

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Catholic Charities Names Executive Director**

Former banker eager to assist the needy

October 6, 2009 (OMAHA, NE) – Catholic Charities of The Archdiocese of Omaha has hired John J. Griffith as named Executive Director. Griffith's first day with the social service organization was October 1.

Previously, Griffith served as director and chief administrative officer of Access Bank, an entity that he co-founded in 2007. Prior to his work at Access Bank, Griffith served in senior leadership positions at Commercial Federal Bank and Bank of the West, including human resources, investor relations, community investment and financial management. Griffith's background will ensure continued fiscal responsibility at Catholic Charities, a social services agency known for its utilization of donations to help those in need.



"I am happy to learn that John Griffith has agreed to join us as executive director of Catholic Charities," said Archbishop George Lucas. "The work of Catholic Charities is integral to the mission of our archdiocesan church. I look forward to working with John to extend the love of Jesus Christ to our neighbors in need."

Throughout his 25-year career, Griffith has been involved with a number of community and not-for-profit groups that focus on empowering and advocating for children and families. He has extensive experience working with organizations that offer affordable housing to low income families in north and south Omaha.

"The citizens of Omaha truly believe in creating a better life for all through active stewardship," Griffith said. "I am excited to be part of the service community in Omaha and look forward to working with our board, employees, contributors, volunteers and partners to carry out the vital mission of Catholic Charities."

Lonnie Janacek, president of the Catholic Charities Board, said, "John's ability to lead complex and diverse organizations is a positive for Catholic Charities and those we serve. His experience, connection with the community, and commitment to our mission will ensure the continued growth and success of Catholic Charities."

Catholic Charities provides services to people regardless of race, religion, age or income. It helps 75,000 people annually, making it one of the state's largest service providers.

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Founded as a diocese in 1885, the Archdiocese of Omaha serves spiritual and human needs in a 23-county area of Northeast Nebraska. Through its 148 parishes and missions, the archdiocese reaches out to more than 221,000 Nebraska Catholics. With two Catholic universities, 58 elementary schools, 18 high schools and a parish-based religious education program within its boundaries, Catholic education enriches the lives of some 44,000 young people. The Archdiocese of Omaha is one of the largest private social service providers in the region. Catholic Charities and the Office of Family Life lead a network that ministers to the broadest and most fundamental needs of our community. Generous support to the Annual Appeal is symbolic of the collective faith that allows the Archdiocese of Omaha to continue the mission of Jesus Christ. [www.archomaha.org](http://www.archomaha.org)