



THE MISSION

CATHOLIC CHARITIES • Diocese of Arlington

SEPTEMBER 2018

Faithfully Serving in 100 Locations Across 21 Virginia Counties and 7 Cities!



Lashay Bailey (back row, center) drove from Fredericksburg to Old Town Alexandria for Catholic Charities' annual Back to School event to help her seven children get ready for the start of school. Photo credit: Natalie J. Plumb

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BACK TO SCHOOL

ON AUGUST 24, CATHOLIC CHARITIES of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA), along with the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, distributed free backpacks loaded with school supplies to more than 46 families including 113 children. In addition to the backpacks, this year CCDA was also able to provide all children with Payless gift cards to buy new shoes for the school year.

“It means a lot. We’re going through a tough time right now. And to get the backpacks and the gift cards for the shoes – it’s a blessing,

– LASHAY BAILEY

“It means a lot. We’re going through a tough time right now. And to get the backpacks and the gift cards for the shoes – it’s a blessing,” said Lashay Bailey, who drove nearly 100 miles roundtrip from Fredericksburg with her seven children.

Ruth Guillen, Emergency Assistance Senior Case Coordinator for CCDA, came up with the idea in the summer of 2016 after witnessing so many families with school-age children without resources. “This is the third year of this event, and when I thought about this project I just wanted to give unprivileged children some happiness,” Ruth said.

She created a flyer requesting school supplies and handed it out to donors at the CCDA Christ House who had donated food or clothing for the poor. Ruth was confident they would want to help the children prepare for the school year as well, and she was right.



Bishop Burbidge and Sr. Annie Pacheco Juan help a child try on his new backpack. Photo credit: Natalie J. Plumb

Ruth explained, “**I wanted the children to feel wanted and loved** and know that CCDA is not just a place where poor people go, but a happy place where the staff and volunteers love and think of them. Parents are happy when they see their children happy, so for them it’s also a celebration.”

CCDA employees and volunteers provided snacks and refreshments for the children and their parents, and a prayer was said blessing all the families for the upcoming school year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Catholic Charities exists to be a constant reminder of the centrality and urgency of charity, particularly for those suffering on the margins. This was the essence of Christ's merciful behavior as he made his way through the Holy Land healing the suffering, and it must be ours as an agency of His Church and a living reminder of His mercy.

The Church is in a very grave situation these days with the disclosures of clergy abuse of children, teenagers, and young people, and the failures of Church leadership to protect those victims.

Through this difficult time, Catholic Charities' role and mission remains clear: to be a constant reminder of the centrality of mercifully helping those who are suffering. As Bishop Burbidge said in his homily on August 26 at the mass for all victims of sexual abuse, *"To any victim ever met with disregard – it will not be the case in our diocese. If you are able, please come forward and know that I am able to assist you . . . Our diocese stands ready to assist you in the healing process."*

Catholic Charities Family Services counseling program will help address this crisis by assisting the diocesan Office of Victims' Assistance in our 22 locations, which includes 16 parishes. We will prioritize professional counseling and healing for victims and their families who have been abused, no matter where the abuse has occurred.

While we grapple with this issue, please read in *The Mission* how we continue to work and pray hard to raise people up beyond their suffering, and to reawaken their understanding of their own dignity and hope in the future. Please note our upcoming conference with Bishop Burbidge entitled *Seeking Hope & Healing in the Midst of the Opioid Crisis* at Good Shepherd Parish in Alexandria on Saturday, September 29. Also, we are expanding our Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and continuing to provide healing at the Retreat for the Seriously Ill.

Visit our website (www.cdda.net) or join us on social media and you'll see there is much to be done. You can help those who are suffering as one of the 2,700+ volunteers for our 20 programs like Fred Seymour (story within), participate on Giving Tuesday (November 27), or attend the Catholic Charities Ball on February 22, 2019. Please join us in making a difference.

Sincerely in Christ,



ART BENNETT
President and CEO
Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Arlington



**A Church without charity
does not exist.**

– POPE FRANCIS

COMING SOON

**WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU AT ONE
OF OUR NEXT
EVENTS!**

- ♥ **September 29**
Opioid Conference
- ♥ **October 5–7**
**Retreat for the
Seriously Ill**
- ♥ **November 3**
Naturalization Workshop
- ♥ **November 18**
World Day of the Poor
- ♥ **November 27**
Giving Tuesday
- ♥ **December 8–9**
**CCDA Christmas
Collection**
- ♥ **December 19**
**Prince William County
Chamber Business After
Hours – Hogar Ed/MRS
Manassas**
- ♥ **February 22, 2019**
CCDA Ball

FOR MORE INFORMATION

about our events, please visit cdda.net, and make sure to follow us on social media.



Saturday, September 29
10am to 3pm

Opioid Conference

BISHOP BURBIDGE AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES of the Diocese of Arlington will host a conference to address the opioid crisis in the Diocese. This event will be held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church (8710 Mount Vernon Hwy, Alexandria VA 22309) on **Saturday, September 29 from 10am to 3pm**. The day will begin with a keynote address, feature a light lunch, and include a variety of breakout sessions covering topics such as resiliency in families facing the opioid crisis and how parishes and communities can respond to the growing problem. The day will conclude with a prayer service led by Bishop Burbidge.

The keynote address will be given by Dr. Michael Horne, Director of Clinical Services for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, and will focus on the state of the opioid crisis within the Diocese and highlight the ways Catholic Charities will lead the response. This event will be open to all at no charge. Please RSVP for seating by **September 26** at events@arlingtondiocese.org. Please join us as we address this critical issue. ♥



Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic Director Alexandra Luevano, BSN, RN, CCM performs an intake examination on a patient.

WHEN CATHOLIC CHARITIES' MOTHER of Mercy Free Medical Clinic opened its doors in December 2017, it had one doctor, one nurse practitioner, and four nurse volunteers. It was open one day a week for four hours. Twenty people came for treatment.

Less than a year later, the clinic is open four four-hour days weekly, has 188 health professional volunteers, and sees 70 patients each week. Currently, 360 patients are served at the clinic. The clinic will mark the final quarter of its first year by expanding into the neighboring office suite, doubling the size of its operations.

In July, the BVM Foundation (BVM stands for Blessed Virgin Mary), which purchased the current 1,600 square-foot site that

Mother of Mercy Free Clinic Responds to Growing Demand, Doubles Operations

was previously an abortion clinic and today rents it to Catholic Charities, bought the comparably sized space next door so the clinic could continue growing.

"Thanks to BVM's support, we've been able to continue to move in the direction that God wants us to go – to serve our brothers and sisters on the margins, not just their health problems but to offer psychological, material, and spiritual support as well," said Catholic Charities President and CEO Art Bennett.

After the new space is renovated, the expansion will allow Mother of Mercy to provide more medical, psychological, and emergency services. The clinic also will work closely with the Diocese of Arlington's Gabriel Project to offer pro-life services along with adoption services, natural family planning, and education classes for diabetes, hypertension/ blood pressure, and exercise. Emergency food and baby supplies also will be available in the new building.♥

ST. LUCY FOOD PROJECT

Aspiring Young Saints Pick Corn for St. Lucy



Students take a much needed break and pose for a photo after spending over two hours picking 10,294 pounds of corn.

FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH CATHOLIC Charities' St. Lucy Food Project got a healthy boost on a hot summer's day after 77 middle-school students spent two hours picking corn for the poor at Chandler Farms in Montross, Virginia, and Parker Farms in Colonial Beach, Virginia.

The students, from Boot Camp for Aspiring Saints, a faith formation program at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale, collected more than 10,000 pounds of corn in less than two hours.

The students were transported by bus to the farms and, after receiving a lesson in how to pick corn, got right to work. They loaded the corn into bins, and the corn was transported to St. Lucy Food Project warehouse in Manassas.

"Today also fulfilled an opportunity for 'aspiring saints' to put their faith into action"

— VINCENT CANNAVA,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



The corn collected was left in the husk to keep it from getting damaged during transport to three Catholic Charities pantries and several partner pantries.

From there, the corn was distributed to three Catholic Charities pantries, Loaves & Fishes Pantry in Front Royal, Warren County; Christ House in Alexandria city; and the Leesburg Pantry in Loudoun County. It was also sent to partner pantries in the following counties and cities: Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Winchester City, Madison County, Orange County, Fairfax County, and Arlington. In addition, Healthy Harvest Foodbank is distributing some of the corn to the Northern Neck.

"This is our first year to increase fresh, healthy food to the poor as a result of having our new refrigeration. Our donors made this possible," says Vincent Cannava, Program Director and Food Source Developer for the St. Lucy Project. "Today also fulfilled an opportunity for 'aspiring saints' to put their faith into action," he said.♥

ST. LUCY FOOD PROJECT

Game changer: Installation of walk-in cooler & freezer means healthy food for St. Lucy Food Project beneficiaries

AS ANYONE WHO PARTICIPATES IN A parish food drive knows, food pantries rely mostly on canned and nonperishable food to provide to families in need. While these offerings represent the foundation of foods received by people who visit food banks, adding fresh produce and frozen protein to the menu offers those families the opportunity to go from an adequate meal to having a healthy diet.

That's what's happened within the 21 counties and seven cities of the Diocese of Arlington, thanks to the St. Lucy Food Project's recent installation of walk-in refrigerator and freezer units.

"Catholic Charities' St. Lucy Food Project has had a longstanding goal of being able to **provide truly nutritious foods to vulnerable people** for whom processed and canned foods have been the only option," said Catholic Charities President and CEO Art Bennett. "Thanks to our generous donors and these cooling units, we now can provide healthier choices such as fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and meats to augment that non-perishable food."

During the first half of 2018, the walk-in refrigeration and freezer units were installed in the Catholic Charities' St. Lucy Food Project's central warehouse in Manassas. On August 21, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge visited the facility to bless the cooling and freezer units that are the cornerstone of the Healthy Foods Initiative.

He also thanked Bill and Mary Noel Page who were the lead donors for the project,



Top photo: Bill Page (left) inspects pallets of corn in the walk-in refrigerator and is joined by (from left to right) Art Bennett, Rev. Thomas Ferguson, Rev. Edward Hathaway, Vince Cannava, and Vince and Mimi Sheehy. **Bottom left:** Bishop Burbidge, Bill Page (foreground), and Vince Sheehy (background) cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the cooling units at the St. Lucy Food Project warehouse. **Bottom right:** Thousands of pounds of donated food from recent parish food drives soon will be sorted, packaged, and distributed to food pantries across the diocese to help feed the hungry. Photo Credits: ELIZABETH A. ELLIOTT, CATHOLIC HERALD

as well as early St. Lucy supporters Vincent and Mimi Sheehy of Sheehy Auto Stores along with the many individuals, parish organizations, and Knights of Columbus councils who helped make the dream a reality.

Installation of the refrigeration and freezer units means Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington can provide healthier high-protein foods to the families who turn to its three pantries and the 50 parish and community partner pantries within the Diocese. The refrigerator unit is large enough for a forklift to drive in the pallets of milk and vegetables like corn, broccoli, kale, cucumbers, zucchini, and squash – some of it straight off the farm.

The freezer initially is half-full with 7,000 pounds of premium fully-cooked frozen

meat generously donated by Cuisine Solutions as part of their commitment to help provide food to those in need. Smaller commercial freezer and refrigeration units were previously installed in Catholic Charities' Front Royal, Leesburg, and Alexandria pantries to expand their capabilities as well.

While the addition of the cooling units means Catholic Charities can better assist the people it serves, it also means it will need more hands on deck: the St. Lucy Food Project needs additional volunteers to help it collect, process, and distribute the food within the 21 counties and seven cities served by Catholic Charities.♥

TO LEARN MORE

about volunteering, contact Sally O'Dwyer at sally.odwyer@ccda.net.

RETREAT FOR PEOPLE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS

MAKE A PLEDGE



Every day, CCDA brings transformational services, delivered with compassion, to meet the needs of every person who seeks our help, regardless of background, belief, or circumstance.

You can be part of this transformation by making a pledge to CCDA during this CFC campaign season.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington's CFC number is #24770

The CFC also allows:

- You to pledge volunteer hours to help CCDA serve tens of thousands of clients each year; and
- Federal retirees to make a recurring donation by deduction from their annuity.

Please remember to check "YES" to share your pledge information so we can keep you updated on the impact of your gift.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR WORK!



Taking Time For Spiritual Renewal

ON JUNE 1-3, 2018, THE SECOND Retreat for People Facing Serious Illness was held at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, Virginia with a theme of "The King of Love My Shepherd Is." Christ's love was present throughout the entire retreat to the 23 retreatants and 18 volunteers.

Spiritual Directors, Fr. Tuck Grinnell and Fr. Bill Korpi, shared reflections on scripture throughout the weekend, including during the celebration of Mass on Saturday and Sunday. One of the most powerful moments occurred during Adoration when the Body of Christ within the Monstrance was presented face to face with each retreatant and everyone had their own moment with Our Lord.

The Retreat is designed to be a moment of spiritual renewal for those facing chronic or terminal illness, and a noticeable peace enveloped each participant by the time the Retreat had concluded Sunday morning.

The next Retreat for People Facing Serious Illness is scheduled for **October 5-7, 2018** with the following to be held in July 2019.♥

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you or someone you know would like to attend a future retreat (at no cost), or if you are a medical professional, volunteer nurse, physician, or helper interested in learning more about how you can support the retreat, please email retreat@ccda.net.

Meet Fred Seymour

FRED SEYMOUR has volunteered for Catholic Charities for more than three years and currently serves as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Welcome Home Re-Entry Program.

➔ Tell me about your background – how does it transfer to your volunteer role?

I spent my working life as a lawyer in California. My first job after passing the bar was as a Deputy City Attorney in Los Angeles prosecuting criminal offenders. In 1979, a lifelong friend and I started our own firm, and I initially served as defense counsel in criminal cases, including over 100 jury trials.

I retired in 2015, when my wife and I and moved to Oakton to be near our daughter and our only grandchild.

➔ How and why did you get involved with CCDA?

Once we had settled into our new home, I began looking for ways to be active and engaged. I was impressed with CCDA's online application process and the prompt reply I received in contrast to other charities that did not respond.

Since I still held a license to practice law, my first connection was with **Hogar Immigration Services** assisting immigrants fill out their Naturalization applications.

Then I taught a citizenship class for about two years until scheduling conflict prevented me from continuing and I began looking for another opportunity.

➔ What do you do in your role(s)?

I am now the Volunteer Coordinator for the Welcome Home Re-Entry Program. We work with men and women being released from local jails who struggle with addiction issues. The program assigns a mentor to

work with each participant who receives help with housing, clothing, food and support in overcoming their addiction. During re-entry, participants live in an Oxford House sober-living residence and attend regular AA meetings. Mentors help with encouragement to find employment; maintaining proper attention to Probation requirements; and solving day-to-day struggles.

My role includes recruiting and training mentors; reviewing program applications and conducting interviews; assigning mentors to individuals being released from jail; and monitoring the progress of all we serve.

➔ What interested you in this specific program?

Having worked in the past with those accused of crime, I knew that many are just ordinary people who have made mistakes. Addiction is a health problem, not a character flaw.

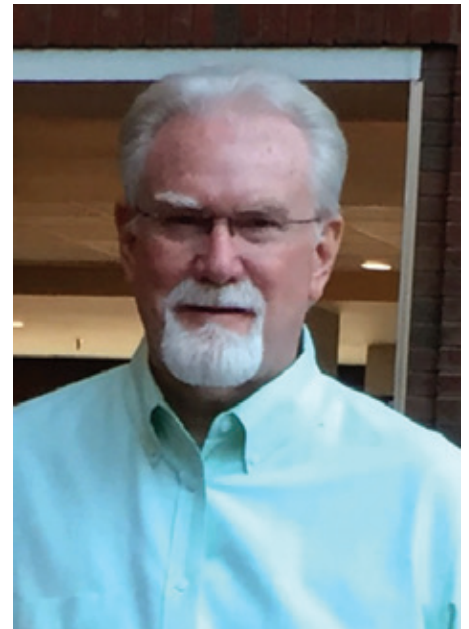
People leaving jail are released to an empty parking lot, without bus fare, and wearing the clothes they had on at the time they were arrested. Imagine being released in January without a coat to wear or a place to go.

➔ What do you find most rewarding?

This program provides as many rewards for our mentors as those we serve. Our returning citizens are very grateful for the help we give them. *Seeing a participant maintain their sobriety, find a job, reconnect with family, and begin rebuilding their lives is a tremendous experience [for volunteers].*

➔ What other ways do you give back to the community?

Each summer, I travel to parishes in the mid-Atlantic to conduct Mission Cooperative Appeals on behalf of Hands Together, a Catholic Mission that serves the poor in Haiti.



Volunteer Fred Seymour helps people leaving jail rebuild their lives as volunteer with the Welcome Home Re-Entry Program

“Seeing a participant maintain their sobriety, find a job, reconnect with family, and begin rebuilding their lives is a tremendous experience.”

My wife volunteers with local hospitals and the American Cancer Society. We approach retirement as an opportunity to do the things that we can be passionate about.♥

We are so incredibly grateful to work with such devoted, giving volunteers like Fred.

TO LEARN MORE

about our volunteer opportunities, and ways you can get involved, please visit volunteer.cdda.net or call Sally O'Dwyer at 703-841-3838.

SAVE THE DATE



Make your gift at
ccda.net/donate

Save
the
date

Catholic Charities Ball

His Excellency Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington,
and the Catholic Charities Ball Committee cordially invite you to the
Catholic Charities Ball

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2019

@ Ritz-Carlton, Tysons, VA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on table sponsorships and underwriting opportunities please contact Todd West at todd.west@ccda.net

ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON (CCDA)

Together, We're Transforming Lives!

- 100 direct and affiliated service locations across 21 Virginia counties and 7 cities
- Serves all regardless of background, faith, or circumstance
- 86 cents of every dollar spent goes to programs and services



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Diocese of Arlington

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Visit our blog and sign up to receive weekly or monthly updates at

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Our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 24770.