

Community Spirit

A Newsletter from Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte

Fall 2021



Back to School!

A Place to Call Home

The Answer had to be YES



The Answer had to be YES — A Message from the Executive Director

Gerard A. Carter, Ph.D

I knew right away that the answer had to be YES – no question about it, it was going to be YES. I know we have protocols and that price matters, but I also knew that there was no way we would do anything other than make sure this was taken care of. And, quite bluntly, I knew there was money to pay for it because YOU made it possible through your support of Catholic Charities.

I was doing my work on the first Friday of September at the Piedmont Triad Office in Winston-Salem (I'm the acting Director until we hire a replacement for Becky DuBois, who retired in August). One of our staff brought to me a situation that caused me such sadness AND a determination that something was going to happen right away to bring both compassion and closure to a family in mourning.

As was described to me that Friday, one of our former program participants – a young woman just one year past her teens – was fairly well along in her pregnancy when she died of natural causes. Although efforts were made to save her baby's life, that precious little one also passed away along with their mother.

This young woman had experienced so many challenges in her brief life, and in death, one last indignity arose – she and her baby remained in the morgue because of a lack of funds for a proper burial.

When I heard about the situation, one week had passed since their deaths. Imagine the heavy hearts of their family, who faced the immense emotional burden of burying their own child and grandchild. This young mother's family simply wanted to lay their own precious baby and innocent grandchild

to rest. Their wish was for a casket where Mom could hold her child in her arms until the day when “together with all who have died in Christ, ...[they] will rise with him on the last day.”

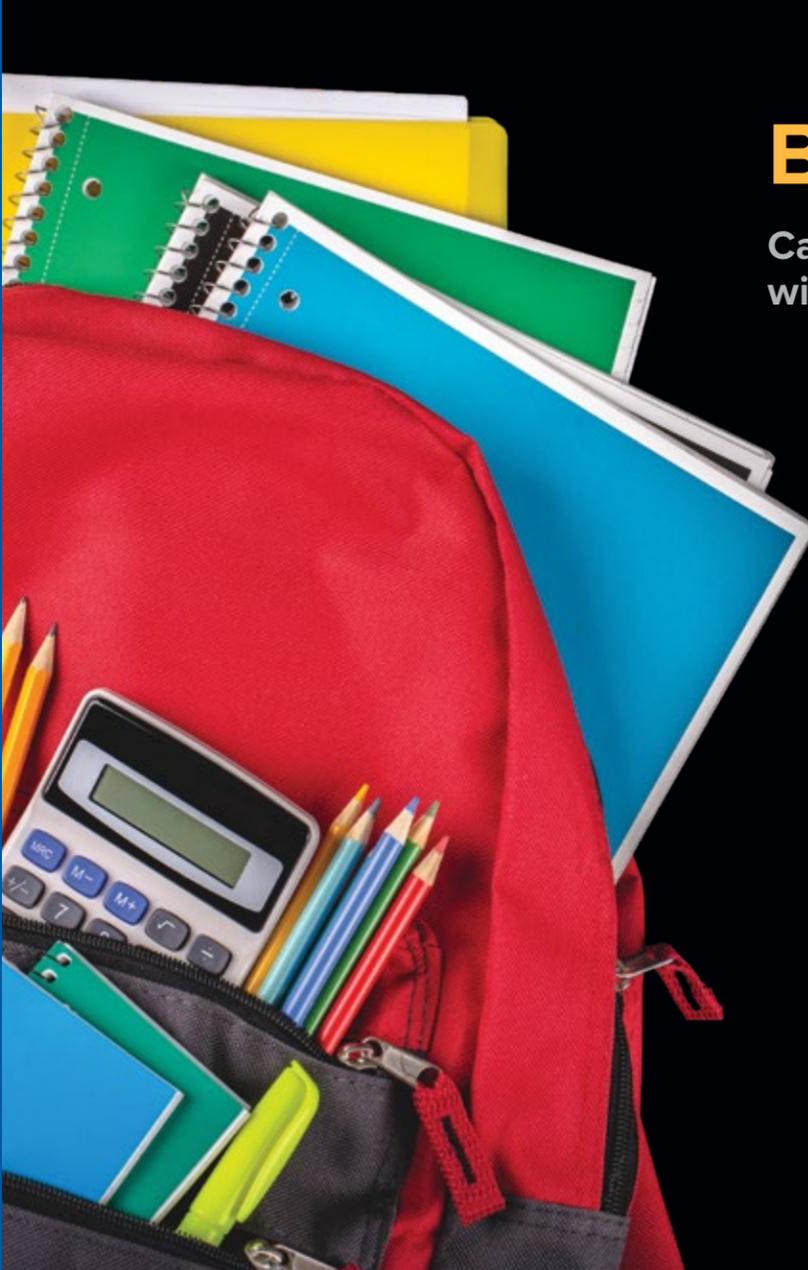
Within half an hour, YOU gave us the financial means to call these grieving grandparents to let them know that the ministry of Catholic Charities would cover the entire cost of the funeral and burial. Next was a call to the funeral home to make the financial arrangements. One last call was made to our Business Director with straightforward instructions to “make this happen no later than the close of business on Monday” so that the burial could happen as soon as possible. Together, in a matter of truly moments, our staff, you, and the funeral home came together to ease a large part of this family's burden.



Stories like this happen because of YOU. I didn't need to question or worry whether there were sufficient funds to cover the costs because the reality is that donors like you provide us with the funds needed to respond to the unique needs of the people who come to us for help.

In the name of The Church, and because of the support of people of goodwill, together we carry out the charitable work of the Church. When speaking with our donors, I always say that, “we couldn't do this work without you”, but I hope you know how true that statement is. So, I close with the words I often use: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Please continue to pray for us, our donors, and those we are privileged to serve. May God bless all of us and shine His Divine Mercy upon us as we await His coming in Glory.



Back to School!

Catholic Charities Western Regional Office (WRO) Partners with United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County

It is that time of year - back to school! It is a time of excitement for students to meet new teachers, fellow classmates, and reconnect with school friends after the summer break.

However, this time of year can also bring financial worries to many families who have limited resources to provide school supplies for their children. Many of our program participants' employment opportunities continue to be affected by COVID-19 since tourism is a significant aspect of the Asheville/Western North Carolina economy.

But through our longstanding partnership with United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County, our staff, donors like you, and volunteers, we knew we would be able to help provide relief.

Our staff worked closely with the United Way to ensure that many of our Buncombe County neighbors

in need received school supplies free of charge. More than 150 backpacks were distributed to Catholic Charities participants in our counseling program, refugee services, Hispanic ministries, and other families in need identified by our caseworkers.

Providing a backpack full of school supplies may seem like a small thing, but its impact is great. It alleviates parental stress, and it helps save money that can be used for higher priority needs such as rent, food or utility payments. A gift of a backpack and school supplies also allows a student to start school feeling prepared and supported. We are grateful for the support of our volunteers, who not only picked up the backpacks but also helped sort and organize them for our participants.

It is through partnerships like this, our staff, donors, and volunteers when we all work together for the



Thanks to you, more than 150 children received FREE school supplies.

community's common good that we can see the most impact. We are grateful for each of you who made this effort possible. Thank you.

A Place to Call Home

Helping our neighbors with stable housing



We are proud to offer Supportive Services to individuals that will assist them in becoming, and remaining, stably housed. Case Coordinators work with individuals who have experienced homelessness to identify goals and create a Housing Stability Plan. Together, barriers to stable housing are identified and utilizing the strengths of each individual, steps are taken to overcome these. Supportive Ser-

vices can focus on any issue identified as a challenge, particularly income, education, healthcare, access to food, childcare, substance abuse, and life skills, to name a few.

While our staff's time is funded by a grant from the city, there are many needs of the participants that require private donations. For example, new homes for former residents of the Uptown Encampment will not be furnished. With the generosity of Catholic Charities supporters, such as you,

we will be able to provide household items at no cost to the participants in the program. Providing things such as a new mattress with fresh linens on which to sleep after moving into their new home is something most people take for granted but a true dream for someone who has had to live in a tent.

Your support is felt by our staff and our participants. We remain grateful for and humbled by your continued generosity in making moments and stability like this possible.

How You Can Help

Volunteer

Are you ready to help make a positive impact in the lives of others and strengthen your community? Share your time and talents by becoming a volunteer for Catholic Charities. There are many different ways to serve your brothers and sisters at each of our locations. Visit ccdoc.org/volunteer or scan the QR code to the right to learn how you can get involved.



 Scan for
volunteer
opportunities



Locations

Charlotte Administration

1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
P 704.370.3262
F 704.370.3290

Asheville

50 Orange St.
Asheville, NC 28801
P 828.255.0146
F 828.253.7339

Lenoir

328-B Woodsway Ln. NW
Lenoir, NC 28645-4356
P 828.434.5710

Greensboro

2311 W. Cone Blvd.
Suite 230
Greensboro, NC 27408
P 336.288.1984
F 336.288.5401

Murphy

27 Hatchett St.
Murphy, NC 28906
P 828.835.3535
F 828.835.9794

Winston-Salem

1612 East 14th St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27105
P 336.727.0705
F 336.714.3232





Catholic Charities
Diocese of Charlotte

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Save the Date

Partners In Hope

March 10, 2022

Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem

Vineyard of Hope

April 21, 2022

Sonesta Charlotte Executive Park
(formerly Crowne Plaza)

Spirit of Hope

May 2022

