



Catholic Charities

of the Archdiocese of Toronto

100 Years of Helping



A SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION OF THE CATHOLIC REGISTER

Lending a helping hand for 100 years

BY CATHERINE MULRONEY
Catholic Register Special

One hundred years of helping.
This simple theme, coined to highlight the centenary celebrations for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto, neatly summarizes what Catholic Charities has been doing since 1913: Delivering a variety of practical, life-affirming services to the poor and the marginalized in response to the Gospel call to love one's neighbour.

Behind the brief summation, however, there is a rich history reflecting the vital role Catholic Charities has played in bettering the lives of people throughout the archdiocese. Over the years, Catholic Charities has undergone a variety of name changes and location changes, working in partnership with a number of religious communities, while the list of member agencies has fluctuated from decade to decade as times — and needs — have changed. As the face of the archdiocese has changed, Catholic Charities has changed with it, ensuring that the services it helps to provide meet existing needs while anticipating future ones.

What has remained unchanged, however, is the mandate at the heart of Catholic Charities: to serve as an umbrella organization for member agencies, currently numbering 27, providing social services, leadership and advocacy for those groups and the people they serve. At its core is Catholic social teaching, which focuses on the poor and marginalized, urging citizens to build a just society and safeguard the dignity of every



Archbishop Neil McNeil became archbishop of Toronto in 1912, and a year later brought a number of charities serving the archdiocese under the umbrella of Catholic Charities. (Photo courtesy of the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto)

person.
Today, Catholic Charities' member agencies service five key areas: community/family services; people with special needs; children and youth; young parents; and seniors. Supported largely by ShareLife, the fundraising initiative of the archdiocese of Toronto,

Catholic Charities responds in a committed, caring and empowering way to those who need its help, delivering assistance in a manner that reflects the values and mission of the Church.
The concept of an umbrella organization overseeing the efforts of individual Catholic charities was

the brainchild of Toronto Archbishop Neil McNeil. By the time he was named archbishop of Toronto in 1912, those in need were being served by several well-established Catholic organizations, including Sacred Heart Orphanage and the House of Providence, both run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Children's Aid Society of St. Vincent de Paul, (St. Vincent de Paul also ran individual parish conferences), a shelter for young women in trouble with the law run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, St. John's Training School for boys, and St. Elizabeth Visiting Nurses Association.

But McNeil recognized that the delivery of services was sometimes uneven, and there was no central body to oversee individual charities while keeping the chancery office informed and making long-range plans to meet future needs. In response, on Sept. 27, 1913, the feast of St. Vincent de Paul, he appointed Fr. Patrick Bench to the role of superintendent of the newly created Catholic Charities.

Handed a small office on Church Street, Bench was given a mandate to co-ordinate and oversee the efforts of various Catholic charities, ensuring even distribution of services and offering an annual report to the archbishop. Because the agency's role was one of co-ordinating and making referrals rather than offering financial support, it was given no budget. However, it had an invaluable resource in its superintendent. Determining, for example, that there was a need to branch out into court work, Bench himself served as a probation

officer for Catholic men charged before magistrates.
The organization's first-ever financial statement, produced in August of 1914, indicates total expenses of \$739.32 for the year, including office and telephone charges, as well as 50 cents for "two meals for poor women" and 60 cents for women's galoshes. Asked years later how he managed to pay for these expenses with no operating budget, Bench noted that he "begged" for donations through his weekly column in *The Register*, proof, he said, of the scriptural assertion: "Seek and ye shall find."

Flourishing, Catholic Charities moved its offices to Bond Street the next year. In a classic example of the forward thinking that has been a hallmark of Catholic Charities throughout its history, Bench recognized that many of the problems Catholic Charities witnessed in young girls and women stemmed from unemployment, and so he created an employment bureau. Also in 1914, Bench invited the Sisters of the Misericorde to open St. Mary's Infants' Home, a haven for unmarried mothers and their babies that we know today as Rosalie Hall. Soon the Catholic Big Brother Movement and the Catholic Big Sisters Association were added to the fold.

Catholic Charities experienced a significant shift in its operations in 1919, with the formation of the Federation of Community Service. Prior to this, individual charities were on their own in terms of fundraising. The federation represented an attempt for a broader network of agencies, regardless of
See CATHOLIC on Page A3

Congratulations Catholic Charities
100 years of Caring and Helping

Precious Blood Parish Scarborough	St. Columbkille R.C. Church Uptergrove	Blessed Sacrament Parish Toronto	St. Philip Neri Church Toronto
Cristo Rei Parish Mississauga	St. Francis of Assisi Church Washego	St. Cecilia's Church Toronto	Canadian Martyrs' Church East York
Guardian Angels Catholic Church Orillia	Sacred Heart Parish Uxbridge	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Toronto	Mission of the Vietnamese Martyrs Parish Toronto
		St. Margaret of Scotland Parish Toronto	

Catholic Charities has met challenges along the way

Continued from Page A2

religious affiliation, to pool their efforts to fundraise, resulting in a dramatic increase in funding for member agencies. Figures from the period show that the 11 Catholic members of the federation, including the Catholic Charities office, received in excess of \$100,000 in slightly more than a year.

Continuing his desire to ensure the right services were getting to the people who needed them most, McNeil commissioned an archdiocese-wide needs assessment. The results led to the creation of the Catholic Welfare Bureau, which was responsible for providing services for Catholic Charities, including family and child care services. The survey was overseen by Brother Barnabas, the new superintendent of Catholic Charities, who was also in charge of a growing staff, one that included a part-time prison worker, an interpreter and a family care worker.

Unfortunately, the benefit provided by belonging to the Federation of Community Service was not to last long. In 1927, the federation announced abruptly that Catholic agencies and institutions would not be eligible to receive any funds in the coming campaign, scheduled for the next month. Explanations for the decision vary. Some touch on the anti-Catholic bias then rampant in certain segments of Toronto. The most obvious reason, however, is

that Catholic charities' share of funding outstripped the Catholic population, reflecting the reality that Catholics, many of them immigrants and many of them with larger families, represented a disproportionate number of those in a lower income bracket needing help.

Stunned by the decision but aware of the need to act quickly, McNeil turned to the Catholic community for help. He was not disappointed. Together with religious and lay leaders, the archbishop launched the Federation of Catholic Charities, a reorganized version of Catholic Charities that included a fundraising component, and in three weeks raised \$178,000, a display of support that no doubt inspired Archbishop Philip Pocock nearly 50 years later when he established ShareLife in the face of a different — but equally threatening — challenge to Catholic Charities.

The next big challenge lay in the Great Depression, which prompted salary cuts and budget tightening. The federation was buoyed, however, in a number of ways. First, others stepped in to lend a hand. The Redemptorists at Toronto's St. Patrick's parish, for example, founded Catholic Settlement House in 1931. Staff



Fr. Patrick Bench

at member agencies and a fleet of volunteers rose to the challenge of tough times, taking to the streets for Shamrock Tag Days, a gentler way to raise funds while also keeping Catholic charities in the public eye.

The federation was also blessed with the leadership of Fr. Hugh Gallagher, appointed director in 1932 after studying social work at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Like Bench, Gallagher was not afraid to engage in creative problem solving — and sometimes pinch hitting — to help out in tough times. When the Big Sisters' sewing circle needed a place to hold Saturday meetings, for example, Gallagher offered his office. And when young campers had no way of getting to camp, he often served as chauffeur, quickly learning to take a supply of paper bags with him to hand out to excited campers prone to car sickness.

The end of the Depression and the resurgence of the job market due to the needs of the Second World War meant Catholics were once again able to support the federation's charities, and the federation exceeded its donation goals in 1941 and '42. With Toronto now united against a common enemy, the city saw a return to a unified charitable effort with the creation of the United Community Fund, the precursor to today's United Way, which replaced 18 individual campaigns, including Catholic and Jewish charities. It was such



Sancta Maria House was founded in the 1960s, part of a great expansion of services by Catholic Charities. Sancta Maria House is a home for girls with special needs. (Photo courtesy of the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto)

a success that Catholic Charities was able to raise salaries, expand services and improve agency facilities.

After the war, the federation, now operating under the name the Council of Catholic Charities, found a new director in Fr. John Fullerton (later Msgr. Fullerton). Known for his people skills, Fullerton was a ready resource on faith and morals for staff and agencies confronting the increasingly complex social issues arising in the post-war years. He also had the diplomacy and intelligence needed to negotiate budgetary issues with the United Community Fund, as well as handle increasing negotiations with the provincial

government. In a clear indication of Catholic Charities' increasing public profile and recognition of its sound operations and solid history, Fullerton was asked to serve as vice-chair of the three-person Ontario Hospital Services Commission. In this role, his recommendations contributed to legislation that led to the eventual creation of OHIP, Ontario's public health insurance plan, relieving Ontarians of the burden of worrying how to cover medical bills.

The 1960s saw a great expansion of services for the Council of Catholic Charities, including parish visiting, foster day care

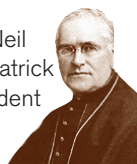
See OUT on Page A4



Catholic Charities

1913

Toronto Archbishop Neil McNeil appoints Fr. Patrick Bench as Superintendent of the newly created Catholic Charities.



1914

St. Mary's Infant Home (now Rosalie Hall) for unmarried mothers is opened, followed in subsequent years by Catholic Big Brothers and Catholic Big Sisters.

1919

Federation of Community Service is founded to oversee fundraising for Catholic and non-Catholic charities.

1922

Catholic Welfare Bureau is organized.

1927

Catholic Charities expelled from Federation of Community Service.

1943

United Welfare Fund established to raise funds for Catholic and non-Catholic charities.

1946

Name of Council of Catholic Charities is adopted.

1956

United Community Fund (now United Way) is incorporated to raise funds for Catholic and non-Catholic charities.

1976

Catholic Charities withdraws from United Way of Toronto, and



ShareLife is launched in 1977 as the fundraising agent of Catholic Charities.



1977

Catholic Charities membership increases from 13 to 29 agencies.

1978-1981

Catholic family service agencies are developed in Simcoe County, York, Peel and Durham Regions.

1981

Legal structure of Catholic Charities Council is changed to establish Board of Directors as advisory body to the Archbishop of Toronto.

1984

Doreen Cullen becomes first lay person named as executive director of Catholic Charities.



1988

Mary Centre joins Catholic Charities as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.



1991

Loyola Arrupe Centre for Seniors joins Catholic Charities as a non-funded associate member agency.

1994

Marguerite Bourgeys Family Care™ Programme Centre joins Catholic Charities as a non-funded associate member agency.

1994

Parish Social Ministry Outreach Committee is formed.

1998

Vita Manor is added as a non-

funded associate member agency.

1999

First Parish Social Ministry Conference attended by 300 people.

2002

Catholic Charities plays pivotal role in World Youth Day.



2009

Covenant House and Birthright join Catholic Charities as associate agencies.



2013

Catholic Charities marks 100 years of service.

100 Years of Helping

Agencies wedded to Catholicity

Continued from Page A4

Centre for Seniors in 1991 and Marguerite Bourgeys Family Centre in 1994. In 2009, both Covenant House and Birthright joined Catholic Charities as associate agencies.

In keeping with Catholic Charities' long history of staring down adversity to better serve the marginalized, it has even been able to work productively in the face of tough and uncertain economic times, which mean donation dollars have to stretch that much farther to meet increased need. One key step is working on developing a system of sharing services among member agencies to produce greater efficiencies, for example seeing smaller agencies sharing financial systems and human resources to create efficiencies based on economies of scale. That means smaller agencies can take advantage of services they might not otherwise be able to afford, ensuring that funding can be stretched as far as possible.

Revisions to the allocations process, which determines how funds are parcelled out to agencies, and the membership review process, which examines how agencies are measuring up



Fr. Paul Lennon

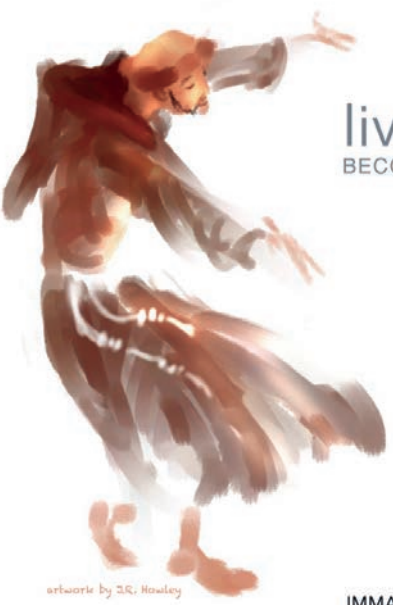
to the standards required to be met to earn funding, have served to highlight the accountability of agencies to their Catholic communities of support, as well as promoting standardized professional services for all member agencies. Catholic Charities is particularly proud of its renewed policy on Catholicity, drawn up in consultation with leading theologians. The policy is designed to help member agencies ensure that, while they serve an increasingly diverse population, their delivery of services and interpretation of their mandate conforms to the virtues and values at the heart of

the Church.

When he was at the helm, Lennon expressed a desire that the work of member agencies would no longer be seen in a pitying way but as an integral part of the mission of the Church. He also wondered whether people would "continue to see the poor primarily as problems to be solved ... or as a privileged source of God's presence and salvation, especially in our times."

Today, Catholic Charities and its member agencies, under the leadership of executive director Michael Fullan, are working hard to fulfill both of Lennon's stated desires. Now located at the archdiocesan Catholic Pastoral Centre in midtown Toronto, Catholic Charities works with member agencies spread out across the archdiocese, reaching from Durham Region to Simcoe County to Dufferin-Peel. With a budget of \$9 million, Catholic Charities assists its member agencies in serving more than 200,000 people annually.

(Mulroney is the editor of the Living with Christ missalette published by Novalis and is a member of the board of directors of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto.)



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"God blesses those who are pure, for they will see God." (Matthew 5:8)

St. ShareLife

Out of crisis arose ShareLife, a route of Catholic fundraising

Continued from Page A3

projects and the establishment of Sancta Maria House, a home for girls with special needs. In 1971, Fr. Paul Lennon joined the staff as assistant director. In a sign of the maturing of both the council and its members, agencies were urged to become separately incorporated and create their own boards to govern their respective agencies. Life was good for Catholic Charities.

But in 1976, Catholic Charities faced yet another crisis when United Way voted to admit the Planned Parenthood Association of Toronto, a group offering

abortion counselling. While Planned Parenthood's admission represented only a sliver of United Way funding, its presence in the umbrella organization represented an insurmountable moral obstacle, standing in opposition to Catholic Charities' firm commitment to guarding and serving life at all ages and stages. After several rounds of negotiations between United Way and Archbishop Pocock proved fruitless, the Council of Catholic Charities withdrew from United Way. To replace the lost funding, a new fundraising plan was drawn up, a fundraising goal of \$1.3-million was set up, and a new campaign, ShareLife, was launched

to raise funds.

With the latest crisis resolved, and a formal route of Catholic fundraising established, the Council of Catholic Charities could return its focus to the growing needs in the rapidly expanding suburbs. Lennon, now serving as executive director, oversaw the establishment of Catholic community services in the regions surrounding the city of Toronto. He also saw the addition of several new member agencies, including Silent Voice Canada, serving the deaf and hearing impaired, Matt Talbot House, a residence for older men who want to live in sobriety, and the Natural Family Planning Association. Several changes took place to alter the legal structure of the organization, the most obvious being the adoption of the name still in use today: Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto, a name selected to signify that while Catholic Charities works with its member agencies, it also interacts with ShareLife and various ministries and governmental agencies.

As Catholic Charities approached its 75th anniversary, it again demonstrated its readiness



Archbishop Philip Pocock, right, took the bold step of withdrawing Catholic Charities from the United Way. This led to the establishment of ShareLife, the charitable fundraising arm of the archdiocese. (Photo courtesy of the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto)

to work with the times, appointing Doreen Cullen as its first lay person to serve as director. Under Cullen's watch, Catholic Charities saw a further increase in member agencies, and by 1988, its 75th anniversary, its budget had reached \$4.1-million, more than three times the goal set only 12 years earlier.

The intervening years have seen great successes and profound

challenges for Catholic Charities and its member agencies. Increasing membership reflective of the diversity of services under the Catholic Charities umbrella is one of the most obvious signs of success. Mary Centre, serving older adults with developmental disabilities, joined Catholic Charities in its 75th anniversary year, followed by Loyola Arrupe

See AGENCIES on Page A5



Rose of Durham congratulates
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hope promise new life



On behalf of all the members of the
Archdiocese of Toronto, the Toronto
Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's
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congratulations on the celebration of the
100th anniversary of Catholic Charities.
May your work continue to be blessed as
you serve the Catholic community in the
Archdiocese

Congratulat100ns

(and Thank You!)



Catholic Charities' fingers all over medicare

Universal health care in Canada would not have come about without Catholic support

BY MICHAEL SWAN
The Catholic Register

TORONTO

Once upon a time in Canada, medical bankruptcy was common. Going to the hospital was a financial death sentence for many.

The generation that remembers financial fear of hospitals is now in its 70s and the mostly unwritten history of medicare is more complex than praise for former Saskatchewan premier Tommy Douglas. In Ontario, former



There was a time when a trip to the hospital could bankrupt you. But Catholic Charities was one of the driving forces behind universal health care in Canada. (Photo courtesy of the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto)

Catholic Charities head Msgr. John G. Fullerton helped write an important chapter in the evolution of universal public health care in

Canada.

In 1956 premier Leslie Frost headed up a divided Ontario government as it began to consider its options for some form of universal hospital insurance. Frost needed to assuage the business community and members of his own party who looked upon expansion of the welfare state as the thin edge of a wedge of socialism invading Canada, undermining a free-enterprise society.

The insurance industry was trying to convince governments there was no need for a government program if the government would subsidize private insurers. But in 1955 Frost had pushed the federal government of Louis St. Laurent to live up to campaign promises to propose some kind of hospital insurance. Frost had been cut off by his own private insurer and saw the issue quite differently from many of his colleagues.

By 1956 federal legislation was in the works, but Frost couldn't steam roll over his own party to get Ontario into the federal cost-sharing system. Thus he picked three former presidents of the Ontario Hospital Association to form the Ontario Hospital Services Commission. Fullerton — head of Catholic Charities and former chair of the board of St. Joseph's Hospital — was vice chair.

"It would have been impossible for (Frost) to create a commission without Catholic representation," said Greg Marchildon, Canada Research Chair in public policy and economic history at the University of Regina. "The Catholic hospitals were important."

You could always count on

the Catholic hospitals to take on charity cases. There were provincial schemes across the country that partially compensated charity hospitals for treating patients the private hospitals wouldn't touch. But it was wholly inadequate.

The provincial commission did its job of taking some of the political heat off Frost while the federal government passed the Hospital Insurance Diagnostic Services Act in 1957, to take effect in 1958. But the commission also made sure that Ontario would join the system in 1959.

"Without Ontario deciding they wanted it, this would have never happened," said Marchildon, a leading expert on the history of medicare.

Hospital insurance was only the first stage. Doctors' visits and other services were still in private hands until 1966.

Recommending universal health care put Fullerton on one side of a bitter and tempestuous debate in Canadian society and in the Church.

"The opposition to medicare was intense," said Marchildon. "It's the most contentious history imaginable."

Conservative voices in the Church were summed up in a March 23, 1957 *Catholic Register* editorial.

"The welfare state must eventually become the totalitarian state, which has in its success the seeds of its own destruction," wrote Fr. J.G. Hanley in a signed editorial.

Progressive Catholics, often acting in concert with Protestants, were less afraid of socialism and invoked papal encyclicals.

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New scholarships honour the past, look to the future

BY EVAN BOUDREAU
The Catholic Register

TORONTO

Honouring the past and investing in the future has motivated Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto to establish two new scholarships for those pursuing a career in social work.

The scholarships will be named in honour of two former executive directors of Catholic Charities: Doreen Cullen and Fr. Paul Lennon.

"On the occasion of our 100th anniversary at Catholic Charities and we are establishing two scholarships that will be awarded annually to a young man and a young woman who are graduates of our Catholic education system," said Michael Fullan, Catholic Charities' executive director. "It is a way of recognizing that many of our agencies are involved in social work and we'd like to hold it up at this time ... to say that this is a noble career, a good career to get involved in and to send that message to young people who may be interested in social work."

Although firm details have yet to be worked out, Fullan estimates each scholarship will be

worth between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Those eligible must be a Catholic graduated from within the archdiocese of Toronto, display a commitment to volunteering within their community and be passionately pursuing a career in social work. The Doreen Cullen Scholarship will be awarded to a young woman, while the Fr. Paul Lennon Scholarship will go to a young man.



"We decided to name these two scholarships in honour of these two people because of the contributions that they made to social work in our community in many sectors over the years," said Fullan. "The two people that we're recognizing were real pioneers and very effective, good Catholic leaders. We think they made a major difference in our communities and in the development of our Catholic Charities social service system."

Lennon said the name of the award doesn't matter, that it is the award itself that's important.

"The name doesn't matter but

I'm delighted to hear that there is such a thing," said Lennon, executive director from 1979 to 1983. "Our leader Jesus Christ spent a good deal of His life seeking out and helping the poor and disabled and distressed. So right from the start we had it in our heads that the poor were important."

Lennon was succeeded by Cullen, now deceased, who led Catholic Charities for almost a decade before Fullan took over in 1993. While Lennon admits he only remembers meeting her four or five times, the priest said she displayed a strong sense of Catholicity.

"I know that her background was immense in Catholic agencies," said Lennon. "I don't know if she had any experience outside of the Catholic agencies and she was a very strong Catholic."

Funding will primarily come from ticket proceeds for the 100th Anniversary Gala Dinner. May 16 About \$100 from each \$175 ticket will go directly to the scholarship fund.

Those unable to attend the dinner, or those who wish to give more, can do so by contacting Catholic Charities, said Fullan.

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Catholic Crosscultural Services

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service to our community.*



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Where the stranger is made welcome

BY MICHAEL SWAN
The Catholic Register

TORONTO
On the edges of Mississauga and in the neglected corners of outer Scarborough, survivors of all the world's tragedies of misrule, economic failure, mob violence and economic dysfunction are hunkered down — waiting to claim their part of the Canadian promise of decency and opportunity.

Many are Muslim, Protestant or of no religion. It matters not. Catholic Charities are there for them. Since the world began realigning itself after the Second World War, Catholic Crosscultural Services has been helping immigrants, refugees and newcomers find their way in Toronto.

"You find them on the outer fringes. They're quite literally pushed to the margins," explains Catholic Crosscultural Services executive director Carolyn Davis.

Being there for newcomers — to teach them how to look for a Canadian job, where to find training, where to find child care, what they can expect from government — is the work of "faith in



Carolyn Davis and some of the staff of Catholic Crosscultural Services. (Photo by Michael Swan)

action," Davis said.

"We haven't changed who we are or who we serve because of any contract or funding. There's no mission drift," said Davis. "Whatever we do is completely in line with the reason we began in the first place."

In the 1950s the Cold War was producing thousands of refugees and Canada took in huge numbers. Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks arrived and turned to the

most reliable source of support they knew — their local Catholic Church. The first version of Catholic Crosscultural Services was nothing more than a network of parishes, each trying to serve newcomers in their own language.

By 1959 the network was incorporated as the Catholic Immigration Bureau. Through the 1960s there were new waves of Catholic economic migrants, first from Italy, then Portugal. In the

1970s politically active Chileans were fleeing the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet. Catholic Charities knew these people needed translators, counsellors, psychologists and the assurance that someone was on their side.

The scale of Catholic outreach to refugees ramped up again with the 1976 Vietnamese boat people crisis. The archdiocese of Toronto agreed to sponsor refugees directly from refugee camps in excess of the government's own commitment to welcome refugees. Catholic Family Services was tapped to provide counselling and other social work supports. By 1981 the settlement services part of Catholic Family Services became the Department of Immigrant and Refugee Services of Catholic Charities. The department established itself where the immigrants were settling — Scarborough and Peel Region.

The needs were so great the Department of Immigrant and Refugee Services was becoming larger than Catholic Charities itself. It was reincorporated as the Catholic Immigration Bureau.

By 1995 the Catholic service

for immigrants and refugees was speaking to people in an enormous number of languages, employing counsellors and social workers from a globe-spanning range of cultures. It was time to change the name again and it became Catholic Crosscultural Services.

Through the 2000s Canada's immigration policies encouraged an even greater range of immigrants and CCS had decades of experience. Toronto continued to be the pre-eminent magnet for newcomers. Governments turned to CCS and the agency grew nearly three-fold between 2006 and 2009.

Catholic Crosscultural Services now provides an online citizenship course. It's worked hard with foreign-trained professionals who can't get their credentials recognized — including a program to help foreign-trained doctors find work in medical technology. There are now self-guided resources for people who already have clear goals and just need an office with an Internet connection where they can conduct their job search.

Last year, CCS helped 39,352 people on a budget of just over \$11 million.

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Planning for the future, remembering our past

Where to begin when looking ahead for Catholic Charities, an organization that has been caring for the most needy of the archdiocese of Toronto for over a century? Consulting a fortune teller or reading the stars aren't options for a Catholic agency committed to the Gospel message of Christ — to love and serve God and one another.

Basic to any planning process is understanding the current environment and respecting what has come before. You have to know where you've been before deciding where you want to go.

Toronto in 1913 was dealing with significant social problems. The archdiocese had been at the forefront for many years already in providing social services when Catholic Charities was established to co-ordinate various Catholic services and to plan for the emerging social needs of the growing community. The early focus was on the most vulnerable of society — the widows, orphans, youth in trouble with the law, the elderly, the destitute, unmarried pregnant women. Today, services are also provided for troubled families, women and children experiencing abuse, people with developmental disabilities, immigrants and refugees, expectant mothers and their babies and homeless youth.

It seems no matter the era, the poor are with us in many forms and as a Catholic community we are compelled to respond, as set out in the Church's Corporal Works of Mercy.

In Acts of the Apostles, we learn that the people of Antioch were the first to name followers of Jesus Christians. They were astonished at how these Christians "love one another." I would like to believe that this remains true in today's world, where we love one another, regardless of faith, economic or social background, because each of us is created in the image and likeness of God, who asks us to reach out and serve all in need.

Catholic Charities and its agencies are experiencing tough economic times resulting in higher demand for precious services. Organizations like Good Shepherd Centre and Covenant House are seeing marked increases in homeless adults and youth. The Mary Centre identifies hundreds of adults with intellectual dis-



MICHAEL FULLAN

abilities whose elderly parents are unable to care for their adult children any longer. Government funding is frozen resulting in a bottleneck in the service system with no relief in sight.

As part of a regular discernment process, Catholic Charities takes stock of our many gifts and blessings — the generous ongoing prayer and support of parishioners and pastors through ShareLife, the sacrifice of countless volunteers offering thousands of hours of service annually and the supportive and encouraging shepherds in Cardinal Thomas Collins and our bishops. We have a solid foundation but by itself it is insufficient to resolve the current crisis.

Catholic Charities is a unique service system comprising many agencies of various size and focus. Each month I meet with the executive directors to discuss mutual areas of concern. A great deal of time is spent identifying key issues and problems, followed by careful analysis and development of plans to reduce harm and build up community. Simply, the model is to see, to judge, to act. These agencies are diverse but united in their faith and commitment to the common good.

The strong positive relationships between executive directors and agencies are based on trust, openness and collaboration. This gives me confidence that we'll find ways to deal effectively with current and future challenges. The status quo is not a viable option and collectively we intend to expand services. We recognize that current organizational structures should and will change. I have coined this as "doing more (service), together, differently." This approach is much different from government suggestions to "do more with less."

A couple major future thrusts will be a rollout of shared services and development of yardsticks to measure the social return on investment. I can't predict how

relevant these initiatives will be a century from now, but for the next several years they will be transformative within Catholic Charities and beyond. We have been asked to lead in these areas, to take normative risks, to dream, to evaluate and to share the successes and failures (both sure to happen!) beyond our community.

Implementation of the shared services initiative, in the planning phase for over a year, has already begun. Finance and human-resource services are being migrated from many of the agencies into a shared back-office environment. Information technology functions will be addressed next. This approach will create greater efficiencies and improve service delivery.

Calculating the social return on investment is a way to measure the value that is added to the community by the services provided. Take the example of a young pregnant teen who receives counselling at one of our organizations and then returns to school. This mom is less likely to need emergency health services and more likely to graduate. Long term, she is more likely to build a life for her and her baby that avoids abusive relationships and is less reliant on social assistance. Our job is to assess the positive impact of this intervention and to make a compelling case for support to government, foundations and our parishioners.

Parishes have been integral to the success of Catholic Charities for the last century, even as the relationship has evolved over the years. We need to re-solidify the essence of that relationship and, together with parishes, respond to those in their communities who need help. The Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan identifies this hopeful potential and I believe it should be part of a sustainable and effective system. It is an opportunity to rejuvenate parish life as well as the work of Catholic agencies.

As we celebrate 100 years of helping and service through Catholic Charities, it is appropriate to remember and give prayerful thanks to all those who, over the past century, shared their gifts of time and talent. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.

(Fullan is Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto.)



*Congratulations to Catholic Charities
on your 100th anniversary of providing leadership
and support to the Catholic Community.
Thank you and best wishes for the next 100 years
and may you continue to provide the same
for another 100 years.*

*From the Board, Staff, Volunteers & Residence of
Sancta Maria House.*

*St. Clare's R. C. Church,
in Toronto*

*extends congratulations to
Catholic Charities
on the occasion of their
100th Anniversary.*

*May the Lord continue to bless them
in their service to God's people.*

100 Years of Helping



A century of caring

Clockwise from top left: A volunteer solicits funds for Covenant House from subway passengers in Toronto (Photo by Michael Swan); Rose of Sharon provides young mothers with the chance to continue their education while raising their child; the poor are fed at the House of Providence at its former location near St. Paul's Basilica (Photo from the archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph's); television's Ed Sullivan was enlisted by Catholic Charities and Archbishop Philip Pocock for a fundraising dinner during the 1960s; staff of Catholic Crosscultural Services (Photo by Michael Swan); CCS helps reunite families that are torn apart for various reasons (Photo by Michael Swan); Providence Healthcare has been a partner in healing since the earliest days of Catholic Charities; Adult Day Program at Providence Healthcare (Photo by Michael Swan); Mary Centre provides for people with special needs; and young people have been able to attend summer camp due to the efforts of Catholic Charities. (Photos from the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto unless otherwise noted)

250,000 hours

Catholic Charities and member agencies are blessed by 250,000 volunteer hours each year. At Ontario's minimum wage, the cost for this help would exceed \$2.5 million.

27 agencies

Catholic Charities has 27 member agencies providing services in five key areas: community & family, special needs, children & youth, young parents, and seniors.

\$9 million

In 1913 the total operating expense for Catholic Charities was \$739.32. One hundred years later, it supports its member agencies through a budget of \$9 million.

200,000 lives

Each year, Catholic Charities works with its member agencies to provide a wide range of social and health services to more than 200,000 people in need.

100% committed

Community & family services are 46% of Catholic Charities' spending, compared to 32% for special needs, 11% for children & youth, 9% for seniors and 2% for young parents.

Program gives at-risk kids the tools to succeed

Helping youth make the transition to adulthood

BY RUANE REMY
The Catholic Register

TORONTO
Imagine at age 16, after years of living without family and in the care of an organization, you're free to be on your own — except you have never learned the life skills to gain employment, obtain safe and secure housing or stay in school.

"These are kids that are very much at risk of falling through the cracks. They have been in care most of their lives in many cases and when they reach 16 years of age, they're expected to go out and live independently in the world. And we think that is an unrealistic expectation and that these kids need support to transition into adulthood," said Michael Fullan, executive director of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities has been running the Youth in Transition program to help these young people find their way. The pilot project, which is in its fourth year,



Covenant House Youth in Transition worker Oneil (right) chats with youth. (Photo courtesy of Covenant House)

is run out of Toronto's Covenant House, a shelter for homeless youth in downtown Toronto, with participation from other Catholic Charities agencies. The program provides youth aged 16 to 24 with up to 20 to 24 hours of one-on-one attention a week to teach them the skills they need and connect them with the appropriate community resources.

"We were aware that there were a number of kids falling through

the cracks. We hear that from different service providers and our agencies," Fullan said.

"If we weren't working with these kids, I don't think it's an exaggeration to say you would see many of them getting involved with the criminal justice system. You have high levels of unemployment, great risk of drug and alcohol, substance abuse kinds of issues, higher teen pregnancy. This is a safeguard to help ensure

a more positive future."
The program has two full-time staff.

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The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Rosalie Hall for young single mothers, Catholic Crosscultural Services, Catholic Family Services and Sancta Maria House are among the agencies that refer youth to the program. Forty to 45 youth are enrolled in the initiative. Since the program began, more than 130 youth have been through the program. Thirty-five per cent of these youth were age 16 to 18 while 51 per cent were aged 19 to 21.

Catholic Charities signed up to fund the project for five years, and Fullan hopes it will continue beyond that. In the first three years, a longitudinal study was conducted through Ryerson University to measure participants' problems, needs and successes

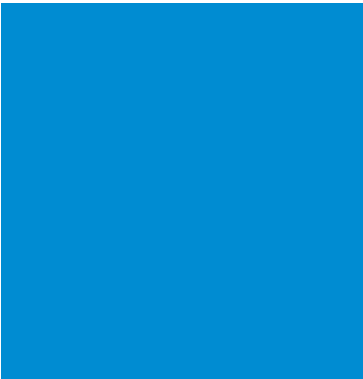
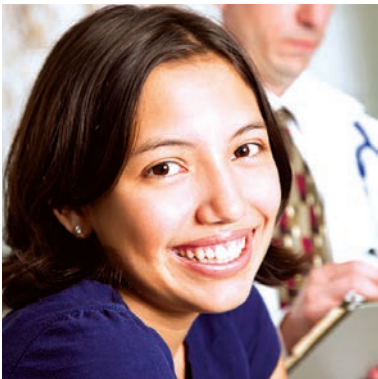
in accessing and using resources. The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto has taken over the last two years of the study.

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"It's a preventative program in an era where we're not putting a lot of attention into prevention... We're reacting to situations and not getting to the core of the issues," said Fullan, who concedes the program is expensive. "I think we'll see that it is a good strategic investment for the future of this province and for this group of kids."

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Covenant House
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Catholic Charities
on 100 years
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those most in need.



Volunteers are charities' backbone

BY RUANE REMY
The Catholic Register

TORONTO

Volunteers are the vehicles that help to fulfill the dreams of others, says Marion Barszczyk. And there are many dreams to be fulfilled within the 27 funded member agencies of Catholic Charities.

Barszczyk has been program manager at Catholic Charities for 25 years and helps volunteers identify what type of experience they are looking for and where their talents will be best suited.

The first step for volunteers is to identify that they want this additional experience in their life, she said. The second is to assess if they can make the necessary time commitment. And third, they must match the volunteer activity and their interests with a desire to see what's available in the community.

"We try to sift out whether or not they want a direct service experience or whether they want to use their professional trained skills," Barszczyk said.

Volunteers Julie Cachia and Alfred Chuang chose to take their professional skills out of the office and into charity. Cachia, who has worked in human resources for more than 20 years and has a master's degree in theological studies, was approached by Barszczyk in 2010 to be on a

Catholic Charities member review team for Sancta Maria House, a home for young women.

"I'm combining my human resources experience and my faith, which complements beautifully what I do with Catholic Charities, so it's a real gift," she said. "It's one thing to be out in the business world to experience it from that perspective, but to take your work experience into non-profit and to see Catholic Charities agencies working the way they do was a tremendous value and benefit for me."

She said the experience was collaborative, educational and very focused.

"As a volunteer, you get involved with things that are not necessarily directly involved in your line of expertise, but it allows you to learn more about your faith and it allows you to live it and learn it in a very action-oriented way."

Behind-the-scenes work is not always at the forefront of people's minds when they seek to volunteer. But Chuang, a life-long volunteer in various capacities, finds it rewarding and motivating because he can use his professional skills for the benefit of others.

The 33-year-old chartered accountant works in finance and represents the younger side of professional volunteers with Catholic Charities. Earlier this year, Chuang

worked on his first membership review. As one of three members, each from a different profession, he was able to look at the agency's finances, record keeping and financial reporting.

"Each one of us is blessed with different skill sets in a profession that we do well in. I think part of using that blessing is to give back to the community and to the Church," he said.

Frontline volunteer opportunities dealing with the people charities serve, like the experiences he's had at hospitals and food banks, are important to him. But charity can also exist in giving your time, providing labour and using your skill sets, he said.

Chuang continuously looks for ways to increase his faith. He recalls a parish priest in a homily saying, "Going to church every Sunday, that's the bare minimum requirement as a Catholic.... Through your involvement, that's one of the ways you can not just talk the talk, but walk the walk. Show people how to live every day as a Catholic."

Chuang believes you can live as a Catholic in modern society, and doing so can fit easily into daily life. By volunteering with Catholic Charities, Chuang says, "You get to see how other organizations can live with Catholic values in their day-to-day operations."

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Program gives at-risk kids the tools to succeed

Helping youth make the transition to adulthood

BY RUANE REMY
The Catholic Register

TORONTO
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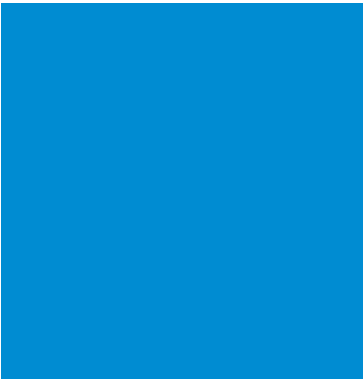
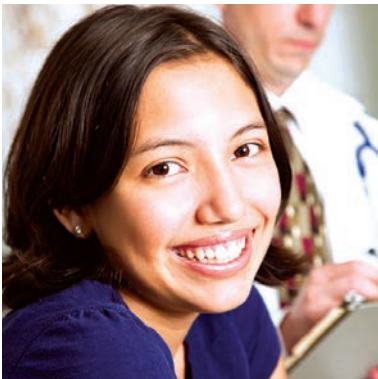
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those most in need.



Our agencies and partners

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto supports the work of 27 agencies, as follows:

Community/Family Services

- **Catholic Community Services of York Region:** 21 Dunlop St., Richmond Hill, Ont., (905) 770-7040, 1-800-263-2075, ccsyr@ccsy.org, www.ccsyr.org.
- **Catholic Crosscultural Services:** 55 Town Centre Court, # 401, Scarborough, Ont., (416) 644-0816 ext. 304, cdavis@catholiccrosscultural.org, www.catholiccrosscultural.org.
- **Catholic Family Services of Durham:** 115 Simcoe St. S., second floor, Oshawa, Ont. (905) 725-3513, 1-877-282-8932, info@cfsdurham.com, www.cfsdurham.com.
- **Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin:** 60 West Dr., suite 201, Brampton, Ont., (905) 450-1608 or (905) 897-1644, info@cfspd.com, www.cfspd.com.
- **Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County:** Barrie office, 20 Bell Farm Rd. Unit 5, Barrie, Ont., (705) 726-2503 ext. 107, 1-888-726-2503 ext. 107, info@cfssc.ca, www.cfssc.ca. Midland office, 354 Midland Ave., Midland, Ont., (705) 526-9397.
- **Catholic Family Services of Toronto:** 1155 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont., (416) 921-1163, info@cfstoronto.com, www.cfs-toronto.com.
- **FertilityCare Toronto (formerly Marguerite Bourgeys Family Centre):** 688 Coxwell Ave. #100, Toronto, Ont. (416) 465-2868, info@fertilitycare.ca, www.fertilitycare.ca.
- **Natural Family Planning Association:** 3050 Yonge St., suite 205, Toronto, Ont., (416) 481-5465, www.naturalfamily-

planning.ca/toronto.

People with Special Needs

- **Mary Centre:** 530 Wilson Avenue, #210, Toronto, Ont., (416) 630-5533, dconforti@marycentre.com, www.marycentre.com.
- **Our Place Community of Hope Centre:** 1183 Davenport Rd., Toronto, Ont., (416) 598-2919, info@ourplacecommunityofhope.com, www.ourplacecommunityofhope.com.
- **St. Bernadette's Family Resource Centre:** 128 Ewart Ave., Toronto, Ont., (416) 654-9810, stbernadettesfrc@rogers.com, www.stbernadettesfrc.org.
- **Saint Elizabeth Health Care:** 90 Allstate Pkwy., suite 300, Markham, Ont., (905) 940-9655, communications@saintelizabeth.com, www.saintelizabeth.com.
- **St. Michael's Homes/Matt Talbot Houses:** 262 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, Ont., (416) 926-8267, ron@stmichaelshome.org.
- **Silent Voice Canada:** 50 St. Clair Ave. E., suite 300, Toronto, Ont., (416) 463-1104 (TTY 416-463-3928), silent.voice@silentvoice.ca, www.silentvoice.ca.

Children and Youth

- **Catholic Children's Aid Society:** 26 Maitland St., Toronto, Ont., (416) 395-1500, communications@torontoccas.org, www.torontoccas.org.
- **Catholic Settlement House Day Nursery:** 131 McCaul St., Toronto, Ont., (416) 977-0254, cshdn@on.aibn.com.
- **Covenant House Toronto** (assoc. member): 20 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, Ont., (416) 598-4898, 1-800-435-7308, cino@covenanthouse.on.ca, www.covenanthouse.ca.

- **Sancta Maria House:** 102 Bernard Ave., Toronto, Ont., (416) 925-7333, sonia.layne@bellnet.ca.

Young Parents

- **Birthright** (assoc. member): 777 Coxwell Ave., Toronto, Ont., (416) 469-1111, 1-800-550-4900, info@birthright.org, www.birthright.org.
- **Rosalie Hall:** 3020 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto, Ont., (416) 438-6880, info@rosaliehall.com, www.rosaliehall.com.
- **Rose of Durham:** 200 Bond St. W., Oshawa, Ont., (905) 432-3622, roseofdurham@roseofdurham.com, www.roseofdurham.com.
- **Rose of Sharon:** 361 Eagle St., Newmarket, Ont., (905) 853-5514, information@therose.ca, www.therose.ca.
- **Vita Centre:** 101-75 Watline Ave., Mississauga, Ont., (905) 502-7933, info@vitamanor.org, www.vitamanor.org.

Seniors

- **Les Centres d'Accueil Heritage:** 33 Hahn Place #104, Toronto, Ont., (416) 365-3350, info@caheritage.org, www.caheritage.org.
- **LA Centre for Active Living (Loyola Arrupe Centre for Seniors):** #106-55 Rankin Ave., Toronto, Ont., (416) 452-4875, melissa@loyolaarrupecentre.com, www.loyolaarrupecentre.com.
- **Providence Healthcare:** 3276 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, Ont., (416) 285-3666, info@providence.on.ca, www.providence.on.ca.
- **Society of Sharing:** 10 St. Mary St., #607, Toronto, Ont., (416) 413-0380 ext. 23, info@societyofsharing.org, www.societyofsharing.org.

York Catholic District School Board

The York Catholic District School Board congratulates the *Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto* as it marks 100 years of service to the community. Its leadership and advocacy has helped countless individuals and families over the last century.

Elizabeth Crowe
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Patricia Preston
Patricia Preston
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on 100 years of providing leadership, services and empowering our Catholic community.



Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto

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In November, 1913, Bishop Neil McNeil asked the Misericordia Sisters to establish services for young mothers, their children, and abandoned children in Toronto. In 1956, the services moved to Scarborough.

We appreciate the support of Catholic Charities, their volunteers, and donors—through ShareLife—in service to children, youth, and families.

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(416) 438-6880 Or Visit us at www.rosaliehall.com

Rosalie Hall congratulates Catholic Charities in celebrating their 100 Years of Service!



Empowering seniors

BY VANESSA SANTILLI
Catholic Register Special

TORONTO

Last year, volunteers at the Society of Sharing donated 20,000 hours of their time to ensure isolated and marginalized seniors and adults with disabilities felt a little less alone.

An agency of Catholic Charities for seniors, the Society of Sharing provides home visits, escorts for medical and shopping trips and telephone calls to seniors to provide friendship and medication reminders. There's also a socialization program where seniors can connect with one another.

"They feel less isolated because we connect them and make these social connections," said executive director Mariza Garcia.

"Our volunteers go and visit them and sometimes that's the only person that will come for social visits."

At Les Centres d'Accueil Héritage — an agency that provides support services and housing to sick, elderly and disabled members of the Francophone community — the focus is also on empowering seniors.

"We are the only community support services agency that offers services in French in the whole GTA," said executive director

Isabelle Girard.

Their services include an adult day program and housing with personal support 24/7, home help, which includes light housecleaning, transportation to appointments and shopping, and companionship.

The seniors who live in the affordable housing building in downtown Toronto have a comfortable and secure place to call home, said Girard.

"There is this Francophone island in Toronto so they feel like they're in a familiar setting... And for a lot of them, they wouldn't be able to remain independent and living alone if it weren't for these services."

Along similar lines, another agency of Catholic Charities, the LA Centre for Active Living (Loyola Arrupe Centre for Seniors), provides continuing care and independent living for seniors in Toronto.

For Providence Healthcare — which offers rehabilitation for patients who are recovering from strokes and falls as well as providing a 288-bed long-term care facility — the emphasis is on a holistic approach to care, said Astrida Plorins, administrator for the Houses of Providence.

"During the week, we offer Mass every day at 10 o'clock and

that is extremely well-attended," said Plorins, who adds that two-thirds of its residents are Catholic. Providence also offers leisure activities to complement various departments that tend to the physical needs of residents, such as physiotherapy.

Harry Lynch, spiritual and religious care manager, says the transition to living at Providence can be a very hard adjustment for seniors. But coming from neighbourhoods where the parish is the "centre of life," they are often thrilled to discover daily Mass where they can receive the Eucharist.

"It's during this time of adjustment that they are able to touch the core of what is important to them," said Lynch.

Founded more than 150 years ago by the Sisters of St. Joseph in collaboration with Bishop Armand Charbonnel, Providence is still living its mission of being a place of welcome for those in need, said Sr. Mary Anne McCarthy.

"We live our mission of being open and welcoming and healing through our values," she said. "From the board members to the CEO to every employee and volunteer, we respond with compassion and care."

(Santilli is a freelance writer in Toronto.)

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*Vita Centre
sends its warmest congratulations
on your 100th anniversary celebration.*



www.vitamanor.org



*"Whenever you did it
to the least of my brothers and sisters,
you did it to me."*

—Matt. 25:40

*In gratitude to
Catholic Charities
for 100 years of ministry;
bringing the gospel
to those in need.*



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
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Congratulations
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Wishing **Catholic Charities**
many more years of continued success.
Thank you for your support.



Pelletier
YOUTH IN TRANSITION
www.pyit.org

Working in the community to improve lives

Continued from Page A16

the special-needs community. Judith Dempsey, a Saint Elizabeth Health Care nurse who specializes in palliative care, sees the impact of Catholic Charities on a daily basis.

Committed to providing a wide range of home health services, including personal support workers, nurses, rehab therapies, crisis intervention, mental health and palliative care services, Saint Elizabeth Health Care takes a holistic approach to serving its clients. Dempsey, for example, is also a eucharistic minister.

She has worked for the organization for 35 years and understands the benefits of helping seniors stay in their homes — and out of hospitals — for as long as

possible.

"We're improving their lives... We're making it better for them to carry on in life and (realize) it's not the end of the road. It's a new beginning in the sense of learning what makes it possible for them to stay at home," she said.

She also helps to alleviate loneliness.

"My coming into the home, it just gives them added support to know they're not alone. Especially if they're ill."

It's a rewarding career, she added. "And I feel blessed I can do it."

At Mary Centre, an agency of Catholic Charities that provides support and services to adults who are developmentally challenged and their families, both residential and outreach programs are

available.

"Our outreach programs are where we provide support to individuals that are still in the community living with their family, in most cases with elderly parents, and what we try to do is provide supports to the family so that they get a break from the care of their family member," said Dominic Conforti, executive director of Mary Centre.

In particular, there is the respite program that provides both in-home support and out-of-home residential care at Mary Centre's St. Bernard's Residence in Toronto.

Many families approach Mary

Centre because they want family members to continue in their faith — whether it be Catholic or other belief systems, said Conforti.

"Our parish outreach co-ordinator links with those faith communities, looks for volunteers within those communities and then keeps the relationship going with that individual and their faith community," he said.

The people Mary Centre serves are probably the most vulnerable members of society, added Conforti.

"Our Catholic teaching is what we are. It's reflected in our mission and the way we are involved in the

community. We wear our values on our sleeve."

Among the other Catholic Charities agencies serving those with special needs, St. Bernadette's Family Resource Centre provides integrated parental relief for children who are developmentally or physically challenged, Our Place Community of Hope offers a social recreation centre for people with mental health issues and St. Michael's Homes/Matt Talbot Houses provides a residential community for older men recovering from substance abuse.

(Santilli is a freelance writer in Toronto.)



Catholic Family Services of Toronto
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Meeting special needs

Catholic Charities' impact seen daily

BY VANESSA SANTILLI

Catholic Register Special

TORONTO

When Delia Avarell's two children were growing up, she sent both to a sign-language summer camp operated by Silent Voice Canada. As a deaf parent of hearing children, she wanted them to be immersed in an environment where they could interact with children with a similar family dynamic.

"They improved and developed their language skills, allowing for

our communication to improve and become stronger," wrote Avarell via e-mail.

One of the agencies of Catholic Charities that serves people with special needs, Silent Voice is dedicated to improving communication and relationships between deaf and hearing members of families and communities, said Kelly MacKenzie, executive director of the Toronto-based organization.

Along with the Sign Language Summer Program, Silent Voice runs a family communication program where deaf teachers of American sign language instruct hearing family members how to sign so they can communicate with

hearing-impaired relatives, said MacKenzie. It also runs a housing program, a parenting program and a settlement program, along with one-on-one services for deaf adults to help them navigate everyday "forms and systems that are riddled with barriers."

"We sometimes serve the poorest of the poor and the most marginalized in the community. Respect for their dignity, worth and right to participate in families and in communities is how we conduct whatever service we provide," said MacKenzie.

Supporting the hearing impaired is just one way Catholic Charities works with See WORKING on Page A17



Catholic Charities helps ensure youngsters can take part in the Sign Language Summer Program, a day camp run by Silent Voice. (Photo courtesy of Silent Voice)

Congratulations
to
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*St. Michael's Homes
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Young parents get second chance

BY VANESSA SANTILLI
Catholic Register Special

TORONTO

St. Mary Euphrasia, the founder of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, once said: "Lift them up in their own eyes."

Today, that is what the staff at Rose of Sharon — created with the support of the Good Shepherd sisters — seek to do daily for the young mothers they serve.

"It's one thing for us to constantly tell them how much we love them and how much we value them," said executive director Anna Pavan. "It's another for them to believe that in themselves."

One of the many Catholic Charities agencies for young parents, Rose of Sharon highlights the value of individual worth, inclusivity and belonging, said Pavan. The agency is dedicated to providing counselling, education and parenting resources for pre-natal and parenting young mothers and their families throughout York Region. When mothers leave the agency, Pavan often hears the same affectionate words: "It's my family."

"It's a second family for some, it's a primary family for others."

When they first arrive at Rose of Sharon, young mothers typically feel ostracized and judged — which is often why they left their



Rose of Sharon helps young mothers continue their education while raising their children. (Photo courtesy of Rose of Sharon)

regular high school, said Pavan.

"But if they're under the age of 21 and want to continue their high school education, they do that here while the child is being minded."

Similar to Rose of Sharon, young families are served by Rose of Durham in Durham Region, Vita Centre in Peel Region and Rosalie Hall in Scarborough. Founded by the Misericordia Sisters at the request of former Toronto Archbishop Neil McNeil, Rosalie Hall provides direct assistance to young women and children through three levels of service, said executive director

Alan Nickell.

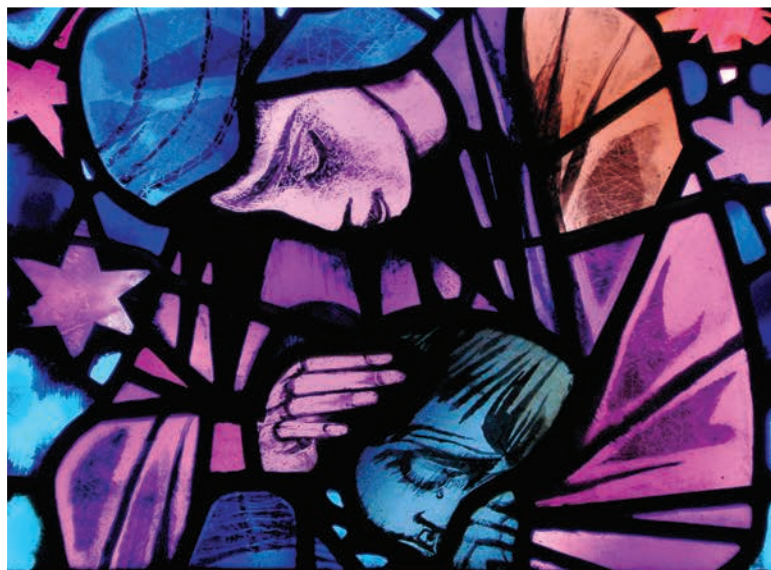
Staff look at a family's basic needs — housing, employment, food — along with the skills, development and resiliency of the family. They also ensure that parents are attuned to the needs of their children. This is accomplished through parenting groups, sessions on child communication and discipline and instruction on successful single parenting.

"We have quite a large child development centre so we can have the babies, toddlers and preschoolers on site with the parents," said Nickell. "In order to have that flexibility and staffing, Catholic Charities allows us to have the young parent and child in programs together. And that's where we most effectively work with their parenting skills and meeting their needs."

An important objective shared by all the agencies dedicated to young parents is to build support communities where pregnant women can make a "choice for life," even in difficult circumstances.

Catholic Charities also supports Birthright International, a worldwide organization founded in Toronto. It offers emotional and practical support to girls and women who are pregnant and require confidential help.

(Santilli is a freelance writer in Toronto.)



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a very happy 100th
and praying for
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for the future.*

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Social service demands are consistently growing

BY VANESSA SANTILLI
Catholic Register Special

TORONTO

At Catholic Family Services of Durham, clients often tell staff they feel helped, understood and safe, said executive director Elizabeth Pierce.

"They feel like they are able to come to us, get what they need from us and then move forward in their lives," said Pierce.

This agency of Catholic Charities provides individual, family, couple and group counselling. It also offers group sessions by way of skills-based educational workshops for parents and couples.

"The fact that we have a three-to five-month wait list means the need is great in this community and if it weren't for Catholic Charities bringing us to this region, (Durham Region) would be that much more under-served than it already is," said Pierce.

The agency was founded in 1981 from the basement of St. Gertrude parish in Oshawa, Ont., and its work is still infused with Catholic social teaching, said Pierce.

"We have a special mission to stand in solidarity with those experiencing difficulties."

She said about half the clients are adult and child victims of domestic violence.

At Catholic Family Services of Peel Dufferin, there is a strong focus on accessibility.

"We have our services available in 12 languages," said executive director Mark Creedon.

Fees are based on a "sliding scale," which takes into account the number of people in a family and overall household revenue. So where a wealthy couple might be charged \$100 an hour for counselling, a poorer couple might pay \$2 an hour for the same service, said Creedon.

Along with providing counselling and services in the area of trauma, the agency also offers general programs that anyone can use, such as dealing with anxiety and depression, he said.

"This is now the number one reason for people missing work so these are extremely common things."

Throughout his 20 years at the helm, Creedon said the greatest issue has been that the demand for services is consistently greater than the number of people available to provide them. Over 2011-12, the agency served 26,000 people.

To keep pace with the high volume, the agency has had to re-invent itself every so often. Most recently, it started offering walk-in clinics for counselling on specific days to meet the demand.

Similar support services for individuals and families are offered at Catholic Family Services of Toronto and Simcoe County. Catholic Community Services of York Region is another agency that offers counselling and group workshops, as well as immigrant settlement services. The needs of immigrants and refugees in Toronto and Peel are also served by Catholic Crosscultural Services, also an agency of Catholic Charities, which assists with employment, housing and support for refugee sponsorship.

In the area of family planning, services that are grounded in Catholic teachings are provided by the Natural Family Planning Association, which teaches couples the Billings Ovulation Method, and by FertilityCare Toronto (formerly the Marguerite Buurgeoy's Family Centre), which offers a range of services to meet the fertility and health needs of women.

(Santilli is a freelance writer in Toronto.)



A treasure chest of toys awaits children at the Safe Centre of Peel. (Photo courtesy of Catholic Family Services of Peel Dufferin)



Catholic Family Services of Durham /
Services à la famille catholiques de Durham

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Students open up the 'Doors of Hope'

BY EVAN BOUDREAU

The Catholic Register

TORONTO

Artistic students are using discarded doors as a canvass to illustrate the social justice work of Catholic Charities and the agencies it supports.

The idea behind the Doors of Hope project is that the discarded doors symbolize people in need while the artistic rejuvenation represents the help provided by agencies.

"This project is about capturing the essence of what the archdiocese's Catholic Charities does for our community," said Maria Tavares, the Toronto Catholic District School Board's arts resource teacher. "It's about instilling in young minds the importance of giving back to the community and that without each other we do not have the ability to be successful in a community."

Students are given the freedom to produce images of hope, compassion and perseverance onto the doors in the medium of their choice — but not before doing some research.

"Before they actually create an idea or come up with an idea they research the different charities," said Tavares. "They've been given a (USB) key with all the archival information."

At the elementary level students collabo-



Maria Tavares (left) works with Grade 6 student Zaphira Stasula on St. Josaphat Catholic School's contribution to the Doors of Hope project. (Photo by Tanya Besedina)

rate in large groups to complete a single door while at the secondary school level students work individually or in small groups.

The doors were to be completed by May 9 and will be on display at Catholic Charities' 100th Anniversary Gala Dinner May 16.

When originally presented to Tavares last year, the scope of the project was to be

limited to one school. But after discussing the project with John Notten, a teacher at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School, Doors of Hope was expanded across the board, and eventually to other school boards in the Greater Toronto Area.

In total Tavares is expecting about 100 doors, with 72 coming from Toronto schools

alone.

For Tavares the project touches on the most important lesson not contained in the curriculum: the importance of becoming a contributing community member.

"If we don't guide that and find a way to nurture that in students then they become lost," said Tavares. "When we give students a sense of purpose their vision of what it is they're supposed to become is a lot clearer."

"Our students are our future and they are going to be part of the community."

Zaphira Stasula, a Grade 6 student at St. Josaphat Catholic School, said she is thankful for being part of the project and now has a greater understanding of what being part of a community has to offer.

"I've learned the message of hope," said the 11-year-old who focused on agencies helping pregnant teens and young mothers. "There are people out there who need help. You have to realize that you can get that help from the community and that you need to trust people who can help you."

Tavares said it isn't just young Stasula who's been positively influenced by participating in the Doors of Hope project.

"They all know they are doing this for a reason," said Tavares.

"They are commemorating the work that our charities have done and hopefully in the future they will be the ones that will carry that work forward."

A large advertisement for Saint Elizabeth. At the top right is the Saint Elizabeth logo, which consists of a red stylized 'S' and 'E' intertwined. Below the logo is the text "Saint Elizabeth" in a large, dark font, followed by "Well beyond health care" in a smaller, red font. In the center, there is a line of text: "Celebrating 100 years of faith, service and support in our communities." Below this is the word "Congratulations" in a large, white, cursive font, followed by "to the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto on its centenary." in a smaller, white, cursive font. Below that is the text "From your friends at Saint Elizabeth" in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement is a photograph of a group of nine people (seven women and two men) standing in a grassy field under a clear blue sky. They are all holding hands and have their arms raised in the air, smiling. At the very bottom of the advertisement is a red banner with the website address "www.saintelizabeth.com" in white text.