



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES ONE NEWS

Volume 6, Number 4

Catholic Charities - Serving Southwest Florida

Summer 2007

## Education Programs Ask You to Help

This summer Catholic Charities Education Programs are asking you to support the work of educating people in need.

“Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another” (John 13:34). As Jesus loved us through teaching us how to live, Catholic Charities loves people through teaching them essential life skills.

Many adults and children require a better way of living. Catholic Charities seeks to provide programs to educate them.

*Please turn to pages 7 – 8 to see how you can help educate the underprivileged.*



## Manatee Office Expands Services

*Bradenton* - Catholic Charities Housing Counselor Lucy Martinez moved from Colombia to the United States to make a better life for herself and her family. From her experience, she said financial literacy was one of her biggest obstacles. Martinez provides one-on-one free housing and financial counseling

in English and Spanish.

“The biggest problem is that many of our clients are at risk of foreclosure. They purchased a home a few years ago with an adjustable rate mortgage, and now they cannot afford that mortgage,” said Martinez.

Catholic Charities of Manatee County, a HUD-certified housing counseling agency, offers a free first-time home buyers class in Spanish, and now, in English. Upon completion, participants are eligible to apply for a Manatee County SHIP loan. This loan can be applied to a down payment and closing costs.

In 2006, Catholic Charities of Manatee County served:

- 202 individuals with one-on-one housing counseling
- 88 clients in the first-time homebuyers class

**Manatee Office on page 6**



*L to R: Wendy Martinez talks with Monica Hubbard, volunteer, at the Citizenship, Housing and Money Management Fair.*

## Casa San Jose Blessing

*Sarasota* – More than a decade ago she planted a seed and now the fruits of her labor are blossoming. Sister Frances Nevolo, OLC, now retired, is the founder of Bethesda House and Joseph’s Place, which are Catholic Charities community centers for those suffering from HIV/AIDS in Sarasota County. She recently traveled to Sarasota to witness the blessing by Bishop Frank Dewane of Casa San Jose, a housing program for homeless **Blessing on page 4**

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## Plantation Community Foundation Gives Computer Grant

*Venice* – Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities has four new computers, software and a printer because of a \$4,620 grant from the Plantation Community Foundation.

The foundation recently “honored those who make South Sarasota County a better place to live” at a luncheon held at the Manor Restaurant at Plantation Golf and Country Club community. Over \$140,000 in grants was



*L to R: Joyce Scott, program director of Our Mother’s House, and Kathi Cellura, member of grant review committee, Plantation Community Foundation.*

presented to 40 non-profit organizations, all providing services in the Venice area.

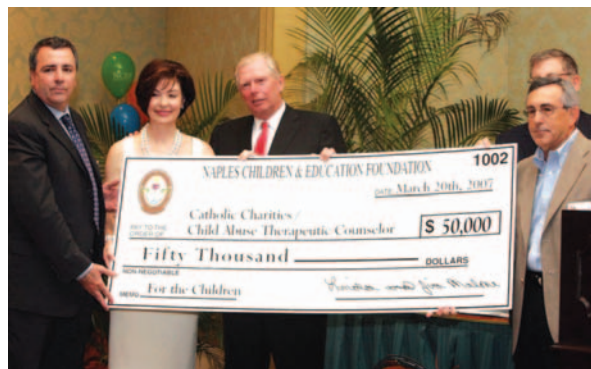
“We applaud the work of all these agencies who do tireless work to help the needy in our community,” said Bob Thinnes, president of the foundation. The Plantation Community Foundation raises money through several annual events such as celebrity and *Plantation* on page 6

## Naples Wine Fest Grant Received

NAPLES CHILDREN & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*Naples* - Catholic Charities of Collier County received a \$50,000 grant from the Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF), which hosts the Naples Winter Wine Festival. This year’s event raised \$18.3 million that will benefit under-

privileged and at-risk children in Collier County. “This grant will allow us to grow our counseling program and provide a child therapist to better service our increasing number of three- to five-year-old clients,” said Mike D’Amico, former district director, Catholic Charities of Collier County.



*L to R: Sam Blanco, member, Catholic Charities of Collier County Advisory Board; Linda and Jim Malone and Bruce Sherman, Naples Children and Education Foundation; Mike D’Amico, former district director, Catholic Charities of Collier County.*

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, having raised more than \$55 million over the years, is the most successful wine charity event in the world. The NCEF, founder of the festival, supports charitable and educational programs that improve the physical, emotional *Naples Wine Fest* on page 3

## Manatee Community Foundation Awards Grant

*Bradenton* - The Manatee Community Foundation (MCF) has awarded a grant of \$5,000 to Catholic Charities – Sarasota/Manatee Counties. The grant from the John C. Manson Charitable Fund of the MCF will be used for direct financial assistance to families and individuals in need within Manatee County.

With the receipt of this most recent check, Catholic Charities (CC) has received a total of \$11,000 this year in grants from several Funds within the Manatee



*Sara Baden, Vice President, MCF, presents a check for \$5,000 to Jim Moore, Chair, Catholic Charities Board of Directors.*

Community Foundation, according to CC district director, Nancy Shoemaker.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Bob Gannon

*Bradenton* – “Ten to twelve times a day, Jesus Christ walks through the front door (at Catholic Charities of DeSoto County). Sometimes He’s hungry, sometimes He needs clothes, sometimes He needs other things,” said Bob Gannon.

As the youngest of six children in an Irish Catholic family from Brooklyn, NY, Gannon was “taught to help others.” In 2002 Gannon read in St. Patrick Parish’s bulletin that Catholic Charities in Arcadia needed volunteers.

His first task in Arcadia was to clean out the program’s storage shed. According to Sister Ann De Nicolo, program director, the day was the hottest day of the year. In spite of encountering ants and critters in the cleaning process, Gannon continued to volunteer.

Soon he became involved in computerizing the office; maintaining a database of names,



addresses and statistics; and co-chairing the first Boots and Bandannas fundraising dinner and auction in 2003. In fact, for five years Gannon and two other volunteers have served as co-chairs for the annual Boots and Bandannas event.

On a personal note, Gannon is retired from a long career in chemical sales and marketing. Nearly 45 years ago, he married his wife Ann, who was a student nurse he met while he was in the Navy.

They raised a daughter and son and now have three grandchildren.

His interests range from serving as president this year of the Fordham University alumni club in Sarasota/Manatee to singing in the Sarasota Chorus of the Keys, an a cappella chorus.

Every fall after spending the summer in Rhode Island, Gannon returns to his work at Catholic Charities of DeSoto County. He has remained true to what he wrote on his volunteer application in 2002; he definitely has a “strong back and willing spirit.”

About his volunteer work in Arcadia, Gannon said, “No one cares who comes to the front door. Whatever they are suffering is the issue.”

For more information about volunteering for Catholic Charities in your area, visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) or call Silvia at 941-488-5581.

*Naples Wine Fest* from page 2 and educational lives of children.

According to the 2005 National Survey of Children’s Health performed by the Department of Health and

Human Services, the number of parents experiencing difficulty with young children in Florida is higher than the national average.

This trend is present in Collier County as evidenced by

an increase in counseling referrals to Catholic Charities for children within the ages of three to five years old. Referrals for children in that age range have risen 28 percent over the past two years.



**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.

### 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

### *Blessing from page 1*

HIV/AIDS clients.

“When you go back to the late 1980s when Sister Frances began the HIV/AIDS ministry, it was a challenge to serve those who needed support because of public opinion at that time,” said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, president of Catholic Charities, to more than 50 people who attended the blessing ceremony.

David Hume, a resident of Casa San Jose, spoke to the crowd. “I was first diagnosed with AIDS 20 years ago,” he said. “I came to Bethesda House and found comfort. Casa San Jose now provides me with not only a safe place to live, but with emotional and physical support.”

The eight-unit complex surrounds a community courtyard. Routsis-Arroyo announced its dedication and said, “From this day forward, the courtyard of Casa San Jose will be named the Sister



*Bishop Frank Dewane and Sister Frances at Casa San Jose blessing.*

Frances Nevolo Courtyard.” He then revealed a plaque with the name.

Sister Nevolo explained the long process of making the housing program a reality for the HIV/AIDS homeless. Barely holding her emotions in check, she said, “I can never thank enough the volunteers who gave so much of themselves to serve those who are infected and those

who love them.”

Casa San Jose, located at 3900 17<sup>th</sup> Street, offers case management services to individuals who live in the complex. Life skills and employment training are provided by an on-site caseworker to help clients maintain optimal living standards. Bethesda House oversees the housing program.

The initial capital for the building of Casa San Jose was a \$250,000 SHIP loan from Sarasota County and a \$500,000 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant, of which \$250,000 was for construction and the other \$250,000 to provide support services over the course of three years.

Derick Fabien, Bethesda House program director, reported he has seen an increase in clients who are at risk of being homeless. For more information about Casa San Jose of Catholic Charities, call 941-952-1853 or 941-366-1886.

## Wish List

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

**Bradenton** – Call Amaya at (941) 714-7829.

- volunteer tutors – Citizenship Classes

**Fort Myers** – Call Dolly at (239) 337-4193.

- cassette recorder
  - jump ropes (20), soccer balls (8)
- Call Pierrette at (239) 334-2234.
- volunteer helpers for Summer Youth Camp
- Call Eileen at (239) 274-0757.
- refrigerator (full size)

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

- volunteer tutors – School on Wheels
- baby clothes (newborn)

**Naples** – Call Bernice at (239) 793-0059.

- TV with DVD/VHS player
- videos on nutrition, child care

**Punta Gorda** – Call Lucille at (941) 457-0284.

- volunteers - adult respite program

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

- 4- or 5-drawer locking file cabinets (3), keyed same
- tall bookshelf, 5 or 6 shelves

**Venice** – Call Joyce at (941) 485-6264.

- diapers, sizes 4 & 6
- cleaning supplies
- shower curtains and liners

### **Refugee Programs**

**Sarasota & Collier Counties** –

In Sarasota County, call Lyuda at (941) 492-4855.

In Collier County, call Hernan at (239) 455-2655.

- gift certificates to Publix or Wal-Mart

### **Licensed Amateur Radio Operators Needed**

• Volunteers to assist Catholic Charities Disaster Response Team during a hurricane; to operate radio stations for Diocese Amateur Radio Network (DARN). Call Bob at (941) 497-5422.



**Catholic Charities**

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

**Arcadia**

Catholic Charities-DeSoto County  
 & Immigration Services

**Bonita Springs**

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

**Bradenton**

Catholic Charities-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**

Rural Services Office (DeSoto, Glades,  
 Hardee, Hendry & Highlands Counties)  
 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**

Catholic Charities of Charlotte County  
 "A Special Place" Respite Program

**Sarasota**

District Office (Sarasota & Manatee Counties)  
 Bethesda House  
 Direct Assistance Services  
 Family Counseling Services  
 Refugees Employed & Productive (REAP)  
 St. Martha's Early Learning Center

**Venice**

Community Resource Coordinator Office  
 Joseph's Place  
 Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities  
 Refugee Resettlement Program

**Wauchula**

Administration of FEMA Funds



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

**President's Corner**



Each year at Catholic Charities, we plan for our new fiscal year. We review our programs and how we can best serve God's people in need.

Adult individuals, families and children who seek our help often require education on how to deal with and prevent their problems. Catholic Charities tutors and teaches classes to clients on a variety of life skills.

Many of our classes require a small fee to help with expenses and to teach families the value of commitment. The fees unfortunately do not meet the costs of our education programs.

Soon you will receive a request in the mail to send a contribution to help people in need through Catholic Charities Education Programs.

Please take a moment and *imagine this story of a young child and her family. A six year old takes her school bus after school to a local Catholic Charities program. She receives a snack. Then a volunteer tutor helps her with her homework. When the child finishes, she plays a game with the other children. Soon her mother arrives after work to take her daughter home.*

This child might live in Arcadia, Fort Myers or Bonita Springs, where Catholic Charities offers this assistance at five sites. Without the After School Tutoring, the child could have gone home, watched television and forgotten about her homework.

Through your help as volunteers and donors, Catholic Charities provides people in need with life skills education. You are important to Catholic Charities.

We invite you to share in our mission "to serve and empower ALL in need regardless of race, nationality or creed." See the response slip on pages 7 - 8 to give a gift now.

Please pray for our success in this work.

May God bless you and yours all summer,

*Pete Routsis-Arroyo*

Peter Routsis-Arroyo, President/CEO

To see a listing of our Boards of Directors, visit our website at [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org)

**Upcoming Events**

**June** *Catholic Charities Education Programs Fundraiser.*

Watch for our letter in your mailbox.



**July** *Back To School.* Drive for school supplies, backpacks, paper, pencils, etc. in Arcadia, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers (2 sites), Naples, Immokalee. For information, call (941) 488-5581.

**August** *Undy Sunday.* Two weekends in August. Collections of children's undies at Collier County churches. For information, call (239) 455-2655.

## Haitian Center Summer Camp

*Fort Myers* – This summer the Haitian Center of Catholic Charities conducts its exciting Summer Youth Camp for about 40 low-income children.

The goal of the Summer Camp is to offer a safe environment that includes education and fun for children, who have few options for their months off school.

“Many of these children would otherwise stay home by themselves, and are not legally old enough to stay home alone. The parents depend heavily on the camp,” said Pierrette Faustin, program director.

In order for the camp to be affordable, the fee is \$150 for all



*Children attending the Haitian Center of Catholic Charities Summer Youth Camp learn about snakes at the Naples Zoo.*

10 weeks of daily camp. Of course, the fee does not cover the costs of nutritious food, field trips, activities, special projects and even summer tutoring.

Summer Youth Camp 2007 provides four healthy meals for the children every day—breakfast, lunch and two snacks. Part of the daily routine features a field trip to area attractions such as parks, libraries, museums, zoo, movies, water park and bowling.

### *Manatee Office from page 1*

- 192 workers with renewed or replaced, lost or stolen employment authorization document
- 93 clients in applying to be reunited with their families
- 14 needy people with emergency financial assistance

Recently Catholic Charities of Manatee County held a one-day Citizenship, Housing and Money Management Fair. The fair was very successful with 23 persons registered for assistance.

For Citizenship Classes, volunteer tutors instruct students

Donations, sponsors and/or volunteers are a constant need to provide these stimulating activities.

The camp runs from May 30 to August 2, Mondays through Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Haitian Center strives to provide a one-adult-to-five-children ratio.

The need for volunteers is ongoing because vacations intervene. Volunteers can work flexible hours and days, with a minimum of two hours at a time.

The children create special projects for Father’s Day and the Fourth of July, have Sudoku contests, and read or are read to every day, Faustin said. Children who are behind in school also receive tutoring.

To volunteer or donate to Summer Youth Camp 2007 at the Haitian Center of Catholic Charities, call 239-334-2234.

### *Plantation from page 2*

pro-member golf tournaments, fashion show, Royal Ride, tent sale and tour of homes.

Our Mother’s House is a residential program for single mothers and their children who are at risk of becoming homeless. Mothers work to achieve self-sufficiency through education, vocational training and personal growth while living at the facility. On-site childcare is provided, while the mothers attend life skills classes and go to school or work.

For more information or to volunteer at Our Mother’s House, call the program at 941-485-6264.

one hour per week. Now there is a waiting list of students in need of tutors.

Monica Hubbard, a volunteer tutor for the Citizenship Classes for the past two years, said that tutoring clients to pass the citizenship test is a rewarding task. “You are just so proud of them by the time they take the test,” she said. “As you help them prepare, you witness how hard they work to reach their goal.”

Catholic Charities of Manatee County is seeking tutors for the Citizenship Classes. Training is provided. For more information, call 941-714-7829.



### YES, I will help Catholic Charities Education Programs!



My tax-deductible gift is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$200    \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

OR Please charge my \_\_\_\_\_ Visa    \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Required for credit card approval.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### My Gift Is

In Honor of -

\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of -

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Please see reverse side.)*

*Educating People. Creating Hope.*



## Catholic Charities Education Programs



**Arcadia**  
After School Tutoring & Summer Education  
Back To School

**Bonita Springs**  
After School Tutoring  
Back To School  
Summer Camp

**Bradenton**  
Citizenship Class  
First Time Homebuyers Class

**Fort Myers**  
After School Tutoring (3 sites)  
Back To School (2 sites)  
Citizenship Class  
DUI Class  
Madres Class (2 sites)  
Summer Camp (2 sites)

**Immokalee**  
Back To School  
School On Wheels

**Naples**  
Back To School  
Orientation for Refugee Employment  
School On Wheels

**Sarasota**  
Orientation for Refugee Employment  
Toddlers through Kindergarten Classes at St. Martha's Early Learning Center

**Venice**  
Life Skills Education for Single Mothers  
Refugee Orientation  
Senior Adult Education at Villa San Marcos Residence



## YOU CAN HELP

Please help **Catholic Charities Education Programs** assist people in need in southwest Florida.

- \$25** Can give a school child a backpack and essential school supplies.
- \$50** Can feed 25 needy Summer Camp/Education students who are kept off the streets this summer.
- \$100** Can assist a refugee family with classes in citizenship.
- \$200** Can provide scholarship funds for needy children in our early learning center.
- \$1,200** Can offer life skills education for a homeless mother with a child at our residential program.



**Share in our mission to “serve and empower” through education.  
Please send a donation today.**

My gift to Catholic Charities Education Programs is to honor:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send a special greeting in my/our name.

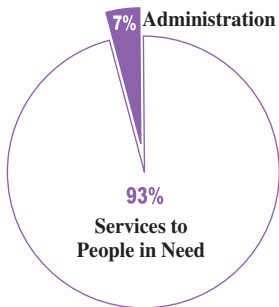
*Educating People. Creating Hope.*



Clip and mail to: **Catholic Charities • P.O. Box 1805 • Venice, FL 34284-1805**



**YOUR GIFT AT WORK**



Catholic Charities uses a full 93 cents of every dollar donated to help those who need help the most.

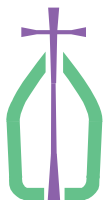


**YOUR GIFT CAN HELP**

• Children of working parents attend St. Martha’s Early Learning Center in Sarasota.

- Isolated migrant housewives learn English in their homes in East Naples and Immokalee.
- Eligible individuals learn how to become a citizen in classes in Bradenton.
- Senior adults learn about wellness in Venice.
- Children who would spend their summers alone at home attend Summer Camp/Education to improve reading and learn from field trips in Fort Myers, Bonita Springs and Arcadia.

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



**Catholic Charities**  
**Diocese of Venice**  
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Venice, FL 34284-2116

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