

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. Go to www.cdda.net for frequent updates about how our programs, volunteer and donor needs are evolving due to the pandemic and its consequences.



Christ House volunteer coordinator Sr. Aniliza P. Juan, SNDS, packs food in the Christ House pantry.

Catholic Charities' Pandemic Response Requires Rapid Transformation to Safely Serve

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC reached Virginia in March and Catholic Charities rapidly transformed operations to continue serving vulnerable people in our diocese. Across the board we modified services, implementing Centers for Disease Control and other public health guidelines. We quickly employed social distancing, masks, and cleaning and disinfecting techniques.

We found ways to serve those in need by phone, digital platforms such as video conferencing platforms, or secure sites for telemedicine or teletherapy.

And where in-person service is necessary, we're doing so safely: the increasing

number of individuals and families who need emergency assistance for rent, utilities, or other critical needs can talk with one of our case workers over the phone. Those who need food can safely visit our food pantries at Christ House, Alexandria, the Leesburg Regional Office, and Loaves and Fishes, in Front Royal. We also support more than 60 food pantries through the St. Lucy Project.

The carryout Evening Meal at Christ House continues each day, thanks to 45 parishes or community groups who provide it.

Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinics in Manassas and Woodbridge (which opened

INSIDE this ISSUE

03 Assistance Keeping Families in Their Homes

04 Blessed Sacrament Comes to Mother of Mercy Clinic in Manassas

05 Webinar Offers COVID Help to Hispanic Community

GET SOCIAL

www.cdda.net

 CCDARlington
 catholiccharitiescda
 CatholicCharitiesArlington

"I received the money today. Thank you so much for the help. We haven't had money to buy food for our family since the pandemic started. I was finally able to go buy some groceries."

A CLIENT FROM PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

in April) provide most medical care via telemedicine, but the Manassas clinic still sees in person pregnant patients and those needing coronavirus testing or other tests. †

President's Message

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

St. Paul was never one to mince words and he tells us that nothing "...will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:39). And that includes pandemics. So, it's never been a question of whether we should lovingly serve the needy and the expanding desolate through this crisis. The only questions were whether we could do so *safely*, and would we have the *resources* to fulfill our mission.

Safety was a challenge because we are a face-to-face organization meeting people where they are and in a respectful encounter. You'll read how we served by shifting to online interventions, telemedicine, teletherapy, phone calls, drop offs and pick-ups. You'll read about the creative challenges to keep our clients, volunteers and staff safe so we could serve our needy brothers and sisters.

There was also the challenge of resources: would our supporters and the faithful support us during this expanded time of need? But when we're all part of the Mystical Body of Christ the answer is "of course." God has provided and so have you. Read about our partnerships with parishes and donors, and grants and contracts that gave us the resources to resuscitate those in crisis. We have all of you to thank for keeping the faith and charity of Catholic Charities alive and thriving during this pandemic. God bless you and enjoy these stories of faith in action.

God Bless You,



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

Nothing... "will be able to separate you from the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 8:39)

Strive to be a Gift

Dear Friends,

The Prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper includes a remarkable statement. Jesus asks the Father to protect and guard us. He then says "They belonged to you, and you gave them to me. *They are your gift to me.*" John 17:24.

We probably do not think of ourselves as a gift to Jesus. Jesus is certainly a gift to us. He is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior who shepherds and cares for us. But Jesus says, "*They are your gift to me.*"

What kind of gift am I? A white elephant gift that is a left over? A gag gift? Some gifts have little thought behind them. We are all sinners. We sometimes fail to show our appreciation for God. We might think....I am not a gift.

And yet Jesus sees each and every one of us as a gift from the Father to cherish and nurture. He loves us with our flaws and imperfections. That is such a powerful expression of Christ's love for us. He prays that we be one in our love for one another just as He has loved us. He thanks the Father for us: "*They are your gift to me.*"

Our support of Catholic Charities in this difficult time is certainly a gift and answer to prayer for those in need of food, counseling, shelter, rent and utilities assistance, health care, immigration and refugee resettlement, and support for pregnant mothers. Our sacrificial gifts bring light to the darkness of our world.

Today, rejoice in the fact that Jesus sees you and me as a gift.infinitely more lasting than a shiny package on Christmas morning, as precious as a parent holding a newborn child. A gift! Let us give thanks for our blessings and share them with our poor sisters and brothers served by Catholic Charities. ***Today, strive to be a gift that brings joy and hope to all.***

Blessings,



FATHER ROBERT CILINSKI
Episcopal Vicar for
Charitable Works

We're Helping More Families Avoid Homelessness Through Emergency Assistance



Christ House Thrift Store Manager Deb Biddle, behind the desk, and volunteer Deanna Nash serve safely at Christ House, Alexandria.

A CAR REPAIR, MEDICAL BILL, or the loss of a family member can plunge a relatively stable family into a precarious situation. Each year, Catholic Charities helps about 300 households with rent and another 230 households with utility assistance.

The coronavirus pandemic and subsequent stay-at-home orders, office closures and loss of jobs threw previous numbers out the window. By the end of April, our staff had already served a typical year's worth of households, with another two months left in the fiscal year. A family we helped offered her thanks:

*You are my Little Angel...
A thousand, thousand thanks...
I hope very soon to have a job
and be able to invite you to eat
Peruvian food!!!*

A December 2019 study by GoBankingRates.com* about the saving habits of U.S. adults found that 69% of

households were financially vulnerable. Approximately 24% of adults had savings less than \$1,000; a shocking 45% of adults had no savings at all. Some 33% of adults stated they lived paycheck to paycheck. When the pandemic hit, these vulnerable households had no financial resilience. They were immediately in trouble.

That data has played out repeatedly in calls to Catholic Charities. Before the pandemic, many callers had managed to keep their heads above water, such as one family, with two working adults and two small children. The wife earned \$10/hour working at a deli while her husband who worked in construction brought home up to \$800/week, with overtime. They paid rent, utilities, a car payment and other expenses on time. When COVID-19 hit, the deli closed. Then, the husband's hours were reduced as the construction crew was limited to 10 workers due to social distancing. For the first time, they were in need, with

→ continued on page 5

More People Served Through Loudoun Partnerships

The Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties did not sit idly by when the coronavirus came to Loudoun. Straightaway, they set up the Community Emergency Relief Fund to solicit donations. Visit Loudoun, which promotes the tourism and hospitality industries, was equally concerned. They organized a separate fund, and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce challenged its members to further support the tourism and hospitality workforce.

The results were amazing. To date, these efforts have raised over \$300,000 in rental assistance. Applicants to the fund must demonstrate a loss of wages due to COVID-19.

To help move the money from the foundation into the hands of those in need, the Community Foundation approached Catholic Charities and Loudoun Cares to set up the distribution. With years of partnership between them, Catholic Charities and Loudoun Cares happily joined forces. The COVID-19 Emergency Fund and Helpline was established so callers would have a single number to call for help. Bilingual staff are available to answer calls, and a language line is also available when needed.

To apply for assistance,
call the COVID-19 Helpline
at 703-669-5040.

*<https://www.gobankingrates.com/saving-money/savings-advice/americans-have-less-than-1000-in-savings/>

Bishop Burbidge Blesses Tabernacle, Chapel at Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic, Manassas



Clinic Director Alexandra Luevano asked Bishop Burbidge for a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament.

TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS AFTER BISHOP BURBIDGE blessed the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic in Manassas – which is located in a space that was once an abortion clinic – he returned to bless the clinic’s chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament has been placed in a tabernacle.

Bringing the tabernacle to the clinic chapel, where staff, volunteers and patients regularly pray, was a labor of love for Clinic Director Alexandra Luevano, who received the permission from Bishop Burbidge to begin the project in January 2019 when he blessed the clinic’s ultrasound equipment, a donation from the Knights of Columbus, allowing it to begin prenatal care.

With the support of Rev. Lee Roos, pastor of All Saints Catholic Church, in which parish the clinic resides, parochial vicar Father Mauricio Pineda and two anonymous donors took on the project of setting up the tabernacle for the Blessed Sacrament and including statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph flanking it.

“Spiritual healing is even more important than physical healing and having Christ truly present at the clinic provides a sanctuary to fulfill this deeper need in all of us,”

**– ALEXANDRA LUEVANO,
CLINIC DIRECTOR**

“Spiritual healing is even more important than physical healing and having Christ truly present at the clinic provides a sanctuary to fulfill this deeper need in all of us,” said Luevano.

The blessing event was originally scheduled for early spring. It took place June 9, and was the first opportunity for Bishop Burbidge to bless the tabernacle

since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and stay-at-home orders.

During the pandemic, the Manassas clinic continued to serve patients, an “easy decision,” according to Luevano. “God has allowed us to continue to serve our clients, not only by seeing our pregnant patients for care at the clinic, providing COVID-19 testing, and education, but also being able to provide telehealth to our other clients to avoid any gap in care.”

“Right now, the people we serve, largely patients from Hispanic community, are the most affected with the virus, but also lack of employment or source of income. We are helping our clients understand how they can be healthy and in turn help and protect others,” she said. Mother of Mercy is working to provide vital information, as are other Catholic Charities programs, including a recent Spanish language webinar on the coronavirus.

In mid-April Catholic Charities opened the second Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic in Woodbridge. Bishop Burbidge will bless that clinic on July 24. Both clinics rely on volunteer medical doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to operate. †



Volunteer!

To volunteer at the clinic, contact volunteer.clinic@ccda.net.

Webinar Offers Hispanic Community COVID-19 Help in Spanish

MORE THAN 170 PEOPLE participated in Catholic Charities Education and Workforce Development's first Spanish language webinar La Vida Durante La Pandemia COVID-19 to explore the impact of COVID-19 on the Hispanic community, which has been particularly hard hit by the virus.

“Offering data, best practices, prayers, and our services is a way we can assist those hit disproportionately hard during these uncertain times.”

– PRESIDENT/CEO,
ART BENNETT

The webinar explored preventing the virus's spread and multiple issues arising from its impact. Experts offered medical information; guidance on mental, emotional, and spiritual health; and legal information for immigrants.

“We're working to ensure our resources go to where need exists,” said President and CEO Art Bennett. “Offering data, best practices, prayers, and our services is a way we can assist those hit disproportionately hard during these uncertain times.”

Presenters were: Ivette Valenzuela-Yu, PhD, MPH, nurse practitioner, professor, and Catholic Charities Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic volunteer; Cristina Melendez, Catholic Charities mental health clinician; Fr. Juan Puigbo, St. Gabriel Catholic Mission, Manassas Park; and Stacy Jones, Program Director,



Fr. Juan Puigbo, St. Gabriel Catholic Mission, Manassas Park, spoke about spiritual issues arising from the pandemic.

Catholic Charities Hogar Immigrant Services, Legal. Diana Round, Education and Workforce Development's Education Services Supervisor, moderated. †

FOR MORE INFORMATION, go to <https://www.cdda.net/need-help/immigrants-and-refugees/workforce-training>

Continued from page 3

We're Helping More Families Avoid Homelessness Through Emergency Assistance

no idea what to do. Our Emergency Assistance provided rental assistance to ensure they kept their roof over their heads, and information and referrals to a local food pantry and other financial resources.

Thank you so much again, for all of your assistance. Please stay safe and healthy, as well. May God bless you, family and staff at Catholic Charities.

As Virginia continues re-opening, retail establishments, restaurants,

other venues are slowly beginning to welcome back customers and add jobs. But it won't be an easy or quick fix for many of our families. Twenty percent of our callers have reduced wages, but still had some income. A staggering 71.5% of families who called our Loudoun Regional Office emergency assistance program have no income at all. The good news? More than a third of our callers were furloughed, meaning they will likely have a job to return to. The bad news? Close to four in 10 of our callers lost their jobs entirely. These families will continue to need prayer,

“God is so good to those in need!”

– MARY, CASE WORKER

support and our financial resources. Catholic Charities is committed to walking alongside our families and assisting them through these challenging times.

As our case worker, Mary, encouraged her colleagues, “God is so good to those in need!” †

Parishes, Businesses and Others of Goodwill Team Up to Feed Hungry During COVID-19



Mobile Response Center Director Tony Cannava and St. Lucy Food Project volunteer Robert James unpack boxes of food at Christ House, Alexandria.

WHILE GRIPPING OUR COMMUNITIES with sickness and a heavy economic toll on people's livelihoods, the coronavirus pandemic also put on full display the generosity of local parishes, businesses and the wider faith community, all working together to meet the most pressing need of families we serve: the need for food.

So many of our parishes and donors have leaned into this heavy challenge. Among those are Keany Produce, a local family-owned food distribution company.

Beginning in mid-April Keany partnered with Good Shepherd Church, Alexandria to raise almost \$100,000 to benefit Catholic Charities St. Lucy Food Project, which provides food to more than 60 parishes throughout the Diocese of Arlington. The Keany family matched

almost \$50,000 in contributions from Good Shepherd parishioners and neighbors who bought \$30 boxes of produce for St. Lucy as part of the company's "pay-it forward" program.

The success of the program surprised even its creators.

"It's through social media that this thing happened, and the success is really astounding," said Ted Keany,



A man deposits his food donation at the Friday no-contact drive thru food drive at St. Bernadette Catholic Church.

"It's astounding. We're honored to be part of this effort and to be able to serve people in need during this time."

– TED KEANY, VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

vice president of sales and a Good Shepherd parishioner. “It’s astounding. We’re honored to be part of this effort and to be able to serve people in need during this time.”

From Salt Lake City headquarters the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints twice shipped out tractor trailer loads of food to St. Lucy’s Manassas warehouse: about 35,000 pounds in early April, and another 40,000 pounds six weeks later.



Tony Cannava moves food boxes at the St. Lucy warehouse.

Responding to a special request from the Virginia Council of the Knights of Columbus the international order of the Knights of Columbus provided St. Lucy a \$25,000 grant that will enable it to continue to deliver food throughout the Diocese.

And soon after Easter, parishes throughout the diocese signed up to host mask-wearing, parishioner-led Friday no-contact drive thru food drives in their parish parking lots. Each drive collected between 5,000 and 7,000 pounds of food, with two parishes – St. Joseph of Herndon and St. Bernadette – coming up as two of St. Lucy’s “heavy hitters”. †



St. James Catholic Church volunteers assist at a Friday no-contact drive through food drive.

Top Requested Items

Help us provide these household items to neighbors in need through our Mercy Van (Mobile Response Center)

- Personal hygiene items
(no travel sizes, please) including:
 - soap
 - shampoo
 - toothbrush
 - toothpaste
- Laundry detergent
- Disinfecting wipes

- Hand soap
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Masks

- ★ Items can be dropped off at the St. Lucy Project Food warehouse at 8426 Kao Circle, Manassas, 20110



For any questions: email MRC@ccda.net or call 703-479-2975, ext. 107

amazon smile

Want to make a Difference with Your Online Shopping?

When shopping on Amazon, visit 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.

Mental Health Counseling Moves to Teletherapy, Expands Reach



Catholic Charities teletherapy sessions enable people who live in rural areas or have transportation issues to receive counseling.

LAST YEAR CATHOLIC CHARITIES provided mental health counseling to more than 1,100 clients at three Catholic Charities locations and 18 parish offices. But when the pandemic hit Northern Virginia this spring Family Services mental health staff knew they'd have to adjust quickly.

Within days, counseling services switched from in-person sessions to teletherapy, using a videoconferencing platform that is HIPAA compliant. Counselors discovered a side benefit

that Catholic Charities has been working to address: the new service delivery method offers greater accessibility to counselors throughout the diocese's 21 counties and seven cities.

"COVID-19 pushed us to swiftly implement plans we had developed to expand accessibility to our counseling services through teletherapy," said Clinical Services Director Dr. Michael Horne. "While we hoped to use teletherapy as a portion of our care, we are now able to use it for all our counseling until social distancing guidelines are relaxed."

The rapid transition allows Catholic Charities to continue serving current clients and expand reach to people living in rural areas of the diocese and those with transportation or childcare issues.

Catholic Charities clinicians include counselors, clinical social workers, and psychologists who are licensed or pursuing their licenses who specialize in treating children, teenagers or adults, and provide marriage and family therapy, and addiction or trauma counseling. Sessions are offered in English and Spanish.

Sliding-scale fees are available for those without health insurance or on limited care plans. [Learn more at **ccd.net**](https://www.ccdanet.org).

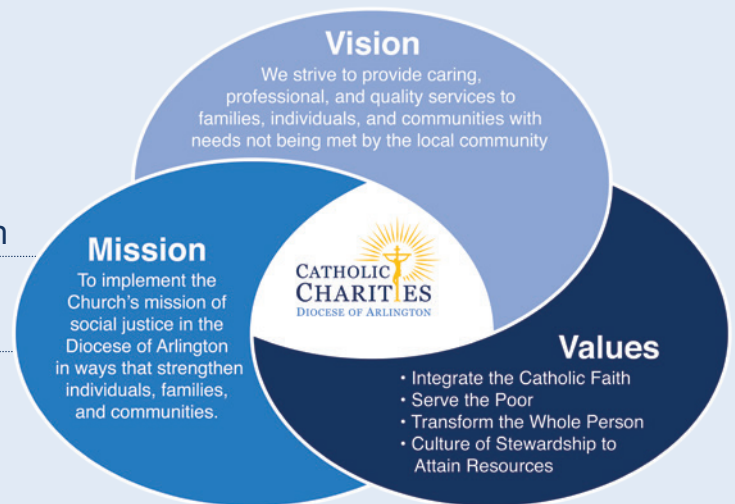
ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Together, We're Transforming Lives!

Serving our neighbors in need, regardless of faith

Covering 21 Virginia counties and 7 cities through 21 programs

Spending 85 cents of every dollar directly on programs that assist vulnerable men, women and families



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

Join Our Online
Community



Our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 24770.