



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Catholic Charities of  
the Diocese of Arlington  
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Arlington, VA 22203  
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### **25<sup>th</sup> Walk for Life Raises Funds for Mothers and Babies**



Jill and Lee Bender (left photo) bring their toddlers along for the ride at the 25<sup>th</sup> Walk for Life. Bishop Loverde (right photo) greets walkers (photos by Jeanne Spaeth).

“I am deeply proud that for all these years we have been gathering for life,” said Bishop Paul Loverde to participants in Catholic Charities’ 25<sup>th</sup> annual Walk for Life to raise funds for mothers and babies. He said that despite scientific and medical advances in recent years that “let us see at early stages that a human being is developing, not some tissue,” abortions continue. To promote a culture of life, he urged walkers to be “vigilant, pro-active, and involved” and committed to “prayer, penance, and knowing the facts, not myths.” He asked walkers to be ready to “explain the thinking of the Church and engage in persuasive dialog” and to “provide financial support to help women and children.”

The April 27 event grossed \$6,675 for crisis pregnancy counseling, medical assistance, foster care, and adoption services. More than 230 walkers followed a five-kilometer course at two different sites: Paul VI High School in Fairfax and Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria. Funds were raised through registration fees and contributions.

Catholic Charities’ Executive Director Stephen Luteran led the opening prayer: “In solidarity, let us come together to help those in need. We pray for mothers facing crisis pregnancies. We pray

that they realize that they are not alone, that people are waiting to help them. We also pray for fathers, foster parents, and adoptive parents.”

Linda Cullen, program director of Catholic Charities’ Children’s Services, which organizes the Walk each year, greeted walkers and reported that “since 1947, we have been involved in the placement of 2,726 children with their adoptive families.”

Walkers were treated to a picnic lunch while awards were announced. At Paul VI, the group with the largest number of youth walkers was Paul VI High School, and the group with the largest amount of donations was the Astorino family of St. Mary of Sorrows parish. At Fort Hunt Park, the group with the largest number of youth walkers was St. Joseph parish of Alexandria, the group with the largest amount of donations was St. Bernadette parish, the individual with the largest amount of sponsor money was Beverly Anderson of St. Joseph’s, and the group with the largest number of adult walkers was Good Shepherd parish.

More information about Children’s Services is available at 703-425-0100 or [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net).

**Photo Caption:** Jill and Lee Bender (left photo) bring their toddlers along for the ride at the 25<sup>th</sup> Walk for Life. Bishop Loverde (right photo) greets walkers (photos by Jeanne Spaeth).

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*Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington is a nonprofit social service agency that provides assistance through a soup kitchen/food pantry, emergency shelter, emergency assistance, counseling, foster care, services for the elderly, immigrant assistance, services for the disabled, crisis pregnancy counseling, adoption services, parish social ministry, and prison ministry. It was founded in 1947, is fully accredited, and serves twenty-one counties and seven independent cities in northern Virginia. More information is available at [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net). Catholic Charities helps those in need regardless of their race or creed.*