REAL PEOPLE.
REAL LIVES.
MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

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In the REAL world many people live without 
FOOD, SHELTER, EDUCATION 
and SUPPORT. Catholic Charities offers 
people in need in Southwest Florida with help 
that brings about REAL change in their lives.

THE GIVING IS EASY!
To donate please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or visit 
You can make your contribution in honor or in memory of a loved one.

NOTRE DAME CLUB SERVICE DAY

Sarasota - The Notre Dame Alumni Club of Greater Sarasota offered a day of service to two Catholic Charities programs. The club encourages students, parents, alumni and friends to help people in need in the community.

A total of 18 members of the club spent a morning gardening at St. Martha’s Early Learning Center of Catholic Charities and donated potting soil and plants. They also worked at Bethesda House of Catholic Charities putting together shelves and hanging racks along with organizing and cleaning the donation room.

Former Catholic Charities Board of Directors Member Kathy Rey is a member of the club along with Catholic Charities Executive Assistant Helen Rombalski. They participated in the service day along with Catholic Charities CEO Philomena Pereira and her son Daniel.

(Service Day is continued on page 3)
Fort Myers - Dick and Betty Porrel

**MAKING A HOME FOR SURVIVORS**

The Porrels have been instrumental in the development of the transitional homes we have for the Anti Human Trafficking Assistance Program," said Catholic Charities Program Coordinator Erika Pineros. "They have furnished all of the six units. They have bought couches, beds, dressers, kitchen supplies, dining tables, washers and dryers, stoves, refrigerators and more. They assessed each unit and fully equipped them with the essentials."

The Porrels are active members of the advisory board for Catholic Charities in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties. They began volunteering for the Anti Human Trafficking Assistance Program when the first transitional home was purchased in 2017.

"We liked the idea of helping to renovate the house," said Dick. "We enjoyed doing the work together back when our children were young. We still do today. It feels like a natural way for us to volunteer."

Dick stated it was important for the program to provide transitional housing. "How will survivors fully become self-sufficient without housing? They need a safe place to live where they cannot be found by their traffickers.

The three transitional houses are duplexes with each unit having two bedrooms with two beds in each room. Four people can live in each unit totaling eight for each duplex.

"She started to save items for us," continued Betty. "We only wanted to take what was necessary to furnish and equip the home, but she insisted on extra things such as decorations and accessories. She was so generous."

Pineros said the transitional housing would not have been implemented if not for the support of the Porrels. "I was in awe of their dedication to each home," she said. "They have done this with love. I have witnessed the hard work they have put into making these properties into comfortable homes."

Currently, the transitional homes are all occupied. "The focus of the program is to bridge the gap that survivors encounter, the main one being housing. We continue to have a need for more housing and will look for funding opportunities to acquire more. The transitional homes were developed to allow survivors to learn essential living skills," said Pineros.

The Porrels agreed if additional housing is purchased, they will outfit the homes again. "This is something we can do together as a couple, and we love to be together," said Betty. "It is great. You feel like you are accomplishing something. We are helping people," said Dick.

The Anti Human Trafficking Assistance Program provides clients with food and clothing, shelter at a safe distance from the site of the exploitation and transitional housing, coordination of medical and dental services, weekly supportive counseling and further mental health services as needed, transportation to and from appointments, orientation to state and federal laws and benefits, assistance with benefit applications, coordination of educational and ESL services, liaison with law enforcement and immigration service providers, and coordination with various community agencies for other required services.

Pineros said the program will soon offer coaching and mentoring for survivors as well. "It really does take a village to offer all the services survivors need to heal and reach self-sufficiency."

"We went to St. John the XXIII Parish Thrift Store to get supplies for the first two duplexes," said Betty. "When we went back there to shop for the third duplex, the store manager asked us what we were doing and why we kept coming back and looking for more items. We explained our volunteer project and she said that we could have anything we needed for free."

For more information, please call 239-390-2928 or email epineros@ccllee.org.

**READING PROGRAM MAKES THE GRADE**

Fort Myers - AFCAAM of Catholic Charities After-School Reading Program was proud to have another successful school year with the 2018 – 2019 session obtaining high marks. The program boasted 61 of 72, or 84%, elementary students to be reading at their grade level.

"This is the most improvement we have seen in five years," said Program Director Pam Malafronte. "We are so proud of our students and teachers for achieving this goal!" On average, results usually show increased growth in reading ability for 75% of students who attend regularly.

The After-School Reading Program is known for its individualized reading instruction for struggling and disadvantaged students in kindergarten through fifth grade in the Harlem Heights and Dunbar communities. The program provides over 350 hours of intensive reading instruction in a safe educational environment with a student to teacher ratio of 12 to 1.

"This is the best program for our children to read," said Program Coordinator Dennis Johnson. "We are so proud of our students and teachers for achieving this goal!"

For more information, please call 239-461-0233 or email p.malafronte@afcaam.com.
MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE AND GIVE EDUCATION.

THE REAL DEAL!
You can provide essential life skills for adults, academic support and mentoring for students and quality early learning for preschoolers.

$5,000 assures homeless mothers and their children receive education and training for three months to achieve self-sufficiency.

$300 offers enrichment activities for farmworker families for a week.

$100 supplies 20 people living with HIV/AIDS with nutrition for a week.

$2,500 provides hot meals for a week at a soup kitchen.

$2,000 provides after-school tutoring for a student for a year.

$60 sends an at-risk youth to summer camp for a day.

$1,500 assists a fragile victim of human trafficking for a month.

MIND IN THE MAKING CLASS
Arcadia - Casa San Juan Bosco of Catholic Charities offered the eight-week Mind in the Making Class for mothers who live in the farm worker housing community. A total of 10 mothers participated in the program and received a certificate of completion.

"The workshop was well received," said Catholic Charities Program Director Cynthia Townsend. "It really has the potential to make a difference in the lives of the mothers and their children."

Mind in the Making is provided by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and teaches parents the seven essential life skills every child needs to thrive. These include focus and self-control, perspective taking, communicating, making connections, critical thinking, taking on challenges and self-directed engaged learning.

(Mind in the Making Class is continued on page 8)
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!

ARCAKIA
Catholic Charities of DeSoto County
Call Cynthia at 863-494-1068
- Women's shoes.
- Children's outdoor water toys.
- Peanut butter, jelly, cereal, canned tuna and meats, canned soup, and canned fruit and vegetables.

BONITA SPRINGS
Food Pantry of Catholic Charities
Call Hilda at 239-390-2928, ext. 300
- Baby diapers and wipes.
- Children's new shoes in sizes 2, 4, and 6.
- Walmart gift cards.
- Backpacs. White rice, dried black beans, masa, canned tomato sauce, canned green beans and corn, vegetable oil and sugar.
- Shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream and facial tissue.

ENGLEWOOD
New Paradigm of Catholic Charities
Call Kathy at 941-681-2194
- Gift cards from gas stations, Walmart and Target.
- Kitchen items, bath towels and sheet sets.

FORT MYERS
AFCAA of Catholic Charities After-School Reading and Mentoring Programs
Call Pam or Roseann at 239-461-0233
- A 6 x 5 white board.
- Privacy partitions for desks or tables.
- Overhead projector.
- Two piano keyboards for students in need.

Infant and Toddler Supply Program of Catholic Charities
Call Alice at 239-334-2234
- Baby diapers and new clothes for newborn to size 5.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of Catholic Charities
Call Alice at 239-334-2234
- 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 Alice at 239-334-2234
- 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 dominoes.

IMMIKALEE
Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities
Call Peggy at 239-657-6242
- Baby strollers, playpens and diapers in all sizes.
- Bingo prizes for seniors.

NAPLES
Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center of Catholic Charities
Call Allegra at 239-793-0059
- Peanut butter, jelly, cereal, canned tuna, canned chili, canned beef stew, one-pound bags of white rice, tomato sauce, canned corn, macaroni and cheese, cereal bars and fruit cups.

NORTH PORT
Family Haven of Catholic Charities
Call Roseann at 941-564-8637
- School supplies for children.
- Non-perishable food items and cleaning supplies.
- Donations to Financial Assistance Program.

PALMETTO AND VENICE
Senior Services of Catholic Charities
Call Ruth at 941-488-8622
- Flashlights and batteries.

VENICE
Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities
Call Joyce at 941-485-6264
- Baby diapers in sizes 5 and 6 and pull up training pants in sizes 4T and 5T.
- Cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels.

WAUCHULA
Gift Program of Catholic Charities
Call Iris at 863-773-0091
- Baby wipes and diapers in sizes 3 to 6.
- Boy's and girl's underwear and socks in sizes 3T to 6T.

Volunteer Opportunities

Fort Myers - The AFCAMM After-School Reading Program of Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers with good driving records to drive a bus to transport children who attend the program from school to St. Columbkille Parish. The bus is small, and no special license is needed. Volunteers are needed Mondays through Fridays from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Pam at 239-461-0233 or pmalafronte@afcamm.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 Allegra at 239-793-0059 or allegra@catholiccharitiescc.org.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. is offering tours of their programs located throughout Southwest Florida. Anyone interested in learning more about the work of Catholic Charities and visiting service locations, please contact Helen Rombalski at 941-488-5581 or rombalski@dioceseofvenice.org.
(Mind in the Making Class continued from page 5)
The workshop highlights specific areas of child development and learning using demonstrations and hands-on activities. The workshop was led by a certified facilitator. The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading believes parents play the most powerful and influential role in their children’s lives and set the stage for success.

The workshop was taught at the Casa San Juan Bosco community center. It was offered in Spanish and childcare was provided in the library.

“The women enjoyed the class very much and experienced bonding with plenty of smiles, laughter and sharing,” said Townsend. “It was an opportunity to look at parenting in a different light. I know they will use the tools they have learned.”

For more information, please call 863-494-1068 or email ctownsend@embarqmail.com.

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.

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THE GOOD SAMARITAN GUILD

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Catholic Charities!

PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE. SERVING ALL.