



CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS

Volume 11, Number 2

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Winter 2011

10th Annual Christmas Appeal Needs Your Help

10th Annual Appeal

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice is proud to sponsor the 10th Annual Christmas Appeal to provide help and create hope for individuals and families who come to us for assistance. The Christmas Appeal takes place during December 2011 and January 2012 and needs your support to serve the most vulnerable persons in our community. This year's goal is to raise \$450,000.

Your gift provides funding for the many Catholic Charities programs and services available throughout Southwest Florida. Your generosity enables us to assist those seeking help all year long.

We are grateful to all of you for your on-going support. Thank you for helping your neighbors in need.



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Catholic Charities Builds Farm Worker Housing Community



Construction of the Casa San Juan Bosco housing community began in October and will be completed in 12 months.

Arcadia—Catholic Charities Housing, Inc. is building 53 single-family homes for farm workers in DeSoto County. The \$10 million project is called Casa

San Juan Bosco, named after St. John Bosco known for his legacy of service to the underprivileged.

“This project has been seven years in the making,” said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, CEO of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. “Because so many people and organizations did not lose faith, it finally became a reality. I thank the

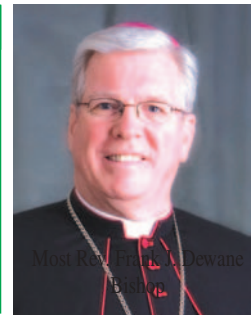
board members, donors, volunteers, parishes, grower’s associations, community partners, and Bishop Frank Dewane for all their support.”

Construction began in October and will take about 12 months to

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Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Bishop

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

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complete. The family-friendly neighborhood is being built on a 29-acre lot in DeSoto County and will feature 16 four bedroom/two bath units and 37 three bedroom/two bath units, along with a 1,600 square-foot community center with a computer lab and offices for on-site personnel.

“Agribusiness is the largest industry in our state, other than tourism, and this housing project will allow hard-working farm worker families to remain together and live in safe, clean,

affordable housing and preserve their human dignity,” Routsis-Arroyo said.

National Development of America LLC is the project developer and the homes will be built by Brooks & Freund LLC. NDC Real Estate Management will manage the property.

Funding for the housing project is through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Forty-four of the homes will be eligible for rental assistance through the USDA.

Casa San Juan Bosco is an

answer to a lack of affordable housing in DeSoto County. After Hurricane Charley destroyed a large portion of low-income homes in 2004, Catholic Charities Housing set forth to provide decent homes for farm workers and their families.

“There was a need for quality, affordable housing prior to Hurricane Charley, but out of the devastation, this project was born,” Routsis-Arroyo said. “This is not just a housing complex, but a community.”

For more information, please contact Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice at 941-488-5581.

Wish List

Catholic Charities programs appreciate any help you can give.

Arcadia

Call Andy at 863-494-1068

- Gift cards for holiday baskets
- Laundry detergent, hand and dish soap, paper towels
- Baby diapers sizes 2-4
- Razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant

Bonita Springs/Clewiston/

Fort Myers

Call Evelyn at 239-334-4007

- Baby and adult diapers all sizes
- Refrigerators, deep freezers
- Wal-Mart gift cards
- New laptop computers
- Non-perishable food

Fort Myers

Call Elizabeth at 239-461-0233

- After school reading tutors for students grades K-5
- Cordless phone

Immokalee

Call Ninfa at 239-657-6242

- Baby diapers sizes 4 and 5
- Cereal, pasta, juice
- Tutors for School on Wheels Program

Naples

Call Michelle at 239-455-2655

- Non-perishable food especially beans, rice, cereal, pasta, maseca, cooking oil

- Adult and baby diapers all sizes, baby wipes
- Clothing and shoes for children ages 6-13
- Educational toys for children ages 6-13
- Gift cards for teenagers

Sarasota

Call Jeanette at 941-355-4680

- 4 x 6 outdoor United States flag
- 4 x 6 outdoor Florida state flag
- 4 x 6 outdoor Papal flag

Call Slav at 941-493-8231

- Filing cabinets with a lock
- Call Sandy at 941-366-1886
- Non-perishable food especially Ramen Noodles, dry cereal, salad dressing, mayonnaise, sugar

- New color printer

- Desktop copier

- Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, denture adhesive

- Bike locks, backpacks, rain ponchos

Call Jer-Rika at 941-366-1395

- Baby diapers sizes 4-5, pull ups sizes 4T-5T, baby wipes
- Children’s clothing sizes 3T-5T and shoes sizes 9-11
- Crib sheets and blankets

Venice

Call Mary at 941-244-9490

- Wal-Mart and Publix gift cards
- Call Bob at 941-497-5422
- Volunteer FCC licensed radio

- operators for Catholic Charities Disaster Amateur Radio Network living in Manatee, Hendry, Glades, Highlands, or Hardee Counties
- UHF/VHF/HF amateur radio equipment in good working condition

Call Joyce at 941-485-6264

- New pots, pans, dishes, kitchen utensils
- Twin sheets
- Cleaning supplies, baby friendly laundry detergent, paper towels
- Baby diapers sizes 4-6, pull ups sizes 2T-4T, baby wipes
- Call Yuri at 941-492-4855
- Microwave, toaster
- Kitchen table and chairs
- King, double, twin beds with mattresses
- Couches, chairs
- Pots, pans, silverware, plates, cups
- Towels, blankets, sheets, pillow cases



Just visit:

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org and click on the **Click and Give** logo to make a gift that will have an immediate impact for those who need it most!

New Citizen Appreciates Liberty and Freedom

Sarasota—Mario Marrero proudly took the oath for his United States citizenship with about 600 other new citizens in Tampa recently. Three years ago when he arrived at Casa San Jose, a Catholic Charities Housing program for special needs clients, his future was uncertain due to having cancer. Marrero credits his citizenship accomplishment to answered prayer and support from Catholic Charities staff.

“It has been a privilege for me to walk alongside Mario in the process of becoming a citizen,” said Barb Martin, Case Manager at Casa San Jose. “I have learned so much about the naturalization process through helping Mario with his paper work and it has been an opportunity to recognize how fortunate I am to be a U.S. citizen by birth. I accompanied



Mario Marrero proudly displays his United States citizenship and passport.

Mario to the citizenship ceremony and it was an experience I will long remember.”

Marrero, originally from Cuba, underwent chemotherapy and is currently cancer free. He attended Catholic Charities Citizenship Classes, worked with certified citizenship counselors, and

received tutoring for his citizenship test. “I felt that I was very prepared for the test,” he said.

“After coming from a deprived country like Cuba, I feel so grateful to be in a country where citizens enjoy so much freedom,” Marrero said. Two weeks after receiving his citizenship, Marrero registered to vote and applied for a passport so he could travel. “Voting and travel are two freedoms you do not have in Cuba,” he said.

Marrero said that he appreciates learning the history and geography of the United States. “The word ‘liberty’ has so much more meaning to me,” he said. “The whole process of achieving citizenship was a lot of hard work but so worth it.”

For more information about Catholic Charities Citizenship Services, please call 941-714-7829.

Catholic Charities Receives Exceptional Four-Star Rating

Venice—Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. received the coveted four-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to



accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator, the largest independent evaluator of charities in the country. The nonprofit organization has programs and services located throughout 10 counties in Southwest Florida.

Ken Berger, president and CEO of Charity Navigator, stated in a letter that receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible

way. Berger said that Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice outperforms most other charities in America.

“We are truly excited to receive this award again,” said Peter Routsis-Arroyo, CEO of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. The agency has received the four-star rating nine times over the last decade. “This four-star rating demonstrates to our donors that we are good stewards of their financial support.”

The top rating is designated as “exceptional,” Berger said, and is available for free at the Charity Navigator web site at www.charitynavigator.org.

“Our donors have the opportunity to visit the web site and

see the evaluation, which will provide further assurance that we strive to make the maximum use of all funds we receive,” Routsis-Arroyo said. “I hope donors will find that we are worthy of their trust.”

Berger said as the nonprofit sector continues to grow, donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support.

“Catholic Charities also realizes that it has to earn the top rating in each future year through implementing the best possible stewardship of contributions,” Routsis-Arroyo said.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. serves all regardless of race, nationality or creed. For more information call 941-488-5581 or visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org.

**Click and Give
Easy Way to Provide
Basic Necessities**

Every day, Catholic Charities programs are confronted with a shortage of basic items needed by clients such as toilet paper, hygiene products, diapers, laundry detergent and food. Providing these necessities is so important to help our clients maintain their human dignity. You can help!

Visit our Catholic Charities web site and click on the *Click and Give* logo and you will find a list of our Catholic Charities programs in need of necessities. Click on a program and you will be directed to their Wish List on the Amazon web site. Purchase the items you want to donate and they will be sent directly to the Catholic Charities program.

Just visit:

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org to make a gift that will have an immediate impact for those who need it most!



Family Receives Much Needed Items Through Click and Give

Naples—The Medina family came to Catholic Charities through the Refugee Resettlement Program. The family of five arrived from Cuba to start a new life here. The youngest of the family, a 12-year-old boy, suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and was in need of expensive personal hygiene products.



The Medina family in their new home.

A generous donor, through *Click and Give*, answered the call by selecting to give those needed items on a monthly basis. The *Click and Give* feature on our Catholic Charities web site provides donors an opportunity to contribute basic necessities directly to our programs. (See adjacent story.)

The Medina family was welcomed to the United States by Catholic Charities staff and received orientation and case management. The Collier County

Health Department provided a health screening for the young boy and a care plan.

As with all refugee resettlement clients, the ultimate goal is self sufficiency. Catholic Charities assisted the family with employment and acculturation. And, thanks to the support from our *Click and Give* donor, the Medina family is enjoying successful resettlement in their new home and country.

For more information about *Click and Give*, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org.



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
5824 Bee Ridge Rd., PMB 409
Sarasota, FL 34233-5065**



Catholic Charities

1000 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34285
(941) 488-5581
(941) 484-9543

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Programs and Services

Access Applications
Adult Education/Tutoring
Affordable Housing Communities
After-School Reading Program
After-School Tutoring Programs
Casework Services
Citizenship Classes
Citizenship Services
Choose Life License Plate Program
Counseling Services
Disaster Preparedness and Response
Early Learning Center
Elderly Services
English as a Second Language Classes
Financial Assistance
First Time Homebuyer Class
Food Pantries and Clothing Banks
HIV/AIDS Support Services
HIV/AIDS Housing
Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention
Human Trafficking Program
Infant/Toddler Supplies
Refugee Services
Refugee Youth and Family Programs
Residential Program for Mothers and Children
School on Wheels Program
Summer Youth Programs
Youth Mentoring Program

CEO's Corner

As we begin our 10th Annual Christmas Appeal, it is with gratitude to you and this community for sustaining the worthwhile work that has allowed us to serve the poor and at risk throughout the Diocese of Venice. We have been fortunate to achieve successful appeals in the past decade and serve many people who sought assistance to live a better life.

We are grateful to all our donors who have generously given to the annual appeal as they have extended God's blessings to the needy in our communities not only during the Christmas season but throughout the year. This year we ask you again for your support with a gift to the 2011 Christmas Appeal. We are limited in our ability to serve all who seek our assistance. We need your help.

Last year, Catholic Charities helped 40,602 people. Remember every number represents a child, family, or individual who came to us hoping to overcome their crisis. Please consider a gift to the Christmas Appeal today and be as generous as you can.

We are a good steward of your gift. A total of 94% of your contribution to Catholic Charities will go directly to services for people in need. A gift, at any level, is greatly appreciated. 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

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| December | Catholic Charities Annual Christmas Appeal.
Watch for our letter in your mailbox. For more information call 941-497-0930 or email higgins@dioceseofvenice.org . |  |
| January
<i>Sarasota</i> | Catholic Charities Ball for Catholic Charities of Sarasota and Manatee Counties on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton. For tickets call 941-355-4680, ext. 311 or email jwozniak@ccdis1.org . | |
| February
<i>Sarasota</i> | Bethesda House Mardi Gras Madness for Bethesda House of Catholic Charities on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Sarasota Yacht Club. For tickets call 941-355-4680, ext. 311 or email jwozniak@ccdis1.org . | |
| <i>Venice</i> | Our Mother's House Wine Tasting and Dinner Dance for Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Plantation Golf and Country Club. For tickets call 941-485-6264 or email omhsrqdir@comcast.net . | |
| March
<i>Fort Myers</i> | Venetian Charity Ball for Catholic Charities of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point. For tickets call 239-823-7928 or email venetianball2012@aol.com . | |
| <i>Lake Suzy</i> | Boots and Bandannas Dinner Dance for Catholic Charities of DeSoto County on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 6 p.m. at Kingsway Country Club. For tickets call 863-494-1068 or email charity2@embarqmail.com . | |
| <i>Naples</i> | Emerald Ball for Catholic Charities of Collier County on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at 6 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton Tiburon. For tickets call 239-455-2655 or email michelle@catholiccharitiescc.org . | |

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Providing Help . . .

The following are some of the many programs and services of Catholic Charities you support through your generous gift to the Christmas Appeal.

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 needy mothers such as diapers, baby clothing, and car seats.



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.



Human Trafficking Program

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

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.

Financial Assistance

The enduring economic crisis has brought an overwhelming number of individuals and families to Catholic Charities 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.

HIV/AIDS Support Services

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



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... Creating Hope

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.



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, Inc. provides affordable and safe residential communities.

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.



YES, I will help Catholic Charities!

Christmas Appeal

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

\$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 _____ \$_____ Other

Please charge my Visa MC AmEx Discover

Credit Card # _____

Amount \$ _____ Expiration date ____ / ____

Signature _____ (Required for credit card approval.)

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

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

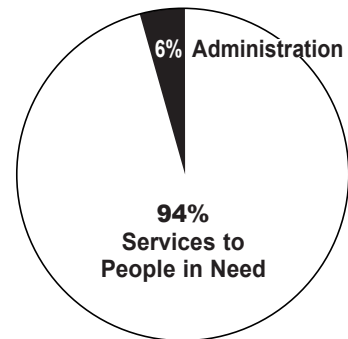


I will be making a gift

monthly quarterly

Please send a reminder notice.

YOUR GIFT AT WORK



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 94 cents of every dollar donated to the 2011 Christmas Appeal will be used to help those who need help the most.

Last year Catholic Charities served more than 40,000 children, families and individuals through a variety of programs and services (See Page 5).

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



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

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

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



My gift to Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is:

___ 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, Florida 34233-5065