

## **Project Summary**

## **Update October 2016**

For the past few years, Catholic Charities has diligently worked toward the fulfillment of a dream that will change the lives of all those who seek our help – the Center for Hope – a place where all are welcome, basic needs are met, and lives are changed for the better. We began with our sights set firmly on providing a barebones, but functional, refurbishing of our space, with room enough for partners that shared our vision. Since then, we have struggled, hoping always for the best, believing in our purpose and in our mission to serve. Even as Flint began to move away from its economic turmoil, the community and our place in it, changed. Our



partners were unable to remain with the project, and our road took an unexpected turn when we were asked to play a major role in serving the community during the water crisis and ongoing recovery.

In an effort to be the best steward of our resources and stay true to our commitment to the families and people of Flint, we have had to make difficult, but exciting decisions. We are moving forward with changes to our Center for Hope Project that will provide the space (approximately 30,000sf) needed to lead us into Flint's future, and better serve all who seek our help. While these changes will involve the demolition of the 1927 portion of our building, they allow us to "right-size" the Center for Hope to meet essential program needs.

Soon, the necessary demolition and heavy work required to renovate the former St. Michael School/School of Choice will commence, creating an attractive, highly functional space, while preserving many of the architectural and historic elements of this remarkable building. As our community continues to combat economic issues and the ever-present water situation, we believe the Center for Hope will play a critical role in reaching those in need, giving them a hand up toward a brighter, healthier future. Renovations on the 1953 portion of the building are slated to begin before the end of the year. During the transition, the Center for Hope will find a temporary home in the lower level of St. Michael Church.

Catholic Charities leads an unprecedented collaborative effort to create the Center for Hope, with plans to:

- Deliver a full range of services to meet physical and mental health needs, simply and efficiently
- Improve the delivery of human service needs through seamless agency interaction
- Provide a cost-effective method of delivery
- Capitalize on our strengths and resources
- Provide an opportunity to improve the quality of life for our target population by changing one life, one family at a time.

Currently, operational and program costs are in place into the foreseeable future, and Center for Hope program expansion is planned. Significant planning and assessment has already been completed, and it is anticipated that the Center for Hope will be fully operational in 2017, at a total cost of \$6.5 million.

The Center of Hope will serve those who qualify solely based on need, without discrimination based on age, gender, religion or ethnicity. We invite you to visit us in the coming months to **volunteer**, **donate** and **pray** with us as we work together to make the Center for Hope all that we know it can be.