



Catholic
Children's Aid
FOUNDATION

Impact Report

2023 - 2024





Our Vision

We protect children and strengthen family life. We're striving for a Catholic community in which every child is supported intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and financially to discover their gifts and realize their potential.



Our Mission

We raise and grant funds that help improve individual lives and outcomes for everyone served by the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto.



Our Values

Our core values are rooted in our history as a children's aid society of St. Vincent de Paul, the patron saint of charitable societies.

Compassion: We are passionate and motivated to do whatever it takes to help people in need.

Humility: Our work is not about us. Everything we do is designed to benefit others.

Generosity: We provide financial support with a generosity of spirit that reflects the values of the Catholic faith.

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**All names with an asterisk have been changed for privacy.*



A Message from the Chair

I am pleased to report on the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation's (CCAF) performance for FY '23-'24. In my first year as Chair, we maintained financial strength and continued to grow as a foundation.

Our financial position benefited from two significant legacy gifts and a completed real estate transaction. These allowed us to meet our commitments to the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) and fulfill our Canada Revenue Agency disbursement requirements. We remain financially strong, with healthy spending on charity-specific initiatives and overhead prudently managed at 24%.

We focused on three key areas: fundraising strategy and infrastructure, optimizing our real estate strategy for children and youth in care, and enhancing our operational infrastructure for program grants to CCAS.

Considerable progress has been made. In FY '24-'25, we will work with an external consultant to develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy and build a tactical infrastructure for regular funding. A study group is developing recommendations for future real estate deployment. The board has approved management's business process recommendations for handling current and future program grants.

Management has ensured our operating culture and initiatives reflect a strong faith-based orientation, addressing families' needs for basic sustenance, and providing spiritual support for children and youth. Notable initiatives included a Young Mothers Program at Rosalie Hall, a Catholic Retreat for CCAS workers, and a trip to World Youth Day in Lisbon.

Next year, we aim to build on this success with ambitious program funding, implementing a housing/real estate strategy, and establishing new fundraising capabilities to support our financial needs, all grounded in our strong financial base and appropriate risk profile.

Tony Cocuzzo



A Message from the Executive Director



As I conclude my second year as the Executive Director of the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF), I am excited to share our successes and plans for the coming year.

In mid-February, I received a note from a regular donor who thanked us for taking care of "our children." This reminder drew me back to the values that ground us in the important work of child welfare, and reinforced for me that we are responsible for the children of our Catholic community.

This year, we undertook strategic initiatives for a more impactful future. We reinvigorated our brand to reflect our core values, rebuilt our website to tell our story through those we serve, and renewed our financial commitment to two major research-based programs: Youth Readiness and HARP (Holistic Assessment and Response Pathways). Youth Readiness ensures our youth are prepared for leaving care, while HARP supports the integrity of the family unit with support instead of intervention.

We expanded our team with three new members who helped us achieve strategic and operational objectives. Enhanced financial reporting capabilities now allow us to more quickly and accurately gauge our current and future performance. Our process infrastructure provides operational grounding for future program development, oversight, and reporting.

We continued our collaboration with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS), identifying program development opportunities while enhancing our knowledge of child and family welfare. Our scholarship program brought significant value to college and university students, celebrated at a recognition dinner featuring CP24 news anchor Bakari Savage.

We have important initiatives on the horizon, including a year-long project with an external consultant to develop a robust fundraising infrastructure and enhanced marketing activities to tell our story, broaden our reach and build relationships.

We are committed to continuing our work and supporting our community with strong values and dedication.

James K. Gilligan

Supporting Our Children

Nurturing the Catholic identity and faith needs of young people in child welfare care

Journey to World Youth Day

12 young people traveled to see Pope Francis and celebrate the Catholic festival



In August 2023, 12 youth supported by the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) connected with their faith and peers at World Youth Day in Portugal. The Catholic festival takes place every two to four years, inviting youth to make a pilgrimage, connect with Catholics around the world, and to help build the Church. CCAS staff accompanied the youth on this 15-day trip of a lifetime, funded by Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation (CCAF) and supported by the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto. The group stayed with local Catholic families, attended talks, prayer services, concerts and a vigil leading up to a papal mass attended by 1.5 million people. The opportunity to experience belonging and community was especially powerful for foster children, who may have experienced family instability, neglect or violence.



Protecting Children in Body and Spirit

17 vulnerable children received funding for Baptism, Confirmation and other Sacraments

Our definition of child welfare includes spirituality. The Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto ensures children and youth in care are safe from abuse and neglect; the Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation (CCAF) ensures they also receive funding for faith, health and educational needs not covered by government budgets. “We believe faith is part of child welfare,” says Jim Gilligan, Executive Director of the Foundation. “We raise and grant funds to ensure children and youth are protected not just in body, but in spirit.”

Without your support, vulnerable parents like Diana* would have been unable to have her baby baptized. Although the college student receives an allowance as a former youth in child welfare care, the funds do not go far in Toronto—the world’s sixth most expensive city. Other recipients of CCAF support last year included a young boy who received funds for his Confirmation attire, and a single mother for her daughter’s First Holy Communion.

Brightening Christmas

Two programs provided food, clothing and gifts for 230 vulnerable Catholic families

Our Christmas programs helped lend a hand to hundreds of Catholics in the care of the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto. Rooted in Catholic values of compassion, humility and generosity, our two Christmas programs offered relief to families struggling with the complexities of poverty, instability and abuse.

Here’s how:

- Last year’s Adopt-a-Family program provided food, clothing and gifts to Catholic families in child welfare by matching them with thoughtful and generous local Catholic families.
- The Christmas Donations program provided a holiday lunch and distributed \$124.7K in toys, clothing and other gifts, to Catholic families in care.





Providing Basics and Beyond

Three programs provided comfort through safe cribs, extracurriculars and emergency payments

Lil Angels Cribs Program

To keep babies safe while they sleep, we funded the purchase of 50 cribs

When they are called to assist struggling Catholic families, our partners at the CCAS sometimes discover babies and toddlers in dangerous sleeping environments. Unsafe sleeping habits put children at risk of neglect, injuries, or death, yet low-income families may lack the means to buy a crib, or an understanding of safe sleep practices. The Foundation granted funds last year to purchase 50 cribs to keep babies safe.

This program helped support Joyce*, who didn't realize that using an unsuitable bed was putting her baby at risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). A CCAS worker helped educate the single mom on how to put her baby to sleep safely in the crib dressed in a sleep sack, instead of potentially dangerous quilts, blankets, pillows or bumper pads.



Emergency Grants Fund

We helped 149 families pay for clothing, bills, groceries, school supplies, rent and more

Children are most at risk when their family is in financial hardship due to loss of income or unexpected expenses. No family should have to choose between shelter or food, child care or medical care. The Emergency Grants Fund of the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) granted \$48.4K last year to help families buy clothing, food, mattresses and school supplies, pay bills and housing deposits, or cover recreational activities and health services. These grants are vital when government assistance falls short for foster children and youth in the care of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS).

This program helped Jay* buy emergency food. A single father, Jay was struggling to feed his three children after his wife died, he lost his job and couldn't access adequate supplies at food banks. A 16-year-old battling cancer received transportation funding to get to and from hospital treatments. Another grant helped Rachel*, a single parent, replace a broken stroller.

Ignite the Spark Program

We helped 33 disadvantaged children and youth participate in their favourite activities

Children in foster care are exploring extracurricular activities—from sports and technology to the arts—thanks to Ignite the Spark, a transformational program funded by the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada (CAFC). The grants provide opportunities for diverse kids to grow and develop their interests and talents—a mission the CCAF is pleased to support.

This program helped Ahmed*, who has no family, enrolled in football camp to pursue his passion. Chelsea*, whose appearance has been altered by surgeries, was able to purchase running shoes to participate in the school volleyball team. The CCAF also granted funds to support children who are being raised by grandparents, older siblings or single parents, to pay for tutoring, coding lessons, soccer, boxing, hockey, dance and gymnastics.

Funding Brighter Futures with Scholarships

We funded 59 Scholarships to help youth in care attend college, university or trade programs

No single program attracts more community support than our scholarships program at the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF). Last year, the CCAF distributed 59 scholarships worth \$367.3K to help youth in extended care support tuition for higher education. The scholarships offer a lifeline to Catholic youth who have no family funding. While youth in care receive a government allowance, it's not enough to cover extras like education, especially when young people in care face enormous odds:

- Only 44% of Ontario youth in care are expected to graduate from high school compared with an 81% graduation rate for all Ontario students.
- Youth in care lose an estimated four to six months of academic progress each time they move; they're 20 times less likely to enroll in post-secondary compared with peers.
- The average cost of a four-year university degree in Canada today is \$96,004.
- Research shows an estimated lifetime earnings gap of \$1,000,000 between a university graduate and someone who didn't complete high school.

TV Star Supports Youth Scholarships

As a news anchor for CP24, Bakari Savage is accustomed to the spotlight. Yet the celebrity shone a light on tenacious youth in child welfare who received scholarships at the 2023 Catholic Children's Aid Foundation Scholarship Event. Between casual food, games and prizes, Savage took the opportunity to share the mic, asking scholarship recipients to share their hopes, and reminding them how special they are. "These kids don't have the same safety net that everyone else does," says Bakari. "The scholarships let them know that they're not alone."



From Foster Child to Lawyer

After growing up in extended foster care, Oluwatobi Falana is now a law student at McGill University. Her dream of attending university and becoming a lawyer is becoming a reality thanks to CCAF scholarships supporting her undergraduate tuition and law-school expenses.

Oluwatobi is now considering becoming a litigation lawyer at a firm that also supports pro bono work. As she says, "There aren't many Black, Indigenous, and people of colour in these spaces. Black girls aspiring to be lawyers don't often see themselves represented. So, I'm thinking, why can't I be a representative for them?"

"CCAF support lifted me out of my struggle. I was a foster child, and now I'm becoming a lawyer. How often do you hear stories like that?"

CCAF scholarship recipient Oluwatobi Falana



Pioneering Research, Changing Lives

\$1.5 million invested in four transformational programs improving outcomes in child welfare

Last year, the Foundation invested most of its grants in ground-breaking programs aimed at improving outcomes for Catholic children, youth and families in the care of the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS). People in child welfare care face tremendous challenges including poverty, instability, abuse, neglect, mental health issues and addiction. While government funding to the CCAS covers the immediate needs of children and youth in care, the funding is not complete in breaking down systemic problems or providing opportunities to help our city’s most vulnerable young people to thrive.

The Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation (CCAF) fills this gap by funding pioneering research and development to address systemic problems such as family violence, inequity, racism, youth homelessness and barriers facing young parents. These evidence-based programs are guided by Catholic values of compassion, generosity and humility, and steered by the experts at the CCAS, Canada’s most established Catholic child welfare agency.

Prioritizing Support over Intervention

Program 1: A holistic approach to keeping families together safely

Whereas intervening and removing children was the old child protection model, research shows that kids thrive when they stay within their community. The Holistic Assessment and Response Pathways (HARP) program aims to keep children safely with their families, which is the case for 98.3% of children in CCAS care. The program helps parents access financial and housing resources, mental health support, programs on Intimate Partner Violence and other assistance and community organizations. The CCAF granted funds for the program in response to data showing that 85% of child welfare

referrals stem from family struggles rather than immediate danger.

Without this program, funded by the CCAF, Maria* might have had her newborn triplets removed to foster care. Maria was living in a shelter when her triplets were delivered, and hospital staff called the CCAS to request an intervention. Instead, a worker assessed the single mom as capable of caring for her babies at the shelter, with CCAS support and CCAF-funded financial aid.

Support 85% of referred families who are struggling

2022

Needs assessment via literature review, data analysis and stakeholder consultations. Seed funding of \$130.8K

2024

HARP program launched in May 2024. Forecasted support of \$851.5K

2023

Holistic Assessment and Response Pathways practice model established; \$290.3K grant by CCAF



Supporting Disadvantaged Youth

Program 2: Youth Readiness Strategy aims to reduce homelessness risk for youth leaving care

The first pan-Canadian study on youth homelessness shows that homeless youth are 193 times more likely to have had involvement with the child welfare system than the general public. The groundbreaking CCAF-funded Youth Readiness Strategy aims to help 18- to 23-year-olds successfully support themselves as they age out of child welfare care, supported by a multipronged approach that blends education, assistance, financial support and goods. Last year, this program’s Youth Pantry supported 75 youth with food; 128 young people received Home Start Up kits; 25 youth completed the transitional Life Skills Program. Fifteen former foster youth received Housing and Basic Needs funds. Young people also accessed new parent support, a Catholic identity group, and preparation for post-secondary education.

Last year, the program helped Joseph*, a 23-year-old student in Toronto, where he lives on \$500 a month as a former youth in care. Support helped him find and stock a bachelor apartment, a godsend for the young man, reeling from the death of his foster father and looking out for his disabled twin brother.

241 Youth Served

2022

Needs assessment and strategy development. Seed funding of \$101K

2024

Program roll-out; expected launch of Youth Resource Website. Forecasted support of \$1M

2023

Strategy finalization, partnership development and implementation with CCAF grant of \$643.5K



Assisting Dads

Program 3: Safely connecting dads with children in Male Engagement Pilot Program

The Male Engagement Pilot Program is a leading-edge, CCAF-funded program that supports dads with dedicated male social workers offering timely, anti-racist and trauma-informed support. The program aims to reduce children’s exposure to violence between caregivers, which prompts 25% of all CCAS referrals. CCAF funded the program based on data indicating that child welfare workers don’t often consult fathers and male caregivers despite the important role they can play in children’s development.

Darius* received counselling from a CCAS Child Protection Worker last year after a physical altercation with his ex-wife. The worker also enrolled Darius in the “Being a Dad” program—offered by Catholic Family Services of Toronto in conjunction with CCAS—which allows fathers to focus on their faith, parenting skills and emotional intelligence. These interventions enabled the divorced father to address his own issues so he can better navigate solo parenting.

Dads connected to supports for child safety

2022

Two Male Engagement Workers (MEWs) hired for pilot

2024

72 men enrolled in the Being a Dad group program; 71% of men received safety planning; 69% received community referrals

2023

86 men referred to the MEW program

Supporting Stigmatized Young Families

Program 4: Young Parents Wraparound Program keeps at-risk families out of child welfare

The Young Parents Wraparound Pilot program allows young Catholic parents and their children to receive individualized support from two Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto facilitators at Rosalie Hall, an accredited children’s mental health facility. The project aims to reduce the disproportionate admission of Black children into child welfare care and offset challenges faced by young Catholic parents, such as higher rates of mental health issues, substance use and domestic violence due to lack of income, education, social support, etc. This empowers young parents to take positive action in their lives and build up supports, while helping their children hit developmental milestones so they can successfully transition to school.

Valeria* was financially strapped, new to Canada, unmarried and struggling to raise her two-year-old alone. She found support in this program at Rosalie Hall, funded by the Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation.

Impact by the Numbers

2023

2 child protection workers seconded from CCAS; \$329.5K granted to pilot program by CCAF

2024

47 parents are actively in the program; 6 fully completed; 100% strongly agreed or agreed that they were satisfied





Financial Report

In 2020, the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) announced the formation of the Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation (CCAF), a registered charity under the Income Tax Act, and which began operations on April 1, 2020. In September 2020, investments and real estate property were gifted by CCAS to CCAF to help Catholic children, youth and families that CCAS serves.

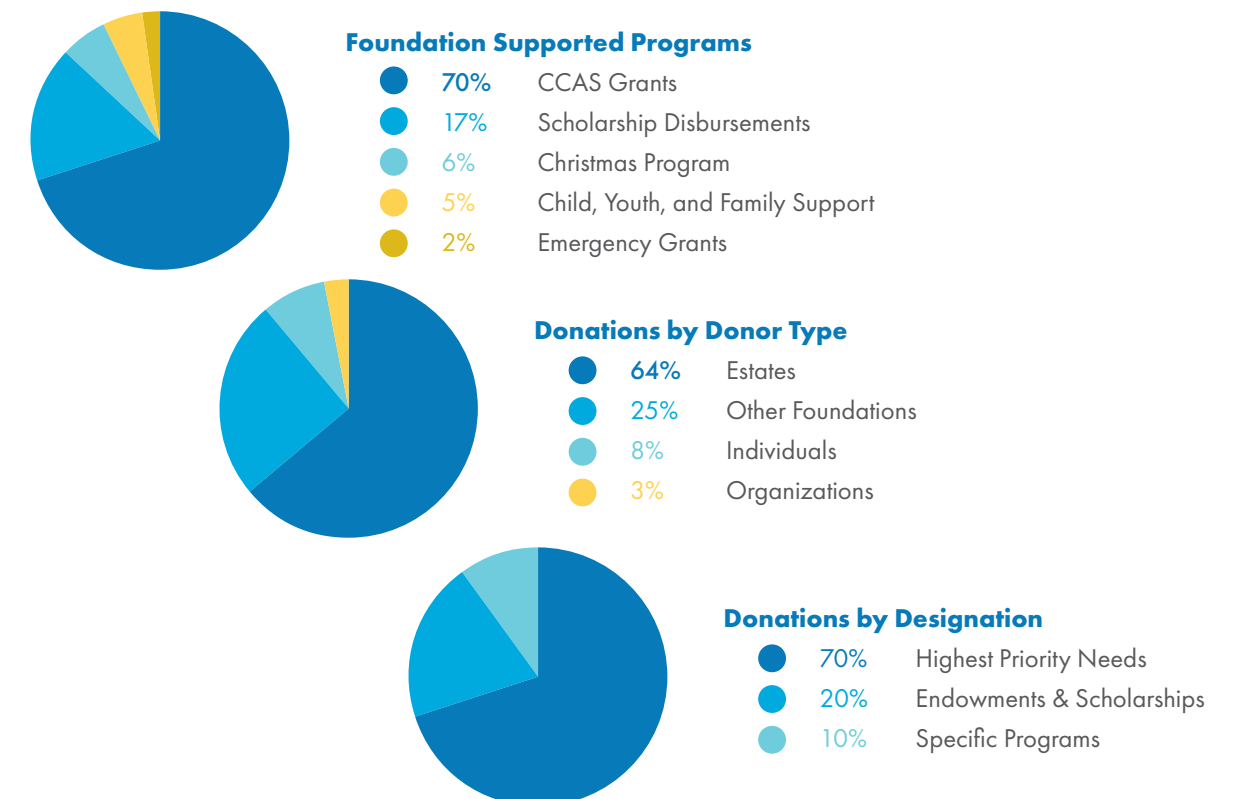
CCAF follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which includes grants and donations. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets when received. Investment income represents interest, dividends, income distributions from pooled funds and realized gains and losses, net of related fees. This income increased in 2024 due to continued and sustained market growth.

The Foundation is mandated by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to spend 5% of the average value of its property not used directly in charitable activities or administration. This is known as the disbursement quota (DQ) and averages \$2M per year. Despite operating at a deficit, the Foundation has sufficient capital that will allow current spending levels to be maintained well into the future. The deficit is consistent with budget planning and is consistently reviewed by Management to ensure that no liquidity concerns arise.

Included in program disbursements are programs focused on providing support to children, youth and families that CCAS serves as well as the continued funding of the four transformational programs discussed in the report.

The complete set of financial statements, audited by KPMG, are available upon request.

Statement of Operations		
Revenues	2023 - 2024	2022 - 2023
Scholarship Contributions	362	194
Program Revenue	117	54
Donations	740	121
Other Income	940	446
Investment Income	486	172
	2,645	987
Expenses		
Scholarship Disbursements	367	194
Program Disbursements	1,817	681
Program Administrative	138	97
Property	145	66
Fundraising	82	9
Salaries & Benefits (Net of Allocation)	240	181
Administrative & Professional Fees	625	511
Amoritization of Capital Assets	61	47
Accretion Expense	15	12
	3,490	1,798
Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenses	(845)	(811)





Gratitude for Our Donors

Last year, your support helped 3,000+ vulnerable members of the Toronto Catholic community

The Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation couldn’t be there for our children without you. Your support means families in crisis don’t have to choose between paying rent or buying groceries, getting eyeglasses or dental care. It means children can receive funding so they can be baptized, participate in recreation programs, or enrol in college or university. It means we’re keeping 98.5% of families safely together through innovative programs with our partners at the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto to address systemic inequity and barriers. Thank you to these individuals, families and community organizations for practicing your faith through compassion and generosity.

Scholarship Supporters

The following individuals, families and community organizations helped us provide over \$367.3K in Scholarships to 59 students last year:

- Marcia Balbino and Guy Bentick
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Women’s League
- CUMBA
- CUPE Local 2190: Rita Manna & Myron Klymko
- Dr. Mary Grogan
- Dr. Hugh Siddall
- Ellen Anne Leon
- John Bright Foundation
- Knights of Columbus
- Maria Cabrita
- Matthew O’Brien
- Nyroon Sookraj
- Orest John and Justina Derewlany
- Rudy and Rita Koehler
- Sister Sheila McAuliffe
- Sisters of Service

Community Supporters



A Legacy of Giving



Three generations of the O’Brien family have been supporting vulnerable Catholic children for decades. Their legacy began with Mary Catherine O’Brien, a former social worker with the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS), who saw firsthand the challenges faced by youth in extended care. The Matthew O’Brien Memorial Scholarship at the University of Toronto and the Matthew O’Brien Educational Fund at CCAF were created in memory

of her deceased son to support the youth of CCAS. “My mom lived with kindness and generosity—she was just an angel,” remembers her daughter Erin O’Brien, a former board member of the CCAS and the first Chair of the CCAF board. Her sister Kathleen also joined the CCAF board, while brother Michael cycled over 5,700 kilometres with a friend to raise funds for the scholarship. Now, Mary Catherine’s grandchildren contribute gifts for kids in CCAS care.

Legacy & Estate Donors

- Lucy Banel
- Rita Anne Hill
- Steve Kovacs
- Rita Louise Brown

A Special Thanks

The John Bright Foundation has been very generous in providing dozens of scholarships to our youth each year.

A special thanks goes out to them for their extraordinary support.

Board of Directors



Tony Cocuzzo
Chair



Susanne DesRochers
Vice Chair



Peter Brennan
Treasurer



Tara Tinmouth
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Kathleen O'Brien
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Phil Gillin
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James K. Gilligan
Executive Director



Steven Dos Santos
Comptroller



Marichelle Lumingkit
Executive Assistant



Jewel Silveira
Marketing Coordinator



Thank You to Our Departing Board Member

This year we are saying a fond farewell to Phil Gillin, who is stepping down from the Board of the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation. The Foundation has benefited greatly from his leadership as a Board Member and former Board Chair.

Having served on the Board of the Catholic Children's Aid Society since June 2016, Phil was appointed as one of three charter Board Members of the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation. Phil's background in risk management in the financial sector has been invaluable for grounding the organization on a strong financial footing.

Phil has provided valuable insight and leadership to ensure we have appropriate risk management in place to build and sustain the organization financially. Thanks to his background in the investment sector, he helped establish risk oversight to ensure our significant portfolio remains healthy.

He also helped lay the groundwork for disbursements to support our aim to help as many clients as possible while meeting obligations to maintain our charitable license. The Catholic Children's Aid Foundation now has one of the strongest financial statements in the child welfare sector.

Thank you, Phil, for your dedicated service and commitment to the mission and values of both the Society and Foundation.



Catholic
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