



July  
2021

The Catholic Foundation  
of Central Florida  
Newsletter

This month we celebrate the freedom of our nation and reflect upon the freedom we experience as brothers and sisters in Christ. We receive freedom from great sacrifice of others – those who serve our country to protect our freedom and Christ who died for us so that we may be free from sin and death. With this gift also comes responsibility. Secularly we are responsible for being good citizens and as Christians, St. Paul advises us that we are called for freedom to serve one another through love. We look into the meaning of giving and how philanthropy has served our country this past year with a review of the 2021 Giving USA Report. We share the vision of Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup for a residential community which provides adults living with disabilities the privilege of living independently and how the residents and staff of Bishop Grady Villas lived through the pandemic together with their faith. We hear from a family who did just as St. Paul advises and serves their parish and their neighbors in need through two endowment funds. We also highlight several of our regional non-profits who are serving our neighbors with supportive community programs. And finally, we welcome a new team member to The Catholic Foundation who considers his new role an answer to his prayers of doing more to serve others.

***For you were called for freedom, brothers But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."***

***- Galatians 5:13-14***

### **In This Month's Newsletter:**

- **Giving exceeded \$470 billion in 2020: What Does This Mean?**
- **Online Giving Benefits**
- **Bishop Grady Villas: Love and Faith Through the Pandemic**
- **Nonprofits Prepare for Wave of Crisis**

- **Hackl Family Legacy: Doing God's Work Together**
- **The Catholic Foundation Welcomes Jose Sola**
- **Getting To Know You: Marco Robles**
- ***...and more...***

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## **2020 Giving Exceeded \$470 Billion: *What does this mean?***

You may have heard about the unprecedented giving amounts reported in the Giving USA 2021 Report. At The Catholic Foundation our team looks beyond the numbers as we focus more on those we are serving, the causes on their hearts and the impact and outcomes that smart philanthropy can yield. We know there are goals for campaigns and appeals, and we are often involved with parishes and schools in establishing realistic and sufficient goals. While we appreciate goals as they provide direction and something to strive for we know goals are more than this means of monetary measurement – they are a new church, a refurbished or expanded building, a new ministry, a needed expert service, a helping hand, food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, tuition for a student, a realization of a vision and more. These goals, behind the monetary measurement, are how we as disciples of Christ play a part in building the Kingdom of God here in Central Florida.

Our team appreciates what Luke shares with us in the Gospel about the widow's small offering which caught Jesus' attention. Jesus too looked beyond the amount. The large contributions did not catch His attention as He knew they were giving out of abundance and not impacting their own life to make an impact in other lives. If anyone else had noticed, which they did not, it would have been obvious what was important to the widow – what was on her heart. Her giving was associated with her relationship with God. This was not a parable; this was a real life story. The story was not about measuring the two small coins, it was about the meaning of giving for the widow and others.

The 5.1% increase in giving in 2020, a record of \$477.44 billion dollars is not the whole story either. While we can applaud that generosity there is more to that giving if we look beyond that monetary measurement. Unprecedented developments last year including the global pandemic, an ensuing economic crisis, and efforts to advance racial justice created widespread need and donors were driven to meet the increased needs. Generosity was increased with the stock market turnaround and the economic stimulus packages. We heard from several of our donors across the diocese who shared since they had not been impacted negatively, they wanted to give for those who had been affected negatively with the turn of events. One donor, even during personal non-COVID related health issues wrote to us "Those who are blessed are called to bless others."

Individuals continue to be the biggest source of contributions, as they made up 69% of total giving in 2020. That was followed by foundations which represented 19% of total giving and by bequests which made up 9% of total giving. In 2020, foundation giving increased by 17% in current dollars as independent, community and operating foundations saw an opportunity to help people cope during the ongoing crisis. The Catholic Foundation's Board of Directors also saw an opportunity to help and established the Central Florida Mercy Fund with a seed and matching gift to address the increased needs in

our region for housing assistance, access to food and behavioral health. Across the country and in our region we saw increases in planned gifts whether through an increase in charitable gift annuities, earlier than planned retirements, advance gifts and, for some, new gifts with an enhanced awareness of the fragility of life and opportunities to make an impact. This past year The Catholic Foundation has welcomed a new couple and individual in their 20's as Vivos Christi members. Like the widow, these young Vivos Christi members are not focused on the amount but on how they can give back to ministries that have been meaningful in their lives.

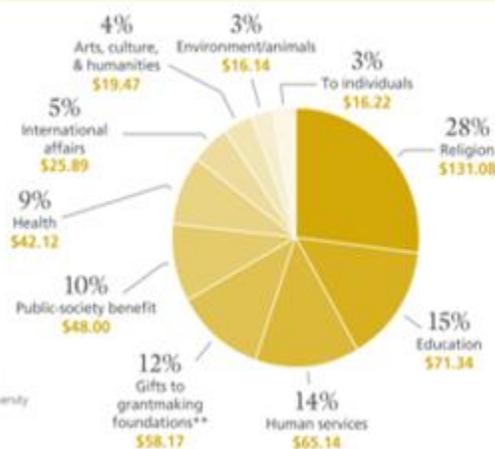
The Giving USA 2021 Report shows the causes on the hearts of those who gave last year as the categories with increased gifts were religion, education, human services, public-society benefit, environmental and foundations. We, like other community foundations, saw increased gifts to and through us as we our mission and efforts were recognized to support and address our community needs. Religion makes up the largest piece of the category pie measured in the Giving USA annual reports. Giving to religion had an unprecedented decline in 2018 and remained stable in 2019 with a small 1% increase in 2020.

How we give is changing and the pandemic increased the pace for many donors to begin giving online. The report shows in 2020 an unprecedented innovation in virtual and online giving. Online giving increased to 13% after two decades of being below 10%. Those parishes who were able to remain connected through technology during the church closures were, for the most part, able to sustain enough revenue to cover their expenses. Donors found online giving to be convenient, secure, comfortable and many were more intentional with their giving as they had the opportunity to plan their entire year of offertory and second collections through these new tools.

We saw unprecedented giving in 2020 in our diocese just as we saw across our country. What is important though is to look beyond the monetary measurement of the gift amounts and to understand what is achieved through our giving. As Christians we know all we have is from God and we are called to return our gifts to Him with increase. When we give, we are walking with Christ on our discipleship journey and with Him building the Kingdom of God.

## 2020 contributions: \$471.44 billion by type of recipient organization\*

(in billions of dollars - all figures are rounded)



\* Total includes unallocated giving, which totaled \$22.13 billion in 2020.

\*\* Estimates developed by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy using data provided by Candid.



**ONLINE Giving**



## BENEFITS



### PARISHIONER BENEFITS

QUICK EASY SECURE



Give anytime, anywhere, from any mobile device.



Give even if you're unable to attend services.



Say goodbye to checks! There's no need.



Easily make changes to your contributions any time.



PCI/SSL compliance means your info is secure & confidential. No need to share your info with parish staff; enter it directly into the Online Giving secure site.

### PARISH BENEFITS

ECONOMIC EFFICIENT SECURE



Stabilizes giving and allows for more accurate revenue forecasting.



Accommodates special collections.



Reduced expenses with no check fees and fewer envelopes.



Provides electronic donation summary for tax time.



Eliminates parish staff's concerns regarding security of sensitive data.



## Q & A 'S



- 1 How are my contributions automatically deducted from my account?**  
When creating your account the contribution amount you specify will be transferred from your bank or credit card to the church's bank account.
- 2 When will my contribution be deducted from my account?**  
It will be debited on the date you specify.
- 3 How can I prove my contribution to the church?**  
Your bank statement provides an itemized list of electronic transactions. Also, you can create an Online Giving account which provides giving history reports.
- 4 Can I give different amounts to different offerings and credited at different times?**  
Your contributions can be set up at different times individually.
- 5 What if I change banks or credit card?**  
Simply login and update your account info.
- 6 What if I try Online Giving and don't like it?**  
You can always cancel by deleting your credit card and/or bank account info along with your donation dates.



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## **Bishop Grady Villas: Through the Pandemic Together with Love and Faith**

Established in 2004, Bishop Grady Villas was the dream of Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup, SSJ. She envisioned a residential community where adults with disabilities could live as independently as possible while receiving the care and support they need to be safe and healthy. The community quickly grew to also offer pre-vocational, employment, respite and companion services for persons with disabilities throughout Orange, Osceola, Polk, Lake and Seminole counties.

Providing residents a place to be safe and healthy was no easy task for Bishop Grady Villas' team. "We had to act very quickly to lock down Bishop Grady Villas from the Governor's order, for safety for our residents," said Kevin Johnson, executive director of Bishop Grady Villas. Acquiring enough personal protective equipment (PPE), requesting a leave of absence for working residents, and informing families of suspended visitation were top priority. Once in order, the focus was on keeping residents active, mentally and physically.

During the pandemic the team was faced with the challenges of meeting both the residents and community participants needs while meeting quarantine and social distancing standards. This involved quarantining residents and isolating them to individual houses on-campus, adapting the Life Skills Development training to a virtual Zoom training, implementing in-house COVID-19 testing of residents and staff through the acquisition of a CLIA-waiver to do in-house labs and implementing new protocols for sanitization and infection control including appropriate masking while also being creative with how to engage residents in

appropriate social, physical and mental activities.

For Project SEARCH the Bishop Grady Villas team was able to use a hybrid model of in-person services with appropriate infection control procedures at AdventHealth Altamonte with a hybrid Zoom model at their retail location in Orange County. Ultimately during this period, the team also continued to build relationships with community partners so that when the quarantine ended they could continue to expand their community reach through three additional Project SEARCH sites in Lake, Osceola and Orange Counties. They also expanded their Life Skills Development program to Morning Star Campus.

“We are blessed to have a very tech-savvy community which allowed our residents to FaceTime, call, etc. with their families who were limited from visitation,” Johnson said. “I think the resilience of the residents is really amazing. For individuals who might have trouble understanding the full implications of the pandemic, they responded with faith and hope—often showing a patience and willingness to care for the common good of others in ways we are sometimes not seeing play out in the broader community. As always, they guide us with lessons on caring for others, trust, and strong faith.”

We are grateful for this special place and the faith-filled care of the Bishop Grady Villas team. We are also grateful for Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup whose vision built these residences and also established the Sister Elizabeth Marie Stoup Endowment Fund which provides scholarship assistance for individuals with disabilities to be granted based on greatest need as determined by the Executive Committee of the Bishop Grady Villas Board of Directors. Please pray for this special community where Christ’s love is experienced daily and if your circumstances allow prayerfully consider supporting Bishop Grady Villas by making a gift to the fund at <http://bit.ly/BishopGradyEndowment>.



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## **Nonprofits Prepare for Wave of Crisis as End to Moratorium on Evictions Nears**

In response to the devastating economic impact of the pandemic on many Americans, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released an order last September to prevent landlords from evicting tenants. Although extended several times, that order is set to expire on July 31.

According to a survey from the U.S. Census Bureau, over 430,000 adults in Florida indicated they are living in households not current on rent or mortgage payments where eviction or foreclosure is likely in the next two months. This is a staggering number that has Central Florida nonprofits concerned that this inevitable spike in evictions could very quickly overwhelm the system.

"We are preparing for a tsunami of clients in need of services as the end of the moratorium on evictions approaches," said Nancy Robinson, Executive Director of United Against Poverty. "We have added a Crisis Navigator to our Crisis Stabilization team and cross-trained our counselors to be able to assist new clients as needed. We also continue to expand our collaboration with other local social service providers to refer clients who have needs outside our scope of services."

United Against Poverty provides crisis care, case management, transformative education, food and household subsidy, employment training and placement and personal empowerment training to remove barriers to self-sufficiency.

They are one of more than 250 nonprofit organizations operating in compliance with our Catholic social teaching and pre-approved to receive grant support through The Catholic Foundation's [Donor Advised Fund \(DAF\) Program](#). Along with Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Family Promise of Greater Orlando and Hope CommUnity Center, they are preparing to assist many individuals and families who might be finding themselves precariously housed or homeless for the first time.

Catholic Charities of Central Florida has increased its infrastructure to support growing needs throughout the pandemic. Regarding the impending evictions, President Gary Tester added, "Catholic Charities of Central Florida will continue to work closely with area governmental units, United Ways and other non-profit organizations to do all that we can to provide emergency financial assistance to families in need. We provide assistance to families and are able to help families apply to local government offices and the State of Florida for COVID funding if the inability to be current on rent or mortgage payments is due to loss of income and/or employment resulting from the COVID pandemic. It is a corporal work of mercy to house the homeless – in today's world, that also means helping families to keep their homes."

If assisting those facing homelessness is on your heart, The Catholic Foundation can assist you in partnering with these and other nonprofit organizations. Our [DAF Fundholders](#) can recommend a grant to assist Catholic Charities, United Against Poverty and many other nonprofits who will be the "boots on the ground" assisting those in crisis. Anyone interested in organizing their charitable giving by opening a donor advised fund can contact Madelyn Weed, Vice President of Donor Services, at (407) 246-7188 or [mweed@cfof.org](mailto:mweed@cfof.org). More information is available at [www.CatholicDAF.org](http://www.CatholicDAF.org). Individual donations to support those suffering as a result of the pandemic can also be made today through the [Catholic Mercy Fund](#), which directly benefits Catholic Charities of Central Florida.

**We invite you to join us in prayer for those precariously housed or homeless in our community:**



***O Lord, to whom no one is a stranger  
and from whose help no one is ever distant,  
look with compassion on those  
without a place to live;  
restore them, we pray, to a home of their own,  
and give us a kind heart  
to help the homeless in their need.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord. Amen.***

***A prayer from Catholic Charities USA***

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***Hackl Family Legacy: Doing God's Work Together***



***For where two or three  
are gathered together  
in my name,  
there am I  
in the midst of them.  
Matthew 18:20***

Albert James 'Jim' and Christine Hackl's lives of generosity exemplify what Matthew shared in his gospel. As a couple, as a family and as members of two diocesan and parish communities their love of God was witnessed to those who encountered them. Through their generosity and spirit of community they help others experience Jesus in their midst and through their legacy.

Jim was born and raised in Bartow and he had fond memories and a lifelong love of the area. He moved to the north for his career.

Jim served as president and chief executive officer of the Herff Jones Company in Indianapolis from 1968 to 1995. During his tenure as the head of the company, the manufacturer of class rings and other scholastic-related products achieved significant growth.



The Hackl's were members of St. Luke the Evangelist in Indianapolis and Jim served as the co-chairman of the building committee for the construction of a new church sanctuary in 1981. Christine was raised a Catholic and believes the Catholic Church is the true church created by Christ. The Hackl's raised their children Catholic and sent them to Catholic schools.

Later in retirement Jim and Christine moved back to Lake Wales. Their strong Catholic faith played a role in establishing endowments supporting Holy Spirit Catholic Church and charity for the poor of Polk County. These endowments helped them to continue the sharing of God's love. Christine believes their children are also going to continue sharing God's love as she anticipates the children will continue to be practicing Catholics and as she and Jim did, will pass the faith on to their children. Christine shares how being a member of the Holy Spirit parish community has shared God's love with her, "After observing the food pantry at Holy Spirit and attending Mass, I see how godly and devoted the parishioners of Holy Spirit are and I know I am doing God's work when I help them."

Mr. Hackl died in May 2018. His Mass of Christian Burial took place in the church he helped to build in Indiana. In their Indiana community, the Hackl family endowments support the poor, Catholic education, pro-life education, formation of pastoral leaders and pastoral retirement. Their family legacy gives back to the faith that has supported their family throughout their lives. The impact from these endowments has made and continues to make a difference in many lives throughout the Catholic and broader communities of Marion County, Indiana and Polk County, Florida.

The Hackl children, Jim Jr. and Dorothy (Carl) Reiser, continue to build on their parent's legacy of philanthropy. They, along with their families, visit the Holy Spirit community when they can. On one visit in 2018, they met with Father Vargas, pastor of Holy Spirit; Gary Tester, president of Catholic Charities of Central Florida; and Kimberlee Riley, President and CEO of The Catholic

Foundation of Central Florida, to review how the funds earned through the Hackl Endowments were being distributed to benefit those highest in need in Polk County and how to maximize efficiency of the process to ensuring more were served.

During the pandemic, the same group met via Zoom along with The Catholic Foundation CFO, Susan Hunt, and investment advisors, Concord Advisory Group, to strategize how to provide the maximum distributions from the Hackl Endowments during the market instability, within the spending policy, to address increased needs from the pandemic while preserving the fund corpus for the future. Out of compassion for those suffering in the community, the Hackl family offered donations in addition to the endowment distribution to serve the increased need.

“We are blessed to be inspired by the Hackl family who live their faith as active members of their parish communities,” shared Kimberlee Riley, President and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. “The Hackl family legacy exemplifies how we return our gifts to God, pass on our faith, strengthen family values and do God’s work together.”

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida is here to assist the Hackls and all our diocesan families in building their Catholic legacy and achieving their philanthropic goals. To learn more about how you can share in God’s work to advance the ministries of your Catholic community, contact Madelyn Weed, CFRE, Vice President of Donor Services at [mweed@cfof.org](mailto:mweed@cfof.org) or (407) 246-7188.

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## The Catholic Foundation Welcomes Jose Sola



Jose brings to our team 25+ years of B2C/B2B Marketing, Business Development, Communications and Data Analysis. He previously worked as the Digital Marketing and Data Analysis Manager at RZMotorsports and prior to that he was the B2B Business Development Lead at Full Sail University. Jose also brings his love for our Catholic faith and experience and soft skills of servant leadership in partner relations. Academically he attended UCF and studied psychology and earned a Bachelor’s degree from Full Sail in Digital Marketing and also a Master’s Degree from Full Sail in Business Intelligence/Data

Analytics. As many of our team members experienced, Jose enjoys motorsports and anything technology-related. He is married with two daughters and feels that the opportunity in this position with our team is an answer to a prayer for him to be able to serve our Lord and our partners and community.

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU



**MARCO ROBLES**

**GIFT  
MANAGER**

Hire Dates: January 11, 2008 and  
February 29, 2012



### **1. Why did you want to work at The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida?**

My journey to the Foundation is a little different in that I volunteered during college and then just stayed on. As a part of Catholic Campus Ministry at UCF, a former member worked at the Foundation and asked for a group to volunteer one weekend to do some simple filing and a little research. Two out of the group were asked to return another weekend. Eventually this led to part-time jobs doing entry level work. As a result I feel the Lord chose me to come here instead of me searching it out.

I continue working here because the effort we put in helps to support all the people of the Diocese of Orlando - whether directly raising funds for a parish renovation or helping someone complete an online donation form. Everything we do eventually ties into the Church being able to be present to the people it serves. It may not always be clear how everything we do is connected but I know God has a way of bearing fruit from our work.

### **2. How would you describe the work that you do? (What does a typical day or week look like?)**

I process and manage the gifts that donors have entrusted to us for many different ministries benefitting the Church here in Central Florida. My day starts with processing online gifts and responding to phone calls and emails. This is followed by entering payments and pledges for various campaigns and giving initiatives. Throughout the week there are credit card runs and deposits made as well to reflect the wishes of our donors.

### **3. What do you like most about the role that you have?**

My time with the Foundation has been a great source of learning. I've been a part of the Foundation since its inception (about 13 years) and have had the opportunity develop relationships with the donors and employees of the parishes. Getting to know the dynamics of how the parishes operate and how they define their priorities is interesting to me and I enjoy supporting them in meeting their needs and achieving their goals.

### **4. What has been your favorite project so far and why?**

Data is constantly changing and because we allow everyone to give or update their records according to their preference some of the data is captured in our database and some in the parishes database depending on who the parishioners contact. This requires us to synchronize the databases to ensure

our pastors and parish staff have the most current information for their parishioners. One of my favorite projects was developing a process to synchronize our data between two different systems while maintaining security and honoring donor requests if they had given anonymously. I was able to develop something that was a smoother process, more timely and provided more accurate data for our parishes to be able to meet their goals and stay in touch with their parishioners. There was much trial and error with this process which required getting details into the right fields. It was very rewarding to see this process put into place and it continues to help us serve our parishes and the parishioners throughout the diocese.

## **5. What do you enjoy most about The Catholic Foundation's culture?**

The support and team environment. There are so many people here at the Foundation that are willing to assist in whatever way they can. The camaraderie goes hand in hand with this as well. Many of us grow to become close friends and share in life together in more ways than just the work done in the office.

## **6. What advice do you have for people considering working at The Catholic Foundation?**

Come in knowing that we are all still human beings. While we work in a faith-based setting and interact with clergy and religious we all have the same challenges as anyone else. We operate in many ways just like any other business with the caveat that Christ is the starting and ending point for what we strive to do. Sometimes we don't achieve those lofty ideals, but I think the mere fact we are trying is what sets us apart from most places.

## **7. Which of The Catholic Foundation's organizational values connect best with you?**

Faith-Filled Passion. Having Christ be the center of what motivates us each and every day is what allows us to do the job we offer. With a relatively small group of people we can have such a large impact on our communities across the Diocese. It is only by God's grace are we able to let Him work through us to accomplish so much.

## **8. What three words best describe The Catholic Foundation?**

Faith, Work, Stewardship

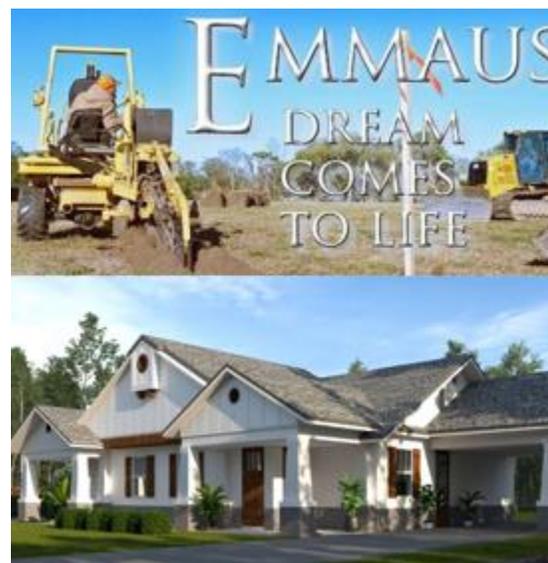
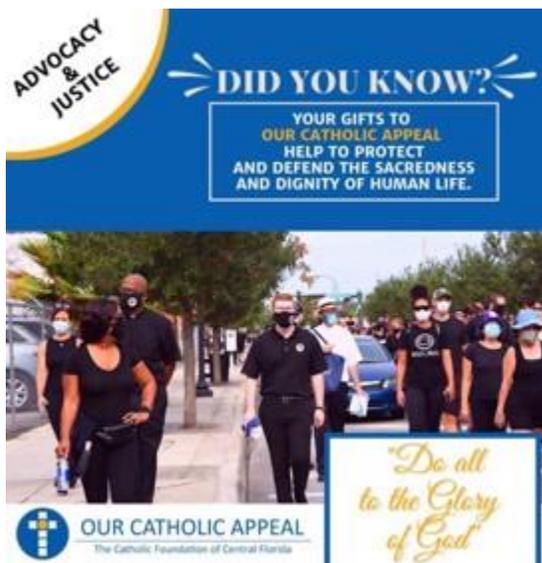
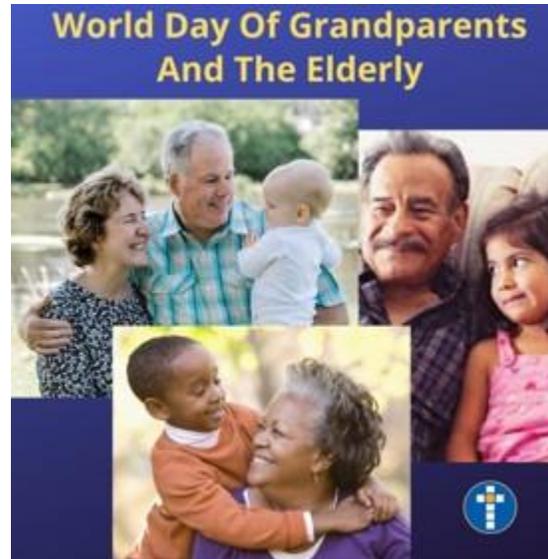
## **9. How do you hope your charitable giving impacts lives in our community?**

I hope that first God sees the return of the gifts He has bestowed upon me and my desire to return what is ultimately His. Second, that those dollars help to reflect Christ's love for all of us in the faces of those who serve our brothers and sisters in need. Finally, that others may see this example and be driven to at least think to themselves, "If he can offer something, what can I do to support the mission of the Church?"

## **10. What's a fun fact most people don't know about you?**

I am a fan of movie musicals. Yankee Doodle Dandy and High Society are a couple of my favorites.

## This Month We Observed...





# Central Florida Catholic Mercy Fund

*"As we monitor the turn of events throughout the world  
we are reminded of our common humanity..."*

## Supporting The Increased Needs Of Our Neighbors With

Housing  
Food  
Behavioral Health

[www.cfocf.org/MercyFund](http://www.cfocf.org/MercyFund)



## About The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida

### **Our Mission:**

To inspire and increase giving, to prudently invest the resources entrusted to us, and to capably steward those charitable gifts to support the spiritual and corporal needs of the community of the Diocese of Orlando.



Donate Online



Leave a Legacy



Make an Impact

## *Stay Connected With Us Everyday!*



The Catholic Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation committed to fostering and stewarding philanthropy to address community issues and meet the spiritual and corporal needs of our community year-round. As a proven trustworthy philanthropic organization to give to and give through, we have received the Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency. Fully endorsed by the Diocese of Orlando and its Bishop, we work extensively with Catholic parishes, schools and nonprofit organizations aligned with Catholic social values to help inspire giving and secure resources needed to further their long-term goals.



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