

Parish Partners



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SPIRIT

MAGAZINE

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EDITOR Sheila Black Haennicke

WRITERS Communications Department
Development Department
Service Areas

PHOTOS Catholic Charities
Communication and
Program Archives

ART DESIGN Kathleen Gabriel



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communications@catholiccharities.net

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A collage of images from Catholic Charities parish-based activities across the Archdiocese of Chicago.



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Parish Partners Work Miracles

Reverend Monsignor Michael M. Boland, President

Many of you may have heard about a “miracle” that occurred at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview this past November. A parishioner who was attending Eucharistic Adoration was moved to take a photo of the altar. Upon reviewing the image on her smart phone, she saw a glowing

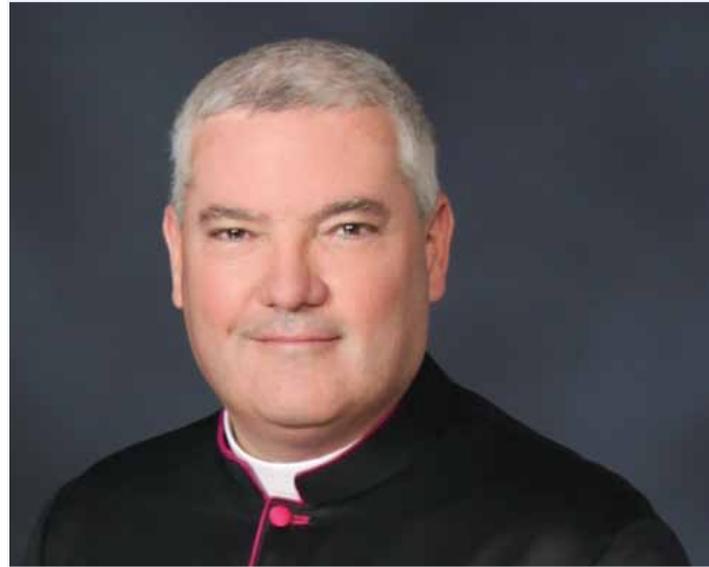
If we quantified all the help we get from parishes ... it would tally in the millions of dollars.

figure to the left of the altar, which resembled an angel. Another parishioner, taking a photo another day when the Eucharist was not exposed on the altar, captured the same image!

Whatever you think about this particular incident, what is indisputable around Catholic Charities is the miraculous support we receive from parishes like Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which has been a long-time supporter of our New Hope Apartments program. You can read about that support on page 11 of this issue of *Spirit*, which focuses on the incredible role parishes play in the success of Catholic Charities.

While Catholic Charities has more than 160 locations across Cook and Lake counties, we also have more than 200 parishes formally engaged in ongoing projects, which stretches our safety net further than we could ever do on our own.

From food, clothing, diaper, school supply and toy drives to “adopting” various programs like our family shelters, refugee services, and veterans programs; from dedicating financial support to specific services like New Hope Apartments to donating faithfully to our annual Mother’s Day Appeal, to supporting fundraising events, hosting health fairs, and providing individuals who join our advisory boards—our parishes work miracles every day, year in and year out.



If we quantified all the help we get from parishes in terms of hours of manpower, donated goods and services, and financial support it would tally in the millions of dollars. And yet, there is something even more valuable than money which parish involvement produces: a legacy of spiritual growth for the families and individuals involved in charitable activities.

“Charity starts at home,” is a saying we all know. Our parishes are grassroots networks of homes, where eager youngsters, skeptical teens, and tired but dedicated parents make time to share their gifts with others, in the process learning more about the larger world and themselves. It is most gratifying to me to see how generations of families remain committed to our mission and how their activities evolve over time.

I hope this issue of *Spirit* inspires you to reflect on the human needs in your community, and maybe prompts you to connect with Catholic Charities in a new way. Together, we can work to build the City of God on earth, with the belief that one day we will all live together, free from want, with our heavenly Father.



On Saturday, November 2, about 180 parents and children from St. Mary Parish in Riverside mobilized for a day of charitable action that benefitted several Catholic Charities programs and clients.

Women from our Refugee Resettlement program joined St. Mary parishioners for an afternoon of dance, a potluck buffet and socialization. Babysitting for young children was provided by parish Girl Scouts. Along with a session of Zumba, the women enjoyed learning some Flamenco dance moves taught by one of Catholic Charities interns from Mexico.

In the lobby outside the gym where the women danced, another group of parishioners worked hard to sort and bundle winter clothing for the Catholic Charities West Region clothing room, as well as gift baskets with baby bath items for children served by our Maternity program. Volunteers also put together nutritious snack packs for students in our SMART (Students Making a Real Transition) After-School Program in Cicero.

Other groups from the parish went off-site to help our agency. At Catholic Charities Bishop Goedert Residence for Seniors at the Hines VA Campus, Girl Scouts, school children

and their families held a festive Veterans Day celebration for veterans and their families, accompanied by St. Mary's choir members. The West Suburban Catholic Singles group joined in the fun by providing and serving refreshments.

At one of our Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition warehouses in the city, another group of parishioners sorted and packaged food for our Seniors, Mother and Child Nutrition Program.

The day of action ended with Mass and a pizza party back at St. Mary's. This is just one example of the many, parish-based activities that happen every year across the Archdiocese to support the mission of Catholic Charities. Dalia Rocotello, Director of Latino Affairs for Catholic Charities, St. Mary's parishioner and one of the organizers of the parish day of action says, "Our presence and active involvement with parishes allows us to broaden our reach as an agency, enhancing our mission. Together we are stronger."

Together We Are Stronger



“Our presence and active involvement with parishes allows us to broaden our reach as an agency, enhancing our mission. Together we are stronger.”

Dalia Rocotello

roundtable DISCUSSION

Parish Partnerships Enhance Catholic Charities Programs



KATHY DONAHUE
Senior Vice President
Program Development
and Evaluation



TERRI DENNY
Senior Director
Lake County and
Regional Services



DALIA ROCOTELLO
Director of Latino Affairs



PEGGY ARIZZI
Vice President
Family and Parish
Support Services

Catholic Charities grew out of the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Societies operating at the parish level, which could not keep up with increasing demand at the turn of the 20th century.

Today, Catholic Charities partners with parishes in many ways: from locating our programs on parish property to actively recruiting parishes to become more formally involved with our services and support our work with food drives, volunteering and fundraising.

This issue's Roundtable brings together four women who work very closely with parishes to fulfill our mission of charity.

What is your role in working with parishes to further the programs and services of Catholic Charities?

KATHY: Catholic Charities is the social service arm of the church. In that way we are integral to the Archdiocese as a whole. The role of charity is expressed at Catholic Charities but also through the generous hearts of those in parishes who develop parish-based ministries. My role is to provide leadership to regional directors who interface with parishes and to support our Parish Outreach Initiative.

TERRI: One of the important purposes of Regional Services is to engage the Catholic community in our common mission of service. To that end, we created our Parish Outreach Initiative. In each of our six regions, local parish representatives meet regularly with our regional directors to build relationships and opportunities for service. We currently partner with 202 parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

PEGGY: The name of our service area, Family and Parish Support Services (FPSS), highlights the value we place on serving our parish partners. We listen to the needs expressed by the parishes and respond with the best of our resources, expertise and efforts to strengthen our charitable outreach to people in need.

DALIA: As the Director of Latino Affairs, I have the honor of working with parishes individually and with various Offices of the Archdiocese of Chicago, primarily providing education about Catholic Charities programs/services and exploring collaborative opportunities.

What are some examples of how parishes partner with Catholic Charities?

PEGGY: In some instances we provide the parish or school professional services to meet a specific need such as counseling or immigration services. Our work at Good Shepherd Parish is an example of this. We have had a social worker there for five years who works with clients from the cluster of parishes in the Little Village area of Chicago. Another example is Most Blessed Trinity Parish in Lake County. Together, we have worked to address the needs of Latinos in Waukegan and North Chicago through the RESPOND program, which brought together social service providers to ensure optimal services in Spanish, and an on-site program where a bilingual Catholic Charities caseworker visits the parish weekly during its food pantry hours to provide information, referral and eligibility screening for public benefits.

TERRI: Our regional parish partnerships are many and varied. Some of the many initiatives that bring parishes and Catholic Charities together are: collection drives for food, clothing, household items, diapers, school supplies and holiday gifts; evening suppers for the homeless and hungry; health fairs; housing specific services such as our Domestic Violence Outreach; financial support for New Hope Apartments; and monetary donations to our annual Mother's Day Appeal.

DALIA: Our connection to the Church makes us a trusted resource in the Latino community. Through the Office of Latino Affairs, we facilitate various trainings to parish staff and lay leadership about Catholic Charities programs. We also have a strong relationship with the Archdiocese's services to immigrants. For example, this year staff from Catholic Charities Immigration program worked with the Archdiocese's Pastoral Migratoria program to conduct workshops for young adults on the implications of the Deferred

Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA or "Dreamer") Act. The Pastoral Migratoria has also been integral to the success of our agency health fairs, which serve large numbers of Latino families.

What do you think makes for a successful parish partnership and how can Catholic Charities keep growing these partnerships?

KATHY: When I started working here 35 years ago we had a Parish Social Ministry department that trained lay ministers to go out into parishes and begin social ministries like food pantries. The goal was to provide training but eventually to see the parish take over the ministry. In many parishes, those original ministries are still flourishing and being passed on from volunteer to volunteer. We no longer have a Parish Social Ministry department but we have many wonderful points of intersection with parishes. All successful partnerships require relationship-building, and one of the most powerful ways to do that is to share an experience of helping someone; finding a way to put faith, hope and charity into action.

PEGGY: A successful partnership is characterized by a common vision and defined roles for both the parish and the agency which builds on each other's strengths, where we share resources, learn from one another and grow together. FPSS staff has prioritized enhancing and growing parish partnerships in the upcoming strategic plan cycle. Looking to the future, I believe that if we stay grounded in our shared mission with parishes and continue to build on the successful partnerships we have in place we will see the fruits of our efforts multiply.

TERRI: Successful partnerships will continue and grow if we listen and respond to the needs and challenges of our parishes. We also need to develop service/volunteer opportunities to engage youth and provide initiatives that are specifically tailored for families to volunteer together, to strengthen the family unit and create a familial culture of volunteerism.

DALIA: Parishioners provide a wonderful resource, sharing their time, talent and treasure. We must communicate to stay connected, offer opportunities to serve, and link those in need to our services. The more parishioners know about Catholic Charities, the more effective we will be in serving and strengthening individuals and families.

For more information about Parish Outreach contact Terri Denny at tdenny@catholiccharities.net or (847) 782-4116

FAMILY AND PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

Parish Setting Accessible, Safe for Domestic Violence Services



Catholic Charities Domestic Violence (DV) Services staff at a demonstration for DV awareness.

Imagine you are a receptionist at your local parish, and the doorbell rings. You answer and standing before you is a young mother with a black eye, holding the hands of two small children. She is a victim of domestic violence; seeking immediate assistance. What do you do?

Our Community Casework and Counseling (CCC) department's Domestic Violence service is actively engaged in helping parishes know what to do about domestic violence by providing information, training, referrals, counseling and peer support groups at parishes across the Archdiocese.

"One of the things I've learned talking to priests and staff at parishes is that when people are in need they go to people they are familiar with faith-based places like churches," says Deborah Hammond, Program Director for CCC's, domestic violence initiative.

"We like to operate on a community-based model, where people don't have to come downtown to get help. Of course, all information about persons involved in domestic violence services is confidential," Deborah adds. Catholic Charities counselors are based at seven parishes in the

Archdiocese, all of which are in the City of Chicago. However, 32 parishes total have some form of domestic violence ministry, meaning the parish has made a commitment to have education, referral, or direct services provided on site.

Catholic Charities involvement in coordinated parish domestic violence work began in 2011 when Fr. Chuck Dahm from St. Pious Parish was appointed by the Cardinal as Director of the Office of Domestic Violence. Fr. Dahm asked Catholic Charities to have a representative on the steering committee he created for the Office. Pam Davis, Department Director for CCC, was asked to be on the committee, and was joined by Deborah when CCC received foundation funding to create her position in 2012.

"We offer any combination of counseling, training to staff and/or parishioners, and consultation for support groups, depending on what the parish needs are," Pam says. "The steering committee has also developed a manual with information and resources

32 parishes total have some form of domestic violence ministry.

addressing domestic violence," she adds. "It is a great collaboration."

While the focus of domestic violence typically is on a battered woman, the Office for Domestic Violence and Catholic Charities seek to help the entire family, and do preventative work as well as interventions.

Deborah's work involves outreach to parishes that are in the very beginning stages with domestic violence ministry. "I go in, I listen and try to assist ... some parishes want on-site counseling; some want training, some just want more awareness of domestic violence services in the area and to increase their knowledge about the issue itself," she says.

FAMILY AND PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

Central States Institute Marks 50 Years of Helping Addicts

In 1963 Central States Institute (CSI) was created through the initiative and inspiration of Rev. Msgr. Ignatius D. McDermott, Associate Administrator of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. “Father Mac” as he was known to all, was a tireless minister to those impacted by the disease of addiction. He was well-known around “skid row,” an area populated by

“Over the last 50 years, Central States Institute has helped change how society perceives those suffering from substance use disorders.”

the down and out which used to surround Catholic Charities first headquarters at Des Plaines and Randolph Streets in Chicago.

This year, Catholic Charities celebrates 50 years of providing help for adults 18 and older who have been affected by alcohol or drug problems. In 2013, CSI provided treatment services to 23,332 clients.

One characteristic of CSI is that staff work with clients at community locations, specifically branches of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and programs like one of Catholic Charities family shelters where women have difficulty obtaining child care that would allow them to leave the site for treatment.

CSI has also been involved in research on effective intervention for substance abusers, including persons charged with DUI (driving under the influence).

Kevin Doyle, the Director of CSI said, “Over the last 50 years, Central States Institute has helped change how society perceives those suffering from substance use disorders. Clients coming through our



Kevin Doyle, Director of Central Institute speaks at the 50th Anniversary event.

Photo: Megan Fry

doors with chemical dependencies have lost everything or are on the verge of losing everything. They have lost their jobs and homes, becoming homeless. They have lost their marriages and connections with family and friends. They have lost their faith. Finally, they are at risk of losing their lives due to overdose. The treatment they receive not only restores their health but repairs all of the other consequences of their disease. It is our job to continue to walk in the footsteps of Ignatius McDermott by protecting, treating and intervening for those suffering from substance use disorders.”

Written by Megan Fry, Communications Intern

SENIOR SERVICES

Adult Day Services Start a “Prom”ising Tradition



(top to bottom)

Seniors enjoying line dancing

Prom Kings and Queens

Quinton de'Alexander and models in his designs

Photos: Jennifer Ackerman

On November 19, Catholic Charities Adult Day Services came together to celebrate their first-ever Senior Prom. The event, held at the Oak Lawn Hilton, hosted 125 seniors and staff from each of our three adult day centers.

The idea for the prom came from staff at the Ada S. Niles Adult Day Center in Englewood. Staff member Alfreda Shaw led the planning efforts. Shaw says, “We wanted it to be as big as possible.” This meant going beyond Ada S. Niles and inviting the other Catholic Charities Adult Day Centers. Guests came from Ada S. Niles as well as Accolade Adult Day Center in Oak Park and St. Ailbe Adult Day Center in Chicago’s Burnside community. This first of its kind event was a huge success. Festivities included a banquet lunch, dancing, a fashion show and crowning of a King and Queen from each center.

A highlight of the day was a fashion show featuring dresses designed by Quinton de’ Alexander. The models were seniors and staff from each of the centers. Each model showcased a beautiful gown and walked the runway in front of a captive audience.

The Ada S. Niles Dancers showcased their talents by leading guests in line dancing on the dance floor. A photographer was on hand to take a “prom picture” with a traditional back drop. Each center elected its own king and queen. The crowning ceremony included the presentation of a sash and crown to each of the honorees. Mary Ann Bibat, Vice President of Senior Services at Catholic Charities said, “It was so exciting to be a part of our first ever Senior Prom. It gave our seniors, their family members and our staff a chance to get dressed up, have a great meal and enjoy some wonderful dancing and entertainment together. It was such a great event – I think we will need a bigger room for next year.” Planning has already started for the Second Annual Senior Prom in 2014!

*Written by Jennifer Ackerman,
Communications Intern*

HOUSING SERVICES

New Hope Apartment Program Thrives on Parish Support

Parishes are key to the success of Catholic Charities New Hope Apartment (NHA) program. NHA houses formerly homeless families in apartments across the city and suburbs. The family receives subsidized rent help for two years. Over time, families become responsible for utilities and gradually take over the cost of rent. Caseworkers work with families on financial management skills and to find services such as affordable childcare and employment opportunities.

Many program participants are able to complete their education through the support they receive. Upon graduation from the program, families have the opportunity to take over the full lease on the apartment or move out on their own. Parishes are involved in many ways including raising money to pay for rent, donating household items and clothing for families.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview is celebrating 10 years of partnership with NHA this year. Along with raising money to support one family a year, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish partners with two other parishes, St. Catherine Laboure in Glenview and St. Philip the Apostle in Northbrook, to help another family. There are many other parishes throughout the North and Northwest Regions that support NHA in the same way. Though the NHA families they support remain anonymous, the parishes receive updates from Catholic Charities on their progress.

In the past 10 years, Our Lady of Perpetual Help has supported 10 families on the journey to self-sufficiency. Parishioner Sharon Riley said, "This collaboration with Catholic Charities has been a very rich one for us. It enables us to target funding to end homelessness one family at a time". During the holidays, the parish also solicits donations of gifts and gift cards for the families, demonstrating how their support goes beyond just providing a roof over someone's head. Throughout the years, a network of care and prayer has developed to support the NHA



Isis reads her Bible in the condo she purchased with savings from her time in our NHA program.

families on their journey.

Many of those who participate in the NHA program find success. Isis, a 2012 graduate, is now the proud owner of her own condo in the Northwest suburbs. She credits her faith and the financial classes the program provides for getting her where she is today. She learned how to build her credit score and how to live on a budget. The mother of two children ages 13 and 6 is now earning a Bachelor's degree in Psychology while working to support her children at a local hospital.

Isis hopes one day to open her own home healthcare business with the skills she learned through the NHA program. Ever thankful for the support she received, Isis knew that there were parishes like Our Lady of Perpetual Help providing support for the program. She received help in the form of gift cards, food and even a table and chairs that she still uses in her home.

The Bible verse Matthew 7:7 embodies the hope that Isis found through her experiences. "Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

*Written by Jennifer Ackerman,
Communications Intern*

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

St. Mary of Celle Parish Houses Programs to Strengthen Families



A scene from a St. Mary of Celle English class graduation.

St. Mary of Celle (SMOC) Parish in Berwyn actively partners with Catholic Charities services by housing two programs onsite.

Opened in 2008, the SMOC Family Strengthening Center has become a thriving community center. It is located in the lower level of the parish's closed elementary school, and provides programs that strengthen families by building friendships and connections to their community. There are English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, basic computer classes, art programs for both children and adults, nutrition and exercise classes, music programming and workshops on topics important to the community. The center is open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. On weekends, the Center's space is utilized by the parish religious education program.

Catholic Charities Child Development Center, located on the upper floors of the former school, provides year-round child care with a preschool curriculum for children ages

two to five years old and operates Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Parents are able to work or go to school and not worry because they know that their children are being cared for in a safe environment. We provide nourishing meals for all the children and a curriculum that enriches their growth in Social Emotional, Physical, Language and Cognitive development," says Marianet Rivers, Director of the Child Development Center. Having the Family Strengthening Program housed in the same building also gives parents the opportunity to participate in its activities.

The Family Strengthening Center is thankful for the ability to market their services to parishioners through the weekly bulletin or announcements. Having services on parish grounds makes them more familiar, which can help some people feel more comfortable exploring the service options Catholic Charities offers. Other parts of the parish complex also support our programs. For example, having a full-size gym for fitness activities or in the event of an emergency having the church next door as an evacuation site, are major conveniences.

"The Family Strengthening Center allows our participants to feel safe and welcomed. It allows us to share information about the parish services and the parish refers many individuals in need of our services," says Angela Bell, Director of the Family Strengthening Center. "It is a real partnership," she adds.

"The parish has enhanced the work of our child care program in several ways. Sometimes families are looking for services like religious education, or counseling for couples or sometimes just to speak to a priest. Some Center families have also received blessings from parish families through their Christmas Giving Tree during the Christmas holiday," Marianet says.

Written by Megan Fry, Communications intern

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH

Parish Outpost Extends Reach of Senior Nutrition Program

Seven Holy Founders Parish in the far South Side community of Calumet Park has provided an outpost of assistance for Catholic Charities Senior Mother and Child Nutrition Program (SMCNP) for 15 years. Four days a month, the parish serves as a pick-up location for food boxes containing nonperishable items that help seniors stretch their food supplies from month to month. The program serves seniors aged 60 and over with low income. The site distributes 500 food boxes a month to seniors in the parish and surrounding region.

“There isn’t anywhere else in that area where seniors can pick up the SMCNP packages,” says Diane Nunley, an Associate Vice President in Community Development and Outreach Services, which administers the nutrition program. “That is one of the benefits of being in the parish. Another benefit is the steady stream of volunteers the parish provides to help with distribution of the food packages four days a month. This saves our program money and involves people from the community in our mission. Finally, the parish is a location seniors feel comfortable visiting. It is safe, has ample parking and a welcoming atmosphere.”



Dwight and Sandra outside the Seven Holy Founders Convent building, where SMCNP pick-up takes place.



Dwight McKinley with a SMCNP package for a senior.

Delores, a senior from South suburban Riverdale, has picked up food from the parish for the past two years. “It’s very convenient,” Delores says. “The people are very nice here.”

Sandra, a parishioner from nearby Saints Peter and Paul Parish, is also drawn by the staff person, Dwight McKinley, who has worked at the Seven Holy Founders site for seven years.

“What has kept me coming as long as I have is the personnel,” Sandra says. A former community outreach worker, Sandra also thinks reciprocally. “I receive, but sometimes I give,” she explains. For example, she recently dropped off some personal care items she did not need so that Dwight can give them to other seniors who can use them.



Brighter Futures Golf Outing

More than 100 golfers teed off on September 9 at the historic Riverside Golf Club in North Riverside. An additional 45 guests joined for dinner, cocktails, and a raffle. The successful event, co-chaired by Doug & Kathy Kurtenbach, and Jeff & Karen Stelmach, raised nearly \$58,000 in support of the New Hope Housing Program. A highlight of the day was a Hole In One by Bob Kastenholz on the 176 yard, Hole #13!

PHOTO: Bob Kastenholz



Nite at the Net

On September 21, Hinsdale Racquet Club hosted Nite at the Net in support of Catholic Charities. Fast-paced tennis drills were played by 75 people and an additional 28 joined in for food, cocktails and music following tennis. Blackhawks Coach "Q", Joel Quenneville, played tennis alongside the guests, and then co-emceed the program along with Eric Ferguson of 101.9 FM THE MIX. More than \$54,000 in net proceeds was raised for Catholic Charities Neighbors in Need Fund.



PHOTO: Tom Cahill, Eric Ferguson, Kelly Urso and Joel Quenneville



Holiday Tea & Boutique

On November 7, 150 guests attended the Holiday Tea & Boutique at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington. Event Chairs Tae Haider Krebs, Jackie Cantwell, and Charlie Smith, organized a lovely day of high tea, shopping, and floral and fashion workshops. With the help of many generous supporters, Catholic Charities was able to raise more than \$38,000 net for Lake County Programs.



Compassion In Action Award Dinner

Olympia Fields Country Club was the beautiful setting for the 10th Annual Compassion in Action Award Dinner on November 16. More than 250 guests attended the event, raising \$18,000 in support of the Emergency Services Program. The South Regional Advisory Board presented Bishop Joseph N. Perry with the *Compassion In Action Award* and also expressed heartfelt appreciation through posthumous recognition of Board Member Cherise Mayberry-Miles and Fred Shannon, South Regional Services Director, whose wife, Kathy, was present to accept the award.

PHOTO Kathy Shannon and Bishop Joseph N. Perry

Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball

The 24th Annual Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball kicked-off the holiday season on December 6 at the Hilton Chicago. Honorary Chairman, Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Monsignor Michael M. Boland and Chair Couple Len & Cheryl Wiatr welcomed 1220 guests at the elegant affair. More than \$910,000 was raised to benefit Catholic Charities Children's Programs. Guests danced to music from The Ken Arlen Orchestra and enjoyed coffee, tea and sweet treats at the new Late Night Café.



Jim Butz, Chrissy Butz, Cheryl Wiatr, Cardinal George, Len Wiatr, Monsignor Michael Boland, Lisa Wiatr

A Special Gift for Cardinal

In honor of Cardinal George's 50 years of priesthood, Monsignor Boland presented him with a small version of a large sculpture that will be placed outside Catholic Charities. The "Homeless Jesus" sculpture was created by artist Tim Schmalz. At the request of Monsignor Boland, the artist has had another copy of the sculpture blessed by Pope Francis. The sculpture will be dedicated to Cardinal George and placed on the grounds of Catholic Charities headquarters as soon as weather permits.



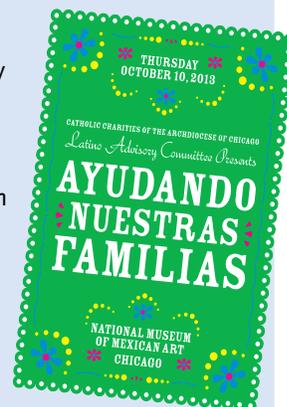
Ayudando Nuestras Familias

On October 10 our Latino Advisory Committee welcomed more than 150 guests to its Ayudando Nuestras Familias Cocktail Reception at the National Museum of Mexican Art. This annual event raised nearly \$30,000 for our programs that serve and strengthen the Latino community in Cook and Lake counties.

Each year Catholic Charities touches the lives of 230,000 Latinos; over half of whom are under the age of 18. Our nutrition and child development programs are particularly strong supports to this group. We are grateful for the support of our sponsors and guests and Lourdes Duarte of WGN News, who emceed our event for the second year. We also extend a special thanks to the dedicated members of our Ayudando Planning Committee who coordinated such a successful event. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Latino Advisory Committee please contact Dalia Rocotello at (312) 655-8492.

Written by Alonso SanMilano, Communications Intern

PHOTO: Antonio & Doreen Guillen





Fr. Kelly Accepts Check from Jewel-Osco

During the re-grand opening of their River North store, Jewel-Osco presented Rev. Gerard Kelly with a \$5,000 gift in support of Catholic Charities (photo at left) hunger and nutrition programs. This support will help Catholic Charities provide individuals and families with nutritious and well-balanced meals.



Bank of America Charitable Foundation

As Catholic Charities continues to provide Cook and Lake counties with critical emergency services, Bank of America's \$50,000 investment will enable us to continue to have a positive impact on our community by strengthening the services we provide through our Emergency Assistance Program.

Dr. Scholl Foundation Supports Our Veterans

The Dr. Scholl Foundation recently continued their generous support of our veterans initiatives. This support comes at an important time for Catholic Charities as we expand our efforts, including our Veterans Employment Program, to serve veterans in Lake County.



Service Club of Chicago Gift Helps Casa Catalina Food Pantry

With the generous support of the Service Club of Chicago, our Casa Catalina Food Pantry installed a new loading door at our Casa Catalina Food Pantry in Chicago's Back of the Yards/New City Neighborhood. (See photo middle, left). The enlarging of the loading door now allows us to more efficiently unload food donations and other deliveries, making it possible to serve more of the individuals and families who come to us for food and assistance.

Opus Foundation Supports our Child Development Centers

The Opus Foundation has provided funding that will help our Child Development Centers enhance the services available to the families we serve. The funding allowed us to hire an Early Childhood Project Specialist that will implement Quality Enhancement Initiatives, such as researching, and piloting an intentional dual-language early childhood education instruction in identified centers. The specialist will also research, develop, and formulate a plan to roll out other Quality Enhancement projects throughout our Child Development Centers.

American College of Bankruptcy Assists Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Program

American College of Bankruptcy and the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation awarded Catholic Charities Legal Assistance department \$10,000 to develop bilingual (Spanish and English) educational materials and present seminars on bankruptcy issues, which will be offered in Spanish to low-income communities in Chicago and its suburbs as well as provide individual legal services.

Flood Brothers Delivers Annual Food Donation

Catholic Charities is grateful for the annual donation of food boxes that the Flood Brothers Disposal/Recycling Services have provided families in Catholic Charities programs. Each year, generations of Floods gather to pack dozens of nonperishable food packages for Catholic Charities clients. (See photo bottom, left).

The Floods are joined by friends of the family who want to pitch in at the packing event held about two weeks before Christmas at the company warehouse.

(top to bottom)

Reverend Kelly receives check from Jewel-Osco.

Casa Catalina Food Pantry's new loading door.

The Flood family and friends pack non-perishable food and packages.

BOARD OF ADVISORS 96TH ANNUAL MEETING

“We Journey Together”



New Catholic Charities Board Members

Photo: David Joel

Nearly 325 Board members, guests and staff attended the 96th Annual Meeting of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago Board of Advisors at the Chicago Sheraton on October 29. We were blessed to have His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., with us to induct 29 new members and to thank board members for their dedicated

service to Catholic Charities. This year’s annual report and meeting theme “We Journey Together” was particularly appropriate because Catholic Charities does Journey with each person – they aren’t just a name or a case file, the goal is always to support each person to reach self-sufficiency. Last year was a remarkable year for Catholic Charities – new programs were

launched, many in partnership with parishes and other agencies and more people were served than ever before. For copies of the Annual Report and the position paper, call our Communications Office at: (312) 655-7010 or visit our website: <http://www.catholiccharities.net/AboutUs/Media/Publications.aspx>

Parishes Key to Success of Gift Drive

Our annual Celebration of Giving toy and gift drive has brought 66 years of joy to families and children in need. This massive effort depends on many supporters, especially generous Board Members who have devoted years of their own time, and involved their parishes.

Kevin Richards is a good example. A Board Member for 21 years, Kevin was a member of Most Holy Redeemer (MHR) parish in 1997, when the Celebration of Giving celebrated its 50th year. The

program had grown to serving thousands of children and hundreds of families, and the staff who ran it needed help. The Board of Advisors responded and Kevin took the lead at MHR, involving the parish Women’s Club. That year, MHR supported 83 families. Kevin coordinated the drop-off of the gifts at his home, and delivery to Catholic Charities. “My two sons, Tim (then 16) and Chris (then 10) worked on a rainy day in December 1997 to load the truck and bring the gifts

downtown. Today, Tim is a member of Catholic Charities Junior Board and he has taken over my responsibilities on the trucks,” Kevin recalls. He continued to coordinate the collection and drop off gifts for 12 years. Today, MHR is still a strong supporter of the Celebration of Giving. Parishioners Sharon and Jim Gainer keep the program going; their dedication is a testament to the longevity of the parish’s commitment.

the Last Word...

Working together, we encounter the Lord

By Rev. Wayne Watt

Associate Administrator, Catholic Charities Pastor, St. John Berchman Parish, Chicago

“Saint Giles we all honor you; to black and gold we always will be true...” The line from our school and parish’s fight song expresses the feeling so many of us had for our parish, it’s priests, sisters, teachers and staff at our parish in North Oak Park in the 1970s. Parishioners knew each other well and reached out to help one another in need. Our priests, religious, and teachers, though, reminded us that being true to our parish, being true to Christ, did not end

Parishes provide us with the best opportunities for partnerships. Successful partnerships rely on relationships.

at our official parish borders of Harlem Avenue, Austin Boulevard, and Chicago and Armitage Avenues. They called us to respond to people’s needs throughout Chicago, to see beyond Oak Park and Galewood.

I remember delivering baskets of food with my family and other Saint Giles families to families dwelling in the Robert Taylor Homes, a CHA project. The Robert Taylor buildings are long gone. I often wonder how the families we visited are doing today.

As a pre-teenager lugging baskets of food, walking through the dark and smelly hallways, I thought of my own (often taken for granted) blessings and was grateful that our parish encouraged reluctant teens and their families to leave their comfort zones to meet and care for those who had real needs.

Forty years later, as Associate Administrator of Catholic Charities, and as a pastor myself, I participate in Catholic

Charities Parish Outreach Program and think of my Saint Giles days.

Parishes provide us with the best opportunities for partnerships. Successful partnerships rely on relationships. I encourage parishes and their outreach ministries (and really anyone who will listen to me) to “come and see.” This invitation has a basis in scriptures. In the first chapter



Fr. Watts with a guest at the Tuesday Night Supper, where he is a regular volunteer.

of Saint John’s Gospel that simple phrase appears twice. One is Jesus’ own invitation to the disciples of John and the other is Philip’s call to Nathaniel to meet the Lord.

When parishes and parishioners come and see the work Catholic Charities does and the people with whom we work, the relationships begin and the desire to work together grows. Working together, we encounter the Lord.

Donate Before June 30, 2014 to Help Us Receive \$80,000 From an Anonymous Donor



Your donation is a lifeline at a frightening and difficult time in someone's life.

Your gift sends us out where we are needed most. We go into some of the toughest neighborhoods, and stay for as long as needed. We help people facing multiple challenges and seemingly insurmountable barriers. You will truly go everywhere with us as we journey together to help others achieve self-sufficiency and realize their own strengths. This year an anonymous

supporter has challenged our generous donors to give the same or more than last year to our special appeals. If you haven't given before, please be as generous as you can. If we can reach last year's \$4.6 million donations through appeals by June 30, 2014, we will receive \$40,000. In addition, each dollar we receive above last year's total will be matched up to \$40,000.

Donate Today!



PHONE (312) 655-7012

ONLINE www.catholiccharities.net/donate

BY MAIL Send a check payable to *Catholic Charities* to:

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Chicago, Illinois 60675-1623

GIFT Please consider a gift to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago in your will or trust.

Just a simple sentence is needed:

"I give the sum of \$_____ (or all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate) (or _____% thereof) to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago to be expended by it in furtherance of its objects and purposes."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Margaret Hughes, *Director of Annual Fund*
(312) 655-7012 or mhughes@catholiccharities.net



Catholic Charities
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upcoming events 2014

jan

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

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

feb

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

march

**HELPING HANDS
DINNER & AUCTION**
Saturday, March 1
(708) 430-0428

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CELEBRATION**
Thursday, March 6
(708) 329-4022

**MEALS ON WHEELS
ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**
Saturday, March 22
(847) 782-4115

HOLY FAMILY VILLA DINNER
Sunday, March 23
(630) 257-2291

april

**LEGAL LIFELINES
COCKTAIL RECEPTION**
Thursday, April 10
(312) 655-7907

SPRING HOUSEWALK
Wednesday, April 23
(847) 782-4115

**BLOSSOMS OF HOPE
BRUNCH**
Sunday, April 27
(312) 948-6797

www.catholiccharities.net/events