



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS

Volume 8, Number 4

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Summer 2009



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

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 and

parenting as well as after school tutoring and other programs.

Please use the enclosed envelope in this newsletter or mail to the address on page 8. This summer we will not mail a separate letter to you.

Thank you for supporting these vital programs.



*Catholic Charities...We Care on pages 7-8*

## Collier County Program Receives Major Grant

Naples – Catholic Charities of Collier County received a grant award of \$98,280 from the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), funded by the Naples Winter Wine Festival, to serve abused, neglected and behaviorally impaired children.

*Grant on page 2*



*(L to R) Tom Galloway, Co-Chair, Naples Winter Wine Festival; Robert Saunders, District Director, Catholic Charities (CC) of Collier County; Marta Gallego Adkins, CC Clinical Psychologist; Connie Galloway, Co-Chair, Naples Winter Wine Festival; Ann Bain, Grant Committee Chair, NCEF.*

## Enterprising Women Give Back

Bonita Springs – In October 2007 with the help of Catholic Charities (CC) of Bonita Springs, a group of enterprising women who lived at the Manna Christian RV Park met on a regular basis to learn crafts to sell for income. Many of their husbands had lost their jobs in construction.

Then, in August 2008 Hurricane Fay struck southwest Florida and the resultant flooding

*Enterprising Women on page 4*



One of 45 non-profits nationally to earn 4-star award for 7 consecutive years

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Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop

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

## A Little White Car Helps

Venice – When Yuri Kaplun, Refugee Resettlement Coordinator for Catholic Charities, got a phone call from a couple in Arcadia offering to donate their “little white car,” he immediately knew just the family that could really use a car.

The car turned out to be a 1999 Ford Escort wagon in excellent condition with very low mileage. The family Kaplun had in mind had just recently entered the country from Cuba and settled in Bradenton. The father is a former graphic designer, the mother a cosmetologist and the older daughter has accounting experience.

The little white car could not have been a more timely and important gift. It offered reliable transportation for this family to assist them in going to job interviews and finding work so they could become self-sufficient in their

*“This gift had a double happy ending.”*



*Cuban family with the “little white car.”*

new country.

The other half of this story is that, according to the donors, the little white car they donated was nearly the clone of a similar car that had been totaled by

Hurricane Charley.

In their search to

replace the car, they found another white Escort wagon that was a little newer but

looked just like the older one that had served them well for years.

“This gift had a double happy ending,” said Kaplun. “Our donors were pleased that their ‘little white car’ had found a good home, and a new family from Cuba could have an easier time making a new life in America.”

For more information about Refugee Resettlement Program, call (941) 492-4855.

### *Grant from page 1*

The special grant allows Catholic Charities to expand a program that was originally funded by NCEF to provide mental health treatment services for young children ages 3 to 8. Last year the NCEF grant provided therapeutic intervention to 80 children. Additionally, this year’s new grant includes funding for a part-time therapist to provide sexual abuse treatment for children ages 3 to 18 at the Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier County.

“This new therapy program for sexually abused children is critical to the prevention of developmental impairment of the children who are victims of sexual abuse,” said Robert Saunders, Catholic Charities District Director. “We are encouraged and excited about this major grant from NCEF.”

The need for children’s specialized services in Collier County is quite evident, especially within the Hispanic population and those families with incomes below the poverty level.

This priority population of

abused, neglected and behaviorally challenged children will continue to be served by a bilingual clinical psychologist with offices at the Catholic Charities Counseling Center on Santa Barbara Blvd. in Golden Gate. Children at the CHS/FSU Pediatric Clinic in Immokalee will be treated at that location on a weekly basis.

NAPLES CHILDREN  
**NCEF**  
& EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

## Judith Wilson Sullivan Earns Women of Initiative Award

Naples – On April 14 Judith Wilson Sullivan received the Women of Initiative Award of the Community Foundation of Collier County. The first annual award recognized women who make a lasting contribution to the well being of their community.

A Catholic Charities volunteer for over 25 years, Judy Sullivan currently serves on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice (CCDOV) and on the Advisory Board of Catholic Charities of Collier County. She was the first lay person to serve on the original CCDOV Board in 1984 and the first lay person to be appointed Chair of the Board in October 1994. Sullivan continued as a member of the Board until June 2000. Nominated in February 2006 to serve on the Board again, she accepted.

“Catholic Charities is grateful to Judy Sullivan for her leadership and commitment to our Board of Directors here in Venice and to the Advisory



Judith Wilson Sullivan

Board in Collier County. We deeply appreciate Judy’s continuing dedication to our mission,” said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice.

As founder of the Emerald Ball, the primary fundraising event for Catholic Charities of Collier County, Sullivan will chair the Emerald Ball for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in

2010. “All of her charitable work is accomplished with humility, selflessness and a positive spirit,” said Robert Saunders, District Director of Catholic Charities of Collier County.

In addition, Sullivan is Vice-Chair of the Diocese of Venice School Board. She has served on the Saint Ann School Board in Naples and, as a member of the Saint William Council of Catholic Women, organized its first fashion show to raise funds for college scholarships. That event has been ongoing to this day.

Other local community activities include serving as Past President of Collier County Medical Society Alliance and a member of The Florida Medical Association Alliance. One of Sullivan’s current projects is putting together a cookbook to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Collier County Medical Society Alliance in 2010. Judy and her husband Joe have been members of the Naples community for 40 years.

Congratulations, Judy, for this outstanding recognition!



**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  
[www.ccfdsnswfl.org](http://www.ccfdsnswfl.org)

## Our Mother's House Awarded Two Grants

*Venice* – Our Mother's House (OMH), a Catholic Charities program providing shelter and guidance for single mothers and their children, has received \$25,000 from two separate grants.

The Venice Regional Medical Center and Bon Secours Health System awarded OMH \$20,000 "to ensure the continuation and viability of quality services at Our Mother's House childcare center," according to the words of the grant summary.

The George J. and Alice Pugh Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County awarded a grant of \$5,000 that will go towards the renovating and furnishing of an apartment in



*Sally Blake, volunteer, holds baby boy O'Maurie at Our Mother's House.*

the newly acquired apartment complex near the existing OMH

location. The acquisition expands the capacity of the OMH program from 10 to 17 families.

"The new apartment complex allows us to serve more mothers and their children who are at risk of becoming homeless," said Joyce Scott, Program Director at OMH. "We continue to receive many inquiries from qualified people. These two grants will help with our expansion and greatly assist the efforts of the volunteers who staff our childcare center while the mothers are at work or in school."

For more information about Our Mother's House, how to donate or volunteer, please contact Joyce Scott at (941) 485-6264.

### *Enterprising Women* from page 1

forced these families out of their homes. While living in a shelter, the women continued to meet. Now they are together again at the RV Park's re-opened community center and at an apartment complex.

Catholic Charities volunteers and staff have taught the women crafting skills. The women have made hats, purses, rugs, scarves, baby items, and so on. Their materials include used clothing, blankets and yarn.

"The idea is to give the women the opportunity to support their families," said Gloria Holy, Administrative Assistant at Catholic Charities, who helps the women.

Their determination and continued work are paying off. In December the Catholic Charities Women's Enterprise Group began selling their products at a local

farmer's market. On March 22 the women participated in the Ave Maria Festival of Arts 2009.

In addition to earning money for their families, the enterprising women have become friends and learned English and crafting skills. They now provide a valuable support group for one another.

### **Giving Back**

On January 31 the women gave a presentation and demonstration at Hodges University at an environmental education meeting for Hispanics about recycling materials.

In February the enterprising group made 120 auction paddles for the Venetian Charity Ball, the annual gala fundraiser for Catholic Charities of Lee County. For three weekly

meetings, they decorated multi-colored masks with glitter and bright feathers and then glued the masks to a stick to serve as oral auction paddles.

Used clothing and blankets and sewing materials may be donated to Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities, 27050 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs. For more information, call (239) 390-0687.



*Gloria Holy, CC employee, stands between Nancy Malloy (left) and Sandy Kasma (right), volunteers, and the CC Women's Enterprise Group members.*



**Catholic Charities**

**Diocese of Venice**

1000 Pinebrook Road  
Venice, FL 34285

(941) 488-5581 • (941) 484-9543  
www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

**Disaster Preparedness & Response**

**Arcadia**

Catholic Charities of DeSoto County  
& Immigration Services

**Bonita Springs**

Catholic Charities Social Services

**Bradenton**

Catholic Charities of Manatee County  
Immigration & Housing Counseling

**Clewiston**

Catholic Charities of Hendry/Glades Counties

**Fort Myers**

Elderly Services

Elizabeth Kay Galeana Center of Catholic Charities  
Haitian Center of Catholic Charities  
Human Trafficking Program  
Immigration & Refugee Services  
Youth/Parent Counseling Services

**Hardee & Highlands Counties**

Food Assistance

**Immokalee**

Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities

**LaBelle**

Catholic Charities of Hendry/Glades Counties

**Naples**

Family Counseling Services  
Family Resource Center  
Refugee Related Services  
Refugee Youth & Family Program

**Palmetto**

Elderly Outreach Services

**Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda**

Outreach & HIV/AIDS Services  
Counseling

**Sarasota**

Bethesda House (HIV/AIDS)  
Casa San Jose (HIV/AIDS)  
Direct Assistance Services  
Family Counseling Services  
Refugee Related Services  
St. Martha's Early Learning Center

**Venice**

Elderly Outreach Services  
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**



During the summer here in southwest Florida, Catholic Charities continues Care Programs to assist adults and children.

The annual Youth Summer Camps/Tutoring programs for children in Arcadia, Bonita Springs and Fort Myers are running. These programs help students improve their reading skills during the summer. Also, many of the children would be left alone in their homes without adult supervision because both parents work.

In Sarasota, children of working parents attend St. Martha's Early Learning Center. These programs are only a few of our CC Care Programs; Catholic Charities also helps adults who need to learn basic life skills.

- In Venice, Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities teaches single mothers with preschool children how to parent and to keep a family budget.
- In Immokalee, isolated migrant housewives learn English in their homes from the School On Wheels program.
- In Naples, refugee children and families learn about their new country and improve their English.

If you would like to learn more about our CC Care Programs, please read the listing on page 7 of this newsletter. If you have further questions, please visit our website at [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) or call our Central Office at (941) 488-5581.

Finally, we ask you to support our Catholic Charities Care Programs. Please send a donation in the enclosed envelope or mail to **Catholic Charities Care Programs, P.O. Box 2116, Venice, FL 34284.**

Or you can donate online, if you prefer. Go to [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) and click on the "Donate Today" button on the left side.

Although many of our classes require a fee to help with expenses and to teach families the value of commitment, the fees do not cover our costs. Catholic Charities cannot ask the poor to pay more than we already ask them, so they need your help.

Please note: We will not be mailing you a letter due to the increase in postage. We ask you to give through this newsletter request or online.

Thank you for any assistance you can send.

May God bless you,

Peter Routsis-Arroyo  
Chief Executive Officer

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

**Upcoming Events**

**July**  
Collier,  
DeSoto &  
Lee Counties

**Back To School.** Drive for school supplies, backpacks, paper, pencils, etc. in Arcadia, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers, Naples, Immokalee. For information, call (863) 494-1068 in Arcadia, (239) 337-4193 in Lee County, (239) 455-2655 in Collier County.

**August**  
Collier County

**Undy Sunday.** Collections of children's undies at Collier County churches. Dates to be determined. For information, call (239) 455-2655.

## Friends of Catholic Charities

*Venice* – In April 2002 the new “Friends of Catholic Charities” program began. Focused on public relations, the program sought volunteers to assist in the distribution of this newsletter in their parishes.

Now, with more than 50 individuals helping Catholic Charities (CC), the parishes throughout our diocese receive copies of the *Catholic Charities News* four times a year. Through good times and bad, the

volunteers keep helping.

An example of the dedication we have witnessed is the lady, a volunteer in Lee County since 2002, who broke her leg as a result of Hurricane Charley. After her surgery, she called us from the nursing home where she was undergoing physical therapy to say she had contacted her parish and arranged for the correct number of CC newsletters to be delivered. Several years later her husband

died, and this thoughtful and devoted lady continues her assistance to Catholic Charities.

Another example is a woman in Sarasota County who could no longer volunteer after two years. She called to provide us the name and phone number of her friend who would be her replacement as the CC Friend in her parish. The parish requires any program that wants to insert its news into the parish bulletins to provide a volunteer to help with the task. The *new* volunteer has been helping since 2004.

In addition, many volunteers have served as a resource to our CC programs when parish information is needed and have assisted with our local annual fundraising events.

Within the past year the “Friends of Catholic Charities” have helped us distribute 189,000 *Catholic Charities News*. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to these dedicated volunteers.

THANK YOU!

## DARN Needs Help in Two Counties

*Venice* – In preparation for hurricane season, DARN needs volunteers in both Charlotte and Collier Counties. DARN stands for Disaster Amateur Radio Network.

Although DARN currently has 25 volunteers, the Port Charlotte and Naples fully equipped UHF/VHF Base Stations need individuals to operate the equipment in case

of a disaster.

Also, DARN needs UHF/VHF transceivers and appropriate power supplies, in excellent condition.

For more information, to volunteer or donate to DARN, contact Bob at his call sign, KG4VDU; email, [bob.sullenberger@verizon.net](mailto:bob.sullenberger@verizon.net); or phone, only after 5:00 p.m., (941) 497-5422.

## Wish List

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

### Bonita Springs –

Call Rich, (239) 390-0687.

- upright freezer and/or refrigerator for food pantry

### Bradenton –

Call Yraida, (941) 714-7829.

- file cabinets
- multimedia projector for client classes

### Fort Myers –

Call Christine, (239) 337-4193 ext. 308.

- riding lawnmower & trailer
- Call Ellen, (239) 337-4193 ext. 309.
- volunteer to teach basic computer skills in Spanish

### Immokalee –

Call Ninfa, (239) 657-6242.

- fans
- volunteers for School On Wheels

### Naples – Call Allegra, (239) 793-0059.

- adult bicycles for clients to get to work
- volunteers for summer work in food pantry

### Sarasota – Call Sandy, (941) 952-1853.

- computer with Microsoft Office 2003 or higher
- Call Julie, (941) 366-1395.
- children’s books on cassette tape

### Venice –

Call Jeanette, (941) 379-9111.

- volunteers in So. County office for food pantry, call center, clerical, etc. Call Joyce, (941) 485-3265.
- emergency car kits
- basic membership to AAA

### Refugee Services

In Venice, call Yuri, (941) 492-4855; in Naples, call Jennessee (239) 455-2655 ext 111.

- raffle prizes for Refugee Day: alarm clock with radio or CD player, stereo boom box, digital camera, etc.

*Catholic Charities... We Care from page 1*

## *Catholic Charities Care Programs*

**Arcadia**

After School Tutoring  
& Summer Education  
Back To School

**Bonita Springs**

After School Tutoring  
& Life Enrichment  
Back To School  
Early Steps Infant  
& Toddler Development  
Women's Enterprise Group  
Youth Summer Camp

**Bradenton**

Citizenship Class  
First Time Homebuyers Class

**Fort Myers**

After School Tutoring  
& Life Enrichment (2 sites)  
Back To School (2 sites)

**Fort Myers (continued)**

Citizenship Preparation Class  
Computer Education  
Early Steps Infant  
& Toddler Development  
English as Second Language  
(2 sites)  
Madres Infant Mental Health  
Sewing Class  
Youth Summer Camp (2 sites)

**Immokalee**

Back To School  
School On Wheels

**Naples**

Back To School  
Orientation for Refugee  
Employment  
Refugee Youth  
& Family Program  
School On Wheels

**Sarasota**

Orientation for Refugee  
Employment  
St. Martha's Early Learning  
Center for 3-5 year olds

**Venice**

Life Skills Education for  
Single Mothers  
Refugee Orientation  
Senior Adult Education at  
Villa San Marcos  
& Holy Cross Manor



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

Catholic Charities... We Care. Please send a donation today. ✂



*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

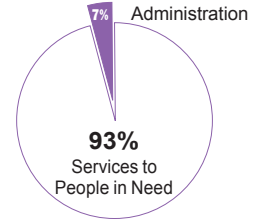
**Clip and mail to:** Catholic Charities • P.O. Box 2116 • Venice, FL 34284-2116

# YOU CAN HELP

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



**YOUR GIFT AT WORK**



**\$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.



Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Venice  
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.**

NOTE: You will not receive a separate mailing for the CC Care Programs due to increased postage costs. Please send whatever you can. Thank you.

Catholic Charities is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. The Florida registration number of Catholic Charities is CH4196. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



**YES, I will help Catholic Charities Care Programs!**



**My tax-deductible gift is enclosed.**

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



**OR** Please charge my  Visa  MC  AmEx  Discover

I am pleased to enclose my tax-deductible gift to the Care Programs.

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Clip & mail to:**  
Catholic Charities  
P.O. Box 2116  
Venice, FL 34284-2116  
OR  
Donate online at  
[www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org)

*Providing Help.  
Creating Hope.*