

Celebrating our 2022 Service Award honorees

THE MSGR. ARTHUR F. VALENZANO JOYFUL SERVANT AWARD

is given in memory of Monsignor Arthur F. Valenzano, Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a member of Catholic Charities Board of Trustees until his passing in September of 2015. The recipient embodies the joyful life and spirit of Monsignor Valenzano and his ability to touch the lives of thousands of Marylanders.

THIS YEAR, THE AWARDEE IS:

Ray Kelly

community advocate & organizer



"For me, this work is just what we are called to do. It's about the help you can give an individual, or the impact this work has on the community you serve. I think the greatest gift is to be able to see the progression of those we serve. I think that's the piece that this award recognizes."

Ray Kelly

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

is given to an individual or group that exemplifies or significantly supports compassionate caregiving and service; has a personal commitment to the work of Catholic Charities; and demonstrates the goal of cherishing the Divine within those we serve.

THIS YEAR, THE AWARDEES ARE:

Daughters of Charity



Sister Mary Louise Zollars, Daughters of Charity

"It makes me very proud and very humbled at the same time to receive this recognition from Charities because our partnership has existed for such a long time. It's wonderful that the daughters are receiving the award but we couldn't have ever done that without the support of everyone else."

Oblate Sisters of Providence



Sister Rita Michelle Proctor, Oblate Sisters of Providence

"We are serving God's people, that in itself is more than enough recognition. We're grateful we are being recognized for the service that we've given for 193 years — we're grateful to all mighty God that he has called us to serve with an attitude of gratitude."

THE ANNE LINDSEY OTENASEK YOUTH SERVICE AWARD

is given to high school students in recognition of outstanding volunteer service with Catholic Charities. It is given in memory of Anne Lindsey Otenasek, a passenger on 1988 Pan American Flight 103, to honor and perpetuate her spirit which was the hallmark.

THIS YEAR, THE AWARDEE IS:

Archbishop Spalding High School



"It genuinely means a lot to me knowing that Anne Lindsey Otenasek devoted her life to service, and that we are able to commemorate her and to go forward in her honor as a school dedicated to service."

Joe Robuck, Archbishop Spalding High School Senior

"We at Archbishop Spalding High School are honored to receive the Otenasek award, because she's such a great example of sacrificial service. Service isn't easy but it's so rewarding."

Ashley Miller, Archbishop Spalding High School Sophomore

Visit our website at cc-md.org/annual-celebration to learn more about our honorees.

December 1-31, 2022

From Dec. 1 – 31, open a gift each day to enjoy music, food, reflections, and special treats the whole month long.

A gift of

Comfort & Joy

CATHOLIC CHARITIES comfortandjoy2022.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Catholic Charities is the largest multi-service charitable organization in Maryland. Serving all, we provide innovative programming to accompany people on life's journey including assistance to those living in poverty, individuals with developmental disabilities, immigrants, older adults, families and children in crisis.

Catholic Charities
Communications Department
Telephone: 667-600-2007
Email: info@cc-md.org | Website: www.cc-md.org

Greater Promise

the Campaign for CATHOLIC CHARITIES

agreaterpromise.org

FRIEND,

In the cold and the dark of winter, our hearts are warmed and our hope and resolve are renewed by the upcoming 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities of Baltimore. Amid continuing and emerging challenges faced by so many, Catholic Charities has worked for a century to help improve the lives of children and families in crisis, people experiencing poverty, individuals with intellectual disabilities, our new neighbors in the

immigrant community, and our older neighbors. Our centennial is a time to reflect on the past and to plan for what is next. We will commemorate milestones, accomplishments and our collective impact on the community we love.

In this issue of Blessings, you'll read more about our history as well as our present endeavors. Each day, our dedicated colleagues and volunteers live the mission of providing care and services to improve the lives of our neighbors. Each day, our

friends, benefactors and partners find ways to support our storied mission. Together, we are endlessly focused on both recognizing and cherishing the divine within every person.

Peace,

Bill McCarthy
William J. McCarthy, Jr.,
Executive Director



WINTER 2022

BLESSINGS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

MARKING 100 YEARS AS A MOVEMENT TO CHANGE LIVES

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, shortly after Archbishop Michael Curley took his position in Baltimore, he re-organized a dozen local Catholic service agencies under a common mission and a new name — the Bureau of Catholic Charities.

Aimed at streamlining efforts and increasing efficiencies, that decision also advanced a tradition of providing relief to the poor, which the country's first bishop — John Carroll — had institutionalized in Baltimore in 1792. And it sparked a collective focus on innovative programs to meet the various needs of people across the region.

That spark continues to light Catholic Charities' work a century later, as the agency has now grown to serve more than 160,000 people each year at over 200 locations in Baltimore City and nine counties across Maryland, with over one million touchpoints on an annual basis.

"The specific needs and approaches may have changed, but the values that drive our work have held constant since our founding," said Executive Director Bill McCarthy. "We remain inspired by the Gospel mandates to love, serve and teach, and honored to be called to the vital mission of serving our neighbors in need."

STEADFAST MISSION, EVOLVING PROGRAMS

Today, Catholic Charities' programs and services — carried out by more than 2,000 staff and 7,000 volunteers — address immediate needs and help clients prepare for independence and self-sufficiency.

In recent years, the agency has continued to shift or expand its work in response to changing community needs. In 2016, for example, Catholic Charities began working on reducing gun violence through a Safe Streets site in West Baltimore, in partnership with Baltimore City. In 2020, the agency broke ground on a sweeping community-driven redevelopment of the Cherry Hill Town Center, recognizing the facility's potential in an under-invested community. And when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, programs quickly shifted to meet the unparalleled challenges that took a ferocious toll on people living in poverty.

Today, Catholic Charities is also expanding and redesigning the central hub for Gallagher Services in Baltimore County and envisioning an intergenerational center to meet a host of needs in West Baltimore.

"We are continually striving to find ways to help more, give more and love more," McCarthy said. "At the eve of our centennial, our commitment to the mission grows ever stronger. We are honored to be building on 100 years of success in this collective movement to change lives."

Throughout 2023, Catholic Charities will offer a range of special programs to commemorate the centennial — including the inaugural symposium highlighted on page 2. Please watch for more opportunities to celebrate with Catholic Charities in the coming year.

100 YEARS CATHOLIC CHARITIES
CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL



As part of the year-long commemoration of our centennial, we're sharing photos from our archives. Here is a look at some of our Head Start students, then and now.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. — MATTHEW 2:10



After 30 years, St. Ann continues to offer a warm and welcoming place for seniors



LAST DECEMBER, St. Ann Adult Day Services surveyed participants' families and caregivers to ask what they thought of the center. Reading through the responses offers a sense of the program:

- "Everyone is so sweet...! We are so blessed to have found a wonderful place for my mom to go to."
- "Loving, caring, family-oriented community."
- "Beautiful place to come. Appreciate the personality, mannerisms and care. Love it!"
- "Caring people doing good work."

The survey came just seven months after St. Ann had re-opened, following a 14-month closure due to COVID-19. Though the program had not yet been able to resume all services, respondents were still enthusiastically praising the importance it played in seniors' lives.

As St. Ann celebrates its 30th year, these personal reflections are a rich part of the anniversary, telling the personal stories of the program's irreplaceable value after three decades.

"WHAT WE DO HERE IS SO IMPORTANT"

St. Ann Adult Day Services opened in 1992, expanding the offerings of Jenkins Memorial, now known as St. Elizabeth Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. The center served mostly low-to-moderate-income seniors and individuals with disabilities, offering a welcoming place for assistance with daily life, socialization, recreation and rehabilitation. Within 18 months of its launch, it was operating at capacity.

Cherie Melton, who has led St. Ann for two-thirds of its history, emphasized the need – then and now – to help seniors live at home for as long as possible.



"I really feel like what we do here is so important to help seniors age in place," she said. "We are adding to the value of seniors' lives, and the participants and their caregivers just thank us for what we do."

Open Monday through Friday, St. Ann provides transportation to and from the center and a range of activities, including chair exercises, brain-stimulating activities such as trivia and bingo, daily meals, a weekly Bible study, monthly shopping trips

and excursions to restaurants. St. Ann also offers physical, occupational and speech therapy, podiatry and access to a social worker on-site. Participants who pay out-of-pocket are charged \$105 to attend each day, and others tap into federal and local government supports and subsidies to cover the costs.

A GROWING POPULATION AND A GROWING NEED

As she thinks about the future, Melton worries that inflation and cuts in public funding for adult day services will limit how often people can afford to come – a pressing concern after witnessing the physical and mental declines in many seniors when the center was closed for COVID-19. And, as the percentage of Americans over 65 continues to rise, she suggests that adult day care is a more appealing and affordable option for most people, compared with assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

"All of us truly want to be able to age in the community with our families, and that's really what St. Ann provides," she said. "We know this population is continuing to grow, so we need to find ways to meet their needs."



Save the Date Inaugural Symposium

APRIL 20, 2022

SPEAKER: Dr. Greer Gordon

TITLE: Journey to Social Justice: A Call to Action

Learn more at cc-md.org



..... In the Community

FARMERS MARKET BRINGS A NEW SOURCE OF FRESH FOOD TO CHERRY HILL

The Community Marketplace at the Cherry Hill Town Center, which is supported by Catholic Charities, became home to a weekly farmers market this fall. This initiative provides a new source of fresh, locally grown produce to a neighborhood that has long lacked a convenient place to buy healthy food.

The market, organized by the Black Yield Institute, procures fresh produce from local farmers of color who are based in Baltimore City or surrounding counties. Before the Town Center's indoor marketplace opened in September, the Black Yield Institute and the Cherry Hill Food Co-op sold produce twice a month in the parking lot. The newly designed space allows the market to take place more often and in any weather conditions.

"This is a neighborhood that's dealing with a lot of food insecurity," said Lena Leone, Catholic Charities' community



engagement coordinator. "There are not really places with fresh food."

COMMUNITY DRIVEN

The Community Marketplace is part of a major, \$4.5 million revitalization of the Town Center, which included renovating the building's façade and welcoming the neighborhood's first bank. Catholic Charities owns the building and worked closely with community partners to envision its future.

Planners intended the 4,400-square-foot marketplace to be a flexible space for community meetings and events. The space can also serve as a home for entrepreneurial ventures of Cherry Hill residents, who may not be ready to rent retail space when launching new businesses.

As the farmers market moved indoors, property managers began receiving more requests to use the marketplace. Black Yield Institute, for example, is also programming a series of monthly evening events, including an arts and jazz night, to build awareness of their work for Black-owned land and food sovereignty.

Leone emphasized how initiatives such as the farmers market are thoughtfully connecting with the community, largely because organizers are part of Cherry Hill.

"People have grown up in the neighborhood. They've lived it. It's not outsiders, coming into a neighborhood, 'fixing' it and going home," she said.



Esperanza Center expands its support for Baltimore City immigrants

THE ESPERANZA CENTER OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES BALTIMORE

will play a key role in a new Baltimore City initiative aimed at supporting immigrant and refugee families and ensuring they have access to social and health services.

Members of the Baltimore New American Access Coalition (BNAAC), launched this fall with \$4 million in federal funds, will help immigrant families access public benefits in an effort to reduce longstanding disparities that grew worse during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over two years, Catholic Charities' Esperanza Center will receive about \$800,000 with other funding going to the International Rescue Committee, CASA, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and the Southeast CDC.

"It is a relief," said Matthew Dolamore, program director of the Esperanza Center. "We have huge demand for public benefit support and such little capacity to actually provide that support."

BROADENING OUTREACH

When COVID-19 struck, Baltimore City quickly provided cash assistance to immigrant families, working through organizations such as the Esperanza Center. BNAAC funding will allow center staff to continue offering that support, advocating for families who face significant barriers – including in language and technology – while applying for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

BNAAC funding will also allow the Esperanza Center to extend aid to the Immigration Outreach Service Center (IOSC) at St. Matthew Catholic Church in northeast Baltimore, which has a long history of working with immigrants from across Africa. Dolamore expects the grant to support four case managers – one, a French-speaker based at the IOSC – who each assist 50 or more families at a time.

"BNAAC brings together the city and multiple nonprofits in the immigration space to really address some big gaps in access to public benefits," he said, adding the impact of COVID-19 continues to strongly affect Baltimore-area immigrants. "We're very much still in the period of recovery."

CHECK OUT OUR **NEW** WEBSITE AT CC-MD.ORG