



### Catholic Charities Served More Than 45,000 of Your Neighbors in 2003



Photo by Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

Through 27 programs in the ten-county Diocese of Venice more than 45,000 of your neighbors in need—children, families and individuals— were served by Catholic Charities during 2003.



Photo by Lauren Chelec/Catholic Charities USA

### Annual Report for Services Provided in 2003

- Assisted 33,351 families, children and elderly individuals in economic hardship with food, clothing, prescription medicines, direct assistance and social services.
- Promoted freedom of opportunity for 6,982 immigrants and migrants.
- Provided professional counseling for 2,801 individuals and families.
- Cared for 451 new babies with blankets, layettes, diapers, formula and other basic necessities.
- Offered educational support to 1,229 children through various programs.
- Sponsored 182 refugee families and identified jobs for 559 refugees.
- Ensured quality day care and early learning experiences for 62 families.
- Provided professional, compassionate HIV/AIDS supportive services to 251 individuals and families.
- Encouraged 66 homeless mothers and their children on the road to self-sufficiency.

### Annual Report Financials on page 2

- Emergency Financial Assistance**
- Food Pantry**
- After School Tutoring**
- Child Day Care**
- Refugee Resettlement and Employment**
- Immigration Services**
- Mental Health Counseling**
- Community Outreach**
- Residence for Mothers and Infants**
- Translation and ESL Classes**

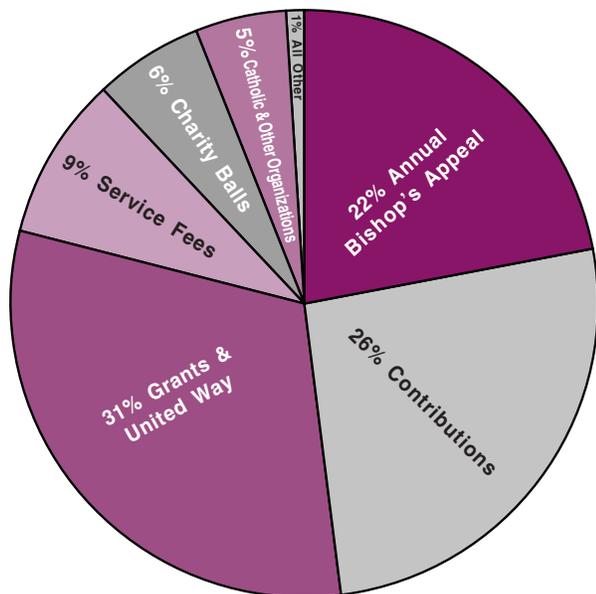
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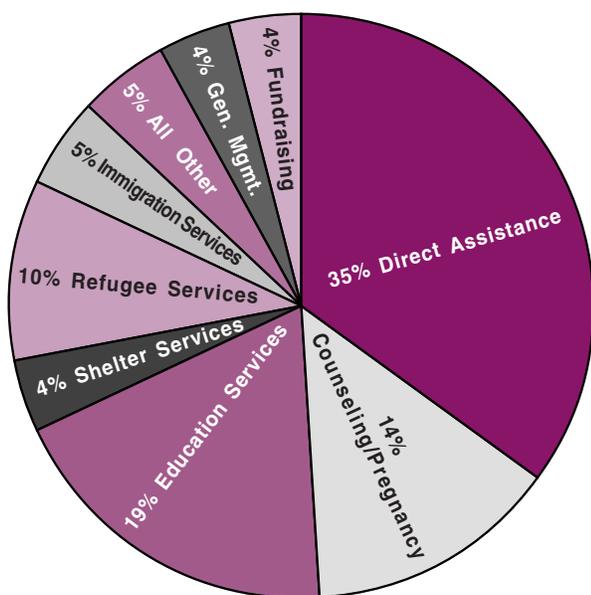
## 2002-2003 By The Numbers

### Revenues and Expenditures for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

#### Revenues Fiscal Year 2002-2003



#### Expenditures Fiscal Year 2002-2003



#### Revenues:

##### For Fiscal Year 2002-2003

Annual Bishop's Appeal .....	840,556
Contributions .....	997,163
Grants and United Ways .....	1,164,793
Service Fees .....	324,157
Charity Balls .....	238,523
Catholic and other organizations .....	192,386
All Other .....	32,386
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3,792,884</b>

#### Expenditures:

##### For Fiscal Year 2002-2003

Direct Assist/Family Support Services .....	1,274,593
Counseling/Pregnancy Services .....	528,590
Specialized Education Services .....	690,075
Shelter Services .....	146,708
Refugee/Entrants Services .....	370,771
All Other .....	174,771
Immigration Services .....	199,173
General/Management Services .....	139,136
Fundraising and Newsletter .....	141,873
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3,666,490</b>

### The People We Serve ...



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Appeal Tops The \$100,000 Goal



“We are extremely grateful to the more than 1,000 donors who contributed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal and whose gifts totaled more than \$100,000,” reported Peter Routsis-Arroyo, President/CEO of Catholic Charities.

“Although the Christmas Appeal is just in its second year of existence,” stated Catherine Baumer, Director of Development, “the combination of regular donors increasing the amount of their gifts and the addition of hundreds of new donors provided the impetus for the

campaign to meet its goal of \$100,000.”

The 2003 Appeal produced a more than 23% increase in the number of donors and a nearly 38% increase in the total gifts received when compared to the first Appeal in 2002.

## St. Martha’s Early Learning Center A New Name And New Challenges

Sarasota—St. Martha’s Day Care Center started in 1989 as an outreach program of St. Martha’s parish and was turned over to Catholic Charities in 1999 by Bishop John J. Nevins.

The purpose of the center is to provide a day care facility for the children of the working poor and underprivileged in Northern Sarasota County.

The center began 2004 with a new name, *St. Martha’s Early Learning Center*, a name that implies and delivers a safe nurturing environment where caring and knowledgeable teachers and effective administration prepare



children from ages 1 to 5 for success in school.

Despite a number of budget difficulties, the newly created Advisory Board and the staff of the center have worked diligently to secure financial stability. One of the results of these efforts was achieving

the Gold Seal Apple Accreditation, the highest rating for day care centers.

“State budget cuts and other economic uncertainty have placed the program in jeopardy,” according to Jim Moore, President of the Advisory Board. “We need the help of the community to continue to give an excellent, affordable education to the needy children of our community.”

If you would like to give of your time, talent or a monetary contribution, please contact Elizabeth Williams at the St. Martha’s Early Learning Center (941) 366-1395.

## Wish List

Volunteer assistance and in-kind contributions are vital to Catholic Charities programs. We appreciate any help you can give.

**Arcadia** - Call Sister Ann at (863) 494-1068.

- Volunteer van driver for one day per week, 2:30-6:00 p.m., for after-school program; Florida driver’s license required
- dressers for clothes
- diapers—all sizes

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

- bilingual (Spanish) volunteers to work with clients in food pantry and refugee program
- television, VCR, tape re-winder for educational purposes
- brochure rack

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

- two-shelf bookcase for children’s Art Center at day care
- movable room divider
- blackboard
- clean sand

## Volunteer Spotlight: Reflections of a Snow Bird

*By Angela Palmeri –Volunteer*

As I reflect on the wonderful time and warm climate I experience in Charlotte County, some of my fondest thoughts are of the work I do with the *Respite Program of Catholic Charities*.

As a retired college administrator I have enjoyed my hours, days and months doing volunteer work. I have assisted men and women prison inmates, served on a variety of Boards and enjoyed the exciting experience of training young lay leaders in my home diocese in Penfield, NY, near Rochester.

Then the Director of the Respite Program of Catholic Charities asked if I would like to volunteer by working with those in the early stages of Alzheimer's. Not being exactly sure what I could do for Alzheimer's patients, but having never learned to say "no," I agreed to try my best.

After putting aside my fears and trepidations, I found that volunteering to work with the Alzheimer's patients has been most rewarding.

My original fears stemmed in part from never having worked with Seniors although I am very much a Senior myself. I had no bag of tricks from my academic background that I thought these patients might respond to, and I was very aware that this experience would make me more aware of my own vulnerability.

My assignment was at the Bon Secours Assisted Living Center where I watched the Director, Carol Lucas, greet every patient like a dear friend. As she gave each one a hug, a smile and showed genuine concern for each of these

Special Persons, I knew I was in "A Special Place."

It didn't take me long to realize that it was the little ordinary things done with extraordinary love that were important. I found that my feelings of fear turned to wonder on each Thursday that I volunteered. I was somehow receiving more than I gave.



Photo by Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

*Volunteers get ready for an ice cream social at "A Special Place" Respite Program of Catholic Charities.*

I am never too sure I understand what a patient may be saying and I often feel as if they do not know what I respond, but the love is so genuine. A simple smile from me brings a light to their eyes that brightens my day. The joy they express from accomplishing the simplest task helps me appreciate the little things in life I may have often missed.

The way each one recognizes me now (I think) and the hugs are more than any monetary reward I have ever received.

Working with Alzheimer's has made me a stronger person. I realize there is more I can do than I ever thought possible. Last week I helped one of my Special People eat her lunch. What a feeling of accomplishment. I've found in myself a patience I didn't know I had and a courage that had been hidden behind my academic

background.

For many years I have worked with groups and individuals helping to raise their self-esteem. Working with the Catholic Charities Respite program gave me more self-esteem than all those academic pieces of paper hung so proudly on my office wall.

Anyone looking to find a special experience working with Special People at a "A Special Place" should contact the Director, Carol Ann Lucas at 941-629-9990. You will receive more than you give.

## Catholic Charities

### Board of Directors

Chairman .....	Mrs. Pat Tyler
Vice-Chairman .....	Dr. Daysi D. Mejia
President/CEO .....	Mr. Peter Routsis-Arroyo
Treasurer .....	Mr. Richard Mack
Secretary .....	Mr. Bill O'Connell
Bishop .....	Most Rev. John J. Nevins, D.D.
Vicar General .....	Very Rev. Edward Moretti
Chancellor .....	Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk
Mr. Samuel D. Blanco, Esq.	Ms. Pamela A. Phillips
Mrs. Mary Fran Carroll	Mr. Dick Porell
Mr. Richard Connelly	Mr. Joseph Ravelli
Mrs. Julie Fogarty	Mr. LeRoy D. Sanders
Mr. Darwin Gervais	Mr. Bob Sullenberger
Mr. Vito Manone	Mrs. Ada Trapanese
Mr. Jack Martin	Mrs. Beverly Zeiss
Mr. Jim Moore	
Honorary Director .....	Very Rev. Thomas Anglim

### Administrative Staff

Executive Assistant .....	Silvia Suarez
Chief Financial Officer .....	Robert Johnson
Chief Operating Officer .....	George Drobinski
Grants & Program Dev .....	Lucille Acken
Director of Development .....	Catherine Baumer

### Regional Directors

Collier County .....	George Drobinski
Lee County .....	Hoda Hanna
Sarasota County .....	Nancy Shoemaker
Rural Services .....	Brian Bennett

### Staff

PR Coordinator .....	Judy Bokorney
Database Administrator .....	Julie Blount



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Council on Accreditation  
for Children and Family Services

## Catholic Charities Foundation

### Board of Directors

Chairman .....	James McTague, Naples
President/CEO .....	Peter Routsis-Arroyo, Venice
Vice-Chairman .....	Richard E. Mack, Naples
Secretary/Treasurer .....	Robert W. Ramsdell, Sarasota
Ass't Secretary .....	JoAnne M. Kuehner, Naples
Foundation Director .....	Louis J. Baumer, Ft. Myers Janet Beach, Venice
	John P. Foley, Bonita Springs
	Rosemary Q. Kelly, Ft. Myers
	Kathleen Rey, Sarasota
Honorary Director .....	John Fitzgerald, Naples
Honorary Director .....	Ric Gregoria, Sarasota
Chaplain .....	Rev. Joel Schevers, O. Carm.

Catholic Charities is a non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code. Our Florida registration number is SC04196. Catholic Charities receives 100% of each contribution.



<http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org>

Visit us at our website.

## President's Corner



Since I began my tenure at Catholic Charities, we have seen a more than 33% increase in both revenues and expenditures. This growth has been fueled by the increase in overall population in Southwest Florida as well as the establishment of new parishes.

The Board of Directors of Catholic Charities recently approved a *"blueprint for growth."* The organizational structure of our agency will change to one based on services and functions rather than our current geographic form. This will allow us to better respond to the continuing growth and expanding needs in our diocese. It is with great pleasure that I have implemented the following changes that are designed to make us more efficient while not adding expense.

George Drobinski has been appointed as the new *Chief Operating Officer* for Catholic Charities. George has and will continue to have responsibilities in Collier County in addition to his new duties as COO.

Lucille Acken, former District Director in Port Charlotte, will serve as *Diocesan Director of Grants and Program Development* as government and foundation grants are becoming evermore important as funding sources for our many programs.

Brian Bennett has been named to a new position as *Regional Director of Rural Services* for Hendry, Glades and DeSoto Counties and immigration. Brian will continue to direct the activities of Guadalupe Social Services in Immokalee.

Hoda Hanna has been appointed Regional Director for Lee County. Hoda came to us from the Florida Department of Children and Family Services and she is responsible for all programs in Lee County.

Growth, such as we continue to face, requires that we validate that our services are meeting the greatest needs in the most responsive manner. With your support, we will be able to continue to *Provide Help and Create Hope* for those in need.

*Peter Routsis-Arroyo*

Peter Routsis-Arroyo, President/CEO

## Upcoming Events

Arcadia • Naples • Diocese

### MARCH

**Arcadia** **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Boots & Bandannas Dinner Dance**  
Saturday March 27, 2004 at the Kingsway Country Club at Lake Suzy. Social hour & Silent Auction—Dinner and Dancing. For reservations call Sister Ann at (863) 494-1068.

**Naples** **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Emerald Ball**  
Saturday, March 27, 2004 at the Registry Resort. For reservations and tickets, call Madeline at 239-455-2655.

**Diocese** **Volunteer's Week**  
April 25 to May 6, 2004. Honor the more than 700 Catholic Charities Volunteers who work in 27 programs within the Diocese of Venice.

## Construction Now Underway For New Our Mother's House Building

Venice—After a series of long delays to attain proper zoning and make necessary changes to meet the City of Venice architectural and building requirements, construction is now underway on the new Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities.

Work on the foundation and walls began in mid-February. The

contractor anticipates that the building will be completed by early summer and the new apartments ready for occupancy by the mothers and young children who are currently in the program.

Our Mother's House provides

safe, affordable housing and the supportive services necessary to assist the mothers to become economically and emotionally self-sufficient.

An announcement regarding a dedication ceremony and open house event will be mailed to all donors, friends and volunteers as soon as a firm date can be set.



## Sarasota Insurance Agent Donates Office Furniture and Supplies

Sarasota—Helen Ledgerwood is just doing what she was raised to do. Growing up in Texas, her parents were generous to neighbors in need. She hopes to always follow in their footsteps.

Ledgerwood, a successful State Farm Insurance agent in Sarasota, donated all of her office furniture and supplies to Catholic Charities when she decided to relocate her office about 20 miles away to the Lakewood Ranch area in Manatee County. She refurbished the new office entirely but didn't want to "just throw away" the existing office paraphernalia.

Catholic Charities received six desks and chairs, client chairs, a conference table with eight

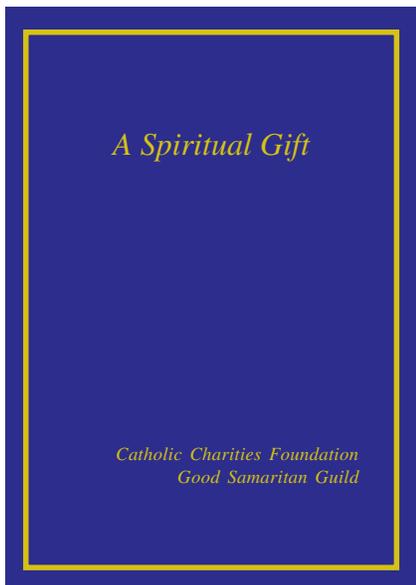
executive chairs, office decorations, office equipment, five leather briefcases, a copier and a microwave.

The donated items will be used at the new Catholic Charities of Manatee County building that will open doors to clients in Spring 2004. Services offered at the Manatee office will be immigration, housing counseling and direct assistance. "We are extremely grateful to Helen for her generosity," said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, President/CEO of Catholic Charities.

Ledgerwood started out as an insurance agent in Oklahoma and moved to Florida 13 years ago. "After Hurricane Andrew struck

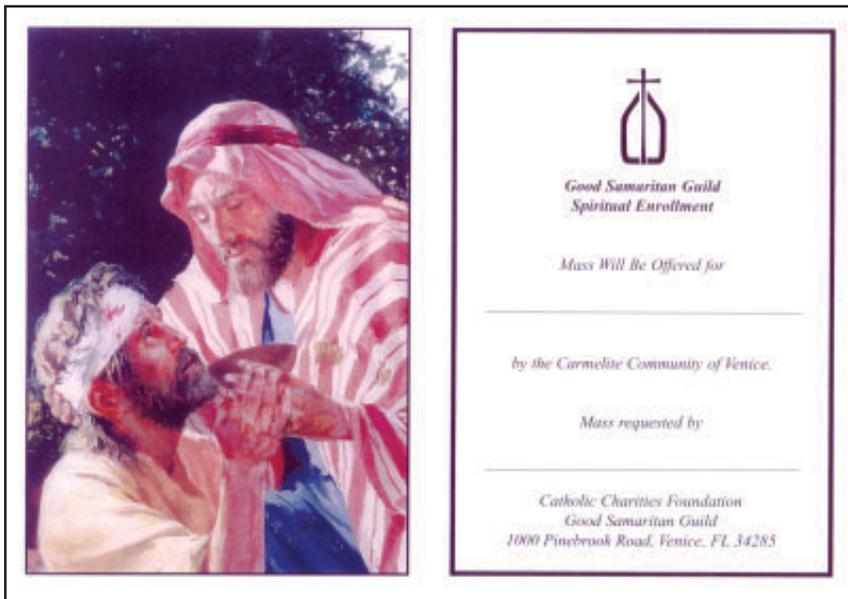


Florida and created so much devastation, I wanted to go back to personally serving the people in my community," she said. "I like helping people to realize their dreams and making sure my clients get what they want out of life." Ledgerwood's office is located at 6280 Lake Osprey Drive in Lakewood Ranch.



## New – From the Good Samaritan Guild

Beautifully crafted Mass cards that you can have on hand to send when the occasion arises. Or the Guild will mail a card for you indicating that you have made a donation to the Guild and requested a Mass to be said for an intention. (Note: Amount of your gift is not disclosed)



**Order Your  
New Mass  
Cards ...  
Today**

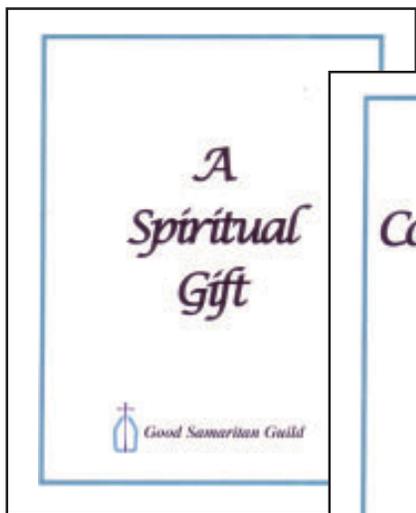
Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ (number) of the new Good Samaritan Guild Mass cards for my use.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

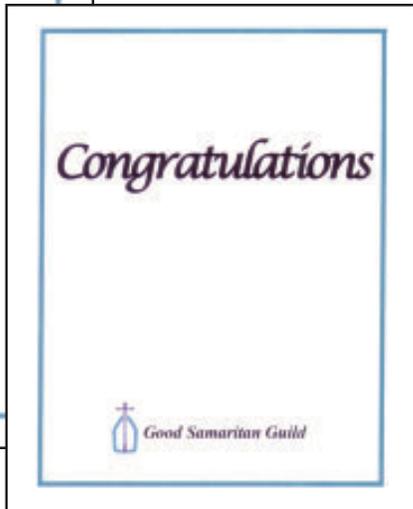
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail this coupon to: Catholic Charities Foundation, P.O. Box 2116, Venice, FL 34284  
Or call Toll Free 1-866-410-7656



## Honorarium - Remembrance Cards



Congratulate—Celebrate—Honor—a friend or family member With the new Honorarium cards from the Good Samaritan Guild.

- Just remembered an upcoming birthday or anniversary?
- Friend or family member needs a get-well message?
- Grandchild got a great report card?

What ever the reason or occasion – we will send a special card with your personal message—Just call us on our Toll-Free number 1-866-410-7656 and give us the details. Your special greeting will be in the mail on the next business day.

*(Note: Amount of your gift is not disclosed)*

## Good Samaritan Guild Remembrance Cards

Good Samaritan Guild “remembrance cards” were established by the Catholic Charities Foundation as a way for individuals and families who believe in our work with the poor and needy to honor or remember their loved ones and friends. The two basic components - - -

- Honorariums for the living
- Mass offered in memory of a deceased friend or family member and Mass offered for any special intention.

*Please see pictures and sample cards on page 7.*



MASS said in Memory of someone after death is a very satisfying gift, which provides Mass for the deceased and a special remembrance to the deceased person’s family. MASS said for a special intention is truly a spiritual remembrance for your family and friends. A special intention could include improved health, a new job, or successful surgery.

### How to Get Good Samaritan Remembrance Mass Cards

Fill out the coupon on page 7 in this newsletter envelope  
Or call us—Toll Free at 1-866-410-7656

HONORARIUM Remembrance Cards are donations given in honor of a living person. The occasion may be a **birthday, graduation, congratulations, anniversary, get-well, thank you, or most any other purpose or celebration.** Honorariums provide a wonderful opportunity to honor or congratulate a friend or family member.



We’ll send these special Good Samaritan cards with a personalized message from you. Just call us—Toll-Free 1-866-410-7656 to order. Or mail us your donation along with your request to honor someone and we will mail out the appropriate Good Samaritan “remembrance card” to whomever you designate.



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

Return Service Requested

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