

Backpacks Filled with Food Feed Hungry Children

Naples—When you live in sunny, beautiful Southwest Florida, it is hard to believe there are children within the community that are without food and often feel hungry. Unfortunately, it is a reality for some youngsters.

Catholic Charities of Collier County established a program called the Weekend Power Pack Food Program to combat this



The Weekend Power Pack Food Program provides chronically hungry children with food.

problem. They have partnered with the Collier County Public School System.

“The Weekend Power Pack Food Program provides food to chronically hungry elementary school students who are homeless and who are at risk of hunger over the weekend when free school meals are unavailable,” said

Backpacks Filled on page 2

Award Given to Advocate for the Rural Poor



Sister Ann DeNicolo (left to right) works with volunteers Andrea Prado and Sally Falkenburg stocking the food pantry at Catholic Charities of DeSoto County.

together. We appreciate and respect one another.”

Amongst the camaraderie of the close-knit community is severe poverty. The despair does not scare off Sister DeNicolo but motivates her to keep raging her “war on poverty.” “Our Catholic Social Teaching tells us the poor are our priority,” she said.

Sister DeNicolo is the Program Director for Prevention and Support Services at Catholic Charities of DeSoto County located in Arcadia. Her years of dedication to the needy there have been recognized by the National Catholic

Award Given on page 3

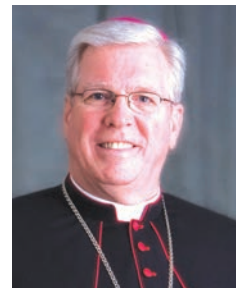
Arcadia—Sister Ann DeNicolo, BVM, feels drawn to DeSoto County. She has spent the last 12 years working there and sees beauty in the rural setting.

“Everyone has to pitch in to help out,” Sister DeNicolo said. “That’s what I love about it. We have no choice but to come

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Show Fills the Sugar Bowl	2
Wish List	4
Conference to Address Homelessness and Human Trafficking	4
CEO’s Corner	5
Upcoming Events	5
Summer Camp Offers Unique and Innovative Learning	6
All Souls’ Day Novena of Masses	7
Catholic Charities is on Facebook	8
Do You Have a Will?	8

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org



Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Bishop

Backpacks Filled from page 1

How You Can Help



Members of the Order of Malta volunteer for the Weekend Power Pack Food Program at Catholic Charities of Collier County.

The Weekend Power Pack Food Program is in need of volunteers, food items, and donations to pay for the food purchased through the food bank.

Volunteers are needed to assist in packing the food for each child and presenting/handing out the food packages to the students during a learning session at Mike Davis Elementary School. The learning session is conducted by the school guidance office and includes a reading program. For more information about volunteering to prepare the food backpacks for the students, please call Catholic Charities of Collier County at 239-455-2655. Anyone interested in participating in the program at the school, please call Volunteer Coordinator Tony Lettiere at 239-377-9000.

Food items especially needed by the Weekend Power Pack Food Program include 3.2 oz. size packages of dried milk, 3.8 oz. size packages of fruit cups or applesauce, and 1.5 oz. size packages of cereal bowls. Monetary donations also are being accepted to purchase food. Please call Catholic Charities of Collier County at 239-455-2655 if you wish to donate.

A fundraiser for the Weekend Power Pack Food Program will be held on Friday, January 18, 2013 at the California Pizza Kitchen located at 5555 Tamiami Trail North in Naples. Please call the restaurant at 239-566-1900 for more information.

Armando Galella, District Director of Catholic Charities of Collier County.

“The goal of the program is to provide children, who are identified to be homeless, with a backpack stuffed with nutritious food every Friday so that they will have food throughout the weekend,” Galella said. “Weekends are times when it is easy for kids to go hungry and this program provides children with continued nourishment while they are not afforded the access to free lunches at school.”

The Collier County Public School system identifies a child as homeless based on federal guidelines. The Weekend Power Pack Food Program provides a package of nutritious food every week to over 200 homeless children who attend Mike Davis Elementary School in the Golden Gate community of Collier County.

This school has the highest number of homeless children among all schools in the district.

Food is purchased by Catholic Charities through the Harry Chapin Food Bank and volunteers fill the packages and transport them every week to the school. All of the volunteers currently are members of the Order of Malta, a Catholic organization with a mission to serve the poor.

The League Club, Inc. recently awarded a \$9,700 grant to the program and the Collier County Bar Foundation provided one for \$5,000.

“Those funds immediately began to be utilized right at the start of the school year,” Galella said. “We are so grateful for the monies. This program is one that is both worthy and necessary. When children are hungry within the community, you must respond to that need.”

Annual Show Fills the Sugar Bowl



Venice—Singer and entertainer Jimmy Mazz and the smooth sounds of the Al Hixon Jazz Group will entertain patrons of the **5th Annual Sugar Bowl Show of Shows** on Sunday, November 4, 2012 at the Venice Community Center at 2 p.m.

Catholic Charities and the five local Knights of Columbus Councils in Venice, Englewood, North Port, and Grove City have partnered in a worthy cause called the **Sugar Bowl Fund**. Proceeds from the Sugar Bowl Show of Shows will go directly to the Sugar Bowl Fund.

The Sugar Bowl Fund helps local families that suffer an



Al Hixon Jazz Group

economic hardship because of an emergency medical, housing or transportation expense. Needy families are given one-time assistance to overcome their crisis. In 2011, 50 families with 126 children were assisted with more than \$25,000.

“It was an old household custom to save for a rainy day by

Annual Show on page 3

Annual Show from page 2

stuffing a few dollars a week into a sugar bowl,” said Dick Maier, Co-Chair of the Sugar Bowl Show of Shows. “These hard times still exist today, but too often families have no sugar bowl of savings to help with temporary unexpected expenses.”



Jimmy Mazz

“The number of families in our community requesting financial assistance continues to grow,” Maier said. The mission of the Sugar Bowl Fund is to provide a safety net for families going through a crisis. Fear of homelessness and fear of having electricity and water turned off is

a reality for many low-income families, according to Maier.

Anyone interested in helping to fill the Sugar Bowl Fund by attending the Sugar Bowl Show of Shows can purchase tickets by calling 941-497-5422 or visiting www.catholiccharitiesdov.org. Tickets are \$20 a person and also can be bought at the door the day of the show. Opportunities for sponsorship of the event and advertisement in the Show Program are available.

Award Given from page 1

Rural Life Conference. Sister DeNicolo is the recipient of the Edwin Vincent O’Hara Advocacy Award which honors a leader who is an advocate for the rural communities and social justice in the spirit and tradition of Archbishop O’Hara.

“I am honored to receive this award,” Sister DeNicolo said. “The namesake of the award is humbling. I am so impressed by the work of Archbishop O’Hara. The whole staff at Catholic Charities here is deserving of this award.”

Sister DeNicolo is a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Dubuque, Iowa. Serving the needy is rooted in her religious community. “It is a privilege to work with the poor,” she said. “DeSoto County has the poorest of the poor.”

Catholic Charities of DeSoto County provides food and clothing, and financial assistance with rent, utilities, and transportation expenses to the community along with immigration services, and an after school tutoring program. Sister DeNicolo strives to empower her clients and set them



Sister Ann DeNicolo (right) helps a desperate client during the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Charley in 2004.

on the path of self-sufficiency.

“Sister Ann’s approach is simple: build a relationship of mutual trust and respect, provide opportunities regarding rights and responsibilities, and encourage people as they move forward, establishing their place in the community,” said Andy Herigodt, Program Director of Catholic Charities of DeSoto County. “Families requesting food will find themselves discussing budgeting, fair housing, good health care, and fair employment practices. Her direct but supportive demeanor sends a clear message of ‘you can’.”

One of the challenges for the poor who live in DeSoto County

is resources, Sister DeNicolo said. “There is no public transportation or homeless shelter, and little education, employment or health care which makes being poor that much more difficult,” she said.

Many Catholic parishes in surrounding and more wealthy communities, such as St. Maximilian Kolbe in Port Charlotte, St. Thomas More in Sarasota, and Our Lady of Lourdes in Venice, support Catholic Charities of DeSoto County with volunteers, food for the pantry, and much more.

“We might be short of resources, but we are strong on faith,” Sister DeNicolo said. “This award is for all the people and organizations who donate to Catholic Charities. I am just the vehicle that delivers the assistance.”

Sister DeNicolo said she appreciates the opportunity to serve the poor of DeSoto County. “I bring them hope. One person at a time,” she said.

If you or your parish, organization or business would like to help Sister Ann DeNicolo in her fight against poverty, please call Catholic Charities of DeSoto County at 863-494-1068.

Wish List

Catholic Charities programs appreciate any help you can give.

Arcadia

Call Andy at 863-494-1068

- Laundry detergent, hand and dish soap, paper towels
- Baby diapers sizes 2, 3 and 4
- Razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant

Clewiston

Call Lourdes at 239-337-4193

- Refrigerator for food pantry
- Small deep freezer for food pantry
- Nonperishable food items

Fort Myers

Call Roseann at 239-334-4007

- File cabinets with locks
- Small computer desks
- Adult disposable diapers sizes medium and large

Immokalee

Call Ninfa at 239-657-6242

- Baby diapers sizes 3, 4 and 5 and wipes
- Cooking oil, pinto beans, Maseca, rice, cereal, fruit juice
- Volunteer tutors

Naples

Call Sharon at 239-455-0520

- Rosetta Stone language program for English and Spanish
- Small computer workstations

Naples

Call Allegra at 239-793-0059

- Small flat screen TV and wall mount for food pantry lobby
- Canned vegetables, spaghetti, ravioli, and small fruit cups
- Rice, dry beans, and cereal
- Microwave
- Baby diapers sizes 1, 2 and 3

North Port

Call Becky at 941-497-0930

- Three or four month calendar dry erase white board

North Port

Call Yuri at 941-492-4855

- Hard plastic rolling utility cart

Sarasota

Call Jer-Rika at 941-366-1395

- Indoor sand and water table
- Digital camera
- Two rolling white boards

Sarasota

Call Sandy at 941-366-1886

- Non-perishable food especially Ramen Noodles, dry cereal, salad dressing, mayonnaise, sugar
- Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, denture adhesive
- Bike locks, backpacks, rain ponchos
- Men's shoes in good condition and men's jeans no larger than size 34

Venice

Call Joyce at 941-485-6264

- Medium size shop vacuum cleaner
- Full size vacuum cleaner

Venice

Call Bob at 941-497-5422

- Volunteer FCC licensed radio operators for Catholic Charities Disaster Amateur Radio Network living in Sarasota, Venice, Arcadia, Fort Myers, Port Charlotte, and Naples areas
- Used laptop computers and amateur radio equipment in good condition

Rather shop online?

Every day, Catholic Charities programs are confronted with a shortage of basic items needed by clients such as toilet paper, hygiene products, diapers, laundry detergent and food. Providing these necessities is so important to help our clients maintain their human dignity. You can help!

Visit our Catholic Charities web site and click on the **Click and Give** logo and you will find a list of our Catholic Charities programs in need of necessities. Click on a program and you will be directed to their Wish List on the Amazon web site. Purchase the items you want to donate and they will be sent directly to the Catholic Charities program. Please let us know who you are so that we can thank you!



Just visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org to make a gift that will have an immediate impact for those who need it most!



Conference to Address Homelessness and Human Trafficking

Venice—Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. will host the *Faith and Action Conference* on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center.

Two sessions will be offered at the conference: *Experiencing the Many Faces of Homelessness and Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking*. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. with registration and continental breakfast and conclude with Mass at 2:30 p.m. There will be time for reflection and private prayer, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Lunch also will be served.

The cost is \$30 per person. For more information, please contact Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center by phone at 941-486-0233 or by email at olphinfo@olph-retreat.org or visit www.olph-retreat.org.

Catholic Charities

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

Programs & Services Locations

Arcadia
Bonita Springs
Bradenton
Clewiston
Fort Myers
Highlands and Hardee Counties Outreach Services
Immokalee
Naples
Palmetto
Port Charlotte
Sarasota
Venice
Wauchula

Programs & Services

Affordable Housing
After-School Program
After-School Reading Program
After-School Tutoring Program
Casework Services/Needs Assessment
Citizenship Classes
Citizenship Services
Clothing Bank
Counseling Services
Disaster Preparedness and Response
Distribution of FEMA Funds
DUI Groups
Early Learning Center
Elderly Services
English Classes
Financial Assistance
First Time Home Buyer Class
Food Assistance
Food Pantry
Food Stamps/Medicaid Applications
HIV/AIDS Support Services
HIV/AIDS Housing
Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention
Human Trafficking Program
Infant/Toddler Supplies
Residential Program for Mothers and Children
Refugee Services
Refugee Youth and Family Programs
School on Wheels Program
Summer Youth Program
Tutoring
Youth Mentoring Program

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.

CEO's Corner

Without the dedication and hard work of volunteers, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. would not be able to operate. I would like to take this moment to thank all of our volunteers who faithfully give their support to our programs and services, and fundraisers.

Volunteers afford us the ability to do more for our clients. As you can see in the *Upcoming Events* section below, Catholic Charities has several happenings held throughout the diocese that directly support our work within the community. The proceeds from these fundraisers are vital and provide us the capacity to serve those who come to Catholic Charities requesting help.

We invite anyone interested in contributing their time and talent to Catholic Charities to contact us. We are always in need of volunteers, especially for our fundraising events. Please consider being a Catholic Charities volunteer. Your generosity will be much appreciated.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our first annual *Summertime and the Giving is Easy* campaign. Because of your donation, the campaign was a success and will offer many people the opportunity to make positive changes in their lives.

May the good Lord bless you,




Peter Routsis-Arroyo
Chief Executive Officer



www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Upcoming Events

November **Sugar Bowl Show of Shows** for Financial Assistance Program of Venice Catholic Charities on Sunday, November 4, 2012 at 2 p.m. at the Venice Community Center. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 941-497-5422 or email robert.sullenberger@hotmail.com.

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. 

January **Catholic Charities Ball** for Catholic Charities of Sarasota and Manatee Counties on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 941-355-4680, ext. 311 or email jwozniak@ccdis1.org.

Naples **Catholic Charities of Collier County 45th Anniversary Celebration** on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 6 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish. For more information call 239-455-2655 or email michelle@catholiccharitiescc.org.

Upcoming Events on page 6

Summer Camp Offers Unique and Innovative Learning

Fort Myers—You could hear the rhythmic pounding from the parking lot. The sounds traveled beyond and into the surrounding community, where life is not always easy for those who live there. But inside the African Caribbean American Center (AFCAAM) of Catholic Charities, in the midst of a troubled neighborhood, positive things were happening.

Middle and high school age youths were attending a summer camp where they were treated to learning the art of African drumming. Dr. Signe Kastberg from nearby Florida Gulf Coast University was teaching a room full of students drum beat patterns and preparing them for a performance to be held at the conclusion of the camp.

“What did that drum beat feel like?” Dr. Kastberg asked the students. “It feels like unity,” one called out.

Dr. Kastberg, a Professor of Counseling, said group drumming promotes greater balance, cooperation, mental/physical health, and stress management. She challenged the students to listen to each other, work together as a group, and stay on task and play their part in the drum sequence.

Dr. Kastberg’s philosophy: “With Discipline Comes Freedom.” Only a week into the camp, the students were already making beautiful music. They were communicating to each other through their drumming. Smiles were spread across their faces as they mastered a difficult song.

“These young people don’t have many good relationships with adults,” said Veronica Barber, Coordinator of the Youth Mentoring

Programs at the AFCAAM Center. “Our goal is to keep them off the streets and give them the opportunity to be exposed to new and positive experiences, and proper adult mentors.”

The at-risk students are enrolled in the mentoring programs at the center during the school year and are

offered the summer camp as a reward. “It is a productive way for them to spend their summer days,” said Barber. “During the school year we don’t have as much opportunity to do exciting



Dr. Signe Kastberg (left) of Florida Gulf Coast University teaches African drumming to the students at the AFCAAM Center of Catholic Charities.

projects like these because we focus more on academic performance, self esteem and emotional development.”

Summer Camp on page 7

Upcoming Events from page 5

February **Bethesda House Mardi Gras Madness** for Bethesda House of Catholic Charities on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Sarasota Yacht Club. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 941-355-4680, ext. 311 or email jwozniak@ccdis1.org.

Venice **Our Mother’s House Wine Tasting, Auction and Dinner Dance** for Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Plantation Golf and Country Club. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 941-485-6264 or email omhsrqdir@comcast.net.

March **Venetian Charity Ball** for Catholic Charities of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 239-334-4007 or email ecortes@ccslee.org.

Lake Suzy **Boots and Bandannas Dinner Dance** for Catholic Charities of DeSoto County on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 6 p.m. at Kingsway Country Club. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 863-494-1068 or email charity2@embarqmail.com.

Naples **Emerald Ball** for Catholic Charities of Collier County on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton Naples. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 239-455-2655 or email michelle@catholiccharitiescc.org.

April **AFCAAM Golf Tournament** for the African Caribbean American Center (AFCAAM) of Catholic Charities on Friday, April 12, 2013 at the Forest Country Club in Fort Myers. For more information call 239-461-0233 or email d.young@afcaam.com.

Summer Camp from page 6



Students attending the summer camp at the AFCAAM Center of Catholic Charities create a digital presentation.

The summer camp also featured digital technology. Dr. Robert Kenny, a professor from Florida Gulf Coast University, instructed the students on how to produce digital artifacts as a form of self expression. They constructed personal narratives using music, animation, and other mediated performing arts techniques. The African drumming was incorporated into their presentations.

“These are skills the students can use at home, at school, and at a job,” said Barber. “We hope to build confidence in these young people and help them to feel pride in their work. We want them to see the value in team building and that hard work and effort does pay off.”

Along with the mentoring

programs for middle and high school students, the AFCAAM Center also offers an After School Reading Program for elementary students. The motto of the Catholic Charities agency is: “A student who’s loved, is a student who learns.”

“We are just trying to make a difference for the youth in this community,” said Barber. “We do that by educating them and encouraging them to be life-long learners and people of service.”

The AFCAAM Center of Catholic Charities is in need of sponsors for their youth programs. For more information, please call David Young at 239-461-0233 or email him at d.young@afcaam.com or visit www.afcaam.com.

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 Nokomis to begin a Novena of Masses on Friday, November 2, 2012 for the souls of our departed loved ones and friends. A total of nine Masses will be said beginning on Nov. 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

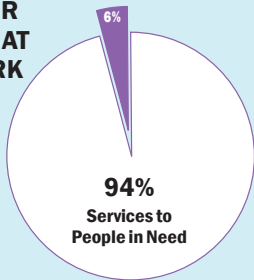
From: _____

Email: _____



Thank you for supporting the first annual *Summertime and the Giving is Easy* campaign. Your donation will brighten the future for many who are in need!

**YOUR
GIFT AT
WORK**



Catholic Charities is on 

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. is now on Facebook. If you are too, then “Like” us and you will receive updates on what is happening at Catholic Charities!

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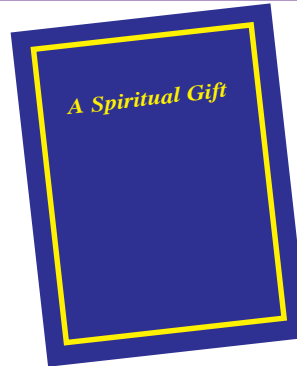
Catholic Charities serves and empowers ALL in need, regardless of race, nationality or creed.

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**.



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