

---

## NEWS RELEASE

---

### **Atlanta Selected to Host Catholic Charities USA Centennial Summit**

#### **Landmark Regional Conference Engages Community to Generate “Big Ideas” to Develop Legislation that Reduces Poverty in America**

**Atlanta, GA, February 19, 2010** – Catholic Charities USA, hosted by Catholic Charities Atlanta and joined by Catholic Charities agencies from around the region – convenes one of 10 Centennial Summits here on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at the Loudermilk Center, as part of the organization’s 100 year history. The purpose of the day-long Summit is to identify “big ideas” and keep the conversation moving toward developing landmark legislation to reduce poverty in America.

Open to the public for a registration fee of \$100, the 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. event brings together civic leaders, elected officials and all interested parties to address the devastation of poverty in this country.

Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA and a member of the White House Council of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, will be joined by Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory; Jackie Parker, vice president of global diversity, Newell Rubbermaid; Bill Bolling, executive director, Atlanta Community Food Bank; Mark Crozet, senior vice president development, Habitat for Humanity International; Michael A. Young, chief executive officer, Grady Health Systems; and John A. Berry, executive director, St. Vincent de Paul.

“In a country like ours, even in these tough times, it is simply unacceptable that close to 40 million people live in poverty,” said Fr. Snyder. “Catholic Charities agencies and Catholic Charities USA seek a sustained national commitment that will ensure a reduction in poverty. Together, we can lift each other up. Only collectively can we begin to change the face of poverty.”

“We are very honored to host one of the historic Catholic Charities USA Centennial Summits,” said Joseph Krygiel executive director of Catholic Charities Atlanta. “It is a very special – yet very sobering – experience to come together in an effort to re-focus and re-commit on the critical front of poverty. We are pleased with the great participation and support from Atlanta and the state of Georgia.”

(more)



Contact Information  
Catherine W. Fuss  
Marketing Director  
404.885.7268  
cfuss@archatl.com

Accompanying the Summit will be a special photo exhibition, a collaborative effort of Catholic Charities USA and AmericanPoverty.org. The moving visual portrayal of poverty in urban and rural areas of America features the work of top American photographers, including award-winning Time Magazine veteran, Steve Liss.

The Atlanta Summit is part of a nationwide series that will culminate in Washington, DC on September, 26, 2010. The summits provide a forum for thought-leaders, major influencers and citizens-at-large to come together and act on poverty. For more information visit: [www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org/Centennial](http://www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org/Centennial).

Catholic Charities USA's members – more than 1,700 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions nationwide – provide help and create hope for nearly 8.5 million people a year regardless of religious, social, or economic backgrounds. For almost 300 years, Catholic Charities agencies have worked to reduce poverty by providing a myriad of vital services in their communities, ranging from health care and job training to food and housing. In 2010, Catholic Charities USA celebrates its centennial anniversary.

#### **About Catholic Charities Atlanta**

As a provider of social services for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Catholic Charities Atlanta provides professional support for families in crisis, pregnant women, and immigrants and refugees. Since 1953, we have helped over one million people move from adversity and reach wholeness and self-sufficiency.

Catholic Charities Atlanta is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, a designation that requires a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administrative operations and service delivery practices – all measured against national standards.

###