

Serving all regardless of background, faith, or circumstance.



April is
National
Volunteer
Month

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www.cdda.net



Catholic Charities provides clothing to those in need year round

Living the beatitudes:
Clothing Closet provides apparel to our neighbors in need

MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, Catholic Charities transitioned its two-story thrift shop, one of several vintage retail stores for shoppers in Alexandria, to a free clothing closet for people in dire need of clothing for themselves and their families.

The new free clothing closet quickly became a valuable and much-requested community resource, serving well over 1,800 men, women and children in the past year.

It is through the clothing closet that Maria Guadalupe Magdaleno, a

Catholic Charities case coordinator, lives out Jesus's beatitude to clothe the naked. "Everything's so expensive and children grow out of things so fast," Maria said. People who are short on funds to pay for their rent struggle to find money to replenish their closets.

Maria has come to know by name the homeless men and women who are eligible to shop monthly. One man, to whom she had provided a jacket the previous month, came back for another. "I asked, 'what happened to your jacket?'" she said. "He said, 'it was stolen.'"

“I asked, ‘what happened to your jacket?’ He said, ‘it was stolen.’”

– MARIA GUADALUPE MAGDALENO

The clothing closet, located next to Catholic Charities Christ House in Old Town, serves people – many of them homeless – who live in the neighborhood, as well as women, men and families who are helped → *continued on page 2*

“Brothers and sisters, you represent the large and varied world of voluntary workers. You are among the most precious things the Church has, you who every day, often silently and unassumingly, give shape and visibility to mercy.”

-His Holiness, Pope Francis, September 3, 2016

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! He is risen!

In a serendipitous confluence, it is interesting to note that we will celebrate the first five weeks of the Easter season in April, which also happens to be National Volunteer month here in the United States. During this time, we give thanks to all the men and women who volunteer with us at Catholic Charities and help bring the love and consolation of our Risen Lord Jesus to thousands of people in need throughout our diocese.

In our most recent fiscal year, Catholic Charities served nearly 30,000 people. Our 185 dedicated employees could not have accomplished this feat without the support of more than 2,000 incredibly committed volunteers who, each day, *give shape and visibility* to mercy in so many varied and beautiful ways.

In the Gospel of Luke, we can see in the parable of the Good Samaritan the essence of what it means to be a volunteer, someone who sees the wounded in

our midst – the unemployed, the unhoused, the hungry, the displaced, the elderly, and so many others – and then puts his or her faith into action.

As we continue to celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection of Jesus, we invite you to join us in the calling of every Christian to “help bear one another’s burdens” (Gal 6:2). To become personally involved as a volunteer with Catholic Charities, please scan the QR code below or visit volunteer.ccca.net.

We are blessed by the presence and work of our volunteers and ask for your prayers for them, and for all the people we serve together.

Alleluia! He is Risen!



STEPHEN CARATTINI
President and CEO
Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Arlington



SCAN ME

Continued from page 1

Clothing Closet provides apparel to our neighbors in need

by Catholic Charities' many different ministries throughout the diocese.

“We just treat them with compassion, we treat them with respect, and we understand them,” Maria said of clothing closet visitors. “You get to know them. They are very grateful.”

Catholic Charities staff meets with men and women who come in search of clothing for themselves or their families. They are welcome to visit the closet once every quarter, something especially helpful to parents of growing children, or to those who need clothes for the changing season.

Visitors are offered 14 items per person in their household, including shirts,

pants, dresses, skirts, undergarments, outer garments, shoes, and more. The clothing closet is open Tuesdays from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. by appointment only for those in need of clothing. Donations can be made, by appointment, on Thursdays.

Volunteers are essential to help sort through clothing donations and hang or display the articles. If more volunteers become available, the ministry may expand hours of operation. “It’s been wildly successful,” said Sherri Longhill, director of Catholic Charities emergency assistance ministry. Clothing donations – for the current season only – are always needed. †

Doing some Spring cleaning? 

Here are the most-needed gently used items this time of year:

- Spring/summer clothing
- Light jackets
- Transitional clothing
- Shoes
- Purses
- Ties, belts
- Gently used backpacks and small rolling suitcases

To make an appointment to receive or drop off clothes, call 703-940-7505.



JOIN US
**Saturday,
June 8, 2024**

Bishop Burbidge invites you to the Diocesan Jubilee Fest at Warren County Fairgrounds in Front Royal, Virginia! Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Arlington with your parish family and thousands of faithful from across northern Virginia.

Schedule

3:45 p.m. Marian procession

4 p.m. Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbidge, concelebrated by priests of the Diocese

5-9:30 p.m. Festival fun

- On-site food and beverages available, including hot dogs & hamburgers, pupusas, tacos, ice cream, dessert trucks, wine, and more
- Amusement rides, inflatables, games, petting zoo
- Shop and mingle with local Catholic vendors
- Multicultural music and performances including a Trio, Salvadorian and Vietnamese dancing, and Korean drumming
- Live music featuring Jervis Campbell and Scythian
- Fireworks



Event is free, but registration is required.
Register and see full schedule at:
arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-fest



Happy National Volunteer Month

In March, **All Saints Catholic School** held their Bread of Life Food Drive. National Junior Honor Society students sorted and boxed the donations for the Catholic Charities St. Lucy Food Project and the parish's Bethany Food Pantry.

A Robe, Ring & Sandals

Clothing the naked is a corporal work of mercy. Jesus said, *I was naked and you clothed me, I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, homeless and you took me in, sick and imprisoned and you visited me.* Catholic Charities staff, volunteers, and donors do this every day in reaching out to those we serve. Through our Clothing Closet, we clothe the naked, providing needed items for all seasons.

In St. Luke's gospel we read about the prodigal son. He had lost everything through sin and reckless living. He comes back not deserving to be his Father's son. When the prodigal returns, the loving Father puts on him the finest robe, a ring, and sandals. It was over the top!!! Saint John Henry Newman said that he would not think much of a love that was not at times extravagant.

When we come to God in our shame, baring our souls and seeking forgiveness, He clothes us in His mercy and restores our dignity and worth. Each of us is the prodigal. God clothes us in our nakedness and sin. God does not abandon us when we return to Him. Instead, He welcomes us as His children. Clothing the naked is something God does *for us*.

The risen Christ brings us new life. All is forgiven on Resurrection Day. We are clothed in Christ and in His glory. God offers us an extravagant love.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season and thanking you for your support so Catholic Charities can serve those in need.

Love and blessings,



F. Robert Cilinski

FATHER ROBERT CILINSKI
Episcopal Vicar for
Charitable Works

Catholic Charities Ball Raises Funds and Awareness



ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, MORE THAN 1,000 FRIENDS, volunteers, priests, and parishioners gathered at the 42nd Catholic Charities Ball to celebrate the great works of Catholic Charities and raise a record \$1.67 million to support those in need.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge told those in attendance that their support of Catholic Charities ministries helps bring the light of Christ to people in need. “God simply asks that we give what we have: whatever sacrifices, whatever resources, whatever volunteer work, whatever we can do. Just watch how he will use it miraculously, working in and through us, helping us at this privileged moment in this diocese to participate in the work of making a new heaven and a new earth,” Bishop Burbidge said.

Catholic Charities President and CEO Stephen Carattini stated, “In this, our diocesan jubilee year, we remember the thousands of men, women, and children that we were blessed and privileged to encounter and serve. We rejoice and give thanks to God for our pastors and parishes, and for our dedicated volunteers,” he said. “And we renew our commitment to our Bishop and all of you to competently and compassionately serve everyone who is entrusted to our care.”

The James J. Matthews Legacy Award was awarded to Peter and Kathy Prominski for their dedication to Catholic Charities and specifically the Ball, which dates back to 1988. The Bishop Paul S. Loverde Legacy Award was awarded to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Community for their longstanding commitment to many ministries of Catholic Charities. †



Watch the video

Meet Crystal, Mary, and Alice, some of the people helped by your generous support of Catholic Charities, in this video which premiered at the Ball.



SAVE THE (NEW) DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S BALL
February 7, 2025

Strong Mother of Three Gets Help She Needs



When you support Catholic Charities, you help people like Crystal, who fell behind on rent after having kidney transplant surgery.

EVERY MONTH, CATHOLIC CHARITIES receives between 700 and 900 emails from people at risk of losing access to basic human necessities like housing, water, or electricity. This is just one of those stories.

“I called so many different people, so many different agencies... and Catholic Charities was the only one that said that they could help me.”

– CRYSTAL

Crystal is a single mother of three boys. Crystal turned to Catholic Charities when a kidney transplant surgery put her behind on rent payments.

She contacted a number of organizations and government agencies to try to get assistance, but the answer was always “No.”

Eventually, she contacted Catholic Charities – and was finally able to get some relief.

Having to pay for unexpected medical expenses can be challenging for all of us. But because 94% of those we help are at or below the federal poverty level,

even a small setback can put someone at risk of losing the roof over their heads or the job they rely on to feed their family.

Catholic Charities provides assistance with rent, utilities, and essential car repairs, such as when a provider needs a car to get to a job. Through one of our partner organizations, we encourage those we help to receive professional instruction on personal budget management. This empowers adults to successfully manage their own finances.

Crystal is very grateful for the assistance her family received – which was made possible by our donors.

“I was so happy,” she says. “That was the only boost I needed and I thank God that [Catholic Charities] helped me. †



Learn more about the Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Ministry

To learn more about this ministry, visit: ccda.net/need-help/rent,-utility,-and-emergency-household-assistance/

**Catholic Charities
Future Needs**

You can leave a gift to Catholic Charities in your will or trust with as little as one sentence.

For information view our website ccda.net or contact John French at (703) 841-3819 or john.french@arlingtondiocese.org.



**April is
National
Volunteer
Month**

Special thanks to our many volunteers

*We are grateful for your work,
and blessed by your presence.*

1. Students from **St. Veronica School** in Chantilly helped to sort and pack food boxes for those in need.

2. Parishioners at **Nativity Parish** in Burke helped collect over 10,000 lbs. of food, which is used to feed hungry families throughout our diocese.

3. **Prison ministry** volunteers visited with those incarcerated in the Alexandria Adult Detention Center. Bishop Burbidge celebrated Mass, heard confessions, and visited with about 50 men and women who live in the facility.

4. Students at **St. Thomas More Cathedral School** assembled hygiene kits, providing the Mobile Response Center with 135 bags of necessities to distribute to those in need.

5. **Bishop O'Connell High School** students sorted food at Catholic Charities St. Lucy Food Project warehouse in Manassas.

6. Senior members of the Servant Leadership Association at **St. John Paul the Great High School** visited the St. Lucy Project warehouse to learn more.

7. Parishioners and Knights of Columbus members of the **Basilica of Saint Mary** collected and donated food to help alleviate the food insecurity which is part of so many people's lives.



1.



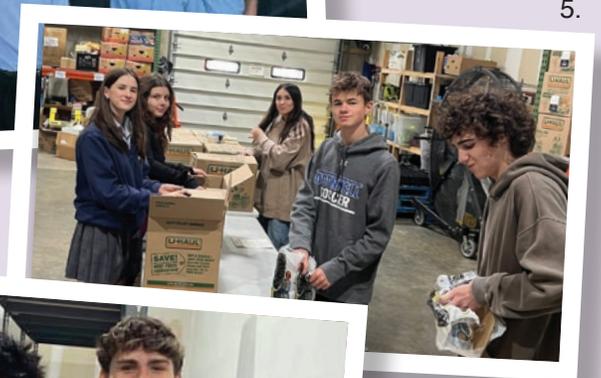
2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

Meet Patricia Amaya



“God is good! There is never a small contribution when it is made with faith and from the heart.”

– PATRICIA AMAYA, VOLUNTEER

Please share a bit about your background

I was born in California and raised in the beautiful country of El Salvador. When I married my husband Miguel we moved to Virginia and started from scratch to build our own family.

I was raised in a Catholic family. For me and my siblings, my parents and grandparents have been models regarding faith. That is something that my husband and I now are doing for our daughters Mia and Mercy. We have always put God first. I can say that having a loving family that supports me in all that I do is a blessing.

How did you get involved with volunteering?

During my years at college, I was a volunteer at a nursing home that was one of the ministries at the local Catholic church. Helping seniors with free physical therapy is a part of my life that I will always treasure.

I started volunteering at the Thrift Store – now the Clothing Closet – many years ago. A former thrift store manager gave me the information and the inspiration to apply. She did her job with so much love and compassion for others that it really made me interested in helping.

What do you do as a volunteer?

Every day is different but for the most part I receive and process donations. My specialty department is footwear,

all the shoes must be nice and clean. But in general the entire group works hard to have a very welcoming clothing closet for our clients.

I remember a family that was newly in the United States. They only spoke Spanish and really needed help getting the items that were on their clothing voucher. They were not familiar with some of the words so I helped them getting their items. At the end they thanked me and told me that for them getting the clothes and shoes and other items was a big blessing.

Every time I can positively impact my community by helping my brothers and sisters in need, I'm doing what God is asking us to do!

Anything else you'd like people to know about volunteering?

We have such an awesome volunteer group that are truly the face of Christ. It is through those interactions that my faith has been strengthened. They prayed for my daughter when she was in the NICU, and they celebrated with me and my family when she was discharged from the hospital. God is good! I am so blessed to be able to be part of this awesome group of volunteers.

Remember God is good and we can all contribute to have a better world. There is never a small contribution when it is made with faith and from the heart. †



Call for Volunteers!

To learn more about our volunteer opportunities and ways you can get involved, please scan the QR code, visit volunteer.ccca.net, or email Debra Beard at debra.beard@ccda.net.



SCAN ME

WAYS *to* LOWER NEXT YEAR'S TAXES...

...OR PUT THIS YEAR'S REFUND TO GOOD USE!



MAIL

Send a check payable to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, to:
CCDA
PO Box 1900
Merrifield, VA 22116-1900



STOCKS OR MUTUAL FUNDS

Visit ccda.net/donatestock to download the stock donation form. Email completed form to both mreed@mclaughlinryder.com and Christine.Farmer@arlingtondiocese.org



ONLINE

Visit ccda.net/donate to donate online. To make a recurring gift, when asked how often you'd like your gift to occur, select *Monthly*.



MATCH YOUR GIFT

To see if your employer will match your gift, visit ccda.net/match and use our online lookup. You may also check with your company's human resources department.



PLANNED GIVING

Return the enclosed reply slip, and check the box asking us to send you a free copy of the *Catholic Estate and Personal Planning Workbook* and *Catholic Advance Medical Directive*. For specific questions, contact John French at John.French@arlingtondiocese.org.



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