



## Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago OFFICE OF LATINO AFFAIRS

**December, 2013**

### **Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

On December 12th, Most Reverent Alberto Rojas, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago joined Catholic Charities President Monsignor Michael Boland and Chaplain Reverend Gerard Kelly in celebrating Mass in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in our St. Louise de Marillac Chapel.

Each year, Catholics throughout the Americas celebrate this feast, recognizing Mary's appearance to Juan Diego, a humble farmer, chosen as her messenger to unify and build the church.

Members of the Latino Advisory Committee and Board, staff and guests participated in the celebration. We also welcomed students from Our Lady of Charity School in Cicero, who sang a special dedication to Mary. Our thanks to Lucy Gamboa who provided the music for our mass.



During mass, over 25 children from Our Lady of Charity School, located in Cicero, sang the traditional Hymn of La Guadalupana.

### **Celebrating the Holidays with our Children**

Each year, Catholic Charities Junior Board hosts a Christmas Party for the children participating in our Early Childhood programs. This year's event took place on December 14th. Over 500 children came together for an afternoon full of joy. Festivities included face painting, games, crafts and story telling.

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### **Being Thankful**

We asked our SMART after-school children in Cicero between the ages of 9 and 11 years to share what they are thankful for this year. Here is what they had to say:



**Music.  
My house.  
My family. Books.  
Clothing. My sister.  
The food I eat. School.  
Soldiers who protect us.  
Christmas. My teachers.  
People who work to keep  
us safe. My  
grandpa and family in  
Mexico.  
My life.**

We at Catholic Charities are thankful for YOU! Blessings to you and your loved ones at Christmas and in New Year.

All children received a goodie bag and had the opportunity to take pictures with Santa Claus. We extend our thanks to all the donors, Junior Board members and volunteers from Boston College who helped to make this event possible.



## Colombian Novena at Catholic Charities

Each year, the Colombian community of Chicago celebrates their annual Christmas *Novena de Aguinaldos*. This volunteered event brings community members together for prayer and song for the nine evenings preceding Christmas. Wilmar Molina, Catholic Charities Business and Community Outreach Manager in Lake County, serves on the Coordinating Committee. Father Joseph Jablonski, MSC has led the Novena that celebrates family, faith and culture for the past ten years.

Catholic Charities Office of Latino Affairs was honored to host the start of the Novena this year, on December 15th in our St. Vincent Hall in Chicago. Over 150 people gathered to pray and sing and enjoy refreshments sponsored by the Consul General of Colombia.



Members of the Committee with Father Joseph Jablonski, Jose Gomez - Consul of Colombia, and Dalia Rocotello, Director of the Office of Latino Affairs.

## Urgent Call for Volunteers

Casa Catalina is our Basic Needs Center located in the Back of the Yards community. Every Wednesday, the program conducts a food distribution to over 300 people in need.

Volunteers are key to the success of the food distribution. Starting at 8:30 am, volunteers help to unload the food truck and package the items for distribution in the afternoon.

The program is special need of volunteers over the next three weeks. If you are interested in volunteering please contact: **Sister Joellen Tumas at: (773) 376-9425.**

This is a great individual and group opportunity. Won't you please consider joining us?

## Wish List

Bilingual volunteers are needed and welcomed to help us live our mission. If you are interested and able to share your time and talent with us, please contact Zulma Colon at (312) 655-7323 or via email at: [zcolon@catholiccharities.net](mailto:zcolon@catholiccharities.net)

The following donations are also welcomed:

Arts and Crafts supplies for our Child Care Programs and Family Strengthening Center.

Healthy snacks for our after school programs.

Non-perishable food items for our pantries.

Please contact the Office of Latino Affairs to coordinate your donation.

2013 YEAR-END APPEAL

## We Journey Together



Each year, Catholic Charities touches the lives of over 1.2 million through 157 programs that strive to support and strengthen individuals and families across the age spectrum. So many people today continue to struggle to meet their most basic needs. Our nine food pantries alone served over 185,000 individuals.

As 2013 comes to a close, we invite you to participate in our Year-End Appeal. Ninety-two cents of every dollar donated are directed to our programs. We ask for your support to continue our mission of caring service.

For more information about how to donate to our 2013 Year-End Appeal please contact: Margaret Hughes at (312) 655-7012 or visit: [www.catholiccharities.net/donate](http://www.catholiccharities.net/donate)

### Contact Us:

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### Connect with us

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[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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.*