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

JUNE 2017

WHEN FRANCIS X. GALLAGHER SERVICES FIRST OPENED ITS DOORS IN 1977 TO SERVE CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, we had no way of knowing how many lives would be touched through the individuals supported and staff over these 40 years. As it evolved from its one location on Pot Spring Road to the comprehensive services it now provides to adults in over 50 locations, the heart of our work to treat people with dignity remained. Thankfully, celebrations abound at Catholic Charities, and Gallagher is only one of many to highlight. We’ve just celebrated our first year of conflict mediation work through Safe Streets and our work to develop employment opportunities through St. Edward’s Workforce Development Center—both in west Baltimore. Sarah’s House, serving families experiencing homelessness, celebrates 30 years of service this year. While every day we work with people facing challenging struggles, we see hope in each small step they take, in each new volunteer, in each gift you offer to help us improve lives. We highlight many of these celebrations in this issue, to say thank you for the time, effort and support you offer in so many ways. You help us continue to cherish the Divine within each person in need in our communities, cities and throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

DEAR FRIENDS,

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." — PROVERBS 3:27 NIV

William J. McCarthy, Jr.
Executive Director

40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

GALLAGHER SERVICES

September 15, 2017
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

An outdoor picnic will be held in our pavilion at Gallagher Services
2520 Pot Spring Road
Timonium, Maryland 21093

Invitations will be forthcoming.

To learn more, visit cc-md.org/gallagher

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.” — PROVERBS 3:27 NIV
THE TOURNAMENT SWUNG INTO ACTION at the Hunt Valley Country Club on May 1 after a fortifying breakfast and a shotgun start. Thirty-six teams of four (166 golfers) tackled 18 challenging holes and a putting contest. After the game, all of the participants enjoyed dinner and festivities while perusing the silent auction items. Next year’s event is eagerly anticipated and scheduled for May 7, 2018.

SARAH’S HOUSE
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION
To learn more, visit cc-md.org/sarahshouse

MANY THANKS to all of the volunteers, participants, donors, staff and attendees who contribute to the continuing success of these important services!

SARAH’S HOUSE
ANNUAL BULL ROAST
THE FESTIVITIES HELD TO BENEFIT SARAH’S HOUSE went into high gear April 22. A full house, a lively DJ, delicious eats and exciting prizes made this party fun for all. Energetic movers and shakers of all ages kicked up their heels on the crowded dance floor. Hard-working volunteers from the area, including some military personnel from Ft. Meade, made sure the event went smoothly. Thank you to everyone for their support. Don’t miss next year’s party!

SARAH’S HOUSE
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION
To learn more, visit cc-md.org/sarahshouse

BRIDESMAIDS BINGO
WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE BINGO, FOOD, DIAMONDS, CHAMPAGNE, DANCING AND RAFFLES ALL ON ONE NIGHT? You get a great fundraiser for My Sister’s Place Women’s Center (MSPWC). This 15th annual event honored Kathleen Reid as Woman of the Year, and over 300 attendees listened to Precious Carter talk about her personal journey and how My Sister’s Place gave her hope and renewed confidence.

MY SISTER’S PLACE
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION
To learn more, visit cc-md.org/mspwc

GALLAGHER SERVICES
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION
To learn more, visit cc-md.org/gallagher

28th Annual Gallagher Services Golf Tournament
THE TOURNAMENT SWUNG INTO ACTION at the Hunt Valley Country Club on May 1 after a fortifying breakfast and a shotgun start. Thirty-six teams of four (166 golfers) tackled 18 challenging holes and a putting contest. After the game, all of the participants enjoyed dinner and festivities while perusing the silent auction items. Next year’s event is eagerly anticipated and scheduled for May 7, 2018.

40th Anniversary Celebration: See front page

SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2017
THIS BOWLING TOURNAMENT WILL REUNITE SPONSORED TEAMS OF DRAGON BOAT PADDLERS for a fun-filled evening of competition, team spirit and support for Catholic Charities. Thanks to your generous support of the 2016 Dragon Boat Races, $750,000 was raised for people in need across the state of Maryland. Why wait until 2018 to do it all again? Rally your team now for this fun evening and support the important work of the over 80 programs that provide services to 160,000 individuals and families every year.
For more information on programs and events, visit cc-md.org

The Struggles and Blessings of Adoptions from Nigeria

CALLS LIKE THESE — at first, one or two a week and then, three or four a day—started pouring into the Catholic Charities’ Adoption Program about a year or so ago. For over 35 years, this program worked primarily with families adopting from Asian or Latin American countries. Adoptions from Nigeria and other West African countries were not the program’s area of expertise. On the other hand, they seemed to be nobody’s area of expertise. Due to a new federal adoption law, adoptive families needed U.S. adoption agencies to assist them in bringing children to the U.S. Most other U.S. adoption agencies were unwilling to step into this uncharted territory.

Over the years, Catholic Charities has been willing to take big, bold steps in order to help the most vulnerable people. It did so, again, for orphans in Nigeria.

In short order, contact was made with the central adoption government entities in Nigeria where a partnership was developed with an ethical and competent children’s advocacy organization in Lagos and an adoption conference was planned and held July 2016. Thirty five people attended the first ever Nigerian-American adoption conference about child welfare and adoption laws in Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria on July 9. The event included government officials, judges, attorneys, orphanage directors and U.S. Embassy staff.

The purpose of this, of course, is to help children find permanent families. Most of the children in Nigeria who need families live in orphanages until families can be found. Orphanages in Nigeria are not better (and somewhat worse) than orphanages in other parts of the world. There are few toys or supplies. There are no playrooms or playgrounds. Sometimes there are fans and electricity. There are never enough caregivers or food. When Catholic Charities staff shows up with some clothes, notebooks, pencils or crayons, the orphanage directors are inordinately grateful. They pray with us. They bless us. They thank us — over and over. Through us, they are blessed. Through them, we are blessed. Thank YOU for the abundance of blessings that you help create for these children.
From our roots in the late 1700s to today, Catholic Charities is Maryland’s leading nonprofit provider of human services, serving over 160,000 individuals and families every year. Last year, we provided more than 589,000 meals to people who were hungry. With compassion and respect for people of all faiths, races and circumstances, we improve the lives of children and families, seniors, people living in poverty, immigrants and people who are intellectually disabled. As part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, we cherish the Divine within all whom we serve in 80 programs throughout Baltimore City and nine counties.

For more information:
Catholic Charities, Communications Department
320 Cathedral Street, 3rd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201-4421
Telephone: 667-600-2000
Fax: 410-576-2179
Email: info@cc-md.org
Website: www.cc-md.org

Allison Stone,
Managing Editor
Denise Burns,
Editor

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Your gift matters, and it matters NOW!
Please help restore hope and dignity to neighbors in need with your gift today. Thank You!