

# MISSION POSSIBLE



**NEWS** from  
Catholic Charities of the  
Archdiocese of Newark  
SPRING 2012



## Notes from the Vineyard

Jesus sent his followers to go out and work in the vineyard. We at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark are working in the vineyard of the Lord by serving all those who are struggling. Our work at

Catholic Charities mirrors the mission of Christ himself who sought out the suffering, the poor, and the marginalized members of society. Thanks to you and your financial support, our work in the Vineyard is difficult but our Mission is Possible.

What do you do if you are a non-English-speaking, 26-year-old mother of two school-aged children, and the victim of domestic abuse? You go to Catholic Charities' Hope House in Jersey City. Hope House was named after Bob and Dolores Hope who gave a donation to Catholic Charities in the 1990's.

Claudia grew up, married and gave birth to her children in Puerto Rico. Sadly, her husband's abuse became so severe that she fled to Jersey City, New Jersey, to stay with some friends. There, she got on welfare, received food stamps and was approved for a Temporary Rental Assistance voucher. She

went to Women Rising, a shelter for victims of domestic abuse, where she was referred to Catholic Charities' Hope House.

Her smile, strength and love for her children kept her going and motivated her to learn English as fast as possible.

Claudia's energy began to fade when she realized her voucher for rent did not pay for a two-bedroom, Jersey City apartment – no matter how modest. By the summer she was exhausted, frustrated and depressed; so much so, that she stopped dressing up and putting on make up. She barely spoke to anyone at the shelter.

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A family in front of St. Jude's transitional housing, Jersey City, NJ



## From the desk of Phillip Frese, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer

Before the Great Recession of 2008, many of us did not know anyone who was really poor. Yes, some of us complained about not being able to purchase the latest iPod or to afford the premium channels on cable, but to say we were really poor – probably not.



Phillip Frese, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer with children from St. Rocco's Shelter for women and children, Newark, NJ

Today, more than 46 million Americans meet the federal guidelines that determine poverty. For a family of four being poor means having an annual income of \$22,350 or less. The face of poverty is now a familiar one. The poor are members of our family. They are our friends, our neighbors.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark has felt the impact of these sad statistics. Requests for emergency housing have increased. Many of these requests are coming from individuals who have worked their entire lives, but as a result of a tough economic climate, lost their jobs and can no longer pay their rent or mortgage.

Despite the increase in need, local governments, which are suffering from their own budgetary constraints, have cut our budgets for shelters by 13- to 16-percent. Catholic Charities was left with a barebones budget for its shelters. Now, in order to meet the need, we have to raise an additional \$500,000.

**Please give today. Give as much as you can and then give a little more.** And remember, \$0.92 of every dollar goes directly to programs and services. None of your hard-earned money will be wasted on overhead expenses.

## Mission Possible's Trivia Corner Spring, the Season of Hope

Newark's Branch Brook Park is home to 4,300 cherry trees, surpassing Washington, D.C., which has 3,700. Where did the cherry trees come from?

- A. George Washington chopped down enough cherry trees for both Washington, D.C. and Newark, New Jersey.
- B. Mrs. Caroline Bamberger Fuld, the sister of Louis Bamberger, the founder of Newark's Bamberger Department store, donated the trees after she saw the blossoms in Washington, D.C.
- C. The Emperor Mutsuhito of Japan gave them as a thank you to the Newark dancer who taught him how to twist and shout.

*answers on bottom of back page*

# Don't Turn Away

A Message from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark Staff Member, Maria Biancheri

I am the youngest of six children, so under my brothers' and sisters' influence, I was brought up to love music they loved – *The Who, The Rolling Stones, Led Zepplin, and Pink Floyd.* Those of you who have seen my desk know I even have a picture of me with Roger Daltrey from *The Who!*

One *Pink Floyd* song really touched me, not one of their big hits, but perhaps you have heard it... "On the Turning Away" The lyrics start out like this:

*On the turning away, from the pale and downtrodden, and the words they say which we won't understand, don't accept that what's happening is just a case of others' suffering, or you'll find that you're joining in, the turning away.*

Wow! These are such powerful words! How easy is it to pretend we don't see! But I love how the song ends: *No more turning away from the weak and the weary, no more turning away from the coldness inside! Just a world that we all*



Maria Biancheri and Roger Daltrey from The Who

*must share, it's not enough just to stand and stare, Is it only a dream that there'll be no more turning away?*

The ending is really a call to action, begging people not to turn away! Because the coldness would be inside ME if I did!

Look how the whole world mobilizes when there is a natural catastrophe, a hurricane like Katrina, the tsunami in Indonesia, and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Millions of dollars and resources from all over the world are sent to the affected area.

But what about yesterday? There wasn't a hurricane. There wasn't an earthquake. It wasn't even that cold out! Does that mean people aren't suffering, right here in our own backyard? They are. Don't turn away. Support Catholic Charities today.

**Imagine what change could occur if we joined forces on a daily basis?**

## How can you help?

**It costs Catholic Charities \$4,558,300 to house the homeless in our shelters and transitional housing programs in the Archdiocese of Newark.**

**\$5,000** will pay for one month of groceries at Hope House Shelter for Women and Children.

**\$3,000** will pay for one month of services for a certified substance-abuse counselor at one of the shelters.

**\$1,500** will pay the security deposit for a homeless family to get into an apartment.

**\$1,000** will pay a month's rent for a family out of work.

**\$500** will help feed a homeless family of five for six weeks

**\$250** will help purchase bedding for three homeless families.

**\$150** will buy a 20-inch commercial cooling fan for a shelter.

**\$50** will buy four mattress covers for shelter beds.

**Any amount will help Catholic Charities provide compassionate care to the least among us.**

**Question:** How can you help Catholic Charities with just one click of a mouse?

**Answer:** By joining [Goodsearch.com](http://Goodsearch.com), a Yahoo search engine that allows you to give money to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, whenever you do an online search, make a purchase or book a trip. To learn more go to [www.Goodsearch.com](http://www.Goodsearch.com).



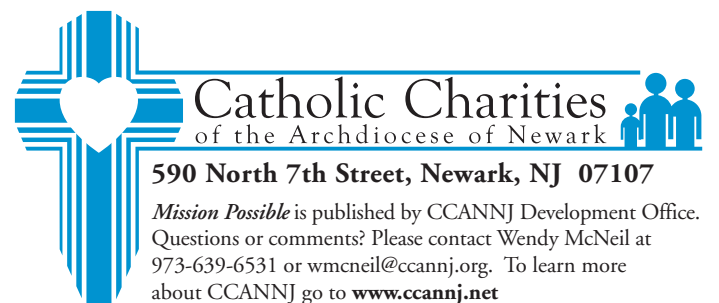
St. Lucy's Emergency Shelter, Jersey City, NJ

## Notes from the Vineyard *Continued*

Because of contributions from individuals like you, Catholic Charities was able to offer her more long-term housing at St. Jude's Transitional Housing. In September she moved into one of the apartments at St. Jude's.

Since her time at St. Jude's, she learned English and began to work, full-time. Today Claudia and her two middle-school aged children have a permanent place to call home. None of this would have happened without your financial support.

**Give today. Give what you can and then give a little more.**



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*Mission Possible* is published by CCANNJ Development Office. Questions or comments? Please contact Wendy McNeil at 973-639-6531 or [wmcneil@ccannj.org](mailto:wmcneil@ccannj.org). To learn more about CCANNJ go to [www.ccannj.net](http://www.ccannj.net)

Answer: (B) An avid gardener and traveler, Mrs. Caroline Bamberger Fuld was so impressed by the cherry blossom groves in Washington D.C. that she wanted to have something similar.