

FRIEND,

For this special issue of Blessings — the last one during Bill McCarthy's amazing 16-year journey as executive director of Catholic Charities of Baltimore — I was asked to share a few thoughts about someone with a truly big heart and an even bigger impact.

Bill lives out the call to "Love Your Neighbor" better than anyone I know. And he doesn't just talk about it — he lives it, every day, with real people, in real ways. He builds genuine connections with people across the agency and in the communities we serve. You can feel it when you're around him.

I've always admired how steady and thoughtful Bill is, even when things get tough. No matter

how complicated or uncertain a situation is, he always sees clearly what needs to be done — and why. That's because Bill and Catholic Charities share the same purpose: to care for and serve Marylanders in need, guided by the Gospel message to love, serve, and teach.

Though Bill is stepping down as executive director, his impact won't fade. His work has changed lives and will continue to ripple out for years to come. In this issue of Blessings, we've highlighted just a few of the many ways he's helped people reach their God-given potential. There's no way we could capture it all — not in a newsletter, not even in a full book. But those stories live on in the hearts of everyone he's touched.

So wherever you're reading this, I hope you'll join me in offering a prayer of thanks for Bill McCarthy — a true servant leader and friend. Bill, we're so grateful — and we can't wait to see what you do next!

Speaking about excitement for what's next, we are thrilled to welcome Dave Kinkopf as our new executive director and look forward to his leadership.

Please enjoy your summer and this special issue of Blessings.

Peace,
*Daniel Rizzo, President
of the Board of Trustees,
Catholic Charities of
Baltimore*



SUMMER 2025

BLESSINGS

CATHOLIC
CHARITIES
CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Inspired by the Gospel mandates to LOVE, SERVE and TEACH, Catholic Charities provides care and services to IMPROVE the LIVES of Marylanders in need.

A Conversation with Bill McCarthy

AFTER 16 YEARS AT THE HELM, William J. McCarthy Jr. will retire this summer as executive director of Catholic Charities of Baltimore. To say that Bill made a profoundly important mark on the largest private provider of human services in the state of Maryland is an understatement. During his eventful tenure, Bill drove Catholic Charities to meet Marylanders'



Bill McCarthy

most urgent needs so they all could fulfill their God-given potential.

In his final weeks with the agency, Bill agreed to sit down for a Q&A session to discuss a wide variety of topics, although we know he would have preferred to be out working with the clients and colleagues he loves so much.

Let's start with your "why." You were building a terrific career in the private sector — both in law and finance — when you applied to take on the very challenging job of Catholic Charities' executive director, who leads more than 80 programs and nearly 2,000 employees. Why did you seek this post?

I am a lifelong Baltimorean, and I love our community. I always tried to contribute in ways that make life better for people in our community. I felt I was able to do that as a lawyer and as a banker through volunteering, board service, fundraising

and just being engaged with community associations, recreation councils, and other nonprofits. But you know, as time went on, I felt I needed a way that I knew every day with intentionality that my purpose was directly impacting and improving the lives of our neighbors and making our community stronger.

Part of that was inspired by our daughter, Erinn, who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma at the age of 11 and passed at the age of 14. She lived those three and half years with courage, grace, and purpose as she fought this horrible disease. She continued with her relationships, continued with her school and really inspired me on how she lived a life of purpose and trusted and left to the Lord to do what she couldn't do.

So I was inspired by Erinn's example, and I was determined to have greater impact on the lives of others.

See more below.

In celebration of Bill, please visit our [special webpage](https://cc-md.org/billtribute) where you can read his entire Q&A, watch a variety of related videos, and learn more about the extraordinary legacy he has created for all of us.

Visit cc-md.org/billtribute or use your phone's camera to scan the QR code at the right



When asked which is the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " —MATTHEW 22:37-39



General Assembly Steps Up for Working Families, Catholic Charities Clients

WHEN THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENED FOR ITS LEGISLATIVE SESSION earlier this year, Catholic Charities was ready with what it called “the working-families agenda,” said Val Twanmoh, the agency’s senior advisor on advocacy and policy.

As legislators considered more than 2,600 bills over 90 calendar days, Catholic Charities focused on proposed policies related to five key areas — childcare, housing, jobs, transportation and paid family leave — and two funding priorities.

About a third of the bills passed in this session. Among the new legislation that Catholic Charities supported through its working-families agenda:

1. The RAISE Act will create a new state office to grow apprenticeship programs and help more people train for jobs.
2. The Telehealth Access Act ensures people can keep receiving mental health services by phone or video — essential for those who can’t always get to a doctor’s office.
3. The Maryland Values Act offers some protections for immigrants by putting some limits on how U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement can operate in certain locations.

Despite needing to respond to a \$3 billion state deficit, the General Assembly also approved vital funding for Catholic Charities’ work, including \$2 million to finalize construction of the Intergenerational Center in West Baltimore and the renewal of a longstanding \$350,000 grant for the agency’s community services division.

Receiving this funding when budgets are so tight is a testament to the agency’s work, Twanmoh explained.

“There is recognition of the importance of the people we serve,” she said. “And the Intergenerational Center, which has been in the works for the past several years, is really going to be transformational.”

Catholic Charities Executive Director Bill McCarthy has also been a key force in advancing agency priorities.

“It’s not over-exaggerating to say he’s kind of a legend,” Twanmoh said, mentioning his relationships with legislators and staff in the governor’s office. “He knows how to use those connections to advocate on behalf of the people we serve.”

Ongoing budget constraints at the federal and state levels may prompt the legislature to re-convene in a special session this fall, she added.

Promoting Peace by Addressing Gun Violence



A DECADE AGO, during a visit with the children enrolled in our Sandtown-Winchester Head Start program, Bill McCarthy heard something he’ll never forget, something that forever changed the work of Catholic Charities.

In a classroom not far from where Freddie Gray had lived before dying a month earlier, the kids were asked a heart-breaking question: How many of you have lost a father or grandfather to gun violence during the current school year? Seven hands went up.

Seven.

“That obviously meant that every one of those children had suffered trauma, had suffered loss and been exposed to gun violence,” McCarthy recently recalled. “I could not get that out of my mind, and I concluded that everything else we were doing in that community was all for naught if we didn’t have a role in preventing gun violence or in contributing to changing the conditions where gun violence and death by gun was considered the norm.”

As a result, McCarthy led Catholic Charities to open in Sandtown-Winchester a brand-new site of Safe Streets, an innovative public-health program that places trusted messengers in communities to help settle disputes peacefully and to promote conflict resolution and other behavioral changes.

FAST FORWARD TO SUMMER 2025

On the first Saturday of June 2025, the entire Safe Streets family — Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and his team, the Catholic Charities’ squad, and our partners at LifeBridge Health Center for Hope — kicked off the 5th annual Safe Summer, a fun-filled program of events, with lots of good news to share.

During the first five months of this year, homicides and non-fatal shootings are both down 24 percent citywide, Mayor Scott announced at the event. In fact, he added, Baltimore is currently recording the lowest level of violent crime in a half century, a milestone that Safe Streets has helped the city and its residents achieve.

“This progress would not have been possible without Safe Streets,” Mayor Scott said, citing the 1,100 conflicts that the 10 Safe Streets sites throughout the city have helped to mediate during the first five months of this year.

Catholic Charities now operates four sites (Sandtown-Winchester, Penn-North, Brooklyn, and Cherry Hill), while LifeBridge runs six (Belair-Edison, Belvedere, Franklin Square, McElderry Park, Park Heights, and Woodbourne-McCabe).

Since Catholic Charities joined the effort, homicides have declined more than 40 percent, while non-fatal shootings have gone down by more than 30 percent.

Gregory Marshburn, who leads Catholic Charities’ Safe Streets initiative, also addressed the crowd at the Safe Summer kick-off.

“At Catholic Charities, we strive to celebrate and answer the call to Love Your Neighbor. I encourage you to answer that call, as well,” he said. “If each of us loves a neighbor as we love ourselves, our whole city will enjoy the safety and security that we all want, need, and deserve.”

For a calendar of 2025 Safe Summer events, visit monse.baltimorecity.gov/violence-prevention-events.



Gregory Marshburn, who heads Catholic Charities’ four Safe Streets sites, addresses the crowd gathered for the kick-off of Safe Summer 2025.





Food and Fulfillment in Western Maryland

ABOUT A DECADE AGO, Catholic Charities was providing nutritional outreach in western Maryland's Allegany and Garrett counties when the federal grant supporting the work ended after just two years. The local need was evident, but it wasn't clear how to keep the program running.

"We literally had the decision to make: are we going to keep these counties going? Or are we going to close it all down?" said Allison Stone, director of mission integration and engagement, who oversaw the program at that time.

Executive Director Bill McCarthy and other agency leaders responded to strong local advocacy — including from outreach worker Frances Callis — and the vital nature of the work. Catholic Charities extended the program, first through a one-year grant from the Marion and Henry Knott Foundation, then through agency funds.

Western Maryland Food Connect now reaches families across the two counties, providing food and other supports to more than 150 rural households monthly.

"OF COURSE, IT'S FOOD"

Frances Callis remembers working with Catholic Charities colleagues and local parishes to consider how best to frame the outreach when the grant ended.

"They said, 'tell me what the greatest need is,'" she said. "Of course, it's food."

These days, dozens of cars line up monthly at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Grantsville, Md., and St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Oakland, Md., both of which have been stalwart supporters of the program. At each location, volunteers lean in to greet their neighbors and load a hearty bag of groceries into their vehicles.

Volunteer Charlie Karalevycz got involved simply because he held the keys to St. Ann's when the program began, and organizers needed him to unlock the doors.

"But I thought it was important, and I've been there since day one," he said. "These are country folks. We know how to survive. People know what to do, and other people look out for them."

That sense of looking after one another is engrained in the program. Clients contribute

food, offer to drop off groceries to others or make a \$6 contribution when they can.

"Sometimes, when you just keep helping, it's not really helping," Callis said. "If you let people participate, it becomes their program, too."

She also deeply understands her neighbors' needs. She'll open distributions early — or keep them open late — for those whose work schedules don't align with the program's and connect families to other services when she knows they'll be helpful.

"Everybody tells everybody else, 'go talk to Frances,'" she said. "I've even had people call my home at night. ... Ninety percent of the time, I don't mind."

Building a deep sense of trust has been invaluable to the program's success, Stone said.

"It makes me think of Bill's love of the phrase 'accompaniment,'" she said. "We like to accompany people on their journey, and if they can accompany their neighbors as we accompany them — the reciprocal nature of that is lovely."

Volunteer Brings Countless Good Smiles to Catholic Charities

WHEN DR. JIM TANEYHILL sold his dental practice after 32 years, he was not looking to start another one.

But when he walked into Our Daily Bread Employment Center (ODBEC) in 2011 and saw a space that Catholic Charities had considered using as a dental clinic, he thought, "Well, I could do that."

During the next year and a half, he built out the clinic with donated equipment. He saw his first patients — participants in Catholic Charities' Christopher Place Employment Academy — in 2013.

Christopher Place, located within ODBEC, is a residential program that supports men as they transition from homelessness to permanent, stable living and prepare for full-time employment.

"All these guys, they've had a tough road. In many cases, they've had no choice but to have dental neglect for years at a time. ... What I saw was a need for basic dentistry," Taneyhill said, adding how important that service can be as participants seek employment. "If somebody comes into an interview missing half their teeth, and the next guy comes in with a smile, who would you hire? That's what I saw as my mission."

Today, Healthcare for the Homeless runs the dental clinic at ODBEC, but Taneyhill and a



Dr. Jim Taneyhill

colleague he recruited — Dr. Barry Murphy — continue to care for the men of Christopher Place.

"MEN FOR OTHERS"

Taneyhill credits Loyola Blakefield, his high school alma mater, with instilling his deep commitment to service.

The U.S. Army veteran spent three decades in the Army Reserve and National Guard, retiring in 1999. At that time, he "just felt this need to do something," and joined an Archdiocese of Baltimore effort to connect parishes in Maryland and Haiti. He visited the island more than two dozen times,

providing free dental care and helping establish two dental clinics.

"When this opportunity came at Catholic Charities, it's not correct to say I felt this overwhelming calling. It was just something that I was available to do," he said of the ODBEC clinic. "What kind of person would I be if I walked away from that?"

Loyola Blakefield and its generational commitment to educating "Men for Others" also offered an immediate connection when Taneyhill first met Catholic Charities Executive Director Bill McCarthy, another alumnus.

"I only met him after I started the clinic, but there was an instant affiliation. And the kidding that he's so good at with regard to our Loyola connection has really been a lot of fun, too," he said.

Finding Purpose in Action: A Board Member's Reflections



By Aileen Eskildsen

If you let Bill McCarthy, Catholic Charities' executive director, know that you're interested in getting involved with his nonprofit, he won't tell you

how you can make an impact – he'll show you first-hand.

Any organization can share a powerful photo or a well-told story to express their mission. But Bill taught me that true impact happens when you show purpose in action — when you witness neighbors in need being cared for. It's in those real moments that he truly inspires us to lead with faith. For when we do, we have a passion for the purpose.

Before I joined the Board of Trustees, I spent a day with Bill, walking the halls of Our Daily Bread Employment Center,

visiting St. Vincent's Villa, and witnessing what Catholic Charities has built at the Cherry Hill Town Center. His approach to showing me the impact of these vital works has strengthened my passion for this organization as both a Board Trustee and a devoted life-long Catholic.

THE PATHWAY FORWARD

It may seem overwhelming to take on the wide range of services that Catholic Charities offers. But in my three years on the board, I've witnessed something powerful: when we center our mission on God, the path becomes clear. In every challenge, there's been a way forward — not by chance, but through faith.

Think of the incredible people working across Catholic Charities — boots on the ground, living out the Gospel through acts of service. Their dedication and results are nothing short of inspiring.

And consider the standard we've set, under Bill's leadership, of answering the call. When

the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed, for example, Catholic Charities was asked to support the families affected. Without hesitation, we answered.

That's what it means to live out our faith. When tragedy happens or our neighbors are in need, the organization is there to step in, extending our purpose in action through amazing people and a caring heart for others.

Today, we're fortunate to stand on the strong foundation Bill built, and we carry forward great momentum. We know there will be bumps in the road and challenges we'll have to tackle. But with a mission rooted in strength, compassion, and unwavering faith, I know Catholic Charities is ready to meet those challenges — and to meet our neighbors' needs.

Aileen Eskildsen, the CEO of Ellin & Tucker, joined the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees in 2022 and serves as treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee.



Get Onboard Dragon Boats 2025

ABOUT: Since 1998, Catholic Charities' Dragon Boat Races have brought together some of the region's most philanthropic business to compete, build camaraderie, and have fun.

WHEN:
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025

WHERE:
Baltimore's Inner Harbor

HOW (TO SIGN UP): Go to dragonboatsbaltimore.org to sign up and learn more about this day of fun!

ST VINCENT'S VILLA
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION



Supply Drive

Summer is here!

Children at St. Vincent's Villa are ready and excited to enjoy fun in the sun as they spend the summer at the residence! Your generous support will help us provide summer recreational and therapeutic toys and supplies!

Items can be delivered or dropped off at the Donation Trail at 2600 Pot Spring Road, Timonium, MD 21093, Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–noon.

For a complete wish list of items, visit <https://tinyurl.com/uk47efmw>. Contact Dominique Solomon, Community Outreach Coordinator, at dsolomon@cc-md.org.

THANKS TO YOU, WE ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE OUR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY.

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to donate today!



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Catholic Charities is Maryland's largest and most effective provider of human services. 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.

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