Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

I hope that each of you found the summer months to be a time of relaxation, leisure and enjoying a slower pace of activities – the same cannot be said for us here at Catholic Charities! We had a busy summer full of service. From high school students participating in SERVE (Students Engaging in Reflective Volunteer Experiences) to our continued relief efforts in the wake of the February tornado in New Orleans East and everything in between, we have continued our mission to serve those most in need in our community.

For many, including our Head Start students, August marks the end of the summer and the beginning of a new school year. Catholic Charities has been providing New Orleans area children with a “Head Start” in life for nearly four decades. Head Start centers provide early childhood education and health, social and nutrition services to qualifying children. Head Start also supports parents and families in achieving their educational, financial and other goals.

In 2016, Catholic Charities opened a new Early Head Start center at Covenant House. While the program is open to any family who qualifies, the Covenant House partnership fills a critical need for care and services for the children of homeless parents who have turned to Covenant House for help and support. The program provides quality care, comprehensive early childhood education and health services for 20 children.

Additionally, St. Paul the Apostle Head Start and Early Head Start center opened in New Orleans East, which is an area tradition-ally underserved in community resources, especially in the area of education. These new sites allow Catholic Charities to continue serving families most in need.

The fall also marks the beginning of the annual Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal (AHCA). Now in its 52nd year, the volunteer-driven campaign rallies the community to raise unrestricted funds that allow us to respond quickly and efficiently in times of crisis, such as the floods and tornadoes that have affected our area in recent times. We look forward to what is sure to be another successful campaign.

Join me in celebrating new beginnings as we move into a new season and a new school year. Thank you for your continued and generous support of all we do here at Catholic Charities.

God bless you,
Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
President/CEO

1000 Howard Avenue • Ste. 200 • New Orleans, LA 70113

Celebrating New Beginnings

Save the Dates

August 29 - Monthly Peace Prayer Walk, 6 PM at Visitation of Our Lady Parish
September 12 - Volunteer Information Session, 4 PM
September 29 - St. Elizabeth’s Guild Annual Volunteer Activist Awards Luncheon, 10 AM at the Hyatt Regency
October 20 - Annual Symposium for Systemic Change, 8 AM at the Tracy Center
November 28 - #iGiveCatholic

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans provides life-giving programs that deliver health and human services to the most vulnerable and needy throughout 8 civil parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. We serve people regardless of race, religion, age, ethnicity or economic status.

News from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

• Save the Dates
• CCANO Offers A Head Start in Life
• AHCA
• Picnic Brings Programs Together
• High School Students SERVE

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Notes from the Heart

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Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
CCANO Offers New Orleans East Families a Head Start in Life

In the past, communities in New Orleans East have been underserved in community resources, including education—a problem compounded by Hurricane Katrina. Pelia Randall, Center Director at St. Paul the Apostle Head Start and Early Head Start, shares, “The families in this community yearn for more accommodations that will improve their family dynamics without having to leave the community to receive the service.”

St. Paul the Apostle Head Start and Early Head Start is CCANO’s fifth Head Start site and will allow us to offer educational, social and other services to well over 400 children and their families.

The upcoming year will mark the first full school year at St. Paul the Apostle, and the staff, students and families are buzzing with anticipation. Students are eager to return and continue learning, and teachers are ready to help them do so. Students and staff are also excited to welcome new faces to the Head Start community. “The classrooms and campus will be full of laughter, students learning and experiencing new things and a community of learners in the making,” Randall says.

Randall and her staff invite and encourage parents and families to participate at the center as much as possible to build and strengthen relationships with their children, the staff and each other. Engaging in meaningful dialogue with their children’s teachers allows parents to become more engaged and involved in their children’s development. Staff also stand ready to help parents and families through any difficult situations that may arise. This team effort promotes a love of learning, an engaged community and successful children.

Even though the first school year was an abbreviated one, Randall says the students and their families still made huge strides in a short amount of time and will only continue to grow this school year. Knowing their children were learning and receiving care in a safe, nurturing environment, many St. Paul the Apostle Head Start and Early Head Start parents were able to attend school and further their own education. Others were able to obtain employment, and one parent even started her own business!

“Children were identified and provided services they may not have otherwise gotten until they entered elementary school,” Randall shared. In their first full year, the staff at St. Paul the Apostle hopes to take more children from where they are to where they need to be by giving them the educational, social and emotional foundation that will carry them through school and through life.

To learn more about Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans’ Head Start and Early Head Start programs, visit www.ccano.org/head-start-program.

Friends & Family Picnic Brings Programs Together

Last month, CCANO’s Isaiah 43 Parenting and Mentoring and Cornerstone Kids programs hosted their annual Friends and Family Picnic at City Park!

The event brought together over 100 community partners, staff, volunteers, parents, mentors and members from both program to enjoy food, games and fellowship. Thank you to the generosity and support of the St. Elizabeth’s Guild for making this fun event possible.

Isaiah 43’s mission is to strengthen and support families to bring about a change in the culture of our society through empowering parents and youth to be active in promoting peace and living by the values of love, peace and forgiveness. The parenting component helps parents enhance their parenting skills and provides an opportunity for fellowship with other parents. The mentoring component matches children with a role model that helps them explore topics such as human dignity, respect for life and peaceful conflict resolution.

Cornerstone Kids is a mentoring program for children with at least one incarcerated parent. Through one-on-one activities and group events, mentors provide support and encouragement that promotes trust, confidence, enthusiasm, personal growth and positive thinking.

Together, the programs are working to promote peace and growth in our community by mentoring youth and reinforcing the importance of family support.