“There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you and me it is going to be a butterfly.”
- Richard Buckminster Fuller, famed architect and inventor

Dear Friends,

Of course, you and I know that a caterpillar will become a butterfly. But there is something about the above quote that gave me reason to pause. I ask you to consider this.

If you forget everything you know about a caterpillar and evaluate it based on what you see, as Fuller does, you could easily dismiss it as just another creature on God’s green earth. If you’re like me, you would see it as nothing exceptional, an unassuming and uninspiring creature that fills what would otherwise be a void in the food chain.

But in doing that you and I would miss a marvel of nature, something truly surprising and inspiring. Similarly, you and I err when we limit how we see others. Caterpillars becoming butterflies is a metaphor for our work at Catholic Charities.

We serve those that are society readily overlooks and ignores: the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable. We look beyond their outward appearances and see their potential to become their best selves and to live better lives. Through our seventeen programs, we do this working with children, families in crisis, vulnerable adults, seniors, refugees, the uninsured, the poor, the homeless, and the unborn.

I assure you, it is a joy and privilege to do this relevant, authentic, yet challenging work. And in that spirit of joy, I invite you to join Catholic Charities’ Spirit Circle. With your support we will help those in great need reach their full potential.

Spirit Circle members make a gift of $500, $1,000, or $2,000 or more as part of the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal. The Spirit Circle’s goal is to generate a “down payment” on the 24% of our operating budget that comes from our loyal donors. Spirit Circle members are the leadership donors that commit to making that down payment.

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When you join the Spirit Circle you’ll join these leadership donors that are passionate about improving the lives of those on the margins throughout southern Minnesota.

When you join the Spirit Circle you are a sign of:

- **Faith** that affirms all lives have dignity. Last year we served over 7,900 persons residing in over 3,700 households, 64% of which had annual incomes at or below $25,000.
- **Hope** that cares for the needy throughout southern Minnesota with great competence and compassion. With offices in Worthington, Mankato, Owatonna, Albert Lea, Austin, Rochester, and Winona, every county of our diocese is home to someone served by us.
- **Love** that embraces all—regardless of age, faith tradition, ethnic background or ability to pay.

Your Spirit Circle investment in Catholic Charities will be used efficiently. Eighty cents of every dollar is spent on operating our programs. Only 20¢ of every dollar goes to administration and fundraising.

Please join the Spirit Circle today. It’s easy. Complete the enclosed pledge card with your gift amount, number of installments, and payment method that is best for you—check, credit card, automatic withdrawal, or online giving.

As a Spirit Circle member you will receive *Stir into Flame*, an insider’s briefing on what’s new at Catholic Charities, including a special column dedicated to member comments and questions. You will also receive free admission to all Catholic Charities seminars and workshops.

Last year we served 1,500 more persons than in the prior year. The need is great. Your leadership gift emphatically states that, made in God’s image and likeness, every human life has dignity.

With heartfelt thanks and prayers for God’s blessings,

Robert L. Tereba, M.A.
Executive Director and Spirit Circle Member

P.S. At Catholic Charities we transform lives from the inside out, which is the only way to achieve durable change. (A butterfly never morphs back to being a caterpillar.) I ask you to join us in this important work. Thank you for your kind consideration of my request.

enclosures