New Name, Same Mission
St. Charles School Shaping Children’s Futures

The name “St. Charles” has been a staple in Rochester and surrounding communities for more than 100 years. Starting with its roots as a children’s orphanage and residence to its more recent role as a therapeutic education provider, St. Charles (owned by Catholic Charities New Hampshire) is widely identified as a place of nurturing and love for children in need.

But what was known as St. Charles Home since 1878 is now St. Charles School. St. Charles School has been licensed by the NH Department of Education as a private provider of special education for students in grades K-5 who face severe academic, behavioral, social and emotional challenges.

“Like the world around us is changing, so are the needs of the children across New Hampshire,” said Sister Mary Agnes Dombroski, the school’s executive director. “The sad reality is many children face incredible challenges that prohibit them from flourishing in traditional school settings. That is where we come in.”

St. Charles’ therapeutic and nurturing environment helps students address their unique challenges – and over time, develop the positive behaviors and relationship skills to return to – and succeed – in traditional school settings wherever possible.

Sister Mary Agnes added, “We provide the guidance and support to build the future these children deserve – one that is enriched with hope and potential.”

For more information on St. Charles School, please visit cc-nh.org/stcharles.
Your Impact On Young Families

Thanks to you, 123 young mothers and families received the pregnancy and parenting education needed to build safe, loving homes for their children through the OUR PLACE program. 73% of parents reported growth in pregnancy education and 97% demonstrated improvements in parenting knowledge.

Grant Recognition

Thank you to the following organizations that recently awarded grants to support Catholic Charities NH’s programs and services.

- Norwin S. & Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation ..... $25,000, Immigration Legal Svcs.
- Blanch M. Walsh Charity Trust .................. $1,000, Immigration Legal Svcs.
- New Hampshire Bar Foundation Hon. William F. Batchelder Fund ............... $10,000, Immigration Legal Svcs.

Your Legacy

Make a lasting impact by naming Catholic Charities NH in your will or estate plans. For more information, contact Karen Moynihan at 603-669-3030.

Music Keeping the Memories Alive

Mt. Carmel Rehabilitation Center, St. Teresa Rehabilitation Center and St. Joseph Residence, all in Manchester, recently launched “NH Memories,” an innovative memory-enriching program for residents facing Alzheimer’s disease, dementia and other forms of memory impairment.

An estimated 24,000 New Hampshire residents live with Alzheimer’s disease. It can be an isolating and confusing world. The sight of a loved one can seem unfamiliar, and expressing feelings that bring warmth and joy can seem impossible at times.

But thanks to a $263,000 grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services — and support from the New Hampshire Health Care Association — individuals are finding a unique way to connect with their inner emotions and, sometimes, timeless memories.

The three Catholic Charities facilities have several portable music players, audio devices and a laptop to download music. The residents, along with their families, can create playlists of songs of sentimental value, whether it was their wedding song or one from their early childhood years. When that individual may seem confused, agitated or depressed, the music gives them the chance to go to a place where they can connect on their own terms and experience renewed meaning.

Alzheimer’s and dementia may rob specific recollections around certain events or people, but it can’t take away their feelings. We see it every day.

For more information on the “NH Memories” program at Catholic Charities, please contact Darlene Underhill at dunderhill@nh-cc.org or visit cc-nh.org.

Mending Soles, Nourishing Souls

When you support Catholic Charities, you make a significant difference for all types of individuals and families in need. These include members of the “working poor” like Amy.

Look at Amy and you’ll see someone with an amazing personality, great job and ambitions many of us aspire to have. What you may not know, though, is she is one of the thousands across the state who never thought they’d need to ask for help. Yet they do.

Amy is among New Hampshire’s 29,000 low-income working families faced with economic hardship, a population also referred to as the “working poor.” In nearly half of these families, a single mother is responsible for raising and supporting her children, as is the case with Amy. Her monthly payments — daycare for her two children, rent, utilities and more - are overwhelming. There’s little left over and she cannot qualify for local and state assistance because of her income level.

Amy basically had two choices: Quit her job and get adequate assistance, but lose the income she and her kids rely on. Or stay with her job and hope extra living costs do not pile up. As is often the case with the working poor, it was a no-win situation.

Because of your support, Amy gained a third choice — building a practical and sustainable long-term solution for her and her children. That’s what she found in working with Judy Nelson, a caseworker for Catholic Charities. Together they developed a Life Plan that is teaching her budgeting skills to set enough money aside for her and her children.

Read more about Amy’s story on our Stories of Inspiration blog at cc-nh.org/blog and hear how donor dollars led to a small gesture that brought Amy to tears, mending her heavily worn sole and nourishing her soul.