



**Catholic Conference of Illinois Press Conference
Comments of Joy Newburn, Catholic Charities of Joliet
March 28, 2019**

My name is Joy Newburn, and I work as an outreach support specialist for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet. I'm here today as a representative of Catholic Charities across Illinois.

The Joliet Diocese spans more than 4,200 square miles across the seven northeastern counties of DuPage, Will, Kendall, Grundy, Kankakee, Iroquois and Ford. It includes urban areas such as Naperville to the north, and rural villages such as Hopkins Park to the south.

Our mission is simple: We are here to help when life gets hard and throws you difficult choices like an unexpected pregnancy. If we can't help you, we know someone who can.

Our services reflect our Catholic faith in action in support of the family. We connect expectant mothers with prenatal and post-partum education and support, such as diapers, baby clothes, and parenting classes. As the children grow, they can enroll in our daycare or Head Start programs. When they enter grades K through 12, we host an annual back-to-school fair that offers medical, dental and vision check-ups, as well as haircuts, book bags, school supplies, and clothes.

I get to see new beginnings every day. We recently had a pregnant mom, dad and their children living in our Hope House shelter in Villa Park. The new baby boy was born in November, and the entire family stayed in the shelter beyond the normal 60 days. Mom and dad are now working full time and just got accepted into our Rapid Rehousing Program this month. Catholic Charities will pay their first two months of rent in full, and the next two months in part.

Catholic Charities stands ready to serve the needs of families across Illinois. Let us help you.

Thank you.

CONTACT:

Kathleen Langdon
Director of Development & Communications
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet
klangdon@cc-doj.org
Office: 815-723-3405

Mary Massingale
Director of Communications
Catholic Conference of Illinois
massingale@ilcatholic.org
Cell: 312-972-1868