

Catholic Charities

*Partners in Hope*



Volunteer  
Story



## 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. Quite bluntly, I knew there was money to pay for it because YOU made it possible through your support of the Partners in Hope.

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 great sadness AND a determination that something would 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 and tell them 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.

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.

At the Partners in Hope Gala, I always say that we couldn't do this work without you but I hope you know how true that statement is. 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. 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.



# Volunteer Story



These past eighteen months have brought about a lot of change. Change in our daily lives, and change that will be long lasting. This has also been a time to reflect on gratitude. Gratitude that there is good all around us. That there is always someone, or someplace, that wants to help. For us here at Catholic Charities, we are grateful for the privilege to continue to serve our communities and help support the success of each family and neighbor.

We are thankful that the Piedmont Triad office of Catholic Charities continues to be supported not only by the financial generosity of our donors but also by our volunteers that are generously giving of their time. It has never been more evident that our faithful donors and volunteers continue to make our work possible. The COVID-19 pandemic changed how we had to serve, but there was no question we would continue to serve.

Catholic Charities is humbled by the generosity and dedication of our volunteers, who continue to show up each day to support the Piedmont Triad communities in unique ways. Our volunteers tend to our garden onsite, so our food pantry participants receive fresh produce. Some of our volunteers make special bags of treats for our participants' four-legged friends. Others assist with our front desk operations or help us distribute food each week. No matter how our volunteers choose to serve, Catholic Charities is grateful they show up and give of their time to serve those most in need in our community.

Are you ready to help make a positive impact in the lives of others and strengthen your community? If you have a desire to serve as a volunteer, we want to hear from you. Please contact LeiLanie D'Agostino, Volunteer Coordinator, at [LMDAgestino@ccdoc.org](mailto:LMDAgestino@ccdoc.org) to share how you would like to help and learn about current volunteer opportunities.

We look forward to having you as a valued volunteer.

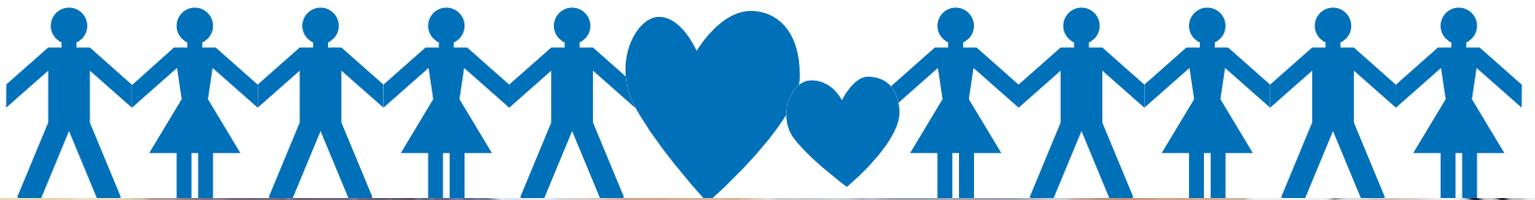
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Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Charlotte

1612 E. 14 Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Visit our website [ccdoc.org](http://ccdoc.org)



## Upcoming Events

### Partners In Hope

March 10, 2022

Benton Convention Center  
Winston-Salem

