



# CHARITY IN *Action*

ISSUE 8 • MAY 2022



Students at Casa del Carmen Preschool Academy marked Week of the Young Child with a visit from the Philadelphia Fire Department. Week of the Young Child celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

[News • 3](#)

---

[At A Glance • 5](#)

---

[Upcoming Events • 6](#)

---

[Upcoming Initiatives • 7](#)

## OUR WORK

The Secretariat for Catholic Human Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (CHS) is the largest faith-based human services provider in Southeastern Pennsylvania and benefits more than 300,000 individuals of all faiths annually.

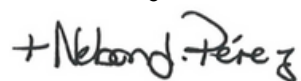
CHS is comprised of various agencies that administer a broad range of human services programs throughout the five-county Philadelphia area as an expression of the charitable works of our local Church and daily touch the lives of immigrants, those experiencing homelessness, women in crisis, at-risk youth, senior citizens, the intellectually disabled, those facing hunger, and more.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Through its many good works, The Secretariat for Catholic Human Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia builds on the legacy of Jesus Christ by lifting up the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives, restoring sight to the blind, and freeing the oppressed.

As you read about the transformative impact we have in our local communities, please know we count on your continued prayers for God's blessings on our unceasing efforts to make the love of Christ evident through the charitable works of our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Revered Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia



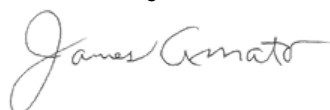
Dear Friends,

I am a lifelong Philadelphia Catholic whose faith continues to be fulfilled through my social work career having been involved with the charitable works of our local Church.

I am proud to work day in and day out with the Catholic Human Services staff you see featured here and those they so well serve.

May you be inspired in reading about the positive impact we are having in our local communities and please keep all of us in your prayers as we continue serving those most in need.

Sincerely,



James T. Amato, MSW  
Secretary for Catholic Human Services  
of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia



To read a news story, please click the title.

# IN THE *News*



## **Outreach workers 'break stigma, bring hope' to those in addiction**

Staff from Catholic Social Services joined organizers of a multifaceted humanitarian effort April 23 at "ground zero" of Philadelphia's opioid crisis -- and "encountered Jesus" in the process.



## **Memorial walkway keeps adults with intellectual disabilities 'forever in our hearts'**

A newly dedicated garden path at the Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence celebrates those who remain part of a "global family" inspired by a pioneering Italian saint.



## **Inflation drives demand, costs for archdiocesan food aid**

With inflation at a four-decade high, staff at Nutritional Development Services are fielding more calls for help -- and higher bills to stock the agency's network of cupboards.



To read a news story, please click the title.

# IN THE *News*



## **Teen 'lives mercy' by helping women with most basic needs**

Mary Grace Dempsey, a senior at Merion Mercy Academy, recently wrapped up a three-week donation drive to supply feminine hygiene products for clients of Catholic Social Services.



## **Hunger relief agency gives baskets of 'Easter joy' to dozens of kids**

On April 12, staff from Nutritional Development Services loaded up 145 Easter baskets for delivery to three Philadelphia-based day care centers, all of which the agency serves through the federally funded Child Care Food Program.



## **Persons with disabilities 'help others become whole,' says archbishop**

The Archbishop was the principal celebrant and homilist at the annual archdiocesan Mass for Persons with Disabilities, which drew some 275 participants April 24 to the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.



# AT A *Glance* >>>

Thanks to the generosity of donors, supporters, and students, Nutritional Development Services collected nearly 22,000 pounds of food to help those in need through its' annual Lenten One-Can Meal Food Drive. Food items donated will help feed our hungry neighbors throughout the five-county region.



Seniors at Nativity B.V.M. Place and St. Francis Villa received Easter gift bags complete with grocery store gift cards donated by Honey's Angels, handmade cards from students at Mother of Divine Grace Interparochial School as well as a spring blanket and breakfast pack from students at Saint George Catholic Elementary School. We are so appreciative of all the neighborhood groups and schools who remember our residents at the holidays!

Katie Kavanagh, CSS School Social Worker at West Catholic Preparatory High School, was honored with the Supervisor of the Year award by La Salle University Department of Social Work. Katie received this recognition for her work with social work interns at West Catholic and for making a positive impact on them.



Nutritional Development Services collaborated with the Strawberry Mansion Community Development Corporation by purchasing food for 100 families and assisting with the distribution at Hank Gathers Recreation Center at 25th and Diamond Streets. Each family received a ham, yams, rice, pasta, corn, green beans, fruit cocktail, and also a tin of cookies for an Easter treat.



# UPCOMING

## Events & Initiatives

### **Fantastic Farm Showcase**

May 14th



Join Martha's Choice Marketplace and Community Farm on Saturday, May 14th from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for its Fantastic Farm Showcase. The event will be a celebration of the last frost date for gardening in Pennsylvania. All are invited to check out what the Farm will be up to this year as it unveils its new Food Power Path with the new 60 raised beds and 80 pergola Food Power garden. Festivities include children games, activities, workshops, giveaways, a raffle, and more. Refreshments and snacks will also be served.

**[Learn More](#)** >

### **Transitional Foster Care Information Session**

May 18th



Catholic Social Services is hosting a Transitional Foster Care Information Session at CSS' Northeast Family Service Center (7340 Jackson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19136) on Wednesday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m.

CSS, in partnership with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration and Refugee Services, provides transitional foster care services to unaccompanied minors. Primarily, these young people come from Mexico and Central America.

CSS is seeking caring individuals and families willing to provide a supportive foster care home environment for children and youth ages 5-17 for periods ranging from 2 weeks up to 3 months.

Those interested in attending the information session are asked to RSVP to Iris Puhiera at [tfcinfo@chs-adphila.org](mailto:tfcinfo@chs-adphila.org) or by calling 267-975-9241.





# TAKE BACK THE MONTH!

## Feminine Hygiene Donation Drive

Join Catholic Social Services (CSS) as we collect feminine hygiene products to support women and girls who are unable to access or afford them due to poverty, homelessness, and other barriers.

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Those interested in supporting CSS and those in need can donate items online at **[yougivegoods.com/TakeBackTheMonth](https://yougivegoods.com/TakeBackTheMonth)**.

Those interested in donating new, unopened feminine hygiene products directly are asked to contact Amy Stoner at **[astoner@chs-adphila.org](mailto:astoner@chs-adphila.org)** and Cindy Volkert at **[cvolkert@chs-adphila.org](mailto:cvolkert@chs-adphila.org)**.





# ANNUAL MANNA SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

Please join  
Nutritional Development Services  
by being a part of  
“The Modern Day Miracle of the  
Loaves & Fishes”

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The food drive, named after the edible substance which God provided for the Israelites in the desert, prepares NDS for the “desert” of the summer months when donations at its food pantries historically drop to low levels.

Those interested in supporting NDS and our neighbors in need can purchase food items online from May 14-31 at

[yougivegoods.com/ndsmanna2022](https://yougivegoods.com/ndsmanna2022)



# Harry Potter THE EXHIBITION

ARCHBISHOP'S  
BENEFIT FOR  
CHILDREN  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

**Give the gift of magic  
this summer to a child!**



This summer, the Archbishop's Benefit for Children, an initiative of the Catholic Charities Appeal, has an exciting opportunity for children who are a part of Catholic Social Services' Out-of-School Time Programs (OST)! Over 400 young people from OST were recently invited to take part in an enriching field trip to the Franklin Institute to experience Harry Potter: The Exhibition.

To provide this educational experience, the Archbishop's Benefit for Children is seeking individuals to sponsor a child's admission and transportation costs.

**Those interested in sponsorship can make a gift by visiting  
<https://archbishopsbenefitforchildren.org/tickets/>.**



**TWO  
GREAT TEAMS...**



**ONE  
GREAT CAUSE.**

## **CCA NIGHT WITH THE PHILLIES**

Thursday, June 30th  
Citizens Bank Park



**Scan the QR codes below  
to purchase tickets!**



## **CCA NIGHT WITH THE UNION**

Saturday, July 30th  
Subaru Park



Proceeds from ticket sales from both games will go directly to  
support Catholic Charities Appeal beneficiaries.

215-587-5650

[cca@theCFGP.org](mailto:cca@theCFGP.org)





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