



**CELEBRATING MOTHERS THIS MOTHER'S DAY!** *This edition focuses on the gift of mothers (and fathers!), their important role in shaping our lives, and how through your support, Catholic Charities' assistance to mothers and fathers makes a difference!*

## Here's how you helped in 2017:



Over **1,800** rides provided to seniors



**100** graduates from adult education classes



Over **65** children enrolled in our Children's Learning Center



**600** children provided with gifts or school supplies through Giving Tree and Back to School Collection



Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assistance completed **560** screenings, resulting in **258** consultations, of which **80%** became clients



Housing, case management and rental assistance provided to **188** households **600** household members



**75** apartment setups provided for families reestablishing themselves



**37** refugee youth matched with mentors and **24** refugee families matched with support teams of volunteers



**38** VAWA/U Visa applications filed

## In this issue:

**My Mother's Gift of Faith:** "Like it or not, as we age we see more of our parents and grandparents in our image each day." Read our CEO Jim Gannon's Mother's Day reflections on page 2.

**A mother's dream realized!** On her first day in the fall 2017 citizenship class, Joselyn Solano told us it was her dream to become an American citizen because her daughter and grandchildren are American, but she was afraid to take the citizenship test. See page 2 to find out how she overcame her fears.

**How Carla turned her life around!** "Carla," came to Catholic Charities as a homeless single mother with two children. She had a history that was challenging and indications were that she would not be a "good fit" for our La Luz self-sufficiency program. Read about Carla's journey on page 3.

**Mother and daughter share gratitude for senior transportation!** Kathleen tells us: "As my vision began to deteriorate, I knew it was only a matter of time before I could no longer drive. This really concerned me because I care for my 92 year old mother." See page 4 to learn how we are able to help both mother and daughter.

**You'll want to know John Cunningham!** Our volunteer John Cunningham was selected as one of six national finalists from more than 300,000 volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to Catholic Charities around the country. Find out why on page 6.

**Have you heard about St. Brigid's Brew?** Learn more about this delicious new brew debuting on June 10th at the Monk's Corner Taproom and how you can support those in need with a pint! See page 7.



## Mission

**TO PUT FAITH IN ACTION  
TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF  
THOSE IN NEED**

## Vision

**HONOR HUMAN DIGNITY**

### Catholic Charities Offices

2010 Bridge SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105  
Phone: (505)724-4670  
Fax: (505)724-4682

1234 San Felipe Ave.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Phone: (505)424-9789  
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*Happy  
Mother's Day  
May 13th!*

## My Mother's Gift of Faith

*Jim Gannon, CEO/Executive Director*

Like it or not, as we age we see more of our parents and grandparents in our image each day. We catch the words from our mouths that are not ours: mom or dad telling us to close the door, turn off the lights, make up your mind, etc.

My mother was a very devoted Catholic woman who taught us to do more than the motions of going to Church and saying the words; we were to seek understanding and conscious action, aligned with the unexplainable that was taken on faith. The Eucharist was unshakeable faith that was the motivation for who we strived to be. An individual with enlightenment walked the narrowest path with the tightest turns. Others might meander on a wider path and behavioral expectations were not nearly as strict. The path for those with weaker faith and limited knowledge seemed less steep and far wider with curves allowing for drifting off center with little fear of consequence.

In my own life I jumped the dividers and took more than a single spin on those wide turns, but I never lost sight of the path I was supposed to be on. As I aged and developed in my faith, I found myself drawn to that narrower path of behavior, again hearing the sage voice of my mother.

I honor my mother by recognizing her gift of faith as a treasure of our family that was not allowed to be extinguished by temptation of an easier life. My mother's faith lights the path for my journey, making it easy to realize when one departs from it and impossible not to feel its strengthening effect to right your course.

## A Mother's Dream: Center for Educational Opportunity Student Spotlight

*by Raiza Dell'Ara, Adult Educator*



On her first day in my fall 2017 citizenship class, Joselyn Solano told me it was her dream to become an American citizen because her daughter and grandchildren are American, but she was afraid to take the citizenship test. She found the task of memorizing 100 civic questions very daunting. Joselyn had come to Albuquerque from the Dominican Republic to join her family. I encouraged her to start studying little by little and she was a very proactive student.

Her hard work paid off six months later on March 16th, when Joselyn received her Naturalization Certificate and realized her dream of becoming a citizen of the United States. I am so proud of her and thrilled to see her dream come true. As a teacher, it is incredibly gratifying to be a part of her journey as well as the Center of Educational Opportunity team which is devoted to the success of our immigrant community.

### Catholic Charities Adult Education Registration Begins May 21st!

Registration dates for summer adult education courses are May 21-22 for returning students and May 23-24 for new students. Classes include English as a second language (ESL), high school equivalency, citizenship, and workforce development. Registration sessions will be at 9am, 12pm, and 6pm on those days. Visit [www.ccedu.org](http://www.ccedu.org) to learn more!

## We Will Continue to Befriend our Refugee Family

by Chris Spahn, Refugee Volunteer

For nine months last year, I had the delightful opportunity to be a part of the Abbey Refugee Team under the Catholic Charities umbrella. Our team, comprised of my sister and myself as well as one other woman and one man, worked with a newcomer family from Iraq to support their transition into life in Albuquerque.

The women on the team saw our primary task as aiding the mother in learning and practicing English. Her struggles with a difficult pregnancy limited our sessions. We also helped drive the children to school until they moved to an apartment within walking distance of the school. Our male team member's main task was to advise the father about a number of issues that were helpful in navigating American and local Albuquerque systems.

The baby was born on November 25th and our match with the family has formally ended. However, my sister and I hope to continue supporting the family. We wish to do this not only because there are still many ways the family can use our help, but also because they help us. We find fulfillment in welcoming newcomers to our country in a tangible way and we enjoy learning about Iraqi culture and Islamic faith. And the mother still owes us a baklava making lesson! Ultimately this has always been so much more than a client-service provider relationship; it's a growing friendship that we wish to continue.

### How Carla Turned Her Life Around:

An Inspiring

### Single Mother's Journey

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

"Carla" (not her real name) came to Catholic Charities as a homeless single mother with two children. She had a history that was challenging and indications were that she would not be a "good fit" for the Catholic Charities La Luz self-sufficiency program; she was formerly incarcerated, trying to attain sobriety, and she had a poor credit rating. However, there was also a mountain of evidence in her file that she was determined to be a good mother to her children and not relapse back into addiction like so many of her peers.

Her Catholic Charities case manager helped her to access all of the supports that were available to her to make this work including therapy, addiction recovery, contact with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and a budgeting life skills class taught by Catholic Charities. She also received help from her case manager in putting together a resume. Carla eagerly accepted assistance from all the supports necessary to change her life for herself and her children.

In the two years that she was in our program, Carla completed the terms of her probation, fixed her credit, found full time employment, and obtained a raise after the first year at her job. She purchased a car and, when she graduated the program, put a down payment on her first home! It is rewarding to see how people who are supported by Catholic Charities' La Luz program can truly apply themselves. We are changing lives one family at a time.

### A Mother's Progress: Goal Letter by Dinah B.

I have accomplished so much being in the Catholic Charities program. Within the year of being in the program, I have a lot to be thankful for. I have full custody of my two kids. I have been employed. I have gained so much being in the program. I recently got a car for me and my kids.

My goals for this next year are to continue to stay focused, continue to work, and keep employment. I'm looking into going back to school to further my education and get a degree to better benefit myself for my kids and better opportunity. I do want to look into better employment with better pay, to stay focused in my kids' lives every step of the way, look into getting a place to live at the end of the year, and save up for a deposit for an apartment.

Thank you to my case workers for helping me every step of the way.





## Bessie & Kathleen: Mother and Daughter Grateful for Senior Transportation

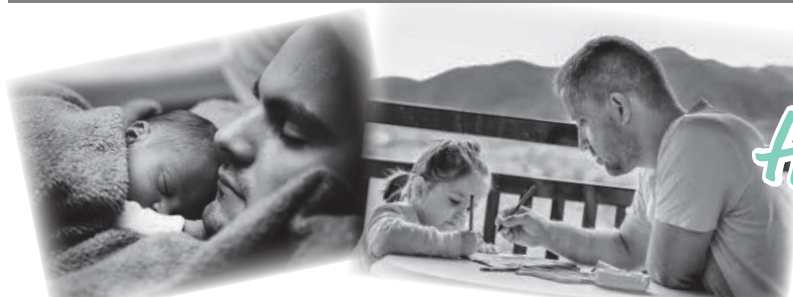


### LEND YOUR TALENTS!

From rides for seniors to apartment setups for families, volunteers make our services possible! Contact Cathy Aragon-Marquez at 724-4634 or [marquezc@ccasfnm.org](mailto:marquezc@ccasfnm.org).



"I have known about Catholic Charities for some time now as we used to take donations to their In-Kind warehouse on Osuna. As my vision began to deteriorate, I knew it was only a matter of time before I could no longer drive. This really concerned me because I care for my 92 year old mother. More and more I was taking taxis to necessary appointments, which I had to prioritize because of the expense. One day a worker at the Osuna warehouse told me about Catholic Charities Senior Transportation Services. I looked into it for my mother and found that I too qualify for the service as I am 71 years old. What a blessing! I have used the service already and found the drivers are wonderful, dependable, and well-mannered. It brings great peace of mind to know mother and I are in good hands." - Kathleen



*Lest we forget our Fathers -  
Happy Father's Day  
June 17th!*

## Father and Family Benefit from Catholic Charities' Self-Sufficiency and Housing Assistance and In-Kind Donation Center



### SPRING CLEANING!

Our In-Kind Donation Center is always seeking gently used household items for apartments and living spaces for families reestablishing themselves. Call 724-4678.

"My family of five lived at Joy Junction for 2 years. Catholic Charities came out to talk with us many times to help us get a home of our own. We were accepted into to their Center for Self-Sufficiency and Housing Assistance program," says Albert. "We were grateful just to have a place we could call our own. One day the truck came to our apartment, and in two hours, we had a home. I put the apartment key in my hand and thought, Wow - someone cares!"

**New Location!**  
Our In-Kind Donation  
Center has moved down  
to #519 of  
3600 Osuna Blvd. NE



## Don't Miss Your Chance to Vote in Albuquerque Journal's Readers' Choice Awards!

The Albuquerque Journal Readers' Choice Awards 2018 are open for voting! This year they have a **nonprofit section** where you can show your love for the work Catholic Charities does to lift anyone in need. We would be honored to have your vote in any of the nonprofit categories you feel we excel in. There's still time to vote before May 14th at [readerschoice.abqjournal.com](http://readerschoice.abqjournal.com)!

# In the Spirit of Gratitude...



For the second year in a row, parishioners of **St. Charles Borromeo Church** and students at **St. Charles School** collected food during their Lenten Food Drive to help fill the food pantry in our in-kind donation center. Led by the Knights of Columbus organization, they collected 1,280 items with an estimated value of \$2,016.35! Thanks to all for your generosity and to the "Knights" for delivering all of the food to our In-Kind Donation Center.



## LDS Missionaries Help Move In-Kind Donation Center

We are very thankful to the LDS Missionaries who helped us move our In-Kind Donation Center. Come see our new place (around the corner from the old center) at 3600 Osuna Blvd. NE #519.

## Rio Grande Credit Union Supports Catholic Charities!



Rio Grande Credit Union continues to be a great friend to Catholic Charities! From mid-February through March, RGCU held a fundraiser selling icons at each of their six branches for \$1 donations to Catholic Charities. Through this fundraiser, RGCU and their members raised \$2,100 for Catholic Charities' programs! RGCU's drive to give back to the community was especially seen at their Westside Branch where they sold over 500 icons - the most out of all six locations!

On April 18th, RGCU staff, Bill Daily, VP Marketing & Member Experience; Rebecca Pierre, Community Outreach Specialist; Myles Kloer, Marketing Specialist; and Denyse Vargas, Westside Branch Manager, came to Catholic Charities to present the check. Our staff had a great time socializing, enjoying the delicious snacks RGCU brought, and sharing with them what we do every day to lift anyone in need.

Thank you RGCU for being such a great supporter of Catholic Charities and to Rebecca Pierre for approaching us with this opportunity.



## Community partners make it possible to serve!

We are so grateful for the many community partners who help us provide services to more than 12,500 individuals and 5,400 families in need throughout central New Mexico. So far in 2018, in addition to support from Rio Grande Credit Union, we have been fortunate to receive support from the following organizations:

- ★ We received grants from Presbyterian Healthcare, ITN America, the Mexican Consulate, Sisters of St. Francis, and Catholic Charities USA (funded by Walmart Foundation) to support our services.
- ★ Our refugee families and their volunteer mentors partnered with Returned Peace Corp Volunteers and the City of Albuquerque for a beautiful morning of planting trees in the Bosque.
- ★ Last month, Village Pizza kindly provided pizzas for our refugee parent engagement group.
- ★ PNM employees volunteered their time on a windy afternoon in April to help keep our site looking beautiful.

## Many thanks to the community partners who supported us in 2017 including our funders:



This is shaping up to be another great year of lifting anyone in need. We are always excited to work with community partners to meet the needs of those we serve. If your organization is interested partnering with Catholic Charities to further our mission, please contact us at 505-724-4637 or [development@ccasfm.org](mailto:development@ccasfm.org).

# What's Happening at Catholic Charities?

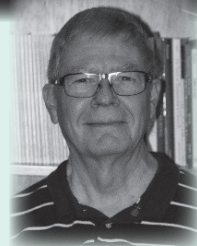
## Congratulations John Cunningham!

By Cathy Aragon-Marquez, Center for Community Involvement

After retiring as a computer software engineer three years ago, John Cunningham began looking for ways to give back to the community when he found our call for a computer savvy volunteer. John's work was recognized nationally by Catholic Charities USA. John was selected from more than 300,000 volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to Catholic Charities across the country each year as one of six national finalists for their 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award. John's contributions include:

- ★ Replacing outdated senior transportation scheduling spreadsheet with a database
- ★ Introducing a barcode system for volunteer sign in/sign out, creating a paperless method of recording volunteer hours
- ★ Upgrading our method of matching in-kind donations to families in need

The real treasure is the spirit in which he shares his talents. When John comes to our office, he lights up the room. "I have not had this much fun since I retired," John tells us.



## April 16th was a wonderful day of spiritual reflection



Catholic Charities held a touching ceremony dedicating a corridor of our building in memory of Fr. Frederick Brand in honor of his commitment to the vulnerable and impoverished. Fr. Mike Shea led the service and along with Msgr. Richard Olona shared stories about how Fr. Brand served the community.

A lovely prayer service followed, also led by Fr. Shea in our Meditation Garden for donors who purchased engraved bricks in our garden. Our very own adult educator Laura Nunez along with Jose Maldonado Sr. and Jose Maldonado Jr. provided beautiful music for the service. We were honored to have Archbishop Wester also join us for this special event.

## Catholic Charities in the news!

★ Visit Albuquerque recognized our CEO Jim Gannon as a 2018 Meeting Hero at their quarterly luncheon on April 12th for helping to bring the 2019 Catholic Charities USA Annual Gathering to Albuquerque. We can't wait to showcase our beautiful city to the hundreds of Catholic Charities USA professionals, volunteers and partners coming from around the country next year. Find out more about the event from the video on our Facebook page or Youtube channel.



★ Local news came by to see the services provided by our Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assistance! Check out "ABQ immigrant charity sees influx of clients" by Maggie Shepard from the April 22nd Sunday Journal at [abqjournal.com](http://abqjournal.com) (or page A12 of the print edition) and "Local non-profit applauds city's fortification of immigrant-friendly status" on KOB.com from the April 20th 10:00pm news!

★ Our **Team Refugee** program was credited in a global study by Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities (FADICA) in partnership with Boston College's Center for Social Innovation. The study identified 64 uniquely Catholic, innovative, high-impact ministries that are helping refugees and migrants around the world. The study has been featured in America Magazine and Crux (a Catholic News Service outlet). See the full study at [fadica.org](http://fadica.org).



# Catholic Charities lifts anyone in need with your help....

Because of your generosity, today's newsletter is filled with stories of inspiration and hope! At Catholic Charities, we continue to seek creative and innovative ways to raise the much-needed funds to support the most vulnerable in our community. Here are just a few examples:

TRY SOME

## St. Brigid's Brew

BENEFITING THOSE IN NEED THROUGH THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

JOIN US FOR THE OFFICIAL INTRODUCTION!

ENJOY MUSIC, FOOD, & TRIVIA

**JUNE 10 | 1 PM - 4 PM**

**MONK'S CORNER TAPROOM**

205 SILVER AVE SW G,  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

## Coming Soon to a Brewery Near You!

St. Brigid of Kildare, baptized by St. Patrick of Ireland, is known for her charity and concern for the poor, establishment of Abbeys throughout Ireland, and for her skills as a brewer of ale. She was said to have turned her bathwater into beer to provide a safe source of liquid and nourishment. In another miracle attributed to St. Brigid, she provided beer to eighteen churches for an entire Easter season, all from a single barrel of beer in her convent. Now you can enjoy a special brew named for her right here in New Mexico while helping those in need!

Portions of the sales of St. Brigid's Brew will benefit Catholic Charities' programs.

We hope to make St. Brigid's Brew a popular brand offered throughout New Mexico and beyond! Let's get the word out: ask your favorite local brewery or taproom for a pint of St. Brigid's Brew! and beyond! Let's get the word out: ask your favorite local brewery or taproom for a pint of St. Brigid's Brew!



40% OFF  
YOUR PAPA  
JOHN'S ORDER

and  
10% DONATED  
TO CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES

## PIZZA FOR A CAUSE

ORDER ONLINE  
**PAPAJOHNS.COM**  
USE PROMO CODE **CCNM**

SAVE ON PIZZA  
HELP IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOSE IN NEED

## Catholic Charities now accepts gifts of real property and vehicles of all kinds!

### Driving for Dignity!

Have a car, truck, RV, boat, motorcycle, or scooter not currently in use? Catholic Charities accepts vehicle donations of all kinds in any condition.



We'll handle all the paperwork and pick-up your vehicle for FREE! Proceeds from your donated vehicle support our programs to lift anyone in need.  
Call **505-724-4670** or visit [ccasfnnm.org/donate-a-vehicle](http://ccasfnnm.org/donate-a-vehicle) for more information

### Make a gift of lasting impact!

By collaborating with REALTY GIFT FUND, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, your donation of real property or a bargain sale of your real property will help CATHOLIC CHARITIES and may generate cash for you!



We want to work with you and your advisors to create a simple donation process regardless of the condition of the property or complexity of the asset.  
Call Dolores Nunez at **505-724-4693** for more information.

Thank you for your belief in the work we do. We know that you give because you share our vision, to **honor human dignity**, and our belief that we are led **to put faith in action to improve the lives of those in need**.

You give because you want to make an impact, because it gives you joy, because you know it is the right thing to do. We are grateful every day that your good works are an expression of your faith in Catholic Charities and in the 12,500 individuals for whom you are making the difference.

### Ways to Give:



Go to [ccasfnnm.org](http://ccasfnnm.org)  
to make a secure  
online donation



Call (505) 724-4637  
to make a financial  
contribution



Mail to Catholic Charities  
Attn: Development  
2010 Bridge Blvd. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105



### Double your dollars!

If your employer offers a Corporate Match Program you could double your gift to Catholic Charities!  
Ask your human resource office today.



### Start a workplace giving campaign!

One of the easiest ways to give is via payroll deduction. Ask employer how you can get started giving to Catholic Charities through payroll deduction!



Dignity

2010 Bridge Blvd SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Albuquerque, NM  
Permit #01234

ACCREDITED



## 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

### INCLUSIVITY

Openness  
Diversity  
Reconciliation of differences

### COLLABORATION

Partnering with others  
Seeking others with the abilities  
to find solutions

### INTEGRITY

Honesty  
Transparency  
Trustworthiness  
Fairness

*You are invited ...*

## Mobile Food Pantry

*At 10:00 am, numbers will be distributed to the first  
100 families and food boxes will be served approximately  
at 12:00 pm.*

**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 18th  
June 15th  
July 20th

**Time:** 12:00 PM to 2:00 pm

**Location:** St. Francis Xavier  
(820 Broadway SE)

**Please Bring:** Boxes or cloth bags to  
hold your food