



Catholic Charities

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Inspiring Hope, Building Futures.

Report for Holy Trinity Catholic Church January 2021

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington (Catholic Charities) is extremely grateful for the \$15,000 awarded by Holy Trinity Catholic Church in support of our Welcome Home Reentry Program, Immigration Legal Services Program, and Parish Partners Program

IMPACT OF GRANT FUNDS

Welcome Home Reentry Program

Catholic Charities' Welcome Home Reentry Program (WHRP) has continued its relationships with the DC Department of Correction (DOC) facilities and the READY Center, the Public Defender Service, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP), Fairview Women's Halfway House, CORE DC, Volunteers of America, and US Probation-Reentry Court. WHRP also maintained our partnerships with a number of community-based organizations. We continue to provide services to individuals who are approaching release or have recently been released to home confinement. Some of these services include matching returning citizens with a mentor; case management services; housing referrals/placement; workforce development training referrals; financial literacy training; life coaching seminars; provision of pre-paid trac phones; and clothing and food assistance (Walmart/Safeway/Giant gift cards).

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, WHRP staff were limited in their ability to interact in person with clients. With programming transitioned to a virtual format, we encountered some additional challenges related to reliable access to technology and internet connectivity. Despite these hurdles, our WHRP mentors and mentees have adjusted well to the transition. As the pandemic continues, we are not requiring our mentors to meet in person with clients, though the Case Manager continues to meet clients in the community to provide direct services as needed (e.g., deliver cell phones or gift cards) while maintaining safe social distancing and use of personal protective equipment.

Immigration Legal Services

The \$5,000 awarded to ILS provided general support to the program and helped ensure low-income individuals had access to high-quality, pro bono or reduced-cost immigration legal services. Our staff attorneys met with clients, provided legal advice and representation, and connected clients to volunteer attorneys from our legal programs' numerous partnering law firms. We also conducted consultations with immigrant victims of domestic violence and crimes through our partnerships with the Family Justice Centers in Upper Marlboro and Rockville, Maryland.

ILS staff have continued to facilitate direct legal services since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting client intake and support to virtual meetings and phone calls. Community outreach also continued online throughout 2020. As a result, we have not only increased awareness of our programs and their services but also reached additional clients who formerly could not access these resources due to transportation and employment conflicts.

Parish Partners

Support from Holy Trinity allowed Catholic Charities' Parish Partners program to assist 10 families with emergency funds and gifted one DC parish with food cards for their parishioners in need. Parish Partners matched the Holy Trinity funds with additional support for those 10 families. Nine families were assisted to prevent eviction and one family to prevent utility disconnection. Holy Trinity's support was key in augmenting the emergency financial assistance Catholic Charities is able to provide.

CLIENT STORIES

Welcome Home Reentry Program

LH connected with our program while she was still housed in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. As she her release date approached, we were able to coordinate with the Jubilee Transitional Housing Program to secure housing for her before she was released. Jubilee Housing arranged for her to be picked up at the bus station upon her release and WHRP program staff met with her the following day for an interview. We were able to provide a \$100 gift card, a cell phone and a phone card. The WHRP staff were pleased to be able to arrange for LH to enter a transitional housing program rather than a homeless shelter. WHRP is working to implement this process more frequently so returning citizens who are released from prison without housing and family support experience a smooth and trauma-free transition into a secure housing environment.

Immigration Legal Services

With support from Holy Trinity, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services assisted clients in becoming U.S. Citizens. For example, we assisted a DC resident who had been a lawful permanent resident since 1999 to file for naturalization in November 2019. The ILS attorney appeared with the client at her interview in October 2020. The client passed the exam at her first interview and had her oath ceremony just a few weeks later. The client told us how excited she was because she was going to be able to vote in the presidential election for the first time!

Parish Partners

Parish Partners received a referral for an elderly woman who happened to be celebrating her 64th birthday on the day of intake. She was living on a fixed income and in subsidized housing. Recently, her granddaughter had passed away unexpectedly. The granddaughter had a six-month-old baby girl which had been placed in our client's custody. The client not only needed financial assistance because of the baby and for her rental costs. Her extended family (brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles) were unable to provide any support. The intake took almost two hours as the client had many concerns she wanted to discuss. Parish Partners was able to assist her in paying her rental debt and also arrange for food assistance.