

## Putting the Neighbor Back in the Neighborhood Center

Pope Francis reminds us that “Our commitment does not consist exclusively in activities or programs of promotion and assistance; what the Holy Spirit mobilizes is not an unruly activism but above all an attentiveness which considers the other in a certain sense as ‘one with ourselves.’” This “loving attentiveness” at times can be overlooked in the often overwhelming “programs of assistance”, provided by organizations like Catholic Charities. It is easy to get lost in the task rather than focus on the person. Separating those receiving services and those providing them can easily occur without attentiveness, further marginalizing individuals who are in desperate need of acceptance and support.



The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center intends to be a place where all people feel welcomed and valued. With that in mind, we look for ways in which we can connect the lives of our staff and volunteers to persons receiving services. One effort we have undertaken is by intentionally speaking of all visitors to the Center as “neighbors”. This simple adjustment in vocabulary is not radical by any means. It is a modest change that hopefully leads to a revolution in mindset and action—one in which we realize the dignity of every person who spends time with us at the Center. When we speak with love, we hope to ultimately act with love.

Pope Francis asks us to go further than just relating to the poor with our kindness and good deeds. He dreams of a “church that IS poor and for the poor”. Catholic Charities provides a unique space for that message to be carried out. We are not here to only provide services or give volunteers something to do with their free time. Instead, we need to be a space where people come together and realize that the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors are so interconnected to our own lives that their suffering is our suffering, their hopes our hopes, and their triumphs should be celebrated by us all. We hope that as a community of faith, you continue supporting us through your prayers and your donations. We also ask that you stop by and share meal with our neighbors,

bring up ideas and insights to our staff, and join alongside us as we work toward creating the kind of community that genuinely welcomes and values the lives of every neighbor in need.

### How We Assist

#### July —September 2017

Utility Assistance:	70 Families
Meals On-Site:	4,952 Meals Served
Food Pantry:	579 Families (Jul.-Sept.)
Delivered Meals:	160 Individuals (Daily)

## Finding Confidence and Success Through Case Management

Through our case management program, which helps struggling neighbors move to self-sufficiency, we were able to help a young woman named Autumn finally end her homelessness. Our case manager, Kelly, spent nearly six months working closely with Autumn, who had been homeless off and on for about two years. Autumn had been trying to overcome her obstacles on her own, but each time she made progress toward a job or apartment, something would fall through. Autumn felt defeated and was ready to give up. Kelly was able to work closely with Autumn to address the challenges she faced, and together, they achieved Autumn’s goals of employment and housing. It has been over three months since Autumn secured a stable job and moved into her own apartment. Her overall outlook is much different from before – she is extremely happy and is excited about her future. Through the case management program, she was able to learn strategies to improve her personal finances. Since moving into her own apartment, she consistently pays her rent ahead of time, takes care of her necessities, and is still able to put back some money into her savings account. We are so proud of Autumn’s accomplishments and are deeply grateful to you for supporting the Neighborhood Center and the Case Management program we provide.

# Pope Francis Calls on Everyone to Share the Journey with Migrants

Pope Francis launched Caritas Internationalis' 'Share the Journey' migration campaign in Rome on Wednesday 27th September 2017. The two-year campaign will promote the strengthening of relationships between migrants, refugees and communities. It will shine light on the challenges and effects of migration at all points on the journey, while harnessing the strength of its global members including Catholic Charities USA member agencies to campaign for a shift in thinking.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle,

President of Caritas Internationalis – the descendent of a child migrant himself, says, “Through ‘Share the Journey’ we’re making a simple suggestion to people: get in touch with a real migrant. Look them in the eyes, listen to why they left their homes, how their journey’s been, see the real people behind the numbers and scare stories.”

The campaign will also focus on the two new Global Compacts on refugees and migration at the UN in September 2018. These new international agreements aim to emphasize safe and legal migration and increase the protection of people on the move.



**Join Pope Francis and Caritas to come together with migrants and refugees around the world on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

“The future is made of you, it is made of encounters”  
POPE FRANCIS



**Share the Journey** #sharejourney

[journey.caritas.org](http://journey.caritas.org)

## Day of Caring Comes to Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center

On September 13th, the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center welcomed nine volunteers for the United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley's 26th annual Day of Caring. Our Neighborhood Center Advisory Council Member, Lisa Werner from WesBanco, and Catholic Charities Board Member and Central Catholic High School President, Larry Bandi, joined the team, along with seven CCHS Seniors. The group helped to clean, paint, and landscape the Neighborhood Center and adjacent buildings in order to make them a more inviting space for our neighbors. The group also shared a meal with our staff, and had an engaging conversation about the needs facing our community and ways in which Catholic Charities is working to empower the region. We look forward to seeing several of them back for more regular service opportunities and in December when Catholic Central High School hosts their annual Christmas food drive.



Wheeling (CCNC): 304-232-7157 • Hancock/Brooke Co.: 304-830-2410

### Working To Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Our mission is to alleviate poverty, distress, and injustice by providing comprehensive social services to the poor and vulnerable, advocating for social justice, and calling all people of good will, especially those of the Church, to service.

[www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org)

Newsletters printed and distributed courtesy of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston