



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 3, 2017

Media Contact: Alexandra Schauffler

Alex.Schauffler@cc-dc.org

202.772.4390

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES DC OPENS THE SUSAN D. MONA CENTER**

***New facility will serve the needs of Prince George's County***

**Temple Hills, MD** – In a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by state, local, and civic leaders, Catholic Charities DC officially opened the doors to the Susan Denison Mona Center earlier today. This new integrated, multi-service facility that will provide critically-needed social services to residents in Prince George's County. In partnership with the University of Maryland School of Public Health and Doctor's Community Hospital, the facility will offer medical and dental services, immigration and legal aid, as well as food and nutrition programs.

The Center's primary service areas were chosen based on research, input from individuals, service providers and church and community leaders, as well as data collected from the state and federal governments. The area surrounding the Mona Center is affected by a profound shortage of healthcare providers, legal services, and access to quality, healthy food options and has been determined by the federal government as a food desert and health enterprise zone. The Mona Center is positioned to support the health and wellness of hundreds of underserved clients in the first year who would otherwise not have access to these vital services.

"This beautiful facility is the result of several years of hard work by so many people, and it's thrilling to finally open these doors to serve this vibrant community," said Monsignor John Enzler, President and CEO of Catholic Charities DC. "We are so grateful to our partners in this process, our donors, and the community leaders who made this dream a reality."

Planning for the Mona Center began in 2014 when Vincent Mona generously donated the building that now houses the Center, which was named after his late wife. A second phase of the Mona Center will be unveiled in the near future, which will include fitness and nutrition programming operated by the University of Maryland's School of Public Health. The Mona Center is currently accepting clients. For more information, visit

[www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/mona](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/mona),

***About Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington***

*Catholic Charities DC is the largest independent social services agency in the Metropolitan D.C. area. As the charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Washington, Catholic Charities invests in communities by providing critical services to hundreds of thousands of people in need throughout the District of Columbia and Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland. The organization works tirelessly to give help that empowers and hope that lasts to those it serves regardless of background, belief, or circumstance. For more information, visit [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org).*

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