



Offering Prenatal Care for 90 Years

- ▼ Parishioners at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Eagan didn't come to the baby shower empty-handed. There were gifts of bottles, diapers and handmade blankets — all the essentials a mother needs for her newborn baby. But the guests of honor for this shower were women the parishioners would never meet.

Committed to helping families in need, the parish holds two community baby showers each year to collect basic necessities for impoverished women seeking help at Catholic Charities' Prenatal Services.



For 90 years, Catholic Charities' Prenatal Services has provided medical care and supportive services to low-income women

This year, the Prenatal Services program commemorates its 90th anniversary of offering no-cost prenatal care to low-income, uninsured women. According to Mary Ann Sullivan, director of Catholic Charities' Family Services, it is a milestone that could not have been reached without partnerships such as that of St. John Neumann.

"I have heard so many community members say, 'If it hadn't been for Catholic Charities, I don't know what I would've done,'" Sullivan said. "If it weren't for our partnerships and generous Catholic Charities supporters, we could not have impacted nearly as many lives in the last 90 years."

A celebration was held recently to honor those who help make Catholic Charities' Prenatal Services possible, including St. Joseph's Hospital/Health East, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Strengthening Families

Prenatal Services provides vital medical care and supportive services to address the variety of concerns that affect a family's stability.

"Women often come to us homeless, having nowhere to turn after fleeing an abusive partner," Sullivan said. "We offer prenatal care, but also focus on helping mothers raise their children in the most stable, healthy situation possible."

To aid stability, supportive services are available after the baby is born. From post-partum support groups to home visits offered by the Parenting Services program, Catholic Charities' Family Services division works collaboratively to help strengthen families.

One very obvious example of this continuum of services is Prenatal Services' collaboration with Catholic Charities' Adoption Services.

That's how Marc Hugunin got his start in life. His birth mother, a teenager experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, came to Catholic Charities for prenatal care and to place her baby for adoption.

Now, years after Catholic Charities facilitated his adoption, Hugunin continues to stay close to the agency by financially supporting its mission and including it in his estate plans.

"Catholic Charities helped me to get a good start in life," said Hugunin. "I know it is a good organization — it helped me at a time when I needed it." ♦

Parishes Put Faith into Action

Parishes Collect School Items for Youth Heading Back to School

Three parishes held back-to-school supply drives to benefit children served by Catholic Charities. St. Lawrence Catholic Church and Newman Center of Minneapolis, St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Inver Grove Heights and St. Bridget's Church of Minneapolis each collected items to help low-income children start off the school year with the tools they need for educational success.

Assumption Parish Celebrates 150 Years by Giving Back

The Church of the Assumption in downtown St. Paul celebrated its 150th anniversary this year. To honor its long-standing tradition of service to the poor, the parish made a special gift to Catholic Charities. The parish was instrumental in founding the Dorothy Day Center 26 years ago. It continues to provide vital volunteer and financial support to Catholic Charities and the Dorothy Day Center today.

Hispanic Outreach Benefits from Vital Parish Relationships

Catholic Charities' Hispanic Outreach program serves low-income, Spanish-speaking individuals who need support in times of crisis. Three area parishes — St. Matthew's Church in St. Paul, Ascension Church in Minneapolis and St. Mark's Church in Shakopee — partner with Catholic Charities to provide the office space for Hispanic Outreach, which offers culturally appropriate counseling, referrals and other services.

Put Faith into Action with Catholic Charities

There are several ways you can put your faith into action through Catholic Charities' mission-driven work to serve those most in need in our community.

Advocate

Catholic Charities' Office for Social Justice advocates for public policies that help reduce poverty. Parishioners can take active roles by joining the Sowers of Justice Legislative Network or four issue action teams. To learn how you can advocate for justice, visit www.osjspm.org.

Volunteer

Catholic Charities offers more than 80 volunteer opportunities for individuals, church groups and families. Learn how you can make a difference; submit a volunteer application online or call the Volunteer Line at 612-664-8600.

Contribute

Catholic Charities offers several giving opportunities for those who would like to provide direct support for our programs. Gifts of any amount are appreciated. *Private contributions total 25% of our revenue while funding from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis contributes another 5%.*

The many ways you may give financially include:

- One-time gifts
- Circle of Hope, an easy and efficient monthly giving program
- Community of Compassion, a leadership giving level of \$1,000 or more
- Estate planning
- Gifts of stock and mutual funds
- Tribute gifts in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion

To learn more or make a gift, call Lynn Varco at 612-664-8781 or go online to www.cctwincities.org and click on "Make a Gift."

From Fr. John's desk

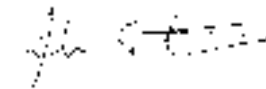
It shouldn't surprise you to learn that I truly enjoy visiting parishes and discussing the impact of Catholic Charities' mission in our community. At each parish, I am uplifted by the number of people who approach me in gratitude and extend their thanks to Catholic Charities for serving our impoverished brothers and sisters.

Some people even stop to tell me how they turned to Catholic Charities for help years ago when they were struggling to make ends meet. Others say, "If it weren't for Catholic Charities, I wouldn't be here." They go on to explain that they were adopted through Catholic Charities and now support the

agency in gratitude.

These encounters serve as a reminder of how we each have a role in answering God's call to serve those most in need and create a just community. This is the mission Catholic Charities seeks to put into practice each day.

In this time of thanksgiving, I am grateful to you for joining me on this journey. Together, we serve tens of thousands of people in need each year. For that, I give thanks.



Fr. John Estrem, chief executive officer



Getting Involved

Tim and Lou Anne Sexton Give Back in Many Ways

- ▼ Like many people of faith, Tim and Lou Anne Sexton feel compelled to help their neighbors in need reach
- ▼ greater stability. They join a legion of people who are passionate about Catholic Charities' mission.

"Catholic Charities helps people who don't have a network of support to fall back on," Lou Anne said. "I can always call on my friends and family, but sometimes, people don't have that support and just need a temporary safety net."

"Catholic Charities helps people get back on their feet and become self-sufficient," Tim added.

The Sextons' commitment to Catholic Charities comes in many forms. They are members of the Legacy Society, the Community of Compassion and the agency's monthly giving club. Their charitable involvement, they say, stems from a clear source: their parents.

As president of his family's company, Tim offers Catholic Charities discounted printing — a gift first given by his father years ago.

As was modeled to them, Tim and Lou Anne are dedicated to showing their two sons the importance of giving back to the community.

Each year, the family participates in the Sponsor A Family holiday program that provides gifts to families who cannot afford them.

"The boys are very surprised at how humble the families' requests are," Lou Anne said. "Our boys realized that these families ask for their basic needs — and they have a lot more compassion now."

The Sextons' involvement with Catholic Charities has become a way of life — a commitment to a mission that they see making an impact in the community. ♦

Parish Opportunities

- Coordinate and host a holiday party for residents at one of Catholic Charities' housing programs.
- Purchase, prepare and serve an evening meal for 250-300 guests at Secure Waiting Space in Minneapolis.
- Help with the Sponsor A Family holiday giving program. Volunteers are needed through December to assist with the program. Visit www.sponsorfamily.org.

For more information or other opportunities, call the Volunteer Line at 612-664-8600 or visit www.cctwincities.org.