



### Education Is Priority of Youth Programs



Maria Santillan-Maton (left), education program coordinator, poses with her Arcadia students.

Arcadia, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers, Sarasota – Throughout the year, including summer, five Catholic Charities programs provide educational opportunities to local youth. The goal of the programs is to overcome poverty through education.

In DeSoto County, the after-school tutoring program in Arcadia expanded in 2004 to include summertime education until the

*Education Is Priority on page 6*

### Alzheimer’s Program Re-Opens

Punta Gorda – This summer the Alzheimer’s Respite Program of Catholic Charities – Charlotte County re-opened in a new location. After being blown away by Hurricane Charley last year, the program has found a new home at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church,



Denny Ames (left), volunteer since 1998, plays Scrabble with Mark Nyberg, program participant.

11330 Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda.

The new collaboration between Burnt Store Presbyterian and Catholic Charities makes it possible for

*Alzheimer’s Program on page 4*

### All Souls’ Day



To remember your deceased loved ones in Mass on All Souls’ Day, see page 7.

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## Teamwork Helps Others

Venice – Catholic Charities, the lead organization for recovery efforts in our diocese, immediately responded to the needs of those in crisis after last year’s hurricanes here in southwest Florida.

This year, as part of the Florida Mutual Aid Agreement, our Catholic Charities helped after Hurricane Dennis hit the Pensacola-Tallahassee area. The historic agreement, approved by the bishops of the seven dioceses in Florida, was signed this summer by the seven Catholic Charities directors. Each Catholic Charities organization committed to provide a coordinated and cooperative response in times of disaster.



Standing water after Hurricane Dennis’s flooding creates more problems.

Deacon Marcus Hepburn, emergency management specialist for the Florida Catholic Conference, coordinates statewide diocesan disaster relief efforts and serves as a liaison between the seven Florida Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities USA, FEMA’s Region IV, and other response agencies.

“This agreement provides Catholic Charities agencies with a peace of mind in knowing that they have committed resources in materials and people to assist them in disaster response and recovery,” said Hepburn.

In monitoring the path of Hurricane Dennis, Hepburn notified all diocesan Catholic Charities (CC) to be on standby. The first or



(L to R) Peter Routsis-Arroyo, Deb Elliott, Lucille Acken prepare new RV to help after Hurricane Dennis.

“advance” teams were CC, Diocese of Venice, and CC, Archdiocese of Miami. Their jobs were to assess the situation after the hurricane and establish recovery sites.

Peter Routsis-Arroyo, Lucille Acken and Debra Elliott of Catholic Charities of Venice and Justin Bianchi, seminarian from St. Thomas More Parish, drove to Wakulla County with emergency supplies. “Water, canned goods, batteries, flashlights, radios, insect repellent, cleaning supplies, gloves, clothes and first-aid kits would be needed,” said Routsis-Arroyo,

*Teamwork on page 4*

## Wish List

*Catholic Charities programs appreciate any help you can give.*

**Arcadia** – Call Sister Ann at (863) 494-1068, ext. 106.

- canned meat products – ham, spam, tuna, sardines, etc.

- children’s clothes, sizes 4-8

**Bonita Springs** – Call Christine at (239) 390-0687.

- volunteers for tutoring & child care
- cabinet/table with wheels for tutoring program

**Naples** – Call Loren at (239) 793-0059.

- volunteers & a volunteer coordinator

- non-perishable foods, diapers, toiletries for pantry

**Port Charlotte & Punta Gorda** – Call Lucille at (941) 457-0284.

- laptop or desktop computer (not more than 3 years old)

- travel videos, simple puzzles & games, craft materials for Alzheimer’s Program

**Sarasota** – Call Liz at (941) 366-1395.

- digital camera for classroom projects

**Venice** – Call Joyce (941) 485-6264.

- volunteers for babysitting or maintenance

- baby cribs

Refugee programs

**Collier & Lee Counties** – Call Lizbelle at (239) 334-2234.

**Charlotte, Manatee, Sarasota Counties** – Call Nancy at (941) 492-4855.

- gift certificates for Publix Food & Wal-Mart.

## Volunteer Spotlight: John Fitzgerald

Naples – As co-chair of the annual Undy Sunday of Catholic Charities in Collier County, John Fitzgerald has helped to collect more than 250,000 pairs of new underwear and new socks over the past nine years. Each August he coordinates with 50 churches and synagogues to ask



their members to donate new undergarments for needy children preparing to go back to school.

“Undy Sunday is truly an interfaith effort,” said Fitzgerald. “It is a great way for all

of us to join hands together and directly benefit children who need some assistance.”

At the request of Catholic Charities, Fitzgerald presented the details of how Undy Sunday operates at the statewide Florida Catholic Charities Conference in 2002. The key factor is that volunteers, like Fitzgerald, make Undy Sunday possible.

Donation boxes are set out in participating religious communities for the new items in sizes 6 through 12 for boys and girls. After collecting and sorting the underwear and socks, volunteers distribute the items to 15 elementary schools plus charitable organizations that help children in need.

In addition, Fitzgerald, who built and operated two extended care

facilities in Miami-Dade County between 1963-68, shares his management expertise through board participation. A 12-year resident of Collier County, he has served as a board member of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice; Catholic Charities Foundation; and Advisory Board of Catholic Charities of Collier County.

Prior to his volunteer efforts for Catholic Charities here in southwest Florida, Fitzgerald worked with Catholic Charities in Palm Beach County and the Archdiocese of Miami as well as other charitable organizations.

From marketing Undy Sunday throughout Collier County to distributing collection boxes to picking up and sorting new underwear and socks, Fitzgerald and Jim McTague, his co-chair from the beginnings of Undy Sunday, are busy volunteers in July, August and September. Their efforts even resulted in the Collier County Commissioners formally declaring Undy Sunday in a written proclamation.

For the rest of the year, Fitzgerald participates as a dedicated board member for Catholic Charities and gets actively involved in other fundraising activities.

Fitzgerald lives in Naples with Brenda, his wife of 40 years, and enjoys visits with his three adult daughters.

### Our Mother's House Moves Forward

Venice - Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Our Mother's House is moving in new residents now. After a long period of construction and renovation to improve the facilities, Catholic Charities is excited to be able to increase services to young mothers and children in this transitional living program.

Our Mother's House (OMH), in the meantime, has provided casework/referral services to all mothers coming to us for needs beyond housing. At press time for this newsletter, we are awaiting final inspections for the certificate of occupancy for the renovated building.

The future for OMH will be enhanced with a newly acquired HUD operations grant, one of only two very competitive grants given in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. These funds complement our services without impacting the program's dedication to Catholic social teaching about the value of all life.

We welcome our new program director, Joyce O. Scott, who has considerable experience with transitional living programs for young women.

Volunteers are needed to re-build babysitting services. For more information or to volunteer, call 941-485-6264.



*John Fitzgerald (right) sorts the Undy Sunday collection with co-chair, Jim McTague.*

For information on volunteering opportunities for Catholic Charities, read the “Wish List” on page 2 and visit our website at [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org). To speak to someone, call the numbers in the “Wish List” or call toll-free 1-866-410-7656.

*Alzheimer's Program from page 1*

Alzheimer's families to have a morning of respite again. The program is open every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



*Carol Lucas, coordinator;*

*serves both Alzheimer's Program individuals and their caretakers,"* said Carol Lucas, R.N., M.S., program coordinator since the program began in October 1998. She explained the importance of the Alzheimer's Respite Program.

First, for the Alzheimer's individual, a morning in the program starts with coffee or tea and, more importantly, conversation with Lucas and program volunteers. Then, games such as Scrabble or checkers or cards follow. Craft projects are worked on some days. Participants bring their own lunches, and the program provides a drink and dessert.

Second, the program offers families of Alzheimer's individuals a respite or break from their regular duties as caretakers. Lucas said, "Family members use their respite

to take a nap, shop, go to lunch with a friend or pursue a hobby."

Another way that the Alzheimer's Respite Program assists caretakers is through discussion with Lucas, a nurse who is active with the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and serves on the board of directors in Tampa. Lucas's expertise includes state certification to teach nursing homes and assisted living facilities about the needs and care of Alzheimer's patients.

Presently the program has two participants, as it is being re-established after the ten-month hiatus caused by Hurricane Charley's destruction. Program capacity will be five to ten Alzheimer's individuals, with a volunteer required for each participant. If there is a need, the



program could expand to additional days of the week.

Formerly, Port Charlotte had the same program, but the hurricane destroyed it also. If the need arises and a facility can be obtained, the respite program could be re-instated there.

For information on Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association has a 24-hour, 7-days-per-week Helpline, 1-800-272-3900 and a website, [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org). For information about the Alzheimer's Respite Program of Catholic Charities-Charlotte County, call Carol Lucas at 941-255-9192.



*Burnt Store Presbyterian Church is the location for re-opened Alzheimer's Program. Inset shows office entrance to program.*

*Teamwork from page 2*

President/CEO of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice. "We knew from our experiences last year."

Our Catholic Charities of Venice team drove a 44-foot recreational vehicle that was purchased by St. Thomas More Parish in Sarasota and St. Paul Parish in Arcadia for on-the-road human service work. The vehicle's primary purpose is to

provide outreach services to rural parts of DeSoto County where people do not have transportation to the CC office in Arcadia.

However, this emergency situation took the newly purchased RV to Wakulla County, southwest of Tallahassee, to assist the victims of Hurricane Dennis. Our CC team set up a disaster recovery site there, where most of the damage was caused by a gulf surge of three to

four feet of water in many homes. The water came three-and-one-half miles inland and destroyed residences in its path.

After returning from the Tallahassee area this August. Routsis-Arroyo said, "I'll always remember the relief and gratitude we felt last year when Catholic Charities from St. Petersburg and Miami came to help us! It was great to be part of the team to assist others this year."



## Catholic Charities

1000 Pinebrook Road  
Venice, FL 34285  
(941) 488-5581 • (941) 484-9543

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

### Arcadia

Catholic Charities-DeSoto County  
& Immigration Services

### Bonita Springs

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

### Bradenton

Catholic Charities-Manatee County  
Immigration & Housing Counseling

### Clewiston

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

### Fort Myers

District Office (Lee & Hendry Counties)  
Clare House of Catholic Charities  
Community Counseling Services  
Haitian Center  
Immigration & Refugee Services  
of Catholic Charities  
Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

### Immokalee

Rural Services Office (DeSoto, Glades,  
Highland, Hardee & Manatee Counties)  
Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities

### LaBelle

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

### Naples

District Office (Collier County)  
Elderly Outreach  
Family Counseling Services  
Family Resource Center  
Refugee Related Services

### Port Charlotte

Catholic Charities of Charlotte County  
& Alzheimer's Program

### Sarasota

District Office (Sarasota & Manatee Counties)  
Bethesda House  
Direct Assistance Services  
Family Counseling Services  
Refugees Employed & Productive (REAP)  
St. Martha's Early Learning Center

### Venice

Community Resource Coordinator Office  
Joseph's Place  
Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities  
Refugee Resettlement Program

### Wauchula

Administration of FEMA Funds

## President's Corner

With students currently back in school, my thoughts are on education, a major component of our Catholic Charities work. As I contemplate our 31 programs (several programs are located at the same sites), I am reminded how far-reaching our efforts extend to educate people in need.

Our programs provide case management to clients. Case management means that each family and individual is interviewed and a case file established with background information and the current needs. These files are maintained for future reference and updating. The files function as management tools for our clients to receive guidance and education in ways to improve their lives.

Of course, education of children is of utmost importance. In our youth programs, education is the priority as you can read in our front-page article.

Education offers everyone new opportunities. In fact, education is the basis of this newsletter for you, our readers. Whether you are newly discovering Catholic Charities in southwest Florida or are a long-time contributor through volunteering, donations or prayers, we want to educate you about our work with the poor and people in crisis.

We also want to thank you for reading our *Catholic Charities News*. One way we show our appreciation is through our annual All Souls' Day Mass offered in remembrance of your deceased loved ones. To have deceased family and friends remembered in this Mass, please fill in their names on the form on page 7 and mail it to us at the address on the form. No donation is asked or required.

May the Lord bless you and yours,

Peter Routsis-Arroyo  
President / CEO



To see a listing of our Boards of Directors, visit our website at  
[www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org)

## Upcoming Events

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>December</b>                      | <i>Catholic Charities Annual Christmas Appeal.</i><br>Watch for our letter in your mail box.   |
| <b>January</b><br><i>Sarasota</i>    | <i>17<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Charities Ball 2006.</i> Saturday, January 21, 2006 at the Hyatt Hotel of Sarasota. For information & tickets call (941) 379-5119.  |
| <b>February</b><br><i>Fort Myers</i> | <i>7<sup>th</sup> Annual Venetian Charity Ball.</i> Saturday, February 4, 2006 at the Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa benefiting Catholic Charities of Lee County. For information, tickets & reservations call Ada Trapanese at (239) 489-3790.  |
| <b>March</b><br><i>Arcadia</i>       | <i>4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Boots &amp; Bandannas."</i> Dinner-Dance for Catholic Charities of Desoto County. Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the Mission Valley Country Club in Laurel (just north of Venice.) For information & tickets call Rose at Catholic Charities office (863) 494-1068. |
| <b>April</b><br><i>Naples</i>        | <i>"Cruise the Emerald Seas" at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Emerald Ball.</i> Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. For information & tickets call Madeline at Catholic Charities office (239) 455-2655.  |



## Catholic Charities Housing Board Active in Affordable Housing Projects

*Venice* – The recently formed Catholic Charities Housing Board already has four separate projects underway and in various stages of development in Sarasota, Arcadia, Port Charlotte and Manatee Counties. Each of the projects will be a separate corporation under the direction of the Catholic Charities Housing Board.

Construction has already begun on Casa San Jose, Inc., in Sarasota. A \$600,000 housing project to serve special needs, it has been primarily funded with HUD and SHIP grant funds, according to Peter Routsis-Arroyo, President/CEO of

Catholic Charities.

In Manatee County, Bishop John J. Nevins has donated land owned by the Diocese with the goal of constructing workforce housing for families. The project has been named The Village of Hope in Myakka City, Inc.

Routsis-Arroyo also stated that in Arcadia, Casa San Juan Bosco, Inc., will be the first non-employer-owned housing for migrant workers and their families in DeSoto County. This project will focus upon the construction of three-bedroom, two-bath family homes with affordable rents.

Marian Manor, Inc., is an

affordable housing project that will be located in Port Charlotte and provide economical housing units for low-income, single-parent families.

The Catholic Charities Housing Board, which was created in 2004 by Bishop John J. Nevins, is composed of the following officers and members: Chairman of the Board, Jack Martin; President, Peter Routsis-Arroyo; Vice-President, Sister Cathy Buster; Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Johnson; Julie Fogarty; Very Rev. Edward D. Moretti, V.G.; Dr. Joseph Ravelli; Mrs. Ann Romillo, Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk, and James M. Sweeney.

### *Education Is Priority from page 1*

August hurricanes interrupted last year's plans. Now children in grades 1 - 5 receive tutoring year-round.

At the graduation party each year, all participants, parents and tutors celebrate with the students who have improved their grades in school. To graduate, the students must be prepared to study independently. The graduates become middle school students who frequently return to the program to help the adult volunteer tutors.

Another fun time is in July when, in addition to studies, the youth enjoy activities such as swimming and a picnic.

This summer 25 children attended the program in Arcadia.

In Lee County, three programs assist youth with their learning. The programs are Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities in Fort Myers and in Bonita Springs, and Haitian



*Youth in Lee County celebrate 4<sup>th</sup> of July.*

Center of Catholic Charities in Fort Myers. "Summer Camp" helps children ages 7 - 16 to be academically current through tutoring, reading and computer lessons.

Substance abuse class, 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts presentations and field trips

provide variety. Some field trips include fishing, bowling, and visits to the Shell Factory and Sun Splash.

Attendance for the Lee County programs totaled 120 youth.

In Sarasota County, St. Martha's

*Education Is Priority on page 7*

**Education Is Priority from page 6**

Early Learning Center provides pre-school education for children ages 1 – 4. The center, located near downtown Sarasota, is equipped with all the essentials for very young children—miniature tables and chairs for educational activities, an area for taking a nap, a kitchen and an outside playground.

Presently St. Martha’s Center has 30 children attending.

All Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, programs are accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Families and Children. St. Martha’s



*Jim Moore, CC Board member, shakes hands with graduate of St. Martha’s Early Learning Center.*

Early Learning Center additionally achieved A.P.P.L.E. accreditation. APPLE means Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment and validates that the center provides a safe, nurturing, educational environment.

The key to a better future is through education. With year-round educational offerings to our local youth, Catholic Charities strives to **provide help and create hope** for the children and families that we serve.

For opportunities to volunteer or to donate to help children, please read the shaded box on page 3.

## Remembrance For All Souls’ Day

*I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me, though they should die will come to life.*

John 11:25

On **All Souls’ Day, November 2, 2005**, the Chaplain for the Good Samaritan Guild of the Catholic Charities Foundation will say Masses in memory of your deceased relatives and friends.

**We invite you to join with Father Joel Schevers, O. Carm.** on this feast of All Souls’ Day and send us the names of departed

loved ones you would like to have remembered. Please fill in the coupon below and mail it on or before October 21, 2005.

All names received will be placed on the altar to share in the All Souls’ Day Masses said by Father Joel and together we will remember and pray for our loved ones. The members of the Guild and Board Members



of the Foundation arrange for these Masses as a thank you for your support of Catholic Charities work with the poor. No gift is required.

**Fr. Joel: Please remember these deceased loved ones and friends in your Masses.**

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To send additional names, attach a separate sheet.  
Please mail to: Catholic Charities Foundation  
P.O. Box 2116  
Venice, FL 34284-2116

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to Catholic Charities Foundation by October 21, 2005.

If you pay Federal income taxes each year, you should take the time to consider a **Charitable Gift Annuity** that can give you guaranteed income and tax benefits for your gift of cash or appreciated stocks. And your gift will assist the work of Catholic Charities.

The annual payout rate of a **Charitable Gift Annuity** is determined solely by the annuitant's age on the day the annuity contract is completed. The rate will not change during your lifetime. Some current sample payout rates are listed in the box to the right.

The minimum to establish a charitable gift annuity for the Catholic Charities Foundation is \$50,000. There is no maximum amount. There are no management fees charged to the annuity contract or to you as the donor.

If you would like a personal printout of the annual income and tax benefits available from a **charitable gift annuity** for yourself or both you and your spouse, **call the Catholic Charities Foundation Director, toll-free at 1-866-410-7656. Or complete the form below and mail to us.** Your inquiry will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

**Charitable gift annuity rates are set annually on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year by the American Council on Gift Annuities.**

*Suggested rates for one life:*

<b>Age 65</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
<b>Age 70</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>Age 75</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
<b>Age 80</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
<b>Age 85</b>	<b>9.5%</b>



- MASS CARDS**  
Send a free sample of the new Mass cards from the Guild.
- WILLS WORKSHEETS**  
Send a set of wills worksheets, for those without a will or updating one.
- CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY**  
Please send me information on charitable gift annuities for the Catholic Charities Foundation.

## The Good Samaritan Guild

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: Catholic Charities Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 2116, Venice, FL 34284-2116**  
**OR - Call Toll-Free 1-866-410-7656**

**Catholic Charities serves all who seek help regardless of race, religion or national origin.**



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