

Catholic Charities Cares

Summary of Agency Services and Activities

Community / Family Services • Children and Youth • Young Parents • People with Special Needs • Seniors



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto provides social services, leadership and advocacy for its member agencies and the people they serve. At its core is Catholic Social Teaching that focuses on the poor and marginalized, urging us all to build a just society and safeguard the dignity of every person.

Responding in a Time of COVID-19. Catholic Charities continues to serve the most vulnerable in our community despite the additional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our member agencies 'bring hope, respect, and fellowship to all who seek their help'. They serve all those in need from all faiths and cultural backgrounds, responding in whatever way they can to the needs of those who turn to them for help during this difficult period.

www.catholiccharitiestor.org • [@CharitiesCares](https://twitter.com/CharitiesCares)





President's Message

For over a 100 years, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto has been living out its mission of honouring the sanctity of life by serving the most marginalized and vulnerable in our communities. Its core values are living the Gospel teachings, working in partnerships, demonstrating a spirit of advocacy, and developing leaders to support this mission.

Living the Gospel values serves all those in need from all faiths and cultural backgrounds through its family of Catholic agencies. This call to service has been especially evident with the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Through their dedication, long hours, and compassionate response to the increased demand in their services, our agencies are demonstrating hope, respect, and fellowship to all who cross their thresholds.

In partnership with ShareLife and other organizations, Catholic Charities supports the work of its agencies and affiliated organizations. In these uncertain times, we thank ShareLife for their efforts in maintaining current funding levels to support our agencies' services during a challenging fundraising campaign. We are also grateful to donors who have contributed directly to Catholic Charities which supports our strategic initiatives. Every donation keeps our Catholic service system working for the common good.

Inspired by social justice, Catholic Charities in cooperation with Novalis Publishing, created a booklet "For Heaven's Sake Vote!", for the October 2019 federal election. It covered relevant topics grounded in our Catholic Social Teachings and was well-received by a broad audience. Catholic Charities also continued its advocacy work in social housing and poverty.

Leadership was demonstrated through the Board of Directors' operationalizing its five-year strategic plan. Its strategic focus to be bold, innovative, and proactive is to increase the overall positive impact on the many clients served. This focus is supported by three pillars: strengthening our agencies' foundation, expanding services to serve seniors and those nearing the end of life, and developing engaged leaders to support our Catholic teachings and traditions. This past year, Catholic Charities funded the expansion of its shared services, enhanced collaborative initiatives with leading agencies, and supported parish outreach to seniors.

In collaboration with its partners and agencies, Catholic Charities continues to be the service arm of the Archdiocese - putting its faith into action. By reading the signs of the times, keeping true to its Catholic roots, Catholic Charities is creating a sustainable future for its agencies to continue to serve our most vulnerable throughout the Archdiocese.

Julie Cachia
President
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto

Learn more about all the member agencies of Catholic Charities. Visit: www.catholiccharitiestor.org · Follow: @CharitiesCares



Mary Centre

Benefitting people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the entire community

Samuel came to live at Mary Centre immediately after his mother passed away. Mary Centre is a member agency of Catholic Charities. The agency delivers integrated support services and creates new opportunities for the benefit of people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the surrounding community.

Although he had been cared for by his aging mother until he was 40 years old, Samuel was very independent and so was able to move into an apartment. He liked independent living: he was able to get a part-time job in

the food service industry and he could go about the community on his own. As Samuel got older, however, it was becoming increasingly difficult for him to maintain his apartment.

So, he moved into one of Mary Centre's 24-hour community-based homes. Samuel felt at home, since some seventy percent of adults at Mary Centre are over 50 with others in their 60s and 70s. Mary Centre is able to respond to the unique needs of its residents because of the support from Catholic Charities and the annual ShareLife appeal.

He had many questions about the residence and his new neighbourhood. Among the things Samuel asked was help in finding a new church home. While reflecting a Catholic orientation, Mary Centre is available to people of all backgrounds and religious denominations. In fact, it is our values that represent who we are and what we do.

In this case, the Mary Centre's Faith Outreach Coordinator helped Samuel find a church community in which he felt comfortable. Samuel fell in love with the people in his new parish. People there took him under their wings and nurtured him. Samuel likes that the parish priest takes time to talk with him. ◊



Vita Centre

Thank you Vita Centre for helping me become the mother I am today

(Here is what a young woman had to say about her experience at Vita Centre, a member agency of Catholic Charities, that receives support from Catholic Charities and the annual ShareLife appeal.)

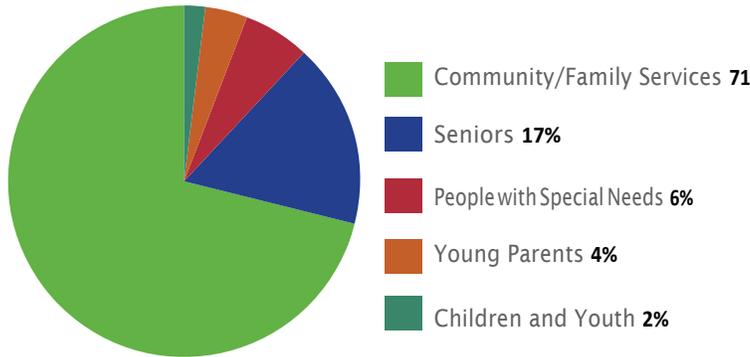
"I was 16-years-old when I found out that I was pregnant. I was absolutely terrified! What was I going to do? I first heard about Vita Centre in 2016 when I started attending the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's PACE (Parenting and Catholic Education) program to continue with my high school education. PACE takes place at the Vita Centre office.

"Even though I was in a classroom with other

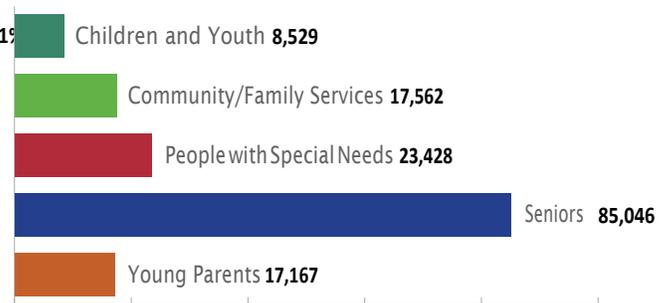
Supporting ShareLife Helps Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is committed to supporting worthwhile programs that make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people, even in the midst of a pandemic. ShareLife helps by raising funds needed to sustain these important programs. @ShareLifeCan • www.sharelife.org

2019 TYPES OF SERVICES SUPPORTED



2019 MEMBER AGENCY VOLUNTEER HOURS



MEMBER AGENCIES SERVICES 2019

Services provided in 2019 ONLY refer to programs funded through Catholic Charities and the annual ShareLife campaign. They do not reflect all the services provided by Catholic Charities' member agencies which receive funding from other sources.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Catholic Charities and its member agencies could not respond as effectively as they do without the extraordinary commitment from hundreds of dedicated volunteers. They literally provide thousands of hours of help and assistance. The value of these hours in 2019, using Ontario's minimum wage, would be more than **\$2.034 million!**

moms, I felt alone and a little scared. I was very quiet and kept to myself. I did not engage in any of the Vita Centre programs, but as I slowly got to know the staff, I realized what amazing people they were.

"The Vita Centre staff encouraged me to attend programs with other mothers. I did and I immediately felt welcomed and safe. After my son was born, I also started seeing a Vita Centre Counsellor.

"Being able to attend the parenting programs has been an amazing experience. It has taught me a lot and it also really took me out of my comfort zone because it pushed me to be more social and make friends with other parents. It also allowed me to share my experiences and make connections with others and be around people who understood what I was going through.

"The Vita Centre has given me a place to be free, be myself and feel fully supported. They have given me somewhere to go when I need help myself or for anything. These things are very important to me because a lot of the times I feel very stuck, alone, and scared. I know that I can turn to my Counsellor for help and she has always supported me as we work it out together.

"Vita Centre is a safe place for me. Not only has it been beneficial to myself but also to my parenting. The Vita Centre's services have been life-changing for me. The love, compassion, understanding, and patience they have shown me, and my son is something I will always remember and be grateful for." ♦



Silent Voice

Helping deaf children successfully do their homework in a pandemic

(Two stories about people who sought help for their deaf children from Silent Voice, a member agency of Catholic Charities, that receives support from Catholic Charities and the annual ShareLife appeal.)

"My name is Godwin. Silent Voice has been so good to me, my son Joshua, and my daughter Eleisha who is Deaf. We are part of their 'Saturday Program'.

"Silent Voice created a program for my daughter in which she can communicate virtually through Zoom at least three times a week with people who help her with homework. They even made a laptop available for her. It also lets her connect with friends.

"Everyone at Silent Voice has been so helpful to Eleisha and helped me to communicate with my daughter, since my sign language is not very good. The new laptop is such a great help: Thank You Silent Voice!"

"My name is Mihret. My English is not very good, and it has been very frustrated for me to help my daughter who is Deaf with her schoolwork during the pandemic. I can't afford tutors for one-on-one support because it's so expensive.

"Then, I contacted Silent Voice to help me and my daughter. They've been so supportive. What a relief! My daughter is getting the support she needs, meeting virtually with them three or four times a week. Now my daughter, who was so far behind in her homework, is finally catching up. ♦

Catholic Charities Member Agencies

How you can contact member agencies of Catholic Charities

COMMUNITY / FAMILY SERVICES

Catholic Community Services of York Region
1-800-263-2075
www.ccsyr.org

Catholic Crosscultural Services
416-757-7010
www.cathcrosscultural.org

Catholic Family Services of Durham
1-877-282-8932
www.cfsdurham.com

Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin
905-450-1608
www.cfspd.com

Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County
1-800-725-2503
www.cfssc.ca

Catholic Family Services of Toronto
416-921-1163
www.cfstoronto.com

FertilityCare Toronto™
416-465-2868
www.fertilitycare.ca

Natural Family Planning Association
416-481-5465
www.toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca

PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Mary Centre
416-630-5533
www.marycentre.com

Saint Elizabeth Health Care
905-940-9655
sehc.com

St. Bernadette's Family Resource Centre
416-654-9810
www.stbernadettesfrc.org

St. Michael's Homes
OurPlace Community of Hope
416-926-8267
www.stmichaelshomes.org

Silent Voice Canada
416-463-1104
TTY 416-463-3928
www.silentvoice.ca

SENIORS

Centres d'accueil héritage (CAH)
416-365-3350
www.caheritage.org

LA Centre for Active Living
416-452-4530
www.loyolaarupecentre.com

Providence (Unity Health Toronto)
416-285-3666
www.providence.on.ca

Society of Sharing
416-413-0380
www.societyofsharing.org

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto
416-395-1500
www.ccas.toronto.on.ca

Covenant House Toronto
1-800-435-7308
www.covenanthousetoronto.ca

Sancta Maria House
416-925-7333
www.smhtoronto.org

YOUNG PARENTS

Rosalie Hall
416-438-6880
info@rosaliehall.com

Rose of Durham
905-432-3622
www.roseofdurham.com

Rose of Sharon
905-853-5514
www.roseofsharon.com

Vita Centre
905-502-7933
vitacentre.org

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Camp Ozanam
(Society of St. Vincent de Paul)
416-364-5577
www.ssvp.on.ca/en/childrenscamps.php

Good Shepherd Ministries
416-869-3619
www.goodshepherd.ca

Birtheright International
1-800-550-4900
www.birtheright.org

**To learn more about
Catholic Charities:**

www.catholiccharitiestor.org



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto
1155 Yonge Street, Suite #400, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1W2

Executive Director: Michael J. Fullan, MSW, RSW

T 416-934-3401 F 416-934-3402

E info@catholiccharitiestor.org

www.catholiccharitiestor.org

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Charitable Registration No. 10687 9943 RR0001

