



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE

FALL 2020

Lessons in change and hope

- An historic transition for St. Joe's
- A change in our leadership
- Responding to COVID
- Back to school at Northside

St. Joseph's Home for Children

An historic transition

After serving as a haven for generations of children and youth, Catholic Charities announced earlier this summer that the Emergency Shelter and Central Intake operations for Hennepin County's child protection system will conclude by the end of 2020. These two programs, both located at St. Joseph's Home for Children, have been critical elements of the County's rapid crisis response system.

The decision to conclude these programs as we mark our 150th year of service in this community is particularly poignant. Yes, it is hard to say goodbye to a part of our history of which we are so proud. At the same time, Catholic Charities has advocated fiercely for changes in Hennepin County's child protection system that will better support children who have experienced unthinkable trauma in their lives.

Our tremendous supporters are a part of the history of St. Joseph's Home for Children and Catholic Charities. Donations, volunteerism and advocacy have not only made it possible for St. Joe's to be a place of refuge in times of crisis, you have made it possible to advance significant systemic change and better models of care for kids and families in the child protection system. For that, we are incredibly grateful.

Many of you have your own relationship with St. Joseph's Home for Children. With more than 100 years of history in this community, we are still amazed at how many people have crossed paths with St. Joe's and speak of their time there with fondness, even during their most difficult days.

While precautions around COVID-19 make an in-person memorial difficult, we invite you to share your memories with us to honor the impact of St. Joe's.

Share your story at cctwincities.org/stjoeshistory



Tim Marx

A lifetime of servant leadership

For nearly a decade, Tim Marx has served as President and CEO of Catholic Charities with dedication and vision. During his tenure, Tim has lead Catholic Charities through many significant milestones including the construction and opening of the \$100 million Dorothy Day Place, offering dignified shelter, permanent homes, and pathways to stability to nearly 1,000 people every day.

Whether professionally or personally, Tim has led with compassion. When the pandemic struck, Tim worked with Hennepin and Ramsey counties to relocate vulnerable clients from Catholic Charities' Higher Ground shelters to hotels. He was the first person to volunteer to help move the clients—and he stayed with them, volunteering for overnight shifts and providing needed support. He often serves meals at the shelters on holidays and takes morning runs with clients and other community volunteers who are part of the "Mile in My Shoes" running club.

Earlier this summer, we announced the search of our next CEO, beginning the public phase of a succession plan developed by Tim and our Board of Directors.

The process will likely play out over several months while Tim will remain active as president and CEO until a successor is on board. Once a new CEO is in place, Tim will transition into "President Emeritus," a position expected to continue into 2021 to support our new CEO and specific projects important to Catholic Charities' future.

We are so grateful for Tim's leadership and commitment. We look forward to seeing what he does next to serve our community.



Helping each other through COVID, together

As the COVID-19 pandemic turned the world upside down, Melody tossed and turned at night worried her underlying conditions, age and lack of a stable home would make her more susceptible to the virus. Part of Catholic Charities Homeless Elders program, Melody had been grateful for the shelter at Higher Ground Saint Paul, but worried that the close conditions would put her health at risk.

Thanks to your generous support and cooperation from public and private partners, Melody was taken to an area hotel where she's able to sleep

comfortably, keep social distance and walk in the fresh air every day. Now, Melody sleeps safely in a bed she describes as "like heaven" ... but her life hasn't always been a dream.



When they were younger, she and her husband experienced a dependency on alcohol. Luckily, in 1976, Melody went through treatment and has never looked back.

She's been sober for 45 years and knows it's the best way forward. "It's hard at a homeless shelter (to stay sober)," she admits. "But I'd be dead if I was drinking."

The only drawback to her current situation is being separated from residents

who didn't need to move to alternate housing. Like so many, Melody is struggling with the isolation of quarantine. "I miss my friends from Dorothy Day Place, but they're safe too," she says, finding the positive in the situation.

Before the pandemic, Melody had been applying for housing of her own and looking at possible part-time jobs. Thanks to compassionate partners like you, we can keep the door open for her until she can safely leave homelessness behind.

Your support of Catholic Charities ensured that Melody, and hundreds like her have a safe place to stay throughout this pandemic. Thank you for making a difference in the darkest, hardest moments of people's lives. Together, we can create hope for a brighter future.

Corporate partners show appreciation for front line staff

Between the COVID pandemic and civil unrest, our staff continue to show up every day to serve our clients with care and dignity. With the help of two of corporate partners, we were able to provide encouragement and show our appreciation for their amazing work.



Our friends at **Securian** provided meals for our front line staff during the initial quarantine of COVID. As Catholic Charities employees scrambled to adapt to the new normal, a fresh, hot meal offered welcome encouragement during a time when schedules were tight.

US Bank Foundation provided the funds for our annual staff appreciation t-shirt. These shirts have been a tradition for our annual appreciation event but given the impact of COVID, we were not able to gather this year and did not know if providing the shirts would be feasible. Our staff love the shirts and wear them on the front lines as they serve our clients. A simple gesture that had a huge impact.



A Summer of change and hope

On Memorial Day, our community was shaken to its core in 8 minutes and 46 seconds. The murder of George Floyd tears at the very fibers that bring our community together and shines a harsh light on the systemic injustices that too many must confront every single day.



Since that day, many have examined their own deeply held biases and asked themselves “what can I do?” While we can’t all do everything, we must all do something.

Catholic Social Teaching tells us that charity and justice must go hand in hand, which is why our mission at Catholic Charities is to serve those most in need AND to advocate for justice in our community.

With the support of Catholic Charities leadership, a cross-agency Racial Equity

and Social Justice committee leads organizational efforts to address racial equity and social justice in all that we do – both internally at Catholic Charities, and in our work in the community. We invite you to join us on this journey.

One of the first and most critical steps we can all take on our collective journey to racial equity and social justice is to learn our own history and from the experience of others. It’s also critical to have the tough conversations.

A FEW WAYS TO GET STARTED

- Consume stories and history different than your own.
- Support local BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) owned businesses.
- Challenge your own biases and recognize the power you have to advance the common good.

As we approach the end of summer, our work toward racial equity and social justice continues. This is a year we will never forget, and we must make the most of this opportunity for change with hope and action.

One year of Dorothy Day Place

This time last year, we opened our doors at the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Saint Paul Opportunity Center and welcomed residents into their new homes at Dorothy Day Residence, marking the completion of the \$100 million Dorothy Day Place campus. Every day, we welcome nearly 1,000 people seeking shelter and services.

Thanks to your generous support, we’ve been able to completely reimagine the way our community serves people experiencing homelessness and quickly adapt to the challenges of our new world.

Since opening, we’ve adjusted our model of care at Dorothy Day Place to adhere to CDC guidelines by reducing our census,

implementing temperature checks, changing our food service and increasing social distancing. All to keep those we serve, our staff and volunteers safe and healthy.

So much has changed in this last year, but one thing remains the same: we are so grateful to have this safe space in the community for people experiencing homelessness to seek shelter, care and safety.



Coming soon...

Join us for **hope in action**

A month-long opportunity beginning in November to raise funds and awareness for our work with the community’s most vulnerable. This campaign will feature storytelling moments, “thank you” for our partners and a firsthand look at some of our programs and our mission—in action.

LEGACY of HOPE

A VIRTUAL GATHERING



On August 7, we honored our Legacy Society members at a livestreamed gathering. You can view the event at bit.ly/CCLegacyOfHope.

We are amazed and gratified by the kindness and generosity of people who include Catholic Charities in their wills and estate plans to help us serve those most in need. Our mission is brighter and made secure by people who wish to see the work of Catholic Charities continue for years to come. These gifts help sustain our programs into the future.

If you would like to learn more about the Legacy Society, or to include Catholic Charities in your estate plans, contact Paul Deakins at 612-204-8472 or paul.deakins@cctwincities.org.

Coming soon... ((VOICE)) A Catholic Charities Podcast

If you enjoy reading Voice, now you can also listen too! **Voice:** A Catholic Charities Podcast will feature in-depth discussions with special guests as we take a deep dive into important topics happening in our community.

Join us however you listen to podcasts—at home, in your car, or wherever you choose. Watch for details on future guests and topics!



Remember to vote.

By increasing voter turnout, our community can benefit through job growth, improved healthcare and education, better infrastructure, a more vibrant economy, safer neighborhoods, and most importantly a better quality of life for all. Improve the lives of everyone you care about by voting, because your voice matters. **Find your voting place at cctwincities.org/advocate.**



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CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVES THOSE MOST IN NEED.

A summer to remember and a future to build



This summer has been different than any other. Between creating new ways to serve those most in need in the midst of a global pandemic, confronting the realities of the injustices in our community and some historic changes at Catholic Charities, it is one we will never forget.

Fall is normally the time when we would all be settling back into a more scheduled, predictable life—a luxury we know we will not be able to enjoy in 2020. But if this summer has taught us anything, it's that change is necessary, and it is in these difficult moments that we grow.

Through it all, we have been able to rely on all of you to make it possible. Thanks to your generous support, your commitment to social justice and your dedication to serving those most in need, you have helped see us—and those we serve—through some incredible circumstances.

As you read the stories in this edition of Voice, I hope you see how your action has created hope. How every donation, every voice and every volunteer hour has made a difference. We are at a pivotal moment in history, and together we can build a better tomorrow.

Laurie Ohmann
Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer

Northside goes back to school— without going anywhere

Since Minneapolis Public Schools have committed to different forms of distance and in-school learning this fall, Northside Child Development Center has had an influx of calls from parents looking for openings. Like most families, juggling work and distance learning can be a challenge, but especially for the families we serve. Many Northside parents are essential workers who cannot work from home and many are families of color working to overcome the achievement gap.

When schools fully transitioned to distance learning last spring, Northside extended its before and after school programs to all-day so students could complete their schoolwork while their caregivers continued to work. Northside had to quickly make changes like increasing Wi-Fi capabilities, purchasing laptops and managing the assignments of students across different classrooms and schools. Even issues like keeping the laptops charged overnight has required some creativity from staff.

It's been hard for students too, who miss their friends and are not used to so much screen time to complete their schoolwork. About a third of the students at Northside have special needs and have been doing additional Zoom meetings with therapists and specialists to ensure their success despite the circumstances.

While back to school looks different for all of us this year, your support ensures that our students at Northside can continue their education and personal growth. And Northside parents are grateful that their kids have a safe space to learn and continue their development.

