WHERE WE SEE NEED. WE SEE HIM

Jesus said that whatever we do for the hungry, the sick, the stranger, we do for Him (Matthew 25:40). That’s why, as Catholics, we see His face in those we serve. And we respond with love.

Since our founding, Catholic Charities Atlanta has lifted up more than a million people providing help for those in need, regardless of faith or background. For us, there is no greater honor and no greater joy.

Catholic Charities ensures that we help vulnerable individuals:

- attain economic self-sufficiency through programs designed to develop critical life skills;
- provide them with education and access to employment;
- address their well-being and ensure families have basic food security and safety.

We believe that charitable assistance that leaves the poor as they are is not sufficient.

Our team has been working with vulnerable populations for over 60 years. Our goal is to leverage our experience, services and partnerships to move families out of poverty and for all. We want to provide a hand up, not a hand out for those who want to live independent, self-directed lives free of financial instability and homelessness.

At Catholic Charities, we evaluate each client’s unique situation by giving them tools to become self-sufficient, productive, and whole again. In doing so, we help restore their dignity.

We seek to cure the condition—not just treat the symptoms—of those we serve.

Until now, Catholic Charities has been known as a good social service provider. But we want to have a greater impact in our community to be able to deliver a complete suite of integrated services, streamlined into one seamless system that looks at the total person.

We want to transform the lives of everyone we touch in a truly meaningful and measurable way.

With your heart and help we can get there. You can bring light to those suffering in darkness and help the poor and downcast rise. We invite you to join us in finding the joy Jesus wants for us all—as we see His face in all God’s children.

#iGIVECATHOLIC
GIVING TUESDAY IS NOVEMBER 27TH

Support Catholic Charities Atlanta on Tuesday, November 27th. As the first-ever online giving day created to celebrate our unique Catholic heritage, the #iGiveCatholic Giving Day inspires faithful stewards to “Give Catholic” on #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving. The goal of the #iGiveCatholic Giving Day is to rally our Catholic communities across the country in support of the organizations that shape our souls: our parishes, schools and nonprofit ministries.

We know that, as Catholics, generosity and giving have a profound meaning. As children of God, giving is the ultimate expression of mercy as we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, and preserve our Catholic heritage for future generations. Committed to action by our shared faith, Catholics are energized to give back knowing that little is much when God is present.

You can support CCA by making a donation at: http://bit.ly/iGiveCatholic

Catholic Charities Atlanta recently kicked off its 8th annual Leadership Class Program. The mission of the Catholic Charities Atlanta Leadership Class is to help Catholic men and women grow spiritually and professionally as servant leaders through educational events, service opportunities, networking, mentoring and fundraising with Catholic Charities Atlanta.

The 2018 class consists of 40 individuals from multiple industries and professions. They represent 16 parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Atlanta. For more information about the program and to meet 6 of current class members, see: http://bit.ly/cclc2018

During the month of November, CCA is holds its annual Help, Hope, Honor campaign.

Georgia is home to 699,322 veterans. In a recent study, fifty-eight percent of veterans surveyed in Georgia reported experiencing homelessness after their departure from the military. Sixty-five percent report income less than $20,000 and seventy-one percent do not receive income from either pensions or retirement. Reintegrating into civilian life after serving in the military is often an overwhelming experience.

Catholic Charities Atlanta offers case management support services to Georgia’s veterans. This is a free program for military members, veterans, and their families to connect to valuable resources in their local community that help them to meaningfully improve their lives. Additionally, we often provide rental assistance, gas, food cards, and clothing for their family.

As part of the “Help, Hope, Honor” initiative, parishes, schools and community members donate their spare change in specially designed coin collection boxes. All donated change will go to support our veteran’s who came to CCA offices seeking help. Donations can also be made online at http://bit.ly/CCA_veterans

catholiccharitiesatlanta.org
The Christmas spirit is in the air. Throughout the holiday season, Santa’s elves have been hard at work preparing for our annual Christmas Connections program.

For parents, the inability to participate in the holiday can be very difficult. There is no way to avoid disappointing their children on Christmas morning when there are no gifts under the tree and no food on the table for a celebration meal. CCA’s Christmas Connections program helps to eliminate this problem for hundreds of needy families in our community.

Over 20 years, the Christmas Connections program has provided a way for families in the metro Atlanta area to share the Christmas spirit. CCA facilitates the program and provides the opportunity and mechanism for donations from Catholic parishes to connect with families through wish lists generated by those in need. It takes many hours, volunteers, and donations to make our Christmas Connections program a success each year. Last year, we provided gifts to over 819 families (3359 individuals) in need.

Support for the Christmas Connections program is provided by the following parishes: St. Anthony of Padua, St. Bernardette, Our Lady of the Americas, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Americas Mission, Christ the King, St. Jude, San Felipe de Jesus and St. Brigid. Additionally, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School conducts a large toy drive and Knights of Columbus provides new coats to our clients in need.

Thank you to all who help share the spirit and create a memorable Christmas for so many.

 Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40

#CCAVolunteers

There are many opportunities to volunteer your time and talent to benefit our clients in need. Opportunities include:

- Administrative Assistant Volunteer
  St. Joseph Place

- Adult ESL Class Instructor
  Chamblee

- Advocates for Separated Immigrant Families
  Clarksdon

- After School Tutoring for Refugee Children
  Smyrna

- Baby Closet Coordinator
  Smyrna

- Graphic Design and Social Media Intern
  Smyrna

- Immigrant Family Transportation Volunteers
  Atlanta

- Refugee Youth Development and After School Program Intern
  Clarksdon

For a complete list of volunteer opportunities and descriptions, please visit our website: https://catholiccharitiesatlanta.org/volunteer or email Christie Crane at CCrane@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Mikel Flanagan has been a volunteer and Catholic Charities Board member for over 20 years. Most recently, he served as Chair for the Board from 2016-2018. He is currently working as the Market Manager at Great Southern Bank.

Mikel shares the following, “I have been blessed in my life in many ways. After many years in corporate life, I came to the realization, that what is important is how you serve your community and help those less fortunate than yourself. No matter where you sit in society there will always be people less fortunate and it’s important to remember an ounce of care and concern is worth a ton of hope.”

One of Mike’s defining moments in serving on the Board of CCA is when he was involved in the reestablishment of those displaced to Atlanta following Hurricane Katrina. All regular services were put on hold while CCA staff, Board members and volunteers worked tirelessly to provide food, clothing, immediate essentials, interim housing, and transportation to the otherwise devastated individuals. As he said, “So little, so big.”

Mikel not only gives of his time, but he supports CCA financially as well. He explains that, “year after year funding sources are fluid at best. Despite the fluidity, CCA will always follow its mission to provide help and create hope. We often miss opportunities to grow and serve due to lack of additional funding. I encourage my fellow Catholics to support CCA at any level and pray for our continued growth so that we can serve more of our fellow neighbors in need.”

Join us!
The mission of the Young Professionals Society is to promote the compassionate works of Catholic Charities Atlanta and to become the next generation of leaders in the community through philanthropy, social fundraising, servant leadership, and spiritual enrichment.

Join the Young Professionals Society to:

- Network and make connections with other young professionals in Atlanta while developing friendships, starting families, and growing in your career.
- Develop professional tools for living your faith in a secular business world through speaker and panel events.
- Share in opportunities to grow your potential, gain visibility, and give back to the community.
- Grow in awareness and understanding of Catholic Charities Atlanta and their programs and services.

Members of the society range in age from 23 to 40.

Young Professionals Society members have “adopted” CCA’s St. Joseph’s Place—a housing complex for low income seniors. Society members plan social and service activities with and for the residents throughout the year. Activities have included a Memorial Day barbecue and a Thanksgiving dinner.

We are looking for a few people to serve on the YPS Board.

Board members help plan social and service events. The board meets every other month. If you are interested in volunteering in this capacity, please contact: Melissa Rubsam
MRubsam@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org or 404.470.7776.
According to the American Education Research Association, a student who can’t read on grade level by third grade is four times less likely to graduate by age 18 than a child who reads proficiently by that time. Add poverty to the mix, and a student is 13 times less likely to graduate on time than his or her proficient, wealthier peer.

Catholic Charities’ after school program helps to address this issue by providing an integrated after school tutoring program at Indian Creek Elementary School. This is a school where classroom sizes are large and many students have unique needs. CCA helps to “fill the gaps” by providing individualized support and by assisting children to develop self-help and self-learning skills that they may not learn in the general education classroom. Indian Creek is in a school district that has a very low score on the United Way of Greater Atlanta’s Child Well-Being Index, with an indicator 27 points below the regional average related to the percent of students exceeding third grade reading standards.

Each school year, 35 students meet four days a week for one-on-one tutoring provided by CCA staff and volunteers. By partnering with school teachers and administrators who provide referrals for each student enrolled into the program, CCA ensures that the children participating in the program are those with the greatest need for additional support in order to achieve academic success. Additionally, we create personalized learning based on diagnostic placement tests in order to target areas where students need the most help.

In addition to robust academic supports, CCA also tailors curriculum and experiences to improve student social and cultural understanding. CCA coordinates guest visits throughout the academic year who provide “hands-on” curriculum and exposure to career options and healthy living information. Guests have included the DeKalb County Fire Department, Sheets for Happiness, Super Science Kids, and the Clarkston Library.

We are proud to say that this program is making a huge impact in the lives of the students we tutor. Last year, 100% of participating students were promoted to the next grade level and 100% of our students improved their reading ability.

How You Can Help
Provide after school snacks:
As all of our students are low income, CCA makes sure to provide a healthy afternoon snack to every student, every day. This means that we need 140 snack bags each week of the school year. Snack bags include two food items and a drink (i.e. juice box, crackers, granola bar, fruit snack, cookies, etc.). If you or your organization is interested in providing snacks, please contact: Christie Crane at CCrane@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org.

Volunteer as a Tutor:
The after school program is structured to offer volunteers the opportunity to explore and alternate between a variety of roles. These roles and duties include but are not limited to:
- Math, Language Arts, Homework Assistance, and Computer Literacy tutor: provide guidance and instruction to designated student small groups in daily academic activities.
- Project and lesson facilitator: volunteer to lead daily classroom activities including academic lessons, art and enrichment activities, and group games.

Commitment: An attendance commitment of at least one day per week during the school year is required of all program volunteers.

For more information, contact Christie at CCrane@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org or (678)222-3933.
PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Information & Referral, Benefits and Application Screening Assistance, Disaster Response

Counseling Services
- Play Therapy for Children, Couples Counseling, Grief Counseling, Anxiety and Depression Therapy

Educational Services
- English Language Classes, English Literacy Classes, Civic Education, Citizenship Preparation Classes

Housing Counseling
- Home Buyer Education, Pre-purchase Counseling, Foreclosure Prevention and Financial Literacy

Immigration Services
- Immigration Court defense services, Naturalization Services, Victims of Violence (VAWA), Asylum Applications, Immigrant Juvenile Status and Legal Orientation Program

Parenting Education
- In Home Parenting Education, Child/Family Assessments, Family Life Skills and Parenting Enrichment

Refugee Resettlement
- Housing & Furnishing, Employment Assistance, Access to Healthcare, Youth Mentoring and Unaccompanied Children

Veteran Services
- Case Management, Access to Public Benefits, Access to VA Benefits, Managing Finances, Mental Health Counseling and Direct (Financial) Assistance

WISH LIST

If you would like to donate any of the items listed below, please contact Chistine Crane at CCraze@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org

School Supplies:
- Felt tip markers, colored pencils
- Notebook paper, math supplies
- Construction paper, scissors
- 24 count boxes of crayons
- Colored pencils
- Magnetic "ABC/123"
- Suction cup notebooks
- Index cards
- Blue or black pens
- Dry erase whiteboards
- Small portfolio hand sanitizers
- Large boxes of facial tissue
- Glue sticks
- Storage of files
- Black or red lip gloss
- Open-ended zip lock bags
- Spiral notebooks
- Children's umbrellas
- Dry erase boards and tarp
- Dry erase markers and erasers

Household Items:
- Full and Queen bed sheet sets
- Small mini-sets
- Baby items:
  - Diapers, size 6
  - Pacifier
  - Convertible car seats
  - Baby wipes
  - "Baby" books
  - Diapers, size 7
  - Chlorine disinfecting wipes

Children Items:
- Potty training
- Puzzles
- Musical instruments
- Miscellaneous, pets, transportation, nature
- Small houses
- Kids' dress-up clothes

Hygiene:
- Hygiene kits, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.
- Feminine hygiene products
- Gift cards
- Food baskets with canned and boxed goods
- Marta gift cards
- English/Spanish dictionaries

For more information or to make a donation, please visit http://bit.ly/CCAwishlist