



For Immediate Release

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Mercy Medical Center receives award for support of local charity

Catholic Charities awards Mercy with the Bishop Charron Caritas Award for their partnership in providing services for the poor and vulnerable

Catholic Charities recently awarded Mercy Medical Center of Des Moines the Bishop Charron Caritas Award at the annual volunteer appreciation dinner. The award is given annually to an organization in recognition of their compassion, humility, commitment and enthusiasm to help all those in need in collaboration with Catholic Charities.

“We are so grateful for Mercy’s partnership. Their involvement is testament to what can happen when we partner to take care of our friends and neighbors in need,” said Nancy Galeazzi, executive director of Catholic Charities. “Mercy recognizes that having basic needs met is an essential part of one’s health and they are active in initiatives that provide those essential services.”

Nominees for the Caritas Award in the organization category included the Center for Social Ministry, an organization in Des Moines that promotes an awareness of Christian/Catholic social justice teachings and empowers and supports individuals to use their unique gifts to sow seeds of social change.

Larry Bell, long-time volunteer at St. Mary Family Center, Catholic Charities food pantry and clothing closet, also received a Caritas Award in the individual volunteer category.

The Caritas Award is given annually to an individual and organization that show exceptional compassion, service and love to all those in need through their work with Catholic Charities. The award is named for retired Bishop Joseph L. Charron, who served the Diocese of Des Moines from 1994 to 2007 and inspired people of all faiths to join Catholic Charities in service to those in need.

Catholic Charities has been making outstanding contributions to the community since 1924 and has evolved with the times helping to meet the community’s changing needs regardless of faith. Programs include A New Beginning: Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling Program, Counseling Services, Hispanic Community Outreach Program, St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter, St. Mary Family Center, Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program and Refugee Resettlement.

For more information about the Bishop Charron Caritas Award or Catholic Charities contact Trish Radke at 515-237-5078, tradke@dmdiocese.org or go to www.CatholicCharitiesdm.org.

“Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we serve all people in need with compassion and competence, advocate for justice, and encourage all people of good will to share in these efforts.”