



in new directions

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SPiRiT

MAGAZINE

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COVER STORY

Kiddie Corrals Provide Safe Space for Children to Play While Parents Shop at WIC Centers

Kiddie Corral

One of the defining characteristics of Catholic Charities programs is how they maximize “bang for buck” by connecting more than one service together to meet clients’ needs. Our Episodic Daycare Services, or “Kiddie Corrals” at 15 of our 16 Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Food and Nutrition Centers, are one example. These safe, welcoming and lively play spaces ensure that children ages birth to five who accompany their parents to our WIC centers receive quality child care from trained caregivers.

In the Summer of 2012, all of our Kiddie Corrals received major renovations and repairs. Old carpets were removed, new flooring was installed, fresh murals were painted and new equipment, furnishings and toys were purchased. The changes resulted in an increase of children using the daycare program; in FY2013 over 132,000 children were cared for in our WIC centers.

In addition, through the Reading for Kids program, our Kiddie Corrals received nearly 11,000 volunteer hours primarily from high school students who came to the centers after school to read to the children. In return, the high school students received community service hours required for high school graduation.

All in all, our Kiddie Corrals “round up” a number of benefits for parents, children, and students.

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Always Growing at Catholic Charities

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland, President

Especially in the summer, it seems our programs literally bloom with activity. This issue of *Spirit Magazine* focuses on areas of growth across Catholic Charities—from each of our service areas to donations to volunteer activities—including a very special donation from a compassionate group of children that you can read about on page 18.

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

Children are a primary focus of our work at Catholic Charities. We continually strive to increase and improve our services to children and their families by identifying unmet needs and putting in place “best practice” programming. On page 9 you will read about our brand-new Youth Mentoring Program in Lake County that pairs trained, carefully-screened adults with youth who need positive role models.

On pages 10 and 11 discover our expanding programs in our Community Development and Outreach Service area: summer food service and summer youth employment, which incorporate educational components along with tangible assistance in the form of meals and wages.

Vulnerable adults are also benefiting from growth in our programs. Starting July 1, Catholic Charities expanded its Elder Abuse Investigation services into Adult Protective Services, which helps any adult over the age of 18 at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation due to special needs.



More seniors will enjoy safe, affordable and welcoming housing in disadvantaged communities thanks to our newest senior apartment buildings, All Saints Residence, which was dedicated in May, and Porta Coeli (Gate of Heaven) Residence which we began construction on this summer.

Generous support from foundations, donors and volunteers ensures our programs continue to grow in type, scope, and quality. You will read examples of these “growth engines” as well.

All who want to help us further our mission of charity in a troubled world are welcome in our work. There is a scripture verse that invokes, for me, the image of Catholic Charities as an inclusive, thriving force for good:

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5).

Thank you for helping us branch out in new directions and “bear fruit” in new ways.

Catholic Charities Health Fairs Continue to Grow

In 2002 Catholic Charities began to see a tremendous increase in people coming to us with unmet medical needs. Monsignor Michael Boland responded with immediacy, calling together 25 board members and leaders in the medical field to form a medical council. This council's dedication to those we serve was the inception of our Health Fair outreach. We began our work of bringing basic medical screenings to those most in need at St. Blase Parish in suburban Summit, where we held the first of four health fairs that year.

As our client population grew, along with unmet medical needs, we responded by expanding our services in Cook County. We now provide six health fairs each summer in Chicago and its suburbs. More than 73% of the people we serve are Hispanic and 100% of the people who provide medical services during our health fairs are volunteers.

Parish support is critical to the success of our health fairs. For example, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish hosted our first health fair this season on Chicago's North Side. Eight parishes collaborated with Catholic Charities to plan and run this event. We were joined in our mission by 57 medical professionals and 97 non-medical volunteers as we provided immunizations medical and dental exams for children and screenings for adults, along with screenings for glucose, cholesterol, vision, glaucoma, hearing, lead, bone density, memory, balance and podiatric health. Two weeks later, we held our first health fair on the southeast side of Chicago at St. Francis DeSales High School. Four other fairs followed; two on Chicago's South Side, and two in suburbs: South Holland and Cicero.

Attendance continues to grow at our health fairs. Our agency's commitment to serve those in need and the dedication of numerous volunteers allowed us to meet the medical needs of approximately 1200 people this summer.



Health Fairs



From four health fairs in 2002, we now provide six health fairs each summer in Chicago and its suburbs, serving approximately 1,200 people!

Above: photos from health fairs at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Gall this summer.



A total of 299 licensed medical professionals joined us this summer to provide free health service to those in need.

roundtable DISCUSSION

ADVOCACY: Speaking for the Vulnerable

By Stephanie Johnson, *Director of Government Relations*



EILEEN HIGGINS

*Vice President of
Housing Services*



LAURA R. RIOS

*Vice President of
Child, Youth and
Family Services*



**ANGEL
GUTIERREZ**

*Vice President
of Community
Development and
Outreach Services*

Poverty across the world has always been a threat to human life, but today, in our country, the threat is qualitatively different. No longer do we live in an age where lack of knowledge, technology, infrastructure, or resources are the barriers to overcoming poverty. Rather, poverty in our society today presents a range of moral issues.

As a society of knowledge, technology, infrastructure and resources, we are morally obligated to dedicate ourselves to overcoming poverty. From any standpoint— theological, economic, or moral—this threat to the common good requires our attention and our action.

Catholic Charities' delivery of services is based on a system of values derived from Catholic social teaching. As the social services arm of the Catholic Church, Catholic Charities actively promotes and works diligently to nurture a culture of life in society. In our role as a voice for those who have no voice, we speak for the vulnerable, the weak, and the hopeless. We speak for those whom we serve.

One of the ways in which we fulfill this part of our Mission is through advocacy among many groups, including legislators and other public officials. Whether they are members of the local town council, or are our federal congressmen and women, we reach out to officials who have been elected to serve us and our clients, and who make decisions that affect us and our clients, to advocate on behalf of their needs so that we might increase awareness of the suffering of those facing poverty, and our responsibility to help alleviate that suffering.

This issue's "Roundtable" brings together three Vice Presidents whose service areas have been particularly active in advocacy this year.

Why is Advocacy on behalf of the people we serve, being a voice for those who have no voice, such an important part of your work?

EILEEN HIGGINS: Our service area relies a great deal on the efforts of advocacy. It is very common to have issues of funding for supportive housing, veteran housing and senior housing being brought for legislative action.

ANGEL GUTIERREZ: The Gospel tells us that we have to be the voice for the voiceless, the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized. This is one of the reasons why I do what I do. As an organization, our mission is to help those in need regardless of their background. This approach allows us to have a broader impact on communities and leads to self-sufficiency, empowerment, and improved neighborhoods.

LAURA RIOS: We often learn of particular pieces of legislation, or budgetary issues that may affect our services for good or bad, and we engage in advocacy. Many of the families we serve are struggling every day with issues entrenched in poverty—and do not have the knowledge, ability, energy, time, or wherewithal to advocate for themselves. Also, the children we serve need the adults that surround them to be their voice as they do not vote, work, hold office or have input into policies, programs or practices that impact their futures. They are dependent upon us to advocate for their interests.

What are some of the issues that you have brought to the attention of legislators and public officials in the past year? What effect do you feel this has had?

EILEEN HIGGINS: Our advocacy efforts include face-to-face meetings between legislators and our Catholic Charities board members, local advocacy groups and on the national level, the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Our efforts have been successful with:

- Maintaining Homelessness Prevention funding
- Maintaining state funding for permanent supportive housing and emergency housing
- Impacting decisions at the federal level to maintain funding for supportive housing

ANGEL GUTIERREZ: A lot of the work that I do focuses on both federal and state level legislation. One example of things that we worked on this year at the federal level is working with other hunger advocates on the reauthorization of “the Farm Bill,” also known as

HR 1947. Another example is working with the USDA on using current regulatory rules to create additional flexibility in program planning around a violence prevention demonstration project. On the state level, we defeated the proposed House Bill 29 that would have altered the WIC Food and Nutrition Programs current operating model.

LAURA RIOS: I do believe that our involvement as a collective force/voice with other advocacy efforts relevant to our services has successfully carried important messages that have been heard. This year many of our programs received level funding, as opposed to cuts as in previous years. We also worked to inform legislators about the hardship that increasing childcare co-pays for working poor families creates and were told by the state that parent co-pays for childcare will begin to go down in January. Chicago and Illinois continue to move in a direction that supports early childhood education, which has been the area most in need of advocacy the past few years and directly relates to not just our center-based Early Childhood Education programs, but also our home-visiting programs for pregnant and parenting teens.

What do you hear from legislators about the work that Catholic Charities does?

EILEEN HIGGINS: Legislators show great interest in the efforts of our Board Members who are their constituents. This past year, both in Springfield and Washington, D.C. legislators have great difficulty prioritizing the many needs.

The need to pursue these meetings is even more important as we influence, to the best of our ability, sound judgment by legislators on our critical housing needs. Silence on our part would be devastating to the cause of ending homelessness or increasing housing assistance.

ANGEL GUTIERREZ: I think legislators are always impressed with the breadth of services that we provide to clients and/or their constituents and how we work to address multiple issues. The one constant that I always hear from legislators is “I did not realize that Catholic Charities provided that service or that this facility offered all these services to the community.”

LAURA RIOS: My understanding is that legislators are aware of how well we do when we provide services, and are very appreciative of the lengths to which we go to help our clients, their constituents. They recognize the quality of our work. I think this is one of the reasons legislators hear us when we bring something to their attention through advocacy.

FAMILY AND PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

Using Technology to Expand Outreach to the Homeless



Catholic Charities Call Center will serve people through the Central Referral System.

Catholic Charities is a leader in working with the homeless. From evening suppers that offer food and fellowship, to safe and welcoming shelters, to transitional housing that leads to self-sufficiency, we strive to offer creative and effective programming to a hard-to-serve population.

Through a \$162,000 grant from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to our Homelessness Prevention Call Center (HPCC), Catholic Charities will now be able to connect homeless individuals and families to available housing resources across Chicago.

The Central Referral System (CRS) will manage referrals through a secure data system that has the potential to register 5,000 vulnerable clients in the first year. The system will be easily accessible. Through the web-based system (www.ChicagoCRS.org), clients follow self-directed prompts to register. Alternatively, the client may visit their regular service-provider (such as Catholic Charities) or contact a CRS representative via telephone. The system is also available in multiple languages. Clients will be asked to provide multiple points of contact—people they see or places that they frequent, like our evening suppers—as well

as cell phone numbers or email addresses so that when housing assistance becomes available they can be reached. Community outreach teams will also be deployed to find hard-to-serve clients. For example, if a client lists their place of residence as Lower Wacker Drive, a popular place for homeless people to sleep, team members will go there to find the client.

As managing entity, Catholic Charities will coordinate the housing provider referrals through this same system. An estimated 500+ permanent supportive housing placements will be made through the Central Referral System in the first year. The new referral system is unique in how it determines which clients will be contacted first when housing is available. Members of the homeless population who are considered medically vulnerable and face an increased risk of mortality if homelessness persists are easily identified via the Central Referral System.

“The whole point is that this isn’t a list,” says Noreen Russo, Program Director. “On most wait lists, you are given a spot when you apply and stay there until your number is called. In the CRS system, clients are ranked based on their vulnerability, not when they signed up. So when housing assistance opens up and they are a fit, they will be contacted. It reminds me of the scripture passage about ‘the least shall be first.’”

Catholic Charities was awarded the grant because we not only have experience with reaching the hard-to-serve clients, preventing homelessness, and creating housing solutions, but we also understand the technology needed to operate and integrate a complex client information system, and collaborate efficiently with other Chicago-area homeless service providers.

Since 2007, our HPCC has responded to over 435,000 calls providing eligibility screenings, referrals for financial assistance, and other resources that touch all populations, ages, and communities.

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Youth Mentorship Program Provides the Support Kids Need

Today's youth face a variety of challenges and need the help of caring adults to make the right decisions. Mentors can offer guidance and support to help kids stay in school, build confidence, and avoid drug use or violent situations. Catholic Charities in Lake County is excited to announce its new Youth Mentoring Program that will pair adult volunteers with children ages nine to 12.

“We know that mentoring works. Kids who have a mentor are more likely to do well in school, avoid harmful behaviors, and have positive attitudes towards their peers and their parents.”

Sarah Loffman

As the result of a new grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Catholic Charities will recruit, train and support adult mentors as they form caring relationships with youth in Lake County. Studies show that volunteering just a few hours a month as a mentor can have a lifelong impact on a young person. Mentors and mentees will spend quality time together each week engaging in fun, low-cost or free activities and going on outings.

Sarah Loffman, Special Projects Coordinator, is overseeing the Youth



(left to right) Sarah Loffman, Special Projects Coordinator; Laurel Wimpffen, Lake County Volunteer Coordinator; Kelsey Weeks, Mentor

Mentorship Program, “We know that mentoring works. Kids who have a mentor are more likely to do well in school, avoid harmful behaviors, and have positive attitudes towards their peers and their parents. It’s also a powerful experience for adult volunteers, who consistently report that they get just as much out of the program as the mentee,” she says.

Mentors must be at least 21 years old and able to commit to a minimum of a one-year relationship with their mentee, meeting one to two hours per week. All applicants will be thoroughly screened and trained. Outings can happen during the week or on the weekend. Mentors will receive ongoing guidance and support, and will be encouraged to network with other mentors.

Interested in becoming a mentor?

For more information, please contact:

Sarah Loffman at (312) 655-7081 or sloffman@catholiccharities.net

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH SERVICES

Youth Employment Program Assists in Achieving Self-Sufficiency



A youth worker at a nutrition class.

Since 2010, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago's Community Development and Outreach Services (CDOS) has expanded its youth development programs. The youth development programs are committed to providing youth with services to assist them in achieving the highest degree of self-sufficiency.

"Our youth development programs intentionally create an environment of professional development, mentorship, performance monitoring, ongoing feedback and recognition of success and service," says Karen Moore, Director of Youth Development.

Over the past three years, Community Development and Outreach Services has significantly increased the number of youth served from 30 to over 1200 and secured over 2.3 million dollars in funding for multiple youth development and training programs.

Funding for these programs was made

possible with increased partnerships through multiple funding sources. These funding sources include: the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, Chicago Housing Authority, and Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership.

Collaborative partnerships enabled us to expand professional development training for youth. Our youth development training curriculum model includes: Financial

CDOS youth development programs strengthen the capacity for youth to have more choice and control in their lives...

Literacy, Effective Presentation Skills, Customer Service, Job Readiness, Time Management, Conflict Resolution, Engaging Youth in Civic Service, and Critical Thinking Skills.

CDOS youth development programs strengthen the capacity for youth to have more choice and control in their lives, reinforce their ability to manage and successfully adapt to change, and support their efforts to generate positive changes in their environment.

"I realized financial literacy is important! I learned how to be more responsible and patient. Not to judge people because you don't know their background. I also learned a lot about the WIC Food and Nutrition Centers and how important and helpful Catholic Charities is to our communities. I enjoyed working with other youth. Through participating in this experience, I discovered that I want to work with youth in my future career. Thanks for the opportunity," says Jennifer Gilbert, Youth Mentor.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH SERVICES

Summer Food Program Addresses Child Hunger Through Best Practices



Summer Food Program participant with Tallett Vanek, staff member.

The USDA estimates that 84% of children in the Chicago metropolitan area qualify for free or reduced price lunch programs, but significantly less participate in the summer feeding programs designed to help them thrive when school meal programs are not available.

For five years, Catholic Charities has operated a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) that provides healthy breakfasts and lunches to children 18 and under in low-income communities. On average, we provide 380,000 meals over the summer months at 240 locations across Chicago and in surrounding suburbs.

We use data about specific needs to plan our interventions. For example, a recent study conducted by the Social IMPACT Research Center of Chicago showed that half of children in areas at high risk for food insecurity did not meet the recommended daily allowance of any of the major food groups (fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, and protein). Nearly one-third (28%) of all children did not eat any fruit in the last 24 hours, and nearly half (46%) did not eat any vegetables.

Given these statistics, Catholic Charities

recognizes that nutrition education and activity is needed as much as actual meals during the summer months. Catholic Charities uses evidence-based programs of the CLOCC (Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children) and CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health) to address this need.

CLOCC's 5-4-3-2-1 is an educational effort to give children the tools to live a healthy lifestyle: 5 serving of fruits and veggies per day, 4 servings of water, 3 servings of low-fat dairy, 2 hours or less of screen time, and 1 hour of physical activity.

We employ youth as nutrition education aides on our SFSP mobile trucks to implement 5-4-3-2-1. The aides have hula hoops, jump ropes, sports equipment, activity dice, and energetic spirits to keep the kids moving and learning about appropriate serving sizes and healthier food choices.

Catholic Charities nourishes, empowers and protects children during the summer months, while laying the groundwork for healthier lifestyles throughout the year.

“The SFSP program connects the dots by fulfilling the desperate needs of children to obtain adequate nutrition during summer when school is not in session, and unites us with community partners to create safe spaces for children to eat and engage in nutrition education,” says Diane Nunley RD, LDN, CLC, Associate Vice President.

Using proven programs and data from our community, Catholic Charities nourishes, empowers and protects children during the summer months, while laying the groundwork for healthier lifestyles throughout the year.

SENIOR SERVICES

Adult Protective Services Program Promotes Intervention and Education



Some of the staff of our Adult Protective Services and Senior Services programs.

Catholic Charities has provided Elder Abuse investigation services for persons aged 60 and over for 20 years through our Case Coordination Units (CCUs) that serve the Northwest and South suburbs the North Side of Chicago, and Lake County. As of July 1, our Elder Abuse services have expanded as part of Illinois' effort to protect all adults over 18 who are at risk of abuse or neglect due to disability.

The shift to becoming an Adult Protective Services provider has allowed Catholic Charities to expand its protective services staff at all the CCUs, for a total of five full-time positions.

"The new population has an array of disabilities," says Jaime Albergo, Protective Services Supervisor at the Northwest Suburban CCU in Arlington Heights. "Autism, traumatic brain injury, bi-polar or schizophrenia, progressive medical conditions like Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease."

Catholic Charities employs an advocacy-based intervention model. We strive to promote the concept that this is not to be a punitive program, but rather a program based on client-directed advocacy, education, and intervention.

For example, "passive neglect" is a typical reason for a call to the adult protective services hotline 1 (866) 800-1409. Passive neglect

might be reported by a medical provider who notices that a senior is dirty and disheveled at an appointment, and the identified family contact is not engaged in their care. The adult protective worker would do a face-to-face interview with the senior, and reach out to the family member to see if they needed education about available resources or assistance in paying for services that could help the senior, such as state-funded in-home service through the Community Care Program.

Another typical call scenario is financial exploitation, where the alleged victim's assets are being diverted for purposes benefitting family members or others who have gained control of the alleged victim's finances.

Investigating and managing adult protective services cases is challenging work and staff must participate in mandatory training conducted in two phases for a total of 40 hours of face-to-face instruction. Additional seminars and webinars are also required.

"Our wonderful reputation for quality work at Catholic Charities was a factor in our being selected as a provider for Adult Protective Services," Albergo explains. As a large, multi-faceted social service agency, Catholic Charities has resources that CCU staff can tap into for their clients as well as strong relationships with other providers in the community, which has made the rapid expansion of services to a new population much easier.

"Across the country aging and disability services are coming together due to shared commonalities in service delivery and programs. Including investigation for abuse of persons with disabilities is a logical next step for us," says Anne Posner, Associate Vice President, Catholic Charities Senior Services. "Elder Abuse investigations are difficult, intense and time-consuming cases for which there is limited reimbursement. Yet we are committed to this work because it reflects our core values as an organization. Services for people with disabilities is part of that same mission. We are proud to now offer this program at our senior case management sites."

HOUSING SERVICES

Expanding Opportunities for Safe, Affordable Senior Housing

Catholic Charities had a “growth spurt” in affordable housing for seniors this spring and summer, which will ultimately add 128 units of brand-new, safe and inviting one-bedroom apartments to depressed communities.

“We cannot overestimate the impact these lovely and secure buildings have on the communities who welcome us ... In neighborhoods torn by violence, our buildings are a symbol of hope and a safe haven for seniors.”

Eileen Higgins

On May 29, His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. dedicated All Saints Residence, a 42-unit apartment building, located at 11701 S. State Street, in Chicago. All Saints is part of a campus that includes Roseland Manor, another Catholic Charities residence for seniors, which was the first new construction for decades in the Roseland neighborhood when it was built 20 years ago.

On July 23, approximately 100 people attended the ground breaking for Porta Coeli (Gate of Heaven) Senior Residence at 2260 E. 99th Street in Chicago. Bishop Joseph Perry presided at ceremony. The building will be the 19th affordable senior residence built by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The site is adjacent to Our Lady Gate of Heaven Parish.

A brief prayer service was led by Bishop Joseph Perry, assisted by Monsignor Boland. Attendees included community residents, politicians, contractors and staff and board members of Catholic Charities.

Porta Coeli Senior Residence will create



(left to right) Monsignor Boland; William Lamey Jr., Board Member; Bishop Joseph Perry; Rev. Mauricio, pastor of Our Lady Gate of Heaven Parish; Ron and Toni Laurent, Board Members

86 one-bedroom units in the Jeffrey Manor community on Chicago’s far Southeast Side for very low-income seniors.

“We cannot overestimate the impact these lovely and secure buildings have on the communities who welcome us,” said Eileen Higgins, Vice President of Housing Services. “In neighborhoods torn by violence, our buildings are a symbol of hope and a safe haven for seniors.”

Catholic Charities presently operates 18 affordable senior apartment buildings across Chicagoland to provide safe, attractive and active housing for some of our most vulnerable citizens. Residents pay about a third of their income for rent in the buildings, which have 24/7 security, activities and social service linkages.

Foundation Partners Essential to Serving Our Clients

Our Corporate and Foundation partners are essential in our efforts to meet the ever-changing needs of our clients. We earned the support of over 150 foundations in FY2013 and raised over \$3 million in grants and pledges.



(left to right) John Bisio of Walmart presents a check to Catholic Charities staff: Angela Taylor, Monsignor Boland, Angel Guitierrez and Diane Nunley.

Walmart Visits Ada S. Niles Senior Day Services

On May 29 at our Ada S. Niles Adult Day Services, Monsignor Boland had the pleasure of hosting John Bisio, Director of State and Local Government Relations at Walmart. He was on hand to present Catholic Charities with an \$80,000 check and tour the facility. These funds will help increase our capacity to serve healthy, nutritious meals for seniors in our home-delivered and congregate meals programs. We are grateful to the Walmart Foundation for all it has done to help provide hunger relief to the most vulnerable.

ConAgra Foods Foundation

This year the ConAgra Foods Foundation gave Catholic Charities \$65,000 to support our Summer Food Service Program. These monies allowed us to hire more staff, including a nutrition aide, to ride along on our mobile trucks and educate children about healthy lifestyles. The ConAgra funding also provided the summer lunch tee shirts, marketing materials, and teaching supplies, as well as raffle prizes for children who attended summer lunch activities.

Fifth Third Bank Support

Fifth Third Bank awarded Catholic Charities a \$75,000 grant to support our Veterans Initiatives as well as Gala of the Arts, which benefits our Emergency Assistance Program.

This funding is in addition to Fifth Third's support of Mary's Closet and other initiatives including hosting barbeques at our veterans facilities and having their human resources staff conduct mock interviews in our Veterans Employment Program.

Roundy's Foundation Supports Our Food Pantries

Mariano's Fresh Market and the Roundy's Foundation recently delivered over 12,000 pounds of food to Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Program. This food, worth nearly \$18,000, is in addition to a \$5,000 cash contribution for the Emergency Assistance Program. This support will help us ensure that our clients receive healthy, well-balanced meals.

Generous Donation from Irish Children's Fund

The Irish Children's Fund (ICF) donated \$180,700 to our Child Development Centers through June 30, 2015.

For nearly 30 years, the Irish Children's Fund brought together Catholic and Protestant children from Northern Ireland for a one-month visit each summer in the Chicago area. The goal was to build relationships between children from conflicting religious groups so that upon their return to Ireland they would have a new understanding of one another that could lead to peaceful coexistence.

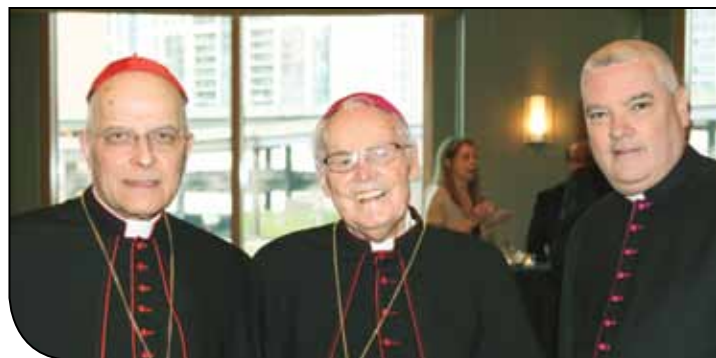
Everett Petlicki, former Division Manager of Foster Care for Catholic Charities, helped find and evaluate prospective host families for the ICF from its very beginning. As religious conflict in Northern Ireland eventually eased, the ICF Board voted in 2011 to dissolve the organization and donate its remaining assets to deserving organizations. Catholic Charities was one of three organizations selected.

The mission of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago is substantially similar to the ICF's. "Through the years, our organizations have shared a common goal of making a difference in the lives of children. Your work with children to help resolve strife in Northern Ireland is exemplary," Monsignor Boland, told ICF. "Your gift to Catholic Charities Child Development Centers will continue to positively impact the lives of children for many years to come."

Honoring Bishop Timothy J. Lyne

★ Catholic Charities, Holy Family Villa and the Bishop Lyne Residence honored Bishop Timothy J. Lyne as he celebrated 70 years as a priest and 30 years as a bishop on April 13 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers. Nearly 500 attendees celebrated with the Bishop as he received the Holy Family Villa *Caritas Sanctae Familiae Award*, meaning “Love of Holy Family”. The event raised more than \$130,000 net for the Holy Family Villa Expansion Project.

PHOTO: (left to right) Francis Cardinal George, Bishop Timothy J. Lyne, Monsignor Boland



Veterans In Need Dinner

★ The 2nd annual benefit for our Veterans Services Programs was held on April 26 at The Union League Club of Chicago. Co-Chaired by Claudia Dunne and Norman and Mary Carlson, the event was attended by 250 guests, raising more than \$120,000 in net proceeds. Event highlights included: guest speaker, former United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson; emcee, Alan Krashesky, ABC 7 News Anchor; and the attendance of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Allen Lynch.

PHOTO: (left to right) Monsignor Boland, R. James Nicholson, Claudia Dunne, Mary and Norm Carlson



Blossoms of Hope Brunch

★ The 22nd annual “LOSS” Brunch netted a record-breaking \$93,000 for the Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program. More than 900 attendees gathered in April at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace to support the event. Tregg Duerson, son of former Chicago Bear Dave Duerson, received the 2013 *Charles T. Rubey Award* for his work in suicide prevention. Monica Pedersen of HGTV served as the Mistress of Ceremonies.

PHOTO: Tregg Duerson and Monica Pedersen



Art of Caring

★ On May 18, 200 guests attended the 24th Annual Art of Caring at Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park, hosted by the Women’s Board of Catholic Charities Lake County. Special thanks to event chairs Jan Zukowski Elwart and Sue O’Callaghan. *The Irene Leahy McMahon Award* was presented to Vera Purcell. With the help of generous supporters, more than \$260,000 net was raised for Lake County Programs.

PHOTO: (left to right) Jan Zukowski Elwart and Sue O’Callaghan and Irene Leahy McMahon, Vera Purcell



Gala of the Arts

★ The 12th Annual Gala of the Arts was held in the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier on September 6 and featured an unforgettable performance by The Buckingham and exquisite works of art. Chaircouples were Bill and Jeanne Hardy and Bill and Mary Alice Jovan; Allison Rosati of NBC 5 News was the special guest emcee. Michael and Carol Bilder received the *Mandatum Award* for fulfilling Christ’s mandate to serve the poor. Proceeds benefit the Emergency Assistance Program.

PHOTO: (left to right) Bill and Jeanne Hardy, Bill and Mary Alice Jovan, and Michael and Carol Bilder





Golf Invitational

The 16th Annual Golf Invitational was held on July 24 with 370 golfers teeing off at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont. Nearly \$310,000 net was raised for our Child, Youth & Family Services programs. Jim Ryan served as Chair for the event with Bob Berti and Mike Smith Co-Chairing. Mike Smith received the *Michael R. Sheahan Award* for his contributions to Catholic Charities.

PHOTO: Jim Ryan, (center) Co-Chairs Bob Berti (left) and Mike Smith (right)



Golf Classic

Catholic Charities Lake County Services held its 19th Annual Golf outing on July 29 at Shoreacres in Lake Bluff and Knollwood Club in Lake Forest. The event welcomed 144 golfers and more than 200 dinner guests and raised \$177,000 net for programs in Lake County. Special thanks to John Brinckerhoff, Scott Roberts and event founder, Mike Hoch, and their entire committee.

PHOTO: (left to right) Zach Lazar, Mike Hoch, Todd Douthat, John Brinckerhoff and Monsignor Boland



Patrick J. Ryan Golf Outing

On August 15, St. Andrews Golf & Country Club in West Chicago was the location of the 3rd annual golf outing to benefit our LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) Program for Children and Youth. Chaired by Jim & Marie Ryan and their family, more than 250 golfers teed off and 300 guests attended the dinner. Mike North, Chicago Fox Sports Radio Host and Daily Herald Columnist, emceed. The event raised more than \$100,000 net.

PHOTO: The Ryan Family



Holy Family Villa Golf Invitational

The 3rd Annual Holy Family Villa Golf Invitational took place August 21 at Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont. John Parise and Steve Kositzky were Chairs and their wives, Fran Parise and Eileen Kositzky, were Co-Chairs. More than 200 golfers came out to play and an additional 60 people came for dinner, cocktail, raffles and pick-a-prize. Gross revenue exceeded \$100,000 with proceeds supporting the expansion of Holy Family Villa, our skilled nursing home located in Palos Park.

PHOTO: (left to right) Eileen Kositzky, Sr. Georgine Hroma, Sr. Cindy Drozd and to Mary Ann Smith

Board Members Go Above and Beyond to Serve our Clients

Donations of time, talent and treasure are regularly made by the members of Catholic Charities Advisory Board. Two such gifts illustrate the dedication our Board Members and their families bring to their calling as volunteers in service of our agency.

“Legal Advice Desks” Transport Talent to Veterans Programs

Imagine you could walk downstairs in your home and meet with a lawyer from a top firm for legal advice and information. Thanks to Board of Advisors members Chip Mulaney and Mike Scudder, clients in our veterans residences have been able to do just that. Mike and Chip’s firm, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom is dedicated to providing pro bono (free) legal services to underserved populations. “It’s part of our firm’s fabric and culture,” Mike explains. “We knew about the tables that Catholic Charities’ Legal Assistance program had at the agency’s Tuesday night suppers, and it just came to us a few years ago to advance that concept and take the tables out to Catholic Charities programs.”

Skadden focuses on veterans, and hopes that other firms will be interested in getting involved to support other service areas, such as immigration law, and family law so the model can expand. “There are so many unmet legal needs out there,” Mike says.

Lake County Clients Benefit from Employment Seminar

Michael DeCicco is a human resource professional with many years of expertise and experience in the hiring and training of employees. His wife, Lori, is a member of our Lake County Regional Advisory Board, as well as Catholic Charities’ Board of Advisors. Mr. DeCicco recently spoke to a room packed with clients from our housing and self-sufficiency programs in Lake County. Many of the attendees asked questions about resumes, interview questions and how to best market themselves to a potential employer.

One attendee voiced concerns about having a solid skill base but not getting hired due to a felony conviction 23 years ago. Mr. DeCicco encouraged her to not give up but to target industries that would be most likely to hire her and most of all, to always be honest when applying for a job. Other attendees suggested that the client contact a legal assistance group to inquire about getting her felony record expunged. This group process, where a strong leader inspired participants to help one another, showed the “ripple effect” one person can make in our work.



Michael DeCicco

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Junior Board Celebrates Birthdays at Family Shelter

More than 60 people from the Junior Board and Board of Advisors enjoyed a Birthday Party on August 11 at Our Lady of Solace, located at 6212 S. Sangamon Street. Twenty children each received their very own individual birthday cake as well as a present from a Board Member or Junior Board Member. There was pizza and salad for all and each child took with them a goodie bag generously put



Our Lady of Solace child celebrating his birthday.

together and donated by a Junior Board Member. This event will be held quarterly and is the idea of a Junior Board Member who loved having birthday parties as a child and wanted to throw a memorable birthday party for children who may not get to have one. Ten volunteers drove together to the facility and their generous donations of time, talent and treasure made for an amazing day for all.

the Last Word... Marcus Casula

Catholic Charities supporters come in all shapes, sizes and ages! This summer we received a very special donation from a very young person who engaged his friends from summer camp in raising money for the homeless by selling raffle tickets for sports memorabilia. Meet 8-year-old Marcus Casula, whose mother Diana, works at Catholic Charities.

How did you get the idea to help Catholic Charities?

I got the idea first because my mom works there and when I visit I see homeless all around and asked questions about why they are there, and my mom explained because we feed the homeless at her building every day. Then I started to ask her about more of the services Catholic Charities provides, that's when my mom gave me and my friends service directories to look at. Then the five of us decided we would raise money to help the homeless of Catholic Charities.

How did you recruit other kids to help?

One of the girls in the group, Lauren Hernandez, was talking about wanting to help others...then I asked my best friend Collin Johnson to join and he was right on board, then Jordan Hampton and Alexis Daily were on board as soon as they heard Lauren and I talking about it.

What was your favorite part of the project?

My favorite part of the project was definitely that I raised money for the homeless. My family and friends were very proud and supportive of me. I made all the calls and reached out to family and friends to tell them all about wanting to help the homeless just as my friends did.

Ed. Note: Marcus' grandfather, Frank Orlandino, donated the sports memorabilia that was raffled off, which included baseball cards, hats and an autographed poster. The children raised \$875.

Do you think you will continue helping Catholic Charities?

Once the project was done many more kids in our summer camp wanted to join, so...next year we are doing this again and we will all get involved.

How does helping others make you feel?

I feel really good that our money will help the homeless, I care very much for the homeless and wish they were not in the situation they are, so now me and my friends can provide food or other items for them.



Neighbors in Need

We are called to care for one another.



Please contribute to the

Catholic Charities **Neighbors in Need** **Appeal**

Your donation will help us feed, shelter, and comfort your neighbors.
Help them become self-sufficient and live with dignity.

Ways to Give



DONATE TODAY

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ONLINE www.catholiccharities.net/donate

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ONLINE Monthly contributions can be scheduled at:
www.catholiccharities.net/donate

BY MAIL To have forms sent to you by mail please contact:
Margaret Hughes, Director of the Annual Fund
(312) 655-7012 or mhughes@catholiccharities.net



Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Chicago
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upcoming events



2013
sept

**JUNIOR BOARD
WHITE SOX OUTING**
Tuesday, September 17
(312) 655-7932

NITE AT THE NET
Saturday, September 21
(312) 948-6797



oct
**AYUDANDO NUESTRAS
FAMILIAS/HELPING
OUR FAMILIES**
Thursday, October 10
(312) 655-8492

nov


**HOLIDAY TEAS
AND BOUTIQUES**
Thursday, November 7
(847) 782-4115

**JUNIOR BOARD CHARITIES
ROYALE CASINO NIGHT**
Saturday, November 9
(312) 655-7932


**COMPASSION IN
ACTION DINNER**
Saturday, November 16
(708) 333-8379

dec
**SPIRIT OF SAINT
NICHOLAS BALL**
Friday, December 6
(312) 948-6797

2014
jan



D'VINE AFFAIR
Sunday, January 26
(312) 655-7907



feb
**ART OF CARING
KICK-OFF BRUNCH**
Friday, January 31
(847) 782-4115

**CHICAGO AUTO SHOW'S
FIRST LOOK FOR CHARITY**
Friday, February 7
(312) 948-6797

www.catholiccharities.net/events