



Everyday, we are able to build on the generosity and kindness of supporters like you. With you by our side, we *provide help* and *create hope* for families and individuals in our communities.

**These winter months can be an especially grueling time for so many in need. However, with your continued help we can alleviate some hardships for those who need it the most. Please take a look at just a few of the lives that have been transformed by Catholic Social Services programs.**

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## Strengthening Families: Learning Skills "Chopped" Style

Sometimes as a parent, you have to take a few classes yourself to set the best example for your kids. That's exactly what Catholic Community Services (CCS), a division of CSS, aims to do with their "Chopped: Protective Factors Edition" event.

More than 25 adults gathered on February 6th at a Northeast Philadelphia kitchen where they worked in teams to transform bags of ingredients into nourishing entrees. CCS provided poultry, vegetables, seasonings and utensils to participants. Just like the Food Network show, Chopped, the day was full of slicing, dicing, frying, and most importantly, learning.



This event uses the "Strengthening Families" program which stresses five protective factors that can prevent child abuse: social and emotional competence; knowledge of parenting and child development; social connections; concrete support and resilience. Because of caring people like you, we're able to equip our communities with the tools they need to lead strong families.

[Read more about the event here.](#)

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## St. Gabe's New Library Provides Plenty of Fun for OST Kids!



Recently, a local children's writer stopped by Saint Gabriel's Out-of-School-Time Program (OST) to read her newest book in St. Gabe's new library!

Established in 2013, St. Gabe's OST Program serves at-risk children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade. During the academic year, the program supports working families by offering a safe and academically inspiring environment to children and youth. Because of support from people like you, our OST kids have a fun and nurturing place to play and learn.

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## Fleeing Homelessness at Mercy Hospice



Please meet recent Mercy Hospice resident, Alberta! With your support and aid from the Mercy Hospice staff, Alberta just obtained permanent supportive housing for the first time in her life. She came to Mercy Hospice from years of street homelessness and substance abuse.

While at Mercy, Alberta established a strong recovery support network that enabled her to acquire over a year of sobriety! With supporters like you, we can help many more people reach peace after years of turmoil and instability.

[Click here to learn more about Mercy Hospice](#)

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Your donations make the work of Catholic Social Services programs possible. Please give today to help transform the lives of thousands of people. Together we will continue *providing help* and *creating hope!*

**DONATE NOW**

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Catholic Social Services

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