Message From the Executive Director

Dear Friend of Catholic Charities:

Just like all the New Years before, 2018 was surrounded by talk and promises of resolutions. The root of making a resolution is to be resolved—typically about doing "it," whatever "it" is—better. Here at Catholic Charities, that translated to some important New Year's Resolutions:

1. **We will work even harder and smarter to provide our safety net of services.** More than ever, we're between that proverbial rock and a hard place. As income revenue from all areas of support becomes harder to come by, we anticipate even more people will need us and the services we provide. Since the first wave of economic crisis affected our operations back in 2008, we've followed a strategic vision of evaluating what we do best, what other agencies do better and re-organizing ourselves appropriately to avoid a duplication of services. While we continue to serve all, it is imperative to focus on what we do best for those who come to us and to refer to our partner agencies when appropriate.

2. **We will do everything in our power to ensure our clients are stronger or more stable when they leave us than when they first walked through our door.** We want to build stronger relationships with each of our clients, encouraging them to find avenues of growth that help them past their struggles, challenges, and desperation—working toward a future of hope and self-sufficiency.

3. **We will share more stories of success and back them up with stronger outcomes.** Now is the time to share not only about the needs we see but the solutions we offer. Our work is not about numbers. For every statistic, there is a real person who was helped in very real ways. We will tell you about more of them and demonstrate not only that we served them, but how much better they were when they left us.

4. **We will make this the year of our benefactors.** Whether you volunteer with us, donate to us, or pray for us, we can't do "it" without you! Through social media, our website, e-news, and this newsletter and in any way possible, we pledge to connect with you in more ways in 2018.

We are resolved to do all of the above to continue to earn your respect, your trust, and your investment in us - all with the purpose of providing help, creating hope, and serving all.

Sincerely,

David J. Bethuram
Executive Director
Secretariat for Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Holy Family Services: Journeying with the Homeless

As a child, Linda and her family lived in multiple homeless shelters, including Holy Family Transitional Housing. As an adult and mom of two young children, Linda is now successfully overcoming a long history of homelessness. She was not able to manage her household income, which resulted in the loss of her job and home. With no housing options, Linda and her two children entered Holy Family Shelter.

Visit our website to find out how Holy Family Shelter provided hope for Linda and her family.

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Refugee Services: "I can do life now."

Isaack is no stranger to restless days and sleepless nights. Growing up in the Darfur region of Sudan, conflict surrounded him for most of his life. He attempted to live his life and raise a family in his homeland, but one night changed everything. While staying with his cousin in the town of Geneina, he awoke to the sounds of the Janjaweed breaking into the house and killing his cousin. Miraculously, Isaack managed to gather his wife and two young children and flee overnight to the neighboring country of Chad—fearing for their lives.

Visit our website to find out how Refugee Immigration Services provided hope for Isaack and his family.

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St. Joan of Arc - Neighborhood Youth Outreach: Helping Youth to Adjust and Develop Goals

As a new student at school, Lily was enrolled in the Neighborhood Youth Outreach (N.Y.O.) program to help her adjust to her new situation. She had recently been removed from parental care and placed in the care of an estranged aunt. The situation was traumatic, and Lily's attitude clearly reflected the turmoil she had experienced. It was a struggle adjusting to the academic and social demands of her new environment - a new school, a new city, and social interactions with an unfamiliar student population that didn't mirror her former life experience.

Visit our website to find out how the Neighborhood Youth Outreach program provided hope for Lily.

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Please make checks payable to: Catholic Charities Indianapolis
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