



CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS

Volume 9, Number 1

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Fall 2009



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During our "Year of Celebration" commemorating the first 25 years of the Diocese of Venice, it is appropriate that we also recognize the 25 years of service of Catholic Charities in the Diocese.

A few months after the diocese was formed, then Bishop John J. Nevins established Catholic Charities. This was very much in keeping with his motto "To Serve With Mercy" and local needs. Thus, on December 18, 1984, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, was incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization in Florida.

As the social outreach of the Diocese, Catholic Charities has grown to 37 programs at 33 locations. Services include assistance with utilities, rent/mortgage, food, prescriptions, case management, clothing, after-school tutoring, refugee programs, mental health counseling, HIV/AIDS ministries, elderly outreach, etc.

Additionally, Catholic Charities provides needed response to hurricanes, storms and other disasters. Emergency relief and long-term solutions offer the people of the Diocese of Venice the help they need when it is most needed.

Catholic Charities will continue to evolve and respond to needs in the future, as its mission states: "In devotion and adherence to the teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Church, we seek to serve and empower ALL in need regardless of race, nationality or creed."

Together, let us pray that we may be able to continue to assist that portion of the People of God entrusted to our care. This could one day include any of us! God Bless you all for your efforts. Thank you for your generous support of Catholic Charities.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

Celebrate
25
YEARS OF SERVICE
1984-2009

Expansion and Events at OMH



Meagan, age 19, and son Ashton,
6 months.

Venice – Our Mother's House (OMH) of Catholic Charities thanks the Gulf Coast Community Foundation for its generous grant of \$125,000 to renovate a newly acquired 1951 building within a short walk of the current facility. This building will result in seven more apartments for a total of 17.

OMH provides for a chronic need—transitional housing and support services to single

Expansion on page 4

AFCAAM Joins CC

Fort Myers - The African Caribbean American Catholic Center (AFCAAM), a program that serves the black community and other underserved minority populations in Lee County, is now under the auspices of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

The program, which promotes a message of empowerment and good values, became a part of Catholic Charities in July. AFCAAM strives to help people help themselves through the communication of Christian values and empowering programs that offer hope, challenge the culture, and promote self-reliance and human dignity.

The two major programs at AFCAAM are Skills Mentoring and After-School Reading. The Skills Mentoring Program offers group mentoring to young male and female adults. The support and motivation help them stay in school. The mentoring program



Kissa, a kindergartner.

empowers students to build self-esteem, achieve excellence, encourage creativity, and develop leadership skills. Mentors monitor academic progress, emphasize academic excellence, link parents and the school and create team building.

AFCAAM also provides an After-School Reading Program designed to get younger students interested in reading. The program is committed to educating youth by encouraging and inspiring them to be lifelong learners, people of service and community builders. The After-

School Reading Program promotes four “Rs”: Respect, Responsibility, Right Decision Making and Reading.

The After-School Reading Program is offered to Dunbar and Harlem Heights students.

“We are excited to have AFCAAM as a part of Catholic Charities because the services they offer to at-risk students are so important to long-term success,” said Sharon Aragona, COO of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. “The goals of AFCAAM align with those of Catholic Charities, which are to serve the most needy in our communities and help them to achieve self-sufficiency.”

Other programs available at AFCAAM include Level Up, Scouting, and Straight Talk.

For more information about AFCAAM, call 239-461-0233, email e.reyes@afcaam.com or visit www.afcaam.com.

Wish List

Catholic Charities programs appreciate any help you can give.

Arcadia – Call Andy,
(863) 494-1068.

- school supplies

Fort Myers – Call Martha,
(239) 322-1077.

- bicycles for client transportation

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

- tutors for School On Wheels
- fans for clients

Naples – Call Sharon,
(239) 455-0520.

- volunteer tutors
- food & gas gift cards
- school supplies

Sarasota – Call Julie,
(941) 366-1395.

- preschool computer games

- books on tape for preschoolers
- printer ink cartridges: Canon 6 BC I-6BK
Call Sandy, (941) 952-1853.
- outdoor furniture/chairs
- indoor/outdoor carpet
- new computer

Venice – Call Yuri,
(941) 492-4855.

- cars, in good running condition, for clients



Volunteer Spotlight: Rosemary Quinlan Kelly

Fort Myers – Before living in Florida, Rosemary Quinlan Kelly had a strong interest in the work of Catholic Charities. In her home state of Ohio in the 1950s, Kelly taught women about dietary issues and good shopping habits at Catholic Social Services, the name of the diocesan social services organization there.

After many years of visiting Florida, Rosie and her husband Bob bought a home here in 1978. She recalls her first interaction in 1980 with Hispanic Services, a Catholic agency, in Fort Myers. When she heard that the computer at the charity's office was stolen, she told the story to her husband, who was in the hospital, just awakening after surgery. Kelly thought he said that she should buy a new computer for the charity's office. So, she did.

Later, wondering whether she had heard correctly, she asked him what he had said. "I felt relieved when he said it again," said Kelly. At that time Hispanic Services was an independent agency, which later



became Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities.

In 1984 Kelly's pastor at Ascension Parish in Fort Myers Beach, Father Thomas J. Goggin, now deceased, recommended Kelly as a member of the first Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice.

Within two years Kelly also joined the first Advisory Board of Catholic Charities (CC) of Lee County in Fort Myers. When the first annual Venetian Charity Ball was held in 2000 for the benefit of CC programs in the area, Kelly

served on the Ball committee. She continues as an active member of the Advisory Board.

Since Kelly's mother, Helen Ryan Quinlan, was active in church organizations, Kelly has the same desire for her daughter Carol Morningstar, who also lives in Fort Myers. After World War I, Quinlan and a group of ten women founded the National Council of Catholic Women (CCW). The organization was incorporated in 1920. Like her mother and grandmother, Morningstar is involved; she has served on the Venetian Charity Ball committee since its beginning in 1999.

From 1984 to 2000 Kelly served on the Board of Directors of CC, Diocese of Venice. Since 2000 when the CC Foundation was established, Kelly has served on its board.

When discussing her volunteer activities, Kelly said, "I like being a part of new projects and programs for Catholic Charities."

Having raised a family of 10 children, Kelly is certainly adaptable. Her adaptability in volunteering and her support have been great assets to Catholic Charities (CC).

To learn more about CC programs in your southwest Florida community, visit our website www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call Silvia at 941-488-5581.



Charitable IRA Rollover Expires December 31, 2009

December 31, 2009, ends a charitable opportunity allowing qualified individuals to make tax-free distributions from their IRAs directly to the Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal or the CC Foundation.

With a Charitable IRA Rollover, adults age 70 and 1/2 or older can transfer up to \$100,000 from their individual

retirement account to a qualified charity, such as Catholic Charities, without incurring income tax on the withdrawal.

To learn how you can make this special gift, contact Catholic Charities Foundation Director, Lou Baumer, today. Call him Toll-Free 1-866-410-7656.

Celebrate
25
YEARS OF SERVICE
1984-2009

World Refugee Day

Naples – On June 20 a World Refugee Day (WRD) celebration took place in Sugden Park with 200 refugees and friends.

Previously Collier County issued a proclamation recognizing WRD. Catholic Charities (CC) of Collier County representatives in attendance at both events were Bob Saunders, District Director of Collier County, and Sharon Kirkpatrick, Education Director, Refugee Youth and Family Program.

Refugee programs of CC—in Fort Myers, Naples, Sarasota, Venice—are always in need of items to assist the refugees who



Refugees enjoy World Refugee Day event.

arrive here. **These individuals and families literally run for their lives and come with only the clothes they are wearing (or, at most, one suitcase) to start a new life, in a new country, with**

a new language.

Although the CC programs are government-supported, the day-to-day needs of the refugees are not funded.

For information, see box below.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Refugees are legal entrants.** They seek refuge from imprisonment, torture or death in their countries. They fear persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, or political opinions.
- **Refugees allowed in the US in 2008 were 60,192 total, less than 1% of the world refugee population.** A total of 11.4 million refugees are under UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) care, according to the 2008 UNHCR report.
- **Needs of refugees in SWFL:** food gift cards; furniture in excellent condition; work clothes such as jeans, boots, etc.; cars in good condition. **You can help!** Call Sharon in Naples at 239-455-0520 or Slav in Sarasota at 941-493-8231.

Expansion from page 1

homeless women and their children.

“We are turning qualified people down because we do not have space,” said Joyce Scott, Program Director of OMH. The program currently receives about 15-20 inquiries a month from single mothers at risk of becoming homeless.

In 2002 the program grew from seven apartments to ten by building a new facility with additional office space. In 2004 renovation of the original 1950 building enlarged the childcare facility. Later a new playground was added.

The OMH goal is to promote healthy development of the moms and their at-risk children through support services. In addition, the mothers are required to enroll in school, a vocational program, or obtain employment. Free childcare is provided. Residents may stay in the program for 24 months.

In the words of an OMH mom, “Our Mother’s House has taught me how to be more independent, responsible, and most of all they have been my support system.”

Program costs rely on contributions and fundraising events. **In addition to the annual Wine Tasting, OMH is hosting the first “Swing, Baby, Swing” on Friday, Oct. 30.** Featuring a 17-piece Swing Band, the new event is at Michael’s On East in Sarasota. Tickets are \$125.

For more information about Our Mother’s House, call 941-379-9111, ext. 300.





Catholic Charities

Diocese of Venice

1000 Pinebrook Road

Venice, FL 34285

(941) 488-5581 • (941) 484-9543

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Disaster Preparedness & Response

Arcadia

Catholic Charities of DeSoto County
& Immigration Services

Bonita Springs

Catholic Charities Social Services

Bradenton

Catholic Charities of Manatee County
Immigration & Housing Counseling

Clewiston

Catholic Charities of Hendry/Glades Counties

Fort Myers

AFCAAM

Elderly Services

Elizabeth Kay Galeana Center of Catholic Charities

Haitian Center of Catholic Charities

Human Trafficking Program

Immigration & Refugee Services

Youth/Parent Counseling Services

Hardee & Highlands Counties

Food Assistance

Immokalee

Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities

LaBelle

Catholic Charities of Hendry/Glades Counties

Naples

Family Counseling Services

Family Resource Center

Refugee Related Services

Refugee Youth & Family Program

Palmetto

Elderly Outreach Services

Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda

Outreach & HIV/AIDS Services

Counseling

Sarasota

Bethesda House (HIV/AIDS)

Casa San Jose (HIV/AIDS)

Direct Assistance Services

Family Counseling Services

Refugee Related Services

St. Martha's Early Learning Center

Venice

Elderly Outreach Services

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

Catholic Charities is happy to celebrate its 25th anniversary this year! Looking back at these many years of change and growth, I know that we are facing more years of the same.

As the people of Southwest Florida change and grow, so do the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Everyone knows the many difficult changes over the past few years with the economy.

To highlight Catholic Charities' growth and changes, please read these articles in this newsletter: Our Mother's House expansion (page 1), AFCAAM as an addition to the CC family (page 2) and Marian Manor new apartments (page 6).

The adaptability of Catholic Charities (CC) staff to change is exemplified in World Refugee Day (page 4) because of our ongoing commitment to refugees. Also, the Red Cross Award recognizes the ability of CC-Lee County to respond and collaborate in a natural disaster (page 6).

Very importantly, we appreciate our multitude of dedicated volunteers, many who have been faithfully with us throughout the years (page 3).

And a blessed thank you to the donors who contributed to our summer CC Care Programs that assist people to make positive changes and better their lives. We extend our gratitude for your support.

In closing, please keep Catholic Charities and its work in your prayers.

May God bless you,

Peter Routsis-Arroyo
Chief Executive Officer



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

Upcoming Events

- October** "Swing, Baby, Swing" for Our Mother's House.
Sarasota Friday, October 30; Michael's On East. For tickets call 941-379-9111, ext. 300.
- November** "Salsa Steps" for Catholic Charities Foreclosure
Sarasota Prevention & Housing Program. Friday, November 13; Michael's On East. For tickets call 941-379-9111, ext. 300.
- Venice* "Show of Shows" for Sugar Bowl Fund of Catholic Charities.
Saturday, November 14; Venice Community Center.
For tickets call 941-488-5581.
- December** *Catholic Charities Annual Christmas Appeal.*
Watch for our letter in your mailbox.



More Upcoming Events on page 7

Marian Manor Nears Completion!

Port Charlotte – Started as a dream in 1994, Marian Manor, Inc., has reached to the sky for roofing. Plans are for the new two-story apartment building to open for residents in October.

When Rev. Nick McLoughlin, then pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, testified before the Charlotte County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, he advised the community that housing for working families was minimal. In 1994 the county had more than 1500 subsidized apartments for elderly and only 110 for non-elderly households.

After many years of hard work and collaborations, the new two-story Marian Manor building has 31 apartments with two bedrooms/one bath at 4200 Lister Street. Seven apartments are designated for

mothers with infants transitioning from homeless shelters, and 24 for entry-level workforce families.

The following entities (in alphabetical order) collaborated to accomplish this \$6.1 million project through the HUD HOME program.

- Bank of America
- Catholic Charities Housing Corporation
- Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners
- Charlotte County Housing Finance Authority
- Charlotte County School District
- Diocese of Venice
- Florida Housing Finance Corporation
- Homeless Coalition of Charlotte County
- Housing Corporation of Charlotte County
- Punta Gorda Housing Authority
- Raymond James and Associates

For more information, contact Jean Farino at 941-639-4344.



Rising up from the ground...



to the roof in Port Charlotte.

Red Cross of Lee County Award

Fort Myers –The American Red Cross of Lee County awarded Catholic Charities (CC) of Lee County with the Partnership Award on June 18.

The Red Cross recognized CC for its ongoing commitment and community partnership during the aftermath of Tropical Storm Fay, the cause of extensive flooding in many low-income neighborhoods. More than 600 people were displaced and moved to a shelter where they lived for seven weeks.

CC of Lee County assisted in



Red Cross Board of Director Susan Nasworthy (right) presented award to CC of Lee County Director Chris Nolan for service to victims of Tropical Storm Fay.

knowledge of the population affected by the storm,” said Christine Nolan, District Director, CC of Lee County.

The initial response to victims came from Father Stanislaw Strycharz of St. Leo Parish in Bonita Springs. “The weekend after the storm, Father Stan asked parishioners to bring necessary items to the parish center for storm victims,” said Nolan. Victims were housed at the parish until the Red Cross opened a shelter.

At the Red Cross shelter, through Central Florida Behavioral Health Network funding, CC offered counseling to the victims grieving the loss of

running the Red Cross Shelter set up in Estero. “We offered language skills and cultural

Red Cross on page 7



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 our deceased friends and loved ones in your Novena of 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, 2009.*

On Monday, November 2, 2009, the Chaplain of our Good Samaritan Guild, Father Joel Schevers, O. Carm., will begin a Novena of Masses for the souls of our departed loved ones and friends. (Nine Masses will be said beginning on 11/2.)

The Guild wants to include each of your loved ones and friends in Father Joel's intentions during these special All Souls' Day Masses. No gift is required or requested.

Please write the names of those you wish to have remembered and mail it in the enclosed envelope.

Upcoming Events from page 5

- January** *Catholic Charities Ball* for Catholic Charities of Sarasota & Manatee Counties. Saturday, January 30, 2010; Ritz Carlton. For tickets call 941-379-9111, ext. 300.
- February** **"Boots and Bandannas Dinner Dance"** for Catholic Charities of DeSoto County. Saturday, February 20, 2010; Mission Valley Country Club. For tickets call 863-494-1068.
- Venice** **Our Mother's House Wine Tasting & Dinner Auction** for Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities. Thursday, February 25, 2010; Plantation Golf and Country Club. For tickets call 941-485-6264.
- Fort Myers** **Venetian Charity Ball**, for Catholic Charities of Lee County. Saturday, February 27, 2010; Harbourside Event Center. For tickets call 239-334-4007.
- March** **Emerald Ball**, for Catholic Charities of Collier County. Saturday, March 20, 2010; Ritz Carlton Golf Resort. For tickets call 239-455-2655.
- Naples**

Red Cross from page 6

their homes.
Catholic Charities (CC), Salvation Army, Lutheran Services and Bonita Springs Amigos Center worked to find housing for the victims. CC also dispensed funds from UW of Lee County and SWFL Community Foundation of Lee County to place victims in housing.
"All the organizations collaborated to make sure everyone found a new home and regained some peace and stability," said Nolan.
For more information about Catholic Charities of Lee County, call 239-334-4007.

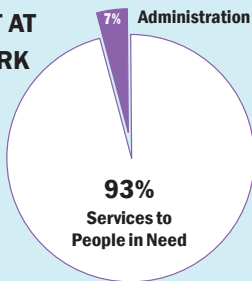


CATHOLIC CHARITIES CARE PROGRAMS

Thank You for Your Support



YOUR GIFT AT WORK



All Soul's 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
Diocese of Venice
P.O. Box 2116
Venice, FL 34284-2116

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

Do You Have A Will?

Florida has a rigid set of rules (laws of decent and distribution) which apply to everyone, regardless of a family's situation or circumstances.

Without a will you are at the mercy of the court systems as to how your estate, small or large, will be distributed.

The Good Samaritan Guild of Catholic Charities can help you prepare the information necessary to write a valid will. Call us Toll-Free* or fill in the coupon and we will mail you our Wills Worksheets at no charge.



Order Your Mass Cards Today

To learn more about the Foundation please visit our Web site at www.ccfndswfl.org

The Good Samaritan Guild

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

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

MASS CARDS**
Send 2 samples of the new Mass cards from the Guild.

*** Please enclose \$1.00 to help with postage.*

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

