

December 2017 Newsletter



Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Raleigh

CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH

A message from Terry



After just finishing a whirlwind Thanksgiving week; THANK YOU to all the volunteers, supporters, and partner agencies who made it possible for us to serve groceries and children's clothing to the following numbers of families who came through our door on Thanksgiving week. What an amazing feat made possible by our CPO community!

⇒ Monday 263
⇒ Tuesday 249
⇒ Wednesday 187
699

Bishop Zarama visited us on Tuesday, and he shared some wise words of wisdom. He called the day "Black Tuesday" because so many of our neighbors are in such need. He said they visit us for much more than food and clothing, but for love and kindness, and he thanked us all for giving our time to help those in need.

I looked back at my first Christmas newsletter in 2004 that says we served a record 73 and 87 families the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. What a blessing from God that we've been able to grow over 13 years to match our community's need!

Speaking of history....all year we've been celebrating 40 years of service. CPO is highlighted in the just released November/December NC Catholics magazine! The article captures the story through words and pictures of our mission from 1977 to today, and the early founders who made it possible. Even after being at CPO for 13 years, I continue to be in awe of how we've grown over the years to being the Catholic face to many of our neighbors. Here is a link to the NC Catholics article:

<http://dioceseofraleigh.org/news/now-and-then-catholic-parish-outreach-largest-food-pantry-eastern-north-carolina-turns-40>

As we prepare for Christmas, I hope you all have a wonderful and blessed Christmas and New Year! As Judy says in her poem: "Happy Birthday Christ!"

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

TWINKLING LIGHTS

WHILE CHRISTMAS TREES' LOVELY LIGHTS TWINKLE, PEOPLE GIVE GIFTS, AND FAMILIES MINGLE OVER LUSCIOUS DELIGHTS! CHILDREN PRETEND TO BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS, WHILE HINTING AT EVERY CHANCE TO THEIR PARENTS THEIR SECRET PRESENT WISHES.

ONLY AT CHURCH DO ALL SETTLE DOWN TO REMEMBER THE BEAUTIFUL BABY JESUS — THE BIRTH OF THEIR LORD WHO HUMBLY CAME AS AN INFANT ON THIS DECEMBER 25.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHRIST! SON OF GOD, WE LOVE AND WORSHIP YOU. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND AMEN.





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Thanksgiving week fun



We need your plastic & paper grocery bags

Please consider recycling your plastic & paper grocery bags at CPO. Our reserve is still low, and we need them for our clients' groceries.



Donation highlights

- St. Catherine food drive: 4,252 lbs. of groceries & \$3,305
- St. Luke food drive: 1,574 lbs. of groceries & \$6,735
- NCSU Campus Ministry food drive: 732 lbs. of groceries & \$1,170
- St. Eugene food drive: 1,240 lbs. of groceries & \$3,449
- Cardinal Gibbons HS food drive: 6,692 lbs. of groceries
- Green Hope HS food drive: 342 lbs. of groceries
- Triangle Dentistry food drive: 297 lbs. of groceries & \$100
- St. Raphael Knights of Columbus: \$850
- St. Mary Columbiettes: 40 children's birthday kits
- St. Francis Seniors: 144 pajama sets
- Howard Perry & Walston: 40 turkeys
- Millbrook Exchange 55+ Club: 404 lbs. of groceries & 16 turkeys
- St. Mary Magdalene Knights: 60 children's coats



Tweet from Pope Francis

When we encounter others, do we bring them the warmth of charity or do we stay closed up and warm only ourselves before our fireplace?



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Beyond the numbers: Jenny



Jenny reluctantly visited CPO for the first time in November. She injured her knee and will not be able to work for a few months. She needed a steroid shot that cost her a \$67 co-pay, then, medication that cost her another co-pay of \$35. She is cutting the medication in half to make it last longer, but that \$102 was her food budget for the month. What a blessing that we were able to help her with groceries, and other possible resources for food and help with the medication!



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**Save the date Monday June 11, 2018
North Ridge Country Club Raleigh, NC**



Join us for our inaugural “Drive Out Hunger” Golf Outing to benefit Catholic Charities food pantries across the Diocese of Raleigh. One of our regular volunteers, Jay Comi, has generously volunteered to chair the committee organizing this event, and we are grateful for his commitment to Catholic Charities.

For more information about this event and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Katey Fithian, Catholic Charities Development Director, at Katey.Fithian@raldioc.org or 919-821-8142.

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Stats for October



	<u>Oct 2016</u>	<u>Oct 2017</u>	<u>YTD 2017</u>
Households served	2,618	2,689	25,214
People served	8,939	9,250	85,682
Total clothing	718	815	6,887
Total diapers	466	544	4,863
Total volunteer hours	3,742	4,134	39,307
# of new volunteers (includes groups & youth)	65	82	606
Note: On average a family visits CPO 2.9 times a year			