

Catholic Charities ranked among Top Workplaces in the region

The Baltimore Sun's 2013 Top Workplace Award has been announced and Catholic Charities has cause to celebrate. The agency placed seventh of 15 in the category of Maryland's largest employers and first among the nonprofits. These rankings place the agency among the best places to work in the region.

The results were compiled from anonymous employee surveys that were tabulated by Workplace Dynamics, an independent human resources firm. Other Top 15 large employer winners include: KEYW Corp; FutureCare, Agora, Inc.; Connections Education; WPM Real



THE BALTIMORE SUN

Estate Management; T. Rowe Price Group Inc; Aerotek; Humanin, Inc.; eBay Inc./PayPal; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; McCormick & Company, Inc.; Bon Secours Baltimore Health System; Columbia Association; and Comcast.

Executive Director **Bill McCarthy**. "I am both proud and humbled by these designations," says Executive Director **Bill McCarthy**. "I constantly remind myself that we have been given a great gift—the opportunity to use our God-given talents in ways that mirror our personal values as well as our organizational values to love, serve, teach, and work for justice.

"What we achieve as an Agency is rooted in our employees' dedication to bring our Mission of improving the lives of Marylanders into reality." ■

FEBRUARY 2014

BLESSINGS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

Inspired by the Gospel mandates to LOVE, SERVE, and TEACH, Catholic Charities provides care and services to IMPROVE the LIVES of Marylanders in need.



A reading of *The Mitten* by Education Coordinator **Linda Miller** to three-year-old **Daniel** is one many learning exercises for students at **Carroll County Head Start and Early Head Start Center**. (PHOTO BY RENÉE JOHNSON)

A ray of sunshine

*Carroll County Head Start Director **Liza Frye** believes that the actions of Education Coordinator **Linda Miller** embody the value to love:*

"Early every morning at 6:30 a.m.—before everyone else arrives—a warm, energetic aura envelopes **Carroll County Head Start and Early Head Start Center**. This figurative light is cast by Education Coordinator **Linda Miller**, who's on a mission. Whether she's supporting her staff, checking on classrooms, or making everyone else's day better (which is often unassumingly executed), each task is undertaken with the mantra to love, serve, and teach.

"Every child and staff member in the program is individually and collectively considered as Linda supports her staff in creating a balance between meeting children's needs and guiding them toward scholastic success. She's the go-to person for any problem, question, good news or emergency. Her welcoming spirit, listening ear, professional know-how, and open heart are rooted in love." ■

To learn more about Carroll County Early Head Start, visit cc-md.org/CarrollCoHeadStart

DEAR FRIENDS:

THIS JANUARY marked the first-ever Mission Awareness Month at Catholic Charities. The theme was the first of our values: To Love. While we have evolved as an Agency in response to community needs, we've stayed true to our core values. *Why* we do this work, *what* we do, *where* we are headed as an agency, and *how* we do our work have not and will not change. This tradition—represented by our mission, vision, and values—is our legacy as an organization. And it is a legacy worth celebrating.



Mission Awareness Month extols our continuing legacy of compassionate service to those in need while deepening a commitment to live out our mission and values.

The Mission Integration Committee sponsored numerous activities throughout the month. The 2014 Mission in Action Award winners, volunteers and employees who embody selfless service, were announced. Six celebratory employee receptions were held at various agency sites. Special service opportunities at our programs were provided for employees to experience the breadth of our agency that has a common mission. On January 28th, we participated in Catholic Charities Day in Annapolis, our annual advocacy day, allowing our largest gathering ever of staff and clients to share the stories and experiences of their programs with State policy makers. Spot Recognition encouraged staff to recognize and thank each other for demonstrating our values. Daily reflections about love were written by colleagues. As a visual reminder, we created and distributed wristbands with the question: *Am I Cherishing the Divine Within All?*

Regardless of what we are doing throughout the day, we are called to Cherish the Divine Within All. All the time. In every encounter. In every instance.

Am I Cherishing the Divine Within All? The more we answer this question with a resounding Yes, the more we meet our great potential as an organization, realize our mission and live up to the first of our values—*To Love*.

Peace,

Bill McCarthy, Executive Director

I may be able to speak the languages of men and even angels, but if I have no love, ... this does me no good.

—I CORINTHIANS 13: 1-3

SPOTLIGHT ON
MISSION INTEGRATION:

TO LOVE

“The purpose of our mission integration efforts is to discuss, reinforce and celebrate not only what we do as an organization but also why we do this work, what we are working towards and how we do that work. These ideas are represented by our mission, our values, our vision and our philosophy of service. The *why* and the *how* are particularly important, I think. We do this work because of our fundamental belief in the dignity of every person, and we do our very best to serve with both competence and compassion.

We do this work with love.”

—**Kristen Kinkopf**, Mission Integration Director



Mission Integration Director **Kristen Kinkopf** adjusts a conference room display of Catholic Charities' Mission, Vision, and Values, stating, “The first step in Mission Integration started a couple of years ago by simply putting the words of our mission, vision and values on the walls in programs and departments across Catholic Charities, to make them visible. These words remind us every day of what we have in common across programs and service areas and what binds us together as Catholic Charities.” (PHOTO BY RENÉE JOHNSON)

A welcoming presence

W

Warren Wheeler models the Mission in action to his co-workers at **Our Daily Bread**. Working as a program assistant for the past 17 years, he greets a daily average of 700 guests as they enter and exit Our Daily Bread's dining room. Ensuring that guests are fed within a two-hour period is no easy task. Considering the many people and situations Warren encounters, he is known for his warm engaging personality.



The following remarks about Warren were read at the Mission Integration reception on January 23 at **Our Daily Bread Employment Center**.

Program Assistant **Warren Wheeler** keeps a steady flow of diners at **Our Daily Bread**, remarking, “I love interacting with the people who come here.”

“Warren never turns anyone away and is so kindhearted,” says ODBEC Volunteer Manager **Kim Kahl**. “It's obvious that he believes everyone has worth.”

ODB Program Manager **John Soboleski** witnessed Warren take time from his lunch break to provide relief from the summer heat to a man who was curled up on the sidewalk under a scrawny tree. “Warren gave him ice cream which was a simple yet powerful gesture.”

Security Assistant **Nathaniel Baker**, who works the line with Warren, says, “We are in the trenches every day, working hard, and it requires dedication. Warren definitely has a heart for this work.”

Our Daily Bread Director **Sabree Akinyele** says, “Warren embodies what it is to do God's work. So many times when I'm entering the building, he remarks ‘God has me here to help.’”

To learn more about Our Daily Bread, visit cc-md.org/lourdailybread



At the close of worship service, Gallagher Services Spiritual Development Coordinator **Stevie McDonald** (foreground) watches congregant **Jinn Yoo** extinguish the altar candles. (PHOTO BY RENÉE JOHNSON)

A caring touch

Stevie McDonald, Gallagher Services spiritual development coordinator, finds that she often learns life lessons from those she serves.

“How does one who is intellectually challenged react to having a dear friend in her group home move out? Linda prays for her, out loud in prayer service explaining she is sad and misses her friend. We are all sitting in a circle sharing our prayers together. A kind lady with special needs who is sitting next to her reaches out her hand and smiles, letting her know that she too is her friend.

“That is love both in prayer and in action. They are our teachers.”

To learn more about Gallagher Services, visit cc-md.org/developmental-disabilities

Making a “passion”-forward statement

Wristbands with the phrase “**Am I Cherishing the Divine Within All?**” were distributed to employees, serving as a visual prompt to always keep the Mission in mind.



"Love in yet another of its infinitely diverse forms"

Thirty-five year employee and Catholic Charities Chaplin **Father Ray Chase** shares an observation of love in action:

"The true beauty and power of the work at Catholic Charities happens in small encounters. One day I noticed an important one. I was at **Our Daily Bread Employment Center**, walking through the building when I witnessed a guest being met at the front door by a staff person. It was clear that the guest was agitated—either out of frustration or from some troubling things deep in his heart or mind. As the staff person continued to speak to him, you could see the guest's agitation increase along with budding

anger. I remember thinking and feeling that this could easily escalate and get out of control.

"The staff person continued to speak with a gentle and quiet voice, being respectful of the man's needs and acknowledging his upset. Slowly the man's anger melted away. In a matter of moments the guest was directed to the person who could assist him and it was made possible by the wise assistance of the staff person at the door.

"It showed and taught me that quiet gentleness and respect are tools exercised with great skill each day in each of our programs." ■



Catholic Charities Chaplin **Fr. Ray Chase** tells the audience at the Basilica Place Remembrance service that recently deceased residents will be remembered for the "good things that they've done and the contributions they made."

(PHOTO BY RENÉE JOHNSON)

An abundant heart

Catholic Charities' **Project Believe** provides supportive permanent housing for homeless men and women and families with disabilities. Through outreach in the community, two women who were living under the overpass of the Jones Falls Expressway were assisted. **Tanya Ritter**, director of Community Housing, tells their story:

One of the women had arrived in Baltimore from New York with the promise of a room only to find out it was a scam, resulting in her living at a shelter. Here she met and befriended the other woman. Soon they both opted to live under the expressway bridge.

They both came to **Project Believe** for assistance, but the woman from New York left our program for her own housing, leaving her friend behind.

On a snowy Friday, Case Manager **Wanda Brewton** went to check on the remaining woman who now had an apartment through Project Believe. The purpose of the visit was to make sure that the woman had enough food to last through the inclement weather. On arriving, Ms. Brewton was struck by the emptiness of the room and the powerful presence of a single Bible with the word Believe embossed on the cover. This woman was living on her faith alone. Ms. Brewton left and soon returned with groceries. While the woman was excited about receiving the food, she quickly knocked on a neighbor's door, generously offering her some of her just received groceries.

In reflection, I think of this woman as a prophet who causes me to be mindful that abundance is not a matter of money. It is a matter of gratitude, love, and faith. One can come from nothing and still stand with pride. ■



For more information on Project Serve contact **Tanya Ritter**, 410-261-6761 or visit cc-md.org/Believe

Precious memories



A REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM—that was initially held at Basilica Place to honor residents who had died within the past year—is now standard practice at all Senior Housing communities.

A January 28 observance themed "We Remember—We are Remembered" was highly attended and included remarks from Catholic Charities Chaplin **Father Ray Chase**, a solo by resident **Ivy Scott** (left), and a piano performance of *Sanctuary*, an original composition by resident **Lawrence Willis** (right).

Basilica Place Director **Donnet Lawrence** (center) says of the observance, "It builds a great sense of community, reinforces friendships, and renews community bond. Those who attend will leave knowing that they too will be remembered."

(PHOTO BY RENÉE JOHNSON)

To learn more about Catholic Charities Senior Housing Communities, visit cc-md.org/senior-housing

Child and Family Services Administrator **Ezra Buchdahl** writes:

A central thread between the young and the old

"Over the course of my 25 year career with Catholic Charities, I've had the privilege and pleasure to work with and learn from both children and seniors. What I found is they have more in common than one might think. They are both incredibly resilient and have a tremendous capacity to LOVE despite experiencing incredible separations and losses. What gives them hope and joy is having at least one person who is there for them through thick and thin. For many, our staff (regardless of position, titles, degrees, years of experience, etc.) are included in the people who have made an indelible mark on them and helped them through a difficult time in their lives."

To learn about Child and Family Services, visit cc-md.org/child-and-family-services

AN EVENING WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Celebrations of CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Monday, March 31, 2014

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront
700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.
RSVP by March 20, 2014

Tickets \$75 per person
\$750 per table of 10

For more information
call 410-625-8487
cc-md.org/annualdinner

Saturday, March 8, 2014
7:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.

Our Daily Bread Employment Center
725 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202

*Featuring the culinary talents of
top Baltimore chefs*

Tickets \$200
\$2,000 for a table of 10

RSVP by March 1 to
Ellen Torres
410-625-8453
ellentorres@cc-md.org
or visit cc-md.org/dinner



From our roots in the late 1700s, today Catholic Charities is Maryland's leading nonprofit provider of human services, serving over 160,000 people every year. We also provide more than 370,000 meals to people who are hungry. With compassion and respect for people of all faiths, races, and circumstances, we improve the lives of children and families, seniors, people living in poverty, immigrants, and people who are intellectually disabled. As part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, we cherish the Divine within those we serve in 80 programs throughout Baltimore City and nine counties.

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CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

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