. In my usual role with justice education I often describe charity—those emergency services, the corporal works of mercy—as being necessary but not sufficient. But over these last few months the need to walk with both feet has never felt more real to me.

MIKE RIOS-KEATING
SOCIAL JUSTICE
EDUCATION MANAGER



"If we can help Catholic Charities, knowing the impact they have and the lives they help every day? It was a natural choice."

DAN DOWLING
BURNETT DAIRY COOPERATIVE



We will succeed.

Thank you to the teams and staff at Catholic Charities and a host of others in the community for standing up and fighting for the unheard and voiceless. This struggle may never end, but if each of us does our part, the voices of the poor and homeless will be heard and we will succeed.

LYNETTE MACLEOD
ADMINISTRATION CENTER

Helping isn't hard, but it takes many hands.



I've been blessed in my life, and my heart goes out to those who are homeless, especially now that we are asked to stay at home—where do you stay when you have no home? We are a community and are called to care for one another. With the Stay at Home Order, the extra effort to support our homeless shelters brought me back to the warehouse to help provide individual meals as residents are served in their rooms where possible. It's not hard, but it does take many hands to repackage bulk foods, pack groceries, and sort through generous donations. I've also been sewing a lot of face masks and it's wonderful to collect masks, from my friends to donate to Catholic Charities for their guests and staff.

MARG WALL
DONOR & VOLUNTEER



For the next 150 years, you can keep giving to your favorite charity.

Leave Catholic Charities a charitable bequest, and you create a personal legacy that endures forever. Find out what type of gift works best for you.

Visit cctwincities.giftlegacy.com. Thank you!

"The satisfaction I get is the smile from a guest, a diner, or simply talking to another volunteer. This makes me feel more complete."

NORB STICHA
VOLUNTEER

Enough cheese to make more than 320,000 sandwiches!



The Catholic Spirit
Helping the hungry

Burnett Dairy Cooperative, based in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, donated 25,000 pounds of cheese to Catholic Charities, which shelters the homeless and feeds the poor. The cooperative also is donating to food shelves, and schools in Wisconsin that are closed but meeting the needs of families hit hard by business and school closings. It plans to donate more than 75,000 pounds of cheese.

"This was such a wonderful gesture of humanity," Laurie Ohmann, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Catholic Charities said. "It was fun to visit with the farmers, and it was fun to watch this roll into our facility."

Thank you, Brother Justus!

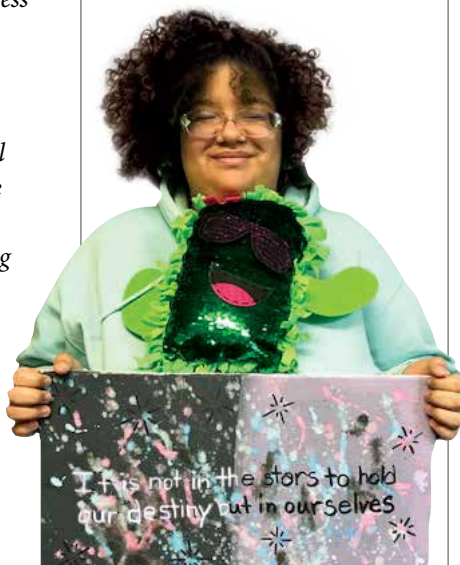


Brother Justus Whiskey donated five gallons of homemade hand sanitizer to Higher Ground Saint Paul to help flatten the curve. Founder Phil Steger paves the way on how to Be The Helper!

Seeing the best of the human spirit.

With clients spending more time at Hope Street Transitional Living Program, it has been exciting to see them learning to cook, building relationships and playing board games. They have taken satisfaction in keeping their surroundings clean and sanitized, building healthy habits. During this difficult time, we have also noticed their creativity blossom. One has been painting inspirational signs and giving them to others. With barber shops closed, clients have been teaching each other how to do hair. The staff at Hope Street has seen the best of the human spirit and resiliency on a daily basis.

RACHEL GREENWALD
HOPE STREET



Thank you, Grandma's Bakery!

Thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor, John Lupo at Grandma's Bakery delivers over 1,000 donuts and rolls to our housing sites every Friday morning. Thank you for making these difficult days a bit sweeter!



Northside helps families during the health crisis.



Northside Child Development Center being open during COVID-19 is one of the best things ever. Being in a field of work where I have to still report to work; I don't need to worry about losing money or not being able to go to work to support my family (being a single mother) because I have no child care. I love the safe practices they have enforced to ensure our children and families are safe and healthy. A lot of companies (childcare centers) do not think about the families who have to still be on the front line. Thank you NCDC for thinking of us.

MISHA WILLIAMS
NORTHSIDE PARENT

Afraid to go home.

Jay told his assisted living facility of five years that he was leaving to visit family. Staff packed two weeks' worth of medications for him with the expectation he would return, but he never visited family. Instead, he bought a tent, and has been living outside by himself since March, mostly without medication. The staff and his case manager have urged him to return home for the care



and medication he needs, but he refuses, feeling safer on the streets, while believing he is in danger of contracting COVID-19 if he returns. Jay's mental health and diabetes symptoms have spiked dramatically since leaving, but he is still too afraid to return home where he would receive the care and support that he requires.

JOSIE Z.
AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES

"We're not saying this is a homeless group of people. We're privileged to call them guests and provide them that safety factor. These are seniors. They need safety and security just like anyone else."

HOTEL PARTNER
HENNEPIN COUNTY

Thank you, Saint Paul Fire Department!



In an incredible display of partnership and community, the Saint Paul Fire Department dropped off nearly 3,000 face coverings that will help protect our front line staff and the 23,000 people we serve! Thank you Saint Paul Fire Department and all of the helpers who made masks!

The need and efforts are now amplified.



Carol and I have long been impressed with the vital work that Catholic Charities is doing. The need and the efforts have now been amplified. We've witnessed staff and volunteers work so hard to adapt services to care for clients. It has propelled us to step up our contributions—volunteering more often, helping at the distribution center, increasing financial support, encouraging others to provide financial support, and even dusting off the sewing machine to make masks.

DAN WEILER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
VOLUNTEER

Acts of compassion and heroism.

As we pushed to open a hotel to safeguard older adults, the sheer volume of community partners that came together to make it happen in less than 48 hours was awe-inspiring: our leadership, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Ramsey County, DHS, our hotel partners, Metro Transit and the Homeless Elders team. There have been times that it feels overwhelming, but then I would experience another act of true compassion and heroism that would soothe my heart and soul. We've got this. Together.

PATRICIA McARDLE
AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES

Succeeding on all counts.

I marvel daily at the above-and-beyond dedication of our staff and the ongoing resiliency of our clients. New guidance for social distancing, screening and stay-at-home orders have created the need for increased patience, ingenuity and innovation. And we're succeeding on all counts. Most days, everyone maintains a sense of humor and a "we're in this together" attitude. There may be darker days on the horizon that will further challenge us all. I'm grateful to be part of a team that applies patience and creativity in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable.

TRACY BERGLUND
HOUSING STABILITY

Caring with respect.

A tour of Higher Ground or the Dorothy Day Place will explain why we have given for many years to Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities cares for the neediest. Catholic Charities provides that care in ways that most respect the humanity of those they serve. The pandemic has multiplied the number of the neediest and Catholic Charities can't provide care without multiplied gifts.

ANN & BILL WERNZ
DONORS

**"I plan to keep
volunteering
in the kitchen
beyond the
pandemic because
I have fallen
in love with the
staff and the
people we serve
so quickly."**

JOHNI BAXTER
VOLUNTEER

Just folks helping other folks.

In this unusual time of crisis, I think we all feel the need to do something to help our fellow citizens. There are so many organizations we could help, and folks—celebrities and just plain folk—have started lots of new ones. They are all worthy I'm sure. I felt I needed to help Catholic Charities in particular because they take care of those who really can't help themselves in the ways they should during a health crisis like this.

ALTA OBEN
DONOR

Proud to protect and to serve.

The staff Labor Pool has been an amazing experience over the last couple of months! To help co-workers and clients at other Catholic Charities sites in a time of uncertainty has been an incredible opportunity. I'm proud to be part of a nonprofit that not only takes care of their clients, listening to their needs, but also takes steps to support and protect their staff.

JEN POWERS
ST. JOSEPH'S HOME
FOR CHILDREN

PIONEER PRESS
TwinCities.com



Older homeless adults sheltered at St. Paul hotel

"More than 50 older adults experiencing homelessness in Ramsey County have been provided shelter at an area hotel to help protect them from COVID-19, according to a county spokesman. Ramsey County and a team of other partners transported the group — who are all 60 or older — from Catholic Charities Higher Ground facility to the hotel. The county is funding their stay to help free up capacity at the shelter and provide protection for the higher risk residents."



Creativity with funding options.

During the pandemic, we believe that it's especially important to provide for the people who have no other available resources and really need the help provided by Catholic Charities. As a partner in a CPA firm, Patty has found that clients are tapping their donor-advised funds and charitable foundations to provide grants to charities such as Catholic Charities to help those most in need. Some have found it to be an easier way to make funds available to help the poor during this health crisis.

JOE & PATTY MARGARIT
DONORS



VOICE

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To volunteer: 612-204-8435

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Tim Marx

President & Chief Executive Officer

Kathleen Erickson DiGiorno

Chair, Board of Directors



"It felt like I was sleeping on a cloud. The best part is, I can face the world with a clear mind."

DOUGLAS PYLE
HIGHER GROUND GUEST,
AFTER MOVING TO HOTEL

We must advocate for greater reforms.

COVID-19 has laid bare the deep inequities that exist within our society. Social Justice Advocacy is important now more than ever, especially for those in our society whose voices have been historically silenced. As we hope for a return to a sense of normalcy, we must recognize that normal was inadequate at best. We must advocate for greater reforms and in some cases, a complete re-envisioning of our systems, which means significant and targeted investments and policy changes for our most vulnerable neighbors.

D'ANDRE GORDON
PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCATE

A trying time, an amazing time.

During this trying time, it has been such an amazing opportunity to see how Catholic Charities employees are coming together to unite and make services still happen for our clients. The staff Labor Pool has allowed me to get to know so many staff and not only learn more about different programs within Catholic Charities, but also get a hands-on experience. It has been truly amazing!

TAKAYLA PFEIFFER
HOUSING NAVIGATOR

NCDC is still open to serve families.



I really value and appreciate that Northside Child Development Center is still open to serve families like myself because it is very helpful to those of us who still have to work from home. Thank you for all you do and more."

DEKEVIA COLE
NORTHSIDE PARENT, AND
FORMER NORTHSIDE CHILD

"The greater need is now, so step up to help those in need."

DAVE & SHARI BOEHNNEN
DONORS

Another day of meeting basic needs.

For the homeless, every day is another day of looking for food and shelter and trying to meet basic needs. And in some ways, this is just a continuance for them. But it's pretty clear that when a crisis such as we have now hits, the poor are hit hard. And the homeless are the poorest of the poor.

BILL & CHRISTINE GRIFFITH
DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

The work will never be done.

The mission of Catholic Charities, to serve those most in need, is a reason why we support them. We know that any donation will be used to its fullest to benefit individuals and families who need assistance. Catholic Charities is an exceptionally well-run organization with a very professional and dedicated staff. Their work will never be done, our support will always be necessary.

JOE & SHELLY HOESLEY
DONORS



Be the Helper! You can make an impact before the end of our fiscal year, June 30. Make a life-changing gift today!

Visit cctwincities.org/donate. Thank you!