



FACES of HOPE

Providing Help, Creating Hope

Brother Francis Shelter |
 Clare House | Charlie Elder House |
 Family Disability Services |
 Homeless Family Services |
 Pregnancy Support & Adoption Services |
 Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services |
 St. Francis House Food Pantry

A publication of Catholic Social Services

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IT'S ALMOST HERE!



YOUR 25th Silver Anniversary Catholic Social Services Wilma Carr Charity Ball—one of Anchorage's most established fundraising events. Come celebrate this 25th Silver Anniversary with us! Great food, dancing, old friends and fun times. You don't want to miss this Silver Anniversary. Funds raised from the Charity Ball are extremely important to Catholic Social Services and its eight programs. AEDC president Bill Popp will be master of ceremonies. The event will take place May 9th, 2015 at the Hotel Captain Cook. For more information or to purchase a table, go to cssalaska.org and click on Charity Ball.

For more info go to cssalaska.org

THE CHARITY BALL COMMITTEE

selected Clare House as its *Together We Can!* project this year. The women's and children shelter needs a van and a case manager to help clients get permanent employment and housing. Thank you!



Lent
 Offerings at
 St. Francis
 House

If you're unable to attend the Charity Ball, but would like to be part of *Together We Can!* you can! Just go to cssalaska.org and click on the donation ribbon. You'll find a *Together We Can!* button to select for your donation.

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON'S PARISH came together this Lent season for St. Francis House Food Pantry. Parish members donated their time and resources by working in the pantry and by providing food to help the more than 115 families that come in every day. The out-pouring of gratitude from St. Francis House guests was truly inspirational and the plan is to continue the support all year long.

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Meet the New CSS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lisa Aquino, Executive Director

I WOULD like to introduce myself to you. My name is Lisa DH Aquino. I was raised in Anchorage, and I graduated from Bartlett High School. I went out of state and received my undergraduate degree at UCLA and my Master's at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. I have worked in public health for over 15 years managing large programs for the State of Alaska, including the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, and Healthy Alaskans 2020. I also worked abroad, for the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa, where I lead the effort to build and create a youth center in a local township community. In my work, I have used the science and practice of public health to improve lives.

I am also a devoted member of this community. I have been married for more than eight years to Chris Aquino, who also grew up in Anchorage. I have two children, ages four and two, who are the light of my life. My parents still live here in Anchorage, as do one of my brothers, my sister, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws and lifelong friends – and I am absolutely blessed by their presence in my life. This network of love compels me to be a part of creating that same kind of network for those most in need.

My passion for improving lives and working in my community converge in my new job as Executive Director of Catholic Social Services. The mission of Catholic Social Services is to serve the poor, strengthen families and help build a just community. That mission speaks to me, and I imagine it speaks to most of us. It inspires me to live that mission in my community.

Growing up in Alaska, I saw how critical the work of Catholic Social Services was. I volunteered at Brother Francis Shelter and collected food for the St. Francis House pantry. Every Christmas we went to Mass at Brother Francis Shelter and connected with individuals there, if only for that moment, hearing stories of sorrow and of hope. Seeing CSS in action was one of many factors that shaped my childhood and my vision of the future. I am humbled to lead such an important organization.

It provides services focusing on homeless families, families experiencing disabilities, refugees, and women and children in need, among many others. By serving these groups and countless others, the work of CSS serves the entire community of Anchorage and Alaska as a whole. By giving assistance and support to people who need it, we strengthen our entire community.

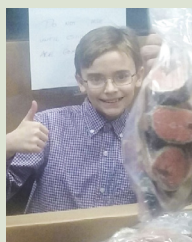
In my new role, I hope to continue the great work of Susan Bomalaski, and further build on the immense strengths of the staff. I also hope to connect with more partners in Anchorage and better match their gifts and the work they are doing in their community with Catholic Social Services.

Pope Francis, too, reminds us of the importance of serving our community, and reaching out to those most in need when he says: "Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving voice to the cry of the poor." Every day we all have opportunities to live those words and use the gifts we have been given.

Lent is a time of
gratitude and
giving.

Thank you!

cssalaska.org





UNITY

For 25 years the Charity Ball has been bringing CSS donors and supporters together for an evening to show their support for CSS, and to have an opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones. Last year, long time Charity Ball committee member Mary Ann Molitor, along with the other wonderful Charity Ball volunteers, welcomed the almost 500 guests to the Charity Ball at Hotel Captain Cook. This year, these wonderful volunteers will again demonstrate the value of community by giving their time, enthusiasm and support to CSS.



WHAT a great new way to support CSS!

Mark Your Calendar

SFH Volunteer Luncheon—
March 20

*Good Friday Walk—*April 13

*Charity Ball—*May 9

*World Refugee Day—*June 19

Plein Air Painters of Alaska
*Weekend—*July 25–26

Team up with St. Francis House and Fred Meyer to create a convenient way for you to support this busiest food pantry in the state. Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Catholic Social Services at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

CLIENT success

PATHWAYS to INDEPENDENCE

Case Managers under the Basic Homeless Assistance Program (BHAP) grant at CSS help families with children who are literally homeless. One example is Chris, a single father with four children who lost housing and most of their belongings due to a massive sewage flood in his apartment. Chris and his children were staying in their car. Their car broke down so he began using his income to rent a U-Haul truck to sleep in. He had a traumatic brain injury, which caused extreme pain and sleepiness. The CSS BHAP Case Manager connected him with ASD Child in Transition which

provided gas cards and supportive services to ensure the children stopped missing school. The CSS BHAP Case Manager assisted Chris in searching for an apartment and in developing a budget. Using an AHFC housing voucher and BHAP funds for a security deposit, Chris and his family found housing. Without this funding, he would not have been able to move into the place. The Case Manager also connected Chris with the Center for Human Development at UAA where he received information about how to apply for a grant to help him start his own landscaping business.



PLEASE JOIN US

Easter Morning Mass
Brother Francis Shelter
Sunday, April 5

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

SUPPORTERS



Dimond High Hockey Booster Club along with the Dimond & West Hockey Teams, cheerleaders, coaches, and fans supported Clare House at its hockey game with donations, embroidered jerseys, coats, and a special split the pot raffle. The event raised more than \$3,000 and attendees brought much needed items for Clare House. We appreciate you!



First Alaskans Institute and the Uplifting Ones in Need Group donated much needed clothes for clients at Brother Francis Shelter. Thank you Emily Tyrrell, Samuel Johns, and everyone who showed up to show support for BFS. We appreciate you!



VOLUNTEER Opportunities

What will Anchorage look like when everyone has a place to call home?

Fostering opportunities for our most vulnerable neighbors is a complex task. You want to make a difference but may not know where to begin.

To express your interest, or for more information about volunteering, please contact Kara Casanova at 222-7335 kcasanova@cssalaska.org

Archbishop Schweitz and Executive Director Lisa Aquino, LovAlaska and CSS during the Pick.Click.Give campaign.



Thank you to all CSS donors for your fabulous support of Pick.Click.Give.

If you have a story to tell or information to share with our community please contact Corey Allen-Young at cyoung@cssalaska.org or (907) 222-7324.