



# CHARITY IN *Action*

July 2022



Catholic Housing and Community Services recently honored Vietnam Veterans during a pinning ceremony at St. John Neumann Place II. The event was in partnership with the office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey.

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## 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.

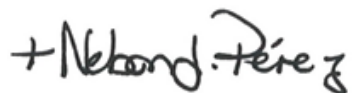
CHS is comprised of various agencies that administer a broad range of human services programs throughout the five-county Philadelphia area as an expression of the charitable works of our local Church and daily touch the lives of immigrants, those experiencing homelessness, women in crisis, at-risk youth,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



To read a news story, please click the title.

# IN THE News



## [Archdiocesan agency honored for providing 'real alternatives' to abortion](#)

By Gina Christian • [CatholicPhilly.com](#)

For the 10th consecutive year, Catholic Social Services has been named Pennsylvania's "Service Provider of the Year" by Real Alternatives, the nonprofit organization that administers the Commonwealth's Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program.



## [Gun violence highlights trauma, impaired brain development among teens, says psychologist](#)

By Gina Christian • [CatholicPhilly.com](#)

Dr. James Black of Catholic Social Services says at-risk youth are "growing up in a war zone" that leaves them on edge and hopeless -- and understanding their pain is key to stopping the bullets.



## [Behind the bullets: Teens give inside view of gun violence in Phila.](#)

By Gina Christian • [CatholicPhilly.com](#)

Two youth receiving treatment from Catholic Social Services provide an exclusive look at the many reasons for shootings on the streets -- and why most solutions aren't working.



## [Kids cook parents dinner, while learning life lessons](#)

By Gina Christian • [CatholicPhilly.com](#)

Around 33 children from CSS' Cayuga Out of School Time (OST) program recently treated their parents to a restaurant experience. Cayuga Elementary is one of eight CSS OST sites that provide youth with year-round academic, recreational, and social support.

## NDS Summer Produce Stands



NDS is sponsoring 7 produce stands this summer throughout the five-county region to help those in need have access to healthy and fresh produce. NDS staff along with the help of community partners are distributing lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, onions, oranges, mangoes, bananas, and other nourishing items to area residents!



## Catholic Housing & Community Services Honors Area Vietnam-Era Veterans with Pinning Ceremony

Catholic Housing and Community Services, in partnership with the office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, hosted a pinning ceremony on Friday, June 29th honoring Vietnam-Era Veterans.

*“When we’re looking at our seniors now, many of them were Vietnam and Korean War vets. When they returned home, they weren’t decorated and celebrated the way vets from earlier wars were. Even decades later, they need to know how valued they are for their service to our country.”*

*-Heather Huot, Director of CHCS*

Around 30 men and women who actively served in the United States military during the period November 1, 1955–May 15, 1975 were honored with a specially produced lapel pin as a symbol of gratitude. The pin also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Family members of those veterans being honored and veterans from all periods of service were also invited to attend the ceremony.



# St. Francis & St. Vincent Homes Celebrates Class of 2022 With Special Ceremony

By: Margaret Andrews, SF & SV Executive Director

Located on the main campus of SF&SV, St. Katherine Drexel School hosted its 2022 graduation ceremony on June 22, 2022. The young gentleman, along with their families and teachers, celebrated their accomplishments.

These young men have many plans for the future. Melinton who is from our Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program, plans to start College in September. Two of the other young men, Gio and Nanif, will move on to our Structured Supervised Independent Living (SSIL) program, where one will be attending school for HVAC and the other will be working. Jamir also is looking forward to attending college. This was not always an easy journey for these gentleman. However, with support from their families, school, and residential staff, the young men did it.



▲Young men from St. Francis & St. Vincent Homes mark the end of the 2021-2022 academic year with a graduation ceremony on campus.

When asked what was their proudest moment is, one young man said, "...pushing myself all of the way to this moment in my life where I finally do things on my own—to move on to do good things and better myself."

Congratulations to our Class 2022!

# Casa Del Carmen Preschool Academy Honors Class Of 2022 With Drive-Through Graduation Celebration



▲ A graduate of Casa del Carmen Preschool Academy takes a picture with her mom after receiving her diploma at a June 24 drive-through graduation ceremony.

Casa del Carmen Preschool Academy marked the end of the 2021-2022 academic year by honoring 56 preschool graduates and their families with a special drive-through graduation celebration! Casa del Carmen Preschool Academy is a ministry of Catholic Social Services located in North Philadelphia.

This year, 51 children are graduating from the PHLpreK program. Additionally, five children are graduating from the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts program, the state funded program available to low-income children and families across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

# The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence Celebrates Opening of Swimming Pool with Blessing



Divine Providence Village has officially opened the pool for the season! Sister Mary Veasy, SSJ, shared a blessing and then it was time for residents to cool off!



## NDS Provides Healthy Snacks

Nutritional Development Services participated in the June 4th CYO track meet at Franklin Field. NDS brought nutritious and refreshing sliced oranges and bananas to hand out to the athletes and coaches at the event.

## St. Edmond's Home for Children // AmeriCorps Volunteer turns Employee

By: St. Edmond's Home for Children

This past year, St. Edmond's Home for Children has been assisted by a well-liked, dependable, high energy AmeriCorps Volunteer named Hallie LeMalfant. Hallie will be completing her service at the end of July. Throughout Hallie's service year, she worked closely with our recreational therapist to help facilitate activities at St. Edmond's Home, attend outings with the children, and learned the nuances of their care.

Along the way, Hallie established strong connections with many of the residents. She shared that the children have impacted her in such a meaningful way that she is not ready to leave them at the end of July when her service year is over. ➡ *Continued below on page 7*



# Nutritional Development Services Sponsors Summer Meals Program And Partners With 300 Sites Across The Philadelphia Region

Nutritional Development Services is once again sponsoring federally funded summer meals for children through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) this year. This program ensures that students 18 years and younger throughout the Greater Philadelphia area have access to free and healthy meals in the summer months when school is not in session. The NDS Summer Meals Program runs June 21 through August 26.

This summer, NDS is partnering with approximately 300 sites serving children and youth to put this critically important initiative into motion. It fills the meal gap for many low-income students and families who would otherwise struggle to obtain balanced nutrition following the conclusion of the academic year.



▲ Children enjoy a healthy and wholesome lunch during the summer thanks to Nutritional Development Services.

NDS will also offer participating sites the opportunity to add “Operation Kindness” to its services. This NDS program provides summer meal sites with activities to encourage children and youth to think and act with kindness.

Continued from page 6 **St. Edmond's Home for Children  
AmeriCorps Volunteer turns Employee**

This spring, an opening for the position of Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP) became available at St. Edmond's Home. Familiar with her abilities and commitment to the children, St. Edmond's quickly accepted her for the new position which begins in August.



*"Hallie's enthusiasm, problem solving abilities and commitment to the children will help ensure the continuance of St. Edmond's long-time tradition of providing highest quality of care to some of the most vulnerable children and young adults in our community."*

We are fortunate that Hallie will be joining the St. Edmond's family as a member of our extraordinary team of professionals. We take our mission very seriously. Hallie's enthusiasm, problem solving abilities, and commitment to the children will help ensure the continuance of St. Edmond's longstanding tradition of providing the highest quality of care to some of the most vulnerable children and young adults in our community.

# Take Back the Month



## Feminine Hygiene Donation Drive

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



## We need help with:

- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Personal wipes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant
- Body wash or soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes

All goods donated will benefit CSS' housing and homeless programs serving women and girls, "Ladies Locker" pantries at Family Service Centers, the CSS School Social Work Program, and those in need during staff outreach initiatives in local communities.

Those interested in supporting CSS and those in need can donate items online at:

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



# PROVIDING HELP,

# *Creating Hope!*



 **Catholic Housing and Community Services**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA



 **NUTRITIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia



 **Catholic Social Services**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
*Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia continues the work of Jesus by affirming, assisting, and advocating for individuals, families and communities.*



PROVIDING HELP • CREATING HOPE

To learn more and register, visit [catholiccharitiesappeal.org/dayofservice](http://catholiccharitiesappeal.org/dayofservice) or scan the code below:

Scan here



**Join us!**  
Young Adults  
Day of Service  
July 16, 2022!  
Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM





**FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT WITH THE UNION** **Saturday, July 30th**  
Subaru Park