



# **Catholic Charities** of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Inc.

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**for immediate release**

**Aug. 28, 2006**

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### **Catholic Social Services, Inc. changes name to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Inc.**

**ATLANTA--Catholic Social Services officially became known on July 1, 2006, as Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Inc., joining nearly 200 agencies nationwide bearing the name of Catholic Charities.**

In early 2006 Catholic Social Services underwent a restructuring that officially added its newly established emergency services program while also enhancing other program areas. At the same time, the Archbishop of Atlanta, Wilton D. Gregory, and the board of directors took up a proposal to change the name of Catholic Social Services to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, which had been under review some two years earlier. The proposal was approved and the name set to change at the beginning of the new fiscal year in July 2006.

“Doing charitable work under the banner name of Catholic Charities enables name-recognition not only among clients or members of the Catholic community in the archdiocese, but also among other non-profit and faith-based agencies working in the metro Atlanta area. The name Catholic Charities is well known and readily recognized by a large number of Americans, even outside Catholic faith communities,” says Joe Krygiel, CEO & Secretary for Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta started as a member agency of the Catholic Charities USA network more than 60 years ago through the inspiration of the late Msgr. Cornelius Maloney, Ph.D., who laid the groundwork for the organization. From 1948 to 1953, the agency operated as a volunteer organization with two trained social workers serving in their spare time.

In 1953, the agency incorporated itself under the title of Catholic Social Services of Metropolitan Atlanta, with two full-time employees. Father Maloney was the first director of the agency whose primary work was to function as a referral center of the Catholic population in the area.

Fifty-three years later, after a rich history of serving more than 1 million of the poor and needy, Catholic Charities of the Atlanta Archdiocese continues its mission as a well-established member among non-profit organizations in the Metro Atlanta area. Its competence in areas such as Family Counseling, Parenting & Adoption Services and Refugee Resettlement was confirmed through accreditation by the Council of Accreditation in early 2005. Today the agency has seven distinct service programs, one of which came to fruition as a result of the emergency relief efforts rendered to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

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The close affiliation with Catholic Charities USA became very evident during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, as the agency received the lion share of its relief monies from the Catholic Charities National office to support assistance to approximately 4800 evacuees in the region. The Catholic Charities name was quickly recognized as one of the main emergency relief providers throughout the United States during Hurricane Katrina. (Catholic Charities was also one of the main relief agencies providing assistance in New York following the terrorist attacks of Sept.11, 2001).

Catholic Charities has built its reputation as a strong and trusted organization through 275 years of compassionate work in the United States. Beginning in 1727 when the French Ursuline Sisters opened an orphanage in New Orleans, Catholic charitable ministries focused on the care of children. Catholic institutions were established in major cities along the East Coast, providing homes and an education for children whose parents were lost to disease and tragedies common in early America.

With the rise of immigration in the mid-1800s, the demand for Catholic Charities increased dramatically. By the early 20th century, a Catholic Charities network had developed to provide social work and health care, and to serve as an advocate for the poor.

Today Catholic Charities USA is recognized as one of the nation's largest voluntary social service networks. The National Service Center works with a conglomerate of more than 1,600 community-based agencies and institutions across America.

Catholic Charities agencies nationwide serve more than 7 million people annually and have been recognized as one of the most efficient charities by Smart Money magazine. The organization was ranked the nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest non-profit network. While the demand for its services increases year after year, the commitment to providing help and creating hope remains steadfast.

In Georgia, Catholic Charities serves as the social service agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, covering Atlanta and North Georgia. In September 2003, the agency celebrated 50 years of service to over 1 million people, helping clients regardless of religion or background. The service programs include Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption; Family and Children Counseling Services; Housing Counseling; Prison Ministry; Legal & Immigration Services; Refugee Resettlement; Emergency Services; and Parish & Social Justice Ministry. Community Outreach Centers include six locations in the cities of Gainesville, Dalton and Athens, and in Fulton, Cobb and DeKalb counties.

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