GRANT PROVIDES MINDFULNESS PROGRAM

Fort Myers - AFCAAM of Catholic Charities received a $10,000 grant from the Leonard Santini Fund, a fund of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. The Community Impact Grant will be used for the After-School Reading Program for low-income kindergarten to fifth grade students to participate in the 12-week Mindful Education: A Path to Healthy Learning Skills Program.

“The primary goal is for elementary school students to achieve academic success by developing important self-regulating skills needed for improved focus,” said AFCAAM of Catholic Charities Development Coordinator Roseann Albertario. “It utilizes a research-based design that provides the student with a complete tool box of relaxation and focus skills,” she said.

HANDBAGS EMPOWER MIGRANT WOMEN

Immokalee - Migrant women have a new opportunity to earn money for their families through an Empowerment Program sponsored by Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities.

The Women’s Hands Program was the idea of the owners of the Guadalupe Roastery in nearby Ave Maria. The owners approached Peggy Rodriguez, Program Coordinator of Guadalupe Social Services, to learn if clients would be interested in a sewing co-op.

Several women, who already knew how to sew, expressed an interest. The Guadalupe Roastery provided heavy duty sewing machines and the supplies needed to start the enterprise. A survey of the area determined there would be a demand for the burlap handbags.

The women come to the Catholic Charities office each week to do their work. The bags come in three sizes, with 75 percent of what is earned going directly back to the women while 25 goes toward the purchase of supplies. The bags cost $35, $30 and $25 respectively.

“These migrant women are usually home taking care of their children and have no other opportunities to earn money,” Rodriguez explained. The women are first generation immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala and other Central American countries who have a limited education and few job opportunities.

The group works as a community, making decisions together and learning basic business skills with the guidance of
## REVENUES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Government Grants</td>
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<td>United Way &amp; Other Grants</td>
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## EXPENDITURES

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<td>Counseling &amp; Education</td>
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## SPECIAL BOOK PARTY

Sarasota - The Christ Child Society of Sarasota hosted a special Book Party for the preschool students at St. Martha’s Early Learning Center of Catholic Charities. The women spent a morning reading to the children and treated them to cupcakes and juice.

"Each child went home with their own copy of the book Around the Farm by Eric Carle through a generous donation from the ladies of the society," said Catholic Charities Program Director Jamie Van Dyke.

The Catholic Charities center also celebrated receiving another 4.5 Star Rating from the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County Look for the Stars Program. The rating is based on a 5-star system that identifies early education programs that offer quality programming with the goal of promoting excellence in education.

"We are very happy to be recognized again as providing a consistently exemplary quality preschool from our local Early Learning Coalition," said Van Dyke.

For more information, please contact St. Martha’s Early Learning Center of Catholic Charities at 941-366-1395 or smarthas@ccdis1.org.

The AFCAM staff and volunteers will be trained to teach the program and parents and caregivers also will receive education. Student outcomes will be measured through improved grades and improved behavior in school, after school and at home. Outcome data will come from report cards, student interviews, post-assessment and written exercises. Additionally, academic and behavioral surveys will be taken by the parent or caregiver, school teachers and AFCAM after school teachers.

"The AFCAM teachers touch the lives of the children every day and make a true difference in building their excitement for learning," Albertario said. "This program will be another excellent opportunity to enhance their academic success."

For more information, please contact AFCAM of Catholic Charities at 239-461-0233 or r.albertario@afcaam.com.
EVENT SEASON
Catholic Charities hosted seven fundraisers over the past few months and all were a success! Thank you to everyone who participated in the events which benefited programs and services of Catholic Charities throughout Southwest Florida.
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!

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Catholic Charities
Call Address at 239-534-2234
- One-gallon zip storage bags.
- Shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream and facial tissue.

Senior Support Coordination Program of Catholic Charities
Call Address at 239-534-2234
- Shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, laundry soap and adult diapers.
- Canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, cereal, canned tuna and rice.
- Gift cards to the Regal Cinema and birthday cards.
- New activity books and small hand-held games such as crossword puzzles, vocabulary crossword puzzles, cards and dominos.

IMMOKALEE
Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities
Call Peggy at 239-657-6242
- Fine point markers, adult scissors and paper frames for certificates.
- $40 sponsors for student registration fees.
- $200 Amazon gift cards to purchase grade-level books.
- Crossword puzzles, vocabulary crossword puzzles, cards and dominoes.

NAPLES
Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center of Catholic Charities
Call Allegre at 239-793-0059
- Peanut butter, jelly, cereal, canned tuna, canned chili, canned beef stew, one-pound bag of white rice, tomato sauce and canned corn.

NORTH PORT
Family Haven of Catholic Charities
Call Roseann at 941-564-8637
- Board games for families and young children.
- Toys for kids aged infant to five-years-old.
- Sheet sets for single beds, small travel pillows, bath towels and washcloths.

WAUCHULA
Gift Program of Catholic Charities
Call Iris at 863-775-0901
- Baby diapers in sizes 1 to 6.
- Bibs and girl’s underwear and socks in sizes 5T to 6T.

Volunteer Opportunities

BRADENTON — Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. in Manatee County is looking for volunteers to assist with answering phone calls, greeting clients, and maintaining and organizing the office environment on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers are not required to be bilingual in English and Spanish, but it is helpful. For more information, please contact Joan at 941-355-4680, ext. 311 or joian@cddls1.org.

FORT MYERS — The AFCAM of Catholic Charities After-School Reading Program is looking for volunteers to greet kindergarten to fifth grade students as they arrive on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Volunteers are needed from 2:50 p.m. until 3:50 p.m. while students exit their buses. For more information, please contact Pam at 239-461-0233 or pmalafonte@afcam.com.

NAPLES — Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. in Collier County needs several types of volunteers. Volunteers are needed for a Speaker’s Bureau to organize speaking occasions. Volunteer Coordinators are needed to identify, place and schedule volunteers. Volunteers are needed for the Weekend Power Pack Food Program to organize and pick up food items. Volunteers are needed to assist with answering phone calls, greeting clients, and maintaining and organizing the office environment. For more information, please contact Allegre at 239-793-0059 or allegre@ccdiesscc.org.

SARASOTA — Bethesda House of Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers to assist the Program Director on an as needed basis with legal advice or strategy for vulnerable clients. For more information, please contact Colleen at 941-566-1886 or cmcmenamin@ccdis1.org.

CEO’S CORNER

“Compassion is a muscle that gets stronger with use.”
- Mahatma Gandhi

Bringing joy to our communities in great need, and with a desire to heal and inspire, is the thread that allowed Catholic Charities to serve 138,183 people in the 10 counties of Southwest Florida during the 2017 – 2018 fiscal year.

After Hurricane Irma, Catholic Charities assisted over 32,000 individuals to overcome difficult challenges and put their lives back on track. We also aided struggling mothers and their babies, victims of human trafficking, individuals living with HIV, disadvantaged elementary students needing reading instruction and families dealing with mental health issues. Catholic Charities helps all.

Our Annual Report represents individuals served. We may assist them many times. For example, in Immokalee, a person with food insecurity may receive a nutritious meal five days a week but is only counted once. Please take the time to review the report. If you have any questions or would like to take a tour of one of our programs or facilities, please contact us at 941-488-5581. We welcome the opportunity to show you Catholic Charities in action and up close.

Thank you for your kind support of Catholic Charities. We are blessed to be a part of a phenomenon where lives are transformed one individual at a time!

Blessings,
Philomena Pereira
Chief Executive Officer

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES!

Spring Cleaning?

Call 855-840-4483 or Visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

Compassion is a muscle that gets stronger with use.”

-Mahatma Gandhi
Guadalupe Social Services. The goal of the micro-enterprise is to have the entire effort run and coordinated by the women themselves.

"This is just one form of empowering women to be able to financially support their household," she said. "Their contribution helps to take the burden off their husbands who are working in the fields." Income from picking fruits and vegetables can vary drastically depending on crop production, weather and the number of other pickers vying for the labor-intensive jobs.

The Empowerment Program also offers English classes. "The goal is to have them learn enough English to enroll in a GED course or certificate program at the technical center. This will improve both their lives and their children's," said Rodriguez.

Guadalupe Social Services also offers financial assistance, a clothing room and shower program, immigration services, advocacy, a food pantry and soup kitchen to thousands of individuals and families who face the challenges of poverty and instability in Immokalee and the surrounding areas.

To order one of the bags or donate to the Woman's Hands Program, please contact Peggy Rodriguez at 239-657-6242 or peggy@catholiccharitiescc.org.

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**DO YOU HAVE A WILL?**

Without a will that is valid in Florida, you are at the mercy of the court system as to how your estate, small or large, will be distributed. The State of Florida has a rigid set of rules, called the laws of descent and distribution, that apply to everyone.

You need to be certain that your will is valid according to the laws of the State of Florida. Only an attorney can accurately determine this for you.

**WILL WORKSHEETS** from the Good Samaritan Guild can help you prepare the information an attorney will require in order to help you write a valid will. Fill in the coupon and we will mail you a set of our Will Worksheets or visit www.ccfdnswfl.org and download them.

**MASS CARDS**

Congratulate, celebrate, or honor a friend or family member with the Good Samaritan Guild Mass Cards. We will send two free samples of our beautifully crafted Good Samaritan Mass Cards that can be used for any occasion where a spiritual gift is appropriate.

To learn more about the Catholic Charities Foundation, please visit www.ccfdnswfl.org.

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**THE GOOD SAMARITAN GUILD**

Please enclose $1.00 to help with postage.

Name ___________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________

City/State/Zip _____________________________________________

Phone ___________________________________________________

Email _____________________________________________________

To receive worksheets and mass cards clip this coupon and send to Catholic Charities Foundation, Diocese of Venice, Inc. at 5824 Bee Ridge Rd., PMB 409, Sarasota, FL 34233-5065

☐ WILL WORKSHEETS  ☐ MASS CARDS