

Faithfully Serving through 20 Programs Across 21 Virginia Counties and 7 Cities!



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## St. Margaret of Cortona to Pilot Housing for Expectant Moms

**ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA** Transitional Housing Program has helped homeless families regain stability and move to permanent housing for the past 10 years. Over a 24-month period, professional staff dedicate their expertise in financial management, debt reduction, trauma counseling, spiritual growth and child development to providing our resident parents and their children with opportunities for growth and transformation.

Working with the homeless, our staff has been increasingly concerned about the need for housing for expectant mothers and the most vulnerable among us, the unborn child. Beginning this winter, St. Margaret will step up to the task by

piloting a new Maternity Home track which will expand upon our successful transitional program. St. Margaret's will offer expectant single mothers who find themselves homeless or at risk in hardship situations, maternity housing for the term of pregnancy plus 90 days.

The program will help first-time mothers as well as pregnant women who already have other children. Our Pregnancy and Adoption Services staff will offer pregnancy support and counseling. As the expectant mothers develop their post-birth and parenting plans, St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Housing may become a subsequent housing option for clients who are not prepared for permanent housing. †

### A Safe Haven for a Mom and Her Kids

Without St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Housing, Emma Grimes did not know where she would have turned. She moved into St. Margaret with her daughter Harmonie Ann, and soon afterwards her son Onyx-Azai was born.

"Who knows? I honestly can't answer that question. Maybe in a shelter possibly. I would have of course done my best not to be homeless. ... Living at St. Margaret has been a huge impact. They're helping me stay focused on my career paths and my goals. So we keep everything on the straight and narrow," said Grimes.

To watch Emma's story, see [arlingtondiocese.org/loveourmothers/emma](http://arlingtondiocese.org/loveourmothers/emma)

# President's Message

Dear Friends,

Christian living starts with a personal relationship with Christ, but it is lived in community. Our faith propels us to be a source of life and a support for those suffering. A spring of mercy.

That's the mission of Catholic Charities: to bring hope and the merciful love of Christ to the poor, neglected or despondent.

In this edition of the Mission you'll see this transformative love in action. Last year our Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic for adult men and women, located in offices that had once housed an abortion center, was further transformed when we added pre-natal care for mothers without insurance, thanks to our generous supporters. Within a few months at our St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Housing for homeless families we'll begin a pilot project that allows us to accept homeless pregnant women who otherwise would find no room at the inn.

You'll read about our Mobile Response Center – also known as the “Mercy Van” – heading out to our rural parishes, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Colonial Beach and St. John Bosco, Woodstock, bringing critical household supplies to families in dire need. This is the field hospital in action that Pope Francis talks about.

This is the season of the Incarnation! Let us all extend ourselves and make the Savior's love visible to all our neighbors through our charitable works for those most in need. We rely upon your help. Only with it can we, together, with God's grace, transform lives.



In Christ,



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

In 2019, your support of Catholic Charities has brought hope to those in greatest need...



**1.2 M**  
**pounds of food**  
given to the poor



**2,735**  
**people helped**  
with emergency  
assistance



**815**  
**uninsured**  
**patients**  
received a total of  
2,893 free medical visits



**9,727**  
**mental health**  
**counseling**  
**sessions**  
to 1,116 individuals  
(at 23 locations,  
18 of which are parishes)

With your continued support, imagine what we can do in 2020.

**Visit [ccda.net/donate](https://ccda.net/donate)**  
to make your year end gift now.

# Counseling with a Catholic Identity

ARTICLE BY ELIZABETH A. ELLIOTT | CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF WRITER

**T**HERE COMES A TIME IN MANY people’s lives when finding extra support through counseling can help them through a difficult time. Those who seek counseling and want to incorporate their Catholic faith have somewhere to turn — Catholic Charities Family Services.

“One of the biggest things that makes us different from secular agencies is that we have the freedom to bring our Catholic faith into the service if that’s what our client desires,” said Anne Devine, Family Services program director. “We specifically have the integration training, training clinicians on the integration of psychology, philosophy, and theology.”

Art Bennett, president and CEO of Catholic Charities, said counselors give advice congruent to Catholic teaching. “We believe the church teaching is the best for helping a human flourish,” he said. “Relationships with God and with other people are vital.”

Clients don’t need to be Catholic to find support. The program offers services to people of all faiths.

“We see this role as a ministry,” said Devine. “Some clients have a desire for faith to be involved in therapy, and if they don’t want it, we have to respect that. We can be a means of the Lord’s compassion and mercy.”

Counselors work with their clients who want to incorporate faith into their

sessions. “Some clients have wanted to start and end sessions in prayer,” said Devine. “Others want to know that if they talk about their faith it will be respected and understood.”

Some may turn to their priests when they have an issue, and Devine said priests are becoming much more aware of mental health issues. “We have amazing priests who are good at referring clients,” she said. “It’s beautiful because they are understanding their role as spiritual leaders and not as mental health providers.”

Family Services is moving its main offices from Arlington to Fairfax (3251 Old Lee Hwy. #402, Fairfax). “In line with the field hospital notion, we are putting offices out in the field closer to the parishes,” said Bennett. “We are in 18 parishes.”

This move offers more space and more clinicians, which Devine said is helping clear their waiting list. They also are closer to St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel Catholic Campus Ministry at George Mason University and are a mile from St. Leo the Great Church.

For people in Arlington there are services out of St. Charles Borromeo Church and St. Agnes Church, as well as an office at 80 N. Glebe Rd.

“The hope is we want to be able to serve the poor across the Diocese of Arlington. †

## Did You Know?

Family Services has a total of **23 locations** (of which 18 are parishes).

### Parishes with Catholic Charities Clinicians:

#### SOUTH REGION

- Fredericksburg – St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception campus
- St. William of York
- St. Matthew
- St. Francis of Assisi
- St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Holy Family
- St. Agnes
- St. Charles

#### NORTH REGION

- Queen of Apostles
- Good Shepherd
- Our Lady of Good Counsel
- Church of the Nativity
- All Saints
- Christ the Redeemer
- St. Francis de Sales
- St. Theresa
- St. John the Beloved



To find out more about our services, please call 540-371-1124 (for the South Region) or 703-425-0109 (for the North Region).



## Catholic Charities Honors Its Volunteers Who Enable Christ House to Live up to Its Name



Photo by Bridget O'Boyle

**I**N A WAY, DAISY FINNEY might be the last person one would expect to have volunteered to make and serve the evening meal at Catholic Charities Christ House 40 years ago. Daisy's husband of 20 years had just died young. Grieving, she was left with two teenage sons to raise and a full-time job working at Riggs National Bank.

"I kept hearing from the Lord "You need to give back! You need to give back!" Finney said Saturday, Nov. 2, at Catholic Charities lunch celebration held to honor volunteers who make possible the mission of Christ House. Each participant received a framed painting of Christ House, painted by Christ House resident.

Finney signed up to volunteer with fellow parishioners from the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. Each night before the group's shift, she made a meat loaf to serve to the homeless the next day. On serving day, she left her job two hours early to get to Christ House. Now remarried to Edward Finney, her husband of 17 years who joins her in volunteering, she's been doing it ever since.

"It was a satisfaction to me that I was serving God. We were a Catholic family serving God," Finney said.

Finney was one of more than 100 volunteers from diocesan parishes, other local houses of worship, and community groups who showed up, including Fr. Edward Hathaway, pastor of the Basilica of St. Mary, and Fr. Robert Cilinski, diocesan Vicar for Charitable Works and pastor of Nativity Parish, Burke.

Catholic Charities relies on these volunteers to make and serve the hot meal to the homeless and low-income 365 days a year at Christ House, 131 S. West Street, Alexandria. Christ House dispenses emergency assistance, providing rent, utility and other financial aid to people in need. It operates the clothing ministry and thrift store, with proceeds funneled back into the emergency assistance program. Catholic Charities also operates there the men's transitional housing program, where 14 homeless men are sheltered and receive counseling and mentoring, including resume building and assistance finding employment.

Forty years ago, as a newly ordained deacon, Fr. Cilinski served as acting director. He recalled an inebriated homeless man who knocked on the Christ House door at 3 a.m. Denied entry until he sobered up, he reminded then Deacon Cilinski the name on the sign. "It's not your house, it's Christ House, he told me. He was right," Fr. Cilinski said. "That has stuck with me throughout my ministry."

"It's really a soul-to-soul apostolate," said Basilica of St. Mary pastor Fr. Edward Hathaway. "Alexandria is different from a suburb where the poor are more hidden. We're confronted with the poverty of our neighbors who sometimes live side-by-side with those with plenty. We have where we can send those in need but also directly assist our neighbors."

Retired Marine Corps officer Scott Douglas, a leader in the Holy Spirit Catholic Church Men's Club, started volunteering with the group in 1991. They whip up 80-90 pounds of beef stew on the fourth Wednesday of every even numbered month and chili on the first Monday of the month.

"Why do we do it? I've never thought of that question. We do it because the Master calls us to serve," Douglas said. "And the men in our organization believe in that calling." †



Photo by Bridget O'Boyle

## Collaboration Brings Food to the Hungry in Alexandria

BY ZOEY MARAIST | CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF WRITER



Volunteers pass a box of food from the diocesan Catholic Charities St. Lucy Project truck to the ALIVE! truck outside Alexandria City Hall Photo credit: Zoey Maraist

**T**HE FOOD THAT WAS CAREFULLY PLUCKED OFF GROCERY store shelves and brought to parishes in blue St. Lucy Project bags found a home at the ALIVE! food warehouse in Alexandria.

Catholic Charities St. Lucy Project donated 131 boxes — 5,092 pounds of canned vegetables, fruits, baking goods and other food — to the ecumenical charity on Oct. 16. Members of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and other volunteers transferred the boxes from one truck to another in front of the Alexandria City Hall.

Among the many initiatives of ALIVE!, giving a week's worth of groceries to 475 families happens each month, said volunteer Dennis Warnke. "Unfortunately, there are a lot of hungry people who live in the City of Alexandria and we're serving quite a few of them, but there are a lot who aren't being served," said Warnke.

Vince Cannava, program director for the St. Lucy Project, said Catholic Charities is trying to increase the amount of food it provides to the city. "We have Christ House that has been giving out meals for 40 years to the homeless (but) this day is the first time that St. Lucy was able to provide a significant amount of food to Alexandria City," said Cannava. "There are approximately 15,500 people in Alexandria City who don't know where their next meal is coming from, and 3,400 of them are children." †

## Catholic Charities Offers Workshop for Aspiring Citizens



Rachelle Robertello, a paralegal volunteer, assists a client at Catholic Charities' citizenship day workshop in Alexandria Photo credit: Catholic Herald

**C**ATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON partnered with American Immigration Lawyers Association to host a citizenship day workshop, assisting more than 30 individuals to prepare and apply for U.S. citizenship in Alexandria Sept. 13.

“Each participant is a story of courage and hope.”  
 — ART BENNETT,  
 CATHOLIC CHARITIES PRESIDENT

“Catholic Charities’ and AILA’s partnership on this workshop helps men and women working, often at great personal cost to themselves and their families, to achieve the dream of U.S. citizenship,” said Art Bennett, Catholic Charities president and CEO. “Each participant is a story of courage and hope. Our mutual commitment to working with these immigrants demonstrates our respect for the dignity of each and every human person and a desire for them to flourish in our country.”

The workshop, which included consultation and application preparation for attendees, is one of approximately eight to ten workshops Catholic Charities offers annually.

You can visit our website: [ccda.net](http://ccda.net) to find out when our next workshop will be. †



# Meet Martha Goetzman

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BALL AND CAR MINISTRY VOLUNTEER



Julie Nirschl (left) and Martha Goetzman (right)

### 1. When did you get involved with Catholic Charities and why?

My connection to Catholic Charities runs very deep in my family. My mother and mother-in-law were part of the first Catholic Charities Ball back in 1982, and my husband and I have been attending for over twenty years. I became a Ball Committee member myself in the early years alongside my current Co-Chair, Julie Nirschl. My husband was also involved with Catholic Charities at that time, and he was part of the Special Gifts Committee.

My husband actually won our honeymoon to Acapulco at the Ball in 1985!

I then spent some time raising my family but we continued to attend the Ball. After my son graduated from college, I found myself wanting to get more involved and help out again. I wandered into Catholic Charities' Glebe Road office in 2013 and offered to help. Sally

O'Dwyer, in the Volunteer Office at the time, was looking for someone to help with the Car Ministry Program. I had no experience, but I was happy to help!

### 2. What do you do in your role for the Ball and for our Car Ministry Program?

This year, Julie Nirschl and myself are the Co-Chairs for the Catholic Charities Ball. We have a lot of history of working together in the past, so we were excited to take on this role with one another. We've had the chance to oversee the look and feel of this year's Ball. We want our focus to be simplicity and peace. A quote from Mother Teresa is on the invitation and really captures our approach: "Works of love are works of peace."

For my role with our Car Ministry Program, I field calls and emails and really try to work to get the message out about our Program. We often find that not many people know that we take both working and non-working cars as donations. And we now have three drop off and pick up locations to better meet the needs of our clients (Arlington, Fredericksburg, and Leesburg).

We use our website, the Catholic Herald and our parishes to try and spread this message and continue to get as many car donations as we have interested and qualified clients. Lately we have been lucky enough to be able to meet the need.

We primarily give our cars to working families who have children living at home. They are looking for a way to get to their jobs to provide a better life for their family. We get many internal referrals from St. Margaret of Cortona, MRS and even the Pregnancy and Adoption Support Program.

### 3. What do you find most rewarding about your time with Catholic Charities? Can you share any "success stories" about clients you have interacted with in the Car Ministry Program? What has been your favorite memory of your time volunteering with the Ball so far?

All our clients and donors are amazing. Their stories really inspire me. There was a refugee who was referred to us from Catholic Charities MRS who received a car from us many years ago. His goal was to make enough money that he could afford to get another car, so that he could then donate a vehicle back to us. And he did just that! He paid it forward and helped someone else.

We also had a mother of six who had a sick husband and she had to cut her work back to part time to be able to take care of everyone. I wanted to help her with more than just a car, so we had a few prayer shawls that we also were able to gift her. She wrote the kindest thank you note and sent a photo of all the children wearing the shawls. It really brightened my day that she took the time to do that.

A father was walking a couple of miles every night and then early in the

## CAR DONATIONS

### CONTACT

**Email:** cars@ccda.net

**Phone:** (main office) 703-841-3898  
Non-Working cars: 1-844-527-2232

### DROP-OFF AND PICK UP LOCATIONS

**Fredericksburg:**  
100 Riverside Parkway  
Suite 135  
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

**Leesburg:**  
(St. John the Apostle)  
101 Oakcrest Manor Dr NE  
Leesburg, VA 20176

**Arlington:**  
200 N Glebe Rd  
Suite 250  
Arlington VA, 22203



morning to and from his job at Kmart. He applied for a car because the winter months were coming, and he was worried about his children having to stand outside in the cold and wait for their bus to school. He never complained about his commute, he just selflessly was concerned for the wellbeing of his family.

The donors have had a lasting impact on me as well. It would surprise you how many of our donors invest the time and money into inspecting, cleaning, washing, detailing, and filling their cars with gas just to donate them. Some families are willing to go down to just one car in order to be able to donate their other vehicle.

One of my favorite parts of the Ball is the newer initiative for the young adults' reception. I think it is wonderful and so progressive. The turnout always amazes me.

My mother-in-law is so proud of how the Ball has grown and expanded and how many programs it supports. It has come a long way from when she started it. The Ball is a beautifully run event. The interaction between Catholic Charities and all the volunteers is very supportive.

4. Is there any information you'd like to share with others who may be considering volunteering with Catholic Charities or with the Car Ministry Program specifically?

If you are looking to get involved with Catholic Charities, contact Debra Beard at (703)841-3838 or [debra.beard@ccda](mailto:debra.beard@ccda). There are so many areas to volunteer in and so many locations. You can definitely find something that will work for you. Like my own experience, you don't need any specific background knowledge to be able to help. I absolutely love my time with Catholic Charities. The theme of this year's Ball and Christmas Collection really comes to mind, "With love and charity" because that is how the donors feel, and that is how the client feels. That is what it is all about. †

## CHRIST HOUSE

# Christ House Receives HomeAid Northern Virginia's Non-Profit Service Provider Project of the Year Award

CATHOLIC CHARITIES' CHRIST HOUSE was awarded the HomeAid Northern Virginia (HANV) Non-Profit Service Provider Project of the Year Award. HANV is a non-profit that builds and renovates local housing and shelter facilities. The award recognizes the successful completion of the renovations undertaken at Christ House through a partnership with HANV. It was awarded at HANV's 18th Annual Gala.

"The extensive renovations to Christ House, provided by HomeAid and its partner contractors, strengthened Catholic Charities' ability to best serve the local community for years to come," said Art Bennett, Catholic Charities President and CEO. The renovations coincide with other community support, such as the Basilica of St. Mary's donation last year of a new phone system at Christ House. "These kinds of partnerships demonstrate what true service is all about."

The \$83,000 renovation and upgrade was completed earlier this year. The top-to-bottom, three-floor facelift included upgrades to the kitchen, dining room, lobby, residents' rooms and bathrooms. Throughout the building, new flooring, vents, thermostats, electrical, and lighting were installed. Staff offices, meeting rooms, and a chapel were also freshened with new paint, flooring, lighting, and window treatments. †



**"In establishing His Kingdom, Jesus placed the poor at the center. How can we assist Him in serving those upon whom he has looked so tenderly? We can join in efforts, through our parishes and Catholic Charities, to serve those who are hungry or homeless, pregnant or alone, sick or elderly, prisoners or newcomers to our country. More simply, we can seek ways to encounter those who are poor through kind conversation or extending our hands to help."**

FROM BISHOP MICHAEL BURBIDGE'S  
WORLD DAY OF THE POOR LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL

*Tony Cannava, program director, gives Bishop Burbidge a tour of the Mercy (MRC) Van, which serves remote regions of the Diocese.*

# Catholic Charities Ball

## 2020

with LOVE and CHARITY

Friday, February 7, 2020 at 7pm, The Ritz- Carlton Tysons Corner, McLean, Virginia

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please visit: [ccda.net/ball](http://ccda.net/ball)



## Workplace Giving

Every day, Catholic Charities 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 Catholic Charities during this CFC campaign season.

The CFC also allows:

- You to pledge volunteer hours to help Catholic Charities 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!**

**CCDA's CFC number is #24770**

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## ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

*Together, We're Transforming Lives!*

20 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



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

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**[www.arlingtoncatholiccharities.com](http://www.arlingtoncatholiccharities.com)**

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**Our Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) number is 24770.**