

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE



SUMMER 2022

CATHOLIC
CHARITIES

Welcome to Elliot Park!

The Power of Home comes to Elliot Park

Elliot Park is one of Minneapolis' oldest neighborhoods. At the turn of the century, Elliot Park boasted the city's only two parks. Adjacent to downtown and mere blocks from the Mississippi River, today's neighborhood welcomes an increasingly diverse population and has become a testament to creative adaptations in community living.

On May 18, Catholic Charities officially marked the opening of its new Elliot Park campus. Catholic Charities at Elliot Park represents a collaborative approach to community living that includes:



- ▲ **Endeavors Residence** will provide 173 units of supportive housing for single adults who have experienced homelessness, are veterans, or people with complex medical conditions.
- ▲ **The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Recuperative Care Center**, implemented in partnership with Hennepin County Public Health's Health Care for the Homeless program, will deliver medical respite for up to 30 individuals.
- ▲ **Hennepin County's Health Care for the Homeless Clinic** will care for area residents who require medical

support and qualify for services based on income.

- ▲ **The Frey Center at Elliot Park** will become the organization's new headquarters, supporting Catholic Charities' administrative staff and Aging and Disability Services teams.

Catholic Charities at Elliot Park is an historic \$75 million public-private partnership featuring critical funding from Hennepin County, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Public Housing Authority,

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IRENE KEARNEY: A LEGACY

Irene Kearney loved children and education. A Saint Paul native, she grew up on a hog farm in Vadnais Heights with eight siblings. Although she and her husband Bill, who died at 47, never had children of their own, she often spent time with and cared for her many nieces and nephews.

Irene spent most of her working years at Union Brass as a factory worker. Like so many others who grew up in the Depression, Irene lived a prudent lifestyle. She never had the opportunity to earn a great deal of wealth; however, she was able to pass a significant gift to charity at the end of a very long and fruitful life. She passed away in January 2019 at the age of 95.

Her family remembers her enduring empathy for those in need. She was active in her local parish, St. Bernard's, volunteering often and participating in ministries providing for the less fortunate, especially children. While she gave an occasional gift to support our programs, it was a lovely surprise to learn that Irene had named Catholic Charities—along with two other charities—as beneficiaries of her estate.

During her lifetime, Irene's investments and IRAs grew. Irene had grown familiar with our work and wanted to continue to have an impact on children we serve. Her gift will be used in our Children and Family programs to help clients overcome barriers and give them opportunities for happiness and success.



Thank you to our amazing volunteers!

Volunteers play a vital role in enabling Catholic Charities to deliver valuable programs and services to our communities. This year, volunteers from the **Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation**, **Wells Fargo**, and **U.S. Bank** stepped up to create a warm and welcoming space for residents moving into their new Endeavors homes. From making care packages, to cleaning rooms and hallways, to contributing those final personal touches that make a house a home, our volunteers have demonstrated a true understanding of The Power of Home. One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time, and we are grateful for your support.

BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF HOME

GIVE YOUR VOICE

Join 5,000 advocates to ask for critical funds for emergency services.

GIVE YOUR GIFT

A gift of \$150 provides emergency shelter for 15 men and women.

GIVE YOUR TIME

Volunteer as a shelter aide or serve meals for our shelter guests.

Legislative summary

No one should have to sleep outside, especially with a \$9.2 billion state surplus. That's the message Catholic Charities took to the State Capitol as we worked with legislators, partners and advocates to advance state investments and reforms that will prevent and end homelessness, promote housing equity, and achieve social justice in our community.

Our policy agenda focused on increasing public funding for emergency shelter services, reforming housing policies to help veterans and individuals with disabilities live more independently, increasing access to



affordable childcare, and supporting the pandemic response. We advocated for growing the supply of deeply affordable and accessible housing, increasing access to mental health services, and criminal justice reforms, too.

The legislative session ended on May 23, but at the time this newsletter went to print, session's final outcomes were not yet known.

To learn more about what we achieved with your advocacy and support, visit cctwincities.org/advocate.



What we have learned: A view from the field

We believe that everyone deserves a place to call home—a chance to find stability and to thrive. We believe that the real solution to homelessness is a home, and that housing is critical to building a stable and healthy life.

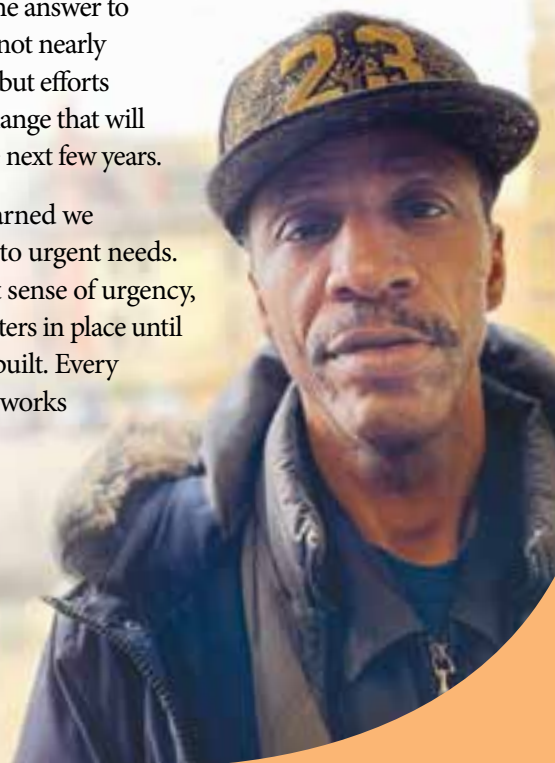
We also believe that dignified shelter should be available at any time to everyone. Every day, we support those who are experiencing homelessness resulting from a health or financial crisis, an eviction, or a lost job. Most don't know what the future holds.

We learned a lot during COVID, as we needed to shelter people in creative ways to keep people healthy. Temporary locations like hotels and former dormitories enabled people to stabilize despite the pandemic. Sites accommodating families and

partners kept people together. Elderly Minnesotans were given a bed in a private room instead of a bunk with a locker.

Affordable housing is the answer to homelessness. There is not nearly enough housing today, but efforts already underway to change that will make a difference in the next few years.

During COVID, we learned we could respond quickly to urgent needs. We must maintain that sense of urgency, keeping temporary shelters in place until permanent homes are built. Every day, Catholic Charities works with public and private partners to build a community where everyone has the chance to thrive.



The Power of Home in Elliot Park

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pro-bono business investments, and generous donors. President and CEO Michael Goar welcomed distinguished attendees who praised the organization's adaptive reuse of a former nursing home to co-locate the Endeavors program with Catholic Charities' administrative services. "With this partnership, Hennepin County launched its commitment to growing deeply affordable housing serving our residents with dignity and support," said Hennepin County Board Chair Marion Greene. "We know housing is closely

intertwined with health outcomes. Every day, our Health Care for the Homeless teams stand side-by-side with Catholic Charities to serve our neighbors and strengthen our community."

Catholic Charities now provides over 1,000 deeply affordable housing units in the Twin Cities. "We are thrilled to join the Elliot Park community and add to the dynamic

composition of the neighborhood," said Goar. "With the creative support of our partners, we look forward to partnering with individuals to provide the support they need to thrive."

Endeavors residents began moving in early June. Administrative staff and Aging and Disability Services Departments will transition to the new facility in July.



"Home is a place where we all can build our futures."

— Minnesota Housing Commissioner Jennifer Ho

DOROTHY DAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 2022

Supporters gathered at the Dorothy Day Community Breakfast in May to celebrate over 40 years of meals, shelter, and shared impact.

Past Catholic Charities leaders **Tim Marx** and **Tracy Berglund** were honored for decades of critical work, along with Board Chair **Kathy DiGiorno**, who received our Servant Leader Award. Guests enjoyed coffee and conversation before CEO **Michael Goar** welcomed attendees with a message of gratitude. Other speakers included Board Chair-Elect **Desirae Butler**, Minnesota Housing Commissioner **Jennifer Ho**, Ramsey County Board Chair **Trista MatasCastillo**, and Haven Housing's Executive Director **Monica Nilsson**. For the first time in three years supporters were able to gather together, and it felt great!

Special thanks to our Underwriting Sponsors:

AgriBank, M Health Fairview, Herregan Distributors, and Pohlads Companies!



Award winners Tracy Berglund, Kathy DiGiorno and Tim Marx.

Support the mission of
Catholic Charities
all summer long!

When you support Catholic Charities, you aren't just helping neighbors in need, you are giving them hope for a more equitable community.

A gift today provides shelter and housing, meals, and supportive services. It also helps us advocate to change the systems that can lead to homelessness. By both serving and advocating for those most in need, we can ensure that everyone experiences the Power of Home.

Please consider giving a gift before June 30.
Visit cctwincities.org/donate today.



CATHOLIC
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LEGACY SOCIETY

A charitable gift annuity is a wonderful way to leave a legacy with Catholic Charities.

When you make a gift of cash or appreciated assets, we in return will make payments for life to you, you and a loved one, or another person. After all payments have been made, Catholic Charities will receive the remaining value of your gift for the causes you care about most.

To learn more, contact Paul Deakins at 612-204-8472 or legacy.giving@cctwincities.org.



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of St. Paul and Minneapolis

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVES THOSE MOST IN NEED.

New beginnings

As I transition into my role as the Chief Program Officer for Catholic Charities, I have had the opportunity to reflect on everything I've experienced in 15 years with this amazing organization. Despite the challenges of the past two years, I have faith in our programs and hope for a future of shared impact.

- ▲ Catholic Charities Endeavors Residence recently opened in the Elliot Park neighborhood, providing a place to call home for nearly two hundred people who have experienced homelessness—including the elderly, veterans, and those who have complex medical needs.
- ▲ Teams have also been busy readying the location that will soon be home to Hope Street, Catholic Charities' emergency shelter for youth experiencing homelessness. I am excited to welcome youth into such a trauma-sensitive space—with plenty of room to ensure all 30 youth feel safe and cared for as they focus on their journey toward housing and healing.

These new beginnings are possible because of your advocacy and support of our work. Thank you for helping us annually assist more than 20,000 people regardless of faith, background or circumstance. Your partnership means so much to the individuals we serve.

Keith Kozerski
Chief Program Officer



VOICE

A Catholic Charities Podcast

Last year, Catholic Charities introduced the "Voice" podcast. Since then, our team has shared conversations with local leaders, neighborhood partners, and national experts on topics ranging from homelessness in the suburbs to the relevancy of Catholic Social Teaching. You can find the episodes wherever you get your podcasts.

Let us know if you have ideas for future podcast topics, and happy listening!



Social justice education in the community

This spring, Catholic Charities had the chance to engage students, faculty, and staff at Academy of Holy Angels during their 2022 Justice Week, an event led by the school's Social Justice Club. Our Social Justice Advocacy and Engagement Team offered resources for student leaders that included a family homelessness simulation, interactive budget activities, and opportunities to engage in legislative advocacy for housing justice.

In just one week, students raised over \$1,000 to support Catholic Charities' direct services. However, they knew that balanced service includes not just charity—but also education and advocacy. With the aid of Catholic Charities, these young leaders helped instruct their peers and teachers on issues related to housing justice as well as ways to take

action. By the end of the week, they had also collected over 230 petition signatures and invited fellow students to contact legislators—many even joined the Catholic Charities advocacy network!

This fantastic experience began with a single connection: a conversation between an AHA teacher and a Catholic Charities team member. What followed is just one example of how someone can bring charity and justice opportunities to their community. Whether you are an educator, parishioner, or member of a neighborhood group, and if you'd like to find ways to engage your school, parish, or community with education or advocacy, please contact michael.rios@cctwincities.org.



INTERESTED IN SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION FOR YOUR GROUP? EMAIL [MICHAEL.RIOS@CCTWINCITIES.ORG](mailto:michael.rios@cctwincities.org)