

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

# Creating Communities of Safety and Stability



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The headlines in the Chicago area's news media have been far too tragic in the last year. We have heard how gang violence, repeated shootings, school closings, high unemployment, "food deserts," and rising school drop-out rates plague the most beleaguered neighborhoods. With so much bad news, it is easy to think that these neighborhoods are hopeless.

And yet, Catholic Charities has thousands of stories of hope and success that come right from these very communities that are besieged by violence and destruction.

From beautiful housing complexes that shine like beacons of hope in blighted neighborhoods, to safe and clean Food Centers that provide access to nutritious foods in what are considered veritable food deserts (communities with no grocery store) to vibrant senior activity and meal centers—and everything in between—Catholic Charities is bringing hope where it is needed most.

Reflecting upon a year of violence and instability, Catholic Charities continues to deliberately pursue its mission of service in communities where the need is greatest. Using every available resource, Catholic Charities programs reach out to those most vulnerable, wherever they are, during these continued challenging times.

“Despite what you may read in the news, there is a lot of good in our communities, and often it starts with Catholic Charities.”

MONSIGNOR MICHAEL M. BOLAND

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**47 Shootings over Fourth of July Weekend,  
Killing 11**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**Hundreds of Chicago Youth Civically Engage in  
their Communities**

115 Youth Participated in Service Learning Projects:

- Prepared lunches for 100 homeless residents at Mercy Housing.
- Engaged with senior residents.
- Provided beautification services.
- Hosted events for and interacted with youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Designed and built their own Healthy Community Models and presented them at a City-wide civic function.

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**Communities Still Suffer Blight of Foreclosure**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**Roseland Community Welcomes New Affordable  
Housing Building for Seniors**

- Catholic Charities operates 18 affordable senior apartment buildings across Chicagoland to provide safe, attractive and active housing for some of our most vulnerable citizens.
- Roseland Manor Residence, built in 1991, was the first new construction in the community in 20 years.
- All Saints Residence brings 42 new units of housing for seniors with very low income to the Roseland Community.

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**Chicago Social Service Agencies Close Due  
to Lack of Funding**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Has More  
Clients Than Ever; Keeping Chicago Families,  
Children, Youth, and Seniors Safe**

- When the City of Chicago outsourced its emergency human services response function, Catholic Charities was the social service agency to which the City turned.
- Catholic Charities is fully committed and uniquely positioned to carry out this program because we are a proportionately scaled, mission-driven organization providing human services that touch all populations, ages, and communities in the City of Chicago.
- Since we started this program in October 2012, we assist an average of 1,000 people per week by conducting wellness checks, delivering food, and helping individuals and families find temporary housing.

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**Protests Follow Chicago Public Schools Closings  
Plan**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**Youth Better-Prepared For a New School Year**

- Catholic Charities 10 Child Development Centers help prepare children for a successful transition to kindergarten and provide a safe, nurturing educational environment for children while their parents were at work.
- More than 1,000 children are served at our centers, which provide numerous activities to strengthen and support families.
- Nearly 100 youth participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program.

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**Childhood Obesity Rate More than Tripled over the Last Three Decades**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**8,400 Children per Day Receive Nutritious Meals, Participate in Fitness Activities**

In Catholic Charities' Summer Food Service Program:

- 370,541 nutritious meals were served to more than 19,285 children and youth.
- Meals were served at 252 partner locations in safe and secure environments.
- Nearly 1,000 children engaged in fitness and nutrition activities led by our eight Nutrition Aides every day this summer.

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**Chicago-area Unemployment Rate up this Month**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**Homeless Veterans Secure Employment, Housing**

- Since 2007, 245 Veterans have achieved stable and affordable housing, secured meaningful employment, and received their mental and physical health care.
- Last year at Cooke's Manor, Catholic Charities helped 124 Veterans with 8,486 nights of care, 42,595 meals and 1,711 hours of counseling.
- 76 percent of Veterans completing the program maintained sobriety.

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**Homelessness on the Rise Among Suburban Families**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**Families Sleep Safely at Night; Regain Self-Sufficiency**

- Catholic Charities New Hope Apartments provides housing with intensive case management services for homeless families in both Chicago and suburban Cook County.
- Families are housed in apartments that Catholic Charities locates throughout the region.
- While in the program, families receive rental assistance, household furnishings, employment assistance with training and educational referrals, child care, budgeting assistance, and transportation.

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**Communities, Families Traumatized by Violence**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**Catholic Charities Heals Families and Communities**

Catholic Charities provides professional counseling and case management services to families and individuals who are experiencing a wide range of social and personal problems. Issues may include:

- Homelessness
- Family and community violence
- Substance abuse and addiction
- Sexual abuse
- Trauma such as suicide
- Homicide
- Disability and illness
- Parent-child issues
- Other problems that affect the family's or community's ability to cope

**HEADLINES IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**High Dropout Rate for Chicago Public Schools**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**The Future Looks Bright for Chicago Youth**

355 Youth Participated in 181,215 hours of Professional Development Training:

- Effective Communication
- Financial Literacy
- Stress Management
- Customer Service and Relations
- Nutrition and Wellness
- Time Management
- Conflict Resolution

**HEADLINE IN THE DAILY NEWS:**

**Chicago Communities Plagued by Lack of Access to Healthy and Nutritious Food**

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HEADLINE:**

**Catholic Charities Food Programs and Centers Introduce Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Families; Stabilize Communities**

- 16 Women, Infants and Children Food Centers provide families with access to healthy and nutritious food in a clean and safe shopping environment.
- Centers aren't just a source for food but a place where residents can find supportive services like nutrition education, health screening, employment, job trainings and child care while parents shop.
- Children also receive a healthy meal or snack while parents shop.

Catholic Charities is often the first to address instability, injustice or poverty in underserved communities, as well as journeying with families and individuals who face these challenges with the goal of self-sufficiency with dignity. These are just a few of the Catholic Charities programs that have created communities of safety and stability for well over a million people; many of whom needed and received more than one of our services.

With more than 150 programs at more than 160 service locations, we are creating communities of light throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago, encompassing Cook and Lake counties. With the help of Catholic Charities, police departments, churches, schools, and community groups working together, these neighborhoods are not as hopeless and full of despair as they are portrayed. In fact, the resilience and fortitude of the residents of these areas is nothing short of astounding, and can serve as proof of Christ's presence in our lives.

As the social services arm of the Catholic Church, Catholic Charities actively promotes and works diligently to nurture a culture of life in society. In our role as voice for those who have no voice, we speak for the vulnerable, the weak and the hopeless. We continue to call upon individuals, communities and society to strive with hope toward a culture of life—for the common good.

**PROMOTE MORE HEADLINES LIKE THESE:**

## **Support Communities and Families**

We urge parishioners and people of good will across the Archdiocese of Chicago and beyond to reach out to and support human service agencies like Catholic Charities in whatever way possible to provide communities assistance—and hope. We also call for greater investments to be made in safety net programs that work, and in other organizations that are transforming lives and communities.

Catholic Charities employs nearly 3,000 professional and competent staff members who are passionate about and dedicated to the mission. Catholic Charities is aided in its mission by more than 15,000 volunteers each year. This enables us to be efficient, and maintain the ratio of 92 cents of every dollar we raise going directly to our programs.

We have extensive experience placing volunteers to supplement the work of paid staff. These ideal settings introduce young people to an authentic work experience, or maximize the benefits of a retired person's experience. Volunteers benefit from the guidance and support of program staff, managers, and Youth Coaches, and the workload lends itself to flexible scheduling.

Whether you become involved through your Parish, your circle of friends, or, if when you retire, you find yourself with time and expertise to share, volunteerism not only provides needed human resources for Catholic Charities, but it allows us to offer more compassionate services to people in need. In return, we attempt to provide all of our volunteers with an enriching experience that matches interests and enhances the quality of lives.

Call (312) 655-7322 to get involved through Volunteerism. Together we can bring Christ's light to those who need it most.



## Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

[www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net)

### Central Administration Building

St. Vincent Center  
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### North/Northwest Regional Office

1717 Rand Road  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016  
(847) 376-2100

### West Regional Office

1400 South Austin Boulevard  
Cicero, Illinois 60804  
(708) 222-1491

### South Regional Office

16100 Seton Drive  
South Holland, Illinois 60473  
(708) 333-8379

### Southwest Regional Office

7000 West 111th Street, Ste. 101  
Worth, Illinois 60482  
(708) 430-0428

### Lake County Services

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Center  
671 South Lewis  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085  
(847) 782-4000

Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: respect, compassion, competence and stewardship.

### White Paper FY 2013

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