



DIGNITY

Catholic Charities



Future home of Catholic Charities' Casa de Corazon

Lessons from our Mothers

Jim Gannon, Executive Director, Catholic Charities

Our parents' influence is much like a potter molding the clay on a wheel, shaping a child as they grow with values, morals and character. As we age, we see the physical similarities in our eyes, nose or facial features. The receding hairline of a father is repeated in the son's. We might even notice our vocabularies are peppered with phrases and words that were once their words, perhaps even phrases that they learned from their parents. At some point after becoming a parent, perhaps we find lessons that we had learned, we now teach to our children.

My mother was a devout woman who deeply believed in her Catholic faith. Often her words reinforced that faith was not something that was sought through facts and evidence. Faith was a belief held so dear and true that it created its own proof. It was measured not scientifically in a lab or with validations of theories. Faith was not strengthened by words, but required an anvil and hammer of spiritual belief and conscience, shaping actions of dignity. It was through such actions of dignity and service that we created the evidence of faith, of the Trinity: the Father, Christ and the Spirit.

Growing up as Catholics, the path and the deviation of our action from dignity was indeed narrow. We walked a narrow centerline of expectation in behavior. The amazing gift of our

faith also was a restrictor on our actions. Somewhere perhaps in our family's history, St. Patrick or St. Bridget opened our eyes to Christ and that gift was precious. My mother very much gave us the lesson of our faith. I sometimes did not want to take hold of the lesson. It seemed so unfair that it governed our behavior and gave little excuse for abandoning the centerline. But, I did occasionally go a little wide of the center, yet she also made sure that I knew one could get back on the line and back into grace.

My mother taught me that the Church also taught tolerance of others and their beliefs. She taught me that it was not tolerance in the sense of putting up with or declaring superiority to; rather the Church's tolerance was seeking similarities and commonalities. That we must not assume an air of superiority. That yes, our beliefs were the gifts of the Trinity to us, the Father's gift of Christ to us, Christ's own sacrifice of salvation and especially the Faith ignited at Pentecost by the Holy Spirit. Our faith flowed from the words of the Father, from the example of Christ and the inspiration of the Spirit.

My mother seemed to know all the saints' biographies, whether Francis of Assisi or Bernadette, and how they were examples to us. That each saint was not an example so much by their words, but in their decisions and actions, thus, they provided guidance.

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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



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That dignity shined when Francis engaged Islamic persons with dialogue and respect rather than scorn and superiority. I learned our faith and trust could be challenged as Maximilian Kolbe was in Auschwitz. One could be asked to sacrifice ourselves as Christ did even for those whose faith differs. I might not be asked to accept death to save another, or as Francis, might not need to walk through the bonfire, but I must be prepared, just as he was. Even if our calling might simply be to hold a door open for a person,

to lend a hand in averting suffering in another, but we must always see Christ in others, and whether they see Him in themselves is secondary to our seeing Him. I must serve witness to the dignity of all human beings in words, but they are hollow if my actions do not do so as well.

I strive to apply these lessons from my mother here at Catholic Charities. I pray that the actions of Catholic Charities give witness to not only the lessons of Christ, but to the wisdom of the Trinity.

My Mother's Influence on My Life -

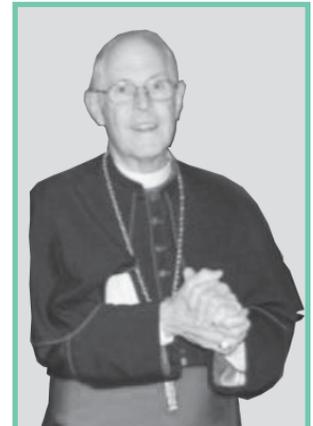
I grew up in Texarkana, TX and our family was very active at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. I went to Sacred Heart Grade School as did my two brothers, John and Joe, and my sister, Mary. My mother, Mildred Sheehan, was a wonderful mother who took care of us in every necessary way. She passed on her Catholic faith to us. My father, Ed Sheehan, was also a devout Catholic.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, I think of mom and the wonderful things that she did for us. Certainly, she was committed to works of charity and helping in the parish. She gave us a sense of how important it was to share what we could with those less fortunate.

I have great love for Catholic Charities and I pray that the terrific ministry to the poor and needy that is going on through Catholic Charities continues to flourish. What is done for the immigrant and their families is one of the greatest needs that our country and our church has right now. God's blessings on the work of Catholic Charities!

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,

Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop Emeritus of Santa Fe



*Most Reverend
Michael J. Sheehan*

Catholic Charities Statistics for 2015

- ❖ Senior Transportation Program 1,349 rides
- ❖ Housing Assistance 630 individuals and families
- ❖ Adult Education Programs..... 1,400 individuals served
- ❖ Adult Education Program Graduates 127 (2015-2016 fiscal year)
- ❖ Children's Learning Center..... 43 enrolled
- ❖ Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)..... 610 cases processed
- ❖ Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) / U Visa Cases 25 new, 200 active cases
- ❖ Refugee Settlement & Support..... 152 served



Pope Francis meets with refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos April 16.

Pope Francis brings 12 refugees home to Vatican

Pope Francis traveled to the Greek island of Lesbos on April 16, 2016 along with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I and others as a sign of concern and solidarity for migrants forced to flee their homelands due to war, violence, hunger and poverty. He brought back twelve refugees with him to Rome as a gesture of welcome. The Vatican will take responsibility for both bringing in and maintaining the three families; initial hospitality will be provided by the Community of Sant'Egidio. The three Muslim families coming from Syria included 12 individuals, of which six were children. Two of the families are from Damascus, and one is from Deir Azzor, which is now territory occupied by ISIS. Their homes had been bombed. Lesbos, along with its neighboring island Kos, has been one of the primary destinations for refugees, many of whom are fleeing war in Syria and Afghanistan, traveling to Turkey in order to make the perilous voyage across the Mediterranean to enter Europe.

CNA/EWTN News. Vatican City, Apr 16, 2016. Elise Harris

Sarah and Ben

By Cathy Aragon-Marquez, Center for Community Involvement

When 90 year old Sarah inquired about registering for Senior Transportation Services, her main concern was that her 68 year old son, Ben, be permitted to accompany her. She also wanted to register him for the service and would accompany him to his appointments. She explained that as a young man Ben was in an accident that left him with a brain injury. They have been inseparable for 47 years. Our drivers report that they are pleasant, happy riders and “momma” as Ben calls her, has limited vision, but is very attuned to her son’s needs.

Last week their assigned driver, Mike, reported that he had been unable to confirm the trip assignment because their phone appeared to be off the hook. After numerous attempts, I resorted to calling the emergency contacts listed on their file, to no avail. I drove out to their home and Ben answered the door with a worried look on his face. When I inquired about Sarah, he said she was in the hospital and added quickly, “Can you take me to see her?” I probed a little further as I was concerned that he was now alone and due to his brain injury, needed some supervision. I asked if he was able to care for himself and he answered, “I don’t know, my momma takes care of me.” Then as if he had a “light bulb moment,” he disappeared into his house and came out with a large piece of cardboard with names and phone numbers listed on it. He pointed to the place Sarah had been taken; an assisted living facility. I jotted down the information as I wanted to make certain Ben would be cared for if Sarah cannot come home. I spoke with the health care worker at the assisted living facility and learned Ben has a case manager, a part time caregiver, home delivered meals and a health service manager. She assured me they have a long term care plan for Ben.

Yes, his momma will be caring for him from afar as she has resources in place for him. Ben had me point out our name and number on his card to make sure he has someone to take him to visit his “momma.” He said, “I will forget who you are by the time you leave but someone will know to call you to take me to see her.”

We will be happy to keep them connected.



(L to R) Sister Margot, Mother Carolyn, and Board Member, Susan Smith

My Mom, the RN.... My mom was a registered nurse. She went to a fine hospital in New York City for training and had many memories of the tough and rigorous regime that served her well.

Her compassion and “duty of care” was exemplified by her consistent loyalty to family and neighbors in need. I remember the Easter morning that my sister and I awoke to new outfits that our mom had finished sewing in the wee hours because she had been attending to a neighbor’s dad whose life ended late on Saturday. She would not let her care for others surpass her dedication to her own family.

That selfless love was manifest in so many ways...her constant faithfulness to her family, her church, her community. I grew up in a Protestant home that was peppered with “the power of positive thinking”, a somewhat loose definition of faith, but a lasting one.

Near the end of our mother’s life, my husband and I had the privilege of caring for her in our home. She was not prideful but gracious in accepting the care we could offer, as she had offered to others. For me, this is the greatest gift that we can give to one another, especially as we consider the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I hope that my participation on the board of Catholic Charities can reflect the lessons I learned from my mom: selfless giving, respect and caring for all of God’s children, and especially to welcome the stranger and care for each as a child of God.

Susan Keil Smith, Catholic Charities Board Member

Casa de Corazon

The Dream...Becoming Reality

Work on Catholic Charities Casa de Corazon community service center is progressing as the community gears up for the new campus located on Bridge Boulevard in the heart of the South Valley.

With forms being set, utility piping peeking up through the foundation and freshly poured concrete, our clients who use the current buildings' services such as the Children's Learning Center, Adult-focused English as a Second Language (ESL), High School Diploma Equivalency and Civics classes, and those who seek help from the Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assistance know that more great things are to come as they see the building come to fruition.



Once complete, the new 3-story building will combine functions at the Bridge location, with those currently located at our Candelaria NE office: the Center for Refugee Settlement, the Center for Self-Sufficiency and Housing Assistance, the Center for Community Involvement which includes our Senior Transportation program and our administrative offices. We recently received the much anticipated \$500,000 Challenge Grant from the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation, Inc. and supporters of the Casa de Corazon project continue to respond with donations and in-kind gifts.

The Capital Campaign Committee is working on the final fund raising phase for the project to get us to the finish line. During this phase we will look to install state of the art technology for adult learning, acquire and install furniture and other essential equipment and complete the children's playground area.

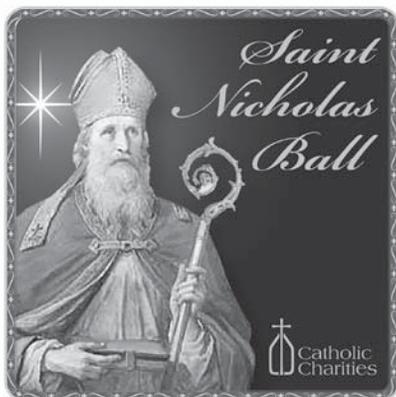
We continue to remain grateful to all who support us through their generosity and vision for the good work that will come from Casa de Corazon. You can support the building of Casa de Corazon through the donation page on our website.

We encourage you to visit our website to read about the impact Catholic Charities is making in the lives of those we serve and to learn about how you can help. For questions, contact Dolores Nunez in our Development Department at nunezd@ccasnm.org or call (505) 724-4693.

*Meet our
newest member of the
Catholic Charities
staff, Dolores Nunez*

Dolores Nunez joins Catholic Charities as Major Gift and Donor Relations Manager. After a long career in banking, Dolores joined Catholic Charities as a volunteer, fulfilling her passion for community outreach. In her new role as a member of the staff, she will work to build our existing donor base, increase major donations to our general operating fund, provide support to our current donor base, increase awareness of Catholic Charities in the community, partner with our Board of Directors and oversee the Development Office. You can reach Dolores through email at nunezd@ccasnm.org or call her at (505) 724-4693.

It's not too early to Mark Your Calendars for Catholic Charities signature fundraiser:



Join us for An Enchanting Evening of Charity, Dining & Dancing

SAINT NICHOLAS BALL To Benefit Catholic Charities

Saturday, November 19, 2016

Embassy Suites by Hilton Albuquerque Hotel & Spa

1000 Woodward Place NE

Albuquerque, NM

Cocktail Reception. Live & Silent Auction

Entertainment, Chocolate & Coffee Bar

To James Walker, Director / Center for Self-Sufficiency and Housing Assistance

Dear Mr. Walker:

It has been a privilege to be a participant in Catholic Charities Housing Assistance Program. I first had contact with your office in August of 2015, was accepted mid-month, and secured an apartment with Catholic Charity funding during the first week of September. Having officially graduated as of April 2016, I would like to offer feedback about your program and the tremendous support your staff offered me in rebuilding my life.

To begin at the beginning, my contact with Catholic Charities occurred after a major illness brought my once-busy life to a crashing halt. During my convalescence, everything went wrong that could have. I lost my safety net and my home.

Between March and September, 2015, I was homeless. I stayed with friends early on, but spent the bulk of my nights in the car under the bright lights and security cameras at the Academy/Wyoming Walmart. Still, I persevered. I went to my doctor appointments and attended twice-weekly counseling sessions to keep my head on straight. My health was improving slowly and I worked part time, but I never received the hours I needed to get close to self-sufficiency.

My acceptance into the Catholic Charities program brought an immediate change for the better. From the day of the group meeting, I knew I was in good hands and hearts. I can't begin to convey what it was like for me to be the only the homeless person sitting at the big table, and for you and Tim to take me aside and tell me you would be meeting with me the following Monday morning to make arrangements for housing. I felt worthy – even special – for the first time in a long time. It meant so much to know I mattered!

Edgar Leal, my Case Manager, began working with me as soon as I entered the program. In our monthly meetings, we discussed a wide range of self-sufficiency issues, including income, financial planning, work goals and health management. Edgar was always fully engaged and present in our discussions. He was directive when it came to the specific tasks I needed to complete for program compliance. He was receptive to my concerns, listened well and responded in compassionate ways. When I was facing obstacles, Edgar shared resource ideas and potential solutions to remedy difficulties. His suggestions were always helpful and right on point.

Frequent communication was a key element to our success as a case manager-client team. My best compliment to Edgar is that I always enjoyed coming to our appointments and providing updates by email. I knew he genuinely wanted my situation to improve in all of the ways it needed to. He encouraged me at every meeting to be patient, flexible and accepting of my circumstances even though I never felt I was progressing quickly enough. When I was standing in a blind spot, Edgar didn't berate me because I couldn't see. He walked with me to a new vantage point. He always acknowledged my strengths and successes. When I felt small and invisible, Edgar let me know he respected me. Dignity and respect are fragile and can't be taught. Edgar carries this knowledge in his heart.

There are so many dimensions of the rehoming/life rebuilding process that cannot be put easily into words. Homelessness affects all life areas, especially relationships. We see ourselves and others see us differently. Trust is difficult when we are failing to thrive. In U.S. culture, people are instinctively fearful of homelessness and romanticize self-sufficiency. We have, as a people, lost our commitment to care for each other.

Many people attribute good things that happen beyond their reach to "God," or an invisible, outside force who magically and deliberately plucks them out of difficulty. This belief gives recipients of good fortune confidence in their own worthiness and allows them to feel safe in a world where people can be uncaring and dismissive. Trust me when I tell you it was absolutely clear to me throughout my participation that your program and staff were providing the help I needed to begin my life again. You accepted me, gave me back my worth and safety, held me in care and restored my faith in humanity. In the future, when I'm asked if I believe in Jesus, I'll tell enquirers that I met him at Catholic Charities.

With Love, Respect and Gratitude, Shana Newland

Center for Educational Opportunity: A Foundation of Learning



The Children's Learning Center is dedicated to providing a quality early childhood education to children ages 12 months to 5 years. The Center is a five star licensed and accredited preschool program committed to giving young children the necessary foundation for

a successful transition to elementary school. The goal of this Center is to respect the cultural diversity of children by offering a variety of multicultural learning materials and experiences through a bilingual curriculum.

NOTE: *The Children's Learning Center has space available and is accepting children for their program. Interested parties should contact Maggie Rojas at 724-4643.*

Catholic Charities' Kathy Freeze Receives the Lumen Gentium Award from D+E+I

On April 10, 2016, Kathy Freeze, Catholic Charities' Faith and Community Liaison, was presented the Lumen Gentium Award by the Dominican Ecclesial Institute, known as D+E+I,



which recognizes leaders from parishes, organizations, and programs within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in diverse areas of adult faith formation.

Kathy has been involved in a number of efforts; for example, over the last year she has worked with the Archdiocesan Office of Social Justice in the Social Ministry Conference and continues on the Ecumenical and Interreligious Commission for the Archdiocese.

Congratulations Kathy!



Catholic Charities partnership continues with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) community to support and settle newly arrived refugees

On April 6, nearly 40 members of the LDS community joined Catholic Charities refugee staff for an evening of education and collaboration. Catholic Charities staff gave an overview of refugee settlement in the United States and presented barriers found in employment, housing and cultural integration. A dynamic youth refugee mentor program was presented along with opportunities to volunteer as tutors, employment aids, drivers, apartment organizers, medical advocates and much more. Excitement was in the air as both groups brainstormed on ideas to collaborate on their common goal of welcoming refugees to their new homes. Next steps in the partnership include more opportunities for education through a "Refugee 101" program and the development of focused volunteer groups connecting the LDS community's gifts with our outreach and support for newly arrived neighbors in New Mexico.



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.



Dignity

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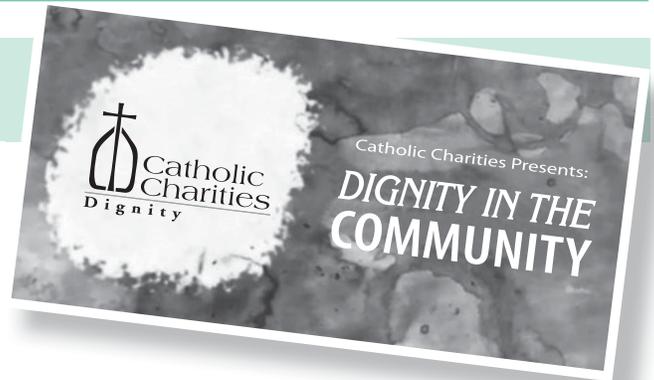
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COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION
OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES
AND CHILDREN, INC.

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...



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

Dates: May 20th
June 17th

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