“To say YES to volunteering opens our hearts to the needs of others …

…Volunteer service is at the heart of the Christian image of God and humanity: love of God and love of neighbor.”

(Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)
Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report of Catholic Social Services (CSS) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, entitled Volunteers: Continuing the Work of Jesus. The mission of CSS – to provide help and create hope for those in need – envisions the full participation of God’s People as collaborators in this ministry of Jesus Christ, “who came not to be served but to serve.”

In the pages that follow, you will find dedicated men, women and children who readily give of their time, talent and treasure as volunteers and supporters of the work of Catholic Social Services. They cook casseroles, serve meals, and sort clothing for the homeless; tutor court-adjudicated youth and transport them to Sunday Mass; visit adults with disabilities to engage in fun activities together, and welcome them to join in Sunday worship at their own parishes; help those needing groceries at our food pantries; provide job search assistance to the unemployed; and even donate their birthday money to buy hats and gloves for the homeless. Simply put, they do it all, week after week, with compassion and kindness, serving others with joyful and willing hearts.

Their generosity fulfills in a most beautiful way the words of Pope Francis: “Everything is given freely by God, all is grace, all is a gift of His love for us…In the same way, as we have received this gift freely, so we are called to freely give…by letting the Holy Spirit make of us a gift for others.” A common theme heard from these faithful servants is that they have experienced God’s blessing in their lives, and wish to give of themselves in gratitude for the gifts they have received. They are people whose faith has inspired their charitable service in gratitude for God’s goodness to them.

Underlying these personal testimonies is the transformative impact of CSS programs in the lives of over 225,000 people throughout the Philadelphia metropolitan region. That would not be possible without the support of our governmental partners, and the collaboration of over 4,100 volunteers and tens of thousands of benefactors through donations to the Catholic Charities Appeal, Archbishop’s Benefit for Children, and United Way. Your combined efforts extend the scope of our outreach and enhance our ability to effectively serve brothers and sisters in need.

May God bless each of you with the joy of knowing that you are “a gift for others.”

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia
a message from

THE SECRETARY FOR CATHOLIC HUMAN SERVICES

I am thrilled to feature the service of volunteers in our 2017 Annual Report edition of CSS Connections. Non-profit agencies are often evaluated on the quality of their volunteer engagement, with such assessments emphasizing volunteer job descriptions, integration with staff efforts, and effective training and supervision. We certainly recognize the vital importance of these elements to a successful volunteer program. Yet, for the many dedicated volunteers who serve alongside our staff in a variety of programs throughout our region, the spirit of volunteerism is far more than that.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said, “Whenever people do more than their simple duty in their professional life and family … whenever they commit themselves to helping others, putting their precious free time at the service of man and his dignity, their hearts expand.” You will see in this edition how faith serves as a powerful motivating force in the lives of our volunteers, inspiring their invaluable commitment of time and talent to assist us in our long-standing mission of continuing the work of Jesus by serving the poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable members of our local communities.

In feeding and sheltering the homeless, tutoring at-risk children, or welcoming persons with disabilities to join them in Sunday worship, our volunteers are daily making a difference in the lives of people in need. These men, women, and even youth and children have expanded their hearts as they extend the scope and impact of our good work. That they do so as volunteers, in gratitude for God’s goodness to them, has the power to communicate something special to those they serve. It says to them, ‘I’m here with you because I want to be. I freely choose to give of myself for your wellbeing.’

Those entrusted to our care have an innate ability to detect genuineness and compassion in how others relate to them, which I believe comes from life experiences often characterized by trauma, hardship and pain. Again, Pope Emeritus Benedict puts it so well: “My deep personal sharing in the needs and sufferings of others becomes a sharing of my very self with them … I must be personally present in my gift.”

Please take time to enjoy this edition. I am sure that like me you will be inspired by the deep faith, genuine care, and boundless love that expresses itself daily through the many acts of kindness freely offered by thousands of our volunteers each year. Taken together with our faithful donors, board and committee members, and benefactors, these special partners in our mission are invaluable to our efforts to provide help and create hope.

To all of you, I offer a heartfelt “Thank you!” Be assured of our prayers for you and your families, and please remember us in your prayers as well.

James Amato, LSW
Secretary for Catholic Human Services

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Don Guanella Village completed the move of 144 men from campus to smaller residential setting of community group homes
• Licensed, state-reimbursed preschool at Casa Academy and city-funded Out of School Programs serving more low-income families
• Women of Hope-Lombard transitioned to a designated Safe Haven for women ages 18-24 with mental health and D&A issues
• Catholic Community Services ranked #2 among city Community Umbrella Agencies in permanency, safety, and child well-being
• Catholic Social Services was named Real Alternatives Provider of the Year for the highest number of pregnant women served in PA
“People say, ‘We can tell you love it there.’ And I do.”

KATHRYN DONZE is 81 years old, widowed 17 years ago, recently retired, and a member of St. Cyril of Jerusalem in Jamison. Amid marrying and raising five children, she spent a long career in bookkeeping within Human Resources. In her last place of work, she met Denise Hilbert with whom she became good friends. After retiring she wanted to stay active, and her friend Denise invited her to volunteer with her new employer, St. Francis & St. Vincent Homes. She’s been doing so one or two days a week ever since. She helps with what she knows best: HR record-keeping, as well as helping out with recruiting. She finds it very rewarding to know that she is contributing to the charitable work of the Church. She says, “It’s a wonderful organization. I’m learning more about this work, which is basically serving young people who need advice and help, so they know that somebody cares about them. Somebody’s watching over them, helping them make progress in their life.”

Kathy is inspired by how dedicated and hard-working the staff are: “You can see everybody in their concern for the children. This is an organization where people are helping other people and really put their heart and soul into it, so I feel very good with what I’m doing to support that. People say to me, ‘We can tell you’re happy, that you really love it there.’ And I do.”

“I feel good helping out these young men. It’s helping me out too.”

WILLIAM FULLER spent his career working at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyards and later the City of Philadelphia Streets Department. He and his wife were longtime members of St. Timothy parish in Northeast Philadelphia, until he retired and they moved to Bensalem. They are now active members of St. Charles Borromeo parish, both serving as Eucharistic Ministers. A few years ago, his wife approached Sr. Bernadine Schmalhofer MSBT, who at that time served as pastoral minister for the young men at St. Francis & St. Vincent Homes, a program for dependent youth who cannot live with their families. Sr. Bernadine regularly attended Sunday Mass with some boys from campus who were Catholic. So while Bill’s wife and her friends made cupcakes on occasion to send over with Sister for the boys, Bill sensed that at age 90 she was looking for someone to take over responsibility for driving the boys to and from Mass.

In stepped Bill, who has been doing it nearly every week since then. He drives an agency van to transport the guys to Mass at his parish St. Charles, after which he usually goes to get breakfast with them at the nearby McDonalds. Bill feels that what he is doing is important for these guys: “They get a chance to go to church, meet people, and learn something, you know. Give them a purpose. They’re great kids and appreciative of what I do for them. I just feel good helping them out. It’s helped me out too.”
Helping others to achieve their dreams is what God calls us to do.”

JOE DOUGHERTY lived in Northeast Philly and worked as an engineer before retiring to Hatfield, Montgomery County, where he is a member of St. Maria Goretti parish. A fellow parishioner tutored at St. Gabriel’s Hall and invited Joe to consider doing likewise. Joe had a childhood friend whose brother was there years ago, so he was interested. He remembers feeling apprehensive at first, wondering if he could teach these young men from tough backgrounds, and if they would be receptive to him. But his friend eased him into it, and Joe soon found common ground with his students: “They haven’t had the opportunities I had growing up, and somewhere they got off track, but they have the same desires to make something of themselves in life. It changed my perspective to see them so focused and working hard. You know, we’re all on this boat together, so helping others to believe in and achieve their dreams is what I think God is calling us to do.”

He has shared his personal experiences with some guys, to inspire and encourage them to “see the possibility of a different path in life, by the grace of God.” Joe is impressed with the good things happening at St. Gabriel’s, which he calls a very loving, caring, respectful environment: “We don’t preach religion to them, but the love of Jesus is evident in how we treat the men. It helps them believe in themselves and want to make for a better future. Seeing them succeed and feeling their appreciation is what makes my volunteer work there so rewarding.”

“I love what I do here, and thank God every day for these kids.”

CASSIE DEBOW spent 30 years in Catholic education as a math teacher and principal. She also taught in public schools and colleges before retiring to Phoenixville, where she and her husband are members of St. Ann parish. “Playing Canasta and Scrabble was not my cup of tea” says Cassie, so she became a volunteer at St. Gabriel’s Hall through a friend who worked there. They needed a math tutor, and Cassie knew that was something she could do well and enjoy. It was different working with court-adjudicated delinquent youth with significant learning deficits and emotional challenges. But kindness and genuine concern for them worked wonders, and over the past five years she has helped many to pass their GED and a few, like Felix, to perform well on the SAT. She remembers at first how angry Felix seemed: “I thought I might never reach him, but as we worked together, I knew there was gift and goodness in him. I just had to find a way to bring it out.” Her tutoring helped Felix eventually win a scholarship to Kutztown University where he is an honor student. Cassie is a vital part of the ‘St. Gabe’s team’ and says “It takes all of us working together with the Holy Spirit to give these young men a second chance in life. They’re good people who’ve made mistakes, but who hasn’t? Together, we genuinely care about them and strive to see the best in them. I love what I do here, and thank God every day for these kids. I pray for them all the time.”
**They’ve blessed me with love and joy; I pray I have been Christ to them.**

SR. SUSAN LINDINGER, SSJ has spent much of her religious life as a volunteer, most recently assisting her fellow Sister of St. Joseph, Sr. Mary Veasy, SSJ, in her pastoral work at Divine Providence Village in Springfield. Both women live in community together at nearby St. Anastasia parish in Newtown Square, where Sr. Susan is engaged in multiple ministries. She has loved getting to know the women with intellectual disabilities who reside at DPV, and has invited her fellow parishioners to volunteer there as well. She says, “Our SSJ constitutions state that ‘Our ministry is primarily presence, the presence that makes Christ visible to the world.’ I feel that the time I spend at Divine Providence Village, be it in Chapel for Mass or Rosary, visiting the women in their cottages, or doing fun activities like making PB&J sandwiches for the homeless, I truly experience the Presence of Christ. The ladies grace me with their humor, their smiles, their questions, and as Sister Mary says, ‘I see the face of God.’”

Over the 19 years that Sr. Susan has been volunteering at DPV, relationships have developed with many of the ladies, and she has had the privilege to teach the sacraments to a number of them. She says, “They have blessed me with their love and joy, and I pray that I have been Christ to them.” Recently, after Mass the residents sang to her on her birthday. The moment brought tears to her eyes: “What a gift! I am so grateful to be part of Divine Providence.”

**“As much as I help them, they’re helping me become a better person.”**

LAUREN PIPPETT is thirteen years old, and in eighth grade at St. Anastasia School in Newtown Square. She has been one of Sr. Susan’s regular volunteers at Divine Providence Village, attending Mass with the residents there every other Sunday for over a year now. She says she has been motivated to serve others by what she has learned while attending a Catholic school, which she plans to continue at Merion Mercy Academy next year. Lauren feels that serving women with disabilities helps her to follow along the path of Jesus and practice her faith: “As much as I’m helping them, they’re helping me become a better person. It makes me happy to be around them.” She has a special relationship with one of the DPV women, Cathy, who always saves Lauren a seat to sit next to her: “She is just fun to be around. I’ve gotten to know her very well. She hugs me and gets really excited to see me, and I can tell that she’s happy when I’m around.”

Having a cousin with a disability has made Lauren sensitive to not only the needs but also the gifts of persons with disabilities: “They’re so sweet and always happy, and they keep your spirits up. I think that we’re all part of God’s creation, so it’s important to treat everyone just like we treat someone without disabilities.”
“It’s our job to welcome them and let them know we’re glad they’re here.”

FR. ED HALLINAN, pastor of St. John Chrysostom in Wallingford, invited his parishioners to create a time and space to worship where persons with disabilities are warmly welcomed and accepted just as they are. The parish now holds Inclusion Masses twice a month, and men from three nearby Don Guanella Village (DGV) group homes regularly attend. As Father Ed sees it, “It’s our job to welcome persons with disabilities and let them know that we’re glad they’re here. This is God’s house, and they’re part of God’s family, so they’re welcome here.”

Including persons with disabilities has transformed the parish, and touched the hearts of many, like the ushers who greet the DGV men and escort them up front. Father Ed mentioned one DGV fellow in particular: “The joy on his face when he receives Eucharist and puts his arms across his chest, even without words you witness his faith in that gesture.”

“The Don Guanella men brighten each Mass they attend. Parishioners are touched by their presence among us.”

TOM & MARY REINKE play a leading role in their parish’s Inclusion Mass ministry. Their adult daughter Mary Beth has cerebral palsy, and as Tom says, “Her faith is apparent and inspiring to us, so this is a natural opportunity for us to serve others with disabilities.” Their aim is to help people with disabilities and their families to identify their spiritual needs and be strengthened in their relationship with God and one another. Tom takes note of two brothers from DGV in wheelchairs who always “beam brightly during the sign of peace. People with disabilities enrich our lives and expand our relationship with Jesus.”

“The DGV community is a wonderful reminder of the many faces of Jesus.”

MARY CHOLLET is the pastoral minister at St. John Chrysostum and has worked closely with the pastor Fr. Hallinan to coordinate the Inclusion Mass every other Sunday. Mary facilitates the participation of our men with intellectual disabilities from three nearby DGV group homes to worship with the parish. Her team of ushers are specially trained to greet and get them situated in the sanctuary space before Mass. Mary also has taken personal responsibility to bring the men Holy Communion, exhibiting a gentle tenderness in how she relates to the men at that special time within the Mass. As Mary relates, “The presence of the Don Guanella men and others with disabilities has touched and inspired many families to return to church. When we began these inclusion Masses, the DGV men gravitated to the back row of the church. It took a little coaxing because of caregiver concerns, but the men now proudly take their places front and center. Their caregivers feel more welcome and relaxed, knowing that we are understanding of behavior issues that may arise. The DGV community, with all of its diversity, is a wonderful reminder of the many faces of Jesus.”
Recognizing a few of our many DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS...
“The opportunity to give back to this community is why I volunteer.”

SUSAN SULLIVAN says that volunteerism has always been a part of her life from her time attending Cabrini University over 45 years ago. After a professional career in Boston and later in Philadelphia, she retired and began volunteering at Philadelphia Senior Center. There she met Ruth Breland, who told her about her own volunteer work at Mercy Hospice. Susan had actually previously volunteered at Mercy over two decades ago, so she jumped at the chance to return there a few years ago to serve with her new friend. Susan had once volunteered at a Boston shelter in their clothing room receiving and sorting donations, and knew the value and importance of this work for the benefit of the homeless clients there. As she notes, “We don’t have too much interaction with the women we ultimately serve. But I am quite happy to remain behind the scenes as an additional support to the Mercy staff. They already have a Herculean task working with these women who have so much going on as they try to rebuild their lives. I live nearby Mercy Hospice, and love what they are about. The simple opportunity to give back to this community is the reason I volunteer.”

“Doing something for others lets me show how much I appreciate God’s love.”

RUTH BRELAND had recently retired when she began volunteering at a senior center in Philadelphia. When that center closed, she wanted to stay active, and began “looking for something else worthwhile to do.” A woman from the senior center worked at Mercy Hospice, and referred her to be a volunteer. As a member of nearby St. Martin de Porres parish, Ruth liked the idea of serving at a Catholic outreach for homeless women in recovery from addiction. She agreed to take up one of Mercy’s greatest needs: coordination of donations, particularly clothing, which thanks to the generosity of Catholic parishes and other groups is abundant and ongoing. She started in high season for donations – Thanksgiving through Christmas – but has continued to go twice a week along with her friend Susan whom she recruited to be her sidekick in the effort. Together they keep the donation storage room organized and ready to provide for the needs of the women upon arrival, and as they leave the program. As Ruth says, “I see the work done at Mercy as a blessing to the women who reside there, that encourages them and restores their faith in God to never give up. The ministry at Mercy gives me something positive to do for others in need, and lets me show much I appreciate God’s love. I take joy in seeing women moving out with smiles on their faces in gratitude for the good care they received at Mercy.”
“You really experience their humanity as you engage these men, work beside them, and interact with them. We are now part of the family here.”

JUDI and ED SAMULEWICZ are faithful members of St. Thomas of Villanova, an Augustinian parish that stresses giving one’s time and talent for others. They began making casseroles for the homeless men served at Saint John’s Hospice (SJH), then eight years ago decided to volunteer at SJH on Martin Luther King Day. As Judi recalls, “We had a really good time washing windows and just helping out.” When Judi retired from nursing, they began coordinating monthly days of service at SJH, got their grandchildren involved, and echo the common sentiment that “we’ve been hooked ever since.”

Judi is a faithful supplier of basic essentials for the SJH men, like socks. She searches out bargains with local retailers who sell to her at a bulk discount, and then she and Ed go down and distribute them to the guys three or four times a year. They also get weekly donations of bagels and then individually package them to distribute to the men ‘waiting on the bench’ for lunch. Sometimes they bring fresh vegetables to cook with the noon meal, and their grandkids make up individual bags of candy for the guys at Halloween and Easter. For her birthday each year, Judi bakes and ices over 300 cupcakes (with a little help from Samulewicz & Co.) and bring them to share with the men as “her treat for the day.” Their granddaughter Abigail helped out by raising over $800 to purchase jeans for some of the men, with of course the bargaining power of Judi to get a good deal!

Once or twice a week, the couple come to Saint John’s with deliveries and then help to prepare and cook lunch. They feed the 40 residents, sometimes sitting to eat with them, and then serve the hundreds more that come in off the streets each day. By the time they clean up and get on their way, they have been there over three hours. Ed, who has taught psychology at Rosemont and Villanova for years, recalls one very cold day when he took off his own jacket – with Judi’s urging – and gave it to a guy on the street near Saint John’s: “As he put the hood of the jacket over his head, he mouthed silently to me, ‘Thank you.’ I will never forget him.”
“I always try to be as selfless and helpful as possible.”

JEROME CAMPBELL is 17 years old, and a Senior at Norristown Area High School, who plans to attend Lincoln University after graduation. He lives in the apartment complex across from Martha’s Choice Marketplace food pantry where he has volunteered for the past two years. His sisters volunteered there a few years ago and encouraged him to consider it. He had been looking for a job but when that did not materialize, he decided to “do something positive by helping people that need it.” He started with receiving, stocking and organizing donations of food, then moved on to office duties like registering people, doing surveys, and organizing documents. Along the way he gained valuable job-related skills, and when asked to represent the program at a community meeting, he appreciated the confidence that program staff placed in him. He says, “As a Christian, I was raised to be considerate of other people and allow them to see the light of Christ in me, to be the salt of the earth. I always try to be as selfless and helpful as possible. It makes me feel good because I’m giving back to my community.”

“I know we’re doing something worthwhile here. I’m here because God’s been good to me.”

BILL SILK retired after 42 years in HVAC installation and repair. He and his family have been members of St. Paul parish in Norristown for nearly 4 decades, so it was natural to become a volunteer at Martha’s Choice Marketplace based in the former convent on parish grounds. He has been there four years now, ever since the food pantry adopted the “choice marketplace model” which inspired him to get involved: “I thought it was a great way to help people. It gives clients a sense of dignity when they can pick out what they want for themselves and not just be handed a bag of groceries. I’ve met a lot of friends here, like Jerome. These volunteers are very dedicated; they’re the gas that makes the engine run.”

Bill is an ambassador for the program, and proud of the impact the food pantry is having on people in need. He knows the numbers: 1,000 households a month, which means 3,000 people counting family members; and distribution of almost a million pounds of food a year. Recently, Bill was asked to speak at area parishes about the Catholic Charities Appeal, which supports CSS programs like Martha’s Choice Marketplace. Bill volunteers four days a week, doing whatever is asked of him: receiving and stocking, accompanying clients as they select their groceries, office management, and picking up food donations. He says that it is “most gratifying helping my fellow man. I know we’re doing something worthwhile here, and I’m here because God’s been good to me and I just wanted to pay it back somehow. When a client says, ‘My family really needs this food. Thank God for you volunteers here to help us’ – that makes it all worthwhile.”
“I just felt happy inside to be able to do something good for others.”

MARY QUINN FORBES is eight years old, and a second grader at St. Helena Catholic School in Blue Bell. As her birthday approached in December, there was a big snowstorm and the weather turned colder. Quinn thought about people who don’t have proper clothes to be outside, and it made her sad. She felt like somebody should do something, so she decided to ask her friends that instead of bringing her birthday gifts, could they bring money to buy hats, gloves and scarves for people who might need them. They all did, and Quinn had enough money to buy dozens of winter clothing items.

Her mom Tracy and dad Andrew suggested she bring those items to the CSS Montgomery County Family Service Center in Norristown, where they distribute clothing and food to people in need. Quinn “just felt happy inside to be able to do something good for others,” which she has learned from her parents and her Catholic school, where Principal Sr. Cathe Shonberg RSM stresses the importance of giving and service. Quinn’s mother is justifiably proud of her daughter: “She has a very kind heart. She cares about other people and their feelings, from little things to big things. St. Helena School and Sister Cathe plant that in all the children, who do a lot of fund-raising and giving.”
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2017
(year ending June 30, 2017)

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDING $110,961,397
- Phila. Dept. of Human Services
- Community Behavioral Health
- PA Office of Developmental Programs
- PA Department of Education
- Other government contracts

ARCHDIOCESAN SUBSIDY $10,324,390
- Catholic Charities Appeal
- Donations & Bequests
- Program-based Annual Funds
- Trust Fund Disbursements

FEES FOR SERVICE $1,679,833

UNITED WAY $540,020

Total Sources of Revenue $123,505,640

Catholic Social Services Corporations
- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Catholic Community Services (CUA #4, NE Philadelphia)
- Catholic Housing and Community Services
- Divine Providence Village
- Don Guanella Village
- St. Edmond’s Home for Children
- St. Francis & St. Vincent Homes
- St. Gabriel’s System
- Saint John’s Hospice
- Visitation Homes
- Women of Hope - Lombard & Vine

Full-Time, Part-Time, and Seasonal Employees = 1,761
Total Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) = 1,622.92

The following now fund operations of the above corporations:
- St. Joseph Catholic Home for Children
- St. Joseph House
- St. Vincent Homes, Tacony
- St. Vincent’s Services for Women & Children

Total Expenditures $123,505,640

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS $51,032,481
- Community Outreach and Day Programs
- Divine Providence Village
- Don Guanella Homes
- St. Edmond’s Home for Children

YOUTH SERVICES $51,855,739
- Catholic Community Services
- Foster Care & Adoption Services
- St. Francis & St. Vincent Homes
- St. Gabriel’s System

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES $13,193,167
- Family Service Centers (includes Veterans, Real Alternatives & School Social Work programs)
- Refugee Resettlement Program
- Out of School Time (OST) Programs
- Immigration Legal Services

HOUSING & HOMELESS SERVICES $7,424,253
- Good Shepherd Program
- McAuley House
- Mercy Hospice
- Saint John’s Hospice
- St. Mary’s Residence

FY17 Financial Highlights
- Developmental Programs erased prior budget year deficits with new state reimbursement rates
- Operating expenses $1 million favorable due to management efficiencies and good stewardship
- Catholic Charities Appeal increase due to generosity of donors
- St. John’s Hospice donors continue solid support of annual appeal
- St. Gabriel’s Hall and St. Francis & St. Vincent Homes subsidized due to decreased placements in congregate care
- Investment income outperformed market expectations, negating need to tap fund balances
1,467,158
Meals Served
at homeless shelters, afterschool & residential programs for youth, and programs serving persons with intellectual disabilities

42,796
Beneficiaries of Social Work, Case Management, & Referral Assistance

5,656
Clients & their families receiving Counseling & Behavioral Support Services

171,505
Baby Care Items distributed via Family Service Centers, St. Vincent Homes, and Foster Care

$130,456
in Financial Assistance provided to individual households

4,2906
Children Educated and/or Tutored in specialized school or afterschool settings

58,737
Individuals received Food & Groceries

1,459
Households received furniture, small appliances and other Home Goods

3,401
Clients benefiting from Residential Care, In-Home Support, or Housing Assistance

79,305 + 147,066
Clients Family Beneficiaries totaling 226,371

4,702
Residences for Dependent/Delinquent Youth

292
Housing Relocation and/or Support

475
Shelters and Residences for Homeless Persons

165
Children and Youth in Foster or Kin Care

356
Residences for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

1,411
In-Home Support Services for At-Risk Youth
The biblical story of Moses has been the inspirational driver of my life for many years now. Understanding that God has a particular purpose for each of us, I have learned that we grow closer to God and live a more joyous life when we dedicate ourselves to the service of others – to be their voice and to fight for their dignity. It is for this reason that I work in public education, and that I firmly believe in the mission of Catholic Social Services. We work to make the connections to protect God’s people and provide them with the resources and supports necessary for all to grow, heal and live a dignified life. Then, they too can discern God’s purpose for their own lives, and serve others as God calls us all to do.

Yemele Ayala
CSS Board Secretary

WHY I SERVE!

“Everything is given freely by God, all is grace, all is a gift of His love for us… in the same way, as we have received this gift freely, so we are called to freely give… by letting the Holy Spirit make of us a gift for others.”

-Pope Francis