



CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS

Volume 4, Number 2

Catholic Charities - Diocese of Venice

Winter 2004-05

Annual Christmas Appeal Needs You to Help

The third annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal takes place during the month of December through January 2005. Last year's Christmas Appeal raised \$103,000 to help support 27 Catholic Charities programs.

This year's goal of \$120,000 is necessary to maintain services for clients throughout the year. Please see pages 6-8 to learn more about Catholic Charities programs and services in your area.

Annual Christmas Appeal on page 6



Lauren Chelec, Catholic Charities USA

Father Ed McNamara, Venetian Charity Ball Honoree

Fort Myers—Very Reverend Stephen E. McNamara, known as Father Ed, not only was the founding pastor of Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Fort Myers in 1974, he is the church's only pastor.

Father Ed will be honored at the 2005 Annual Venetian Charity Ball, which benefits Catholic Charities of Lee County, for his contribution and commitment to people in need. Born



Father Ed McNamara

January 12, 1942, in Ennis, Ireland, Father Ed never really had it in his mind to become a priest.

Father McNamara began to consider a religious life at 14 when he applied to the Christian Brothers. "They did not accept me," he said. "They did not think that I was brother material." Father McNamara then focused on the priesthood.

Father Ed on page 3

20-Year Anniversary!

On December 18, 1984, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. was certified as a non-profit, charitable organization in Florida.

This year Catholic Charities celebrates its 20th anniversary of direct service to thousands of families, children and individuals in need in our 10-county community. Our mission states, "These activities shall ensure human dignity, enhance the quality of life for all persons, regardless of race, creed or color, and emulate the teachings of Jesus, who came to serve rather than be served."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Volunteer Spotlight	2
Charity Balls +	3
K of C Charities	3
Hurricane Relief Update	4
Wish List	4
President's Corner	5
Upcoming Events	5
Providing Help	6
Annual Christmas Appeal Form	7

Volunteer Spotlight: Rose Sherrard

Arcadia—In June 2001 Rose Sherrard walked through the front door of Catholic Charities - DeSoto County in search of volunteer work. As a widow of one year, she said, “I needed something to do.”

Three and one-half years later, Sherrard has earned the unofficial title of office manager from Sister Ann De Nicolo, B.V.M., director of the Catholic Charities program in Arcadia. Sherrard’s first day, however, was not all fun. After she sorted donated clothing, she experienced pain from standing on a concrete floor. She then asked if she could assist with office work.

Sherrard now works with caseworker, Sister Marianne Ridgell, S.P., by keeping statistics, a requirement for Catholic Charities to maintain accreditation. Sherrard computerizes the number of clients served, demographics and



Rose Sherrard

volunteer hours.

Also, Sherrard pre-screens clients’ application forms for assistance to check that all sections have been properly completed before clients meet with Sister Marianne. Since the hurricanes destroyed so many homes, businesses and crops in DeSoto County, Sherrard said, “We see a lot more cases and a lot of newer ones after the storm damage.”

A Florida resident of 36 years, Sherrard is applying her business skills to charity work. Sherrard and her husband formerly owned a bath boutique in Venice before they relocated to Arcadia eight years ago. “Catholic Charities gave me what I needed when I needed it,” said Sherrard about her volunteering.

In addition, Sherrard chairs the third Boots and Bandannas dinner, auction and dance with the assistance of volunteer Bob Gannon. This casual-dress, annual event raises funds to help support Catholic Charities – DeSoto County. Because the hurricanes destroyed last year’s location, the event is scheduled for March 19, 2005, at Mission Valley Country Club on Laurel Road in Venice.

For reservations, call Rose at 863-444-0014 or the Catholic Charities office at 863-494-1068.

Charity Balls + Boots and Bandannas Fill the 2005 Winter Season Calendar

Sarasota – Co-Chairs Maria DeSanto and Edith Barr Dunn head up an enthusiastic committee of volunteers for the **16th Annual Bishop’s Charity Ball** to be held on **Thursday, January 15, 2005** at The Chelsea Center of St. Thomas More parish.

For reservations call 941-379-5119.

Fort Myers – Co-Chairs Ann Carrasquillo and Ada Trapanese promise a *A Carnival in Venice* evening for the **6th Annual Venetian Ball** featuring dinner and dancing to the Miami orchestra “*Fifth Avenue*,” a live auction with TV celebrity Jim Rief and a silent auction. The date of the Ball is

Saturday, February 5, 2005 at the newly renovated Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa. For reservations call Ada Trapanese 239-489-3790.

Naples – The Naples Beach Club will be the site to host the **20th Anniversary Emerald Ball** on **Saturday, March 19, 2005**. Co-Chairs for the event are Judy Sullivan and Linda Stanaland. For reservations call Madeline at 239-455-2655.

Arcadia – The **3rd Annual Boots and Bandannas Dinner, Dance and Auction** for the benefit of Catholic Charities-DeSoto County will be held at the Mission Valley Country Club in Venice on **Saturday, March 19, 2005**. Tickets are \$55 per person. For reservations call the office 863-494-1068 or Chair, Rose Sherrard at 863-444-0014.



Dancing to the music of top orchestras will follow cuisine from great chefs.

Father Ed from page 1

Father McNamara's diocese in Ireland had a surplus of priests, so he opted for a missionary assignment. On June 10, 1967, Father McNamara was ordained by Bishop Patrick Leenon, D.D., for the Archdiocese of St. Augustine and was given his first job at St. Martha Parish and Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota. In 1971 he served at St. Cecilia's in Clearwater and in 1972 at St. Cecilia's and Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers. Then in 1974 he became the founding pastor of Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Fort Myers.

"There has been a lot of growth here in Fort Myers over the years," he said. Three churches have split from Resurrection Parish: St. Columbkille, Our Lady of Light and Blessed Pope John the XXIII. Resurrection started with only 300 families in 1974 and now has over 3,000 families who are members.

"Father McNamara is an institution in Fort Myers," said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, president of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice. "He has been in the forefront in many efforts to help the poor. It is that body of work we are honoring," he said.

"The Catholic Church cannot

operate without Catholic Charities," said Father McNamara. "I have great belief in the organization and the wonderful work they do," he said. Resurrection Parish is sponsoring the orchestra at the 2005 Venetian Charity Ball.

On a diocesan level, Father McNamara is chairman of the personnel board, dean of the central deanery and treasurer. "I enjoy finances. That came from my parents and working at their store," he said. "In fact, all of my true values and skills have come from my father and mother. They were my greatest teachers."

"I never dreamed that I would be dealing with people in such a spiritual level at their most serious points in their lives. I had no idea how fulfilling this career would be when I was in the seminary."

Outside of the priesthood, Father McNamara loves the game of golf and spending time with his new boxer puppy Mack O'Brien, who replaced Jack O'Brien after 12 years of companionship.

Father McNamara will be honored at the Venetian Charity Ball on Saturday, February 5, 2005, at the Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa. This year's theme is "A Carnival in Venice." Tickets are \$125 per person and can be purchased by calling 239-489-3790.

K of C Charities Supports Our Mother's House



Lew Schmidt (right), Knights of Columbus Charities Chairman for the Diocese of Venice, toured the renovation at Our Mother's House with program director Holly Collier.

Venice—The Knights of Columbus Charities of the Florida State Council donated \$5,900 to Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities. The focus of the Knights of Columbus Charities program is to support Respect Life issues.

Located in Venice, Our Mother's House offers needy mothers and their children a place to live while mothers improve their educational, vocational and parenting skills. This residential program of Catholic Charities provides an opportunity for young, single mothers to become self-sufficient and healthy caregivers for their children.

MASS CARDS

Send me free samples of the new Mass cards from the Guild.

WILLS WORKSHEETS

Send a set of wills worksheets (if you do not have a will or are updating your will).

FOUNDATION

Please send me information about the Catholic Charities Foundation and the Good Samaritan Guild.

The Good Samaritan Guild - Making A Difference

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

**MAIL TO: Catholic Charities Foundation
P.O. Box 1805, Venice, FL 34284-1805**



Hurricane Relief Update: Arcadia Men Learn Roofing Skills

Arcadia—In Arcadia, a community where most residents are either working poor or migrant farm workers, many homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed from Hurricanes Charley and Frances. Catholic Charities – DeSoto County and St. Paul Catholic Church have organized roofing seminars for local men to learn how to repair roofs.

“There are not enough qualified roofers around to make all the repairs,” said Sister Ann De Nicolo, program director for Catholic Charities – DeSoto County, located in Arcadia. “The roofs are leaking and damage is continuing to get worse and items inside the homes are getting ruined,” she said.

A group of 20 men have been taught by a professional roofer, who volunteered his time, to repair roofs. All have received their roofing permits, and as a group they have started repairing each other’s damaged roofs. Another crew of 34 men will begin taking the next roofing seminar.

“St. Thomas More Parish of Sarasota has offered to buy all the



Roofers repair hurricane-damaged facility.

materials to fix the damaged roofs,” Sister De Nicolo said. “Many of the men taking the seminar have little or no home insurance or enough extra finances to afford the insurance deductibles. Many have lost their jobs due to the hurricane. It has put a financial burden on so many in this community.”

According to Sister De Nicolo, the roofing seminars address the two issues hindering the needy of

Arcadia from recovering from the hurricanes: lack of funds to pay for repairs and a shortage of qualified roofers. “The training and donation of materials will help them get back into their homes,” she said.

This example is just one of the many ways Hurricane Relief work has had to be creative to help hurricane victims overcome obstacles, according to Sister De Nicolo.



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, ext. 106.

- volunteer van driver for after-school tutoring program, one or two days per week; requires Florida driver’s license
- volunteer tutors for after-school tutoring

Immokalee – Call Sister Lorraine at (239) 657-6242.

- female volunteers to tutor

conversational English to migrant women for 90 minutes each week

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

- volunteer to coordinate food pantry operations
- volunteers (Spanish helpful) for office work and to assist clients with application forms
- non-perishable food pantry items – canned vegetables, peanut butter, etc.

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

- TV and DVD for educational programs
- volunteers to work in classroom for a half day

Venice – Call Nancy at (941) 492-4855.

- dry-erase chalkboard, set of dry-erase markers and erasers for intensive English class

Catholic Charities

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CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT


Catholic Charities Foundation

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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



As we prepare for Christmas and the holidays, please pause with me to contemplate the past year. Thanks to your support, Catholic Charities was able to assist thousands of our neighbors.

For our third Annual Christmas Appeal, we ask your assistance for the needy and vulnerable in our communities. Your donation to the Christmas Appeal will provide essential funds for programs and services throughout next year.

With four hurricanes still fresh in our minds and hurricane relief efforts ongoing, Catholic Charities thanks all of you who have helped with the work of aiding people who suffered from the storms. Many of you provided financial support and many came to volunteer on site. For both, we are deeply grateful.

To provide a brief update of Catholic Charities Hurricane Relief work, please read the article on page 4 of this newsletter about a new program for roofing repairs in DeSoto County. In addition, our newly established housing corporation is hopeful of developing quality, affordable housing for those in need. Please keep in your prayers those that will spend the holidays in temporary housing because of damage to their homes.

Also, on page 1, is a brief announcement about the 20th anniversary of Catholic Charities in our diocese. Our work is possible only because you, the thoughtful and generous people of Southwest Florida, support the services of Catholic Charities through your contributions of financial gifts, volunteering efforts and prayers. Thank you.


In closing, please donate whatever you can to the Christmas Appeal to assist Catholic Charities in our 21st year of service to the poor and needy. In this newsletter we have provided an envelope and, on pages 7-8, a response slip for your convenience. We appreciate any help you can give.

May the Good Lord bless you and yours this Christmas and throughout the New Year,

Pete Routsis-Arroyo

Peter Routsis-Arroyo
 President/CEO

Upcoming Events

- DECEMBER** Catholic Charities Annual Christmas Appeal
Please use the enclosed envelope to donate. 
- JANUARY** 16th Annual Bishop's Charity Ball. Thursday, January 27, 2005 at
Sarasota The Chelsea Center of St. Thomas More parish. For reservations call 941-379-5119.
- FEBRUARY** 6th Annual Venetian Charity Ball, *A Carnival in Venice*. Saturday,
Fort Myers February 5, 2005. Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa. Tickets \$125 per person. Call Ada Trapanese 239-489-3790.
- MARCH** 20th Anniversary of the Emerald Ball. Saturday, March 19, 2005.
Naples Naples Beach Club. For reservations call Madeline 239-455-2655.
- DeSoto County* 3rd Annual Boots and Bandannas Dinner, Dance & Auction. Saturday, March 19, 2005 at the Mission Valley Country Club on Laurel Road in Venice. For reservations call Rose at 863-444-0014 or Catholic Charities Arcadia office at 863-494-1068.

Annual Christmas Appeal from page 1

Providing Help . . .

Catholic Charities has an overall goal of “Providing Help – Creating Hope” for those who seek assistance in our ten-county diocese.

Here on these pages are brief descriptions of just a few of the many programs and services Catholic Charities provides those in need – through your help, prayers and support.

Day Care

In downtown Sarasota, St. Martha’s Early Learning Center provides child care with developmental, educational and social components for toddlers and children to age four. Many of these parents each work two jobs in order to make their limited budget work.



Lauren Chelec, Catholic Charities USA

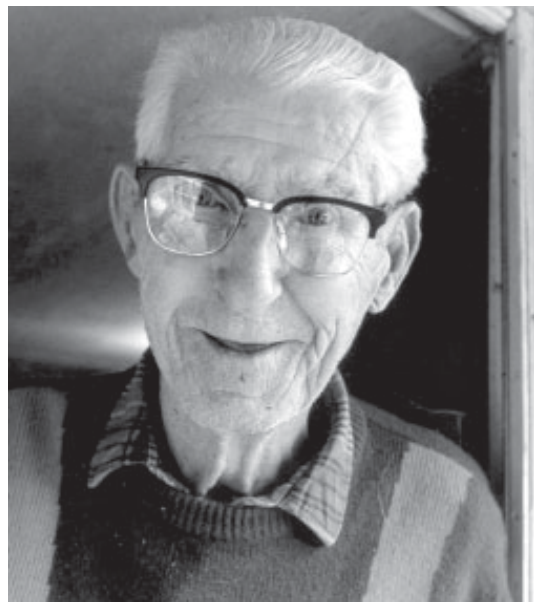


Direct Financial Assistance

In Sarasota and Manatee Counties, hundreds of needy families seek crisis assistance to help with rent, utility bills and critical prescription medicines. Catholic Charities does the most with limited resources. Many times during the past year we ran out of direct assistance funds prior to the end of the month.

Elderly

Right now, there is an elderly woman struggling to maintain her independence and stay out of a nursing home. She receives help to perform daily tasks from our Elderly Outreach program in Collier County.



Lauren Chelec, Catholic Charities USA

Families & Children

In Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Clewiston and LaBelle, Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities focuses upon the needs of children and families with after-school tutoring programs, English classes (ESOL), Families Advancing program, shoe vouchers, and an array of support programs.

Alzheimer’s Caregivers

New locations are being sought for the Alzheimer’s program in Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda because Hurricane Charley destroyed the prior sites. “A Special Place” program of Catholic Charities provides respite care and support services for clients and caregivers.

Annual Christmas Appeal on page 7

YES, I will help Catholic Charities!



I am pleased to enclose my tax-deductible gift of

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 \$_____ Other

_____ My check made out to Catholic Charities is enclosed.

_____ Please charge my _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Credit Card # _____

Amount \$ _____ Expiration date _____ / _____

Signature _____

(Required for credit card approval.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Special Intentions of My Gift

In Honor of - _____

In Memory of - _____

(Please see reverse side.)

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

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

Annual Christmas Appeal from page 6

... Creating Hope

Single Mothers

A working single mother comes to our Family Resource Center in Naples for food and assistance with her utility bill. She and her children need your help in order to make ends meet this Christmas.

At Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities in Venice, a single, homeless mother and her baby seek shelter and services. Required classes in budgeting and parenting are part of how she learns to live independently.

Migrant Workers Families

In the Arcadia area, there are migrant worker families who come to our Catholic Charities center in DeSoto County seeking the most basic of survival needs. We help by providing food from our small pantry, donated clothes for children and adults, and small amounts of direct assistance.



Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities in Venice



Lauren Chelec, Catholic Charities USA

Expectant Mothers

Today in Lee County, we are helping young mothers and expectant mothers whose babies need clothing, diapers and other material needs. The Clare House program of Catholic Charities serves these struggling young families who are trying to make a better tomorrow for their toddlers and newborns.



**We ask for your help - because they can't.
Please give generously.**

My gift to Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is to honor:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Please send a special greeting in *my/our* name. (See reverse side.)

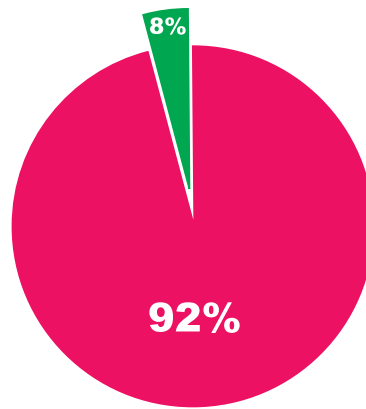
Providing Help. Creating Hope.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Annual Christmas Appeal

**We Use Your
Gifts Wisely**

At Catholic Charities, we put your gifts to work in the community. A full 92 cents of every dollar from the Christmas Appeal 2004 will be used to help those who need help the most.



■ Service to people in need 92% ■ Administration and fundraising 8%

- Emergency Financial Assistance**
- Food Pantry**
- Tutoring**
- Child Day Care**
- Mental Health Counseling**
- Shelter for Mothers & Infants**

Catholic Charities serves all who seek help regardless of race, religion or national origin.



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Venice
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