



**Catholic Charities** of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Inc.

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Honorees and Works of Charity Celebrated at First  
Catholic Charities Gala**

*Proceeds Support Catholic Charities Programs and Services. Awards Honoring  
Two Atlanta Citizens for Their Service in the Community.*

Atlanta, GA...The First Annual Catholic Charities Gala held at the Piedmont Driving Club recently raised over \$325,000. "We would like to thank all Gala Committee Members, who worked so hard to make this such a successful, spiritual and memorable event," said Sheila and Lee Shaw, Gala Committee Chairs, adding "...we would also like to express our deep gratitude to all our sponsors, contributors, supporters, donors and guests who, by their generosity and support, made this event possible."

The late **Rawson Haverty** of the Havertys Furniture Companies and **Dr. Michael M.E. Johns** of Emory University were presented the Archbishop Donoghue Awards. Two funds were established and named in their honor.

The Rawson Haverty Fund: the proceeds from this fund will go towards helping at-risk families and children who are facing poverty, abuse and illiteracy. With this fund Catholic Charities will carry out Rawson Haverty's legacy of love and compassion for children and families in need.

The Dr. Michael M.E. Johns Fund: the proceeds from this fund will provide medical relief, medical supplies, prescriptions and other assistance to refugees and victims of natural disaster. Catholic Charities will carry out Dr. Johns' legacy to improve medical help and support for those most in need. For information about these funds and how you can contribute, please visit our website at [www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org).

We thank our sponsors for their outstanding support:

**Platinum Sponsors** were UPS; Sheila and Lee Shaw; and the Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia. **Gold Sponsors** included Havertys; Morgan Keegan; Woodruff Health Sciences Center—Emory University; and Mrs. Deenie McKeever. **Silver Sponsors** were AGCO Finance; the Alex and Betty Smith Foundation; FirstPro; Fitzgerald & Company; the Garrett Group; Regions Bank; Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP; Kim and David Hanna; Jeanne and Mike Heekin; Sara and Eddie Neel; and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Safigan.

Russ Spencer of FOX5 News Atlanta greeted the guests and served as master of ceremonies. Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory added his welcome, expressing his gratitude to the great response and attendance giving witness to the support of Catholic Charities and its services to the vulnerable population of Atlanta and North Georgia. Rev. Rafael Carballo gave the invocation.

The keynote speaker Rev. Ricardo Bailey highlighted "a living example of a client saved by Catholic Charities," the life of a young girl caught in the horrors of the Rwandan Holocaust, who escaped and was able to gain asylum in the United States through the help of Catholic Charities Atlanta and an adoptive family who gave her a new home.

- M O R E -

A fundraising raffle of magnificent prizes raised the enthusiasm and culminated in a top-dollar bidding contest to play a golf foursome with Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory at a local country club.

*“I think it is very providential that the Holy Father’s trip to the United States coincided with our first Catholic Charities Gala. Additionally, Pope Benedict’s first two encyclicals were about Charity and Hope. These are two virtues that Catholic Charities is known for in the great work that we do for the least, the last, and the lost in our community”* stated Joe Krygiel, CEO of Catholic Charities.

The evening ended with Archbishop Gregory leading the attendees in a closing prayer of thanksgiving. Plans are being formulated for next year’s Gala already.

### About Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is the social service agency of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, who partners with the community to help people facing adversity to reach wholeness and self sufficiency regardless of their background or religion. Catholic Charities is among the state’s well-known, professional providers of services to families in crisis, support for pregnant women, open infant adoption, and assistance and education to immigrants and refugees. Over 1500 families were served through satellite offices; 879 families received help through our Emergency Assistance Program; 762 new Immigration cases were opened; 136 at-risk birthmothers received baby supplies; 669 families participated in the Christmas Connection program; more than 1100 individuals, couples or families received mental health counseling. The agency was a major provider in a statewide collaboration to serve thousands of Hurricane Katrina and Rita families who fled to Georgia, providing housing, counseling, and job placement services. For more information, visit [www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org) or call 404.881.6571.



Shown with Gala Honoree, Dr. Michael Johns (center) (from left): **Lee and Sheila Shaw**, Gala Committee Chairs, **Mrs. Trina Johns, Dr. Johns, Pam and Joe Krygiel**, CEO of Catholic Charities at the Catholic Charities Gala held at the Piedmont Driving Club

(center) **Rev. Ricardo Bailey**, Keynote speaker at the Catholic Charities Gala with Gala Committee Members **Deenie McKeever** (photo left) and **Barbara Williams** (photo right)

