

DEAR FRIENDS,

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring appear, I am reminded of how much hope can be found in new beginnings. Across Catholic Charities, that spirit of renewal is alive every day in the families we are privileged to serve.

Our work is guided by a simple but powerful commitment to strengthening families. We know that when families are stable, safe, and supported, children thrive and communities grow stronger. Every program we operate, from Head Start classrooms and family counseling to workforce

development and emergency assistance, is designed with that goal in mind.

Thanks to you, a young mother finds reliable childcare while she trains for a better job. A father receives guidance to manage a crisis and keep his family housed. These are not isolated successes; they are building blocks of healthier neighborhoods.

Spring is a fitting season to reflect on this impact. Just as new life pushes through the soil after winter, we see families gaining confidence, skills, and stability after difficult seasons of their own.

Your generosity makes that growth possible.

In the months ahead, we will continue expanding programs that keep families together and create pathways to opportunity.

Thank you for standing with us and for believing, as we do, in the power of strong families.

With gratitude,

Dave Kinkopf,
Executive Director



SPRING 2026

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.

Stepping Up Together

AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN STRETCHED LAST FALL, Amy Collier, director of community services at Catholic Charities, worried how families would put food on their tables. At the agency's cornerstone meal programs – Our Daily Bread Employment Center, My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Place – staff worked quickly to ensure no one who walked through the doors would go hungry. But the crisis extended far beyond their dining rooms.

Hundreds of families who relied on SNAP to buy groceries suddenly faced uncertainty. Many were not regular visitors to meal sites. They were parents stretching every dollar and families one paycheck away from crisis.

"We have not had this circumstance before, where we felt like people literally weren't going to have food to eat," Collier explained.

Within days, Catholic Charities mobilized — organizing 660 emergency care packages for Head Start families and residents in community housing programs. There was no new funding stream waiting in reserve. There was only the urgent need — and the resolve to respond.

ASSEMBLY LINE OF CARE

What made the response so impactful was not only the agency stepping forward quickly, but the extraordinary partnership that followed. Volunteers showed up. Donors stepped in. The Jesuit Community of Loyola University of Maryland provided support to strengthen



Funded by our friends at M&T Bank, volunteers and staff help assemble hundreds of bags of food for Head Start families and those in our housing communities.

the emergency food response. Corporate partners lent both financial support and hands-on volunteers.

Bruce and Tracy Palmieri were among the first to act, providing the major funding that launched the initial packing event.

"Tracy and I are thankful to be able to step in and help our neighbors in Baltimore who are struggling," Bruce Palmieri said. "Catholic Charities plays a vital role in our community, providing essential aid and hope to those facing difficult circumstances."

Employees and volunteers formed assembly lines of care, packing sturdy canvas bags with canned fruits and vegetables, ravioli, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly and other shelf-stable food. They counted progress out loud, celebrating every 100-bag milestone — a reminder that behind each bag was a family.

Cars and vans fanned out across the city, delivering food directly to Head Start sites and housing communities.

"We didn't tell people we were doing it; they were just very surprised and grateful," Collier said.

In February, M&T Bank funded a food-packing event, supported by employee volunteers, to further strengthen this rapid response effort. During the event, nearly 1,500 bags were packed and distributed to seven different Catholic Charities programs, extending critical support to individuals and families in need. This is another powerful example of how corporate partners are investing not only dollars, but also time, for meaningful community impact.

"In Baltimore, we take care of our own. M&T Bank is proud to partner with Catholic Charities to ensure families across our city have the food they need during times of uncertainty," said Augie Chiasera, M&T Bank Head of Community Markets. "Through both financial support and the hands-on service of our dedicated team members, we're committed to strengthening the communities we call home."

This kind of flexible, immediate response has always been central to Catholic Charities' mission. When regulations shift and families struggle to navigate new requirements, long-term solutions remain essential. Yet when cupboards are bare, there is no time to wait. Because hunger cannot be put on hold.

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come...

— SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12

Standing with Families Legislative Agenda

EVERY DAY ACROSS MARYLAND, FAMILIES ARE MAKING IMPOSSIBLE DECISIONS — whether to pay rent or buy groceries, to seek medical care or risk another bill they cannot afford or even work another shift without reliable childcare.

To fulfill our mission of improving the lives of those in need, Catholic Charities goes beyond service delivery into advocacy and action. The challenges our neighbors face are not abstract policy debates, rather they are lived realities we encounter in our shelters, clinics, workforce programs and centers every day.

That is why, for the 2026 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly, we developed our **Standing with Families agenda**, shaped directly by what we see and hear from those we serve.

Following are key priorities of the Standing with Families agenda:

- **Treat behavioral health as fundamental health care.** Catholic Charities is committed to working with state leaders to minimize the harm caused by new,



burdensome federal Medicaid regulations that strip coverage from eligible Marylanders.

- **Expand pathways to stable employment.** Across our state, employers report thousands of unfilled jobs while residents struggle to access training that leads to steady employment that pays a living wage. We are working to expand state investments in workforce development that prepares our neighbors not just for their next job, but for long-term careers.
- **Support families with affordable childcare.** Adequately funding childcare providers helps parents stay employed and stabilizes households. It's an essential solution to a workforce challenge that deeply undermines Maryland's economy.

- **Stabilize the safety net.** SNAP benefits put food on the table. Medicaid coverage helps treat serious health conditions. Eviction-prevention supports stop one crisis from tipping a family into homelessness. Maryland must shore up these vital supports, recognizing that prevention costs far less than crisis response and supports a foundation of self-sufficiency.

“When lawmakers invest in behavioral health care, workforce pathways, affordable childcare and a stable safety net, they are not funding programs — they are strengthening families,” said Val Twanmoh, director of advocacy at Catholic Charities. “Standing with families means ensuring that hard work leads to opportunity and that one setback does not spiral into crisis. That is the future we are advocating for, and the future Maryland families deserve.”

At Catholic Charities, we know Maryland will not solve every challenge before the legislative session concludes, but meaningful progress is critical.



Thomas Jester

A NEW HOME. CONSISTENT SUPPORT. A 22-YEAR JOURNEY.

WHEN THOMAS JESTER MOVED INTO HOLDEN HALL, a Catholic Charities residence for formerly homeless men, he assumed it would be temporary — a year or two, just long enough to get back on his feet. He never imagined that more than two decades later, as he entered his 70s, the same organization would once again walk beside him — this time helping him move into senior housing.

Last summer, Thomas unlocked the door to his new apartment at Basilica Place, a Catholic Charities Senior Community providing rent-assisted housing and supportive services to seniors and people with disabilities. It wasn't just a move. It was the next chapter in a journey defined by resilience.

As the U.S. Army veteran reflected on the path that led him to Basilica Place, he said his main advice is “P.A.W.”

“It stands for pray along the way — take every day as it comes,” he explained. “And so far, that prayer has helped me for a good many years.”

“YOU CAN MOVE IN TOMORROW”

After leaving the Army, Thomas moved back to New Jersey and then in with his father and stepmother in Delaware. When they asked him to leave, he found himself living on the streets while working a temp job. Colleagues suggested a men's shelter in Maryland — the first of many over several years. A Veterans Affairs nurse eventually pointed him to Holden Hall.

“I went there and they asked, ‘Do you smoke? Do you drink? Do you curse?’ And I said, ‘No — well, I only curse when I'm really angry,

because I'm human,’” he remembers. “The next thing I knew, they said, ‘you can move in tomorrow.’”

Holden Hall provides permanent housing to 14 formerly homeless or disabled men. As he settled in, Thomas said it became “a home-type environment.” He developed friendships with fellow tenants and neighbors and built routines — like Burger King after church on Sundays.

EASING THE TRANSITION

Twenty-two years later, when it was time for a new chapter, Catholic Charities was still there. Donnet Lawrence, service coordinator at Basilica Place, worked with Holden Hall colleagues to smooth the transition, helping furnish his apartment with a discounted bed and donated furniture.

Nearly a year later, Thomas is building new rhythms — breakfast at the local 7-Eleven, a new bus route to the gym three times a week, and occasional visits back to Holden Hall to see old friends.

The address has changed. The support has not.

“I take one day at a time and make the best of it. Instead of saying ‘Praise God,’ sometimes I also say, ‘God, why me?’ Then another part of me says, ‘God, why not me?’ because I guess God knows I can take all types of things life throws at me,” he said.

For Thomas, housing was never just about four walls. It was about safety, community — and someone walking with him every step of the way.

New support brings stability and hope

LONG BEFORE HE BECAME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, Dave Kinkopf gained firsthand insight into what it means to navigate life in an unfamiliar place. In his first job after college, he volunteered in Puerto Rico.

“I was serving in a community where I was an outsider, and I didn’t speak the language,” he said, adding the experience “made me very sensitive to the struggles of our immigrant communities.”

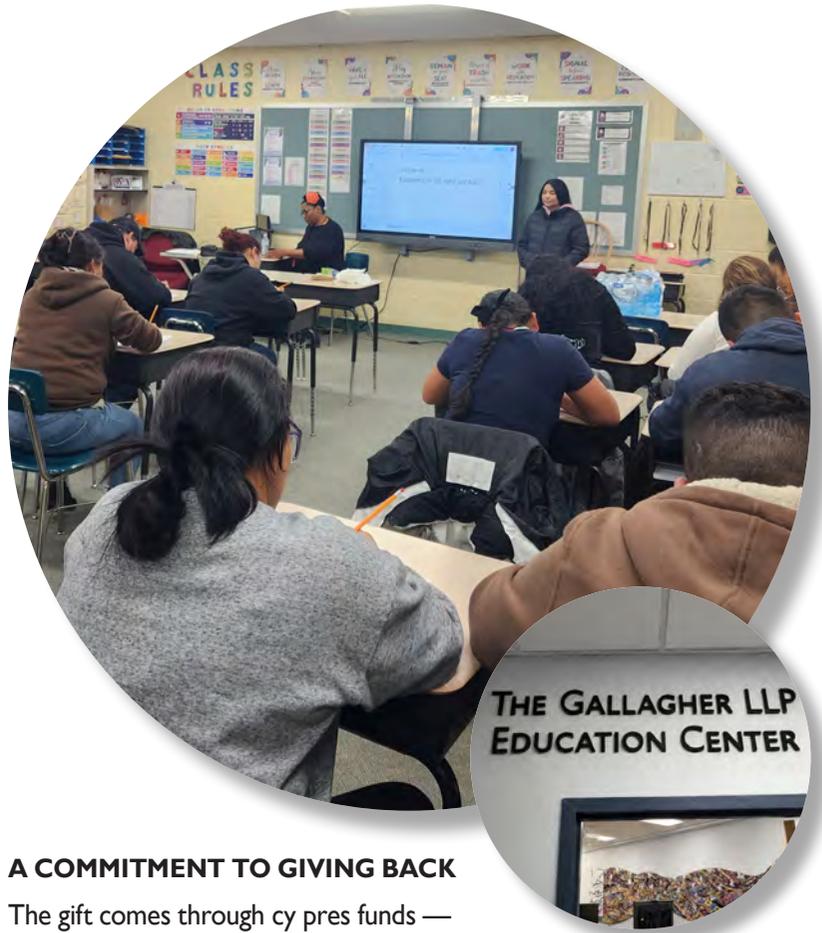
Years later, after more than two decades at Gallagher LLP — a firm he chose in part for its commitment to community — those experiences aligned. Gallagher’s work led to the creation of a namesake fund to support the Esperanza Center, Catholic Charities’ comprehensive resource center for immigrants.

“It’s a wonderful, full-circle moment,” he said. “You have Gallagher continuing its commitment to serving those in need, here uplifting the immigrant community. And now, sitting in this role, I get to see the remarkable impact which, at this moment in time, is particularly meaningful and extremely critical.”

NEW CONNECTIONS AND FLEXIBLE SUPPORT

The Gallagher LLP Fund for the Esperanza Center will preserve and expand educational programs, including English as a Second Language classes threatened by funding shifts. It will also allow Catholic Charities to expand services into other immigrant-rich communities, building new connections with clients and volunteers.

Importantly, a significant portion of the fund remains flexible — ready to respond to urgent needs such as legal services, health care, case management, material assistance, and workforce development. That adaptability matters amid the enormous strains facing immigrant families.



A COMMITMENT TO GIVING BACK

The gift comes through cy pres funds — unclaimed resources from a class action lawsuit distributed to nonprofits with court approval. Gallagher selected several organizations, including Esperanza.

“Giving back is ingrained in our firm and it always has been,” said Meghan Casey, Partner at Gallagher. “It’s one of our core values, so we were thrilled to be able to facilitate this gift that will support the critically important work of the Esperanza Center and Catholic Charities.”

In recognition of this partnership, the primary educational space at the Esperanza Center will be named “The Gallagher LLP Education Center.”

NEW LEADERSHIP AT ESPERANZA

At a time when the Esperanza Center’s work is more important than ever, Catholic Charities named a new leader to guide its efforts.

Manny Hidalgo, the center’s new Director, brings more than 30 years of experience in the public and nonprofit sectors, including work

in education, youth empowerment, immigrant advocacy, economic advancement, small business support, poverty alleviation and more.

Manny’s background, coupled with the support of Gallagher and other key backers, will allow the Esperanza Center to respond emphatically to current, evolving needs.

39TH ANNUAL



Monday, June 15, 2026

Baltimore Country Club

Contact Izabella Downs
667-600-2029 / idowns@cc-md.org
or visit www.cc-md.org/blasecooke26

SAVE THE DATE



The Secret Sauce of Workforce Development

A MISSED BUS. A SICK KID. A WAVE OF SELF-DOUBT.

Consider the countless reasons someone might drop out of a job-training program, even when fiercely motivated to launch a new career.

Across the country, job-training programs lose talented, motivated participants every day — not because they lack ability, but because life gets in the way. For many aspiring workers, that's all it takes to derail a new beginning.

At Catholic Charities, we refuse to let that happen.

Our workforce development programs surround participants with something powerful — consistent, trauma-informed case management that ensures no one navigates obstacles alone.

And it's working.

In our most recent Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) class, 100% of participants graduated.

Last year, our Level Up program achieved a 95% completion and job-placement rate among young adults ages 18–24.

In communities where economic mobility can feel out of reach, those numbers represent stability, dignity, and hope.

THE DIFFERENCE IS RELATIONSHIP

Erin Finnegan-Smith, our director of workforce development, calls it the “secret sauce.”

“What makes us unique is the trauma-informed, supportive case management,” she explains. “Typically, a person falls off because there isn't that relationship, bond or trust.”

That relationship begins early, often before an application is even submitted and continues long after graduation. It is built by case managers like Paula Whitney and Charles Dorsey, who walk alongside participants every step of the way.

PAULA WHITNEY

Our Daily Bread Employment Center administrative assistant

REMOVING BARRIERS BEFORE THEY BECOME ROADBLOCKS

After more than 30 years as a registered nurse, Paula now supports participants in our CNA partnership with IT Works. Her role extends far beyond paperwork.

She helps trainees secure identification documents. She connects them to behavioral health services. She listens when confidence falters.

“I want them to feel like I'm someone they can count on, and if I don't know the answer to a question, I'm not going to stop until I find out where to get the answer,” she said. “I'm just so happy that they feel like they can come to me.”

Because of that trust, trainees stay, even when life becomes complicated.

CHARLES DORSEY

Our Daily Bread Employment Center case manager

OPENING DOORS TO A DIFFERENT SCALE OF OPPORTUNITY

Charles, who supports Level Up, earned a master's degree in clinical social work and spent two decades in foster care and related fields. Working with young adults from high-poverty areas of Baltimore City, he aims to help them navigate to a “different scale” of opportunity.

“I grew up in the neighborhoods, not too far from Catholic Charities' Our Daily Bread,” he said. “When I'm lifting up young people, I think of how my family grew up and how we evolve. I'm giving them a chance to see that same opening — and they're taking advantage of it.”

Workforce development isn't just about job skills. It's about confidence being restored and opportunity reclaimed. It's about relationships strong enough to withstand life's disruptions. Together, we are not just training workers. We are building futures — one relationship at a time.

YES, I want to help my neighbors all year long!

The need for a **warm meal**, a **safe place to sleep**, and a **steady paycheck** remain a daily struggle for thousands of Marylanders.

Your monthly gift of **any size** brings our neighbors closer to lives of stability, good health, and dignity!



\$5 each month feeds 20 people a year

\$20 each month provides a week of shelter

\$83 each month saves a family from eviction

Give online today at
www.cc-md.org/monthlygiving

CONGRATULATIONS

to our very own **Gulafsheen Quadri, MA, MD**, Adult, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist at Villa Maria Behavioral Health's Abingdon clinic, who has been named one of Maryland's "Top Doctors" in the November 2025 issue of Baltimore magazine.

"I'm passionate about working with underserved communities and believe everyone deserves access to high-quality mental health care," Dr. Quadri shares. "I feel privileged to work with Catholic Charities, whose mission of dignity, service, and compassion aligns with my own values."

Her recognition reflects both her clinical excellence and her deep commitment to the children, adolescents, and families she serves each day.



Gulafsheen Quadri

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Catholic Charities is Maryland's largest private 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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