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## **Catholic Charities celebrates faith, hope and love at home and at the mission in Peru**

Catholic Charities North Dakota held its Annual Celebration lunch on Sept. 15 at the Fargo Holiday Inn.

The event featured former First Lady Mikey Hoeven, who spoke about her personal faith journey and its importance in her family. Hutch Johnson, meteorologist from Valley News Live, Fargo, was the master of ceremonies for the event. Bishop Samuel Aquila, Board Chairman John Hardy and Executive Director Larry Bernhardt spoke on behalf of the important work of Catholic Charities.

Recipients of the 2011 Caritas Awards, Father Jack Davis and Sister Peggy Byrne, accepted their awards in recognition for their outstanding service in bringing faith, hope and love to the least of God's people in Chimbote, Peru.

Father Davis began his service to the poor of Chimbote in 1975. Driven by the strong belief that it is not God's will that people are poor, he has worked tirelessly to change attitudes and liberate from poverty the more than 30,000 people who live in the parish where he serves as pastor, Neustra Senora Del Perpetua Socorro Parish.

Sister Peggy Byrne was invited by Father Davis to visit Chimbote in 1982 for what was going to be a three-month stay. Twenty-nine years later, she remains in Chimbote, championing the education programs that impact so many and help the poor move out of poverty.

More than 200 people attended this year's event. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the many accomplishments of Catholic Charities North Dakota through the past year and to recognize the work of others who are spreading the mission of Jesus.

The services of Catholic Charities North Dakota include Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption services, Adults Adopting Special Kids, guardianship services for adults with developmental disabilities and counseling services.

*To learn more about Catholic Charities North Dakota or to make a donation, go to [www.catholiccharitiesnd.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesnd.org) or call (701) 235-4457.*