



# DIGNITY

## Catholic Charities



Casa de Corazon is complete as of Jan 2017!

## Leading by Example

Board Chair, Giulia Urquhart



Catholic Charities welcomes our new Board Chair, Giulia Urquhart. Giulia kicks off our Mother's Day edition with memories of her mother and a history of the call to serve.

Service to her neighbors was a central tenet of my mother's life, and one of the things I remember most clearly about her. I have a vivid memory of my Mom pulling

an "all-nighter" to catch up with her meeting minutes as Secretary of the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. I remember the time she engaged the help of her four children to build an enormous paper mache Jack-o-Lantern, which she filled with hundreds of packages of Halloween candy for the children at a local homeless shelter. She made sure Santa arrived with presents for those same children at Christmas time. Later, she founded a much-needed soup kitchen in the small resort town where she lived.

There were many other instances of service. Through all of them, my mother genuinely knew the neighbors she served. Instead of simply giving money to help a struggling single mom-to-be, my mother invited her to stay in our home until she had her baby and found her feet. She cared for the sick and elderly with her own hands.

My mother never had the opportunity to become elderly herself. She left us at a relatively young age. But her examples of service left an impression on me that far exceeded the impression left by her many lectures about good behavior to my eye-rolling teenage self. I try to remember that when I deal with my own teenage audience now.

What I didn't understand until recently was the genuine beauty of the people my mother had the privilege to help, and the gifts she received in return. I have come to realize that my mother saw Christ in each of those faces. As I reflect on motherhood, I see the path she opened for each of us – and the joy to be found in following that example, to whatever small degree we can.

### 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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*Bridges of Love and Dignity*

**Jim Gannon, CEO/Executive Director**



As I reflect on this Mother's Day, I look to the example of the Virgin Mary, who reminds us that her Son calls all of us 'brother' and 'sister.' While we are all different, she accepts all of us as her children. She wants her family to love, to extend outstretched hands of assistance, and to accept that we can pray in different tongues - in different ways - while praying for understanding and unity in peace.

As a society, we must recognize that there will be those of us who are better off, wealthier, and who have more than others. But the acquisition of such wealth and comfort cannot be allowed to create destitution among others in our human family. A child cannot be robbed of love, of a breakfast, an education, so that a wide screen TV can be installed in still another bedroom. Automation and advancements in science should not rob a mother's children of the ability to be a participating, valued member of our society. As we create new machinery and new means to transfer labor, we cannot include in this creation the casting out of mothers and their children. We must be dedicated to the creation of a world that is blessed by the advancement of the dignity of all fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. A just pride for society is not the increasing distance between the wealthy and the poor, but the bridging. We must be a world that allows our Virgin Mother and her Son to shed tears; tears of joy as they see a family genuinely showing concern out of love for one another. We can debate whether it is the role of government, religion, or private citizens, but we must accept it as our role, our responsibility to assure the stability and health of the entire family unit. We must find the means, we must share, and we must love.



**Honor your loved ones with an engraved brick in our meditation garden!** We are ready to complete this beautiful space, which is graced by a beautiful tile mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe by artist, Lisa Domenici. Arrange online at [www.ccasfnm.org](http://www.ccasfnm.org)

**HeART Committee Thank You!**

Thank you to our HeART fundraising committee and to our talented local artists for the beautiful works that line the halls of Casa de Corazon!

Shown (left to right):  
Linda Dabeau, Denise Taylor,  
Thelma Domenici,  
Beth Chavez, Anita Lucero,  
Andrew Rodriguez, and  
Miguel Grave de Peralta



## Center for Educational Opportunity

### Teacher Spotlight

In the Center for Education Opportunity, three of our outstanding teachers are mothers! Both Raiza Dellara and Paulette Atencio began as volunteers and were hired in August of 2015. Kerry Jenkins has worked as a teacher for Catholic Charities for thirteen years.

Raiza has been our EvenStart coordinator and has done outstanding work with the program. She coordinates classes, arranges substitutes and ensures that all aspects of the program run smoothly. Raiza teaches ESL and Citizenship and is the mother of an eight year old daughter, Sophia. Raiza recently applied to become a licensed Teaching and Educational Administration Assistant through the NM Public Education Department. Paulette is our Basic English for Second Language Speakers instructor. She has been a licensed teaching assistant and a foster grandparent in the APS system, and also has two children.

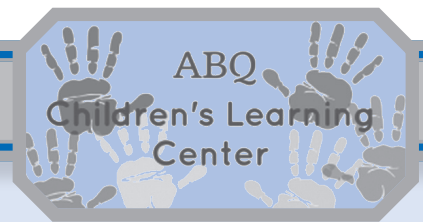
Paulette, Raiza and Kerry are devoted to the success of their students and are vital members of the teaching team at CC. We are proud of you all!



#### UPCOMING REGISTRATION

Registration dates for CCEDU Adult Education Courses are May 17, 18, and 19. Assessment will begin at 9AM and students should be available until 12 noon. Evening registration will take place on May 17 and 18. Assessment will begin at 6PM. Students should be available until 8PM. Visit CCEDU's website at [www.ccedu.org](http://www.ccedu.org) to learn more!

## Children's Learning Center



Recently at our Children's Learning Center, we heard a mom say, "What a joy to come to Bridge and have my 3-year-old son here for school. The new classrooms are so bright, fun, and full of books. Mario gets a hot breakfast and a good lunch, so when I am at work, I know our Lord and his teachers are looking out for him."

Check out our new website: [www.childrenslearningcenterabq.org](http://www.childrenslearningcenterabq.org) to learn more about expanded facility and services.

## Celebrating Milestones in our Center for Refugee Support

### **Growing Family, Growing Community**

In March, a recently-arrived refugee family welcomed a new baby! The family had fled persecution in their homeland to start a new life in the United States. With no English ability, they struggled in their first few months. Through the hard work of all parties, we were able to help the father find a job at a sushi restaurant in February. The baby arrived at the end of March – prematurely. But with the help of our team and friends, the baby grew stronger each day, was released from the hospital, and is now at home with his family – their first U.S. citizen!



### **Job Club Success**

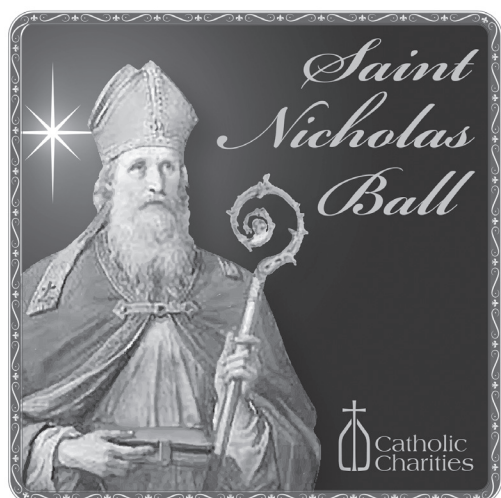
Our team of staff, volunteers, and a former employee, were able to secure a job for a young man who is the sole source of income for his family of nine. Our Job Club team had been helping him apply for numerous jobs, with the help of an amazing volunteer. Our team reached out to the former employee, who was able to secure him a position at her current place of employment! This could not have happened without the support of the volunteer, our interns, and our network.

*Mark your calendars: World Refugee Day is on June 16, 2017 from 6-9 pm at Highland High School. Please join us for food, music and possibly a naturalization ceremony.*

## *2017 Saint Nicholas Ball*

The date has been set for our signature fundraiser and incredible winter party, the Saint Nicholas Ball! Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 18th at the Embassy Suites. It's never too early to arrange your sponsorship or silent auction donation -- contact the Development office for more info:

505-724-4637



Join us for An Enchanting Evening of  
Charity, Dining & Dancing  
**SAINT NICHOLAS BALL**  
To Benefit Catholic Charities

Saturday, November 18, 2017  
Embassy Suites by Hilton Albuquerque Hotel & Spa  
1000 Woodward Place NE ~ Albuquerque, NM  
Cocktail Reception. Live & Silent Auction  
Entertainment, Chocolate & Coffee Bar

## Center for Community Involvement

### *Rides for Seniors Make a Difference!*

*“It is comforting to know that there is an organization like Catholic Charities that is willing to assist others in their time of need.”*



“Recently, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and was facing great difficulty getting to my daily radiation treatments over a month and a half period of time. I believed that everything medical would be taken care of by the capable physicians, but transportation was a major problem as I would be unable to drive myself on a daily basis. I reached out to Catholic Charities for transportation assistance and I was put in contact with Cathy Aragon-Marquez who diligently worked with me and put together a schedule to help me get to my radiation treatments.

I want to sincerely thank Cathy, all of the drivers and everyone at Catholic Charities for alleviating some of the worry of getting to my treatments during this very difficult time. Their kindness and support was greatly appreciated. It is comforting to know that there is an organization like Catholic Charities that is willing to assist others in their time of need. Again, please extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to these individuals for their assistance. May God bless them and this wonderful organization--”

***Our senior transportation program helps seniors in central NM access medical appointments, groceries and meet their day-to-day needs. This program is free and open to all over the age of 65, regardless of income level. Call 505-724-4634 to schedule a ride today!***



### **Building Blessing & Community Open House**

### **Saturday, July 22**

Join us this July for a very special celebration with Archbishop John C. Wester, Catholic Charities staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and our surrounding community to bless and celebrate our new home at Casa de Corazon! The morning will consist of a formal blessing and recognition of all who helped make this dream a reality. The afternoon celebration will feature delicious fare from food trucks, entertainment by local bands and other fun summer festivities. More details are to be announced very soon. We hope to see you there!



### **Give Your Time & Talent: Volunteer!**

Over 300 talented and generous individuals make our programs possible!

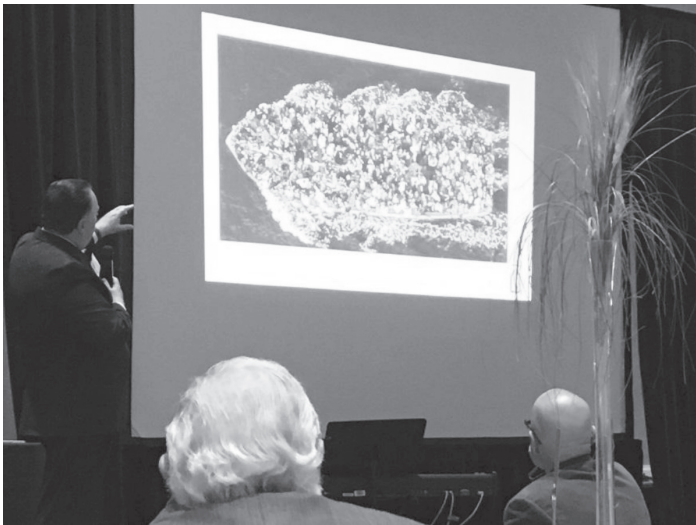
Opportunities include:

- Rides for Seniors
- Refugee Youth Mentoring
- In-Kind Center
- Mobile Food Pantry
- Childcare
- Saint Nicholas Ball

To get involved, contact Cathy Aragon-Marquez at 724-4634 or [marquezc@ccasnm.org](mailto:marquezc@ccasnm.org)

## Catholic Charities Receives Prestigious DEI Award

Catholic Charities is incredibly honored to receive the Lumen Sancti Spiritu, “Light of the Holy Spirit” Award this year from the Dominican Ecclesial Institute. The award was presented to Catholic Charities by the Most Reverend Archbishop Wester. During the presentation, Jim Gannon, CEO and Executive Director of Catholic Charities shared perceptions about newcomers to our land. He challenged those in attendance to look past preconceived notions and acknowledge the human dignity inherent in very individual. We would like to thank the Dominican Ecclesial Institute Board for their nomination and continued support.



*Jim Gannon shares photo of refugees on boat*



*Archbishop John C. Wester presents DEI Lumen Sancti Spiritu Award to Catholic Charities*

## Service in Action

Annunciation Catholic School third and fourth graders have had a very busy Lenten season, filled with acts of service for those in need! From raising funds for supplies and toys, to setting up a classroom in the Children’s Learning Center, to creating Dignity bags filled with soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and other essentials – Catholic Charities is inspired by and so grateful for the generosity of our local youth.

**Thank you for all you do!**



## Thank you, St. Charles Borromeo Parish for the '40 Cans for Lent' Food Drive!



Parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Church and students at St. Charles School helped fill the food pantry in our in-kind donation center. Led by the Knights of Columbus organization, they collected 2,234 items with an estimated value of \$4,500!

Items collected include PB&J, canned soups, granola bars, apple sauce and other items that help us feed the hungry in our community. We are grateful to the "Knights" and especially to Chuck Atencio who coordinated, inventoried and delivered all of the food to our In-kind Donation Center.

Thanks to all for your generosity!

## Archbishop Wester, Catholic Charities Attend Passover Seder

On April 12, members from many faith communities attended a Passover Seder at the Jewish Community Center (JCC). This year, the JCC reached out to refugee/immigrant agencies to invite them to participate in the Seder as a gesture of support and solidarity in these challenging times. Executive Director, Dave Simon, celebrated our refugee community by planting an Afghani pomegranate tree, at the front of the JCC. He named it their "Tree of Refuge" and spoke about Jews as refugees, again in support of our current refugee crisis. Several refugees and their children, as well as other community members and their children (including Catholic Charities' staff and their families) helped plant the tree. Celia Yapita, Kathy Freeze and Danielle Hernandez hosted an information table for Catholic Charities at the Seder. Other agencies in attendance were Lutheran Family Services, the Islamic Center of New Mexico, the ACLU, and the UNM Refugee Well-Being Project. After the planting and sharing information on refugee support, Archbishop Wester joined Kathy Freeze, Ghassan Jawad (case manager) and our interpreter, Parwin Hussaini, with her extended family in the celebration of the Passover Seder.



*Hussaini Family, Ghassan Jawad, Catholic Charities case manager, and Archbishop Wester*

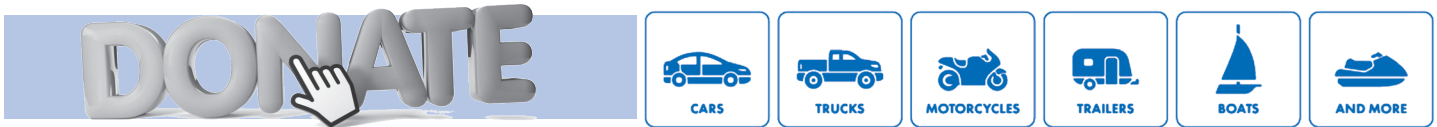


*Archbishop John C. Wester sharing with Seder Meal guests*



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...from clunkers to hot rods, one vehicle or a fleet, Catholic Charities graciously accepts your tax deductible donation of most motor vehicles running or not, with or without a title. Your gift provides; education, childcare, housing assistance, refugee resettlement, legal assistance, job opportunities, and senior transportation for our neighbors here in NEW MEXICO. For complete details and to arrange vehicle pick-up: 505-724-4670 or [www.ccasnm.org](http://www.ccasnm.org).

## Driving For Dignity

*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...**



Catholic Charities, Society of St. Vincent de Paul,  
CRS Rice Bowl, St. Francis Xavier Parish,  
Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico

**Dates:** May 19th  
June 16th  
July 21st

**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