



*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
– John 1:5.*

October 2020

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

In these past eight months, I have seen Catholic Charities at its finest! I am inspired by this organization's response to COVID-19. We have **ADAPTED** to the changing times in all of our 36 programs by leveraging technology to serve all safely. Here are a few examples:

Social Media - On September 25, Bishop Frank J. Dewane celebrated Mass at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice for the Catholic Charities USA 110th Anniversary Mass that was streamed live throughout our country using Facebook and Zoom. We are also getting the word out about our programs and events by using social media. Friends are engaging with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Follow us today!

Counseling - World Mental Health Day is October 10. Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, we have been providing mental health services via tele-health to children and adults. By offering free tele-counseling we diminish various barriers, including financial issues, the stigma of seeking mental health treatment, transportation challenges or even a hectic schedule.

Meetings - Our Board, advisory committees, community partners and staff have seamlessly transitioned our meetings virtually which has the added benefit of saving time and money by reducing travel!

Virtual event - We have scheduled our very first virtual event focusing on our Anti Human Trafficking program on **Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m.** We are asking our supporters to join us virtually and help stop human trafficking! For more information, contact Janet Pavelak via email: janet.pavelak@catholiccharitiesdov.org or 239-334-4007.

By embracing this new world and creatively using technology as well as adhering to all health and safety protocols, Catholic Charities has been able to provide help, create hope and serve all without missing a beat!

Blessings and thank you for adapting along with us.

Gratefully,

Philomena Pereira

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