

# Catholic Charities

Fall News 2020

## Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,



Sometimes we owe it to one another to acknowledge pain, fear and sadness, and sit with that together for a while. This has been a time with all of those feelings and more, across all our communities. I want to assure you that our response as an agency that values dignity, humility, collaboration and excellence has been focused on the health and well-being of our colleagues, our volunteers and those we serve.

That spans the very real concerns around COVID-19 and the very deep wounds and undeniable responsibilities of race and justice. In this issue, I hope you will be energized to see how service has been bolstered and our future reimagined, and how technology, grants and donations have played major roles. **We as members of the Catholic Charities family and our broader community have experienced so many feelings, but the greatest – the one that keeps all of us going – is hope.** Thanks for letting that be just the start.

*David J. Bethuram*

**David Bethuram**  
Executive Director  
Secretariat for Catholic Charities

## Helping Seth Get Back to School

Everyone was broken-hearted when we learned that Seth\*, a third-grade boy at St. Anthony, could not return to school after being diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Teachers and students were sad and confused. How could a happy little boy, whom we all knew and loved, just not come back to school? **Catholic Charities School Social Work program staff immediately began supportive conversations with teachers, staff and individual students to help them process.**

We worked to support the family during the beginning phases of his treatment. We promised that his “spot” at school would always be open for him to return. **Amazingly, almost a year later, Seth was healthy enough to return to school.** We worked closely with the Riley Hospital case worker, Seth’s family, the resource teacher and his now fourth-grade teacher to ensure a smooth transition. We also had a



conversation with his classmates about his re-entry and how they could help.

We started having him attend half-days and set a goal for him to stay until after lunch, and then to stay at school for a full day. He eased back into a comfortable rhythm and showed remarkable

resilience. It was a blessing to see Seth return and the warm welcome that his peers gave to him. Unfortunately, he was only able to be back for a few weeks before the COVID-19 school closure, but it was great to see the progress he made in that short time.

*\*names changed for privacy*

## A Caring Place Celebrates 30th Anniversary



**A Caring Place Adult Day Services (ACP) is celebrating 30 years of providing a safe daytime environment for adults ages 50 and older with physical and cognitive challenges.** A Caring Place started in 1988 with the Butler Tarkington neighborhood association and was run

by The Caring Community. Catholic Charities Indianapolis joined forces with them in 1989 and took over complete operation of the program in 1990. Located in Fairview Presbyterian Church, ACP provides participants one-on-one and group interactions that work to improve levels of functioning. Programming at A Caring Place includes health screenings, group discussion and activities, pet therapy, daily exercise, art, music and local trips. To learn more about A Caring Place and the other senior services provided by Catholic Charities, visit our website at [HelpCreateHope.org](https://www.HelpCreateHope.org)

**Catholic Charities**  
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

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### Grant Funding Helps Catholic Charities Respond to COVID-19

Thanks to grant funding, Holy Family Shelter has been able to serve 28 families in extended stay housing. This is six more families being served than when the Shelter is at full capacity. Grants have also allowed the Crisis Office to provide rent and utility assistance to more families. The Crisis Office has seen a 25% increase in people seeking assistance since July.

## Upcoming Events

### St. Elizabeth|Coleman Giving Birth to Hope Virtual Fundraiser

Date: Thursday, November 12

Time: 5:30 to 6:30pm

Details: Join us for an evening of hope. Hear stories from an adoptive family and a longtime volunteer. Learn how St. Elizabeth|Coleman works with mothers and adoptive families. For more information and to register visit [GivingBirthToHope.org](http://GivingBirthToHope.org)



### Christmas Store—Volunteers Needed!

Dates: Thursday, November 12 through Friday, December 18

Details: Please visit [Archindy.org/ChristmasStoreHelp](http://Archindy.org/ChristmasStoreHelp) to learn more about volunteer opportunities and donation needs.

HelpCreateHope.org • Follow us on Facebook at "Catholic Charities Indianapolis"