



CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS

Volume 13, Number 2

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Winter 2013

Christmas Appeal Needs Your Helping Hand

It is not easy asking for help. But life is not easy for our clients. It is difficult to be hungry, lacking in resources and education, or without a home. On their behalf, we are seeking your assistance.

The 12th Annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal will take place during December 2013 and January 2014 and benefits Catholic Charities programs and services available throughout Southwest Florida. Our goal is to raise \$500,000 this year for struggling families and individuals and seniors.

Your gift to the Christmas Appeal results in a better way of life for our clients. We are grateful for your generosity and partnership in our mission to *Provide Help, Create Hope, Serve All*.



Christmas Appeal on Page 6

Event Will Honor Veterans With Tribute to Greatest Generation

Venice--An event that took place in 2010 on the small island of Grosse Ile, Michigan that honored veterans will now happen on Venice Island as well. The first annual Venice Veterans Gala will be held Sunday, January 26 at 2 p.m. at the Venice Community Center.



Veterans Housing of Catholic Charities, a residence for a needy veteran and his or her family, and Catholic Charities programs and services that assist veterans and their families. Proceeds from the gala also will support the

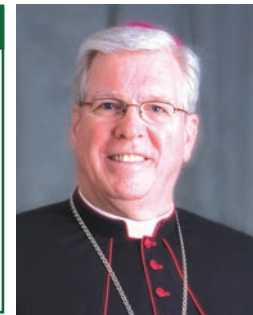
Venice Museum and Archives. The event celebrates all veterans and this year will honor WWII veterans, so a small donation will go to the B-26 Marauder Historical Society and the American Rosie the Riveters.

Event Will Honor Veterans on Page 2

The gala will salute all United States military veterans with a special tribute to the Greatest Generation. The event will feature a swing dance to the music of Lorri Hafer and the Ten O'clock Band, food and beverages, a silent auction, a display of military paraphernalia and classic cars, and much more.

Proceeds from the Venice Veterans Gala will benefit

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Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Bishop

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Event Will Honor Veterans from Page 1

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for the Venice Veterans Gala. SunTrust Banks, Inc. is the first corporate sponsor with a \$5,000 donation and the event committee is looking for additional sponsors who want to acknowledge and demonstrate appreciation for all military veterans in the community.

Back in 2010, family members of one of the WWII B-26 pilots

decided to have a “small ’40s style swing dance” for the B-26 Marauder Historical Society on a small rural island in Michigan for their annual reunion. They wanted to honor this group of aging WWII heroes. The island is home to former Naval Air Station Grosse Ile. As the plans went into action, the enthusiasm for the event manifested among the local VFW and spread throughout the entire community. Quickly the small swing dance took on a life of its own and became an

annual gala. The pilot’s family brought the idea to Venice so a similar event could be started in this community.

For more information about becoming a sponsor of the Venice Veterans Gala, please call Catholic Charities at 941-488-5581. Tickets to the event will be \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at SunTrust Bank located at 200 South Nokomis Avenue in Venice or by visiting www.catholiccharitiesdov.org.

Wish List

We are always in need of basic items for our Catholic Charities programs and services. Your support helps us to provide our clients quality assistance. We appreciate any help you can give!

Arcadia

Call Laura at 863-884-2134

- Eight computer mouse pads.
- Volunteers for the After School Program.
- Healthy snacks and drinks for After School Program.

Arcadia

Call Andy at 863-494-1068

- Personal care items such as adult diapers, shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, tooth paste and tooth brushes, and shaving cream and razors.
- Blankets.

Bradenton

Call Lucille at 941-525-2529

- New or gently used desktop printers/scanners and large computer monitors.

Bonita Springs

Call Matthew at 239-390-2928

- Volunteers for After School Tutoring Program.
- Volunteers for Food Pantry.
- Christmas wrapping paper for donated Christmas gifts.
- Ziploc bags for Food Pantry distribution.
- Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.

- Baby diapers, wipes, formula, clothing, and other supplies.
- New or gently used baby strollers and car seats.

Fort Myers

Call Alice at 239-337-4193

- Medical equipment such as wheel chairs and walkers.
- Personal care items such as adult diapers, shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, tooth paste and tooth brushes, and shaving cream and razors.
- Nonperishable food such as canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, cereal, tuna or rice.

Immokalee

Call Ninfa at 239-657-6242

- Tutors for School on Wheels Program.
- Baby diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6.
- Cereal, peanut butter, and 1 liter containers of orange and apple juice.
- Large containers of hot sauce, and canned vegetables such as corn and potatoes.
- Serving bowls, silverware, and glasses.

Naples

Call Allegra at 239-793-0059

- Baby diapers sizes 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Sarasota

Call Jamie at 941-366-1395

- Water cooler for playground.
- New or gently used laptop computer.
- Picnic table.

Venice

Call Joyce at 941-485-6264

- New twin bed sheets and bath towels.
- Baby diapers size 6 and training pants size 3T, 4T and 5T.
- Shower curtains.
- Mattress covers for twin beds.

Venice

Call Mary at 941-244-9490

- Four 21-inch or larger flat screen computer monitors.



Citizen Katie Day Fosters Community Service at Preschool

Sarasota--Alumnae from St. Catherine University gathered for the annual Citizen Katie Day at St. Martha's Early Learning Center of Catholic Charities and built a butterfly garden for the preschool.

The all-women's Catholic university located in St. Paul, MN annually sponsors Citizen Katie Day to inspire alumnae and students to volunteer in their local communities across the country. Alumnae Carolyn Metz Schmidt and Maureen Kelly Neerland, who also enlisted her husband Chuck, spent the morning creating a natural habitat for the fluttering visitors so the young students could experience the enchantment firsthand.

"I have been involved with St. Catherine University for 51 years since I graduated," said Maureen. "I firmly support the mission of the university which is reaching out to the marginalized and giving back to the community and living out Catholic social teaching. Catholic Charities was a perfect fit for Citizen Katie Day."

Carolyn agreed with Maureen and added that the day also is an opportunity for alumnae to get together and work side-by-side to make a difference. "I am a new

resident to Florida and this was a good way to meet people I have something in common with," she said. "It is important to learn about and support the social services that are being provided in our community," she said. Carolyn is a nurse manager for a local home care agency.

Though not an alumnae, Maureen's husband Chuck has had a long history with St. Catherine University.

He was a board of trustees member for nine years and currently serves on the Development Committee. "It is a wonderful school. I willingly like to participate in all of the activities involved with St. Catherine University," Chuck said.

Maureen said she especially likes the efforts of Citizen Katie Day. "It supports my religious faith, my faith in the school, and my faith and hope in humanity," she said.

St. Martha's Early Learning Center of Catholic Charities offers the Creative Curriculum

for Preschool Program where children are encouraged to explore Science, Math, Reading, Writing, Art, Technology and Music through indoor and outdoor learning centers. The new butterfly garden will compliment the interactive playground which includes a weather station and musical instruments. The preschool received a Four-Star Rating from the Early Learning Coalition Look for the Stars Program.

For more information or to take a tour of the center, please call 941-366-1395.



St. Catherine University Alumnae Maureen Neerland (left to right) and Carolyn Schmidt are joined by Catholic Charities Volunteer Coordinator Kevin McKenney and Chuck Neerland for Citizen Katie Day.

The Good Samaritan Guild

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

MAIL TO: Catholic Charities Foundation
5824 Bee Ridge Rd., PMB 409
Sarasota, FL 34233-5065

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.



Tour of Programs Offers Volunteers Valuable Insight

Collier County-- Catholic Charities has a variety of dedicated volunteers. Some work directly with the clients and witness the administration of services firsthand while others offer their time as board members or fundraisers and do not directly experience the value of their efforts.

Catholic Charities in Collier County offers an opportunity for all volunteers to see the good works of the agency. "We provide tours of all of our programs and services to volunteers for the Emerald Ball, advisory board members, and interested individuals and parish priests who have a connection to Catholic Charities," said Armando Galella, District Director for Catholic Charities of Collier County.

"Volunteers ride in a van and I provide them with information on our staff and programs and services," Galella said. "We stop at each program site and take a tour."

A group of Emerald Ball volunteers recently went on the excursion. The Emerald Ball is a black-tie gala held each year in March to raise money for the programs and services of Catholic Charities in Collier County. The day began at Catholic Charities offices in Naples where the group learned about the professional counseling, refugee resettlement, and refugee youth programs and services.

The volunteers then traveled to Immokalee to tour Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities. They viewed the food pantry, clothing room and shower program. Catholic Charities staff explained citizenship and legal services, financial assistance, and



Emerald Ball Volunteers Rita Cavuoto (left) and Francesca Copeland have lunch with clients at the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen.

the School on Wheels program. The volunteers then joined Catholic Charities clients for lunch at the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen which also is located there.

"My eyes have been opened," said Francesca Copeland while having lunch at the soup kitchen. Copeland is the Silent Auction Chair for the Emerald Ball. "I did not realize that Catholic Charities provided all this assistance to the community," she said.

"This tour is very inspirational," said Rita Cavuoto, Chair of the Emerald Ball. "The value of the tour is to see the full extent of what Catholic Charities does and who they serve. This really gives you an idea of what you are working for when you volunteer for the Emerald Ball," she said.

Carol Meli who is a member of the Emerald Ball Committee and the Advisory Board for Catholic Charities of Collier County was on her second trek. "I took my first tour when I became an

advisory board member and I was overwhelmed," Meli said. "It is great to see the programs and services in action. Now that I have spent time working with Catholic Charities, it means so much to be here and witness the value of it all."

Maureen Reed, an Emerald Ball volunteer, also took a tour a few years back but wanted to attend one again. "It is eye opening," Reed said. "The first time I took a tour I was very vague on what was happening at Catholic Charities. Afterwards, I knew I had to work a lot harder for these programs and services. I am now more committed to Catholic Charities than ever."

After lunch the group travelled back to Naples for a final visit to the Family Resource Center of Catholic Charities, where they reviewed the Refugee Employed and Productive and the Employability Status Assistance programs. The tour concluded with an overview of the financial and food assistance programs.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for Catholic Charities of Collier County, please call 239-455-2655.



Ninfa Drago (right), Program Director for Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities, gives a tour of the clothing room to Emerald Ball volunteers.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES,

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 www.catholiccharitiesdov.org
 www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDioceseOfVenice

SERVICE LOCATIONS

- Arcadia
- Boca Grande
- Bonita Springs
- Bradenton
- Clewiston
- Fort Myers
- Highlands and Hardee Counties Outreach Services
- Immokalee
- Naples
- North Port
- 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
- Day Care Center
- Disaster Preparedness and Response
- Distribution of FEMA Funds
- DUI Groups
- Early Learning Center
- Elderly Services
- English Classes
- Farm Worker Housing
- Financial Assistance
- First Time Homebuyer 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 Program
- School on Wheels Program
- Soup Kitchen
- Summer Youth Program
- Tutoring
- Veterans Housing
- Youth Mentoring Programs

CEO's Corner

The Christmas season truly is “the most wonderful time of the year” but many who come to Catholic Charities seeking help are struggling during the holidays and beyond. It is difficult for them to ask for assistance. It is even more daunting for them to be hungry or without a home.

On behalf of our clients, we are inviting you to reach out with a generous spirit this year and contribute to the **12th Annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal**. Our goal is to raise \$500,000 for families and individuals and seniors that are hopeful to find solutions to their dilemmas. Catholic Charities provides a host of programs and services at locations throughout Southwest Florida that can offer those in need the ability to attain a decent life. See the list on the left side of this page.

Your commitment to Catholic Charities and those we serve is deeply appreciated. No matter the amount of your gift, when leveraged with others, it will make a meaningful difference in the lives of the many who turn to us for help. We strive to be a good steward of your contribution and 93 cents of every dollar donated will go to our worthy clients. For their benefit, we are looking for your vital support. Please consider giving to the **Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal**.

May God bless you and your family during this Christmas season.

Respectfully,



Peter Routsis-Arroyo
 Chief Executive Officer



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

Upcoming Events

January

Sarasota **25th Anniversary Catholic Charities Ball** for Catholic Charities of Sarasota and Manatee Counties on Saturday, January 25, 2014 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.

Venice The **Venice Veterans Gala** for Veterans Housing of Catholic Charities on Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 2 p.m. at the Venice Community Center. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 941-488-5581.

February

Venice **Our Mother's House Wine Tasting, Auction and Dinner Dance** for Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Plantation Golf and Country Club. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 941-485-6264 or email omhsrcdir@comcast.net.

March

Fort Myers **Venetian Charity Ball** for Catholic Charities of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties on Saturday, March 1, 2014 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.

Sarasota **Bethesda House Mardi Gras Madness** for Bethesda House of Catholic Charities on Fat Tuesday, March 4, 2014 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.

Lake Suzy **Boots and Bandannas Dinner Dance** for Catholic Charities of DeSoto County on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 5:30 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 15, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort. For tickets visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or call 239-455-2655 or email star@catholiccharitiescc.org.

Christmas Appeal from Page 1

Providing Help



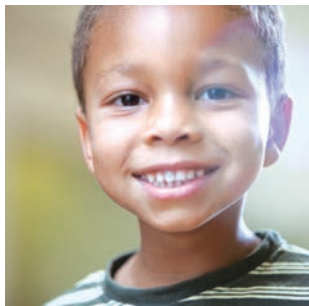
Your support of the Christmas Appeal helps about 40,000 people all year long through the many programs and services of Catholic Charities!

Food Pantries and Clothing Banks

Throughout Southwest Florida, Catholic Charities feeds the hungry at food pantries that provide individuals and families with sustenance to get them through another week. Clothing banks offer basic necessities to the most vulnerable persons.

Youth and Adult Education

Catholic Charities provides at-risk youth with early childhood education, after school tutoring and reading classes, and mentoring programs. Adults seeking to better themselves can receive job training, along with classes for English as a second language, computer skills, and the citizenship test.



Housing Programs

Housing counseling and foreclosure prevention services at Catholic Charities help homeowners to stay in their homes and a First Time Homebuyer Class sets new homeowners on a path to success. Catholic Charities Housing, Diocese of Venice, Inc. provides affordable and safe residential communities to veterans, farm workers, and low-income families and individuals.



Senior Services

Isolated and frail seniors receive support from Catholic Charities to help them remain independent and vital. Case management services also are available through Catholic Charities at two assisted living facilities.

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Human Trafficking Program

Catholic Charities lends victims of human trafficking immediate assistance with housing, food, and medical, dental, legal and counseling services.



Financial Assistance

Catholic Charities continues to experience an overwhelming number of individuals and families in crisis seeking assistance with rent or mortgage, utility bills, and prescription medications.

Counseling

Relief from anxiety and stress, along with other mental health issues, can be found at Catholic Charities Counseling Centers which offer a sliding fee scale to those in need.



Christmas Appeal from Page 6

Creating Hope



HIV/AIDS Support Services

Those infected and family members affected by the HIV/AIDS disease can find compassion and support at Catholic Charities along with a residential assisted living program.

Assistance for Mothers and Children

Catholic Charities offers mothers and their children on the verge of homelessness a residential program to help them become self-sufficient. Material needs also are provided for mothers such as diapers, baby clothing, and car seats.



Casework Services

Individuals and families struggling to make ends meet come to Catholic Charities for assistance with benefit applications and connections to community social services.

Disaster Response

Catholic Charities responds to a community before, during and after a disaster and works in collaboration with county emergency management agencies. The Disaster Amateur Radio Network of Catholic Charities



provides emergency and back-up communications for response teams through a group of base radio stations located throughout Southwest Florida.

Refugee and Citizenship Services

Refugees and immigrants looking for a better life here in America receive guidance at Catholic Charities with reuniting family members, becoming a citizen, job placement, and attaining self-sufficiency.



Yes, I will help Catholic Charities!

I am pleased to enclose my tax-deductible gift to the Christmas Appeal.

\$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$_____Other

Enclosed is my check made payable to Catholic Charities.

Please charge my Visa MC AmEx Discover

Credit Card# _____

Amount \$ _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____ Phone# _____

E-mail _____ @ _____



To set up recurring electronic gift giving, please visit

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

I will be making a gift

Monthly Quarterly

Please mail me a reminder notice.

Catholic Charities does not share, sell or trade donor information.

Please see reverse side if you would like to make your gift in honor or in memory of someone.



Serving All

Catholic Charities helps disadvantaged children, struggling families, lonely and frail elderly, relocated refugees, and desperate victims. Catholic Charities serves and empowers ALL in need regardless of race, nationality or creed.

We use your gifts wisely. Catholic Charities puts your contribution to work in our communities in Southwest Florida. A full 93 cents of every dollar donated to the 2013 Christmas Appeal will be used to help people achieve a better life.

Please keep the work of Catholic Charities in your prayers.



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

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You can also donate to the 12th Annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal by visiting www.catholiccharitiesdov.org. Thank you! No matter the amount of your gift, when leveraged with others, it will make a meaningful difference in the lives of the many who turn to us for help.



My gift to Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is:

(Please Print)

in honor of _____

in memory of _____

Please send an acknowledgement card in my/our name to:

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The gift amount will not be included.

Clip and mail to: Catholic Charities - 5824 Bee Ridge Road PMB 409 - Sarasota, FL 34233-5065



Did You Know?

93 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to services for people in need in your community.

