

FRIEND,

With the arrival of winter weather and holiday celebrations, we know it is December. This means both the end of the calendar year, along with the drawing to a close of a year of centennial celebrations. 2023 has been a monumental year for Catholic Charities. Our centennial celebration brought us all together to reflect on and rejoice in our past and to imagine and prepare for the next 100 years.

To bring the celebration of a century to life, we held geographic events around Maryland. We gathered Marylanders together for

our inaugural symposium with a call to action focused on social justice. Thousands gathered at the Inner Harbor for the return of the Dragon Boat Races, over 500 colleagues cheered on the electric Orioles at our Catholic Charities night at Camden Yards and 600 of us celebrated 100 years of hope and promise at our annual gathering. With all of this excitement and celebration, it's bittersweet that this centennial year is coming to an end. It's been fun to look back at old photos and to reflect on the great impact of our agency. We have made so many special memories and changed so many lives over the past century.

The conclusion of our centennial celebration compels us to push forward in our work. With much enthusiasm for the path ahead of us, I thank you for supporting us on our journey. May you and your loved ones have a merry Christmas, joyous holidays, and a new year filled with peace and promise.

William J. McCarthy, Jr.,
Executive Director



Bill McCarthy

WINTER 2023

BLESSINGS

100
YEARS
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

It's not just what you do – it's how you do it.

Theresa D. Becks reflects on Catholic Charities' work as she concludes a 3-year term as president of the Board of Trustees

AS I WAS CONSIDERING WHETHER TO GET INVOLVED WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN 2011,

I spent most of a day driving around with Executive Director Bill McCarthy. We stopped at the Esperanza Center. We stopped at St. Elizabeth's. We stopped at Gallagher Services. We stopped at Our Daily Bread Employment Center. I was blown away by the breadth of what Catholic Charities offers across the whole life cycle.

I have a degree in public accounting and spent most of my career in the banking and investment arenas, so I'm a number cruncher. There are a lot of great organizations, but not all of them can execute on their missions. I love the work Catholic Charities does, but I also love how they do it. The organization is run efficiently. Its money is spent so judiciously and so smartly. And yet, it impacts so many people.

I was raised in a Catholic family, and service has always been a big deal. It's an important part of the human condition. We should be taking care of each other; I feel



Theresa
D. Becks

strongly about that. I've taken my kids on services trips to Ethiopia, Vietnam and Haiti, but Catholic Charities is how we serve locally. My kids know all the things I do, and I think it's very healthy for them to recognize that – it's what we're supposed to be doing.

Across my tenure on the board, the executive team at Catholic Charities has done an amazing job of being mindful of what's going on in the community and responding in turn. In 2013, we began operating the Weinberg Housing and Resource Center for the city as an extension of our commitment to serving people experiencing homelessness. In 2016, we started in the Safe Streets program in Sandtown-Winchester following Freddie Gray's untimely death. Our mental health services expanded dramatically, even before COVID, because these health issues are a huge concern. There are families trying to live and thrive everywhere across this region, and I love that Catholic Charities is meeting everyone where they are on their journey. I think that's the thing that's going to stick with me the most.



The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him...
JOHN 1:9-10

Turning in the right direction

ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE



Joseph Lowrie

WHEN JOSEPH LOWRIE TALKS ABOUT HIS PATH to Christopher Place Employment Academy, he points to two key turning points.

The first was a high school fight. A court found him not guilty of charges related to a stabbing, but it changed everything.

“My football career was over, and I started selling drugs and using

drugs,” he said. “From that point, everything seemed to just get worse and worse.”

Within a few years, his mother and father both passed away, and his brother was killed. He said he “just went crazy” and ended up spending eight years in prison.

ANOTHER TURN

The second turning point was the day Lowrie showed up at Tuerk House, a Baltimore City-based treatment center for substance use disorder. After prison, he had landed a job but ended up using drugs again. He wanted to find a different path.

“There was a lady downstairs at intake, and she said, ‘Have you ever heard about Christopher Place?’” he said of his first interaction at Tuerk House. “She was telling me about it, and I said, ‘Yeah, I want to go there.’”

Catholic Charities’ Christopher Place is a residential employment program that helps men move from being homeless to stable employment and long-term independence. Participants move through months of training, in areas such as anger-management, U.S. law and financial counseling, and take an extensive curriculum of job-preparation classes.

The intensity of the program appealed to Lowrie. When he learned that he couldn’t enter the program while still on methadone, a treatment for addiction, he quit taking it that day.

“I stopped taking it cold turkey. I didn’t sleep for 32 days,” he said. “If I set my mind to something, that’s what I’m going to do ... Once I got to Christopher Place, after the first couple of days, I had this feeling like: I have my family back.”

ALL THE STEPS

Lowrie said Christopher Place tries to “make it easy” for participants, but they must be willing to work hard.

He explained by quoting program manager Nicole Williams: “She’s going to say to you three times – and once she says it the third time, she’s done: ‘I’m not going to keep pouring into an empty cup.’”

Lowrie graduated from the Academy in September, six months after his arrival, and is now working two jobs providing peer recovery services, living out his passion for helping others.

“This is the best decision I ever made in my life,” he said of the program. “I’ve never been more happy. I genuinely feel that I accomplished something big by being here.”



The open arms behind Esperanza Center’s open doors

WELCOMING NEW NEIGHBORS

JERMIN LAVIERA FIRST VISITED CATHOLIC CHARITIES ON HER WEDDING DAY.

She had arrived in the U.S. from Venezuela just a week earlier, and her new husband took her straight from their marriage ceremony to what was then known as the Hispanic Apostolate. He had learned English through the Catholic Charities program and wanted Jermin to have the same opportunity.

“I started like a student,” she said, reflecting on how she began volunteering at the center, then accepting a full-time job after a year.

Thirty-five years later, Jermin is a client services representative at the Esperanza Center, helping immigrants with a wide range of needs, including translations, benefits applications, medical appointments, employment challenges and more.

“I say to my husband all the time: that day was my blessing day,” she said of finding the center, and through it, her life’s work.

LOCAL LUMINARY

The Client Services team at the Esperanza Center fields more than 5,000 inquiries annually. After more than three decades of helping to respond to those inquiries, Jermin is known and trusted throughout the community.

When she leaves the office for lunch, people on the street call out and wave. She has run into people whose parents she helped when they first arrived in this country, and listened to how they remember her kindness and support. And she has received awards for her work; this fall, for example, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus honored her with its Community Service Award.

Baltimore’s immigrant community has grown and changed dramatically since Jermin arrived in the U.S., and she’s been part of the Esperanza Center’s expansion and evolution in that time. But she said the need for the center is just as pressing as it has ever been.

She teared up when thinking about a client she had referred to another local clinic but was turned away because he didn’t have a few dollars to pay for the service.



“The Esperanza Center is so important because here, we have open doors to new arrivals,” she said. “If we have \$1 we can open a door or two, but if we have more support, we can provide people with more services.”

Jermin Laviera

Giving back by getting the job done



Maureen Wieland

PEOPLE START VOLUNTEERING WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES for a lot of different reasons, but Maureen Wieland's might be unique: She started because she has good teeth.

Wieland had long resisted when fellow parishioners at St. Mark's Church in Catonsville, Md., encouraged her to join their monthly trip to serve a meal at Our Daily Bread Employment Center. She was busy. She needed to care for her aging mother. She was not a joiner.

But after her mother passed away, a friend pressured her again. She made what she

calls "a contract with God" on her way to the dentist.

"I said, if the dentist says something good, I will go down with the group," she said, "I sat in the chair and, so help me, the first thing they said was, 'Maureen, your teeth have never looked so good!'"

That launched what has become a 17-year commitment to volunteering with Catholic Charities – first monthly at Our Daily Bread, and now three times per week at My Brother's Keeper, the comprehensive community-based resource center in West Baltimore.

BLESSINGS OF THE PASTRY QUEEN

Wieland takes on unglamorous jobs when she volunteers. She washes dishes at Our Daily Bread. At My Brother's Keeper, her preference for cutting up donated cakes and pies to add to the lunches earned her the nickname "the Pastry Queen."

"It's all simple things that anybody could do," she said. "People might think they're not needed, or they couldn't do anything. But if you don't do it, it doesn't get done."

At My Brother's Keeper, the kindness of the staff drew her to the program. Everybody pitches in for meals, supporting

each other, to feed an average of 50 people daily, she said. Those meals also give her a chance to talk with clients.

"Sometimes, I sit and talk to people. I tell them stories about my life, and we all laugh at me," she said. "The people are just nice."

But what keeps her coming back, week after week, is the need.

"People need help," she said. "Every once in a while, you will get somebody who says, 'I haven't eaten anything in two days.' Or, 'We just moved in and I need help.' I'm so blessed in my life. This is nothing compared to the blessings that I have. This is, as they say, giving back."



Thank You

to our many volunteers who tirelessly give their resources and time to support their Maryland neighbors!





Why do businesses support Catholic Charities?

A Q&A with Brown Advisory President and CEO Michael D. Hankin

Why should private firms support philanthropic efforts?

We believe that businesses have an important role to play in the communities where our clients and colleagues live and work. We occupy a significant footprint as a “business citizen” and can make a difference in peoples’ lives through financial contributions and volunteer efforts. Business leaders and colleagues care deeply about helping others – often the spotlight is on how a business is doing, [missing] the day-to-day impact that we aspire to make.

How does Brown Advisory approach its philanthropic work?

Our goal is to support organizations and efforts that are important to our clients and colleagues. Our colleagues themselves are involved in hundreds of organizations and efforts, and we want to back their involvement. We dedicate significant resources to health care, education and the environment, but that only describes part of the story. As examples, in each of these areas, we are looking hard at what we describe as “justice” issues: How are underrepresented members of our communities being helped? By speaking up ... can we improve the quality of their lives?



Mike Hankin

Why does Brown Advisory support Catholic Charities?

We have so much respect for Catholic Charities and have watched the important role that Catholic Charities has in our community for a very long time. We have focused on supporting Catholic Charities financially but also by being present alongside Catholic Charities at important events such as the Dragon Boat Races or important programs such as Our Daily Bread Employment Center. It is really impressive how Catholic Charities ... stands behind so many different parts of our community.

How does Catholic Charities stand out to you?

I’ve always been impressed with how the leadership of Catholic Charities is thinking: how can we make a material and positive difference in peoples’ lives given our resources and access. We have some tough issues before us, and critical thinking is important to figuring out how to improve peoples’ lives.

Brown Advisory is an independent investment management and strategic advisory firm with 18 offices globally overseeing \$130.7 billion in client assets.

This interview was lightly edited for length and clarity.

*Recap:
An Evening
with Catholic
Charities*



Msgr. Arthur F. Valenzano Joyful Servant Award

This award is in memory of Monsignor Arthur F. Valenzano, Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a member of Catholic Charities Board of Trustees until his passing in September of 2015.

The recipient embodies the joyful life and spirit of Monsignor Valenzano and his ability to touch the lives of thousands of Marylanders.

HAROLD (HAL) A. SMITH

HONOREES



Distinguished Service Award

This award is given to an individual or group that exemplifies or significantly supports compassionate caregiving and service; has a personal commitment to the work of Catholic Charities; and demonstrates the goal of cherishing the Divine within those we serve.

THE BUNTING FAMILY AND CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



Anne Lindsey Otenasek Youth Service Award

This award is given to high school students in recognition of outstanding volunteer service with Catholic Charities. It is given in memory of Anne Lindsey Otenasek, a passenger on the 1988 Pan American Flight 103, to honor and perpetuate her spirit, which was the hallmark of her volunteer work at Gallagher Services.

CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Catholic Charities is the largest multi-service charitable organization in Maryland. Serving all, we provide innovative programming to accompany people on life’s journey including assistance to those living in poverty, individuals with developmental disabilities, immigrants, older adults, families and children in crisis.

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