

# BUILDING THE KINGDOM

Highlighting your Annual Appeal giving at work



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
Washington

Please enjoy reading about The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Life Issues and its partnership with local pregnancy centers. Thank you for making this outreach possible with your Annual Appeal support!

## Accompanying new mothers

The Northwest Center nurtures life at its most vulnerable stages



By Eliza Fulton

"Pro-life really means to walk alongside people, mirroring Christ's love," said Susan Gallucci, the executive director of The Northwest Center in DC, when I visited the center in early April. There, I met with Susan and Maria Meli, the director of the Pregnancy Center, to learn more about how The Northwest Center supports women who often have nowhere else to turn through their pregnancies and motherhood.

The Northwest Center, along with other pro-life pregnancy centers in Washington and Maryland, are recipients of nearly \$87,000 in grants provided by the Office of Life Issues. These grants are made possible by gifts given by donors to the Annual Appeal every year.

When I asked Kathryn Yanik, the Director of the Office of Life Issues at The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, about her backing of pro-life pregnancy centers, she shared, "The Office of Life Issues is glad to partner with many local crisis pregnancy centers throughout our community. These organizations support our pro-life mission by walking with mothers in need, providing direct supports to families experiencing difficult pregnancies."

As a recipient of these grants, The Northwest Center has been able to continue to accompany women on their journeys to becoming mothers and building strong families.

Since 1997, the Center has been located in a row home facility off of Columbia Road, NW in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of Washington, D.C. After a brief tour, I sat with Maria and Susan in the lobby of the Pregnancy

Center surrounded by a sea of donations of clothing and baby items, which will be distributed to families this Spring. They shared wonderful

stories of the over 40 years of service and close to 60,000 women served by The Northwest Center through both their Pregnancy Center and Maternity Home.

The Pregnancy Center aims to support pregnant and parenting moms using programs like Safe Sleep training, pregnancy tests, materials assistance, and resume and job help. The Center also offers a program called, "Step Up", a one-on-one goal-based counseling program to help women navigate the joys and challenges of pregnancy and motherhood. "We want women to know that they will always have a place to get the support that they need, a place offering healing, not judgement," said Maria when I asked about her goal for these programs.

**In 2021, the Northwest Center completed 2,284 service visits and distributed 98,297 basic care items for mothers and babies.**

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Photos courtesy of The Northwest Center

Additionally, The Northwest Center supports pregnant women experiencing homelessness through a comprehensive housing program in their Maternity Home. The Maternity Home gives mothers a safe space to have "restorative experiences to heal from childhood wounds", shared Susan. Mothers are given tools to gain job training, improve financial literacy, and develop healthy support networks.

Like many other organizations, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has presented new challenges to carrying out the mission of The Northwest Center. Services shifted from in-person visits where families would receive counseling and materials, to material curbside pick-ups and case management virtual calls. According to The Northwest Center's 2021 Community Impact Report, they successfully completed 2,284 service visits and distributed 98,297 basic care items for mothers and babies during the pandemic year. While these changes proved to be successful, Maria and Susan shared that in some cases of domestic violence in the home, it was a challenge to have open conversations with mothers about their living situations.

After visiting The Northwest Center, it is clear that Susan and Maria are dedicated to the Center's mission of serving women. It is evident that their work would not be possible without financial support, like these grants made possible by the greater Church of Washington. "The Northwest Center truly highlights our mission to support a consistent life ethic by caring for mothers and children during pregnancy and beyond. We are so grateful for their pro-life efforts and continuing collaboration," said Kathryn Yanik. This work is just a small example of the greater ministerial reach of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

For more information on the work of The Northwest Center, and how to support, visit [pregnancyhelpdc.org](https://pregnancyhelpdc.org).



*Eliza Fulton is a Development Associate in the Office of Development at The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. She was born and raised in Texas, but calls Washington, D.C. home. When she is not traveling, she enjoys long walks and meeting friends for coffee.*

The opportunity to support life-changing ministries such as The Northwest Center is made possible by the incredible generosity of our Annual Appeal donors. Thank you for considering renewing your support of the mission of our local Church through a gift to the 2022 Annual Appeal today by visiting [appeal.adw.org](https://appeal.adw.org).

## Ten men ordained to the priesthood



Catholic Standard photo by Andrew Biraj

On June 18, 2022, His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory ordained ten men to the priesthood. Standing from left to right are Father Alexander Wyvill, Father Thomas Sullivan Robertson, Father James Morgan, Father Carlos de Rodrigo Gutierrez, Father Ryan Braam, Cardinal Gregory, Father Gerald Andrews, Father Mattia Cortigiani, Father Peter Mlynarczyk, Father Grzegorz Okulewicz and Father Kyle Vance. Thank you for providing for their seminarian education and formation through your past Annual Appeal support.