



# CHARITY IN *Action*

June 2024



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## IN THIS ISSUE

Partners in Mission • 3

---

In the News • 4

---

At a Glance • 5

---

Upcoming Events • 13

## 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 those experiencing homelessness, women in crisis, at-risk youth, senior citizens, immigrants, the intellectually disabled, those facing hunger, and more.

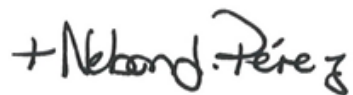


Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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,

As a lifelong Catholic and resident of the Philadelphia area, I am passionate about our local Church's works of mercy and charity.

From the city to the suburbs, Catholic Human Services remains a shining beacon of hope for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. I am honored to work beside the thousands of compassionate and committed women and men who do the extraordinary work of this organization each day. They are the hands of Christ and their labor is a reflection of God's love for all people.

I hope reading about the tremendously positive impact we are making in our local communities throughout the region inspires you. Please pray for us and the success of our mission. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Heather Huot, MSW, LSW  
Secretary for Catholic Human Services  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia



# PARTNERS IN *Mission*

## Martha's Community Farm: Finding God in the Dirt

By Patrick Walsh, Director of Programs at  
Martha's Choice Marketplace & Community Farm

Martha's Community Farm is a hidden treasure.

Natives of the Philadelphia region have likely heard of St. Gabriel's Hall in Audubon and the good works done there from its opening in 1898 until its closure in 2020. Following that closure, Martha's Choice Marketplace acquired the use of the 9-acre farm on the property (previously the Mitchell program) and began to grow produce for its food pantry community.

When it was still open, a portion of the grounds at St. Gabriel's Hall hosted the Mitchell Program, an animal husbandry therapy program for adjudicated youth.

Alongside teachers and therapists, many young men found healing while working with animals. Martha's Community Farm operates on these same grounds, breathing new life into the powerful healing legacy accomplished there for over 100 years.

Led by Jesse Antonini, the Martha's team of volunteers, staff, and partners began converting the animal enclosures and fields into crop production for guests of our food pantry in Norristown, the largest and most visited food pantry in Montgomery County. In our first year, the farm produced 5,000 pounds of nutritious food for the pantry, specifically foods desired by the pantry's Hispanic and Latino population. Now, with full irrigation, comprehensive fencing, a renovated green house, new farm equipment, and a strong core of volunteers, staff, and network of partners, the farm is positioned to continue the robust trajectory of growth it has seen over the last three years. Last year, the farm produced over 18,000 pounds of food for Martha's Choice Marketplace.

We are a regenerative farm that uses no pesticides. We strive to create a balanced, native environment where we can cooperate with nature to manage the pest and disease pressures of the farm. This is most notably visible in our food forest—a cultivated space of 360 native, primarily food-bearing trees. This dynamic ecosystem has been carefully selected to create habitat for beneficial wildlife and bear food for years to come.

Continue reading on [CatholicPhilly](#)





To read a news story, please click the title.

# IN THE News



(Photo: Catholic Charities USA/  
Jeremy Mines)

## [Archdiocese Hosts Catholic Charities USA Homeless Advocacy Forum](#)

By CatholicPhilly

The gatherings focused on the plight of those experiencing homelessness and how to best serve them at the community, state, regional, and national level.



## [Catholic Social Services Joins Campaign to Promote Services, Works of Mercy](#)

By CatholicPhilly

Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has joined with Catholic Charities networks around the country to participate in We Are There, a national awareness campaign highlighting the life-giving services Catholic Charities agencies provide in their local communities.



## [Conflict Management Program Celebrates 25 Years Serving Philadelphia Youth](#)

By CatholicPhilly

Funded by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services, the program serves adjudicated youth 12-18 years old.



## [Catholic Heart Workcamp Volunteers Engage in Service Projects Across Archdiocese](#)

By CatholicPhilly

The 225 high school and college students and chaperones participating in Catholic Heart Workcamp embodied that message while serving at numerous locations within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia June 23-29.



# Most Reverend John J. McIntyre Presides at Blessing of Youth Skills Building Program, a New Ministry for Philadelphia Youth



At a special ceremony in June, Catholic Social Services (CSS) blessed the Youth Skills Building Program (YSBP), a new after-school ministry in South Philadelphia.

Most Reverend John J. McIntyre, an Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia who oversees the Secretariat for Catholic Human Services (CHS) as part of his administrative and pastoral responsibilities, presided over the blessing.

He was joined by Mrs. Heather Huot, Secretary for CHS; Dr. James Black, Director of CSS' Youth Services Division; Kimberly Ali, Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) Commissioner; members of the CSS Board of Directors; local government officials; staff members from the program; and community supporters.

Funded by DHS to engage youth and help keep them safe, YSBP is a new after-school ministry of CSS' Youth Services Division. The trade education program launched in May 2024, aiming to reduce risk factors for Philadelphia youth aged 13-18. It plans to serve 24 young people in its first year of operation.

YSBP provides youth with the opportunity to acquire new skills including carpentry and home repair. Program participants will use their newly learned skills to repair vandalized homes throughout the City. In addition, the program offers members transportation, meals, and a weekly stipend. The YSBP building development involved rehabilitating the former Saint Gabriel Parish Elementary School in Grays Ferry.

To watch a replay of the blessing [—————>](#)

*"This program highlights Catholic Social Services' commitment to serving at-risk youth. The partnership of CSS, DHS, and the parish is a shining example of what we can accomplish when we work together to lift up and provide opportunities for our young people and their families."*

- Dr. James Black,  
Director of CSS' Youth  
Services Division





# Norris Square Senior Community Center Performs at Wawa Welcome America/Hispanic Fiesta 2024



Norris Square Senior Community Center's Grupo Alegria had the opportunity to perform at El Concilio's Hispanic Fiesta, part of Wawa's Welcome America!

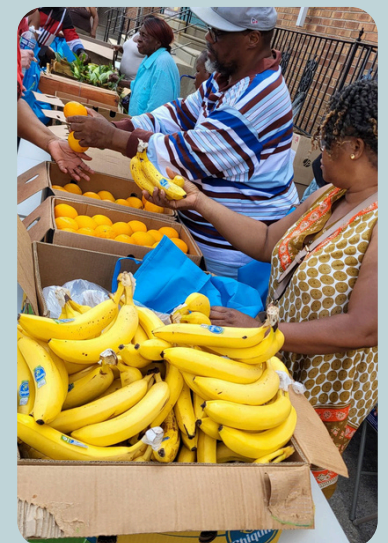
The name "Grupo Alegria" is a symbol of happiness and the willingness to remain cheerful during adulthood. Through dance, members express their joy, experiences, culture, and traditions.

(Photos: Concilio)



## Nutritional Development Services Holds Produce Stand at Southwest Family Service Center

### Casa del Carmen Preschool Academy Honors Class of 2024 with Graduation Celebration





## Saint Hubert's High School Hosts Northeast OST for STEAM Workshops



▲ (Photos: Saint Hubert High School) ►

For more than 20 years, Catholic Social Services (CSS) has served children and youth through its Out-of-School Time (OST) programs.

OST's school-based community centers offer a variety of creative after-school activities in the late afternoon aimed at youth development and family support. Operating during the school year and throughout the summer, OST provides safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.

The afterschool initiative also provides programs that focus on science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) education.

For the second year in a row, Northeast's OST students traveled to Saint Hubert Catholic High School for Girls for a STEAM workshop series. The two-day event was hosted by the school's Bambie Botz Robotics Team.

Northeast OST youth had the opportunity to learn more about robotics and participated in workshops designed by the Saint Hubert's students themselves. The children built their own "bubble bots" before getting the chance to operate the "Bambie Bot", a robot crafted by the club for competition in the 2023-2024 robotics competition season.





Kara Wisniewski, Northeast OST Director, and Jo Bradley, High School OST Director, enjoy collaborating on these programs.

“I absolutely love seeing what the Saint Hubert’s students come up with for hosting these events,” said Bradley. “I help with breaking it down to age-appropriate steps, but the team is tasked with all the components of the workshops. The robot party is always a fun day.”

The duo works together to identify different ways for the high school students to work with the younger neighborhood youth, aiming to build mentor connections and youth-led events.

▼ (Photo: Saint Hubert High School)



OST programs also strive to empower parents to advocate for their children. In addition to programs for children, families are welcomed to the Strengthening Families Program and the Nurturing Parenting Program which focuses on children ages 10-14 and children in grades K-5 respectively.

CSS OST Programs are devoted to building stronger communities throughout the City of Philadelphia. To learn more about CSS OST Programs, check out their website [here](#).

## Catholic Heart Workcamp Spends Time with Catholic Housing and Community Services’ Seniors

Volunteers spent part of their week at Saint Francis Villa and Nativity B.V.M. Senior Community Center helping out and enjoying time with the older adults!





## Nutritional Development Services Collects Over 75,000 Pounds in Manna Sunday Drive

Nutritional Development Services (NDS) wrapped up its annual Manna Sunday food drive and collected over 75,000 pounds of non-perishable food items! This year, 70 parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia participated in the drive. The donations will benefit individuals and families facing hunger and food insecurity throughout the five-county region.

For over 45 years, NDS has hosted its Manna Sunday food drive. It is named after the edible substance God provided for the Israelites in the desert. Manna Sunday prepares NDS for the “desert” of the summer months when donations at its food pantries historically drop to low levels.



*“The Manna Food Drive has helped to sustain the Patrician Society’s emergency food cupboard for more than two decades. As many as 13 churches have supported our cupboard in any one year. We work with approximately 2,000 unique families all through the year and the Manna Food Drive is a timely godsend in helping us to keep our pantry supplied through the summer months.”*

*- Joe Maccolini, Assistant Director for the Patrician Society*

## Senior Center Director Recognized for Impact in Local Community

Kimberly Beatty, Center Director at Saint Edmond’s Senior Community Center, was recognized by Pennsylvania State Representative Regina Young at the 185 Community Day in Elmwood Park!

Along with other members of the Legislative District 185, Beatty was recognized for making an impact in the district and for her dedication and commitment to strengthening the neighborhood. She was honored for her wonderful service and outreach at Saint Edmond’s, operated by Catholic Housing and Community Services.





# Nutritional Development Services Kicks Off Summer Meals Program With Partner Agencies



Nutritional Development Services (NDS) joined the City of Philadelphia’s Office of Children and Families, the American Dairy Association, and the City’s Parks and Recreation Department to celebrate the commencement of the 2024 Summer Meals Program in Philadelphia. NDS’ Jean Falk served as a feature speaker for the event. Swoop from the Philadelphia Eagles even stopped by to check out the nutritious lunches from NDS’ Summer Meals Program!

NDS provides nutritious meals to children in need throughout the summer months through the Summer Meals Program. This vital initiative ensures that children and youth aged 18 or younger throughout the Greater Philadelphia area have access to wholesome meals at no cost when school is out of session.



*“When the school year comes to an end so do those nutritious meals for far too many students. The Summer Meals Program is vital to bridge that meal gap from June to September. Children need the continuation of these healthy nutritious summer meals to thrive and grow.”*  
- Jean Falk, Nutritional Development Services



## Visitation Homes Celebrates Father’s Day with Special Event

Visitation Homes celebrated Father’s Day with a special event for children in the program and their fathers! The Catholic Social Services’ ministry offers apartments assisting women with children transitioning from homelessness to independent living and self-sufficiency.

The theme was a “Father’s Day Carnival” and the special day embraced the fathers who are involved in their children’s lives. The celebration included games, food, photo booth, dancing, and a bounce house for the children.





## “We are all called to welcome:” Catholic Social Services Welcomes Newcomers

To mark World Refugee Day (WRD), Catholic Social Services (CSS) partnered with Bethany Christian Services, HIAS Pennsylvania, Nationalities Service Center, and the City of Philadelphia’s Office of Immigrant Affairs for an event at the BOK Building in South Philadelphia.

The day included an informational panel featuring individuals with professional and lived refugee experiences and a showing of “The Elephants and the Grass,” a documentary following the journey of a Sudanese mother and daughter fleeing civil war.

WRD is an international celebration organized by the United Nations to celebrate and honor refugees from around the world. The day underscores the plight of migrants and refugees around the world who are displaced due to war, famine, or political unrest in their countries of origin. It is also a call to action for people everywhere to welcome refugees into their communities and help them to assimilate to their new homes.

Ahead of WRD, Pope Francis emphasized this importance by saying, “We are all called to welcome, promote, accompany, and integrate those who knock on our doors.”



CSS provides comprehensive assistance to refugees, evacuees, and asylum seekers emigrating to the United States and specifically to the Philadelphia region. Services provided include housing resources, assistance with benefits, employment searches, cultural orientation, and connection to mental health resources.

In May, CSS hosted its annual welcome luncheon for newly arrived individuals and families through its Immigration Service Programs. Around 100 guests were in attendance including approximately 80 newcomers as well as program supporters and volunteers.



Kathy Bevenour, Assistant Director of CSS Community-Based Services Division, was one of several CSS staff members present to connect families to various resources.

“The Welcome Luncheon held every year by Catholic Social Services is a celebration of the amazing strides newly arrived immigrants have made in the past year as they have resettled their families in Philadelphia,” said Bevenour.

“The celebratory event included fare from all home countries of the peoples represented, resources and clothing items for families to take with them, activities for the children, gifts for everyone in attendance, and blessings and encouragement for attendees as they continue on their resettlement journey.”

To learn more about CSS Newcomer Programs, check out their website [here](#).



## The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence Celebrate End of Wiffleball League

The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence (DGDP), along with volunteers and students from Cardinal O'Hara High School, recently celebrated the season ending of its 2024 Challenger Wiffleball League with an awards banquet. All DGDP athletes received recognition for their hard work and enjoyed a night filled with great food, music, dancing, and lots of laughter! Participants and volunteers were joined by the Gula family, the founders of the DGDP Challenger League who have chaired the initiative for over 25 years.





# PLEASE HELP US FILL THE PLAYPEN!

BE A "LIL' CUTIE" AND DONATE  
TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES'  
UPCOMING COMMUNITY  
BABY SHOWER EVENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024  
ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER (PARKING LOT)  
222 N. 17TH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

ITEMS NEEDED ARE GIFT CARDS, DIAPERS AND  
WIPES, AND NEW AND VERY GENTLY USED  
BABY CLOTHES (NEWBORN TO 5T), BLANKETS,  
BIBS, STROLLERS, PLAYPENS, CARSEATS,  
HIGHCHAIRS, BOTTLES, AND MORE

DONATE BY  
AUGUST 23RD!



SIGN UP TO  
VOLUNTEER!



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?  
CONTACT AMY STONER AT  
ASTONER@CHS-ADPHILA.ORG  
OR AT 215-587-3590





# PROVIDING HELP, *Creating Hope!*

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



## SUPPORT OUR WORK



PROVIDING HELP • CREATING HOPE

