

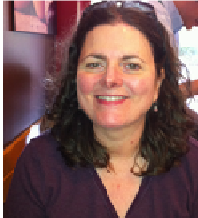
# December 2016 Newsletter



Catholic Charities  
of the Diocese of Raleigh

CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH

## A message from Terry Foley



As I write this newsletter during our busiest time of year, Thanksgiving, has just passed. Over 3 days we served 592 families! What an amazing accomplishment made possible by the devotion of our entire CPO community of staff, volunteers, donors, parishes, and partner agencies. I feel so blessed to be a part of such an amazing community.

As Christmas approaches, Pope Francis reminds us that "Advent is a time when we journey towards Jesus and his Kingdom of justice and peace. We have to break out of ourselves to encounter others." CPO is a daily example of stepping away from our daily lives to help our less fortunate neighbors. We give much more than groceries and children's clothing; in the brief time we are with a client, we show love, dignity, and respect that they often do not experience in their daily lives.

*Hunger Never  
Takes a Holiday!*

Please consider honoring the special people on your holiday gift list by making a donation to our food pantry. Our annual Christmas honor card campaign is historically our largest fundraiser of the year. Last year we raised \$72,400 to purchase food for our pantry! This year's beautiful card was designed by 4th grader Sofia Pietrus from Our Lady of Lourdes School. Every dollar makes a difference, so please consider honoring your family, friends, teachers, and neighbors in this meaningful way. Check out our website for details on how to order the cards:

<http://cporaleigh.org/ChristmasGiftCards.html>

Thank you for your devotion to serving our less fortunate neighbors. Please continue to keep our ministry and clients in your thoughts and prayers. May God bless you.

*Merry  
Christmas!*



Words of Wisdom  
volunteer Judy Lamanna

Joy to the World,  
the Lord has come!

There is innocence in a baby's smile, love in a mother and father's eyes, and also in our hearts as we welcome this holy Christmas day. We celebrate God's most loving gift to us—the gift of His only Son, Jesus! Thank you God, for delivering through Him your "Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men", and proving it a reality with His miraculous historical life, death and resurrection! Truly He is the Gift we all remember on Christmas day!...and we all sing about it most joyfully. We love you, God! Amen.

This year's Christmas  
honor card artwork



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Gibbons food drive



Gibbons moms volunteering



Msgr. Joseph blessing the NCSU groceries



Bishop Burbidge helping Thanksgiving week

### Donation Highlights

• St. Catherine food drive:	4,428 lbs. of groceries & \$2,615
• St. Luke food drive:	1,552 lbs. of groceries & \$5,415
• NCSU Campus Ministry food drive:	611 lbs. of groceries & \$1,162
• St. Eugene food drive:	1,562lbs of groceries & \$1,166
• Cardinal Gibbons food drive:	9,301 lbs of groceries & \$256
• St. Thomas More food drive:	716 lbs of groceries
• Green Hope High School:	827 lbs of groceries
• Cathedral School:	185 lbs of groceries
• St. Francis Prayer Shawl Ministry:	177 children's items
• Millbrook Exchange 55+ Club:	120 lbs of groceries & 16 turkeys
• United Way:	168 lbs of toilet paper & diapers
• Dr. Rich & Tart Triangle Dentistry:	255 lbs of groceries & \$145
• Catholic Center:	552 lbs of groceries
• St. Mary Magdalene Knights:	36 children's coats

### Tweet from Pope Francis

*If you want to find God, seek him where he is hidden: in the neediest, the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned.*



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**Beyond the Numbers: Rex**



**VA** U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Rex served in our military during the Vietnam war. For the past 4 years he has been homeless and living mostly on

the streets of Raleigh. Last summer he suffered some major health problems and was connected to the Durham VA Medical Center. Thanks to his doctors and case worker, Rex's life has greatly improved. He is healthier and living in veteran's housing in Raleigh. Rex and his Durham case worker came to CPO on the Monday before Thanksgiving. Rex was filled with joy that his life has greatly improved, and he was looking forward to enjoying his new home over the holiday. What a blessing that CPO can be part of the community of people who are helping Rex. Now he has groceries for the holiday, and we are a resource that he can continue to use if needed.

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**Stats for October**

	<u>Oct 2015</u>	<u>Oct 2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Households served	2,851	2,618	24,825
People served	10,097	8,939	85,265
Total clothing	975	718	6,904
Total diapers	615	466	4,410
Total volunteer hours	4,754	3,742	37,890
# of new volunteers (includes groups & youth)	156	65	564
Note: On average a family visits CPO 2.9 times a year			

