

July, 2014

Lake County Family Self Sufficiency Program Annual Achievement Celebration

Catholic Charities families, board members and staff joined together on Saturday, June 21st to celebrate the achievements of the very special mothers participating in our Family Self-Sufficiency Program. The celebration was held at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Gurnee and recognized twelve participants who successfully graduated from the program, sixteen participants who received education achievements including a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and ninety-two participants completing employment milestones.

Ana Escalera was one of this year's honorees. Ana was born in Puerto Rico and came to the US in 2004 to with the hopes of giving her children a better future. In her Celebration remarks she shared, *"I feel happy with everything that I have achieved and to every person who as a dream or a goal, I advise them to fight and work hard to achieve what they set for themselves. With determination, dedication, great effort, and most importantly, with the help of God and people like those from Catholic Charities, those goals can be accomplished."* Felicidades Ana! What a great example you are providing to your three children and the other mothers participating in the program.

Our award-winning Family Self-Sufficiency program provides professional case management and employment services to single-parent families. We are grateful for all its supportive volunteers and donors. If you are interested in learning more about this program and supporting our families as they work toward self-sufficiency, please contact CaraJean Gray at: cgray@catholiccharities.net.



Ana Escalera with her Employment Case Manager Megan Johnson.

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Did you know?

The Lake County Family Self Sufficiency Program assists participants in their attainment of different professional certifications and degrees. On the past 14 years:

- 95 participants have received professional certifications
- 23 individuals achieve their Associates Degree
- 15 individuals have received assistance from the Family Self Sufficiency Program in getting their Bachelor's Degree

Summer Health Fairs

Our Catholic Charities Health Fair season is underway!

Services provided include free medical screenings, children's immunizations and referrals to free and reduced fee medical and social service providers. **Please help us promote our remaining Health Fairs:**

August 9, St Frances of Rome School, 1401 S Austin Ave, Cicero

August 16, St Gall Parish, 5500 S Kedzie Ave, Chicago

Volunteers and donations are welcomed! **For more information contact:**

Kate Mulvaney, (312) 655-7441
kmulvaney@catholiccharities.net

Mentoring our Children

Children between the ages of 9 and 15 are at a critical turning point in their lives. It's during this stage that many disengage from school life and turn to a variety of risky behaviors. However, it is also the age when prevention programs are the most successful. This is why Catholic Charities has launched its Youth Mentorship Program in Waukegan.

Sarah Loffman, Special Projects Manager, is overseeing the Youth 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 our adult volunteers, who consistently report that they get just as much out of the program as the mentee. We are so thankful to the volunteers who are willing to step up and make a difference in the life of a young person."

You'll be amazed by how much you'll get out of being a mentor! Vanessa Taylor, one of our Latina mentors, shared how becoming a mentor is a two-way street. Not only has it potentially changed her mentee's life but it has changed her as a person. "It has shown me that we really do take the small things for granted."

Mentors must be at least 21 years old and able to commit to a minimum one-year relationship with their mentee, meeting 1 to 2 hours per week.

Interested in becoming a mentor? For more information, please contact: Beth Sheehan-Lucas, at 847-782-4224 or blucas@catholiccharities.net



Quarterly outings are also schedule as part of the program's calendar.

SAVE THE DATE

Ayudando Nuestras Familias / Helping our Families Fundraiser



The Catholic Charities Latino Advisory Committee invites you to join us for an evening of great fun, all for a great cause!

Our 6th Annual Cocktail Reception benefits our programs that serve and strengthen Latino families.

Each year, Catholic Charities touches the lives of over 230,000 Latinos living in Cook and Lake Counties.

NEW VENUE

CARNIVALE RESTAURANT CHICAGO

Thursday, OCTOBER 23rd
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

*Sponsorship Opportunities
are available!*

For more information about the event, please contact the Office of Latino Affairs: (312) 655-8492 or visit us at

www.catholiccharities.net/familias

Summer Interns Meet with Monsignor Boland

Catholic Charities is proud to welcome 34 student interns this summer. These students represent a variety of fields of study including social work, psychology, communications, nutrition, law, finance, and development.

We at the Office of Latino Affairs are hosting eight of these students, who are with us from Iberoamericana University, Mexico. The students support and enhance a number of our programs including our Domestic Violence Survivor's Project, Casa Catalina Basic Needs Center, Summer Lunch Food Program and our new Southwest City Regional Office located at St. Gall Parish, 5500 South Kedzie Avenue in Chicago.

On Tuesday, July 8th, all our interns were invited to meet with Catholic Charities' President, Monsignor Michael M. Boland. This opportunity not only provided students with insight into Monsignor's role and leadership in guiding our mission of service to all in need. It also offered Monsignor Boland the opportunity to hear about the students' experiences within our programs. It truly was an impactful exchange.

Catholic Charities welcomes and invites students from all universities to learn more about Catholic Charities and become involved in our mission as interns and/or volunteers. Please contact our Office or visit our website to learn more: www.catholiccharities.net



Summer interns with Monsignor Boland

Wish list

Bilingual Volunteers: A variety of opportunities are available in Chicago and the suburbs.

If you are interested and able to share your time and talent with us, please contact Zulma Colon in our Volunteer Relations: zcolon@catholiccharities.net

School Supplies: Our Lake County Services are collecting school supplies for the children we serve. Donations may be delivered to our Cardinal Bernardin Center, 671 South Lewis Avenue in Waukegan, each weekday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Arts and Crafts Materials: Our Senior and Children programs welcome donations of materials to be used for various arts projects. Please contact the Office of Latino Affairs: latinoaffairs@catholiccharities.net

Contact Us:

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Connect with us

www.catholiccharities.net/latinoaffairs



Catholic Charities fulfills the Church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. *In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: Respect, Compassion, Competence, and Stewardship.*