

## Catholic Charities Receives National Reaccreditation



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

Venice—Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. has been reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). Catholic

Charities has been recognized as an outstanding human service provider.

“The national reaccreditation signifies that Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice is one of the best social service agencies in all of Southwest Florida,” said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, CEO of Catholic Charities. “It assures our supporters that we meet best practice standards in all areas of operations including

programmatically, financially, and ethically. It also is a way of assuring our donors that we are utilizing their donations as they want us to,” he said.

“It goes without saying that all of this is not possible without the tremendous dedication continually shown by Bishop Frank Dewane, our board, staff, and volunteers,” Routsis-Arroyo said.

*Reaccreditation on page 4*

## Early Learning Center Hopes to Provide Scholarships

Sarasota—Catering to low-income families, St. Martha’s Early Learning Center of Catholic Charities is preparing young students for kindergarten. The center teaches essential reading, writing, math and computer skills which are vital for success in elementary school.

“Every child deserves a chance to have a good start in life, no matter what income level they

come from,” said Jer-Rika Green, Program Director for St. Martha’s Early Learning Center. “We offer high quality care at an affordable price.”

Other aspects of the program include the development of fine and gross motor skills, and social and



*Students at St. Martha’s Early Learning Center of Catholic Charities enjoy snack time.*

emotional skills, along with nutrition activities, and outdoor play time. Staff members from the Selby Library of Sarasota County also visit the center once a month

*Early Learning Center on page 6*



Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop

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[www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org)

## Parishes Assist With Human Trafficking Issue



### Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

- Is the person accompanied by another who seems controlling?
- Is the person rarely allowed in public except for work?
- Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?
- Does the person seem submissive or fearful?
- Does the person have difficulty communicating?
- Does the person lack identification?
- Is someone else collecting the person's pay or holding their money for "safe keeping?"

### Understanding Victims of Human Trafficking

- Many victims do not speak English and do not understand American culture.
- Some victims do not know what city or country they are in because they are often forced to move.
- Most victims have a strong sense of distrust because they fear deportation.
- Many victims do not see themselves as victims and do not realize what is being done to them is wrong.

*Fort Myers and Naples*— Human trafficking is considered to be modern-day slavery and the role of social service providers is to identify and assist victims.

The Human Trafficking Program of Catholic Charities partners with the Sheriff's Departments in both Lee and Collier counties and Florida Gulf Coast University to tackle this growing but largely hidden social problem. Victims of trafficking are exploited for commercial sex or labor purposes where traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to achieve exploitation.

"Victims are hard to identify. You have to look beneath the surface," said Alex Olivares, Program Director of the Human Trafficking Program of Catholic Charities. Since the program initiated in July of 2009, about 60 victims of trafficking have been assisted. Victims have come mostly from Central America, but also from Asia, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, Haiti and Jamaica. The program is funded by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops and the United States Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crimes. Florida Gulf Coast University provides the needs assessment for the program.

In 2010, Olivares started giving presentations to parishes throughout the Diocese of Venice offering information about understanding human trafficking, and identifying and supporting victims. "This issue is important to Bishop (Frank) Dewane and he gives his full support," said Olivares. "The parishes have been so supportive and good at recognizing victims and connecting them with Catholic

Charities," he said.

According to Olivares, victims of human trafficking are often kept isolated and their activities are restricted to prevent them from seeking help. They are typically watched, escorted or guarded by traffickers, and are coached to answer questions with a cover story.

Human trafficking victims can be found in commercial sex, domestic situations, sweatshop factories, construction, farming or landscaping, fisheries, hotel or tourist industries, panhandling, janitorial services, and restaurant services.

When victims of human trafficking are identified, Catholic Charities lends immediate help with housing, food, provisions of medical and dental services, benefits applications, supportive counseling, and transportation to appointments. Catholic Charities also provides comprehensive case management services for victims which includes coordination of mental health counseling and other community services, English and educational classes, and law enforcement agencies and immigration attorneys pertaining to the victim's legal case and certification.

Olivares often turns to area parishes for donations of food, clothing, baby items and other necessities when victims are first identified. "The parishes are the unifying center of it all. Not only are they recognizing victims, they are also helping victims to achieve a better life," said Olivares. "I just put a call out and they always respond every time."

For more information about the Human Trafficking Program of Catholic Charities, please call 239-738-8722.

## Foreclosure Prevention Sets Homeowners on Right Path

*Bradenton*—After two years of trying to work with her bank to modify her mortgage and achieving no success, Silvia Toro came to Catholic Charities of Manatee County looking for assistance. She had lost her job and her home was not affordable anymore. She was in desperate need of help.

“She was very distraught and very frustrated when she came to Catholic Charities,” said Lucy Sanchez, a counselor for the Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention Program of Catholic Charities. “Once Silvia lost her job, she went on Social Security benefits and managed to pay her mortgage payments but was increasingly not able to pay her other bills. Fortunately she came to us before it got too bad,” Sanchez said.

Toro has owned her home since 1998 and tried to work with her bank to get a loan modification. She supplied all the documentation that was requested but the lender continued to delay the process which magnified her economic woes. “This is a very common situation,” said Sanchez. “The banks often do not hear the cry of their clients. People who are in a financial crisis can only hold on for so long,” she said.

Sanchez discovered that Toro qualified for the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), a federal program that helps homeowners receive a loan modification for their mortgage. She mediated with the bank on Toro’s behalf. “Silvia was able to get her loan modified from 6.5% interest to



*Silvia Toro (left) works with Catholic Charities Housing Counselor Lucy Sanchez on a loan modification so that she can afford to stay in her home.*

2% and stay in her home,” Sanchez said. “The whole process took us about ten months.”

“I felt so relieved when I came to Catholic Charities. I knew they could help me,” said Toro. “I love my home and my neighborhood. I was determined to stay there.”

“One of the smartest things that Silvia did was to continue to pay her mortgage,” said Sanchez. “You have to keep paying it or you will ruin your credit and you will have to work a lot harder to resolve your problem as you will have less options.”

According to Sanchez, not all homeowners are able to keep their homes. “We also counsel people who cannot keep their home as to what are their options,” Sanchez said. “We give them hope and let them know that

it is OK. It is important to be realistic and deal with the situation at hand and plan for the future.”

The Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention Program offers assistance with foreclosure prevention, pre- and post-purchase issues, credit and budgeting, and financial literacy and money management. A free First Time Homebuyer Class also is available once a month at Catholic Charities in both English and Spanish.

Partial funding for the Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention Program comes from Catholic Charities USA and Fannie Mae. The program is in need of donations and volunteers to perform clerical duties.

For more information, please call 941-714-7829, ext. 302. Or, email [lsanchez@ccdis1.org](mailto:lsanchez@ccdis1.org).

**Reaccreditation from page 1**

According to Richard Klarberg, President and CEO of COA, reaccreditation is an objective and reliable verification that provides confidence and support to an organization's service recipients, board members, staff, and community partners. The COA reaccreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of both an organization's administrative operations and its service delivery practices. All are measured against national

standards of best practice.

Klarberg said these standards emphasize services that are accessible, appropriate, culturally responsive, evidence based, and outcomes-oriented. In addition, they are provided by a skilled and supported workforce and that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

"This national accreditation combined with the fact that Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice has consistently received the highest Charity Navigator rating demonstrates our

commitment to provide quality services," Routsis-Arroyo said.

In 2010, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice assisted 40,602 people through a variety of programs and services available throughout Southwest Florida. For every dollar donated to the agency, a total of 94 cents goes directly to programs and services. Catholic Charities helps all people in need regardless of race, nationality or creed.

For more information please call 941-488-5581 or visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org).

## Wish List

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

**Fort Myers**

Call Roseann at 239-334-4007

- Back to school supplies
- Adult diapers
- Refrigerators and freezers
- After school tutor volunteers

**Fort Myers**

Call Elizabeth at 239-461-0233

- After school reading tutors for students grades K-5

**Fort Myers**

Call Youselande at 239-337-4193

- Full, twin, and crib sheet sets
- Dinette set, dresser, and TV stand
- Laundry detergent and diapers sizes 2-6
- Underwear for girls in all sizes, underwear and bras for women in all sizes

**Immokalee**

Call Ninfa at 239-657-6242

- Baby clothes in all sizes and baby wipes
- New computer

**Naples**

Call Allegra at 239-793-0059

- Volunteers for data entry and for the food pantry

**Sarasota**

Call Slav at 941-493-8231

- Filing cabinets with a lock

**Sarasota**

Call Sandy at 941-366-1886

- Non-perishable food for pantry
- Laminate flooring (342 square feet)
- Men's athletic shoes in all sizes
- New color printer
- 20 bags of shell for landscaping

**Sarasota**

Call Jer-Rika at 941-366-1395

- Laminating machine
- Merry-go-round and balance beam for children's playground

**Venice**

Call Mary at 941-244-9490

- Digital camera with computer software and cable

- Gift cards to assist needy families

**Venice**

Call Bob at 941-497-5422

- Volunteer FCC licensed radio operators for Catholic Charities Disaster Amateur Radio Network living in Hendry, Glades, Highlands, or Hardee Counties.

**Venice**

Call Joyce at 941-485-6264

- New pots and pans
- New dishes
- Three office chairs

**Venice**

Call Yuri at 941-492-4855

- Microwave
- Used vehicles
- Gift cards to Publix and Wal-Mart



**2011 Boards of Directors  
Catholic Charities,  
Diocese of Venice, Inc.**

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop  
Rev. Monsignor Stephen McNamara, Vicar General  
Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk, Chancellor  
Peter Routsis-Arroyo, CEO  
Kathleen Rey, Chair  
W. Lew Schmidt, Vice Chair  
Thomas Fahey, Treasurer  
Luis Olivarez, Secretary

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William McSweeney  
Fran Mendrick  
Judy Sullivan  
Carla Velazquez  
Susie Walters

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**Catholic Charities Housing,  
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Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop  
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Sister Cathy Buster, Vice President  
Jim Sweeney, Secretary

*Members*

Ana Romillo  
Pat Tyler

Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk, Chancellor

**CEO's Corner**

I am proud to announce that Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice has received national reaccreditation (page 1) from the Council on Accreditation (COA). This recognizes Catholic Charities as an outstanding human service provider and assures supporters that we meet best practice standards.

The COA reaccreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of both our administrative operations and service delivery practices. Some of our organizational strengths include that key ethical policies are in place, finances are well maintained, our governing board is active and supportive of our mission, clients rights are upheld, and staff in all programs reach for excellence.

This accomplishment is a tribute to the dedication of Bishop Frank Dewane, board members, staff, and volunteers. We will strive to continue to implement high performance standards and deliver the highest quality services to our clients. Please keep Catholic Charities and its work in your prayers.

In closing, I want to extend a blessed thank you to the donors who contributed to our summer Catholic Charities Care Programs. Your support of these vital programs will assist people to make positive changes.

May the good Lord bless you,

*Peter Routsis-Arroyo*

Peter Routsis-Arroyo  
Chief Executive Officer



www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

**Upcoming Events**

**November**

*Venice*

**Sugar Bowl Show of Shows** for Financial Assistance Program of Catholic Charities on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 2 p.m. at the Venice Community Center. For tickets call 941-497-5422 or email robert.sullenberger@hotmail.com.

*Naples*

**Paul Todd Benefit Concert** for Catholic Charities of Collier County on Monday, November 7, 2011 at 6 p.m. at St. Ann Parish. For tickets call 239-455-2655 or email michelle@catholiccharitiescc.org.

**December**

**Catholic Charities Annual Christmas Appeal.** Watch for our letter in your mailbox. For more information call 941-497-0930 or email higgins@dioceseofvenice.org.



*Upcoming Events on page 6*

Catholic Charities is a non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code. Our Florida registration number is CH4196. Catholic Charities receives 100% of each contribution.

### *Early Learning Center from page 1*

to provide special story times, puppet shows, and musical activities.

The center is in need of student scholarships for families who cannot afford to keep their children at the school for the entire day. Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) is a program funded by the state for all children who live in Florida to attend preschool from 9 a.m. until noon. Many of the low-income students at St. Martha's are part of the VPK program but cannot pay the cost of staying at the center for the afternoon.

"The parents of these children are hard-working people that want the best for their children and cannot afford the extended care," said Green. "The center is the best place for the children to be during the day. The alternative usually does not provide proper stimulation and quality nutrition."

St. Martha's provides breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack to the students through a USDA funded food program. "The food is so important. Many students would go without the food if they were not here at school," said Green. "They need nutrition in order to learn."

A food pantry is available to all families at the center. Food is purchased from All Faiths Food Bank. "The majority of our families take a box of food home every Friday," Green said. "We are in need of donations to purchase items for our food pantry."

St. Martha's Early Learning Center has received a Four-Star ranking from the Early Learning

Coalition Look for the Stars Program. "We are very proud of the quality of services we offer the children who attend our preschool," Green said. "We want every child to have the opportunity to take part in a full day of learning and fun."

Anyone who is interested in providing a donation for student scholarships or the food

pantry can contact Jer-Rika Green at St. Martha's Early Learning Center at 941-366-1395 or [stmarthas@verizon.net](mailto:stmarthas@verizon.net).



*Students at St. Martha's Early Learning Center receive a healthy breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack.*

### *Upcoming Events from page 5*

#### **January** *Sarasota*

**Catholic Charities Ball** for Catholic Charities of Sarasota and Manatee counties on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton. For tickets call 941-355-4680, ext. 311 or email [jwozniak@ccdis1.org](mailto:jwozniak@ccdis1.org).

#### **February** *Sarasota*

**Bethesda House Mardi Gras Madness** for Bethesda House of Catholic Charities on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Sarasota Yacht Club. For tickets call 941-355-4680, ext. 311 or email [jwozniak@ccdis1.org](mailto:jwozniak@ccdis1.org).

#### *Venice*

**Our Mother's House Wine Tasting and Dinner Dance** for Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Plantation Golf and Country Club. For tickets call 941-485-6264 or email [omhsrqdir@comcast.net](mailto:omhsrqdir@comcast.net).

#### **March** *Fort Myers*

**Venetian Charity Ball** for Catholic Charities of Lee, Hendry and Glades counties on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point. For tickets call 239-823-7928 or email [venetianball2012@aol.com](mailto:venetianball2012@aol.com).

#### *Lake Suzy*

**Boots and Bandannas Dinner Dance** for Catholic Charities of DeSoto county on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 6 p.m. at Kingsway Country Club. For tickets call 863-494-1068 or email [charity2@embarqmail.com](mailto:charity2@embarqmail.com).

#### *Naples*

**Emerald Ball** for Catholic Charities of Collier county on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton Tiburon. For tickets call 239-455-2655 or email [michelle@catholiccharitiescc.org](mailto:michelle@catholiccharitiescc.org).

### Seminar Focuses on Fundraisers

Venice—Bishop Frank J. Dewane hosted a day-long seminar for the chairs of all the Catholic Charities fundraising events. The meeting featured guest speaker Denise Scalzo (photo, left of Bishop Dewane) who is the Vice President of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land and Senior Director of Development for Scripps Clinic, Green Hospital, and Health Foundation.

Catholic Charities Chief Operating Officer Sharon Aragona (photo, standing) led the seminar which included Catholic Charities volunteers involved

with the Catholic Charities Ball, Venetian Charity Ball, Emerald Ball, Our Mother’s House Wine Tasting and Dinner Dance, and Boots and Bandannas Dinner Dance. Catholic Charities is grateful to all the volunteers that offer their time and talent to make each of the galas and dinner dances a success.

Please refer to Upcoming



Event Chairs of Catholic Charities fundraisers attended an all-day seminar at the Catholic Center in Venice.

Events on Page 5 of this newsletter for more information on all Catholic Charities fundraisers.

## 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

The Good Samaritan Guild has asked the Carmelite Fathers in Venice to begin a Novena of Masses on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 for the souls of our departed loved ones and friends. (A total of Nine Masses will be said beginning on 11/2.)

The Guild wants to include

each of your loved ones and friends in the special intentions of these 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 or to the address listed in the coupon below.



**Please remember the deceased friends and loved ones listed below.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Catholic Charities Foundation**  
5824 Bee Ridge Rd., PMB 409  
Sarasota, FL 34233-5065

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

\_\_\_\_\_

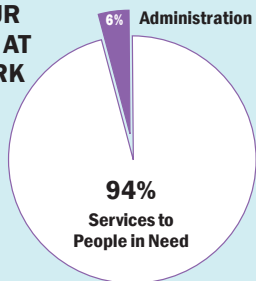
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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES CARE PROGRAMS

Thank you for supporting our educational services that teach essential life skills to people in need!



**YOUR GIFT AT WORK**



## 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  
Diocese of Venice, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2116  
Venice, FL 34284-2116

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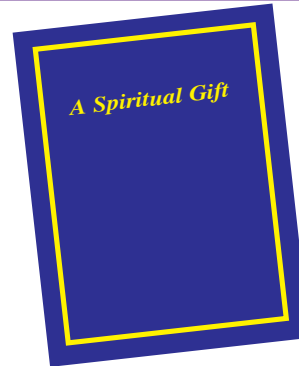
**Catholic Charities serves and empowers ALL in need, regardless of race, nationality or creed.**

## Do You Have A Will?

Without a will that is valid in Florida, 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.

You need to be certain that your will is valid according to the laws of the State of Florida. Only an attorney can accurately determine this for you.

**Will Worksheets** from the **Good Samaritan Guild** can help you prepare the information an attorney will require in order to help you write a valid will. Fill in the coupon below and we'll mail you a set of our **Will Worksheets**.



**Order Your Mass Cards Today**

To learn more about the Foundation please visit our Web site at [www.ccfdnsfwl.org](http://www.ccfdnsfwl.org)

### The Good Samaritan Guild

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**MAIL TO: Catholic Charities Foundation**  
5824 Bee Ridge Rd., PMB 409  
Sarasota, FL 34233-5065

**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.

