

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION: KEY TO ARCADIA'S FUTURE

Arcadia is a community known for agriculture and hardworking citizens. The Catholic Charities Casa San Juan Bosco program provides quality and affordable homes to support the area's farmworkers and their families. Families who live in Casa San Juan Bosco housing receive supportive services including access to food pantries, SNAP resources, and educational opportunities.

Arcadia's 71% graduation rate has necessitated that education and empowerment become top priorities. Clara Alvarez, the Education Coordinator at Casa San Juan Bosco, facilitates activities for children and

adults with the goal of empowering them to make positive choices and lead meaningful lives. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the children had to go to virtual school, and although the community center was shut down, the Catholic Charities staff still found ways to connect with the families.

"Last summer we partnered with the Suncoast Campaign's Grade-Level Reading Summer program and worked with students virtually ensuring that they read at the appropriate grade level and maintain their reading skills over the summer," stated Alvarez. 17% of children in Desoto County are held back in

(Arcadia continued on page 5)



WISHES GRANTED FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

The Lavin Family Foundation, through their CC's Wish List program, recently granted our wish of clothing items for migrant workers and low-income families. Boxes of underwear, socks and pajamas were distributed to needy families in Bonita Springs, Arcadia and Immokalee providing children and adults with essential clothing items.

CC's Wish List is a unique program that donates brand new, quality items to nonprofit organizations. Catholic Charities regularly supports migrant camps and low-income families by supplying food, household supplies clothing and necessary human needs. Thanks to this collaboration with the Lavin Family Foundation these donations help our neighbors in need.

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