



CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS

Volume 8, Number 2

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Winter 2008-09



Annual Christmas Appeal Needs You to Help

The seventh annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal needs your support for our neighbors in need. The Appeal takes place during the month of December through January 2009. This year's goal is \$340,000.

Your gifts provide funding for programs and services of Catholic Charities in southwest Florida. Through your generosity, our 32 program sites are able to serve clients all year long.

This year the requests for help have increased 75 percent!

A list of our program sites is available on page 5 of this newsletter. Please read pages 6-7 for details about a few of our services for our neighbors in need. We appreciate any support you can give.



Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

Christmas Appeal on page 6

Charity Navigator Ranks CC in Top 1%

Venice – Catholic Charities currently ranks in the top one percent of charities nationwide for its sound fiscal management. For the seventh consecutive



year, Charity Navigator awarded our organization the highest possible rating of 4 stars.

Charity Navigator, the largest independent evaluator of charities

in the country, evaluates the financial health of over 5,300 American charities.

“We are one of only 45 non-profits nationally to achieve this 4-star award for seven

Charity Navigator on page 2

Facility Dedicated to Elizabeth Kay Galeana

Fort Myers – Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities was dedicated to and renamed the Elizabeth Kay Galeana Center on Saturday, October 18. A special ceremony honored the family for its long-time support of Catholic Charities of Lee County.

The event was held at the Catholic Charities office, 4235 Michigan Ave. Link, from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Bishop Frank J. Dewane, the guest of honor,

blessed the new sign and newly renamed facility.

“The Galeana family has been a tremendous supporter of

Catholic Charities of Lee County over the years, and we want

Galeana Dedication on page 4

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www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Undy Sunday's 12th Year

Collier County - During August nearly 50 Collier County churches and synagogues asked their members to donate new underwear and socks for needy school-aged children for the 12th annual Undy Sunday.

New socks and new underwear for boys and girls, sizes 6-12, were distributed to about 15 Collier County public elementary schools, Bonita Springs Elementary in Lee County, Youth Haven, the Shelter for Abused Women and other agencies. The "undies" are given to needy children during the school year.

Due to the past successes of the annual Undy Sunday drive, Catholic Charities of Collier County has received financial donations. The agency plans to utilize these funds to purchase



Diocese of Venice

St. John Neumann High School students sort "undies" for distribution.

underwear, backpacks, school supplies and other items of need for children.

"We are grateful to St. John Neumann High School for assistance again this year as every year the collection grows bigger," said John Fitzgerald, founder of the Undy Sunday program. Fitzgerald and Lew Schmidt, both advisory board members for Catholic Charities of Collier County, are co-chairs of the event.

Grant for Human Trafficking Initiative

Fort Myers - Catholic Charities of Lee County was awarded a \$230,000 grant from the US Department of Justice Office of Victims Crimes to operate a Human Trafficking Initiative for 18 months. This new program will work in conjunction

with refugee and immigration services at Catholic Charities.

According to Chris Nolan, District Director for Catholic Charities of Lee County, the new program coordinates with the Lee

Human Trafficking on page 3

Charity Navigator from page 1



consecutive years!" said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, CEO of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice. "This exceptional rating

demonstrates that Catholic Charities is an excellent steward of your financial support."

To see the evaluation of CC for its 4-star rating for the seventh year, visit our website—www.catholiccharitiesdov.org—and click on the Charity Navigator logo in the left column.

Wish List

Thank you for any help you can give.

Arcadia -

Call Andy at (863) 494-1068.

- food or food gift cards
- gift cards as Christmas gifts for teens

Bradenton -

Call Yraida at (941) 714-7829.

- bilingual (English-Spanish) volunteer for clerical work
- multimedia projector & screen for client classes, staff training, etc.
- file cabinets
- carpet/floor cleaning service

Fort Myers -

Call Michael at (239) 337-4193.

- volunteers for Dec. 18 to sort & organize approx. 1,500 Christmas gifts

Immokalee -

Call Ninfa at (239) 657-6242.

- food for food pantry

Naples -

Call Sharon at (239) 455-0520.

- food gift cards for Publix or Sweetbay
- gift cards for Wal-Mart, Target, etc.
- gift cards for gas
- school supplies
- gently used children's books & toys
- gently used children's shoes & clothing

Sarasota -

Wish List on page 3



Wish List

Wish List from page 2

Call Mary at (941) 379-7997.

- food gift cards for Publix or Sweetbay
- gift cards for gas
- gift cards for office supplies & equipment
- gift cards for CVS or Walgreens
- gift cards for children's items

Call Julie at (941) 366-1395.

- old-fashioned schoolhouse bell
- children's musical CDs
- children's computer
- no-heat lamination machine
- toddler tricycle

Sarasota/South Venice –

Call Sandy or Lisa at (941) 366-1886.

- 6 cushioned chairs
- love seat
- end tables & lamps
- 2 small desks



Diocese of Venice

Rev. Larry Snyder, President of Catholic Charities USA, addressed all Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, staff about the CCUSA Code of Ethics and Catholic social teachings on October 10.

Human Trafficking from page 2

County Sheriff's Department, the United States Attorney's Office and Florida Gulf Coast University. The program serves victims of human trafficking, whether through indentured servitude for labor or sexual slavery, Nolan said.

"In the past, very few victims have been identified," Nolan said. "We are training faith-based organizations to recognize the signs of victims who suffered from human trafficking. These

are the types of places people trust and feel secure enough to reach out to for help."

Nolan said human trafficking smugglers successfully integrate themselves in their own ethnic communities. "We also will work with people within these neighborhoods to help victims to come forward," she said.

The new Human Trafficking Initiative began serving the community in November. For more information, contact Catholic Charities of Lee County at 239-337-4193.



MASS CARDS

Send 2 samples of the new Mass cards from the Guild. Please enclose \$1.00 to cover postage and handling.

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

Visit our new Catholic Charities Foundation website **ccfdnswfl.org**

A Long Road to Recovery . . .

Bonita Springs - Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities has been providing assistance to hundreds of flood victims since Hurricane Fay dumped heavy rains here in late August. The road to recovery continues to be a struggle for many.

After the storm dropped 9 inches of rain in Bonita Springs, Catholic Charities, St. Leo the Great Parish and the local Christian Brothers responded immediately. They provided shelter, food and clothing to the desperate families forced to flee the Manna Christian RV Park. Now, with the majority of the trailers condemned in the park, the focus is on offering long-term assistance.

Catholic Charities, along with the Salvation Army, Lutheran Services and Bonita Springs Amigos Center, are banning together to find affordable housing for the more than 1,000 displaced people.

"Manna Christian RV Park was a vital community where residents supported one another. Now they are separated and displaced. Their sense of security is gone," said Chris Nolan, District Director of Catholic Charities of Lee County.

"They cannot afford to move into the local low-income housing as many are either unemployed or

work as day laborers with unpredictable wages," said Nolan. The cost of living in the trailer park was considerably lower than the cost of affordable housing available in Bonita Springs.

Funding from the United Way of Lee County and the Southwest Community Foundation of Lee County is being dispensed through Catholic Charities to help victims of Hurricane Fay resettle into permanent housing.

A short-term contract from the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network also has provided three crisis counselors through Catholic Charities

to offer support to the victims who are grieving the loss of their homes, belongings and community.

"The collaboration of Lee County organizations is striving to make sure everyone will find a new home and regain some sense of peace and stability," said Nolan.

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities is accepting donations of money and food to assist the victims of Hurricane Fay. Donations can be sent to or dropped off at 27050 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

For more information, call Catholic Charities at 239-390-0687.

Glitz and Glitter

The 2009 winter season brings five fundraising events to benefit a variety of Catholic Charities programs in our southwest Florida communities. Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be the guest of honor at all five!

The three Balls—Sarasota, Fort Myers, Naples—are glitz and glitter. Boots and Bandannas for Arcadia is jeans, cowboy hats and bandannas. The Wine Tasting in Venice is somewhere in between.

Please come and support Catholic Charities in your community! Everyone is invited.



Couples enjoyed the 2008 Emerald Ball in Naples.

(No formal invitation required.) For dates, locations and contact information, see "Upcoming Events" on page 5.

Galeana Dedication from page 1

Elizabeth's energy, vibrancy and legacy to be a part of this agency from here forward," said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, CEO of Catholic Charities. "Because of their annual donations to our programs in Lee County, the overall quality of life for the community has been much improved."

The Galeana family and the Elizabeth Kay Galeana Foundation recently donated \$60,000 to Catholic Charities to provide a new Positive Family Relationship Program for adolescent and family counseling in Bonita Springs.

Guests at the ceremony included the Galeana family and friends, members of Catholic Charities and Diocese of Venice staff, and Lee County public officials.

For more information about Catholic Charities of Lee County, call 239-337-4193.





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

Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities

Bradenton

Catholic Charities of Manatee County
 Immigration & Housing Counseling

Clewiston

Catholic Charities of Hendry/Glades Counties

Fort Myers

Clare House of Catholic Charities
 Community Counseling Services
 Haitian Center
 Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities
 HIV/AIDS Services
 Human Trafficking
 Immigration & Refugee Services
 Senior Connections

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 Programs

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



With the celebration of Christ's birth coming soon, we at Catholic Charities thank the Lord for our blessings.

An outstanding blessing is the 4-star ranking from Charity Navigator, America's premier evaluator of over 5,300 charities. For seven consecutive years, our organization has received this highest rating. (For details, please read our article on page 1.)

In contrast to this good news, Catholic Charities programs are experiencing a crisis. We are overwhelmed with requests for help. This year the requests have increased 75 percent!

We do not have enough funds to serve the multitude of people seeking help. Mortgage, rent, utilities, food and prescription assistance requests have skyrocketed.

Housing issues, unemployment and the cost of gasoline have hurt so many of our neighbors.

"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) is the commandment Jesus taught us.

Please show your love for your neighbors by contributing to our Christmas Appeal. Send whatever you can.

We appreciate your support.


May God bless you this Christmas and throughout the New Year,

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

- December** *Catholic Charities Annual Christmas Appeal.* Watch for our letter in your mailbox. 
- January** *20th Catholic Charities Ball.* Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009; Sarasota Ritz Carlton. For tickets call (941) 379-5119.
- February** *8th Our Mother's House Wine Tasting.* Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009; Venice Plantation Golf & Country Club. For tickets call (941) 485-6264.
- Fort Myers** *10th Venetian Charity Ball.* Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009; Harborside Convention Center. For tickets call (239) 337-4193.
- March** *24th Emerald Ball.* Saturday, March 14, 2009; Hilton Naples. For tickets call (239) 455-2655.
- Naples**
- Arcadia** *7th "Boots & Bandannas."* Dinner-Dance for Catholic Charities of Desoto County; Saturday, March 21, 2009; Mission Valley Country Club in Laurel (just north of Venice.) For tickets call Rose at (863) 494-1068.

Christmas Appeal from page 1

Providing Help . . .

These brief descriptions are only a few of our many programs and services that you support through your gifts to the Christmas Appeal.



St. Martha's Early Learning Center in Sarasota.

Early Learning

In downtown Sarasota, St. Martha's Early Learning Center provides childcare with developmental, educational and social components for children, ages 3 to 5. Many of these parents each work two jobs to make their limited budget work.

Families & Children

In Fort Myers and Bonita Springs, Catholic Charities focuses on the needs of children and families with food pantries, case management, financial assistance, after-school tutoring, and other support services.

Counseling

Mental health counseling services are available for everyone at Catholic Charities offices in Bradenton, Fort Myers, Naples, Port Charlotte, Sarasota and Venice. A sliding fee scale is available for those in need.

Expectant Mothers

Today in Lee County, we are helping young 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.



Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

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.

Christmas Appeal on page 7



Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

The Christmas Appeal will help to make sure we can serve when the need is most critical.

Christmas Appeal from page 6

... Creating Hope

Migrant Worker Families

In the Arcadia area, migrant worker families come to our Catholic Charities of 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.

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 baby seek shelter and services. Required classes in budgeting and parenting help her learn to live independently.



Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities in Venice.



Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

Seniors

In Palmetto and Venice a Catholic Charities caseworker assists residents with

case management services in two senior housing facilities of the diocese.

In Lee County senior adults receive telephone reassurances daily and support services through Senior Connections.

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

Christmas Appeal

YES, I will help Catholic Charities!



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

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

OR Please charge my Visa MC AmEx Discover

Credit Card # _____

Amount \$ _____ Expiration date _____ / _____

Signature _____ (Required for credit card approval.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

I will be making a gift
 monthly quarterly
Please send a reminder notice.

Special Intentions of My Gift
In Honor of _____
In Memory of _____
(Please 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 our communities in southwest Florida. A full 92 cents of every dollar from the Christmas Appeal 2008 will be used to help those who need help the most.

Last year Catholic Charities served nearly 40,000 children, families and individuals.

Whom do we serve? They are needy children, the lonely elderly, the migrant farm worker, the refugee, and the family in crisis. They are God's children and our neighbors.



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.

**Emergency Financial Assistance • Food Pantries • Tutoring
Child Day Care • Mental Health Counseling
Residential Care for Mothers & Children**



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

YOUR GIFT AT WORK

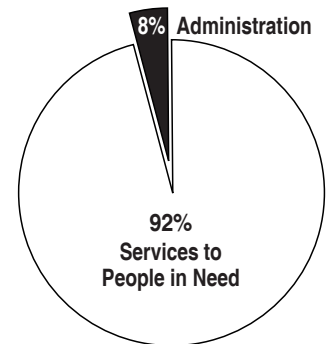
My gift to Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is to honor:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send a special greeting in my/our name.



Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Clip and mail to: **Catholic Charities** • 6900-29 Daniels Pkwy, Box 334 • Ft. Myers, FL 33912