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Catholic Charities relies on the generosity of people in our community to serve those most in need. We receive 5 percent of our funding from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Much of the remaining 95 percent comes from people such as you.

Please consider making your gift today.

Visit www.cctwincities.org to support Catholic Charities' mission.



A Second Chance at Stability

Mary Hall's Housing Continuum Helps People Find a Home

- ▼ Gloria Wiggins' eyes brimmed with
- ▼ tears as she filled out an application
- ▼ for residency in Mary Hall's permanent affordable housing program.

She had recently found herself homeless, had almost no money and badly needed a place to stay.

"I didn't know where to go or what to do," she said.

One year later, things are much different and much better. She works full time, has money in the bank and a room to call her own.

"I love being in Mary Hall," she said. "I love living by myself. It feels good."

Wiggins lives in Mary Hall's Single Room Occupancy (SRO) program, the final step in Mary Hall's "natural continuum of housing," which consists of three programs, said Jonathan Lindquist, Mary Hall program manager.

SRO comprises 75 units for single men and women. Residents have their own rooms but share a common kitchen, bathroom and laundry room. They pay 30 percent of their monthly

income for a room. The St. Paul Public Housing Authority subsidizes the remainder of the rent.

Mary Hall's other housing programs are the Men's Emergency Shelter and the Supportive Housing program. The shelter has beds for up to 20 men and is open from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily.

Supportive Housing fills the 80 rooms on Mary Hall's second and third floors. As with SRO, clients pay 30 percent of their monthly income to rent a room. Residents can stay for as long as two years on month-to-month leases.

As residents move up the continuum, they build positive rental histories. With an affordable and reliable place to live, their lives stabilize and improve.

In addition to the continuum of housing for single men and women, two rooms in Mary Hall were converted into emergency sleeping areas for homeless families. In 2007, 562 people slept in those rooms.

Overcoming Barriers

Mental illness, the most common barrier clients face, affects 64 percent of Supportive Housing clients. Five years ago about 30 percent of all Mary Hall's clients self identified as having a mental illness. Today, that number stands at about 60 percent, Lindquist said.

Three years ago Ramsey County asked Catholic Charities to work with a group of people with extreme mental illness. After discharge from hospitals, these clients still needed "a lot of help," Lindquist said.

To meet this increased need, Mary Hall reserves its second floor for 40 people who are chronically and persistently homeless. South Metro Human Services provides mental health practitioners to staff this floor.



Gloria Wiggins got back on her feet after moving into Mary Hall's permanent housing

"This population came to the forefront because it costs so much to care for them at hospitals," Lindquist said. Hospital care costs about \$500 a day, compared to \$30 a day at Mary Hall.

Mary Hall's clients face other obstacles, including lack of education, physical disabilities and criminal backgrounds. Although these issues can be hard to overcome, Mary Hall will always give people a chance, Lindquist said.

"I love being in Mary Hall. I love living by myself. It feels good."

"We will accept people with barriers, even very difficult barriers," Lindquist said. "We are sometimes the only place people can get into. That's what makes this place special." ♦



Mary Hall offers three programs — an emergency shelter, transitional housing with supportive services and a permanent single-room occupancy program

News Briefs

Thank You for Helping Us Reach Our Goal

With your support, Catholic Charities met its fundraising goal and served tens of thousands of children, adults and families in need in our 2008 fiscal year ending June 30.

Your generosity helped:

- Open two new housing programs, providing 60 beds for formerly homeless men and 42 beds for homeless women
- Secure legislation to help protect renters facing the effects of the mortgage foreclosure crisis
- Expand out-of-school time support for teens at Northside Child Development Center
- Provide stability for teen and single parents through support groups and home visits



Thank you for your role in helping those most in need in our community. ♦

Parishes Partner With Catholic Charities

Hear Fr. John Estrem share the mission and work of Catholic Charities when he serves as guest presider at local parishes. Learn how you can take an active part in Catholic Charities' mission at the following Masses:

- Church of the Annunciation, Minneapolis, August 16, 5 p.m. Mass; August 17, 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Masses
- St. Hubert Catholic Community, Chanhassen, October 25, 5:15 p.m. Mass; October 26, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses. ♦

From Fr. John's Desk

When I became CEO of Catholic Charities, I said I wanted to put us out of business.

I still do. I want to eliminate poverty so the Twin Cities no longer needs Catholic Charities.

We're not likely to close anytime soon. The number of people — especially children — living in poverty continues to increase in America.

Few people have tough conversations about poverty. Fewer acknowledge its growth. And fewer still give voice and solace to those who go unheard.

Which is why we need you to help us meet 40,000 people's basic needs every year, advocate for changes and volunteer thousands of hours.

Coverage of the Republican and Democratic national conventions will soon fill the airways, blogosphere and

newspapers. The Republican National Convention will be held in St. Paul, across the street from the Dorothy Day Center.

As you listen to speeches and commentaries, I invite you to remember those whose agenda is survival — securing food and shelter for their families, finding a job that pays a living wage, ensuring their children have health care. I urge you to hear not only the sounds of those with microphones but the silence of those who often go unheard and suffer the most.

Fr. John Estrem, Chief Executive Officer



Counseling Continues for Bridge Collapse Victims

Catholic Charities USA and The Minneapolis Foundation extended funding to Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis for services to survivors of the Interstate 35W bridge collapse.

The additional funding, which will last through October 2008, will allow Catholic Charities' Counseling Services to provide additional care to people affected by the collapse.

"It was great to see that funders realize that trauma such as the bridge collapse can be difficult work and it takes time to heal or recover from such a traumatic event," said Tim Eiesland, administrator, counseling services.

Counseling Services will use the funds to cover various expenses such as child-care, travel for specialized treatment, "healing communities" activities, specialized professional training and education and additional counseling services and treatments. ♦

St. Joe's Grows a Garden

At St. Joseph's Home for Children, flowers bloom in what was once a weedy, neglected patch of land. The newly restored garden offers stepping stones, benches and a natural sanctuary for children and their families.



General Mills partnered with St. Joe's to restore the children's garden. The volunteers brought in two University of Minnesota master gardeners to design the space, and children learned to care for the garden by participating in its planting.

"We've been very fortunate to partner with General Mills," said Volunteer Coordinator Mary Schoelch. "It's a lovely space where children can spend time." ♦

Food Shelf Demand Increases

▼ Joanne Glenn relies on the Groceries on Wheels program through Branch I food shelf. Glenn, 55, represents the growing population of people older than 50 served by Catholic Charities' food shelves.

The number of clients older than 50 at Catholic Charities' Branch I and II food shelves has risen 50 percent since 2003. The number of clients older than 65 increased 10 percent between May 2007 and April 2008.

Wages that haven't kept pace with high gas prices and the rising cost of food make it difficult for many people to afford groceries. As a result, more people are turning to Catholic Charities food shelves to bridge the gap, said Jim Durdle, co-director of housing and emergency services.

Glenn doesn't work because of a sight impairment. Her \$677 monthly Social Security check, her only income, just isn't enough, she said.

"The way groceries are going up these days, your check is practically gone after buying 10 meals," she said.

Older adults with fixed incomes and people unable to work due to physical or mental disabilities are hit especially hard.

Catholic Charities started the Groceries on Wheels program in 2004 to address the increase in older clients. The program, which serves about 80 households, relies

on volunteers to deliver groceries from Branch I to Minneapolis homes on a weekly basis.

Delivering groceries to clients was one of several changes food shelves made to meet clients' needs.

To accommodate clients who work full time, Branch I is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Few other food shelves in the metro area are open on Saturdays.

More people are turning to food shelves because of rising food costs.

In 2005, 38 percent of food shelf clients were employed, compared to 23 percent in 1985. Historically people who work only used food shelves for emergencies and occasional crises. Now more people rely on them every month, Durdle said.

Economic downturns increase demand at Catholic Charities' food shelves, making foodstocks disappear faster.

"There's always the need for more," Durdle said.

To make a financial or food donation to Catholic Charities' food shelves, go to www.cctwincities.org or call 612-664-8500. ♦



A food shelf guest, left, waits for produce with Program Manager Arlene Chosa. Demand has increased at Catholic Charities' three food shelves, especially among the elderly and working poor

Our Programs

Children's Services

- Hope Street for Runaway & Homeless Youth
- Northside Child Development Center
- St. Joseph's Home for Children

Housing & Emergency Services

- Branch III
- Dorothy Day Center
- Evergreen Residence
- Exodus Residence
- Family Service Center
- Food Shelves
- Glenwood Residence
- Housing First
- Mary Hall
- Secure Waiting Space
- St. Anthony Residence
- St. Christopher Place
- St. Paul Residence
- Visitation Place

Family Services

- Adoption Services
- Caregiver Support
- Counseling Services
- Hispanic Outreach
- Migration & Refugee Services
- Office for Separated & Divorced
- Parenting Services
- Prenatal Services
- Senior Care Management

Advocacy

- Office for Social Justice

Our political agenda: food, shelter and dignity.

WHAT'S YOUR AGENDA?

Be part of the discussion — visit our online forum today.

www.cctwincities.org