



A Catholic Social Services Publication | Winter 2019



Faces of Hope

Ending homelessness one family at a time

Keeping People Warm and Safe

ANCHORAGE NOW HAS A PLAN WHEN IT DROPS BELOW 10-DEGREES

 In early January, Lisa Aquino, Catholic Social Services' Executive Director, was home on a Saturday night when she got a call. She discovered that, due to the severe temperatures, more people experiencing homelessness were coming in from the cold. Brother Francis Shelter was full, and so was the overflow shelter. She knew we had to act fast to help.

Over the next three days, Lisa and a team of community leaders were all-hands-on-deck to solve this problem. Where could people experiencing homelessness go to stay warm and safe? Everyone was willing to devote the resources. They just needed to determine a plan.

On Monday, they increased capacity at the overflow shelter after getting permission from the Fire Marshall. Then, they scheduled extra staff for 12-hour shifts. But that night, they ran out of room a second time. More than

400 people sought shelter at these two facilities. They needed to do more.

The next day, the team decided to find additional emergency cold-weather shelters for nights that temperatures fell into single or negative digits. Texts, emails, and calls occurred rapidly as they worked together to come up with timely, efficient, and effective solutions.

Nothing panned out, so they stuck with their Monday plan. It wasn't perfect, but everyone in Anchorage made it through the night.

There was even more urgency on Wednesday to get a plan nailed down, and at last the team succeeded. When temperatures dropped below 10 degrees and both Brother Francis Shelter and the overflow shelter were full, the Downtown Transit Center would open its doors as a warming center from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Now, thanks to the ingenuity and commitment from Lisa and community leaders, Anchorage has a plan in place for nights when it's below 10 degrees and people experiencing homelessness still need a place to go. 

Beds at Brother Francis Shelter
any given night

 **240**

Beds now community-wide
when 10 degrees or colder

 **>480**

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BROTHER FRANCIS SHELTER HAS BEEN AT CAPACITY SINCE OCTOBER

Season of Lent

40 DAYS OF TIME, TREASURE, AND TALENT

Lent is approaching, asking us to set aside 40 days to reflect on being good stewards of what we've been given. For some, observing Lent means personal sacrifice. For others, it means contributing to meaningful goals, be them causes or reflection.

A while ago, Father Tom Lilly encouraged us to think about Lent in terms of time, talent, and treasure – three unique ways to serve our neighbors. What can we do and what can we give over Lent?

Supporters, like you, change the lives of people in-need. Because of you, Brother Francis Shelter offers safe, warm shelter to 240 guests every night. St. Francis House Food Pantry provides food to more than 85 families every day, and Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services connect clients with good jobs.

This Lent will you join with other supporters over these 40 days to donate your time, talent, and treasure? We have ways for everyone to participate. Will you please consider doing one of the following?

- **Commit to a 40-minute volunteer shift**
- **Bring 40 cans of food**
- **Host a donation drive to collect 40 blankets**
- **Make a \$40 online donation**

Sign up at www.cssalaska.org/get-involved/40-days/ or contact Alicia Jacobs, Community Engagement Manager, at ajacobs@cssalaska.org or 222-7335 with questions or comments. Thank you! ☺



Pick.Click.Give.

GIVE TO 7 PROGRAMS WITH 1 CLICK.

You can help seven programs with one click! March 31 is the deadline to apply for your Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). Please choose to donate to Catholic Social Services through Pick.Click.Give.!

Your donations help to create a better Alaska, allowing us to reach and support even more people who are in-need. Will you be a part of what makes Alaska great and donate through Pick.Click.Give.?

Did you know, since 2009 when Pick.Click.Give. began, more than \$20,000,000 from more than 200,000 donors have been given to Alaska nonprofits? That's an average of \$100 per person.



Catholic Social Services

Give to **7** programs with **1** click



www.pickclickgive.org

You can give in \$25 increments until March 31, while applying for your PFD, and can update your donation until August 31.

Executive Director, Lisa Aquino, said, "Pick.Click.Give. allows all of us to share with and support the causes and issues that most speak to our hearts."

We hope, for you, that's Catholic Social Services. Will you please help make Alaska better and add a Pick.Click.Give. pledge to Catholic Social Services in 2019? Thank you! ☺

Partner Spotlight

ALASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We were honored to host the Alaska Community Foundation as they celebrated reaching their goal of raising \$100 million for The Alaska Fund. The fund will benefit Alaska nonprofits and support our great state for generations to come.



PICTURE ABOVE » Nina Kempel, President and CEO of Alaska Community Foundation, met with Lisa Aquino, Executive Director of Catholic Social Services, to establish two funds for our organization.

Alaska Community Foundation is a strong supporter of Catholic Social Services and our programs, such as Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services, to which they awarded a social justice grant. Plus, after the November Earthquake, they awarded money to help us do things like repair our shelters, replenish our emergency supplies, and translate emergency-preparedness materials into other languages.

We are grateful for opportunities to enhance our partnership as well. This month we opened two of our own funds at Alaska Community Foundation. This is another option for donors to ensure that some of the most vulnerable in our community will always have access to the support they need.

To find out how you can contribute, please go to:

- www.alaskacf.org/blog/funds/catholic-social-services-fund/
- www.alaskacf.org/blog/funds/catholic-social-services-providing-permanent-stability/

Both funds enable you to make a lasting impact by meeting basic human needs and creating paths out of homelessness to permanent stability. Thank you! 🍀

You provided an average of
26 pounds of food
to **11,631** families
in the last **6** months!



GOODBYE AND HELLO

OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGERS

Where would Catholic Social Services be without our Community Engagement Manager? That person oversees in-kind donations, volunteer training and scheduling, and participation in community events.

Recently, you've gotten to know Clara Williams, the person who served in this role throughout 2018 – or at least seen her name referenced in our different print and online materials. Clara's done so much for Catholic Social Services, and we thank her for all her work! But sadly, we're also saying goodbye to Clara as she leaves Catholic Social Services to embark on a new journey...

**"THERE IS SOMETHING EVERYDAY THAT IS
HUMBLING AND INSPIRING!" - CLARA**

...and happily saying hello to Alicia Jacobs! She's excited to be part of Catholic Social Services' team and get to know you! So moving forward, look for Alicia and her contact information for all your in-kind donations and volunteer opportunities! And join us in wishing Clara goodbye and good luck! 🍀



PICTURE ABOVE » Community Engagement Managers, Alicia and Clara!

Charity Ball 2019

A VENETIAN MASQUERADE

Mark your calendars: The 29th Annual Catholic Social Services' Wilma Carr Charity Ball will be Saturday, May 11, 2019! Attendees will enjoy a Venetian masquerade – an evening of music, dancing, and masques – a fabulous event for a great cause.



This year, our “Together We Can” campaign, a feature of each Charity Ball, will focus on St. Francis House Food Pantry. As Alaska’s largest client-choice pantry, we respect each shopper’s right to choose their own food. We believe that food should be displayed in a way that dignifies their shopping experiences.

“Together We Can” allows us to update freezers and refrigerators so that St. Francis House is more reflective of a grocery store than an emergency-food pantry, contributing to both the appeal and efficiency of our program.

We look forward to joining you for this fabulous night to support Catholic Social Services. If you have questions, please contact Melissa Webber, Annual Giving Manager, at mwebber@cssalaska.org or 907-222-7344. You can also register today at www.cssalaska.org/get-involved/upcoming-events/ – just look for the Charity Ball section. 

Upcoming Events



PFD Filing Deadline

It's time to Pick.Click.Give. When you file for your PFD, please donate a portion of it to Catholic Social Services, using Pick.Click.Give. // PFD filing deadline: Sunday, March 31, 2019 // www.pfd.alaska.gov

RAIS Pop-Up Lunch

RAIS will be hosting a pop-up lunch, featuring delicious Congolese food. // Date and time soon to be announced. // Welcome Center, 4135 San Roberto Avenue, Anchorage, AK

Charity Ball

Buy your tickets now for the 29th Annual Charity Ball! This year's theme is Venetian masquerade. // Saturday, May 11, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. // Hotel Captain Cook, 939 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK // www.cssalaska.org/get-involved/upcoming-events/

For more information or to volunteer, contact Alicia Jacobs, Community Engagement Manager, at ajacobs@cssalaska.org or 907-222-7335.

