



CHARITY IN *Action*

August 2022



Catholic Social Services recently hosted a "Queen for a Day" luncheon to celebrate clients from Women of Hope and Mercy Hospice, two CSS ministries that support at-risk women.

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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.

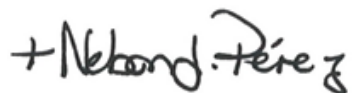
CHS is comprised of various agencies that administer a broad range of human services programs throughout the five-county Philadelphia area as an expression of the charitable works of our local Church and daily touch the lives of immigrants, those experiencing homelessness, women in crisis, at-risk youth,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

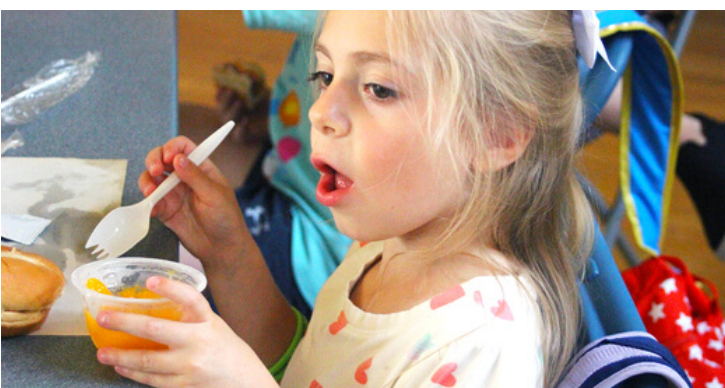
IN THE News



Agencies keeping seniors, street dwellers cool during heat emergency

By Gina Christian • CatholicPhilly.com

As the Philadelphia region battled a week of sky-high temperatures, archdiocesan outreaches doubled down on providing water, air-conditioned spaces and love to vulnerable populations.



Summer meals program fills hunger for kindness

By Gina Christian • CatholicPhilly.com

On July 14, Nutritional Development Services held its annual “Blessing of the Summer” at St. Francis de Sales School in West Philadelphia, with the agency’s board president, Msgr. Daniel J. Sullivan, presiding.



Grandparenting: Joy, anxiety, and connection, says archdiocesan senior housing resident

By Gina Christian • CatholicPhilly.com

Ahead of last month’s World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, Elizabeth Means-Binns of CHCS’ St. Francis Villa spoke with CatholicPhilly.com about how her 13 grandkids and 10 great grandkids keep her engaged as a vital link between generations.



‘Urban mystic’ from Ireland helps women in recovery

By Gina Christian • CatholicPhilly.com

Women served by Catholic Social Services recently enjoyed a morning retreat, with an Irish “urban mystic” as their spiritual guide.

Nutritional Development Services' Community Food Program Distributes Fresh Produce to Local Communities



Nutritional Development Services (NDS) is making sure local residents have access to fresh and nourishing produce during the summer months. NDS' Community Food Program recently partnered with Strawberry Mansion Community Development Corporation, a community-based non-profit located in North Philadelphia, to host a produce distribution for those in the local community. Approximately 100 bags were packed with a variety of produce and distributed to area residents.



NDS also recently distributed 75 bags full of produce to guests coming to the food cupboard of the Patrician Society located at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Norristown (Montgomery County). Guests received peaches, yams, bananas, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Catholic Housing and Community Services' St. Joseph Place in Collingdale Nears Completion

Catholic Housing and Community Services' St. Joseph Place, a new affordable housing community for independent seniors in Collingdale (Delaware County), is 90% complete.

The development involves the substantial rehabilitation of the historic former St. Joseph Parish Elementary School and its Annex building as well as the construction of a new addition to unify the two buildings.

The unified structure will consist of 50 one-bedroom apartments for income eligible seniors aged 62 and older.

St. Joseph Place will provide 50 units of affordable senior housing. It marks Catholic Housing and Community Services first senior residence in the suburbs. ►



Nutritional Development Services receives \$2,500 donation from The Ron Jaworski Foundation to benefit summer meal sites

NDS received a generous donation from the The Ron Jaworski Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 to support children and youth who attend programming at NDS sponsored Seamless Summer Option (SSO) meal sites.

With the assistance of The Ron Jaworski Foundation, NDS was able to purchase various cooking club supplies for the kids at St. Martin de Porres as well as balls, mats for mindfulness exercises, social skills games, and a cooler for their outings. Representatives from The Ron Jaworski Foundation visited St. Martin de Porres to help the kids make healthy snacks with the items purchased.



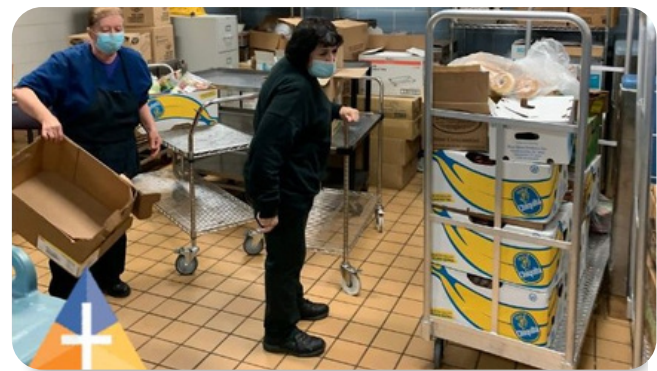
▲ Campers at St. Martin de Porres, an NDS sponsored summer meal site, pose with representatives of The Ron Jaworski Foundation.

This summer, NDS is partnering with approximately 300 sites to ensure that students 18 years and younger throughout Greater Philadelphia have access to free and healthy meals in the summer months when school is not in session. The donation will also help purchase similar items for other NDS' sponsored SSO sites including hula hoops, garden kits, sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, and more

Divine Providence Village Employee receives award from Philabundance

By: The Communities of Don Guanella & Divine Providence

Vicki Soldatos, our Kitchen Director, has been a part of Philabundance for the past 15 years and a part of the Grocers Against Hunger Program for 6 years. Philabundance works with several organizations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to ensure no one goes hungry. Every day Vicki is picking up food from local grocery stores and sometimes takes multiple trips. There is also a lot of work to prepare the food to go out once it arrives on our campus. Vicki along with the help of her amazing dietary staff, and other staff, has helped to unload vans, pack boxes, separate, and hand out over 3 million pounds of food to our staff and their families, homeless shelters, women's shelters, and those in need in our community. ➡ Continued below on page 7



Catholic Social Services hosts luncheon to celebrate clients served by Women of Hope and Mercy Hospice

On Friday, July 22nd, clients served by Women of Hope and Mercy Hospice, CSS ministries both located in downtown Philadelphia, were treated to a special "Queen for a Day" luncheon complete with food, music, and door prizes. The "Queen for a Day" luncheons, which take place at Women of Hope, aim build community among all in attendance. Over 75 individuals including staff, residents, and volunteers were on hand for the event.

"This is a chance for them to celebrate themselves, and for us to let them know that they are special," said Renee Hudson-Small, assistant director of CSS' housing and homeless services.



What Vicki has done over the past year is amazing especially during the height of the pandemic. Vicki has the heart and soul of a saint. She is a prime example of our Core Values of Compassion and Charity. Philabundance was honored to present Vicki with their 2021 Hunger Hero's Sustainability Award. Vicki was honored and humbled to receive the award on behalf of Divine Providence Village. Vicki took that special moment to reflect on teamwork and DGDP Communities being a family that supports each other.



▲ Vicki Soldatos (left), DPV Kitchen Manager, was honored by Philabundance for her work making sure no one goes hungry.

Vicki is an amazing and kind person who has a warm heart. Her response to anything asked of her is always the same, "No problem on my end. I will take care of it. I am always here to help."

Vicki your DGDP Family is blessed to have you in our lives. Thank you for making us smile and proud!

//////////////////// Campers at Casa del Carmen Preschool Academy receive visit from Philadelphia Police Officers



Children attending summer camp at Casa del Carmen Preschool Academy in Hunting Park marked the end of week two of programming by enjoying water ice, pretzels, coloring books, and a visit from Philadelphia Police Officers from the 25th District! This year's summer camp theme is *Blasting Off to Space*. For seven weeks, 30 children are enjoying activities and projects that reflect that theme. Nutritional Development Services supplies breakfast, lunch, and snacks for all of the campers.

NDS Partners with St. Christopher Hospital for "Back to School" Carnival



On July 25th, NDS partnered with St. Christopher Hospital for Children in Philadelphia for its 12th Annual Back-to-School Backpack Distribution event. NDS delivered and distributed hundreds of prepackaged summer meals to children, youth, and families in attendance who were receiving backpacks stuffed with school supplies. Lizanne Hagedorn, Executive Director of NDS; Dave Stier, Assistant Director of NDS Community Relations; and staff were on hand for the event.

//////////////////// St. Mary's Residence Celebrates New Kitchen

Saint Mary's residents and staff recently celebrated the grand opening of its newly renovated kitchen. Many thanks to all who made it a reality!

Saint Mary's Residence is located in the Society Hill section of Philadelphia. It provides a safe and affordable home where seniors share life with other seniors on a daily basis.



St. Edmond's Home for Children Kicks-Off Annual Camp Rainbow

By: St. Edmond's Home for Children

A yearly tradition, St. Edmond's Home for Children once again inaugurated Camp Rainbow in June. This wonderful summer program was established in the 1990's. Camp Rainbow is an exhilarating eight weeks for all the children at St. Edmond's Home as well as some children from the community with similar disabilities. It's a time where St. Edmond's transforms everyday activities into fun and exciting themes where laughter echoes throughout.

“The children's smiling faces reveal how much they love Camp Rainbow.”

Some themes and activities this year include "Fitness Fun" which includes a positioning relay, making sun butter protein balls, and spa/relaxation time; "Symphony of Senses" where we will build our own in-house "please touch museum" and "adventure aquarium" and dig into some sensory play with playdough, homemade putty and sand play; and "Sports Week" which will include a sports relay, baking sports cupcakes, and a blindfold sports ball guess game! We will end our exciting eight weeks with one of the favorite themed weeks of the summer: "Beach and Boardwalk." This theme includes an outdoor barbecue, games, music, shell painting, and sand art.

It has been said that a rainbow symbolizes a connection between Heaven and Earth, but for our laughing, joy-filled children – Camp Rainbow is a bit of heaven on Earth!



▲ Residents of St. Edmond's Home for Children in Rosemont enjoy Camp Rainbow, the home's annual summer program.

Casa del Carmen Family Service Center hosts "Summerfest" event for local moms

On Friday, July 29th, Casa del Carmen Family Service Center, located in North Philadelphia, hosted a "Summerfest" event for local moms in the community. Over 30 mothers with children were in attendance. Highlights of the event included giveaways, educational resources, and access to community partners.



Youth in CSS Out-of-School Time Summer Camp Program Enjoy Enriching Field Trip to the Franklin Institute

Youth at CSS' St. Thomas Aquinas Out-of-School Time summer camp program recently enjoyed an enriching field trip to the Franklin Institute to experience *Harry Potter: The Exhibition*. Thanks to the generosity of donors through the Archbishop's Benefit for Children, OST students are getting an up-close look at authentic props, original costumes, and more from the films. This was the first time at the Franklin Institute for many of the children!



Catholic Social Services' Transitional Foster Care Program is holding information sessions for prospective families.

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.

All are invited to attend the presentation to learn more.

Those interested in attending a information session are asked to RSVP at tfcinfo@chs-adphila.org or by calling 267-975-9241.

[For more information, visit here.](#)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW FOSTER FAMILIES

JOIN US FOR A PARENT INFO SESSION ABOUT TRANSITIONAL FOSTER CARE



ON AUGUST 10, 2022 AT 6 PM IN PERSON

7340 JACKSON ST. PHILADELPHIA PA 19136

CONTACT US AT
tfcinfo@chs-adphila.org
(267)491-5249

@cssphillytfc

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Northeast Family Service Center

7340 Jackson Street

Philadelphia, PA 19136

JOIN US FOR A PARENT INFO SESSION ABOUT TRANSITIONAL FOSTER CARE



Wednesday August 24, 2022

Via zoom- @ 2:00pm

check us out on  @cssphillytfc

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

2:00 p.m.

ZOOM

PROVIDING HELP,

Creating Hope!

Nutritional Development
Services
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

