

Learning at Summer Camp

Bonita Springs – Thanks to gifts of time, talent, air-conditioned meeting space, buses, gasoline and financial support, the annual Summer Camp for 43 children was a success! In fact, the Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities youth camp would not have been possible without this generosity.

The children, ages 6–12, enjoyed the summer learning experiences from June 9 through August 7, Monday through Thursday in Bonita Springs.

Contributions of time and talent came from two student volunteers from Notre Dame

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Happy campers at Summer Camp in Bonita Springs

Keeping Financial Woes at Bay

Sarasota/Bradenton – With the aid of area foundations and community organizations, Catholic Charities of Sarasota and Manatee Counties can assist additional individuals and families who are in an economic crisis and seeking help for basic necessities. These needs include mortgage or rent, utility bills, or medical expenses

and prescriptions.

According to Mary Koctur, Director of Social Services for Catholic Charities, the current state of the economy is causing many people who normally would not be asking for financial assistance to come for help. “We are seeing a 75

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Sense of Community Unites Residents

Sarasota - Eight formerly homeless men reside at Casa San Jose, a residential program of Bethesda House of Catholic Charities in Sarasota. All are suffering with HIV/AIDS.

When new residents arrive, for the first 30 days they go through a metamorphosis because they have a roof over their heads and are now part of a community that has rules and companionship. They must learn to form a trust again with other people because they have been let down so badly in the past.

The residents are engaging in the ownership of their new community. They now have a safety committee, a house

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New Refugee Program Focuses on Families

Naples – The new Refugee Youth and Family Program of Catholic Charities serves refugee families located in Collier County. The focus is the preservation of the entire family through assistance in achieving economic self-sufficiency and effective resettlement.

According to Sharon Kirkpatrick, Education Director of the program, the services for clients include homework help

and tutoring for students; family and individual counseling; career planning and support services; parent education; cultural and educational, family-centered field trips and activities; and school liaison services.

Funded with a \$400,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, the program goals are to reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency, improve the dropout rate and help the refugee family adjust. To qualify for the program, families must have been in the U.S. for less than five years and must meet federal and state criteria.

Upon acceptance in the Collier County program, named SUCCESS by Kirkpatrick, each family member's needs are identified. After the assessment, each individual receives a development plan that identifies the client's needs and goals.

Currently more than half of the 40 clients are from Cuba. Others are from Colombia, Haiti and Pakistan.

A recent SUCCESS story is about Jose, whose school told him he would not pass second grade. After several weeks of tutoring, he advanced to third

grade this year.

The program relies on community volunteers to help students with English and math and to drive students and their parents to and from classes.

Volunteers are needed as tutors, mentors, reception/office assistance, career planning, and assistance with conversational English for children and adults. Also, volunteer event planners are needed to plan quarterly activities that improve acculturation of refugee families. High school students are welcome to apply.

For more information or to volunteer, call SUCCESS at 239-455-0520.

Who are refugees?

Refugees are legal entrants to the U.S.

Why are refugees here?

Refugees are seeking refuge from imprisonment, torture or death in their countries. They fear persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, or political opinions.

Why do refugees need help?

Many refugees arrive with little or no money or possessions. Frequently they have only what they can pack in one suitcase. Some arrive with only the clothes on their backs.



Jose, a SUCCESSful student.

Wish List

Catholic Charities programs appreciate any help you can give.

Arcadia – Call Andy at (863) 494-1068.

- volunteers for landscaping & playground
- Wal-Mart gift cards for plants & mulch

Bonita Springs – Call Martha at (239) 390-2928.

- white rice, pinto beans, pasta, macaroni & cheese, cereal, etc.
- shampoo, conditioner, soap, detergent, toothbrush, etc.

Immokalee – Call Ninfa at (239) 657-6242.

- female volunteers for tutoring
- cereal

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Volunteer Spotlight: Gene Dolecki

Lakewood Ranch – In 2003 at the invitation of a friend, Gene Dolecki drove 50 miles from his home south of Bradenton to see Catholic Charities of DeSoto County in Arcadia. As a new visitor, he received a first-hand tour of the community from Sister Ann De Nicolo, BVM, now director of prevention and support.

As Dolecki recalled the dilapidated trailers where six to eight men pay several hundred dollars each for a month's rent, his face and voice expressed compassion. "These trailers are unfit for people to live in," he said.

Dolecki has been a volunteer at Catholic Charities since then.

From Erie, Pa., and a retired executive design engineer at General Electric for 30 years, Dolecki shows his versatility in his volunteer work in Arcadia. Besides having a graduate school education, Dolecki spent two years in the army. "It helped me grow up," he said.

His first work at Catholic



Charities in Arcadia was to audit and clean out client files. Over the years he has sorted and stacked food, fixed toilets, painted, assembled furniture and developed spreadsheets for tracking the number of clients served through the Catholic Charities programs.

Additionally, Dolecki and two other volunteers, including the friend who first invited Dolecki "to help out" in Arcadia, are busy with plans for the seventh annual fundraising dinner and auction, Boots and

Bandannas. This trio of faithful volunteers has served as co-chairs since the inception of "Boots" in 2003. The next fundraising event will be on March 21, 2009.

Even though Dolecki and his wife Suzanne have two grown children—a son and a daughter—and six grandchildren, he is also active in St. Jude Parish. He is helping to start a new Knights of Columbus Council, as the logo on his shirt in the photo shows. He finds time too to be part of the new diocesan Housing Oversight Committee and is working on its strategic plan.

When asked about his strong commitment to Catholic Charities, he smiled and said, "It's God's work."

For more information about Catholic Charities of DeSoto County, call 863-494-1068. To learn more about Catholic Charities programs in your southwest Florida community, visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call Silvia at 941-488-5581.

Wish List

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Naples – Call Michelle at (239) 455-2655.

- volunteers for clerical work
- doll house, blocks, legos, children's board games, toys for 3-5 year olds (dishes, cars, trucks), child step stool

Naples & Port Charlotte – Contact Bob at KG5VDU, or phone (941) 497-5422.

- Licensed Amateur Radio

Operators to assist Catholic Charities Disaster Response Team during a hurricane to operate radio stations.

Sarasota – Call Jeanette at (941) 379-5119, ext. 300.

- volunteers for clerical/receptionist
- Call Vanessa at (941) 366-1395.
- multi-ethnic baby dolls
- plastic food

Sarasota/South Venice – Call Sandy or Lisa at (941) 366-1886.

- volunteers for clerical/receptionist &/or food pantry/clothing
- washable furniture (leather, vinyl, microfiber) to furnish 4 offices for therapy—love seats, comfy chairs, end tables, lamps, pictures

SMELC Graduates Ten

Sarasota - At St. Martha's Early Learning Center (SMELC) of Catholic Charities, the annual graduation ceremony for preschoolers included performances by the children.

All ten graduates participated in the CRAYOLA skit. One student narrated and the other nine were the crayons. One graduate said, "I don't like red." Another said, "I don't like purple." And another, "I don't like green." And so on.

With all the crayons being together in the box, the lesson or overall theme for the children was that color doesn't matter. "Everyone's the same."



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percent increase in the number of people contacting us for help compared to last year," Koctur said.

- **The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness** awarded Catholic Charities \$25,000 to provide financial assistance to clients in Sarasota County and help prevent homelessness.

- **The Manatee Community Foundation** provided an \$11,352 grant for rent and utilities and another \$1,092 for medical and prescription expenses for the working poor of Manatee County.

- **Royal Venice**, once a non-profit group working to create affordable housing, shifted its mission to foreclosure prevention. The group dispensed \$40,000 to Catholic Charities to help clients avoid losing their homes in South Sarasota County.

- **The Knights of Columbus Sugar Bowl Program** continues to raise donations for families in

South Sarasota County who fall on hard times and come to Catholic Charities looking for financial assistance.

"More and more working families, who live paycheck-to-paycheck, are coming to Catholic Charities for help," said Koctur. "They need to get past a problem such as a car repair, or one parent losing a job, or an injury or illness that keeps one parent from working. These people have not come to us in the past because they used to have the extra money to get through a small crisis, but now they don't because the cost of living has gone up."

Koctr stressed that if clients do not receive the assistance to overcome a one-time financial obstacle, money problems can escalate and the individual or family may face homelessness. "Some of these families that are at risk of becoming homeless have been living in their homes for years," said Koctr.

The elderly population also has been affected by the economy. For example, Koctr said she recently helped a woman who relies on her children to pay for a portion of her expensive and numerous prescription medications. The current economy has made it difficult for them to assist her with the cost of her much needed medicines.

"There is such a great need right now in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. We are grateful to receive these grants from area foundations and organizations," said Koctr. "A major part of providing financial assistance is collaborating with other agencies to help the client receive maximum help. It takes everyone's involvement to keep our community strong."

For more information about the Financial Assistance Program of Catholic Charities in Sarasota and Manatee Counties, call 941-379-7997.



Catholic Charities

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

Arcadia

Catholic Charities of DeSoto County
 & Immigration Services

Bonita Springs

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

Bradenton

Catholic Charities of Manatee County
 Immigration & Housing Counseling

Clewiston

Catholic Charities of Hendry/Glades Counties

Fort Myers

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

Hardee & Highlands Counties

Food Assistance

Immokalee

Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities

LaBelle

Catholic Charities of Hendry/Glades Counties

Naples

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

Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda

Outreach
 Counseling

Sarasota

District Office (Sarasota & Manatee Counties)
 Bethesda House/Joseph's Place (HIV/AIDS)
 Casa San Jose (HIV/AIDS)
 Direct Assistance Services
 Family Counseling Services
 Refugees Employed & Productive (REAP)
 St. Martha's Early Learning Center

Venice

Joseph's Place (HIV/AIDS)
 Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities
 Refugee Resettlement Program

Wauchula

Administration of FEMA Funds



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

CEO's Corner



With students back in school, we thank all our volunteers and contributors for their support to the successful Catholic Charities (CC) youth programs—Summer Youth Camps, Back To School drives, Undy Sunday and SUCCESS. These important programs provide learning experiences and necessities for children.

Please read the articles in this newsletter about Summer Youth Camp in Bonita Springs and SUCCESS in Naples.

Thank you also for your donations to our summer fundraiser for Catholic Charities Care Programs. Many CC programs throughout the diocese provide vital life skills learning opportunities for children, families and individuals.

Next, we hope you enjoy reading our quarterly newsletters. In case you missed our previous offers, we can now email you our **new Catholic Charities E-News**. Just send your request to be on our email list to judyb@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

The *E-News* is **not** a duplication of this printed *Catholic Charities News*. The *E-News* provides additional updates about our work and activities. We suggest you read both newsletters for a comprehensive view of CC.

Lastly, please accept our invitation (on page 7) to join us in remembering your deceased family members and friends in a Novena of Masses to be offered by the Chaplain of the Good Samaritan Guild on All Souls' Day.

May God bless you and yours,

Pete Routsis-Arroyo
 Peter Routsis-Arroyo
 Chief Executive Officer

To see a listing of our Boards of Directors, visit our website at www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Upcoming Events

- December** *Catholic Charities Annual Christmas Appeal.* Watch for our letter in your mailbox. 
- January** *20th Catholic Charities Ball.* Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009; Sarasota Ritz Carlton. For tickets call (941) 379-5119.
- February** *8th Our Mother's House Wine Tasting.* Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009; Venice Plantation Golf & Country Club. For tickets call (941) 485-6264.
- Fort Myers* *10th Venetian Charity Ball.* Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009; Harborside Convention Center. For tickets call (239) 337-4193.
- March** *24th Emerald Ball.* Saturday, March 14, 2009; Hilton Naples. For tickets call (239) 455-2655.
- Arcadia* *7th "Boots & Bandannas."* Dinner-Dance for Catholic Charities of Desoto County; Saturday, March 21, 2009; Mission Valley Country Club in Laurel (just north of Venice.) For tickets call Rose at (863) 494-1068.

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University, another volunteer from LeHigh Acres and a diocesan seminarian. St. Leo Parish donated the use of its air-conditioned Juan Diego Education Center. The Christian Brothers contributed their two buses and gasoline for transporting the children to and from camp daily and for field trips. Lastly, the Christian Brothers also donated half of the camp expenses.

Additionally the Notre Dame student volunteers, Dallas Frey and Emily Forester, both age 20, lived with the Christian Brothers during the eight weeks of the camp. Frey, from Pittsburgh, volunteered here because Christian Brothers taught him in high school. Forester, from Chicago, came to work with children and to experience their different cultural backgrounds. During the week, these two volunteers participated in morning and evening prayers with the Brothers and ate dinner with them.

This year marks the fifth year Notre Dame students have



Summer campers gather next to one of the Christian Brothers buses before a field trip.

volunteered to work for Catholic Charities at the Summer Camp in Bonita Springs. They teach the youth and are the camp "transporters" by driving the buses.

Lessons for the children are on self-esteem, cultural diversity and prevention of bullying, domestic violence and substance abuse. The youth also work on crafts. Once a week they go to the library, where they read to the volunteers who help the children learn new words.

Because the children are from very low-income families, the

camp fee is \$150.00 for all eight weeks. Lunch and snack are provided daily.

Another benefit for the children are the field trips to the movies, swimming pool, ice skating and water park. Most of these activities are new to them.

In addition, the student volunteers also learned from the camp experience. When Frey repeated daily, "Put your seatbelt on," in the bus, he realized how patient his parents had been with teaching him obedience.

Forester spoke of the many questions the youth asked. She said, "It's okay if you don't have an answer. Just being there and being a good example are important."

For information about volunteering for Catholic Charities in Bonita Springs, call Martha at 239-390-0687. For other CC programs, call Silvia at 941- 488-5581.



L to R: Steve Clemente, seminarian; Dallas Frey and Emily Forester, Notre Dame students; Maria Palomino, two-year volunteer.



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



Fr. Joel: Please remember the deceased friends and loved ones listed below in your Masses.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

To send additional names, attach a separate sheet.
Please mail to:

Catholic Charities Foundation
6900-29 Daniels Pkwy, Box 334
Fort Myers, FL 33912

From: _____

Please mail your names to Catholic Charities by October 20, 2008.

On Sunday, November 2, 2008, the Good Samaritan Guild of the Catholic Charities Foundation has asked our Chaplain, Father Joel Schevers, O. Carm., to say a novena of Masses in memory of your deceased relatives and friends.

The Guild invites everyone to join us on The Feast of All Souls' Day by sending the names of departed loved ones whom you would like to have remembered in this novena of Masses. Please fill in the coupon provided above, clip and mail it to us no later than October 20, 2008. No gift is required.

Sense of Community from page 1

committee and a security committee. Among the three groups maintenance of the facility is expedited, cookouts and Christmas parties are planned, and residents keep watch over the property and adjoining St. Jude Parish.

A new addition for the housing community comes from a grant of the **Leon Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County**. The fund provided the financial support to construct and outfit a laundry room.

With no public laundry facility for over a mile away, the residents used to have to take a bus or walk the distance to do their laundry. Most of the men do not have cars and most of them have disabilities. It was difficult for them.

The men are thrilled to have the ability to do their laundry on a regular basis. The on-site laundry makes it easier for them to be self-sufficient. The new facility also has a community emergency phone since most of the residents cannot afford to have their own.

Also, an outdoor grill and picnic tables allow the men to

spend time together and increase the sense of community. They are supportive of one another. They share their lives and help each other out.

With their illness and all the added complications that go with it, the residents have many obstacles to overcome. These eight men used to live on the streets. With Casa San Jose they no longer have to worry about where they are going to sleep at night.

For more information or to volunteer or to donate, call Casa San Jose of Catholic Charities at 941-952-1853.

Do You Have a Valid Will?

Without a valid will you are at the mercy of the court system as to how your estate, small or large, will be distributed. The State of Florida has a rigid set of rules (called the laws of descent and distribution) that apply to everyone, regardless of a family's situation or circumstance. Having a valid will allows you to distribute your estate however you wish.

As a Florida resident — do you have an older will that was written and filed in another state? Even though you may have a valid will prior to your move to Florida, you need to be certain that your document is valid according to the laws of the State of Florida. Only an attorney can accurately determine this for you.

Reasons to Have a Will

1. distribute assets to your family
2. create trusts
3. make special bequests of personal property
4. name a personal representative
5. save administrative costs, estate and inheritance taxes
6. memorialize those you care about
7. remember Catholic Charities

The **Good Samaritan Guild** can help you prepare the information an attorney will require in order to help you write a valid will. **Call us Toll-Free at 1-866-410-7656**, or fill in the coupon here and we'll mail you a set of our **Wills Worksheets** – at no charge.

To learn more about the Foundation, please visit our website www.cfdnswfl.org



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Venice
 P.O. Box 2116
 Venice, FL 34284-2116

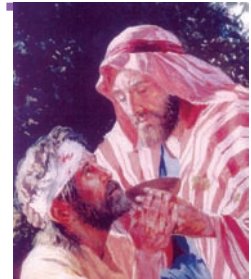
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WILLS WORKSHEETS

Send a set of wills worksheets, for those without a will or updating one.

MASS CARDS

Send 2 samples of the new Mass cards from the Guild.
 Please enclose \$1.00 to cover postage and handling.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

MAIL TO: **Catholic Charities Foundation**
 6900-29 Daniels Pkwy, Box 334 • Ft. Myers, FL 33912
 OR - Call Toll-Free 1-866-410-7656



All Souls' Day Novena of Masses

To remember your deceased loved ones and friends in the All Souls' Day Novena of Masses, please read page 7 of the Newsletter.

Catholic Charities serves and empowers ALL in need, regardless of race, nationality or creed.