

*Faithfully Serving through 21 Programs Across 21 Virginia Counties and 7 Cities!*

**i** Catholic Charities continues to serve those in need while adjusting to the unique challenges posed by COVID-19. For the latest information, please go to [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net) to find almost daily updates about how our programs, volunteer and donor needs are changing due to the outbreak.



Mary Elizabeth Morris (right), a volunteer nurse at the Catholic Charities Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic in Manassas, listens to a patient's heartbeat. LISA JULIA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Catholic Charities Announces Second Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic

**THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES** Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic, which opened its doors just over two years ago to serve poor and uninsured residents of Manassas and Manassas Park, is now expanding to Woodbridge.

The expansion will take place during a particularly challenging time for the community, as Americans deal with the coronavirus outbreak.

Calling the Manassas clinic a “powerful, visible witness to the Gospel of Life,” Bishop Michael F. Burbidge announced the development at the Feb. 7 Catholic Charities Ball. “I am so pleased and

honored tonight to announce that by the grace and mercy of God, early this spring Catholic Charities will be expanding and opening the second Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic for adult men and women in Woodbridge,” he said.

The new clinic is set to open on April 20, 2020, at 13900 Church Hill Drive, Woodbridge, in space that has been occupied by the Prince William Area Free Clinic. The clinic’s board of directors decided to close the 27-year-old clinic in early April due to ongoing “financial and resource challenges” and asked Catholic Charities if it would expand to Woodbridge.

## INSIDE this ISSUE

- 05** Partnering with Catholic Charities
- 07** Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Our Volunteers from Leesburg Regional Office
- 08** Catholic Charities Ball Going Strong After 38 Years

### GET SOCIAL

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[www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net)



## Volunteer!

For medical professionals or others who want to volunteer at the clinic, contact Alexandra Luevano at 703-335-2779 ext. 15 or [alexandra.luevano@cdda.net](mailto:alexandra.luevano@cdda.net).

When the second clinic opens, Catholic Charities will serve the health care needs of uninsured and underinsured adults, regardless of faith, throughout Prince William County.

“The need for free, high quality health care in our diocese is great. With this second clinic, Catholic Charities will be able to provide → [continued on page 7](#)

# President's Message

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Faith doesn't isolate nor restrict, but reaches out freely toward God and our neighbor, particularly our neighbor in need. Faith liberates us from self-absorption and creates a generous desire to share God's love to those suffering and discouraged. This powerful love helps our neighbor rediscover his or her forgotten dignity so they can have hope to rise above evil and suffering. This is not easy in a time of necessary "self-isolation" but we are managing to safely reach out.

As you read this, our communities, nation and world are continuing to live with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. These are challenging times for us all. Catholic Charities staff and volunteers are working hard to ensure that we continue to be available to serve the most vulnerable among us, while prioritizing safety for our clients, volunteers and employees.

In this edition of the Mission you'll read about the ventures of those who follow the generosity of the Holy Spirit to transform their own lives and the lives of those they serve. Read on to see how Catholic Charities is adjusting our programs during this COVID-19 outbreak to ensure we can still serve our clients, with the safety of everyone being our first priority. You will learn about our new Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic opening in April in Woodbridge and see how we reach those on the outskirts of our diocese with our Mercy Van, the Mobile Response Vehicle. You will also meet some of our hardworking and dedicated Leesburg Regional Office volunteers and learn why they choose to dedicate their time to Catholic Charities.

Finally, read about our annual celebration of love and charity at this past winter's 2020 Catholic Charities Ball. We are so thankful for the tireless commitment of volunteers in our community who organize this amazing celebration. We welcomed 1,100 attendees and raised a record breaking \$1.3 million which will allow us to reach more people and transform more lives this year through Christ's love.

Please enjoy the stories and pray for our work. Consider sharing your time, treasure, or talent to extend God's love in the 21 counties and 7 cities we serve in our diocese. Because of your generosity we are open and serving those in need. Please continue to pray for those suffering and to support our work to help all of us to live out our faith to those most in need.

God Bless You,



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

***“Our faith is opposed to any separation between worship and life, between faith and works, between prayer and charity of the brethren.”***  
*Pope Benedict XVI*

# Virus of Indifference

***“Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do.” Luke 5:31***

Jesus is a healer. In order to heal, physicians need to know their patients well. Christ our Divine Physician, loves us and knows us by name. The Vicar of Christ, Pope Francis, recently said, "In a world that is unfortunately afflicted by the virus of indifference, works of mercy are the best antidote."

Catholic Charities draws our attention towards the basic needs of the "least of our brothers and sisters" in whom Jesus is present. We help the uninsured with medical care in our expanded Mother of Mercy Free Clinic in Manassas/Prince William. Our sacrificial contributions to the work of Catholic Charities allows us to be vigilant and the best antidote for viruses that afflict us.

The Divine Physician passes by our side in the little ones, our brothers and sisters who are in need. We don't want to miss Him. Our support of Catholic Charities is a wonderful antidote that heals us of all viruses, beginning with the virus of indifference. Thank you for bringing healing to all we serve. In these uncertain times, the Divine Physician is with us. Jesus is a healer.

Love and Easter blessings,



**FATHER ROBERT CILINSKI**  
Episcopal Vicar for  
Charitable Works

# MOTHER OF MERCY FREE MEDICAL CLINICS

Continued from page 1

## Catholic Charities Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic

compassionate care to serve the most vulnerable adults who come from all of Prince William County,” said Art Bennett, President and CEO of Catholic Charities.

As in Manassas, the new Woodbridge clinic will rely primarily on volunteer medical professionals and other volunteers to staff the clinic. It will have one full-time nurse and one part-time front office staff member. Alexandra Luevano, clinic director of the Manassas clinic, will also direct the Woodbridge office.

“God has blessed our desire to serve men and women in need of medical care,” Bennett said. “When we opened the Mother of Mercy Free Clinic in Manassas in December 2017, we had several supportive parishes, generous donors

“We believe God will show us the same community support in Woodbridge so we can provide essential health care to a greater number of people in need.”

– ART BENNETT

and were able to attract hundreds of medical and other volunteers — doctors, nurses, physical therapists, dietitians and others — to support this mission. We believe God will show us the same community support in Woodbridge so we can provide essential health care to a greater number of people in need.” †



## Nativity Parish Breaks Its Own Food Collection Record

**Can one parish out-do itself in generosity? The answer is a resounding: Yes!**

The Church of the Nativity in Burke just broke its own record of 17,509 pounds collected in a weekend for our St. Lucy Food Project to 19,867 pounds. Then a last minute corn-and-bean run raised the tally to 20,000 pounds!

The non-perishable food filled two trucks, one van, and many other smaller vehicles, which were all pressed into service to deliver the food to our Manassas warehouse.

Fr. Bob Cilinski was out doing his part, exhorting parishioners and Knights of Columbus to break their own record. It worked!

*We're so grateful for this tremendous parish and parishioner support to feed the hungry throughout the Diocese of Arlington. †*

Two years in, Mother of Mercy, Manassas, continues to expand services to poor.



**761**  
patients



**2,466**  
total  
visits

**146**  
total  
volunteers



**141**  
pregnant  
women  
served\*



**10,894**  
total  
volunteer  
hours

# Gifts Types May Vary But an Estate Gift Can Have a Significant Impact



**OUR FAITHFUL DONORS** choose many ways to contribute to the life changing work of Catholic Charities. Some give cash, others use credit card, and more often now gifts from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) are being used to reduce a person's taxable income. Donor Advised Funds and appreciated stock are also ways our donors give annual gifts.

A gift that takes more thought is through the use of their assets to create a gift from their estate.

The following are a few stories about why some of our generous donors decided to include a gift to Catholic Charities in their estate plans.

Rita is single and retired. She is a lifelong Catholic and benefitted from 12 years of Catholic education. Her faith

has been her anchor throughout her life. When asked why she named Catholic Charities as a beneficiary of her estate she said, "it brings me great comfort in knowing that I am leaving a legacy to help the poor and vulnerable in my community."

A couple from St. Bernadette Parish has included a gift to Catholic Charities in their estate from their Fidelity Charitable Giving Account. They made this charitable decision because Catholic Charities assists the immediate needs of the poor, those who are hungry and need shelter. The couple was impressed when Catholic Charities responded quickly and generously to those affected by the many natural disasters over recent years.

Sharon is humble and grateful for the abundance of blessings in her life. Her philanthropy is rooted in sharing with

those who have little and are living God's word. She believes that the work Catholic Charities does mirrors the message of the Gospel. When Sharon and her husband saw a financial advisor, he suggested a charitable trust would be ideal for their personal situation. After their lifetimes, 50% of the value of the trust will go to Catholic Charities.

Over the last year, Catholic Charities has been blessed by generous gifts from the estates of Karl Liewer, Ralph Dimmick and John O'Neill. We remember in prayer these benefactors as deceased Catholic Heritage Circle members. †

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*on how you can include Catholic Charities in your estate plans, contact Gretchen Koch, Director of Planned Giving at [gretchen.koch@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:gretchen.koch@arlingtondiocese.org) or (703) 841-3819*



# Catholic Charities Partners with St. John Bosco & the Order of Malta to bring the “Mercy Van” to Rural Counties in Need

**THE FIRST IMAGES OF POVERTY** often focus on food. Lines of people waiting for food. Hungry children eating subsidized lunches at school. Volunteers carrying meals to the homebound and elderly. These images are desperate and poignant. They bring home the inescapable grind of poverty.

“...when I don’t have the money to buy products I need I can find them here...I am taking care of my kids.”

– RECIPIENT OF MRC SUPPLIES

Poverty, while easily understood through hunger, does not stop there. Families unable to afford milk and cereal are also unable to afford other items necessary to maintain a safe, clean and stable home.

To fill that gap, Catholic Charities’ Mobile Response Center (MRC), also known as the Mercy Van, brings essential, non-food items to impoverished communities in our diocese.

In 2017, the Mercy Van made its first trip to the St. John Bosco Catholic Outreach in Woodstock, VA. Nestled in the green hills of Shenandoah County, Woodstock lies along I-81. The fourth oldest town in Virginia, the charm for the picturesque buildings downtown is palpable, but so too is the poverty, even on Main Street. A warm and friendly town, it has nevertheless struggled with the loss of industry. Almost 24% of the population in town lives below the poverty line (the national average is 13.1%).

The Mercy Van brings critical supplies to these vulnerable households. Personal hygiene items are distributed each month, and clients then → *continued on page 7*

### Top Requested Items

- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Kitchen trash bags
- Household cleaning supplies
- Diapers—esp. larger sizes
- Adult Bladder Control (e.g., Depends)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Dish soap
- Full-size hygiene items

**The Mercy Van relies on generous donors and volunteers to serve our neighbors.**

**Interested in donating supplies or volunteering with the Mercy Van?**

Please email Tony Cannava, MRC Coordinator, at [Anthony.cannava@ccda.net](mailto:Anthony.cannava@ccda.net) or call 703-479-2975 x106.

# PARTNERING WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Continued from page 5

## Catholic Charities Partners with St. John Bosco & the Order of Malta to bring the “Mercy Van” to Rural Counties in Need



Tony Cannava, MRC Coordinator, unloads the Mercy Van to allow clients to pick the supplies they need.

select additional items needed for their home. Laundry detergent, paper towels, and toilet paper are the top requested items. Cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene and diapers are also in demand.

In the colder months, the Mercy Van also distributes winter coats, hats, gloves and socks. Clients have also seized on some irregular donations, like batteries and bug spray, that are needed but viewed as “luxury” items. Donations are provided by churches, Catholic schools and individuals in more urban areas of the diocese who organize a collection or simply donate on their own.

A generous grant from the Order of Malta is allowing the Mercy Van to bring these benefits to even more communities within the diocese. The Order of Malta Federal Association, USA has origins that date back to 1048 when a hospital for pilgrims was first run in the Holy Land. Today, the Knights and Dames are lay members, devoted to the exercise of Christian virtue

and charity. They are distinguished by their commitment to reaching their spiritual perfection within the Church and to expending their energies serving the poor and the sick.

In 2019, the Mercy Van expanded to Colonial Beach, where it serves residents of King George County from the parking lot of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church. In 2020, the Mobile Response Center is preparing to extend its services to a 3rd rural site. And, in 2019, the Mercy Van was also able to distribute goods to families that benefited from the Diocesan Work Camp.

The Mobile Response Center anticipates serving 1,200 individuals in a single year with these basic, non-food supplies. †

## Businesses Partnering with Catholic Charities and Giving Tuesday Success

# GIVING TUESDAY

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS BLESSED**  
with generous donors like many of you who provide critical funding for the vital, life-sustaining services we provide to our

clients. Each year we strive to reach more people and transform more lives. This would not be possible without support of our donors, partners in our mission.

This year we are especially grateful for Kevin and Linda Gaghan who, for a second year in a row, provided a matching gift for our Giving Tuesday efforts in November. Gaghan Mechanical, Inc. of Alexandria, VA graciously offered

to match each donation up to \$10,000, and we were thrilled to share that we far exceeded that challenge and set a new Giving Tuesday record in 2019.

The generosity of the Gaghan’s extended even further when they made an additional gift to Catholic Charities after seeing the outpouring of support we received on Giving Tuesday. We look forward to November 2020 when we can hopefully set a new Giving Tuesday record!

***Gaghan Mechanical, Inc. - Thank you for partnering with us to assist those in need! †***

**amazon**smile

### Want to make a Difference with Your Online Shopping?

When shopping on Amazon, visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington as our charitable organization of choice, and The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a percentage of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchase.



Liz

Dennis & Joanne

### 1. When did you get involved with Catholic Charities and why? Which program do you work the most closely with?

**Dennis:** I got involved about 15 years ago. The Pastor of St. Francis de Sales in Purcellville asked if I, as a Knight of Columbus, would assist in the collection of food from parishioners and deliver it to the food pantry in Leesburg. The Pantry Administrator eventually asked if I could come in and sort out the food when I delivered it. Eventually I even began bagging and distributing food to the hungry of Loudoun County.

I then started to help with the Emergency Assistance Program in Leesburg, doing intakes and awarding grants to those facing eviction or shut-off of utilities. Along the way, I saw the need for better tracking and reporting both food and Emergency Assistance statistics. I prepared an extensive Excel programs to that end. I do extensive reporting for the St. Lucy Food Project, I create and maintain reports for the Emergency Assistance program for both centers, and I work with staff and volunteers to order and distribute USDA food to the hungry, as well as pantry food received from the parishes.

### 2. Tell me about your background. How does it transfer to your volunteer role?

**Joanne:** My background was electric engineering, but my heart has always been in trying to answer God's call to be of service to others. Catholic Charities has been a blessing because it has helped me answer that call. When I asked God to show me my path or how I can use my gifts, his answer has always been: feed my lambs.

**Liz:** For almost 30 years, I worked for a federal agency (now known as the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) as a software programmer and system developer, eventually becoming a Program Manager for the development and delivery of computer systems to units of the Defense Department and Intelligence community. My experience as a manager has shown me that capturing and tracking information about an endeavor is essential to managing it well. During my time at Leesburg Regional Office, I have

collected client information while registering them for the pantry, populated this information into database systems, and retrieved that information in reports that help us characterize our clients and understand their use of the pantry.

### 3. What has been your favorite memory of your time volunteering so far? Can you share a short "success story" about a patient you treated?

**Joanne:** Shortly after I had lost my mother, a client had come in to shop at the pantry. He looked sad. I asked he is he was OK and he told me that January was always a difficult time for him. It was the anniversary month of his losing his wife. We talked about grief and how God was there for us. When he left, he told me that he was glad that he came out today to shop at the pantry because he needed to talk to someone. He left with us both feeling better than before he arrived.

**Dennis:** I get the maximum satisfaction from seeing the tears of joy that clients offer when we have been able to help them. They are hungry and sometimes desperate, usually just needing a hand up not a hand out.

### 4. What do you find most rewarding about your time with Catholic Charities? What has surprised you most about your time with Catholic Charities?

**Joanne:** We have such amazing volunteers that are truly the face of Christ. It is through that interaction and conversation that my faith has been strengthened. They are today's witnesses of Christ to me and I am so blessed to be able to part of this amazing organization. There are many incredible stories that our volunteers have about their witness of God in their lives!! We have living saints among us.

**Liz:** It has surprised me to learn how many families living in Loudoun County are really in need of the pantry's assistance. I frequently bring up the pantry in parish meetings and I surprise many people who don't know this pantry exists or how desperately it is needed for many in Loudoun County. I know of at least two individuals who became pantry volunteers following these discussions.

### 5. What would you want someone, who may not yet be familiar with the services that Catholic Charities provides, to know about it?

**Liz:** I would like them to know that the pantry is open to anyone without regard to their income. Use of the pantry can help some families experiencing a short-term situation such as an unexpectedly large bill or temporary loss of job. Taking advantage of the pantry's support lets these families stretch their income to handle these unplanned situations and get back on their feet before they become homeless or destitute.

Often coming to the pantry is the first step in discovering what other services Catholic Charities provides. †

# Catholic Charities Ball Going Strong After 38 Years



**THE SOLD-OUT** 38th annual Catholic Charities Ball, held at the Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner, attracted more than 1,100 attendees and raised a record \$1.3 million to support 21 programs that serve vulnerable people throughout the diocese.

The festive event, founded by a committee of volunteers nearly 40 years ago, continues to be volunteer organized and attracts priests, parishioners and business people from throughout the diocese to raise funds to support people in need, from the far corners of the Northern Neck to Winchester in the west, Culpeper in central Virginia, to Arlington, in the heart of Northern Virginia.

“I am incredibly grateful for yet another successful Catholic Charities Ball, and for the sacrifices those in attendance made

to support the many Catholic Charities ministries which uplift the needy and vulnerable in our Diocese,” said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge. “It is inspiring to see so many people compelled to model Christ’s own love for us through their generosity and faith.

“I pledge my continued support for the Ball and pray that we only increase the number of people Catholic Charities serves in years to come,” he said.

The response to this year’s Ball was extraordinary, and your generosity will help us reach more people and transform more lives in the coming year. Please save the date for 2021 Catholic Charities Ball on February 5, 2021. We hope to see you there! †

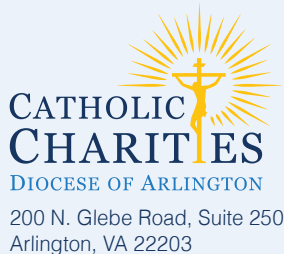
## ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

*Together, We’re Transforming Lives!*

21 programs across 21 Virginia counties and 7 cities

Serves all regardless of background, faith, or circumstance

85 cents of every dollar spent goes to programs and services



Visit our blog and sign up to receive weekly or monthly updates at [www.arlingtoncatholiccharities.com](http://www.arlingtoncatholiccharities.com)

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Our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 24770.