



CATHOLIC CHARITIES ONE NEWS

Volume 8, Number 4

Catholic Charities - Serving Southwest Florida

Summer 2008

Catholic Charities...We Care You Can Help By Caring Too

This summer Catholic Charities Care Programs are asking you to support the work of teaching essential life skills to people in need.

Many adults and children require a better way of living day-to-day. Catholic Charities provides classes in budgeting, parenting, after school tutoring and so on.

A mailing to ask for your help for the Catholic Charities Care Programs will be in your mailboxes in late July. Thank you for supporting these vital programs.



Catholic Charities Care Programs,
P.O. Box 1805, Venice, FL 34284-1805.

Bishop Visits CC Sites

Venice - "Everyone can see that Bishop Dewane truly cares about the critical social services that Catholic Charities provides and that our mission and work are an important part of the Catholic Church," said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities.

Since his ordination as bishop in 2006, Bishop Frank J. Dewane has been visiting CC programs throughout the diocese. As of press time for this **Bishop on page 2**



Children in After School Tutoring program, Hispanic Services of CC - Bonita Springs, smile for the camera. Back row, L to R: John Odorico, volunteer; Libet Orozco, education caseworker; Bishop Frank J. Dewane; Peter Routsis-Arroyo, CEO, Catholic Charities.

E-News Debuts

Venice – In mid-May the first *Catholic Charities E-News* debuted to nearly 500 readers. Featuring three main articles from Naples, Venice and Sarasota, these features linked to the CC website for more details. In addition, *E-News* offered a link to the 2007 Annual Report of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Scheduled to appear in your email in-box four times a year, the new electronic CC news will be released during the months between our newsletters. The two different formats will offer a variety of articles with little duplication except for outstanding feature stories.

To receive the *Catholic Charities E-News*, send your name and email address to judyb@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

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www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Emerald Ball Raises Irish Spirit, Funds

Naples – The 23rd Annual Emerald Ball welcomed more than 200 guests to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at a black-tie celebration that not only raised the Irish spirit but also money for Catholic Charities of Collier County.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane was the guest of honor at the gala held at the Naples Hilton on March 15.

The ball offered silent and live auctions along with dinner and dancing. The highlight of the evening was during the live auction when two dinners with Bishop Dewane were purchased for \$15,000 each by Ambassador Francis Rooney,



Nancy Duggan, Chairwoman

and Dick and Barbara Mack. Ball Chairwoman Nancy Duggan said the goal was not only

to raise funds for CC of Collier County, but to heighten awareness of programs and services the agency offers the needy of the community. Services include financial assistance; food pantry; School On Wheels; immigration assistance; family, individual and group counseling; and refugee services and employment placement.

A special thank you goes to the major sponsors of the Ball:

Theresa M. and
George D. Corbett
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mack
James A. McTague
The Seminole Tribe of Florida

Bishop from page 1



Two girls in After School Tutoring program, Haitian Center of CC in Fort Myers, pose in front of student backpacks.

issue, he has made trips to sites in Sarasota

- Casa San Jose
- Bethesda House
- St. Martha's Early Learning Center

in Venice

- Our Mother's House

in Fort Myers

- CC Community Services (formerly Clare House)

- Haitian Center
- Hispanic Social Services of CC

in Bonita Springs

- Hispanic Social Services of CC

in Naples

- CC Counseling Center
- Refugee Youth and Family Program
- Employability Status Assistance Program (refugees)

in Immokalee

- Guadalupe Social Services of CC

Bishop Dewane has also scheduled visits to CC of DeSoto County in Arcadia and to CC of Manatee County in Bradenton.

"He has been impressed with the number of clients coming to Catholic Charities every day and has recognized the need for many of our programs to have better facilities," said Routsis-Arroyo.

Wish List

Catholic Charities programs appreciate any help you can give.

Arcadia – Call Andy at (863) 494-1068.

- refrigerator for food pantry

Fort Myers – Call Michael at (239) 337-4193 ext. 309.

- 12 computers for education/training
- refrigerator for youth programs

- new television (HD-ready) for education/training

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

- female volunteers for School On Wheels
- diapers, sizes 4 & 5

Wish List on page 4

Volunteer Spotlight: Jo Kilgallon

Osprey – When Josephine (Jo) and her late husband Joe Kilgallon read about Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities (GSS-CC) in *The Florida Catholic*, they sent a donation to support the services to the migrant workers. Later they drove to Immokalee to take food to GSS-CC and learned more about the services provided to people in need.

Believing that faith must be reinforced with action, the Kilgallons had been involved in an Appalachian project when they lived in Potomac, Md., where they raised their children. So, it was only natural for them to take their newly acquired information from Immokalee back to the couples' bible-sharing group at their parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. They spoke to the group about GSS-CC and the poverty there. At Thanksgiving they made another trip from Osprey to Immokalee with Midge and Joe Moran to deliver food again.

Now, once a month, a group of volunteers from the church form a caravan of six cars and trucks, loaded with groceries and diapers, and drive to GSS-CC in Immokalee.

"We've never missed a month in six years," said Jo Kilgallon. She said the whole parish participates in the food collection now. Kilgallon remains committed to the ongoing project.

On the first Sunday of each month, paper grocery bags are handed out to parishioners to fill with non-perishable foods. The bags are a donation from the local Publix store. Each bag has



a standardized food list stapled to it:

- canned vegetables,
- including tomatoes
- canned fruits and meats
- canned/bottled fruit or
- vegetable juices
- cooking oil
- crackers
- pasta
- cornmeal
- beans
- diapers
- baby foods

The second Sunday of the month, the full bags are collected. Wal-Mart is also providing food for the delivery, which takes place the Monday after the collection. Driving the nearly two-hour, 100-mile, one-way trip, unloading groceries at GSS-CC and returning home is a full-day labor of love for the devoted volunteers.

Even as a new parish before the church/meeting hall was completed in 2005, Our Lady of Mount Carmel provided for the poor in Immokalee, said Kilgallon.

Kilgallon remains in charge of drivers for the trip. However, the parish youth group has offered to run the entire program for three months this summer. Kilgallon will then have time to spend with her children and seven grandchildren.

For more information about volunteering for Catholic Charities in your area, visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call Silvia at 941-488-5581.



A delivery group from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. L to R: Midge Moran, Paul Schroeder, Bob Dailey, Joe Moran, Ron Silva, Elle Schroeder, Greg Freeman (Kilgallon's grandson), Jo Kilgallon, Bob Keith, Ed Damit, Michael Damit.

Foreclosure Counseling Services at All-Day Fair

Bradenton - Catholic Charities of Manatee County hosted a Homeownership, Debt Management and Citizenship Fair on Saturday, May 17, at its Bradenton office.

A high demand in requests for foreclosure assistance to the housing counseling program spurred the organization of the all-day event. Staff and volunteers from the HUD-certified Catholic Charities (CC) program, Manatee Community Action Agency and local financial institutions assisted people requesting services.

"Currently our Housing Counseling Program is experiencing an overwhelming number of people who are asking for foreclosure prevention and assistance," said Yraida Contreras Alonso, program director of CC of Manatee County. "We have a waiting list of clients requiring one-on-one counseling. The average number of requests to our

office tripled in recent months."

According to Alonso, 21 clients received housing and/or foreclosure counseling at the Fair. Also, of 10 clients who sought citizenship assistance, six qualified and applied for citizenship.



At the recent Fair hosted by CC of Manatee County, Rick Di Giorgio, counselor from Manatee County Action Agency speaks with Kathy Abbarno of Sarasota to help her prevent foreclosure on her home.

Catholic Charities, Center for Financial Independence, and Manatee Community Action Agency hosted a Housing Round Table in late March to discuss the dilemma of foreclosures. In attendance were representatives from government offices, local development offices, mortgage bankers and representatives from

the Tampa office of HUD.

"This housing fair was a result of the round table meeting," Alonso said. "There is a crisis in our community."

During the past three fiscal years (October 2004-September 2007) Catholic Charities has provided 857 people with housing counseling services. Approximately 75% of them were Hispanic. Bilingual English/Spanish speaking counselors were available at the fair.

"The clients who come to Catholic Charities are low-income individuals and families who have worked hard day and night for the little they own," Alonso said. "They are good people who cannot wait because the threat is at their doors."

For more information or to volunteer at Catholic Charities of Manatee County, call 941-714-7829.

Wish List (continued)

Catholic Charities programs appreciate any help you can give.

- gift cards for food (Wal-Mart, Publix)

Naples – Call Sharon at (239) 455-0520 ext. 103.

- volunteers – tutoring, clerical

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

- HP Officejet Pro L 7580 color all-in-one printer

- Brother electronic labeling system PT-1950
- child's outdoor picnic table, 6–8 ft. long
- 2 classroom easels

Sarasota/Venice – Call Lisa at (941) 366-1886.

- on-call volunteers for emergencies
- new van for transporting

- clients
- new or gently used computers
- stove and refrigerator

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

- diapers, sizes 3, 5, 6
- baby wipes
- cleaning supplies & sponges
- twin sheet sets



Catholic Charities

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

Arcadia

Catholic Charities of DeSoto County
 & Immigration Services

Bonita Springs

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

Bradenton

Catholic Charities of 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

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

Outreach
 Counseling

Sarasota

District Office (Sarasota & Manatee Counties)
 Bethesda House/Joseph's Place (HIV/AIDS)
 Casa San Jose (HIV/AIDS)
 Direct Assistance Services
 Family Counseling Services
 Refugees Employed & Productive (REAP)
 St. Martha's Early Learning Center

Venice

Community Resource Coordinator Office
 Joseph's Place (HIV/AIDS)
 Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities
 Refugee Resettlement Program

Wauchula

Administration of FEMA Funds



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

CEO's Corner



Each spring Catholic Charities plans for the new fiscal year that begins on July 1. Together, our Leadership team and I 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 life skills training on how to deal with and prevent their problems. Catholic Charities tutors and teaches classes to clients in a variety of life skills. Children learn through after-school tutoring, back-to-school services, summer youth camps and day care.

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 these programs.

Soon you will receive a request in the mail to send a contribution to help people in need through Catholic Charities Care Programs. This summer is the second year for this solicitation, and we ask you to please support our life skills classes.

Also, on the topic of our many programs, Bishop Frank J. Dewane has been visiting CC locations throughout the diocese. (Please read the article on page 1 about his trips.)

Other program issues include CC efforts in Manatee County to assist people who are facing housing issues such as foreclosures (see page 4) and the need for female volunteers to tutor English in Immokalee (see page 6).

Lastly, I want you to know about our new *Catholic Charities E-News*, which is now available to anyone who sends his or her name and email address to judyb@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

We ask you to please help the people we serve by sending a contribution to Catholic Charities Care Programs, P.O. Box 1805, Venice, FL 34284.

Thank you for the support you give in your prayers, your gifts and your volunteering.

May God bless you and yours,

Peter Routsis-Arroyo
 Peter Routsis-Arroyo
 Chief Executive Officer

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

Upcoming Events

June

Catholic Charities Care Programs fundraiser.

Watch for our letter in your mailbox.



July

Back To School. Drive for school supplies, backpacks, paper, pencils, etc. in Bonita Springs, Fort Myers (3 sites), Naples, Immokalee. For information, call (239) 337-4193 in Lee County, 455-2655 in Collier.

August

Undy Sunday. August 16-17 & 23-24. Collections of children's undies at Collier County churches. For information, call (239) 455-2655.

Volunteers Needed!

Immokalee – At Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities, the School On Wheels program provides educational outreach through teaching English to Hispanic women in their homes.

Diane Martinez, the education director, needs help to keep School On Wheels rolling. Currently the program has 12 active volunteers and a waiting list of about 30 prospective clients.

The program matches non-English speaking women with volunteer tutors. When the husband learns English on the job and the children learn it in school, often there is no place for the wife to get similar instruction.

School On Wheels recruits female volunteers to teach conversational English to these women. Volunteers must be female, because of the in-home nature of the program. They do not need any prior teaching experience nor even speak a language other than English.

Volunteers undergo about five hours of training in the Laubach method of language instruction. The training is conducted at the library branch in East Naples.

Once trained, volunteers travel to their student's home once a week for a 90-minute session.

Because of the shortage of volunteers, the program has added group classes on Fridays at the Immokalee branch library in addition to the original one-to-one tutoring. With seasonal residents gone for the summer, Martinez is hoping new volunteers will step forward.

Barbara Goldman, a School On Wheels volunteer and a retired Spanish teacher, teaches the Friday group sessions. "Being



L to R: Toni MacFarland, volunteer for School On Wheels, tutors her student Araceli Vasquez.

a part of the School On Wheels program allows me an opportunity to serve a group of women who have taught me what hard work, positive attitude and faith can accomplish. It is my hope that these mothers will read to their children in English and be a role model for them as they enter school," said Goldman.

To volunteer for School On Wheels or to learn more about it, contact Diane Martinez at Guadalupe Social Services at 239-657-6242.

Database Update

We hope you enjoy receiving the *Catholic Charities News*. We can now offer you additional updates with the *Catholic Charities E-News* in your email.

We recommend you read both newsletters for a comprehensive view of our works in southwest Florida. Duplication of information will be minimal.

- I would like to receive the *Catholic Charities News* (print).
 I would like to receive the *Catholic Charities E-News* (electronic).
 My address has changed. My new address is below.

Please remove me from your mailing list.

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Address _____

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Comments _____

Please mail to: Catholic Charities, P.O. 2116, Venice, FL 34284-2116 **OR email** judyb@catholiccharitiesdov.org

Surprise Gift Helps Children

Bonita Springs – St. Leo Parish surprised Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities (HSCC) in Bonita Springs with a new van. Father Stan Strycharz and members of St. Leo Parish presented the keys to Martha Vivas, program director of HSCC in February. The surprise gift was a feature at the annual Venetian Charity Ball of Catholic Charities of Lee County.

“Words cannot express the gratitude we are feeling right now,” said Vivas.

The 2007 Toyota Sienna replaced a worn-out vehicle. The new van transported children this spring for the local Catholic Charities education program. Without the van, many children would be unable to attend After School Tutoring.

Volunteer tutors and staff help elementary school children with their homework assignments and English language skills. Tutoring takes place in the San Diego Educational Building at St. Leo Church.

Catholic Charities of Lee County focuses on self-empowerment for clients. Services include direct assistance, programs for adults and children, translation services, casemanagement, employment assistance, counseling,

immigration and citizenship services, crisis intervention, advocacy, special holiday projects and more.

To contact Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities in Bonita Springs, call (239) 390-0687.



“Thank you, St. Leo Parish of Bonita Springs, for your support.” Four children in the After School Tutoring program of Hispanic Services of CC in Bonita Springs hold the banner in front of the new van, a gift from St. Leo Parish.

Plantation Community Foundation

Our Mother’s House Receives Grant for Newsletter

Venice – For the third year in a row, Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities was awarded a grant from the Plantation Community Foundation. A total of \$2,612 was given to the agency to cover the costs of printing a newsletter.

“Without this grant, they would just have to do without,” said Peggy Hinton, a member of the Grant Review Committee for the foundation. “I believe in the mission of Our Mother’s House,” she said. “It is very important to inform volunteers, donors and supporters about what is happening at the program.”

Last year, a grant was given for four new computers,



L to R: Peggy Hinton, member of the Grant Review Committee of the Plantation Community Foundation, presented grant to Joyce Scott, program director of Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities.

software and a printer, and the previous year for a new playground for the children who reside at the facility.

According to Jim Neal, Chair of the Grant Committee, nearly \$2 million has been awarded to local charities in south Sarasota County since 1988.

Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities is a residential program for single mothers and their children who are at risk of becoming homeless. The 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 or school or go to work.

For more information about Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities or to volunteer in the child care center, call the program at 941-485-6264.

Everyone intends to write a Will. Have you?

Every year fifty percent (50%) of Americans pass away without leaving a will. Without a valid will 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, regardless of a family's situation or circumstance. Having a valid will allows you to distribute your estate however you wish.

As a Florida resident — do you have an older will that was written and filed in another state? Even though you may have a valid will prior to your move to Florida, you need to be certain that your document is valid according to the laws of the State of Florida. Only an attorney can accurately determine this for you.

The **Good Samaritan Guild** can help you prepare the information an attorney will require in order to help you write a valid will. **Call us Toll-Free at 1-866-410-7656**, or fill in the coupon below and we'll mail you a set of our **Wills Worksheets** — at no charge.



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

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

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CARDS***

Send 2 samples of the new Mass cards from the Guild.

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**To learn more about Catholic Charities Foundation
visit our web site at www.ccfdsnswfl.org**