



Catholic  
Charities  
USA®

*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*



*Ending poverty, promoting justice and restoring dignity.*



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America*

- ✓ The webinar is being recorded and will be available on the website in the 'members only' portal.
- ✓ Your phone line and computer speakers are muted.
- ✓ You may use the 'Chat' feature for comments or questions during the presentation.
- ✓ We will have time for Q & A at the end and will open the lines at that time.
- ✓ All questions not addressed during the webinar will receive an email response.





# **MIRACLE PROJECTS**

**Students Leading the Gospel's Call to Love**

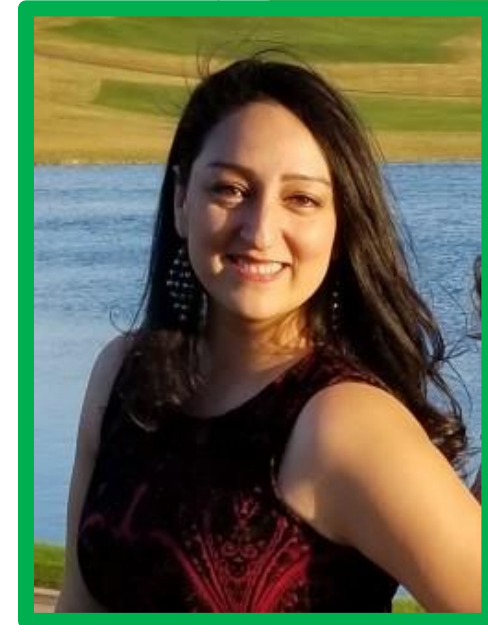
# Introductions



Corina Medhus  
MA Theology Teacher  
St. John XXIII  
Catholic School



Melissa Geer  
Sr. Director of Community  
Engagement and Volunteer  
Services



Dulce Valdez  
Parish and Community  
Engagement  
Supervisor

# Where are we headed?

- ▶ Introduction to our agency
- ▶ The Beginning of Miracle Projects
- ▶ Overview of the *Miracle Project* model
- ▶ The impact of *Miracle Projects*
- ▶ Sharing our Experience-Corina Medhus
- ▶ Questions



▶ Catholic Charities  
Community Services

**We are the charitable service arm for  
the Diocese of Phoenix.**



# Our Mission:

Helping our community's most vulnerable with solutions that permanently improve lives

# We reach out to thousands each year to...

- ▶ Shelter the homeless and abused
- ▶ Protect and nurture children
- ▶ Strengthen and reunify families
- ▶ Welcome and assist refugees
- ▶ Aid those in crisis
- ▶ Help the impoverished



# 2019 Community Impact Report

## Numbers at Work

20,330

individuals served from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

1,548

families strengthened through parenting education and assistance

415

assisted with foster care training and/or placement

621

individuals helped through counseling

1,196

in affordable housing

655

experiencing homelessness who received outreach/assistance

512

veterans experiencing/at risk of homelessness assisted



# 2019 Community Impact Report



# 608

helped through My Sisters' Place and Pathways programs for victims of domestic violence

# 120

women experiencing unexpected pregnancies who received counseling through Joining Hearts

# 235

victims of prostitution assisted through our DIGNITY Diversion program



# 4,666

refugees and immigrants assisted

# 47

assisted through our re-entry program to help individuals build a new life after jail

# 8,813

youth participants in education, development and peer-leadership through North Star Youth Partnership

# 1,158

children enrolled in Westside Head Start early education programs



# Where We Serve

- ▶ Greater Phoenix
  - ▶ Central
  - ▶ East Valley
  - ▶ West Valley
- ▶ Northern Arizona
  - ▶ Prescott
  - ▶ Cottonwood
  - ▶ Flagstaff
  - ▶ Bullhead City

## WHERE DOES CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAVE PROGRAMS?

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**22** PROGRAMS  
IN **7** COUNTIES

- Mohave
- Coconino
- Navajo
- Apache
- Yavapai
- Maricopa
- Northern Pinal



▶ The Beginning of  
Miracle Projects



# History of Miracle Project

2014-2015

- "Miracle Projects" was inspired by the Arrupe Projects provided by St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Phoenix (faith, service, and justice).

2015-2016

- Miracle Projects Started

2016-2017

- Re-designed forms; Catholic Social Teachings; Volunteer Hub

2017-2018

- Students applied online vs. on paper

2018-  
present

- Continue to grow; Track data



- ▶ Overview of the  
Miracle Project  
Model

# A Miracle Projects

Miracle Projects are an opportunity to leverage our students' strengths and creativity in an entrepreneurial endeavor to teach the value of social responsibility, the prevalence of social injustice, the impact of community reinvestment, and the joy of faithful stewardship of God's graces.

1

Catholic Charities presents to the classroom about justice issues in the community

2

Students choose one program to support to fight against that justice issue

3

Students create an entrepreneurial project to sell or plan a fundraiser to raise resources

4

Students reinvest their profits to bring about social change (Gift In-Kind items or cash donations)

# Students learn...

- ▶ Important tenets of Catholic Identity
- ▶ Entrepreneurial skills
- ▶ Budgeting skills
- ▶ The value of social activism
- ▶ The joy of faithfulness
- ▶ To use their God-given gifts for others
- ▶ To be a voice for those neglected in society
- ▶ What Catholic Charities is doing in their communities to help the most vulnerable







## Students engage with....

- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Peers
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Parish
- ▶ Catholic Charities team members
- ▶ The most vulnerable
- ▶ God's mission to redeem the earth



**GRACE LEDOUX  
ST JOHN XXIII  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**



**AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
MIRACLE PROJECT**

# Initial Meeting....

- ▶ We ask for:
  - ▶ Date of the presentation
  - ▶ What programs they suggest us to present about...
  - ▶ How many students will be involved
  - ▶ Date of their Marketplace
  - ▶ Date for the Donation Pick up





1

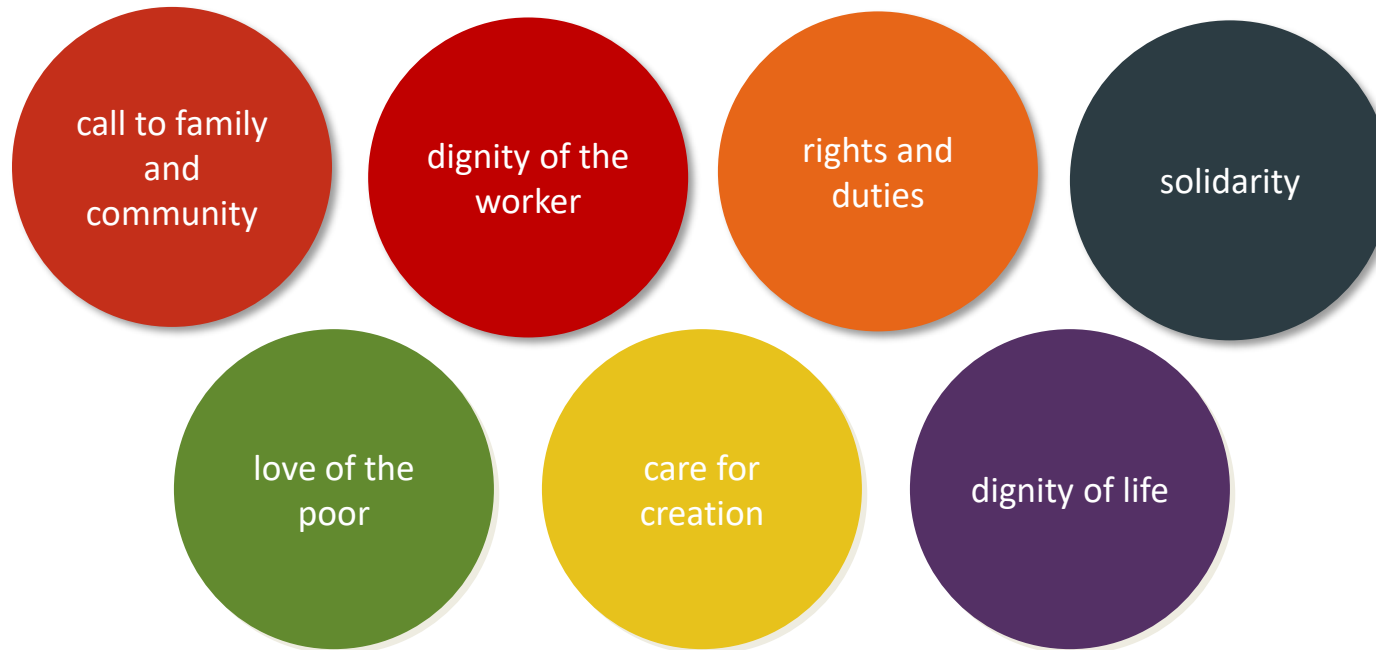
Catholic Charities  
presents to your  
classroom about  
justice issues in the  
community

- ▶ Typically, about 1 hour
- ▶ An introduction to the mission of Catholic Charities and current social issues in our community
- ▶ An introduction to Catholic Social Teaching and share Scripture
- ▶ An overview of Catholic Charities programs
- ▶ Discernment
- ▶ An outline of the Miracle Project process
- ▶ A call for students to put their faith into action

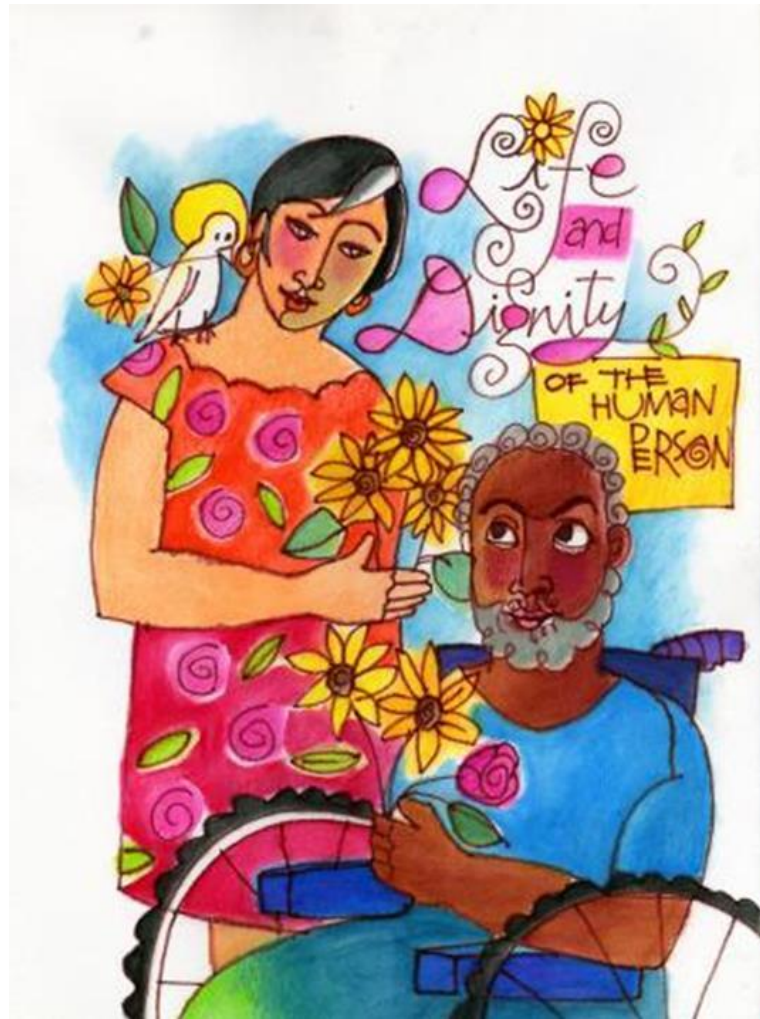
## Guided by scripture...

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms... If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen”-1 Peter 4:10-11*

# We operate on the values of Catholic Social Teaching



# Catholic Social Teaching...



dignity of life

# Joining Hearts

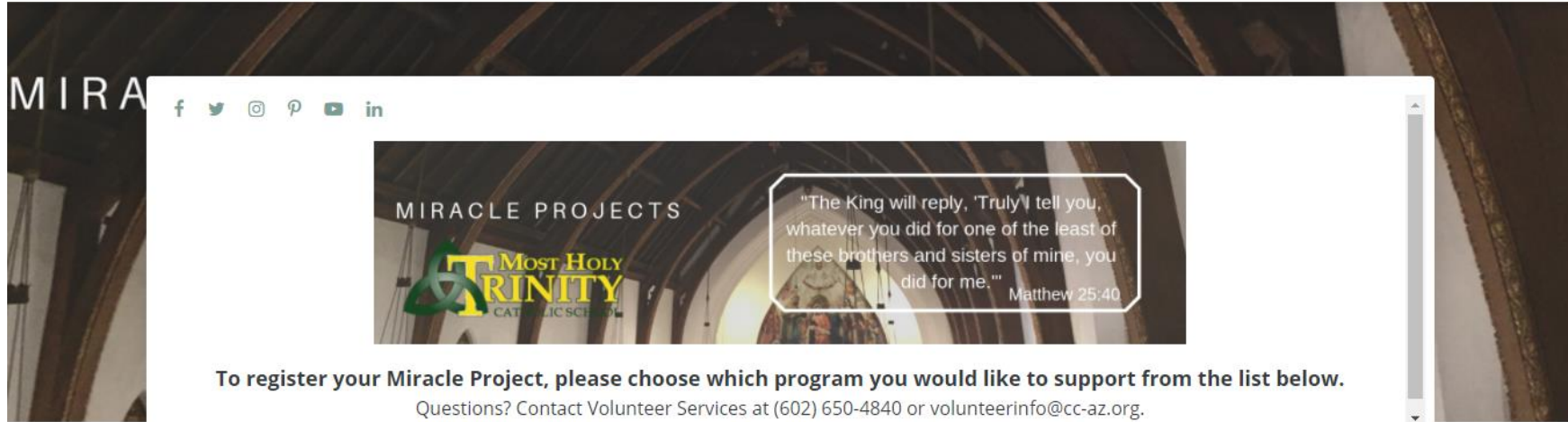
Offers compassionate, caring pregnancy counselors who will listen without judgment, provide support, answer questions, and provide life-affirming resources for pregnant women who may be struggling with the choice of parenting or adoption. Text or Call 1.888.818.4445 or visit us at <https://joiningheartsaz.org> to chat.



dignity of life







**To register your Miracle Project, please choose which program you would like to support from the list below.**  
Questions? Contact Volunteer Services at (602) 650-4840 or volunteerinfo@cc-az.org.

All Events



**FRIDAY, 2/5/2021**

11:00 AM

**Affordable Housing Miracle Projects**

Fri, February 5, 11 am - 12 pm (1 hour) 8 slots remaining

[SIGN UP](#)

For more than 20 years Catholic Charities has provided permanent affordable housing throughout Central and Northern Arizona. With a housing crisis in Arizona, we respond to the current needs of vulnerable individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by providing affordable housing. A variety of support services are also available to those who live there as well such as financial education classes, workforce readiness, computer literacy classes, health and wellness, along with after school kids programs.

You can help by selecting to support Affordable Housing with your Miracle Project!

[MORE](#)

11:00 AM

**CARE Campus Miracle Projects**

Fri, February 5, 11 am - 12 pm (1 hour) 8 slots remaining

[SIGN UP](#)

CARE Campus Miracle Projects

3

Students create an entrepreneurial project to sell or plan a fundraiser to raise resources



## MARKETPLACE

•School offers a day for students to sell a craft or product at school

### EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

- Artwork
- Bookmarks
- Bracelets

## FUNDRAISER

•Students plan a fundraising event and host off campus, on their own time

### EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

- Movie Night
- Fun Run
- Fundraising Dinner



4

Students reinvest their profits to bring about social change

Students then use the money that they raised to invest in the program that they chose by making a

Cash or  
In-Kind Donation





- ▶ The Impact of  
Miracle Projects

# Qualitative Impact

Instilling the joy of faithful stewardship of God's graces on future generations of leaders

- ▶ be creative
- ▶ inspire their community
- ▶ invest in change



# Quantifiable Impact

2014: 73 projects  
2015: 77 projects  
2016: 172 projects

300+  
students have  
participated

In 2016, students raised more than  
**\$17,000**  
of in-kind value that is reinvested into the  
community through  
Catholic Charities programs

## 2017-2018:

- 3 Schools
- 201 Students
- 3,524.48 Volunteered hours/\$24.68
- \$86,984.17 Volunteer Value
- \$22,067.09 Gift In-kind Value
- \$1,355.00 Cash Donation

## 2018-2019:

- 3 Schools
- 185 Students
- 3,047.40 Volunteered hours/\$25.43
- \$77,495.38 Volunteer Value
- \$24,667.99 Gift In-kind Value
- \$3,843.49 Cash Donation



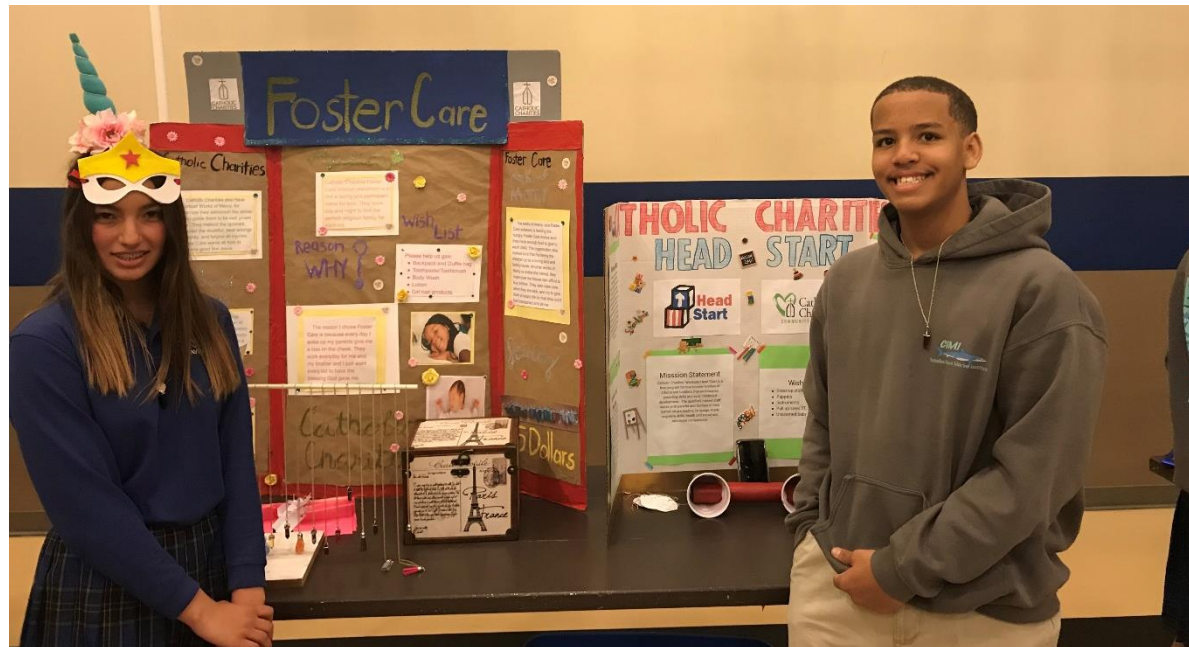
# Quantifiable Impact

## 2019-2020: Pandemic

- 5 Schools
- 100 Students
- 916.04 Volunteered hours/\$25.43
- \$23,294.90 Volunteer Value
- \$2,099.59 Gift In-kind Value
- \$25,148 Cash Donation

## 2020-2021: Pandemic

- St. John XXIII Catholic School
- 60 Students
- 1926.88 Volunteered hours/\$27.20
- \$52,411.14 Volunteer Value
- \$0 Gift In-kind Value
- \$8,567.85 Cash Donation





- ▶ Sharing our Experience  
at Saint John XXIII  
Catholic School  
Corina Medhus

# Getting Started

- ▶ Started with Sixth Grade about 6 years ago
- ▶ Worked with Catholic Charities
  - ▶ Presentation to the students about all the different charities
- ▶ Beginning the Miracle Project
  - ▶ Today students start thinking about their projects before school year begins
  - ▶ Parents like that the family can help with making the project

# The Hands and Feet of Christ

## ▶ Hands of Christ

- ▶ Students decide on a Christmas craft project to make
- ▶ Students register for a Charity to support
- ▶ Complete weekly progress checks
  - ▶ Cross-curricular: Math, Science, Economics, Art, STEM
- ▶ Create a presentation of their journey
- ▶ Market Day

# The Hands and Feet of Christ

## ▶ Feet of Christ

- ▶ Complete service hour forms for Catholic Charities
- ▶ Shopping for Charity
- ▶ Super Saturday
  - ▶ Meeting the people who help the people

## ▶ COVID adjustments

- ▶ Website pre-event advertising
- ▶ One-way shopping
  - ▶ Parent orders - students had shopping lists
- ▶ Sending in the donations

# Our Marketplace This Year



Faith in Action Event

Home

Projects

Projects 2

Projects 3

Projects 4



## The Products



Washer Cross Ornament

Mana House



Lego Ornament

Foster Care



Christmas Lotion

Therapeutic Foster Care



Christmas Shell Angel

Affordable Housing



## Washer Cross



Extra Large Cross \$8



Large Washer Cross \$6



Medium Cross \$4



Small Cross \$3



Extra Small Cross \$2

My charity is Mana House. Mana House is an organization that helps the homeless veterans. Mana House is run by Veterans that used to be homeless. This organization gives basic resources and community for all veterans. They have many values. Most importantly, they listen, accept, and understand all vets.

I chose Mana House because Veterans helped us by fighting wars for our freedom. I wanted to do something to give back to them. I chose to make crosses out of washers because I thought it was an easy and good project for the market. I made the crosses by buying the washers, super glue, and ribbon. I glued the washers into the shape of crosses. I painted some of the crosses to make them look different. Then I tied ribbons so they could hang. I learned that making these wasn't as easy as it looked.



Cole Kindberg

## Christmas marketplace

LEGO-filled ornaments

Colors= Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Yellow, Black, and Grey  
\$3 small; \$4 large; \$5 with minifigure



Foster Care

I chose Foster Care for my charity. I chose this charity because I want children to have a family who loves them. This charity helps the children who don't have a family have a new family. It gives them a place to live. I will be happy when I donate money to my charity.

My Christmas project is lego filled ornaments. I chose this because I think people will like opening them and using them to build lego creations. They can also use them for their Christmas tree instead of opening them. I hope I will raise money for the foster families and children. I hope you enjoy my projects as much as I enjoyed making them.



Leonardo Sanchez

# Growing in Grace

- ▶ Students and families become connected with their charity
  - ▶ Requesting the same charity that an older sibling had
- ▶ Post project Reflection
  - ▶ Becoming the best version of yourself
  - ▶ How will you continue to grow in serving
- ▶ Grade 7 continues with another miracle project

- ▶ How is our agency currently building future generations of philanthropists?
- ▶ What are the current needs of our agency?
- ▶ Who do I currently know that I could pilot this program with?
- ▶ Start small
- ▶ Build systems
- ▶ Get the school/agency behind it
  - ▶ School-Commissioning Service

# Considerations



# Thank you | Questions

Foster Care DIGNITY Joining Hearts

▶ “Today our prime educational objective must be to form men and women for others, men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce.” -Fr. Pedro Arrupe

Malissa Geer

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# Prepare an email for after the with resources

- ▶ Include:
- ▶ CST Handout; presentation PDF; List of programs and needs; hyperlinks of CRS
- ▶ Project sheet example
- ▶ Get permission from Corina to add the link of resources