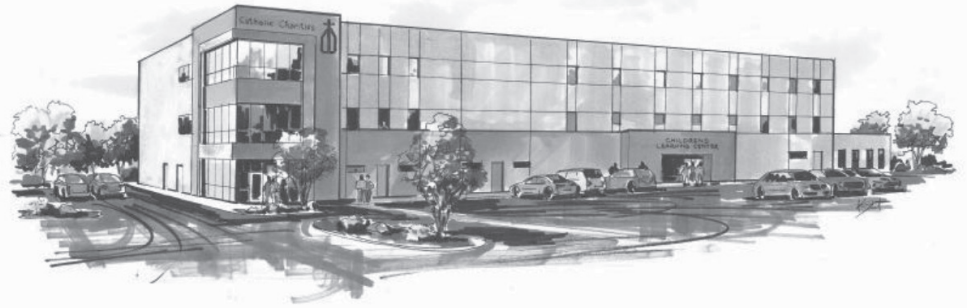




DIGNITY

Catholic Charities



Prayer, Work and Learning at the CCUSA Annual Gathering in Houston



I was blessed with an opportunity to love and serve my neighbor last week in ways different than most days. I was able to attend the Catholic Charities USA Annual Gathering at the end of September in Houston, Texas. While the gathering had been planned many months in advance, the decision was made to go forward with the gathering, despite the devastating flooding from Hurricane Harvey in Southeast Texas a month prior. Sister Donna Markham, President and CEO, Catholic Charities USA announced that the

conference agenda was changed to free up blocks of time for the Catholic Charities family to be deployed for service in Houston. "We will focus on three things: prayer together, WORK! and learning," said Sister Donna.

The disaster recovery group I was part of was sent to a mobile home park on the outskirts of Houston that was devastated during the flood. We delivered food, water, and cleaning and disinfecting supplies to wonderful people who were grateful for the helping hand. Witnessing the devastation and slow recovery since the flooding was heartbreaking. The residents we visited had no flood insurance. Their losses were great, but their spirits continued to hope for a brighter day.

Please pray for those affected by disasters, especially those who are already challenged enough with getting through the "regular" days. Please join me in prayer for "L.," a woman who works many hours at a low-wage job to help put a roof over her daughter's and baby granddaughter's head - they lost everything in the flood. Diapers are a most basic need. Pray for "H.," the elderly gentleman that lives alone in his trailer (but still has smile for his visitors) and his next door neighbor that keeps an eye on him. For the couple, "F." and "M.," as they have many family members to feed and shelter in their humble home

- a trailer that was soaked through and through with contaminated water. And please pray for the countless others in many parts of the world facing devastation and fighting to survive. The needs are great and we all can do our small part to love our neighbors - near and far.

- Lisa Trujillo, Board Member



CORE VALUES

The principles that guide us and constitute what we believe

FAITH

Being an inter-faith community
Hoping for the things unseen
Believing with strong conviction

LOVE

A sense of underlying oneness
Manifesting charity

CARING

Compassion for all
Empathy for all

RESPECT

Dignity of others
The individuality of others
The uniqueness of others

INTEGRITY

Honesty
Transparency
Trustworthiness
Fairness

INCLUSIVITY

Openness
Diversity
Reconciliation of differences

COLLABORATION

Partnering with others
Seeking others with the abilities to find solutions



Catholic
Charities
EL CORREO

(The Mail)

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Sowing Seeds of Change

Jim Gannon
CEO/Executive Director

In my position I have a fifty-yard line seat to the needs and shortcomings of our community. It can sometimes seem that more and more, our society has fallen short in its compassion and embrace of our neighbors in need. Through a patchwork quilt of Church, government and private funding, we respond to what are now routine needs in our community. Dolores Nunez's short essay on #151 in this newsletter is an example of an everyday occurrence of individuals reaching out for help.



This does not need to be the norm. When we hear of our child welfare situation, of seniors in poverty, of neighbors now homeless, of students' scholarly decline or of below justice wages we might ask, "Is this the best we can do?" To this question, each of us should answer, "NO," and then go about creating better outcomes. Commit to providing and serving as the resources to create a thriving community that demonstrates the respect of human dignity that Jesus asks of us. Become a tutor, volunteer at a food pantry, mow a neighbor's lawn, or deliver a meal to an ill friend; demand our schools do more to create academic success and be a participant in the creation of success.

At Catholic Charities, we witness the individual effort and collaboration of people of goodwill who truly make the difference. Our staff, volunteers and donors individually and collectively are instruments of positive change. They see the ill-prepared families tackling the steep task of creating a new life in America and roll-up their sleeves to become the difference the family needs. We never do on behalf of – rather we work alongside of the individual, or the family, and we allow them to lead so that they can, in turn, serve alongside of their neighbor.

With your commitment and generosity, as well as the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we will carry the day. We will reverse patterns of neglect, marginalization, inattention, and the denial of dignity with a community thriving in God's love, selflessly caring for one another.

The Path to Self-Sufficiency: A Father's Story

We have had several families that were housed through the La Luz program make significant progress in stabilizing housing for themselves and their children by enrolling in school, obtaining public benefits, finding work and finding the support to make these changes in their lives.

One particular single dad worked hard to turn his life around so that he could be there for his children when their biological mother had abandoned the entire family. Dad was not only in compliance with parole conditions but also completed a course on parenting and found a high paying full-time job. He graduated our program self-sufficient and in a stable position to be a positive parent for his children.

- James Walker, Director of the Center for Self-Sufficiency and Housing Assistance

#151

Dolores Nunez, Development Director

As the Development Director at Catholic Charities, my role is to engage our donors, seek new donors to support our mission and to oversee our communications and public relations efforts. I am thankful, every day, for our wonderful donors and volunteers.

This week, a call came to my desk, that drove home the need – no, the desperation – that individuals in our community are facing. The caller was a woman who said that we were the THIRTY-SECOND agency she had reached out to this week as she is about to be evicted from her apartment because she cannot make her next rent payment. For various reasons, the door was shut to her need by several organizations in the community and I could hear the frustration in her voice that fear and anxiety brings. She asked me why there was no help for her, in spite of all of the phone numbers she had. All I could think to say in that moment was that the need is so great in our community and the resources are stretched as far as they can be. Strongly wanting to, but knowing I could not promise anything, I reassured her that I would forward to her call to our Self-Sufficiency and

Housing group. I did commit that someone would get back to her this week, with an answer. My first thought was true. As I shared this woman's plight with one of our case managers, he showed me a spreadsheet on his computer that listed 100 names of individuals who had called us to apply for rental assistance, through our federally funded Rental Assistance Program. He had another 50 names on a note pad that he'd been taking from voice mails on his line to transfer to the spreadsheet. It was heart-wrenching for me to be so close to the need and so far away from a way to help. I gave him this woman's information. He promised me he would add her to the list and he would call her back this week, one way or another. I called "#151" back. I was honest with her, letting her know of the number of calls we've received in just the last few weeks. I cried because I couldn't help her, and she cried because she said that Catholic Charities was the first agency to call her back.

Yes, the need is great, but that is why we are here. We provide hope to those in need, we provide answers, a path to self-sufficiency and a hand up when needed. I believe in the work we do and I believe that our community will rally behind #151 because we are all called to help, in whatever way we can.

Announcing Generations at West Mesa, a Low-Income Housing Development

As an organization that is acutely aware of the great housing need in our state, Catholic Charities is engaged in low income housing development. Generations at West Mesa is our first approved affordable housing project, targeting seniors and grandparents raising grandchildren. It will include 54 apartments of different sizes (twenty-four 1-bedroom, twenty-four 2 bedroom and six 3-bedroom) units; 45 of them will serve households earning 30%, 50%, and 60% of the Area Median Income. Nine of the units will be market rate units. Eleven will be covered by a Section 8 Project-Based Voucher contract committed by the City of Albuquerque Housing Authority. With total estimated development cost of \$ 10,853,588, the development team will consist of Catholic Charities, Gorman & Company, and the City of Albuquerque. All are ready to proceed immediately with the development of the project. Ground breaking can occur within six months of allocation. Construction completion is targeted for the end of 2018. Stay tuned for more information and updates on this exciting project!

- Adam Saber, Project Development Director

Refugee Youth Holiday Party

**Sunday,
December 17, 2017**

**Hosted by
Catholic Charities.**

**Volunteers needed for
wrapping, organizing,
serving, food, setup
and cleanup.**

**Contact: Kathy Freeze
505-724-4694
freezek@ccasfnnm.org**

The Long and Winding Road to Citizenship

The path to U.S. citizenship is not easy and it takes patience, perseverance and determination. Usually the whole process will take 1 ½ years. Catholic Charities is pleased to share a true “good news” story. Journey with us through “Mary’s” path to citizenship:

Mary Doe was born in Mexico City, Mexico on October 1, 1995

- Brought to US in 1998 by parents
- Was not inspected by United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)

Eligible for DACA:

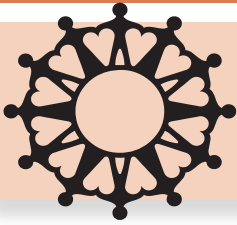
- Entered before 6/15/07
- Under the age of 16
- Attending school
- Catholic Charities helped her file DACA application
- November 2012 application for DACA and Employment Authorization approved in March for 3 years

- January 2015 married her high school sweetheart (a U.S. citizen)
- February came to Catholic Charities for consultation on process to become citizen through her spouse
- We advised her to renew her DACA as the process she requests is a Consular process, requiring an interview at the American Consulate in Mexico. (She was concerned that she may not be allowed back into the US)
- We explained that because she had legal status under DACA she should not have that concern
- Mary renewed her DACA for another 3 years (2017-2020)

- March 2015 Mary and spouse began the 6-9 month process to Petition for Alien Relative
- Her file was sent to the Department of State and the process of file review began
- One month later, we were notified and the appointment with the American Consulate in Mexico is scheduled.

- March 2017 Mary Doe had appointment for her interview at the American Consulate and her citizenship was approved
- She is now a Legal Permanent Resident of the United States
- Mary has continued with her studies in Nursing

- Isabel Otero, Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assistance



Share the Journey ✱
#sharejourney

Join us as we share the journey!
*Together, we can lead the world
in helping migrants and refugees.*

Pope Francis is being joined by bishops across the U.S. and around the world in launching a global campaign to support our brothers and sisters who have fled their homes seeking a decent and safe life for their families. The historic campaign, "Share the Journey," will respond to some of the most desperate of God's children and your inspiration and participation is needed.

Get involved in our upcoming events:

Journey Here and Onward
Opening Friday, November 3, 2017



An exhibit of works from community efforts and artists reflecting life as a journey, one we share together yet experience through different and personal paths. Exhibit will focus on Migration, Displacement, Movement and / or Pilgrimage

Hosted by:

Norbertine Community
of Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey
5825 Coors Blvd SW, Albuquerque, NM 87121

USCCB National Migration Week
Prayer and Advocacy in Early January 2018

For nearly half a century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, victims, and survivors of human trafficking.



Follow us on Twitter and Facebook
#SharetheJourney
www.facebook.com/ccasfm



It is NEVER too late to learn!

Bosco Habimana has been a student in my class for two semesters. He had a severe vehicular accident thirteen years ago which has affected some of his mental capabilities. Last semester, Bosco decided to improve his English Language skills. At that time, Bosco could not say his first or last name without help. He also could not say his address or his phone number. In addition to taking an ESL Level 1 class last semester, Bosco

decided to sign up all summer for tutoring with me. We worked faithfully all summer. In addition to writing his first and last name, Bosco can write and say his address and phone number. He also can write and say most of the alphabet. He scored high enough on his test to be placed in a Level 2 ESL class. And he is still receiving tutoring once a week. I am so proud of Bosco!

- Laura Nunez, Adult Learning Instructor

Make the Most of Your Holiday Giving

Don't wait until the last minute to arrange your holiday giving plans! From tax deductible donations and fundraising galas, to AmazonSmile, there are a variety of ways to remember Catholic Charities this holiday season:

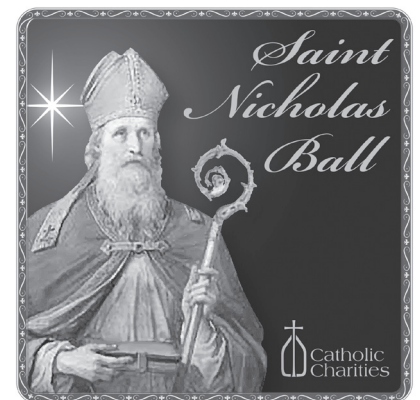
- Like many of us, you probably don't want to think about income tax preparation yet, but now is the BEST time to do so! Your tax-deductible donation, to Catholic Charities by December 31 2017, could be the opportunity not only lift your tax burden, it could also be the key to lift the burden of a struggling family or lighten the load for a senior citizen, or be just the hand-up that the most vulnerable in the community need, right now.
- Use AmazonSmile or similar programs that direct a percentage of your shopping purchases to Catholic Charities. These small sums can really add up, and it costs you nothing extra!
- Tidy up the garage or yard by donating a vehicle. Catholic Charities will take care of hauling and pick-up, and accepts boats, trailers, motorcycles as well as cars and trucks in nearly any condition. Simply call 505-724-4674 to arrange your FREE pick-up!
- Volunteer! Rally friends and family to help out with a community activity. Whether it's finding items from the giving tree or serving at the local food pantry, these activities are more fun and impactful when done in numbers!
- Kick-off the holiday season by attending a festive gala. The St. Nicholas Ball is the perfect way to give back to the community while enjoying a memorable night out.

Join us for the 2017 Saint Nicholas Ball

Kick off the holiday season with a festive evening of dinner and dancing! Includes dinner, entertainment by world class entertainers, The Pink Flamingos, and access to silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$150 each and on sale NOW. Last year's event raised over \$125,000 for Catholic Charities programs! All proceeds fund the programs and services of Catholic Charities.

2017 LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

Cancun trip and airfare
Sculpture or painting by Guilloume
Mosaic by Lisa Domenici
Stained Glass by Denise Taylor
Painting by Mary Ann Weems
Artwork from Andrew Rodriguez
'Stock your Cellar' Wine Experience
Dinner with Archbishop Wester
& More!



EVENT DETAILS:

Saturday, November 18, 2017
Embassy Suites by Hilton
1000 Woodward Pl NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online or by contacting Development

Phone: 505-724-4637 • Email: development@ccasnm.org

More info at: www.ccasnm.org/saint-nicholas-ball

A change can lead to a new outlook on life...

Some of the greatest success stories in my technology classes are from older learners who have rarely, if ever, used computers. One student last year was very excited to be learning how to use Excel. She like the class so much that she got her husband to come! Initially, he was reluctant, and when he couldn't figure something out he would essentially give up. Over time, he began to get more and more interested in learning how to use these different skills in Excel. One day while he was out of town, his wife approached me after class and said, "I just wanted to let you know that my husband stopped me the other day and thanked me for making him take this class." Since he had retired he'd become engrossed in collecting coins, and learning excel had allowed him a much simpler way to categorize and organize his collection. He'd only been coming to class for about four weeks, but he'd already learned skills that he was applying actively in his life. I know this story isn't necessarily as exciting as a lot of success stories we have, but it really made an impact on me as a teacher. In education it can sometimes take a while for hard work to come to fruition, but I got to see a student's life change, if only just a little bit, in the matter of about four weeks. Some changes are big in somebodies life, some are as small as increasing enjoyment of a hobby, but I love to see any moment, even the small ones, where our work in education makes a tangible difference. - **Daniel Silverstein, Adult Learning Instructor**

NOTES OF GRATITUDE FROM OUR DIRECTORS -

"Gratitude....I am simply grateful for all who are Catholic Charities and how they are living examples of Dignity" -

- James Gannon, Executive Director and CEO

"I am grateful for all the staff and their dedication to serve the people in our community."

- Carol Tonihka, Chief Program Officer

"I am grateful for great teachers and great students"

- Kris Degenhardt, Director of the Center for Educational Opportunity

"This year, I am thankful for the ongoing dedication of our volunteers in the Center for Refugee Support. Helping refugee families become self-sufficient can be challenging, frustrating, heartbreaking, and exhausting – but our determined volunteers have energy, compassion, resourcefulness and positivity. They make a difference every day in small ways that add up to real progress toward self-sufficiency and empowerment for our families."

- Celia Yapita, Director of the Center for Refugee Support

"I am grateful for the committed team of case managers and our program assistants that work very hard to help families find housing and a better life for themselves and their children."

- James Walker, Director of the Center for Self-Sufficiency and Housing

"I am blessed to bless, gifted to give, and I am expected to do something with the grace I've been given. So today, I chose to help promote a work environment that is based off positivity and people development."

- Rose Pace, Human Resources Director

"I am thankful, every day, for our wonderful donors and volunteers who see the need, recognize the inherent dignity that we are all born with and give without counting the cost."

- Dolores Nunez, Development Director



DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE



Rose Pace, left and Dolores Nunez, right present a check to Carolyn Fernandez, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas)

In the month of September, Catholic Charities in partnership with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, accepted donations from our local community to benefit disaster relief efforts associated with Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Jose. These funds are being distributed to CCUSA affiliate organizations in the affected areas. We would like to thank all who have generously sent monetary gifts, contributed to the second collection at parishes in September, and donated blood at our mobile blood drive. Hurricane victims in Puerto Rico continue to need our help and our prayers. We are also collecting funds for earthquake relief in Mexico, which will be distributed through Catholic Relief Services. If you'd like to donate in support of earthquake relief, you may do so on our website or by sending a check with "earthquake relief" in the memo line. Visit our website to learn more. (www.ccasnm.org).

**Giving
Blood,
the Gift
of Life**



On Wednesday, October 4th we hosted a community blood drive in partnership with United Blood Services. 13 donors donated 13 units/pints of blood. One donation can help 3 patients! Thank you to all who participated! Especially in light of recent tragedies, it's important to keep our local blood supply stocked for those of need.

