AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPENS FOR SENIORS

Arcadia - Bishop Frank J. Dewane of the Diocese of Venice officiated a blessing and ribbon cutting ceremony of the St. John Paul II Villas. The new Catholic Charities housing development is designated for low-income seniors.

The event also featured remarks from representatives from Senator Marco Rubio’s office, Congressman Gregory Steube’s office, the DeSoto County Commission and the Mayor of Arcadia along with a tour of the homes and refreshments.

“This new housing community will allow seniors in DeSoto County an affordable and quality place to live with dignity,” said Catholic Charities CEO Philomena Pereira at the ceremony. “Everyone deserves to have a proper place to call home. This is an answer to the lack of low-cost housing for seniors.”

The St. John Paul II Villas took 10 months to construct and cost $8 million with funding from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, SunTrust, the Affordable Housing Program through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, DeSoto County SHIP fund and individual donors. National Development of America, Inc. built the subdivision which is adjacent to the Casa San Juan Bosco of Catholic Charities farm worker housing community.

NEW LEADER JOINS CATHOLIC CHARITIES TEAM

Venice - Catholic Charities announced that Eddie Gloria has been appointed Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the organization which serves the ten-county area of Southwest Florida. Gloria comes to Catholic Charities with experience as a COO. He replaced Sharon Aragona who retired after 10 years of service to the agency. Gloria will manage executive staff and oversee the fiscal and operational responsibilities of programs and services and housing developments.

“I am grateful to everyone involved in bringing me on board at Catholic Charities and giving me this opportunity,” said Gloria.

Formerly, Gloria was COO at Alpha-1 Foundation in Coral Gables, Florida and Camillus House, Inc. in Miami. He also served as Vice President of Strategy Management and Housing Development, Director of Strategy Management, and Senior Grants Manager at Camillus House. Prior to that, he worked for the City of Miami Office of the Mayor as a Contracts Compliance Manager. Gloria obtained a Master of Public Administration degree and Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Florida International University in Miami.

(Affordable Housing continued on page 3) (New COO continued on page 3)
**FUNDING FOR COLLIER COUNTY PROGRAMS**

**Naples** - Catholic Charities in Collier County received funding from the United Way of Collier County to support mental health counseling, an empowerment program and financial assistance. A total of $129,500 was provided through a grant.

"Our partnership with United Way is key to many of the programs we provide in Collier County," said Mary Shaughnessy, Regional Director for Catholic Charities. "It began back in 1968 when a woman named Judy Sullivan founded Catholic Charities here in Naples with a grant from United Way and the Archdiocese of Miami. And it continues today!"

The awarded grant will be spent for the Empowerment Program ($47,000), the salary of the Program Director/Clinical Supervisor of the Family Counseling Center ($31,000), financial assistance to working families and individuals facing a short-term economic hardship with one-time assistance that allows them to remain self-sufficient. The United Way monies for financial assistance are designated for the working poor who are known as Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employed (ALICE). "This portion of the grant will help people who are working but are barely surviving from paycheck to paycheck," said Shaughnessy. "These individuals need assistance when there is some sort of bump in the road that throws them off track such as an accident, a loss of a job or an illness that interrupts their ability to continue to work. Through United Way’s support we can help families get back on track."

Catholic Charities provides aid to people in need at four locations in Collier County which include the Family Counseling Center, the Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center and Golden Gate Senior Center all in Naples and Guadalupe Social Services in Immokalee.

For more information, please contact Catholic Charities 239-455-2655.

**SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES**

The three shows raise dollars for the Sugar Bowl Fund which provides help to families in Sarasota, Charlotte and Manatee counties who are at-risk of becoming homeless due to a financial crisis with one-time assistance that allows them to remain self-sufficient. The Sugar Bowl Fund provides aid for unexpected car repair, medical and utility bills, and rent or mortgage payments.

At the ceremony, Walmart Store Manager Dan Houston presented the check to Catholic Charities representatives and emphasized the importance of supporting families in the community who are struggling.

"My first impression of Catholic Charities is that there are deeply dedicated people working in the agency," said Gloria. "They have given their heart and lives to their work. I want to first show them gratitude and then give them support. I want to help the staff achieve their goals. People do not care about how much you know, but how much you care."

Gloria brings with him experience in operations and facilities management, budgets and finance, public affairs, construction administration, and grants administration and fundraising.

For more information, please contact Michelle Figuera or Naki Nieves at 863-884-2123.

**Upcoming Show of Shows will be held in Venice on November 10 at the Venice Performing Arts Center, in North Port on January 25, 2020 at the North Port Performing Arts Center and in Bradenton on March 14, 2020 at the Neel Performing Arts Center.**

For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org.

---

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING continued from page 1**

"Our country has a huge need for affordable housing. We are fortunate to be here today opening this housing for seniors," said National Development of America President Rick Miller. "The City of Arcadia and DeSoto County helped to get these homes built. It has been a long journey getting here and it is a successful project."

There are 16 quadplexes available in the new community for individuals who are 55 years old and up and with restricted income. There is a total of 64 units which include 32 one-bedroom and one-bath units and 32 two-bedroom and two-bath units. The one-bedroom units are 707 square feet. The neighborhood also has a community center where residents can receive enrichment services and participate in activities.

Speaking of the existing 97 homes of farm worker housing that opened several years ago to the opening of the new homes for seniors, DeSoto County Commissioner JC Deriso said, "Something this beautiful and well maintained does not happen by accident. This is a real success story from beginning to end. Catholic Charities has done a great job with this property."

The event began with the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthems. The attendees were welcomed by CEO Philomena Pereira and Bishop Frank Dewane cut the ribbon.

To contact Eddie Gloria, email eduardo.gloria@catholiccharitiesdov.org.
REMEmBEmeR ALL SOuLS’ DAY

The Catholic Charities Foundation Good Samaritan Guild has requested the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles to celebrate Masses on All Souls’ Day for the souls of our departed loved ones and friends. The Guild wants to include each of your loved ones and friends in the special intentions of these All Souls’ Day Masses. No gift is required. Please write the names of those you wish to have remembered and mail it in the enclosed envelope or to the address listed in the coupon below.

Please remember the deceased friends and loved ones listed below.

Name_______________________________________________ Email__________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________________________________
City State Zip

PREMiNTiON PROGRaM INCLUDES EDUCaTION

Fort Myers - The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of Catholic Charities again received funding from the Walmart Foundation for $50,000 through Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA). The grant will be used to support SNAP outreach, enrollment activities, equipment and a portion of staff salaries that conduct SNAP applications for individuals.

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move toward self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities caseworkers conduct outreach in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties by distributing SNAP brochures and helping families and individuals to complete and submit applications to receive the assistance.

Beginning this fall, outreach efforts will include SNAP Education (SNAP-ED), a program provided by the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension Family Nutrition Program. SNAP-ED helps limited-resource families eat healthier on a budget and get more physically active to reduce the risk of obesity and chronic diseases.

“Individuals and families that struggle with limited resources tend to buy more affordable, but less nutritious foods,” said Catholic Charities Program Director Alice Del Valla. “SNAP-ED teaches them how to prepare healthier meals and how to save money at the grocery store as well.”

According to UF/IFAS, in 2018 6.6 million Floridians qualified for SNAP-ED and 2.9 million were food insecure. A total of one in six youth ages 10 to 17 had obesity as well as one in four adults. After taking part in the nutrition education classes, participants saved money at the grocery store, were more physically active and ate more fruits and vegetables.

Catholic Charities hosts SNAP-ED classes at the Elizabeth Kay Galeana Center for clients of the food pantry. “A lot of our clients eat what is available at the moment, which can lead to very poor food choices and compromised health and obesity,” said Catholic Charities Food Pantry Coordinator Mike Vega. “SNAP-ED can help turn that around by providing our clients with the knowledge to make proper food choices and better food preparation which is essential to having a healthier lifestyle. Knowledge is power.”

SNAP-ED will make clients more aware when they are shopping for food said Catholic Charities SNAP Caseworker Lourdes Forste. “It will influence people’s shopping and eating behaviors, reduce food insecurity and improve the health of local communities,” she said.

For more information, please contact Catholic Charities at 239-337-4193.

GRaNT aDdRESSESS LINGerINg NEEdS

Since springing to action back in 2017, Catholic Charities has served nearly 400 households needing assistance with rent, utilities and home repair. However, issues remain for others. “Unfortunately, we still have many cases that we are still working on,” said Pereira. “It is hard when you are constantly living in an environment where there is something wrong within your home. It is pretty scary.”

That is where the flexible funding of a community foundation can help, said Gulf Coast Community Foundation Senior Vice President for Community Investment Jon Thaxton. He oversaw the distribution of emergency grants days after Irma’s strike as well as the recent disaster grants for ongoing needs.

“One of the unmet needs Catholic Charities is still seeing has been mobile home repairs,” said Thaxton. “We do not want to replace government funding or insurance payments, but we can help Catholic Charities bridge gaps for these families with our grant.”

Pereira said the best defense is hurricane preparedness. “The first thing we do is pray that a hurricane will not happen, and then the other piece is being as prepared as we possibly can be.”

For more information, contact Catholic Charities at 941-488-5581.

UPCOMING EVENT

VENICE - The SUGaR BOWL SHOW oF SHOWS will be held on Sunday, November 10 at 2 p.m. at the Venice Performing Arts Center. All proceeds will go to the Sugar Bowl Fund for families in the community who are experiencing a financial hardship. Sponsored by Catholic Charities and the local Knights of Columbus Councils, the show will feature Do Wop Legends - The MYSTICS. Tickets are $25, $30 or $40 a person and can be purchased at www.veniceperformingartscenter.com.

NapLes - The Golden Gate Senior Center of Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers to help with Spanish to English translation, teaching computer skills, leading arts and crafts projects, playing music or providing entertainment, assisting with gardening and painting and helping with administrative work. For more information, please contact Tatiana at 239-252-4534 or Tatiana.Fortune@CollierSeniorResources.org.

FORT MYERS - The Positive Youth Development Program of Catholic Charities is looking for high school student or adult volunteers to help elementary students enrolled in the after-school program. Volunteers are needed Mondays through Fridays from 2 to 5:30 p.m. to assist students with homework at two locations which include Clare House of Catholic Charities located at 5597 Sunrise Drive in Fort Myers across the street from Bishop Verot High School and Catholic Charities in Bonita Springs located at 28560 Beaumont Road in Bonita Springs on the campus of St. Leo the Great Parish.

For more information, contact Jose at 239-590-2928 or jose.perez@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

FORT MYERS - The AFCAAM 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. No special license is required, and volunteers are needed Mondays through Fridays from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Volunteer teacher assistants also are needed for kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms to help Mondays through Fridays from 2:30 to 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Pam at 239-461-0235 or pam.malafrage@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
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!

### Bonita Springs and Fort Myers

**Positive Youth Development Program of Catholic Charities**
Call Jose at 239-334-2234
- Baby diapers and new clothes for newborn to size 5.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
Call Alice at 239-334-2234
- One-gallon zip storage bags.

**Senior Support Coordination Program of Catholic Charities**
Call Alice at 239-334-2234
- Shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, tooth paste and toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream and facial tissue.

### North Port

**Family Haven of Catholic Charities**
Call Roseann at 941-564-8637
- Towels, washcloths and bed linens.

**Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities**
Call Joyce at 941-485-6264
- Baby diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6.
- Cleaning supplies, anti-bacterial wipes, laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels.

### Venice

**Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities**
Call Joyce at 941-485-6264
- Baby diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6.
- Cleaning supplies, anti-bacterial wipes, laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels.

**Family Counseling Center of Catholic Charities**
Call Geri at 239-357-2619
- Towels, washcloths and bed linens.

**Golden Gate Senior Center of Catholic Charities**
Call Tatiana at 239-252-4534
- Two to four card tables.
- Door prizes for special events.
- Outdoor furniture cushions and umbrellas.

**Family Counseling Center of Catholic Charities**
Call Geri at 239-455-2655
- Two microwaves.
- New carpet.
- New air conditioning unit.

**Senior Support Coordination Program of Catholic Charities**
Call Alice at 239-334-2234
- Shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, tooth paste 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.

**Sarasota**

**Bethesda House of Catholic Charities**
Call Colleen at 941-366-1886
- Full sized shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash and body lotion.
- White rice, ramen noodles and coffee.

**VENICE**

**Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities**
Call Joyce at 941-485-6264
- Baby diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6.
- Cleaning supplies, anti-bacterial wipes, laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels.

**Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, Inc.**

Address: 1000 Pinebrook Road • Venice, FL 34285
Phone: (941) 488-5581 • (941) 484-9543
Website: [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org)
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDioceseOfVenice](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDioceseOfVenice)
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/CC_DOV](http://www.twitter.com/CC_DOV)
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/catholiccharities_dov/](http://www.instagram.com/catholiccharities_dov/)

**Programs & Services**

- Adoption Services
- After-School Tutoring Program
- After-School Reading Program
- Anti-Human Trafficking Assistance
- Case Management Services
- Clothing Counseling Services
- Day Care Center
- Disaster Response and Recovery
- Early Learning Center
- Energy Assistance
- Food Pantry
- Food Stamps/Medicaid Applications
- HIV/AIDS Housing
- HIV/AIDS Support Services
- Home Buyer Education Class
- Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention
- HIV/AIDS Support Services
- Immigration Services
- Infant/Toddler Supplies
- Intervention Program for Mothers and Children
- Refugee Resettlement Services
- Senior Services
- Soup Kitchen
- Summer Youth Program
- Transitional Housing
- Veterans House
- Youth Mentoring Program

**Save the Dates**

**SUMMERTIME & THE GIVING IS EASY!**

**SUGAR BOWL SHOW OF SHOWS**
January 25, 2020 in North Port.
**SHERRY’S FASHION SHOW**
January 25, 2020 in Port Charlotte.
**OUR MOTHER’S HOUSE WINE TASTING, AUCTION, AND DINNER DANCE**
February 27, 2020 in Venice.
**EMERALD BALL**
March 7, 2020 in Naples.

**SUGAR BOWL SHOW OF SHOWS**
March 14, 2020 in Bradenton.
**VENETIAN CHARITY BALL**
March 21, 2020 in Bonita Springs.
**AFCAAM CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**
April 17, 2020 in Fort Myers.

**1000 Pinebrook Road • Venice, FL 34285**
Phone: (941) 488-5581 • (941) 484-9543
Website: [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org)
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDioceseOfVenice](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDioceseOfVenice)
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/CC_DOV](http://www.twitter.com/CC_DOV)
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/catholiccharities_dov/](http://www.instagram.com/catholiccharities_dov/)

**CEO’S CORNER**

Volunteer power is a great thing. Whether it is the power of one or the power of many, volunteers can make a difference. Every day I am amazed by the work of Catholic Charities volunteers. Without hesitation they jump in and provide aid to causes they care about and give a person in need a chance at a better life.

At Catholic Charities you may find a volunteer stocking a food pantry shelf or serving a homeless person lunch. Or you may witness someone answering phones from people asking for assistance or putting together a welcome basket for a senior moving into our new housing development.

I want to thank all our volunteers for the positive changes they make in our Southwest Florida communities. Your meaningful dedication and loving care provide Catholic Charities clients the hope required to overcome their obstacles. As the backbone of our organization, it is important to celebrate and appreciate the people who do extraordinary things through their service.

Catholic Charities volunteers contribute their time to our programs, fundraisers, boards and committees. Please consider becoming a volunteer. I invite anyone who is interested to contact us. Catholic Charities will host several fundraisers over the coming months that provide an opportunity to get involved, however our need for support is year-round. Your generosity will be much appreciated.

Gratefully,
Philomena Pereira,
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

**Thank You for Making A Real Difference**

Your generous donation to Summertime and The Giving Is Easy is much appreciated. Your contribution of food, shelter, education and support will bring about REAL change in the lives of those who come to Catholic Charities for assistance. Catholic Charities offers the people of Southwest Florida the means to move beyond poverty and achieve self-sufficiency.

**Your Gift Has Made A Positive Impact!**
In the past year, many friends told us that they remembered Catholic Charities Foundation in their Will or Trust. These benefactors were pleased to find out that their bequest made them eligible for the spiritual gifts of our Good Samaritan Guild.

However, many people do not inform Catholic Charities about their bequest. By the time notice is received from their attorney or family, it is too late for Catholic Charities to offer our appreciation.

If you are one of those anonymous benefactors, please tell us now so we can enroll you into our Good Samaritan Guild. Your membership will include you in the monthly Masses said for Guild members by the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles.

**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.ccfdsnswfl.org](http://www.ccfdsnswfl.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.ccfdsnswfl.org](http://www.ccfdsnswfl.org).

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN GUILD**

☐ I have remembered Catholic Charities Foundation
☐ I am considering a bequest in my Will or Trust

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

[Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID FT Myers, FL Permit No. 184]