Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope. - Pope Francis

BE A PART OF OUR MISSION OF MERCY
The 18TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL is underway and needs your support! The Christmas Appeal takes place during December 2019 and January 2020. This year’s goal is to raise $565,000.

You can be a part of our mission of mercy and offer hope to people who are in need in Southwest Florida. Your gift will help Catholic Charities to provide necessary programs and services all year long.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and thank you for your Christmas spirit of giving! Please read this newsletter to learn more about the work we do and how your contribution will benefit individuals and families in your community.

To donate, please mail in the response slip and envelope in this newsletter or visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org.

DONATION OF COMPUTERS ADVANCE STUDENTS
Fort Myers - AFCAAM of Catholic Charities After-School Reading Program and Youth Mentoring Programs are fortunate to have many AFCAAM Angels that support the center and assist the programs that serve at-risk students in the community.

Carolyn and Don Creed donated $19,600 to refurbish the AFCAAM of Catholic Charities student computer lab with 16 new computers. Throughout the school year, both the elementary students in the After-School Reading Program and the middle and high school students in the Youth Mentoring Programs use the computer lab. A Digital U Summer Camp offered during the summer also utilizes the facility. The gift will make a positive impact on the students who attend AFCAAM programs. “We love the concept of AFCAAM,” said Don Creed.

“The computers were on the wish list,” said Carolyn Creed. “We had been here before and the computer lab looked adequate, but I knew they needed something better.” Carolyn is a former schoolteacher. “We want these children to succeed and they cannot do that without the proper tools.”

Very few children enrolled in the AFCAAM programs have internet at home. Both the students in the mentoring and (Donation continued on page 4)
The events were held at Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities in Immokalee in October and the Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center of Catholic Charities in Naples in November. The Family Fun Day provides clients and their children an occasion to celebrate and enjoy fun activities that offer relief from their daily life challenges.

All the children who attended received a backpack filled with kid-friendly food items such as granola bars, cereal, microwavable meals, apple sauce, crackers and juice. About 200 backpacks were distributed at each event.

For more information, please call Catholic Charities of Collier County at 239-455-2655.

Benefiting the Christmas Appeal will support a survivor of human trafficking on their journey to realize a normal life. Elizabeth finally escaped her traffickers after enduring abuse and perpetual fear. She received vital services from Catholic Charities such as intensive case management, service coordination, assistance with housing, advocacy and liaison with law enforcement agencies.

Many of our clients are in a panic because they do not know where to go for relief. The urgency of their situation requires immediate attention. Catholic Charities dispenses critical mental health counseling to people suffering from anxiety, stress, trauma or depression. Mike was frantic and upset when he was laid off from his job and sought counseling. After several weeks of therapy sessions, he felt more in control of his emotions and actions, enabling him to be there for his family.

Your donation can offer a weary homeless family transitional housing and resources to become independent or give a lonely and isolated senior companionship and care. A contribution can also feed desperate individuals experiencing hunger and food insecurity as well as teach at-risk adolescents the skills to make good decisions.

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throughout the school year and during summer camps. Reading programs have access to the computer lab after school

catholiccharitiesdov.org.

contact Clara at 863-884-2134 or clara.alvarez@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

Students with math or reading homework Mondays is looking for volunteers to help the elementary programs. Volunteers help with homework, reading, snacks and events. For more information, please contact Pam at 239-461-0233 or pam.malafronte@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

The Disaster Recovery Program of Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers to help with data entry and other office work. Excellent computer skills are needed such as Microsoft products (Word, Excel and Outlook) and volunteers must be willing to help a minimum of seven hours per week. The office is located on the property of St. Leo the Great Catholic Church. Electronic fingerprinting and Safe Environment training are required for this position. For more information, contact Paulina at 239-322-7835 or paulina.matias@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

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 Monday through Friday from 2 to 5:30 p.m. to assist students with homework.

AFCAAM is a wonderful place to learn and grow," said Don. A reception was held for Carolyn and Don to thank them for their generous donation. AFCAAM Teacher Carol Ramp helped the second and third grade students prepare a presentation on African animals that they created on the new computers. Don and Carolyn and a group of supporters enjoyed the enthusiasm of the children showing off not only their computer skills but excellent reading abilities.

For more information about AFCAAM of Catholic Charities, please call 239-461-0233.

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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 28360 Beaumont Road in Bonita Springs on the campus of St. Leo the Great Parish. For more information, contact Jose at 239-390-2928 or jose.perez@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

The Financial Assistance Program of Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers to help with client intake and data entry. Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and volunteers can work any hours suitable to their schedule. Duties include screening and returning voice messages and emails and entering information into a data base. For more information, please contact Joan at 941-355-4680, ext. 311 or joan.pierse@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

The AFCAAM After-School Reading Program of Catholic Charities is looking for volunteer teacher assistants for kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms to help Mondays through Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. Volunteers help with homework, reading, snacks and events. For more information, please contact Pam at 239-461-0233 or pam.malafronte@catholiccharitiesdov.org.

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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!

**ARCADIA**
Catholic Charities of Desoto County
Call Cynthia at 863-494-1068, ext. 305
• Deodorant, shaving cream and socks for men.
• Boys and girls clothing in sizes 16, 18 and 20 husky and socks.
• Baby diapers, peanut butter and jelly.
• Camera.

**BONITA SPRINGS**
Family Prevention Program of Catholic Charities
Call, Hilda at 239-390-2928, ext. 300.
• Baby diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6 and baby wipes.
• Adult and infant toiletries.
• Infant and children’s clothing and baby blankets.
• Walmart gift cards.

**BONITA SPRINGS AND FORT MYERS**
Positive Youth Development Program
Call Jose at 239-390-2928
• Number 2 pencils, erasers, glue sticks, color markers, and pencils.
• White board 60 x 40 inches, dry erase markers, bean bags in different colors, area rug, rocking chair, backpack storage cubby unit and two bookshelves.

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

**SARASOTA**
Bethesda House of Catholic Charities
Call Colleen at 941-366-1886
• Canned soup and meals, coffee and sugar.

**VENICE**
Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities
Call Joyce at 941-485-6264
• Baby diapers in sizes 5 and 6, baby wipes and training diapers in sizes 2T and 3T.
• Laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels.

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.

**IMMOKALEE**
Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities
Call Peggy at 239-657-6242
• Baby strollers, play pens and diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6.

**NAPLES**
Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center of Catholic Charities
Call Allegra at 239-793-0059
• Canned fruit and vegetables, tomato sauce, rice, pasta and cereal.
• Can openers.
• 65-inch flat screen television.

Family Counseling Center of Catholic Charities
Call Geri at 239-455-2655
• 65-inch flat screen television.
• New office desk, large table and storage or shelving unit.

**PROGRAMS & SERVICES**
Adoption Services
Adult Education
Affordable Housing
After-School Reading Program
After-School Tutoring Program
Anti-Human Trafficking Assistance Program
Case Management Services
Clothing
Counseling Services
Disaster Response and Recovery
Distribution of FEMA Funds
Early Learning Centers
Empowerment Program
English Classes
Farm Worker Housing
Financial Assistance
Food Assistance
Food Pantry
Food Stamps/Medicaid Applications
HIV/AIDS Housing
HIV/AIDS Support Services
Home Buyer Education Class
Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention
Housing for Homeless Families
Immigration Services
Infant/Toddler Supplies
Residential Program for Mothers and Children
Refugee Resettlement Services
Senior Housing
Senior Services
Shower Program
Soup Kitchen
Summer Youth Program
Transitional Housing
Veterans House
Youth Mentoring Program

**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!

- glue sticks.
- Play dough, hula hoops, brushes and paper.
- Watercolor paints, paint
- of Catholic Charities AFCAAM After-School Reading Program
- cream and facial tissue.
- soap, tooth paste and toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream and facial tissue.
- One-gallon zip storage bags.
- 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.
- Infant and toddler supplies.
- Camera.
- Walmart gift cards.
- Positive Youth Development Program
- Number 2 pencils, erasers, glue sticks, color markers, and pencils.
- White board 60 x 40 inches, dry erase markers, bean bags in different colors, area rug, rocking chair, backpack storage cubby unit and two bookshelves.
- Infant and toddler supplies.
- Camera.

**DONATE YOUR CAR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES!**

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

**CEOs CORNER**
The Christmas season truly is “the most wonderful time of the year” but many who come to Catholic Charities seeking help are struggling during the holidays and beyond. It is difficult for them to be in a crisis and even more daunting for them to ask for assistance.

“Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.”

-- Pope Francis

On behalf of our clients, we are inviting you to reach out with a generous spirit this year and contribute to the 18th Annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal. Please join us in our mission of mercy to move individuals and families toward self-sufficiency.

Catholic Charities offers a diverse set of programs and services, often depending on the needs of the community. See the list on the left side of this page. Whether it is Sarasota, Fort Myers or Naples, or rural areas such as Arcadia or Immokalee, we do our best to answer the call for help with an appropriate response.

Your continued faith, loyalty and support will give us the resources to provide food, shelter, crisis intervention, and life-enriching social service programs. Your contributions to the Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal over the years have helped so many people achieve a better life. Thank you in advance for your support and please pray for our work.

May God bless you and the ones you love with peace and hope this Christmas.

Gratefully,
Philomena Pereira
Chief Executive Officer

**2000 Pinebrook Road • Venice, FL 34285**
(941) 488-5581 • (941) 484-9543

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org
www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDioceseOfVenice
www.twitter.com/CC_DOV
www.instagram.com/catholiccharities_dov/

**SERVICE LOCATIONS**
Arcadia (5 locations) Immokalee (2 locations)
Boca Grande Naples (2 locations)
Bonita Springs North Port (2 locations)
Bradenton Palmetto (2 locations)
Clewiston Port Charlotte
Fort Myers (5 locations) Sarasota (7 locations)
Highlands and Glades Counties Venice (3 locations)
Wauchula

**PROGRAMS & SERVICES**
Adoption Services
Affordable Housing
After-School Reading Program
After-School Tutoring Program
Anti-Human Trafficking Assistance Program
Case Management Services
Clothing
Counseling Services
Disaster Response and Recovery
Distribution of FEMA Funds
Early Learning Centers
Empowerment Program
English Classes
Farm Worker Housing
Financial Assistance
Food Assistance
Food Pantry
Food Stamps/Medicaid Applications
HIV/AIDS Housing
HIV/AIDS Support Services
Home Buyer Education Class
Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention
Housing for Homeless Families
Immigration Services
Infant/Toddler Supplies
Residential Program for Mothers and Children
Refugee Resettlement Services
Senior Housing
Senior Services
Shower Program
Soup Kitchen
Summer Youth Program
Transitional Housing
Veterans House
Youth Mentoring Program

**Tax Deductible | Free Towing | Easy Process**

Call 855-840-4483 or Visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org
**EVENT SEASON IS UNDERWAY**

**Naples** - The Patron Party for the Emerald Ball kicked off the 2020 Catholic Charities event fundraising season at the Park Plaza Condominium. The Emerald Ball will be held on Saturday, March 7 at the Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort.

A total of 63 patrons attended the event which included Bishop Frank Dewane, Catholic Charities Staff, Catholic Charities of Collier County Advisory Committee, Emerald Ball Committee and Emerald Ball Sponsors. Bishop Dewane along with Catholic Charities CEO Philomena Pereira and Emerald Ball Chair Barbara Neff addressed the crowd thanking the committee for their hard work and sponsors for their generous contributions.

Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities Program Coordinator Peggy Rodriguez spoke to attendees about growing up in a family of migrant farm workers and how it impacted her life. Rodriguez followed her call to serve and now coordinates all Catholic Charities programs and services in Immokalee that assist migrant farm workers and their families.

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**PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE. SERVING ALL.**

**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.