



DIGNITY

Catholic Charities



Future home of Catholic Charities' Casa de Corazon

A Mother's Plight

For years, Jenny, (not her real name), fled from one home to another trying to escape a life of domestic violence. Eventually she found her way to Catholic Charities and applied for the La Luz Program in the Center for Family Self-Sufficiency and Housing Assistance. As a recent graduate of the program, she wrote:

It's been two years since my family and I walked through the doors of Catholic Charities. I was scared. I told myself I couldn't do this. I felt small and worthless as I sat waiting. I could hear voices of doubt in my head telling me I should leave, that they'd tell me no. The voices continued on and on until I heard my name called. I stood up and walked towards the door. "Hi my name is Andy", he said. Something about him made me feel safe. We sat and talked, and then he said I was accepted into the program. I was happy, excited and scared all at the same time. Andy assured me that I wasn't alone, but I was still scared. I was working part time and had no one out there but my kids. So we ended up moving into a brand new apartment with nothing but the clothes on our backs. I sat in the middle of my

apartment and looked around and asked God how I was going to fill our place.

The next day I went to work at my part-time job with Salvation Army. I was talking to my co-worker and told her I had gotten an apartment, but I didn't know how I was going to afford all the little things that make a house a home. An hour later the donation truck pulled up in front of the store and my manager said "Get in, you're going home early today." They blessed me with a couch, table and household things.

As months went by, I was able to slowly continue filling my home and the next thing I knew, I had accomplished most of the goals I had set for myself. I was going to school at CNM when Andy and the team told me I was doing so well that I could stay with Catholic Charities for one more year. They would help me continue to climb and reach my goals. For one more year, I was at peace knowing they were there for me.

2014 was a pretty good year, though I lost my grandma and that killed me. I couldn't say goodbye or give her a hug since she was so far

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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



EL CORREO *(The Mail)*

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A Mother's Plight

◀ *Continued from page 1*

away. I never made it to her funeral either. I was scared to go back home because of my abusive husband, nor did I have the money. He'd had all my information and my bank accounts were wiped clean. I felt like giving up, but I didn't. I told myself I had been running from him since 2011 and I wasn't about to give him the pleasure of bringing me down. I had gone too far to see everything I'd worked for fall to pieces. I stood up, dusted myself off, and said "I AM A STRONG AND POWERFULL WOMAN, AND NO WALL, NO MOUNTAIN, NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP ME." I ended up getting us a car, a better paying job and for once in my life, we were happy. Looking back on my two years with Catholic

Charities, I realize I have come a long way and have grown into a very strong person; not only for myself, but for my kids. I've learned that if you put your mind, your heart and your soul to it, anything is possible. I could not have done this without the help of Catholic Charities and my wonderful caseworker Andy. They gave me the stepping stones and the opportunity to be more than just the beaten, battered woman who sat afraid in their lobby so long ago. I will miss and love all of you for all the help you have given me and my children. Thank you.

Catholic Charities Statistics for 2014

- Senior Transportation Program – 1,576 rides
- Housing Assistance – 307 families
- High-School Equivalency Program – 98 Graduates
- Adult Education Program – 1,832 individuals served
- Children's Learning Center – 48 children enrolled
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – 1,200 immigration cases processed
- Refugee Settlement and Support – 390 served

A Mother's Strong Roots | *by John A. Menicucci*

The Amazing Life of My Mother - Theresa Angela Domenici Menicucci

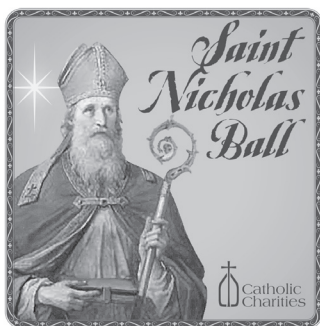
Born in the United States to Antonio and Emma (Giomi) Domenici in 1923, my mother is one of eight children. After spending a portion of her childhood living in Italy with her mother, she returned to Albuquerque and enrolled in St. Vincent's Academy. She had to learn her English all over again and was able to graduate at the top of her small class. It's clear to me that this kind of determination has played a role in her incredible vitality at 91.



Mario J. Menicucci (deceased) and Theresa Menicucci

After the war, she married my father Mario J. Menicucci and they nurtured six children through the years. With all of us involved in various activities, I remember growing up in a very active house. We could come and go all day long as long as we were home for dinner and to do our homework. Mom always kept an impeccable home with plenty of good homemade food to eat.

Our lives focused around Mom and Dad's devotion to their Catholic beliefs, sending us to Catholic grade school and St. Pius High School. I remember her washing and ironing altar linens as well as the altar boy vestments that my brothers and I would wear to serve mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church. The parish continues to be an important center of her spiritual life. Over the years she has been a strong steady guiding force in my life and for her entire family.



An Enchanting Evening of Charity, Dining & Dancing

Saturday, November 21, 2015
5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Hotel
330 Tijeras Avenue, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Contact Liz Lopez for Sponsorship Information
(505) 724-4693 or lopezl@ccasfnm.org

A Mother's Love Is Infinite | *by Cindy Frame*



Daughter Sarah with her mom, Cindy Frame

I will never forget the day I became a mother. My first child, Jonathan, was born on Mother's Day, 1986. It was such a joyous and exciting moment. I had been blessed with a beautiful, healthy baby boy. I very quickly became aware of things that I had never thought of, as I was up many times a night taking care of his needs. I now appreciated and understood fully the love and concern my mom really did have for me. I realized that it was possible to fall in love at first sight and my life was changed forever. Nineteen months later I gave birth to twin boys and struggled with a whole new set of emotions. I was nervous and incapable of understanding how I could possibly love two more babies, more than I loved my first.

The lesson I've learned is that a mother's love is infinite. Your capacity for love and the joy that each child brings multiplies. It is not divided. I went on to have another son and finally a daughter, and being their mother is my greatest accomplishment. They are my pride and joy. I now have two grand babies and my love continues to grow. Motherhood is sacred and a privilege. I can only imagine the love that our Heavenly Father has for all His children. A blessed Mother's Day to all you beautiful women out there!

Two Mothers, Two Different Experiences, Same Great Love |

by Lisa R. Trujillo,
Catholic Charities
Board Member

I was blessed with wonderful parents. My dad was a hard worker and provided for our family. My mother was a stay-at-home mom and kept our home spic and span. She made the beds, ironed our clothes and had home-cooked meals ready every evening for our family. But more than that, she loved us unconditionally and always made sure we knew she was in our corner no matter what. I learned what true selflessness was as I watched my mother do all she could to raise happy, healthy and wise children.

My experience as a mother was quite different. I became a divorced, working, single mom of two daughters when they were only ages two and six. Ironing? Homemade meals every night? Not for

my little family of three. While I couldn't exactly do for my children all the wonderful things my mother had done for me, I could, in my own way, practice the type of selflessness and unconditional love that was so important to my development.

It warms my heart now when my daughters, who are now ages 20 and 24, remember the silly little things I would do to let them know I was paying attention and that I cared for them and loved them deeply. From bedtime "cheers" to funny pep talks during the car rides to



school, my girls remember what matters most, that I love them unconditionally and I am in their corner no matter what.

Reflecting God's great love for us and through us is the thread that runs in my family. And for that I am so thankful.

Historic Meeting of Catholic and Mormon Leaders



Left to right: Jim Gannon, CC Executive Director/CEO, Very Rev. John Cannon, Very Rev. Msgr. Bennett J. Voorhies, Dan Lewis (West Albuquerque Stake President), Most Holy Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, Elder Lynn G. Robbins, (Presidency of the Seventy), Elder Romeo Villareal from McAllen, TX and Cindy Frame

A historical meeting was held on March 20, 2015, with Most Reverend Michael J. Sheehan welcoming Elder Lynn G. Robbins to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Elder Robbins of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) and a member of the Presidency of the Seventy in the LDS Church, was in Albuquerque to meet with local members of the LDS Church. This meeting was of an ecumenical nature and issues of mutual interest between the two Churches were discussed.

The meeting was primarily a dialogue between the two leaders on how the Churches, while diverse in beliefs, share areas of mutual concern and could work together to promote the common good of our communities. Topics included discussions on the preservation of marriage and supporting development of vibrant and healthy families, as well as how the two Churches could jointly and concretely work together to improve the community. In honor of this historical meeting, Cindy Frame (local LDS member and Catholic Charities' board member) presented a \$25,000.00 donation on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to Catholic Charities. Also presented to the ordained members of the Catholic Church were recordings of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. All in attendance agreed this meeting was a first step in improving the communication between members of the Catholic and LDS communities in the Archdiocese.



Help us to grow our Facebook page and create awareness of all that Catholic Charities does to help those in need in our community!
Please visit www.facebook.com/CCASFNM and "like" our page.

Office Blessing

Catholic Charities recently hosted an Open House at its new Santa Fe location, 1234 San Felipe Avenue, directly behind St. John the Baptist Parish. Guests were greeted by Michael E. Gallegos, 2015 Board Chairman and Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan blessed the office and surrounding grounds. Please call (505)424-9787 for hours of operation and services.

Casa De San Francisco



Casa De Corazon

These are exciting times for Catholic Charities. Thanks to the tremendous support of Catholic Parishes, socially conscious individuals and the visionary philanthropy of the Mabee Foundation, Casa de Corazon is becoming a reality.

In November, 2014, NCA Architects were selected to design the new building and in mid-April Bradbury Stamm Construction Company was selected to build Casa de Corazon. With this "Dream Team" in place, we anticipate breaking ground late summer or early fall. Already the vacant lot on Bridge SW, is changing with generous donations of clean dirt by Universal Contractors.

For current developments on the building of Casa de Corazon and other news breaking stories visit our website at www.ccasfnm.org.



**NEED HELP GETTING
FOOD STAMPS?**

**NOT SURE IF YOU
QUALIFY?**

We can help.



To get free help applying for Food Stamps, call Catholic Charities at 505-724-4692

For more information contact

**B.J. Jones at jonesb@ccasfnm.org
505.724.4692**

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www.ccasfnm.org

Pope Francis Appoints New Archbishop

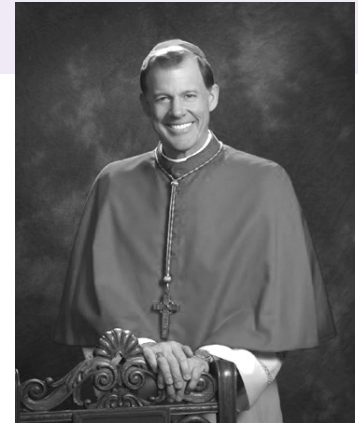
On Monday, April 27, 2015 Pope Francis accepted the retirement of Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan and named Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, as the 12th Archbishop of Santa Fe. Heading the Archdiocese of Santa Fe since 1993, Archbishop Sheehan celebrated his 75th birthday last year. The age at which bishops are required under Canon Law to submit their resignation to the Pope.

Archbishop-Elect John Charles Wester, 64, was born November 5, 1950 in San Francisco, California. He was named Bishop of the Salt Lake City Diocese, encompassing the entire state of Utah, on January 8, 2007. His Episcopal motto is "Abide in Christ."

Archbishop-Elect Wester chairs the USCCB (United States Conference

of Catholic Bishops) Committee on Communications and is a member of the Administrative Committee and the Committee on Migration. He is a member of the USCCB Committees on Catholic Education and the Foundation Advisory Board. He has also worked towards immigration reform on a local, national, and international level.

His National Memberships include being a Board Member of Catholic Relief Services; on the Board of Trustees of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio; Episcopal Advisor for the National Association of Catholic Chaplains; Episcopal Moderator of the National Association for Lay Ministers; as well as a member of the Board of Trustee for Saint Patrick Seminary and University in Menlo Park, California.



Archbishop-Elect John Charles Wester

The Installation Mass for Archbishop-Elect Wester will be at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4th, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Until the installation Archbishop Sheehan continues to serve as Archbishop of Santa Fe.



Executive Director, Jim Gannon

An Organization Built On Dignity

By Jim Gannon

At its foundation, Catholic Charities is an organization built on dignity. But what do we mean by saying dignity is the foundation of our organization, of our vision, mission and values? Is dignity earned, given, or does it simply exist? To be treated with dignity... is it a right, or a privilege earned?

Dignity is something we all understand, yet at the same time we cannot fully explain. Dignity is self-esteem, self-worth, and humbleness. It is so common that every human being possesses it and so rare every human being seeks it. Dignity cannot be taken away, it cannot be surrendered, but a tremendous effort has been made by so many to conquer it. Throughout human history, many brutal campaigns have beaten down dignity.

Every day in our community someone is confronting an assault on their dignity. The assaulters inflict psychological and physical harm on their victim. Thus all of us are charged with being champions of dignity?

We have an obligation to intervene, to advocate, and to be a voice in our community.

Catholic Charities' respect for dignity must be projected both internally and outwardly.

Catholic Charities seeks to be an example of how we should respect the dignity we see in each other. When dignity is abundant and individuals naturally respect one another, we have: A community thriving in the abundance of GOD's love and selflessly serving the needs of one another. We are obligated to advocate for and create a community, a nation and a world where actions are predicated on the concept of dignity. We strive to create universal acceptance of the dignity of the human being and universal rejection of actions that lead to an assault on that dignity.

Meet Sharon and Jack Freisinger

By Cathy Aragon-Marquez

You can't have one without the other! And we wouldn't have it any other way. It is such a pleasure to have volunteers that bring their better half along. Especially, when the couples are like Sharon and Jack. They come to volunteer every Tuesday, like clockwork. They walk through the door with a sparkle in their eyes, a bowl full of cheer and a plate full of freshly baked cookies. The Freisinger's bring pure JOY into the Candelaria office. You can't help but be in good spirits when they are around.

They are advocates for Catholic Charities in the community, as they are proud to be volunteers and share their experience with others. By answering the phone or driving a senior, they know that what may seem like a simple deed, may be the only time this senior can get a vital need met. It is something we all take for granted, but for the elderly who can no longer drive, it may be life sustaining. When Sharon accepts a driving assignment, we just know

her passenger is going to be pampered and spoiled. She is jovial, a great listener and quite the conversationalist. She will take the time to sit and have lunch with her passenger instead of rushing the person home.

Jack, a retired Major from the USAF, is very thorough when performing rider intakes. He is friendly, professional and his voice is very clear. Some of our riders comment on the man with the wonderful voice. He makes certain the person on the other end feels valued and receives all the information or resources they may need. He updates the resource list and creates various forms on his own time at home. Oh, and he tells corny jokes.

They attribute their strength and blessings to their faith and proudly proclaim they are long time Parish-



ioners of, Our Lady of Annunciation, where they learned about Catholic Charities. They are punctual, respectful, and friendly beyond words. They have an instant connection with people. After being proprietors of the Specialty Shoppe in Albuquerque, for twenty years, they retired and have chosen to give their time and talent to Catholic Charities. On April 17, 2015, Jack and Sharon Freisinger received a well-deserved Volunteer Award from Mayor Richard Berry at the Mayor's Day of Recognition event held at the convention center.

Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assistance

The Unthinkable

Maria, her name changed to protect confidentiality, came to the United States as a small child and quickly adapted to her new life. As a young woman, she met her U.S. citizen husband while out with friends. They quickly began spending time together and James, also not his real name, behaved as the perfect gentleman. He courted her with flowers, nice dinners, evenings at the movies and dancing. A year and a half later, they were married and expecting their first child. Soon after James lost his job and started to emotionally and verbally abuse Maria. Calling her names and putting her down in front of their infant daughter. One day during an argument, James grabbed Maria by her neck and pushed

her up against the wall as their child watched, convincing her that it was all Maria's fault that he treated her this way. James became even more violent, threatening to take their baby away and killing her family. During an incident of abuse, Maria contacted a friend and asked her to call the police. She and her daughter were finally able to get away from James. She engaged in counseling and got a restraining order against her husband. With the help of the VAWA Immigration Project at Catholic Charities, Maria was also able to file for a self-petition and received legal immigration status. Her case was recently approved by the Department of Homeland Security and she is now able to work legally to support her children in a home free of violence.

Tune In: Dignity in the Community

Monday evenings at 8:00 or Wednesday mornings at 10:30
 KAZQ TV-32
 UHF (32.1) Comcast Cable (22) Albuquerque, Cable One (9) Rio Rancho, Comcast Cable of Santa Fe (22), Comcast Cable Belen/Los Lunas (22)



You are invited ...

Mobile Food Pantry

Numbers will be distributed to the first 125 families the morning of the Mobile Food Pantry at the church.

Sponsored by ...



Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico

Dates:	May 15th June 19th
Time:	1:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Location:	St. Francis Xavier (820 Broadway SE)
Please Bring:	boxes or cloth bags to hold your food



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