



THE MISSION

CATHOLIC CHARITIES • Diocese of Arlington

MARCH 2018

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



HELPING CLIENTS AVOID HOMELESSNESS

EA Senior Case Coordinator, Ruth Guillen (left), reviews a financial planning worksheet with a client who received rent assistance.

DO YOU WORRY ABOUT NOT BEING able to pay your rent or mortgage? Did you ever have to choose between food for your family and paying the electric bill? If so, then you understand the range of emotions for the families we serve through the Emergency Financial Assistance (EA) program. A program that transforms lives every day.

Consider Trisha (name changed), a single mother of two children (ages 12 and 17). While it wasn't always easy to make ends meet, she successfully created a stable life for her family. She had continuous employment for over 10 years and had been living in her apartment for three. *Then the unexpected happened.*

In the first week of April, Trisha had an accident and broke her arm. Her doctor recommended she stay home for three months to recover. Since she was the only source of income for the family, this wasn't an option. She went back to work after just five weeks, however that was long enough for her to fall

I am in tears right now. Thank you and your church family so much! You just don't know how much of a relief this is. I appreciate you so much and your lovely spirit. May GOD continue to bless you and your family.

– TRISHA, CCDA EA CLIENT

behind on her \$1,500/month rent during April, May, and June.

Making money again, she was able to pay the rent for April and June. Still owing \$1,500 for May, she received an eviction notice. At her hearing, the judge noted she was making a good-faith effort to pay what she owed and postponed the eviction. Even with another paycheck coming at the end of the week, Trisha would still come up short. **That's when**

INSIDE this ISSUE

04 Mother of Mercy
Free Medical Clinic

06 Award-Winning
Volunteers

07 Car Ministry:
Transformational
Transportation

GET SOCIAL

 @CCDArlington

 /CatholicCharitiesArlington

www.cdda.net

she reached out to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA) for help.

She was able to use \$800 from that check, found another agency to give her \$200, and CCDA provided the final \$500 to pay the outstanding rent. Because she was able to fulfill her obligation, the landlord agreed to waive the fines and late fees, too. This allowed our client and her family to stay in their home – a stable environment for Trisha's children to grow and thrive. ♥

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

At Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA), we meet people every day who face severe challenges and are often discouraged. Some wonder if God really cares about them. Our goal is to have a genuine encounter with them to reawaken and convincingly present the love that Christ has for them. And we are confident that our loving service in His name can transform their lives.

In this issue, you'll see for yourself these transformations over and over again. A client gaining hope by avoiding eviction through our Emergency Financial Assistance program. How a refugee from Ethiopia – and former client – was able to integrate into our culture and join the staff of CCDA's Migration and Refugee Services Program. A program he leads today.

On pages 4 and 5, you'll read how a quarter century of community prayer and an entrepreneurial spirit brought the transformation of an abortion clinic into becoming CCDA's Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic in Manassas to serve some of the more than 8,000 uninsured in that region.

We are blessed to have so many generous and dedicated volunteers (2,700+), and page 6 highlights the work of young attorneys who donate their professional talents to assist lawful permanent residents (i.e., "green card holders") who want to become American citizens. You will learn how a car is so much more than a car when donated by a parishioner and its recipient now can provide better for their families and pursue their dreams.

Finally, we recognize the tireless commitment of volunteers in our community who annually organize a celebration of the dignity of life, and the accumulations of resources through the Catholic Charities Ball so we can reach more people and transform more lives.

St. Paul says that we are transformed when our minds are renewed by Christ (Romans 12:2). Everyday our employees, volunteers, and clients are renewed and transformed by the love of God. 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.

God bless you this Lenten Season,



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

MOBILE RESPONSE CENTER



Catholic Charities staff and volunteers set up the van to distribute donated goods to families in need.

This past December, the St. John Bosco Outreach Center in Woodstock, Virginia welcomed the new Mobile Response Center to provide donated goods to the community.

MORE THAN 57 FAMILIES 
accepted hygienic kits, diapers, blankets, hats, scarves, and other necessary household items.

For those struggling to make ends meet and provide for their families, items such as shampoo, laundry detergent, or diapers can become costly. CCDA has partnered with parishes to bring these items to those in need who live in rural parts of our diocese.

Parishioners at Blessed Sacrament, Queen of Apostles, St. Ann, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Francis de Sales, St. Luke, and St. Mark – to name a few – have collected donations to assist the Mobile Response Center.

If you or your parish would like to donate, please contact Sally O'Dwyer at sodwyer@ccda.net.

From Client to Program Director

BY ZOEY MARAIST

IN HIS NATIVE ETHIOPIA, Belayneh Loppisso was used to being on the other side of the table. For years he worked with local governments and non-governmental organizations to help people, whether it be preparing for disasters or resolving conflicts. During the Ethiopian-Eritrean War in the early 2000s, he helped resettle those who had lost their property or whose family members had died.

In 2004, Loppisso himself applied for political asylum while visiting his brother-in-law in the United States. (Refugees apply for refuge while outside of the country they wish to emigrate to; asylees apply while within that country.)

Several months after he was granted asylum, Loppisso was given the names of two resettlement agencies to call. He assumed he would go to the organization that served Ethiopians. **But Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA) answered his call on the first try.** They helped him get his driver's license and learn how to apply for jobs.

Starting out, he worked at Target, then as a security guard — jobs with which he had little experience. “It was a frustrating moment for me who had been doing office work, but I also understood that to bring my family and to survive here, I had to work. Making that balance was really difficult,” he said. To afford an apartment, he worked two jobs. **“I was sleeping three hours per day running between (them),”** he said.

After a year, his wife and two children were able to join him in the United States. He brought his children to CCDA to enroll them in programs for refugee children. His wife started English lessons. “All of us were clients,” he said.



Belayneh Loppisso (left) and Brooke Hammond-Pérez, director of newcomer services, speak with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge during a recent visit to the CCDA Migration and Refugee Services office. Photo credit – Courtesy of Natalie J. Plumb

In 2006, CCDA was looking for a part-time case manager, specifically someone who spoke Amharic to work with other incoming Ethiopians. Loppisso applied and has worked there ever since.

Now Loppisso, who attends McLean Bible Church, is the program director of Migration and Refugee Services. “It means a lot,” he said. **“Every day I see myself and my family in this office.** When I meet a client, it’s easy just to share your experience. It might be hard for a few months, (but) then you’ll find out the way you can survive here.

“It looks like a small office, but **it’s really changing the lives of a lot of people,**” said Loppisso. Every year, CCDA’s Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) serves 600

“When I meet a client, it’s easy just to share your experience.”

– BELAYNEH LOPPISSO

new refugees, and hundreds more who have been in the United States longer with employment placement, medical referrals, and other wrap-around services.

“When I see refugee children, I always remember my kids. If I see someone who’s struggling with the language, it reminds me of my wife,” he said. “It gives me energy every day. And really, it’s a pleasure.” ♥

Bishop Burbidge Blesses New Medical Clinic

BY ZOEY MARAIST



Bishop Michael F. Burbidge blesses the new Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic in Manassas on the first World Day of the Poor, November 19, 2017. Photo credit - Joe Cashwell

IF YOU LIVE IN MANASSAS PARK OR Manassas, you have a one-in-six chance of lacking health insurance. In fact, that's the highest rate of uninsured across the more than 6,500 square miles that Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA) serves. Without insurance, even the most basic medical care is unattainable.

On World Day of the Poor, November 19, 2017, when Bishop Michael F. Burbidge blessed the new Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic, CCDA took the first step to **fill the gap for an estimated 8,000 uninsured individuals in need of medical services.**

“What an incredible deed this is,” he said before sprinkling holy water throughout the facility. “We want to entrust this building to God’s protection and care. All those who come through these doors, we want them to experience not only good medical care

and attention, but compassion and the love of Christ.”

Many local clergy and volunteers who will run the clinic were present at the blessing, including Deacon Scott Ross, M.D., a physician with Novant Health and parishioner of Holy Trinity Church in Gainesville, who serves as medical director.

The facility opened for patients December 6, 2017, and provides general medical care, said Deacon Ross. If a patient needs surgery, an X-ray, gynecological services or any other specialty, the clinic knows other doctors they can contact. “It’s truly a blessing,” he said.

“I see lots of people coming here,” said Father Juan A. Puigbó, parochial vicar of All Saints with special care of St. Gabriel Mission in Manassas Park. “Those immigrants who are new to the area who

are looking not only for medical care but for a human touch that comes from God to tell them they are protected, they are going to be ok.”

The clinic will serve as a safety net for individuals and families, improve public health for the common good, as well as seek to prevent emergency room visits for routine medical events. By addressing this vital need, CCDA seeks to help our clients avoid becoming financially overwhelmed with medical costs and slip – or fall deeper – into poverty.

Often, those seeking basic health care have multiple needs as well. CCDA will leverage its established programs and services to provide further support such as food assistance, mental health counseling, pregnancy or adoption support services, emergency financial assistance, and more. This continuum of care framework will bring all the resources to the client and help ensure best possible outcomes. (See More than Just Medical Care on the following page.)

The Mother of Mercy of Mercy Free Medical Clinic operates in a location that was once the site of an abortion provider due to the efforts of a group of Catholics who purchased the facility with the plan that the abortion clinic would cease operations.

“Lots of these people that are going to come to the free clinic were praying on the street for the former clinic to go away,” Father Puigbó said. “And people didn’t know this was going to happen. This is all God’s grace coming into perfect order.” ♥

Novant Health UVA Health System Prince William Medical Center is the leading health system partner and provider for the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic.

More than Just Medical Care

BY ALEXANDRA LUEVANO, BSN, RN, CCM



Volunteer Medical Director Dr. Scott Ross, and Deacon at Holy Trinity Church in Gainesville, examines a patient who was there for a follow-up visit after breaking several ribs in a fall at a homeless encampment. Photo by Cal Cary

THE MOTHER OF MERCY FREE Medical Clinic serves patients by meeting more than just their medical needs. In addition to providing medical treatment, the staff and volunteers support each patient holistically. In doing so, the clinic has served as a portal of entry to the other services provided by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA) and the Catholic Diocese of Arlington (CDA).

Since its opening on December 6, 2017, the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic **has served 122 patients and provided referrals to more than 200 clients** with complicated needs and financial struggles. In providing this care, the clinic has helped many hypertensive and diabetic clients start taking control of their health with a combination of medications and diet education provided by All Saints Parishioner and dietitian Ann Geiran.

A pregnant woman who CCDA provided with medical care was in need of housing, and was interested in making an adoption plan. Learning of her circumstances, she was referred to the CCDA Pregnancy

and Adoption Support Program, which is working with her to get prenatal care and housing. The St. Lucy Food Project provided food and diapers for another patient who is a single mother with an infant and a four-year-old.

Operating in a location that was once an abortion clinic, the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic retained the same phone number out of a desire to help women who find themselves in desperate circumstances. Several have called seeking the former clinic and, in these cases, CCDA has provided support and guidance, and helped women identify other areas in which they need care. In one case, the clinic partnered with CDA's Gabriel Project to provide a woman with continued assistance.

These are just some examples of how **CCDA shows Christ's love by bringing transformative services to those most in need** in our diocese. All this has been made possible through God's grace and the wonderful hearts of all of you who donate time, talent, and treasure to see God's plan put into action. ♥

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



To continue serving those who seek medical care, the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic has a continued need for volunteers including:

- **Physicians;**
- **Nurses;**
- **Social Workers; and**
- **Receptionists.**

Physicians, particularly specialists, who are willing to see patients in their office for no cost are needed so that we may refer patients who require further care than the clinic can offer.

Also, Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic is in great need of prayers from Prayer Warriors who donate one hour a week to pray for the clinic and its clients' intentions. To register you or your family, go to volunteer.cdda.net and search for the phrase "Prayer Warrior."

FOR MORE INFORMATION
on referring clients, donating resources,
and referring health providers and others
to volunteer, please contact Alexandra
Luevano at aluevano@cdda.net.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteers assist lawful permanent residents (“green card holders”) complete the application and other forms required to become American citizens at a recent naturalization workshop.

Award-Winning Volunteers!

THE VIRGINIA STATE BAR YOUNG Lawyers Conference received a **national public service award for its partnership with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA)**. Since 2015, the Immigrant Outreach Committee of the Conference has provided pro bono support at naturalization workshops hosted by CCDA’s Hogar Immigrant Services.

Held eight times a year, Hogar staff and volunteers assist lawful permanent residents (i.e., “green card holders”) who want to become American citizens. Clients receive legal consultation and assistance with their application, which takes all day to complete.

The Immigrant Outreach Committee provides continuing legal education for young lawyers and meaningful pro bono opportunities in their local communities. “The training and support we received from Hogar staff attorneys was outstanding . . . making this workshop accessible to anyone who wanted to serve . . . regardless of prior experience,” one pro bono attorney said.

“The training and support we received from Hogar staff attorneys was outstanding . . .”

– PRO BONO ATTORNEY

With the support of the Young Lawyers Conference, Hogar has increased its capacity to help more people become U.S. citizens. In the past year, **CCDA welcomed 432 new American citizens** who passed the naturalization exam and either received legal consultation services or citizenship instruction through Hogar.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of CCDA and make it possible for us to touch nearly 100,000 lives every year. To donate your time and talent to help us deliver essential, life-sustaining services across our 17 programs, visit volunteer.cdda.net and explore the many opportunities to help transform lives. ♥

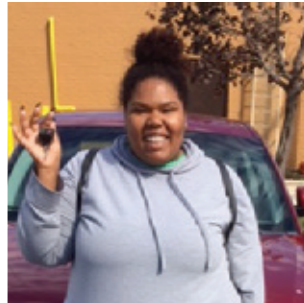
Did You Know?

CCDA has 125 employees and nearly 3,000 active volunteers?

That’s 24 volunteers for every one staff person!

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT – CAR MINISTRY

Transportation is Transformational



Main Photo: These sisters are all smiles standing in front of their family's donated minivan knowing it will help them get to and from school and activities.

Bottom row from left to right: Working father receives a van to help provide transportation for his family; Mother of three receives a car to take her children to school and go to work; Single mother of three can now go to school and work to better provide for her family.

WHEN ASKED WHAT HER ACADEMIC goals were, the mother of three (pictured in photo 3), responded firmly, “Become a doctor.” She went on to explain that once she finished her prerequisite courses she would be applying to various medical schools in the area, including Johns Hopkins. Currently, she’s working in the medical industry while supporting her three children and going to school. The determination and joy-filled presence that this mother shared with our Car Ministry volunteers is reflective of the light of Christ in every person we serve.

Our “Cars for Families” Car Ministry program provides working cars to families who demonstrate a need for transportation. So far this fiscal year, that began July 1, 2017, we have given 32 cars to families in need. Cars are also given to seminarians and recently resettled families in our Migration and Refugee Services program. CCDA Car Ministry also accepts donated non-running vehicles that are sold at auction with the proceeds supporting CCDA programs. ♥

CAR MINISTRY PROGRAM



Below are parish communities who have participated in the Car Ministry program. Please let us know if you have donated a vehicle and your parish is not here so we can add it to our list of growing partners!

- Basilica of St. Mary
- Christ the Redeemer
- Church of the Nativity
- Holy Spirit
- Holy Trinity, Gainesville
- Holy Trinity, D.C.
- Our Lady of Angels
- Our Lady of the Blue Ridge
- Our Lady of Good Counsel
- Our Lady of Victory, D.C.
- Our Lady Queen of Peace
- Queen of Apostles
- St. Ann
- St. Bernadette
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton
- St. Francis - Triangle
- St. James
- St. John Neumann
- St. John the Apostle
- St. John the Beloved
- St. Katherine Drexel
- St. Louis
- St. Luke
- St. Mark
- St. Mary of Sorrows
- St. Phillips
- St. Raymond
- St. Thomas à Becket
- St. Timothy
- Ft. Myer Army Chapel

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Celebrating Our 36th Annual Ball



Catholic Charities Ball

FAITHFUL SERVANTS • GRATEFUL HEARTS



ON FEBRUARY 2, 2018, THE 36TH Catholic Charities Ball Faithful Servants – Grateful Hearts, provided a sparkling evening of elegant fare, entertainment and esprit de corps while providing more than \$1,100,000 in essential program funding. The Ball was organized by more than 75 dedicated volunteers and staff, and led by **Ball Advisory Chairs, Mrs. Mary Beth Carroll and Ms. Julie F. Theobald. Special Gifts Chairs were Mr. George Forrester III, and his wife Mary Anne.**

Distinguished nuclear physicist and business executive **Dr. Joseph V. Braddock** and his wife **Bertha** served as **Honorary Chairs**. Long-time supporters of Catholic Charities and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Braddocks are generous and prolific philanthropists. **“I have received [God’s blessings] . . . a thousand times,” says Bertha.**

“The spectrum of things that Catholic Charities does for people, people of all walks,” adds Joe, “. . . really brings life to

the word ‘charity.’ ***It’s an honor to be here . . . with Catholic Charities.***”

Dr. Robert P. and Mary Ann Nirschl received the **James J. Matthews Legacy Award** in recognition for their long-time commitment to the success of the Ball. In 1989, Mary Ann was the Special Gifts Coordinator then served as Ball Chair in 1990. They have supported the Ball every year since, inspiring like-minded leaders to join them in advancing the work of Catholic Charities across its 21-county service area. ♥

Photos from left to right: **1.** Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, and Art Bennett, CCDA President & CEO, recognize Dr. Joseph (not pictured) and Mrs. Bertha Braddock as Honorary Ball Chairs; **2.** Bishop Michael F. Burbidge and Art Bennett present the James J. Matthews Legacy Award to Dr. Robert and Mrs. Mary Ann Nirschl; **3.** Reverend Lee R. Roos, Pastor of All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, accepts the Bishop Paul Stephen Loverde Legacy Award on behalf of the parish, congregants, and its entire community; **4.** Bishop Michael F. Burbidge delivers welcoming remarks at the Young Adult Soiree, which sold out in just its second year. Photos courtesy of Jenifer Morris Photography

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

200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 250
Arlington, VA 22203

Visit our blog and sign up to receive weekly or monthly updates at
www.arlingtoncatholiccharities.com



Follow us @CCDArlington



Like us at /CatholicCharitiesArlington

Our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 24770.