



# Charities USA

THE MAGAZINE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA ■ SPRING 2014 ■ VOLUME 41 ■ NUMBER 2

**POVERTY  
SUMMIT**  
VOICES NEED  
FOR REFORM

**2014  
VOLUNTEER  
OF THE YEAR  
FINALISTS**

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**Catholic Charities USA** is the national office for one of the nation's largest social service networks. Member agencies and institutions nationwide provide vital social services to over 10 million people in need, regardless of their religious, social, or economic backgrounds. Catholic Charities USA supports and enhances the work of its members by providing networking opportunities, national advocacy, program development, training and consulting, and financial benefits.

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# IN THE DAWN OF LIFE

Over the next three issues of *Charities USA*, we will be exploring how our network protects human life and dignity. When we chose this theme, we decided that it must go beyond traditional life issues and encompass the entire spectrum of life because every moment of life, depending on the circumstances, can be vulnerable and in need of protection.

Of course, just about everything we do as a network protects human life and dignity in some way, so to make our theme manageable, we used a quotation by Hubert Humphrey recommended to us by Fr. Snyder to narrow our focus, looking particularly at how we protect life in the dawn of life, the twilight of life, and in the shadows of life. In doing so, we also decided to focus on services that we haven't highlighted recently or ever before and services that haven't really fit in with our past themes. Through this series, we hope to call attention to some unique services that our network offers.

In this issue, we look at how we as a network protect human life and dignity in its earliest moments—in the dawn of life. What better place to start our series! In producing this issue, I had the opportunity to talk with several of our network's practitioners in the fields of pregnancy counseling, prenatal care, parenting education, maternity housing, and

adoption. I learned a lot about the services we provide and how they impact the lives of babies and their families.

I also learned a lot about how we serve. The people who work in these programs are realistic about the challenges facing women with unplanned pregnancies or pregnant women living in poverty, but they are also committed to giving as much support and encouragement as they can. It was amazing to learn how much these men and women do—the second miles they walk—to help ensure that each mother has what she needs, that each child has what he or she needs. Their ministry is truly one of hope, and one dedicated to protecting human life and dignity. ■

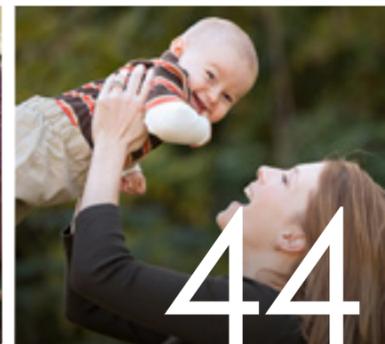
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# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

- 6** “Nobody Else Is Going to Show Us the Way. We Must Take the Lead.”  
Third Annual Poverty Summit Inspires New Approaches to Fighting Poverty
- 13** Finding Common Ground  
A Conversation with Congressmen Paul Ryan and Jim McGovern
- 16** Protecting Human Life and Dignity  
In the Dawn of Life
- 26** Catholic Charities USA's 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award  
Meet the Finalists
- 28** Removing the Marks of the Past  
Monterey's Tattoo Removal Program is Helping People Forge a Different Future
- 30** Committed to Inclusion  
Exercising Leadership as a Network to Advance Inclusion



## DEPARTMENTS

- 5** President's Column
- 32** Disaster Response
- 36** CCUSA Update
- 38** NewsNotes
- 44** Providing Help. Creating Hope.



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hubert H. Humphrey, an influential American statesman who served as a U.S. Senator for two decades and as Vice President to President Lyndon B. Johnson, spoke about the commitment to human life and dignity in remarks he gave at the dedication of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building in Washington, DC, in November 1977. He said that our society would be judged by how we treat “those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.” While making a point about the role of government, this statement also prefigured the metaphor of the “seamless garment,” which Cardinal Joseph Bernardin introduced a few years later as he described the total commitment needed from the church, society, and our government to protect human life and dignity across the entire life span.

Much of what Catholic Charities does directly preserves and enhances human life at every stage. The foundational principle of Catholic Social Teaching is that all human beings are worthy of dignity and respect precisely because all human beings carry within them the indelible image of their Creator. We live that out by responding to those whose lives are threatened, by serving those who are marginalized or shunned by society, and by giving the message of God’s unconditional love to those whose dreams have failed or those for whom hope has been elusive.

In this issue of *Charities USA*, we explore our network’s commitment to those in the very dawn of life and what it means for us to protect human life and dignity from the earliest moments of life. But as you know, our work of protecting human life and dignity goes far beyond that. We are a “pro-life” organization in the broadest sense.

Our recent poverty summit brought people together again to talk about how we can reduce poverty, an arduous but necessary effort to protect the life and dignity of millions of Americans living in poverty. We are making progress, developing better ways to impact people’s lives and getting more people involved in the effort. In this and so many other ways, we exhibit our deepest values.

We agree with Hubert Humphrey in believing that government has an important role to play in protecting the life and dignity of its citizens, which is why we continually advocate, speaking for all whose lives are not touched by human care or opportunity and for those who cannot speak for themselves. And while we have to work diligently to get our lawmakers and populace to listen, we remain vigilant because of our commitment to life and every moment in it.

President, Catholic Charities USA



“NOBODY ELSE IS GOING TO SHOW US THE WAY.  
**WE MUST  
TAKE THE LEAD.”**

THIRD ANNUAL POVERTY SUMMIT INSPIRES NEW APPROACHES TO FIGHTING POVERTY

We believe that when a child is born, God does not say, You will live your whole life in poverty, you will never achieve your potential, and you will always be a failure. If that is not God’s will, then it should not be ours either.

- Sheila Gilbert, President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul



In this 50th anniversary year of our nation’s “War on Poverty,” leading national non-profit organizations have joined together to rethink the way our nation addresses the unacceptable reality that more than 46 million Americans are living at or below the federal poverty line.

On April 2nd CEOs, members of Congress, Catholic Charities agency leaders, and advocates from across the country gathered in Washington, DC, and via live stream, to discuss innovative anti-poverty solutions, develop education strategies, and pledge to act anew to reduce poverty.

“Today is an opportunity for us to come away with a better understanding of the challenges and possible answers as we pursue systemic reform,” said Fr. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. “I truly believe this day will inspire and educate us in our work to end poverty in local communities across America, and to build momentum for holistic change.”

Throughout the event, attendees heard multiple perspectives from non-profit leaders on their efforts to address the problem of poverty in a new way, as well as views from both sides of the political aisle. Melissa Rogers, executive director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, told the gathering in an opening statement that “fighting poverty and creating opportunity are not just economic issues; they are moral issues.”

Whether through innovative approaches, new ways of educating peers, or a toolkit of actions to take home, the third annual National Poverty Summit built strong momentum in the ongoing movement to increase opportunity for all in our nation.



The day began with an analysis of the original “War on Poverty,” featuring a conversation between Mark Shriver, whose dad, Sargent Shriver, was a fundamental figure in the establishment of many of the Great Society programs, and Rep. James Clyburn, D-South Carolina, who shared his thoughts on the inherent link between the civil rights movement and the fight for greater economic opportunity.

Following the historical retrospective, two members of Congress took the stage to discuss the current state of federal anti-poverty programs. With levels of political polarization high, moderator Major Garrett of CBS News faced a seemingly-difficult task of finding common ground between the two participants, Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Massachusetts, and Rep. Richard Hudson, R-North Carolina. But despite the expected disagreements on tactics, both representatives found shared values in wanting to streamline the current system and increase the effectiveness of programs.

“We need to change the one-size-fits-all approach,” said Hudson, “so the folks on the front lines delivering services can customize the programs for the people who are in need.” McGovern agreed that it is time for reform: “We have begun to think very small in this city. We don’t attack big issues any more. If you say, it’s time for a new war on poverty, people look at you like you’re eccentric. The poor just don’t have a place at the table.”





As part of their year-long commitment to innovate, educate, and act, CEOs of national non-profit organizations took part in a roundtable conversation titled “Transforming Society’s Response to Poverty.” Leaders from Catholic Charities USA, St. Vincent de Paul, Bread for the World, the Alliance for Children and Families, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and Lutheran Services in America took part in a discussion about changing the way we approach and talk about providing anti-poverty services.

“We’re not going to wait to have somebody else solve the problem if there’s something we can do by ourselves,” said David Barringer, CEO at the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul. “We’re doing more and more, sometimes with less and less, but the lines never get shorter. We’ve got to change everything.”

Susan Dreyfus, president and CEO of the Alliance for Children and Families, told the group that “the only way we’re going to have a real conversation about reducing poverty is if we discuss it in more diverse language, in a different way...It is an incredible opportunity to speak about these things from a new perspective.”

“Nobody else is going to show us the way,” Fr. Larry Snyder stated. “We must take the lead.”

After an overview of the need for systemic reform, staff from partner organizations presented on the innovative approaches their organizations are implementing on a programmatic level to illustrate the effectiveness of results-driven, individualized programs.

Candy Hill, Catholic Charities USA’s former executive vice-president of social policy and external affairs, presented on CCUSA’s policy laboratories, working with local agencies and congressional delegations to pursue waivers, demonstration grants, and research dollars to support innovative approaches on the ground. Her call for efficient and effective reform was echoed by the other presenters on the panel.

“What we know is that there are millions of Americans in crises every day,” said Major Darryl Leedom, national director for public policy at the Salvation Army. “We need to change the way we address their problems from a crisis intervention to a strengths-based approach.”

“We believe that when a child is born, God does not say ‘you will live your whole life in poverty, you will never achieve your potential, and you will always be a failure,’” said Sheila Gilbert, President of St. Vincent de Paul. “If that is not God’s will, then it should not be ours either.”



So many good things are happening in our neighborhoods, and Washington needs to encourage this work, not deter it.

- Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin

[The] groups doing good work in our communities should be given both the tools AND the flexibility they need to meet the needs of...people [in poverty].

- Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Massachusetts



The third annual National Poverty Summit brought together people from all walks of life and across the political spectrum to discuss poverty in our nation's capital. According to one measure, the hashtag #EndPoverty was trending on Twitter in Washington, DC, by the end of the day, thanks to the energy in the room and online engagement with the speakers. Michael Gerson, columnist for *The Washington Post*, moderated an open forum, providing attendees the opportunity to share their thoughts on what they had learned and ask questions of the presenters.

"The unacceptable reality of 46 million Americans struggling to provide food or stable housing for themselves or their family should inspire every one of us to rethink our assumptions and pursue untraditional

methods to solving the problem of poverty in our nation," said Fr. Larry Snyder, who called the National Poverty Summit "a chance for us to come together to hear from the leaders of the present and the visionaries of tomorrow."

In her closing remarks, Susan Dreyfus, president of the Alliance for Children and Families, delivered a rousing call to action to end the day. "The war on poverty, from my perspective, was yesterday's fight. What we are about now is developing the human capital of America....We may not have millions of dollars, but we have millions of voices. All too often we overestimate what it takes to influence public policy and underestimate what we can do to change it." ■



REP. PAUL RYAN



REP. JIM MCGOVERN

## FINDING COMMON GROUND

A CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMEN PAUL RYAN AND JIM MCGOVERN

Recently, *Charities USA* had the opportunity to speak in-depth with two members of Congress who have been involved in learning and sharing about the work local Catholic Charities agencies are doing to develop new solutions to the problem of poverty.

Representative Paul Ryan is a Republican who represents Wisconsin's 1st Congressional district and is chairman of the House Budget Committee. In March, he visited Catholic Charities in Racine, WI, where he witnessed first-hand the impact of individualized case management services. In this interview, he shares how seeing the programs being run in local communities have influenced the way he believes poverty should be addressed.

Representative Jim McGovern is a Democrat representing Massachusetts' 2nd Congressional district. In 2010, he was the sponsor of CCUSA's signature legislation, the National Opportunity and Community Renewal Act, and has been a strong supporter of the work of Catholic Charities throughout his Congressional career. *Charities USA* asked him to share what inspires his work with the Catholic Charities network and why now is time for reform of anti-poverty efforts.



## REP. PAUL RYAN

**Charities USA:** Recently, you visited programs run by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in Racine, WI. What were your impressions from the visit? What most surprised you?

**Rep. Ryan:** I was really impressed. To hear the success stories from people who had gone through the programs and learn how they've turned their lives around was very moving.

### Catholic Charities is making a huge difference in our communities, and that's something we should encourage.

**Charities USA:** How did the visit to the programs in Racine change your thinking about the way anti-poverty programs should be run in our country?

**Rep. Ryan:** It just showed that the best way to fight poverty is one person at a time. So many good things are happening in our neighborhoods, and Washington needs to encourage this work, not deter it. Instead of this "Washington knows best" approach, we need to be listening and learning from those who are fighting poverty every day.

**Charities USA:** Where do you see common ground between the political parties in advancing reform of outdated safety-net programs?

**Rep. Ryan:** I think both parties can agree that the status quo is unacceptable. Forty-six million Americans are in poverty today. That's the highest in a generation. And I think both parties can agree that the federal government has a role to play. But we need to rethink how we fight poverty. Right now, we focus on inputs—on how much money we're spending. What we need to do is focus on outcomes—on how many people we're getting out of poverty.

**Charities USA:** How do you see the partnership between government and the non-profit sector in working together to reduce poverty? What can we do as a nation to bring greater effectiveness and efficiency and a focus on outcomes to social services?

**Rep. Ryan:** Government needs to recognize the central role of community groups, non-profits, and non-governmental organizations. In 2012, the federal government spent nearly \$800 billion on 92 different poverty-fighting programs, and yet we're still far from winning the

war on poverty. The answer isn't to throw more money at the problem. Instead we need to look at what works—and what doesn't—and then collaborate with these organizations to help more people and in a more effective way. Government has an important role to play, but for decades it has missed the mark. Instead of supporting local efforts, it's too often displaced them. Instead of breaking down barriers, it's erected new ones.

**Charities USA:** What, in your opinion, is the most important tool to support people on their pathway out of poverty?

**Rep. Ryan:** The most important tool is a job. We also need to ensure that young Americans are getting the education they need for the careers they want. And there is no substitute for stable families, a core source of support and meaning for all of us.

### Work, education, and family are vital to helping people reintegrate into our communities and stay out of poverty.

**Charities USA:** In this 50th anniversary year of the War on Poverty, what can people do to have the most impact with their members of Congress to support innovative anti-poverty solutions and holistic reform?

**Rep. Ryan:** Over the past two years, I've traveled around the country and talked to people fighting poverty on the front lines. One of the main takeaways has been that people need to get involved. It's not enough to say, "I've paid my taxes; government's going to take care of this." All of us have a role to play—all of us can make a difference. If we're going to win the war on poverty, we need people to take up the challenge and invest their time and talents in their communities to help families in need.

**Charities USA:** How does your faith inspire the work you do?

**Rep. Ryan:** As Catholics, we believe in the twin virtues of solidarity and subsidiarity. Solidarity is the belief that we're all in this together—that it's our responsibility to help people in need. Subsidiarity, meanwhile, is the belief that the people closest to the problem are the best equipped to solve it. On my trips, I've learned a lot about these two principles, and at Catholic Charities, I've seen them in action. ■

## REP. JIM MCGOVERN

**Charities USA:** You have been a long-time supporter of the Catholic Charities movement, and recently appeared at the third annual National Poverty Summit in a bi-partisan panel on reform of anti-poverty programs. What draws you to be a strong supporter of the work of Catholic Charities?

**Rep. McGovern:** Catholic Charities has been at the forefront of these efforts for decades. They remind me every day that to me, my faith is about more than just comforting ritual—it's about action. It's about helping our most vulnerable neighbors. It's about doing good work.

**Charities USA:** How have your visits and interactions with Catholic Charities agencies influenced your thinking about the way anti-poverty programs should be run in our country?

**Rep. McGovern:** It's clear that partnerships matter—partnerships among governments and non-profits and academics and the business community. And groups doing good work in our communities should be given both the tools AND the flexibility they need to meet the needs of those particular people. It's also clear to me that the federal government needs to do more—much more—to help.

**Charities USA:** Where do you see common ground between the political parties in advancing reform of outdated safety-net programs?

**Rep. McGovern:** Unfortunately, there isn't a lot of common ground right now. I would love to have a thoughtful and meaningful discussion about how to improve programs like SNAP. How can we make it more efficient? How can we help even more people? But we can't have a conversation like that right now because we're fighting tooth and nail against a conservative agenda that just wants to slash and cut-to, in my view, tear giant holes in the safety net. We're spending all our energy just on protecting what little we have.

**Charities USA:** How do you see the partnership between government and the non-profit sector in working together to reduce poverty? What can we do as a nation to bring greater effectiveness and efficiency and a focus on outcomes to social services?

**Rep. McGovern:** The intellectual 'firepower' definitely exists, but I'm not sure the political will is there at the moment. Again, it's difficult to focus on improving efficiencies when one party wants to cut tens of

billions of dollars from anti-poverty programs. You have to spend all of your time and energy fighting back against that—that's the dragon in front of you.

**Charities USA:** What, in your opinion, is the most important tool to support people on their pathway out of poverty?

**Rep. McGovern:** The answer seems easy—a good paying job is the ideal outcome. But how do you incentivize hiring? How do you make sure that people who work make enough to no longer qualify for government assistance? Do they have affordable, safe and accessible childcare for their kids? What kind of education and training programs do we need for the jobs of the twenty-first century? Those are big questions.

**Charities USA:** In this 50th anniversary year of the War on Poverty, what can people do to have the most impact with their members of Congress to support innovative anti-poverty solutions and holistic reform?

**Rep. McGovern:** I always say that one of the big problems in Washington is that poor people don't have lobbyists. They don't write out big checks to political campaigns.

**But I believe—I know—that there is strength in numbers. If we want things to change, then there has to be a political price to pay for members of Congress who consistently vote to make the lives of the poor even more difficult than they already are.**

**Charities USA:** How does your faith inspire the work you do?

**Rep. McGovern:** In the 1980s, I spent a lot of time with the Jesuits of El Salvador. They were the people that showed me that my faith had to be about more than going to church on Sunday. It has to be about social justice. It has to be about feeding the poor and nursing the sick—it's about getting outside of your comfort zone. They continue to be real inspirations to me. ■

# PROTECTING HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY



“I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.”

—John 10:10

“The Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus’ message.” With these words, Pope John Paul II began his 1995 encyclical, “*Evangelium Vitae*” (“The Gospel of Life”), appealing to every person in the world, in the name of God, to “respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life!”

He urged all members of the church throughout the world to be “new signs of hope” working to increase justice and solidarity so that “a new culture of human life will be affirmed, for the building of an authentic civilization of truth and love.”

“The culture of life” is at the heart of the Catholic Charities mission. We are commissioned to bring “more abundant life;” that is, to preserve and upgrade the quality of life and the human dignity of all with whom we come in contact.

We are, unequivocally, a life-affirming organization, with everything we do permeated with a profound belief in and respect for every human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

—Msgr. Michael Boland, Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

## In the Dawn of Life

As Fr. Snyder wrote in the President’s Column, Hubert Humphrey, a dedicated American statesman, emphasized that the full spectrum of life is worthy of protection—for “those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.” His beautifully worded statement serves as a framework for a three-part series of articles in *Charities USA* on how Catholic Charities protects human life and dignity across the life span: in the dawn, twilight, and shadows of life.

In part one of this series, we explore how Catholic Charities agencies protect human life and dignity in the dawn of life. While Catholic Charities does this through a number of vital services for children, this issue looks at how we as a network protect life and dignity from the very beginning in the lives of the unborn, the newly born, and their parents and families.

## Pregnancy Counseling

“It’s hard for many young women with an unplanned pregnancy to understand that their baby is already real,” said Charlotte Webster, director of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan’s Project Hope. “We tell them, ‘Your baby is real. Your baby is already alive.’”

Understanding that their babies are alive helps these young women begin to grasp the implications of the options before them. The supportive and non-judgmental counselors of Project Hope talk through these options and help the young women make the best decision for themselves and their child.

“We do a lot of talking and listening,” said Webster. “And our hope is to bring services in to wrap around them, giving them hope to continue their pregnancies.”

Good case management is the hallmark of the program. After assessing the young women’s situation in 19 areas of need, the counselors have a pretty clear idea of what areas to target, which may include income, employment, housing, family support, relationships with parents or the baby’s father, and so on.

There are a lot of resources out there to address these needs, and often the young women just need to be connected to them. For example, Project Hope connects the young women to tuition assistance programs and other support services at local community colleges and universities so they can get training for good jobs and support themselves and their child.

“By addressing these needs one by one, we help them feel hope—hope that they can confidently make a decision about the life of their baby, hope that they can be self-sufficient, hope that they can have a good future with their child, hope that if they place their child for adoption that they will be okay on the other end,” said Webster. “It’s a lot of work, but that’s the work of giving hope. It’s an active thing for us.”

## Prenatal Care

Seton Services Prenatal Clinic, a program of Catholic Charities in the Twin Cities, has long been a place of caring for low-income pregnant women, providing quality care to women who otherwise wouldn’t get it.

“We think prenatal care is so important,” said Linda Ericson, manager of prenatal social services. “It is the first chance to impact how a child grows.”

The vast majority of the clinic’s clients are refugee, immigrant, and minority women, and nearly all of them live below the poverty line. They often have social risk factors, such as domestic

violence, sexual abuse, trauma, and mental health issues. Some have health problems that impact their pregnancy. For all these reasons, providing and fostering support for these women is critical.

“When they don’t have support, they don’t get prenatal care, and they end up in the emergency room,” Ericson said. And that often means pre-term low-birth weight babies who struggle from the start.

The clinic’s own nurses as well as partnering nurse midwives and obstetricians provide the care at the clinic, while deliveries take place at a local Catholic hospital for a discounted fee.

In addition to prenatal care, every woman receives case management, which can help them sign up for WIC or child care subsidies, get counseling, or resolve any other concerns. The program also makes sure that the mother has all she needs to begin parenting, such as diapers and baby supplies, clothing, a car seat, and a portable crib.

With 90 percent of the clinic’s babies being born at full-term and with a healthy weight, the clinic clearly has an impact. And it’s not just because of the prenatal care provided; it’s also because of the deep caring provided.

“We really go out of our way to show we care,” said Ericson. “And the women learn that that they can find help here.”

## Maternity Homes and Housing Support

“When a young woman finds out that she is pregnant, it can be very scary, depending on the situation,” said Leslea Townsend Cronin, social services director of St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities, which runs St. Elizabeth’s Home, a maternity home in New Albany, IN. “It may be a domestic violence situation, or she may be scared of telling her parents, or she may be just afraid of her future.”

That fear is heightened if she doesn’t have a place to live and can’t meet her basic needs, which can prompt a decision to have an abortion. Providing maternity housing can be crucial to protecting life because it stabilizes young women and helps them make decisions about their future and their child’s future from a place of support and stability.

Most young women who come to St. Elizabeth’s Home choose to parent their child. To help them prepare, St. Elizabeth’s Home provides counseling, case management, financial counseling, and instruction on child development, child care and nutrition, prevention of child abuse and neglect, and other topics.

Even with all this preparation, however, these young women still face an affordable housing problem once they are ready to go out on their own. To meet this housing need, St. Elizabeth’s Home provides transitional housing, which gives young women two years to get some educa-

tion, find a good job, and strengthen their ability to support themselves and their children. St. Elizabeth's also provides permanent affordable housing for single mothers who just need rental assistance. This continuum of housing options makes a big difference as young women with an unplanned pregnancy consider their future.

"We want them to know they have choices," said Townsend Cronin. "That's what our services are about."

### Parenting Education

Most of the pregnant young women who come to Catholic Family and Child Service in Richland, WA, don't come because they want to learn about parenting.

"They walk in the door needing to fill very basic needs, for food or shelter or help in solving a problem," said Syndee Saucedo Cavazos, director for maternity and parenting services. "They aren't even thinking about parenting."

But with the highest incidence of child abuse and neglect occurring among very young mothers, getting those young women prepared for parenting is a priority. By meeting their basic needs and establishing a relationship of trust and support, Saucedo Cavazos and her colleagues help the girls begin to think about their future roles as mothers and gently guide them into a parenting education experience uniquely designed for them.

The 13-week "Bonding Right from the Start" course starts these young women down a path of reflection about their own upbringing and helps them understand the importance of bonding and attachment.

"Most of our young women don't understand attachment. They have attachment issues themselves," said Saucedo Cavazos. "Through the course, as they tell their own stories, they begin to see that."

The course wraps attachment theory into the instruction of basic parenting information and skills. Everything the young women learn—about breast feeding, brain development, nutrition, eye contact and touch, baby cues, child safety, and other topics—is related back to attachment. As techniques are modeled and reinforced, the young women begin to catch a new vision of parenting, one they never really experienced but want to provide for their own child.

"We have to take a whole different approach," said Saucedo Cavazos. "Otherwise, these girls don't know why they should be interested in all of this."

This approach has been successful, fostering healthy relationships, reducing abuse and neglect, and in the end, protecting the life and dignity of both the young mothers and their babies.



## Adoption Services

For many women facing an unplanned pregnancy, it appears there are only two options—parenting their child or having an abortion. But it isn't that way.

"There has to be another option," said Kim Harrell, director of the pregnancy services and adoption program of Catholic Charities in Arlington, VA. "We help women see adoption as an option, a way to give their babies life."

That means helping them understand what adoption looks like. "Adoptions are very different today. It's not about birth mothers going off in secret and never knowing anything about their child," said Harrell. The agency practices open adoptions, where birthparents and adoptive parents know each other, exchange letters and photos, and sometimes visit together with the child.

Arlington's adoption program also handles special needs infant adoptions. When some women or couples find that they will have a baby with special needs, they do not feel able to parent that child. "They love the child and want to do what's best for him or her," said Harrell.

Some women come in before the child is born. Others come after. "Hospitals call us because they know we won't turn them down," said Harrell. The agency has found families for children with Down's Syndrome, HIV-exposure, limb deformities, and other medical issues.

Making an adoption plan for any child, special needs or not, is difficult, but it allows mothers to choose life, not just by bringing their child into the world, but by giving their child a family with the necessary resources to care for them.

Harrell has seen the hand of God in the amazing and beautiful ways families have come together through adoption. "You just can't take God out of the equation," she said. "God created those families."

## Birthparent Support

Placing a child for adoption is an often difficult and life-changing decision, one filled with grief and loss and often further burdened with guilt and shame. This is why supporting birthmothers, both before and after the child is born, is one of the main ministries of the adoption program of Catholic Charities in Baton Rouge.

Many women are demonized for considering adoption, and often by their own families. "Women feel lost," said Stephanie Sterling, LCSW, director of the agency's maternity, adoption, and behavioral health services. "They have family members discouraging them, or promising them help with the baby, but when the help is really needed later, it usually isn't there."



Many women say that their families would prefer that they had an abortion than place the child for adoption. "We help women choose life in the first place; then we support them in making another life-affirming plan," said Sterling.

That plan comes with grief and loss, which the women need to address to move forward healthily in life. "It's important for us to be there to help them work through it," said Sterling. "Many people in the adoption industry say they are pro-life, but once the woman delivers the baby, the support ends. We continue that support."

The program provides counseling as often as a woman needs it, whether it's right after the child is born, a year or two after, or many years later. The program also helps facilitate communication between the birth family and the adoptive family, which allows the birth parent to know of her child's wellbeing, and also to see how her child is benefitting from her choice. It goes a long way in healing her heart.

"Many birthparents say that people expect them to move on and not need counseling after they have placed a child," said Sterling. "We want all parents who make life-affirming decisions for their children—whatever that is—to feel supported. ■"



## CARING FOR NEW LIFE

Sue Hillman, Volunteer, Catholic Charities of Tennessee

The efforts of Catholic Charities to protect human life and dignity in the dawn of life are supported by countless organizations, donors, and volunteers. Sue Hillman is one such volunteer who over the last 20 years has touched the lives of more than 100 babies, providing temporary foster care with her husband, Ralph, for babies awaiting adoption or return to their parents through Catholic Charities of Tennessee and its Caring Choices Adoptions and Pregnancy Counseling program.

Newborn care can be especially demanding on a caregiver's time and energy, but Sue's career as a newborn nurse gave her the critical skills and insights needed to properly care for all infants, especially those who have been drug exposed in the womb or who come from homes with no standard of care. Now retired professionally, Sue showers her loving round-the-clock care on these little ones, showing undeterred patience and love for babies that may be anxious, unable to eat, irritated, or having difficulty sleeping.

In reflecting on her ministry of caring for vulnerable newborns and infants, Sue shared: "I do this out of obedience to God. He has equipped me with the ability to let go of a baby I have cared for and loved without feeling a tremendous loss. Each time I receive a phone call from Catholic Charities about another infant, my heart just opens immediately to the next baby that enters my life." ■



# INSPIRING YOUTH TO PROTECT LIFE

How do you get teens to understand the consequences of choices? And how do you help them face those consequences with character? Ask Catholic Charities of Central Colorado. They've got two amazing approaches, the RealCare® Baby Project and Difficult Choices.

The RealCare® Baby Project is a course designed to help youth understand in the most real way possible what it takes to parent an infant. How does that happen? Primarily through spending a weekend with a computerized baby doll that simulates the needs, behavior, and unpredictability of a weeks-old infant. The doll is a technological marvel—so real and life like, but able to track how the student "parent" is responding to it.

"We find that kids' perception of what it takes to parent is not reality based," said Kathy Thayer, vice president of the agency's Life Connections program. "They are so excited to get the dolls on Friday, but come Monday morning, they can't wait to give them back. It was way harder than they thought. This perspective helps them make better decisions to avoid teen pregnancy."

Difficult Choices is a community-based pro-life media campaign aimed at abortion-vulnerable young women and men. Catholic Charities, a founding member of the campaign, currently leads the campaign, which uniquely focuses on character traits—courage, respect, and trust.

"We explore how positive character traits that are essential to healthy decision-making might affect decision-making in the case of an unexpected pregnancy," said Thayer. "It encourages women and men to act with true character in one of life's most difficult choices."

The social media campaign drives people to its website, [www.DifficultChoices.org](http://www.DifficultChoices.org), where they can read true stories and find resources on parenting and adoption.

Both RealCare® and Difficult Choices have had a positive impact, protecting life by inspiring young people to act with responsibility and character. ■

Photo courtesy of RealityWorks.®

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA'S 2014 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS



ELIZABTH KLINEPETER



GLENN LEACH



TOM MCCOY



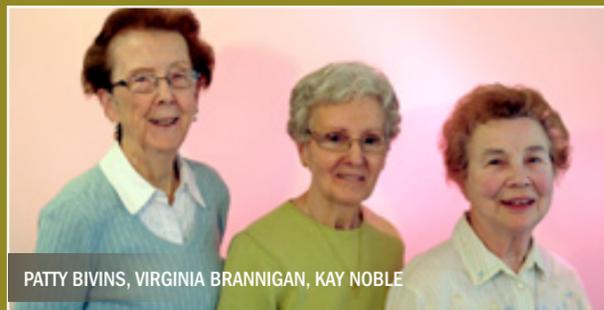
DOMINIC RIZZO



DR. PETER ULLAND



KIM WINEGAR



PATY BIVINS, VIRGINIA BRANNIGAN, KAY NOBLE

Catholic Charities USA is pleased to announce the finalists of the 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award. In recognition of National Volunteer Month, the award honors the contributions of more than 300,000 volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to the Catholic Charities network.

By leveraging their interests, talents and skills in communities across the country, each of the finalists exemplify the mission and spirit of Catholic Charities in order to make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

**Patty Bivins, Virginia Brannigan, and Kay Noble**, known as the "the Troops," volunteer at Catholic Charities of Camden's Family and Community Services Center in Atlantic County, feeding the hungry, preventing evictions of families, and clothing the homeless. Each week, they sort through donation and manage operations at Gracie's Thrift Store. On Fridays, they greet the homeless people who come for a sandwich and a change of clothes. In addition, they visit shut-ins, act as liaisons between families and nursing home staff, orchestrate the Christmas Toy Program, and outfit newborns. Volunteering now for over 25 years each, these women always offer a kind word and smile.

**Elizabeth Klinepeter** has been volunteering for more than five years at Camp I Am Special, a summer residential camp run by Catholic Charities in Jacksonville, FL, for children and youth with physical, emotional, and development disabilities. Elizabeth first served as a camp buddy, providing one on one care for a single camper for the entire week of camp. From there, she moved on to being a group leader, and is now volunteering as the weekly camp leader. Elizabeth feels that people with disabilities give our world more than we could ever hope to give in return, which inspires her work on their behalf.

For the last four years, **Glenn Leach** has helped Catholic Charities in Davenport, IA, reestablish itself in the community after a 40-year absence. Described as a well-read, articulate, and compassionate man, Glenn has helped the agency in many ways, but most significantly in immigration services, by completing Bureau of Immigration Affairs counselor training and providing back-up support to the immigration counselors. During these four years, he has also continued his volunteer work for the Diocese of Davenport's social action office, where he has organized and advocated on issues such as human trafficking, comprehensive immigration reform, sanctity of life, and economic and environmental justice.

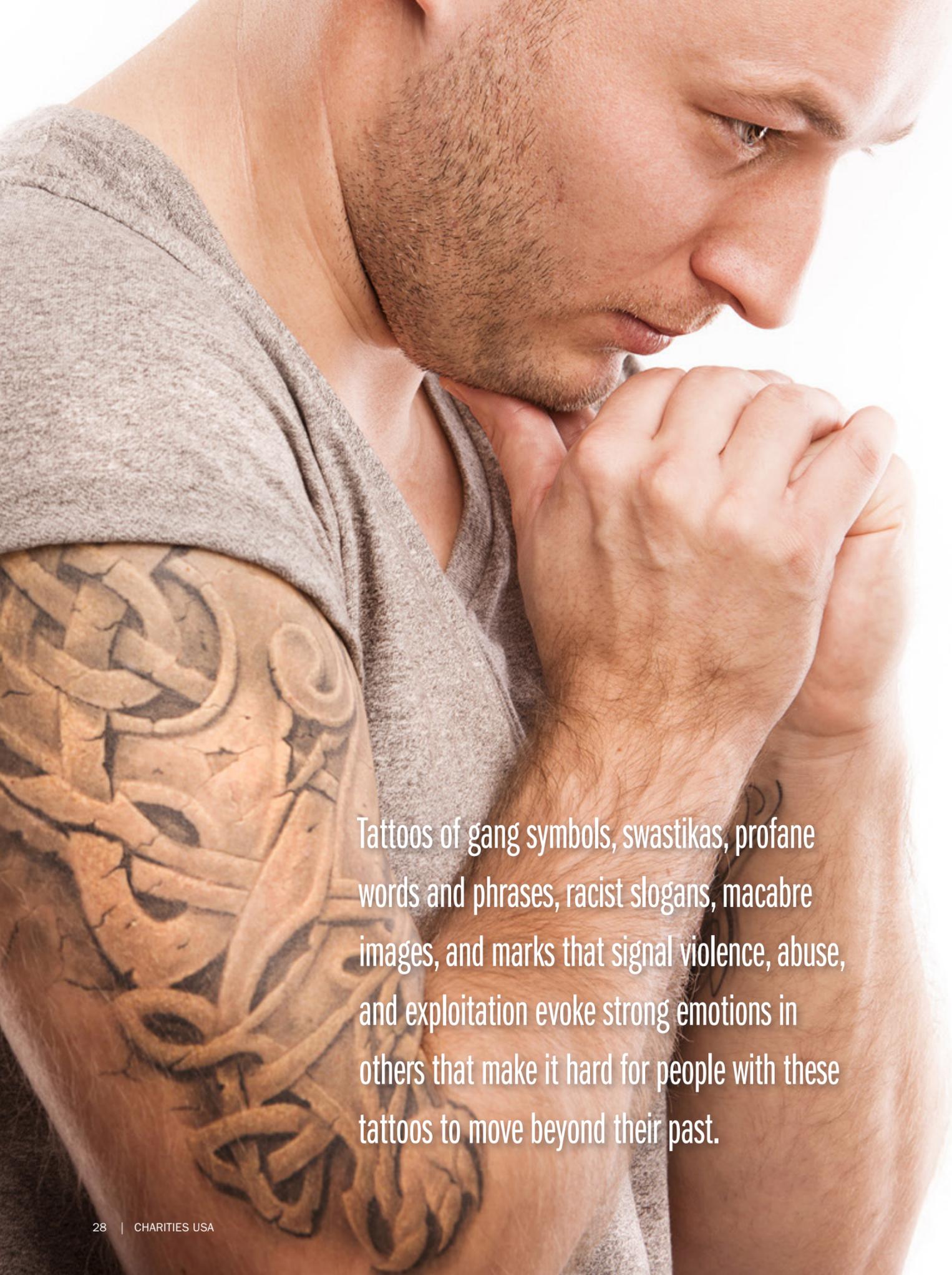
Trained as a clinical social worker, **Tom McCoy** helps Catholic Charities in Rockville Centre, NY, serve asylum seekers, particularly children arriving in the United States as unaccompanied minors, most of whom are victims of mental, physical, and sexual abuse. He puts them at ease during his meetings, interviews, and counseling sessions with them, as he prepares psychological evaluations, which are crucial supporting documents in their asylum cases. Tom's work helps to ensure that the children's interests are fully represented in court. His commitment to human rights, poverty alleviation, and humanitarian relief make him a great contributor to the agency's work with vulnerable refugees.

Since 2004, **Dominic Rizzo** has served as a board member of Catholic Charities of Summit County, OH, working to eliminate poverty, homelessness, and hunger. He initiated and chairs an annual fundraiser, the Monte Carlo Night, which brings in over \$60,000 each year to help the agency provide rent and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, hot meals, grocery assistance, financial literacy, and other services to the area's struggling families. He has also worked with other council members and staff to formulate, implement, and monitor poverty reduction strategies. Dominic accepts his role in combating the injustice of poverty and sets an example of Catholic faith in action.

**Dr. Peter Ulland** offers his medical expertise twice a week at Catholic Charities' Seton Prenatal Clinic in St. Paul, MN, which provides care to uninsured pregnant women. Dr. Ulland's generosity has made it possible for the clinic to serve patients with higher risk factors and offer broader services. He has a tremendous impact on his patients, who appreciate his calm and knowledgeable presence. Dr. Ulland arrives early, leaves late, and at all hours provides excellent medical and surgical care as well respect and dignity to many who have not known these basic elements of human ethics in their difficult lives.

**Kim Winegar**, affectionately called "Mr. Kim" by his students, volunteers as an instructor of ESL and Citizenship classes for Vietnamese immigrants at Catholic Charities Hawaii. With many years spent helping Vietnamese refugees, Kim attracts immigrants from all over the island to his classes. They see Kim not only as a teacher, but a true mentor and friend, always welcoming, full of compassion, and committed to helping them become productive citizens of Hawaii. When Kim teaches, he doesn't just focus on the English language and passing the U.S. citizenship exam, but helps them acculturate to their new surroundings and gain necessary job skills.

MEET THE 2014 CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA  
**VOLUNTEER**  
OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER  
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF CHARITIES USA!



Tattoos of gang symbols, swastikas, profane words and phrases, racist slogans, macabre images, and marks that signal violence, abuse, and exploitation evoke strong emotions in others that make it hard for people with these tattoos to move beyond their past.

# REMOVING THE MARKS OF THE PAST

MONTEREY'S TATTOO REMOVAL PROGRAM IS HELPING PEOPLE FORGE A DIFFERENT FUTURE

**W**e see tattoos everywhere these days. People of all walks of life sport them in endless variety. Most of them are pretty benign—animals and flowers, names and remembrances of loved ones, crosses and expressions of faith. But others are quite potent, with dark meanings—gang symbols, swastikas, profane words and phrases, racist slogans, macabre images, and marks that signal violence, abuse, and exploitation.

Such tattoos evoke strong emotions. The people who have them often come to view them with shame, embarrassment, or pain, while the people who see them displayed often react with disgust, wariness, and dismissal. These responses makes it hard for people to move beyond their past to forge a brighter future in new jobs, new relationships, and new lives. Unless they can come up with the money for laser tattoo removal, they are stuck with their tattoos. With most tattoo removal services charging at least \$100 per session and most tattoos requiring several sessions to remove, the process for many is simply out of reach.

This reality is behind the Tattoo Removal program of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey, CA, which works to help people who want to forge a new path in life by removing their most egregious tattoos.

"We're not really talking about decorative tattoos," said Maria Runciman, who directs the program. "We see former prostitutes who were branded by their pimps with tattoos. We see people who were in abusive relationships and want the names of their abusers removed. Some people are embarrassed about their gang tattoos and don't want their kids to

see them. Some want to go into the military or get a job and need that swastika or swear word removed."

Started in 1993 with the support of the local Knights of Malta group and the work of a single volunteer doctor, the program first served minors coming out of juvenile detention centers with gang related tattoos. Later, the program expanded to include adults up to age 26, many coming out of prison with the same kind of tattoos. Then last fall, the program merged with the large tattoo removal program run by a local Catholic hospital. The expanded program, now run solely by Catholic Charities, serves nearly 300 people of all ages each year providing tattoo removal with the help of five volunteer doctors.

Before being admitted into the program, participants are interviewed by Runciman and one of the doctors who perform the laser procedures. "We want to understand their motivations, to see if they are really ready to change, and to prepare them for it," said Runciman. "It can be a very difficult transition for some. They begin to feel that they are losing their identity and culture."

The program also requires participants to do 20 hours of community service and contribute \$20 per session, a cost that has proven to be worth it for so many. With their tattoos removed and their economic and social opportunities broadened, they are free to take the first steps on their new path in life. ■



# COMMITTED TO INCLUSION

## Exercising Leadership as a Network to Advance Inclusion

By Troy Zeigler

Each of us who work within the Catholic Charities network has a responsibility to exercise our leadership skills in the advancement of diversity and inclusion. Catholic Charities USA has demonstrated its commitment to this issue through its publication of *Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good* in 2008, the annual Keep the Dream Alive Mass and Awards, and the Racial Equality and Diversity (REDI) Professional Interest Section, originally established in 2007 as the National Board Committee for the Advancement of Racial Equality (CARE).

Further, CCUSA has long offered scholarships for its annual Leadership Institute to individuals who are from historically underrepresented backgrounds. The week-long Leadership Institute focuses on strengthening both the knowledge and skills of participants in a variety of key leadership qualities. This institute, now in its thirtieth year, has demonstrated its value through the number of Catholic Charities leaders that are among its graduates, including the recipients of the REDI scholarships, who have enhanced the quality of diverse leadership within our network.

While this national level emphasis is important in the work that we do, it is meaningless without follow-up at the grassroots level. Therefore, we call on all our Catholic Charities employees and

volunteers to take advantage of the resources provided and ensure proper emphasis of this work in your local agencies and surrounding community.

We have no doubt made progress, but we cannot ignore the numbers of our underrepresented populations that remain in poverty. When we look at those who serve in our network, and those who are served by our network, this discrepancy becomes increasingly clear. It is obvious that diversity is much broader than race and gender, and extends to religion, culture, disabilities, and age. This leads to a need to focus on *inclusion*, providing a place for *all* at the table, providing *all* with opportunity to participate and grow. Therefore, we must not only ensure that all who come to our agencies are welcome, but also strive continually in our work locally to create broader acceptance and inclusion of those we serve into the mainstream of our communities. This ensures the opportunity for all to share in the potential inherent within our American society.

With this focus, the REDI Professional Interest Section moved forward last year with its development of the Cultural Competency Assessment. This evaluation tool currently is undergoing pilot tests at two Catholic Charities agencies to identify any further enhancements that might be required. The document will be finalized and distributed to all of our member agencies once the feedback is received and the document updated. Regular cultural competency assessments will better position our agencies to ensure that their staff and services reflect the values we all share in this endeavor to enhance inclusivity. ■

*Troy Zeigler is director of training and consulting for Catholic Charities USA.*

# RESPONDING TO DISASTER—REBUILDING COMMUNITIES

## Catholic Charities USA's Disaster Response in 2013

By Inga Jelescheff

From devastating flooding and landslides in Colorado and the Midwest to catastrophic tornadoes in Oklahoma, last year the US saw widespread impact from natural disasters, with seven weather-related disasters topping the billion-dollar mark in damage. In the last decade, the United States has consistently ranked among the top five countries most frequently impacted by natural disasters, and a report from the Environment America Research and Policy Center stated that 243 million people – nearly 80 percent of the U.S. population – live in counties that experienced at least one weather-related disaster since 2007.

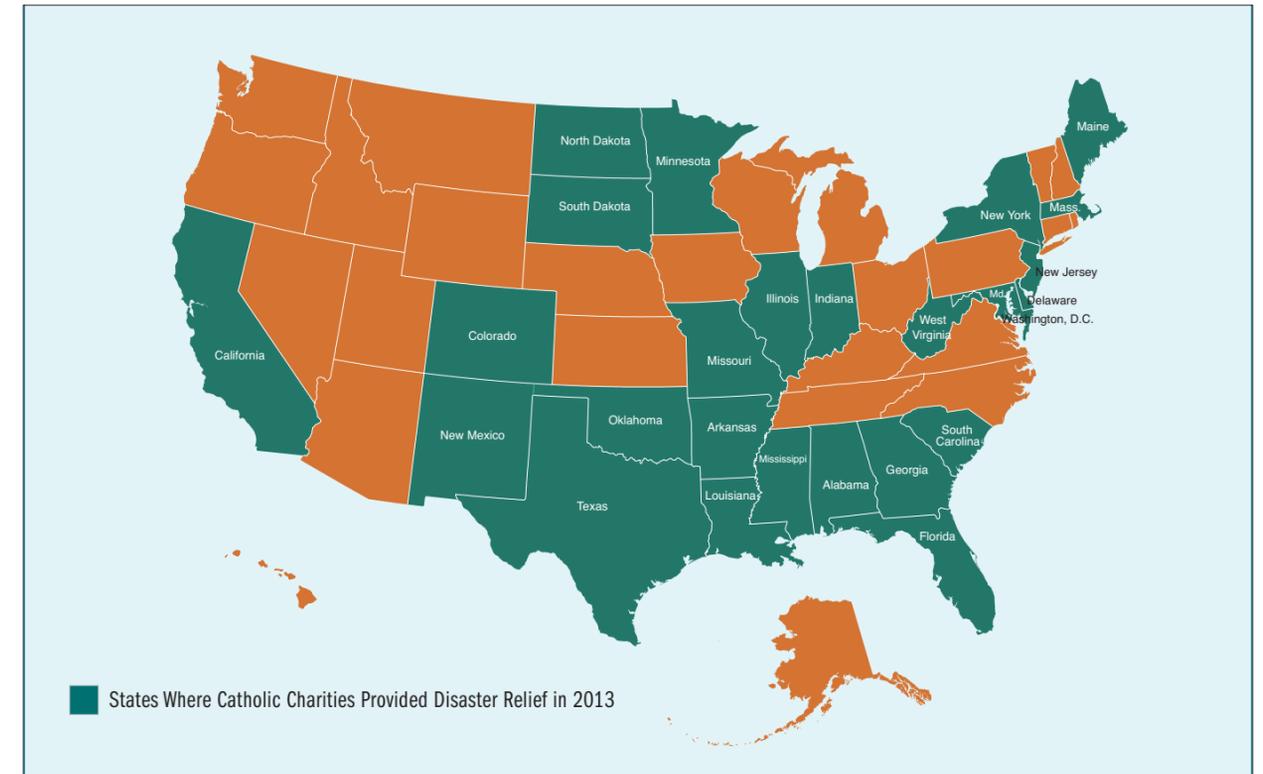
In many communities across the country, such as those impacted by Hurricane Sandy, the needs of disaster survivors continue, beyond the time when the disaster ceases to be covered in the news. The reality is that long-term recovery is just beginning in many of the 2013 disaster-impacted areas. The need among disaster survivors for continued support is enormous, and the US Catholic community is there to help.

Through the generosity of our donors, the Catholic Charities network was able to provide disaster relief and recovery through 43 local agencies to communities in 24 states across the country. In 2013 over \$12 million dollars in Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) grant funds was awarded to individuals and families whose lives were devastated by these disasters. Providing Emergency Grants as well as ongoing and

newly awarded Long Term Recovery Grants, CCUSA was at the forefront for providing support to local Catholic Charities agencies affected by disasters. These funds include new grant dollars received by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for Hurricane Sandy and other 2013 disaster recovery efforts. CCUSA was able to provide 15 new long-term recovery grants in November 2013. These grants are supporting agencies from Rockville Centre, NY, to Fort Worth, TX, and Newark, NJ, to Denver, CO.

While Catholic Charities agencies are seen as a nationwide leader in disaster case management services, many Catholic Charities agencies are adding to this traditional service provision to create innovative long-term recovery programs targeting the specific needs of the disaster-impacted populations. A few are described below:

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York has a program specifically targeting the needs of the Hurricane Sandy-affected elderly in Lower Manhattan. Their Eldercare Outreach Workers provide door-to-door support to this often home-bound populace.
- Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, CT, continues to provide emotional support to those who lost loved ones in the Newtown, school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary.



- Following the massive tornado destruction in Joplin, MO, in 2011, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri started a home rebuilding program. Through the collaborative efforts of staff, volunteers from across the country, and partner organizations, homes continue to be built for those in need.
- As a result of several fires in multi-family apartment complexes, Catholic Charities Maine used an Emergency Grant to support over 200 individuals, many of whom are refugees, in finding new housing and procuring household goods.

Through disaster case management, financial assistance, and innovative programs like those mentioned here, Catholic Charities agencies are working hard to effectively meet the needs of disaster survivors.

The CCUSA Disaster Response Operations team is exceedingly appreciative of the continued support it receives for disaster response efforts, as it enables the Catholic community to touch the lives of hundreds of disaster survivors across this country. Together we are truly able to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. ■

*Inga Jelescheff works in Disaster Response Operations at Catholic Charities USA.*

### Disaster Response Grants

Over the course of 2013, short-term Emergency Grants were provided to Catholic Charities agencies in: Albany, NY; Atlanta, GA; Belleville, IL; Biloxi, MS; Bridgeport, CT; Charleston, SC; Chicago, IL; Corpus Christi, TX; Denver, CO; Fargo, ND; Fort Worth, TX; Indianapolis, IN; Jefferson City, MO; Laredo, TX; New Ulm, MN; Oklahoma City, OK; Portland, ME; Peoria, IL; Providence, RI; Pueblo, CO; Raleigh, NC; Rapid City, SD; Stockton, CA; Syracuse, NY.

Agencies in the following locations supported their communities through Long Term Relief and Recovery Grants: Albany, NY; Bridgeport, CT; Brooklyn/Queens NY; Camden, NJ; Chicago, IL; Denver, CO; Fargo, ND; Florida Catholic Conference; Fort Worth, TX; Jackson, MS; Lake Charles, LA; Metuchen, NJ; Missouri Catholic Charities; New Orleans, LA; New York, NY; Newark, NJ; Oklahoma City, OK; Paterson, NJ; Pensacola/Tallahassee, FL; Rockville Centre, NY; Springfield, MO; Syracuse, NY; Trenton, NJ; Wheeling/Charleston, WV; Wilmington, DE.



# CCUSA DISASTER TRAININGS UPDATE

## Applied Institute for Disaster Excellence

Catholic Charities USA provides an annual Applied Institute for Disaster Excellence (AIDE) for the Catholic Charities network. This program is designed to equip attendees for their roles in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. When a disaster strikes, agencies and parishes are called to be prepared; not only to continue their own operations, but also to meet the immediate and long-term needs of their parishioners and general community. AIDE 2013 was held in Houston, TX, with 74 participants and trainers representing 28 Catholic Charities agencies from 18 states, six Knights of Columbus Councils, three parishes, and several partner agencies.

**AIDE 2014 will be held in Hickory Corners, MI (Kalamazoo), October 20 – 24. Please contact Fani Cruz ([fcruz@catholiccharitiesusa.org](mailto:fcruz@catholiccharitiesusa.org)) for more information. Join us!**

## Immediate Disaster Case Management Program

Since August 2011, a number of very important trainings have been developed, which a focus on programmatic policy and procedures, as well as financial and accounting practices. Training events have been scheduled and held at regional locations across the country since that time, with cadre members in attendance representing the majority of member cadre agencies. The following training offerings have been developed for members of the cadre:

- IDCM Mandatory 2.5 day program training
- IDCM Annual Refresher training
- IDCM Support Team Member training
- IDCM Advanced Supervisory and Leadership training
- IDCM Finance and Accounting training

In addition, under development presently is a specialized training for Contract IDCM Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders. It is anticipated that this training will be available for the first time this spring.

## Disaster Preparedness and Response Network

CCUSA provides monthly newsletters and webinars through the Disaster Preparedness and Response Network. Please join the network to connect with others who have a shared interest and need for timely disaster information and resources. Visit the CCUSA website to sign up! ■

# CCUSA UPDATE



## CCUSA President Rev. Larry Snyder Receives 2014 Bishop Francis J. Mugavero Award

In March, Catholic Charities USA President Rev. Larry Snyder received the 2014 Bishop Francis J. Mugavero Award at the annual convening of the New York State (NYS) Council of Catholic Charities Directors in Albany, NY. The NYS Council of Catholic Charities Directors honored Rev. Snyder for his significant and sustained contribution to the work of charity and social justice at the state and national levels. The NYS Council of Catholic Charities Directors recognized Rev. Snyder for being a “tireless advocate for poor and vulnerable members of society.”

Previous Bishop Francis J. Mugavero Awardees include the first recipient of this Catholic Charities Award in 1989, Bishop Francis Mugavero himself; as well as Sister Serena Branson, Monsignor Charles Fahey, Monsignor John Conniff, Bishop Joseph Sullivan, Monsignor James Murray, Monsignor John Gilmartin, Sister Una McCormack, Sharon Daly, Thomas DeStefano, Monsignor Robert Lawler, Bishop Howard Hubbard, Bishop Matthew Clark, Monsignor Emmet Fagan, John Tynan, Sister Maureen Joyce, Sister Donna Franklin, and Jack Balinsky.

“I am honored to accept this award on behalf of CCUSA and our local Catholic Charities agencies nationwide,” Rev. Snyder said. “As Catholic Charities agencies, we are the tangible expression of our Lord’s commitment to bind wounds and alleviate injustice. We are grateful to the

NYS Council of Catholic Charities Directors for recognizing our important work and the value that it brings to communities across the country.”

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## Hawaii, Saipan, and San Antonio Agencies Honored with Social Innovation Awards

At two Partners in Excellence gatherings held this spring in Hawaii and Texas, three CCUSA member agencies were honored with four Social Innovation Awards for programs that help reduce poverty through innovative approaches. The four programs are described below:

- Karidat, a CCUSA member agency on the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. territory, provides victims of sexual assault and violence with the support and guidance to turn recycled materials into individualized works of art. The handicrafts are sold at local stores, with 80 percent of all revenue going towards helping the women build assets and gain a fresh start in life.
- Hale Wai Vista, an affordable rental project operated by Catholic Charities Hawaii, provides families living on the island of Oahu with a place to call home that is within their price range. The complex not only offers housing, but a community center where residents can access other supportive services, including health services, literacy workshops, legal aid, and nutrition services. Hale Wai Vista houses over 200 families looking to get their lives back on track.
- Great Start Plus, a program of Catholic Charities in San Antonio, TX, provides parenting education and family support to parents and

their children who have been involved with Child Protective Services due to suspected child abuse or neglect. The program serves nearly 750 participants a year with in-home visits and services tailored to the needs of the family.

- The Money Management program provides case management with a strong financial component to vulnerable seniors, matching them with a volunteer bill payer or representative payee to make sure their bills are paid on time, protect them from exploitation, and allow them to live independently for as long as possible.

In addition to receiving an award, each program received a \$5,000 cash prize to be reinvested into their respective award-winning program.

CCUSA’s Partners in Excellence events are held to support local agency efforts by bringing together Catholic Charities leadership and staff from around the region for a time of learning and sharing of best practices. Two Social Innovation Awards have been presented at each of the Partners in Excellence events.

## Congressman Paul Ryan Visits His Home State Catholic Charities

On March 10, Congressman Paul Ryan visited the Racine office of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to see first-hand the impact of results-based and innovative service delivery models on poverty reduction

During the visit, Fr. David Bergner, executive director of Catholic Charities in Milwaukee, spoke about the individual dignity and worth of every person and the agency’s goal of empowering people to move towards self-sufficiency. Deacon Richard Sage, executive director of Catholic Charities in La Crosse, WI, spoke also, talking about how individualized case management is helping people move out of poverty.

Heather Reynolds, executive director of Catholic Charities Fort Worth, was present at the visit to talk with Rep. Ryan about the first outcomes of her agency’s research project with Notre Dame’s Lab for Economic Opportunities. This project, which is using three test groups to determine what interventions help low-income students succeed in community college, has shown that the students thriving the most were in the group that received financial assistance along with individualized case

management. In second place were the students in the control group, who received nothing. The poorest performing group was made up of those who only received financial assistance.

During his visit, Rep. Ryan also had the opportunity to speak privately with two Catholic Charities clients who are thriving and working their way out of poverty thanks to holistic case management provided by their caseworkers.

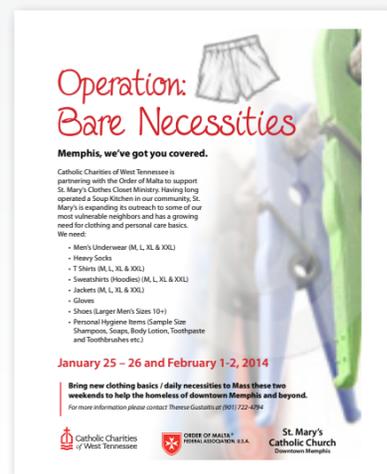
Rep. Ryan was engaged in the visit, asking questions and acknowledging the common goal of promoting self-sufficiency and reducing poverty.

“All those involved with [Rep. Ryan’s] visit felt thankful for his interest, for taking the time to visit us and for giving us the opportunity to showcase our results and our innovative approaches,” said Sandra Leske, director of mission advancement for Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. ■

# NEWS NOTES



## West Tennessee Gathers the Bare Necessities for Homeless



Catholic Charities of West Tennessee in collaboration with the Order of Malta and St. Mary's Catholic Church in downtown Memphis launched Operation Bare Necessities earlier this year. This clothing drive for the most basic of apparel and personal care items is targeted at the most at-risk homeless population of downtown Memphis. St. Mary's Catholic Church Soup Kitchen has been operating continuously since 1870. Six days a week, they serve the poor, homeless, and less fortunate of downtown Memphis. Operation Bare Necessities is meant to complement the work of the soup kitchen by making available clothing basics.

## Catholic Charities in Guam Celebrates 35 Years

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Agana, known more commonly to the local community as Catholic Social Service (CSS), has been performing the social mission of the Catholic Church in Guam for 35 years. Guam is a U.S. territory in the Western Pacific with a diverse community of citizens from all parts of the Micronesia region. CSS provides an array of programs that serve seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those most vulnerable in the community.

At the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, the late Archbishop Felixberto C. Flores called on then Father David I.A. Quitugua to assist with the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees in Guam. Around the same time, services were required for persons who were dependent on drugs and alcohol. These events led to the formation of the organization in 1979.

Catholic Social Service has several events planned to celebrate its 35th anniversary. The kick-off event was a "Legacy of Hope" gala dinner held on March 14, where four individuals were recognized for their contributions to the organization. Among the evening's honorees was Cerila Rapadas, a former executive director whose work spanned across 20 years of service.

What started as a small social service organization with a handful of people in Agana is today the island's largest non-profit organization with 18 programs and more than 220 employees who provide daily service to over 3,000 people a year.

"We are grateful to our partners, donors, and volunteers for helping us provide quality service to the poor and disadvantaged in our community," said Diana Calvo, CSS executive director. "Many people on the island count on us for the services we provide."

## Catholic Charities of Tennessee Opens Family Resource Center

Catholic Charities of Tennessee recently opened the South Nashville Family Resource Center (FRC), in partnership with Saint Thomas Health and United Way of Metropolitan Nashville, to provide community services to the long-underserved neighborhoods in the area.

"The South Nashville FRC has tremendous potential for South Nashville!" said Megan Stack, family assistance and community employment director for Catholic Charities. "It is truly a community collaboration addressing many aspects of life which, if not properly addressed, can contribute to continuing the cycle of poverty."

The Saint Thomas Family Health Center South, South Nashville FRC's next door neighbor, has been in the area for about 10 years.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our agencies to work with the community to improve health and wellness and address nutrition and access to healthy food," said Nancy Lim, executive director, Community Health & Benefit for Saint Thomas Health. One of the first ways in which the FRC partners will work together is in nutrition.

"We see an opportunity to assemble emergency food boxes specifically designed with input from the nutritionists to best serve the household requesting assistance," Stack explained. Other "healthy living" programs are also being discussed.

The new center hopes to expand on its adult education programs at other

sites. A computer training lab was created for clients' use for job seeking, language learning, and other educational endeavors. Other programs and initiatives Catholic Charities hopes to offer at the FRC include: SNAP outreach, education, and enrollment assistance; emergency material assistance; immigration services; refugee orientation sessions, English as a Second Language classes, health screenings, and financial literacy training; and community-wide special events.

## Catholic Charities in Monterey Launches Nutrition Education & Obesity Program



Eat, Love, Sway! That's the message Catholic Charities of the Central Coast is sending to the people in its new Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (NEOP) program. They hope participants will learn to make healthy choices about food, nutrition, and exercise.

The core of the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention (NEOP) Program is a family strengthening program designed to raise awareness about the principle of "choices." The concept of promoting choices as a way to a healthy lifestyle is a gold mine that has yet to be tapped: Destiny is not written, but created by the choices we make. The program aims to

strengthen the abilities of each participant by affirming and acknowledging each in their own role of a parent/guardian or student. Through small changes one may, and can, develop a healthy lifestyle.

The NEOP Program includes three sessions of instruction on the major components of a healthy lifestyle—nutrition education, healthy food, and physical activity.

- "My Plate"—Participants learn how to eat balanced meals with the right portion sizes. The program's approach is to develop respect and appreciation for the culture and traditional foods of each participant's place of origin, highlighting alternative healthy options that maintain the flavors of traditional dishes.

- "ReThink Your Drink"—Participants are encouraged to examine the harmful impact of sugary drinks and learn about the choice of excellence—water!

- "Family Zumba Fitness Events"—Participants learn that physical activity is good for the body and the soul; it is fun and promotes community involvement, improves mood and temper, aids with digestion and sleep, and increases self-esteem, thus positive feelings start flowing from within, leading to a desired state of wellness that transfers to all aspects of one's life. The goal is to bring families together by encouraging them to incorporate fun, physical activities into their weekly routines.

In presenting these sessions to participants, bilingual facilitators use extensive role modeling and role play, resulting in lively, engaging, fun and educational sessions. The program is funded through a multi-year grant from the California Department of Social Services, as part of a network contract facilitated by Catholic Charities of California.

**Yakima Volunteers Assemble Valentine's Boxes for Seniors and Disabled Adults**



Volunteers from around Yakima joined together and assembled special Valentine's Day boxes for low-income seniors and disabled adults enrolled in Catholic Family & Child Service's Volunteer Chore Services program. The boxes and their contents were gathered and put together by a large group of volunteers who represent local businesses, churches, schools and food banks. This year, the volunteers put together a record number of 70 boxes.

Each Valentine's Day box contained a variety of items including cleaning products, personal care items, fresh produce, an assortment of non-perishable food, and even treat bags (special dietary treat bags were made for diabetic box recipients). These boxes were welcomed by low-income elders spe-

cifically at this time of year because winter weather can leave them with higher heating bills, affecting those on a fixed income the most. Receiving the cheerfully decorated boxes of useful and needed goods gave them a financial and emotional "boost."

The Valentine's Day boxes were decorated in a Valentine's motif and delivered by LaSalle Catholic High School students. Appreciation of this personal attention was expressed by one box recipient who wrote, "This box did not feel like a hand-out, but, rather, that they (the students) really cared about me!"

To be successful, the project required many volunteers and in-kind donations from 14 different churches, two local Catholic grade schools, the high school and seven local businesses throughout the region. Thanks to the volunteers and supporting businesses and churches for all of their dedication to the Yakima community and Volunteer Chores Services!

**San Antonio Holds First Annual 40 Cans for Lent Food Drive**

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Antonio recently launched its first annual 40 Cans for Lent Food Drive. Held in collaboration with Knights of Columbus Council #8306, the community-wide food drive started March 5 and will run through April 26. The drive will help fill Catholic Charities' food pantries, which served 18,900 families last year.

In order to feed the most marginalized in its communities, the agency

extended the invitation for everyone in the community to participate in this event. The 40 Cans for Lent Food Drive is an opportunity to make a small sacrifice and turn it into a big difference in the lives of others. The agency asks that, during the 40 days of Lent, people donate one can (or other non-perishable food item) each day in solidarity with those who struggle to find their next meal.

**Catholic Social Services in Columbus Wins Nonprofit IT CreativITy Award**



Catholic Social Services in Columbus, OH, has been recognized by GroundWork group for the innovative and meaningful way it is leveraging Information Technology (IT) to achieve its mission. GroundWork group created this award to celebrate excellence in its community by highlighting nonprofit organizations who realize that creatively thinking about IT can have a dramatically positive impact on a nonprofit's operations, its ability to focus on and achieve its mission, and ultimately on its community.

The GroundWork group CreativITy Award represents great effort throughout the past two years to improve CSS' operational efficiencies through the update of CSS computers organization wide, implementation of a new donor database and finan-

cial software that communicate with one another, enhancement of its billing system to support the counseling work, a complete overhaul of its website to become more intuitive and user-friendly for clients and donors, and the creation of a staff intranet and a board website to increase communication throughout the staff and help community leaders more effectively guide the agency.

**Partnership with Culinary Academy to Provide Job Training in Las Vegas**



In February, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada kicked off a new partnership with the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas that will provide job training for homeless Nevadans.

Deacon Tom Roberts, CEO of Catholic Charities, handed over the keys to a refrigerated food delivery truck valued at \$25,000 to Chris Fava, CEO of the Academy. The truck will help the Academy to increase the number of daily meals provided to disadvantaged children, youth, veterans, and the elderly at various community locations.

In exchange for Catholic Charities' donation, the Academy will provide vocational training valued at \$20,000 and catering services

valued at \$5,000 over a three-year period. Clients of Catholic Charities' Resident Empowerment Program and Homeless to Home program will enroll in classes offered by the Academy. Students have the opportunity to train in one of 11 different job classifications, including: baker's helper, bar back, bar porter, bus person, food server, guest room attendant, house person, utility porter, professional cook, steward, wine server, and sommelier.

Founded in 1993, the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas is an internationally recognized model for workplace education and vocational training. As a labor-management trust, the Academy has invaluable partnerships with the Culinary Union, Bartenders Union, and 26 premiere properties on the Las Vegas Strip. The Academy is licensed by the Nevada Commission on Post-Secondary Education and trains several thousand students each year for participating employers in the hospitality industry.

By providing vocational skills and increasing the employability of homeless individuals, both agencies hope to help eliminate unemployment and reduce poverty in Southern Nevada.

**"The Cardinal's Krewe" Fundraiser a Big Success For Texas's Fort Bend County**

On February 27, Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston hosted its inaugural fundraising dinner, "The Cardinal's Krewe," with His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo. The Mardi Gras themed event grossed more than \$116,000. Held at the Sugar

Land Marriot Town Center, festivities included an underwriter's reception, live auction, Masks Up, dinner, and remarks from Cardinal DiNardo. To highlight its Fort Bend services, Catholic Charities introduced its newly appointed Mamie George Community Center Executive Director, Beth Zarate, and invited one of the center's senior clients, Humberto Perez, to share his story. All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities' Fort Bend County services at the Mamie George Community Center and Rio Bend Foster Care Community, which include senior wellness and nutrition, a self-select grocery, emergency financial assistance, legal assistance for immigration, pregnancy services, foster care, and adoption.

**Catholic Charities Fort Worth Receives Grant for Poverty Research**



Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW) was honored to receive a \$200,000 check from The Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Foundation. The generous gift will help propel the agency's upcoming poverty research pilot launch in collaboration with CCUSA and Notre Dame. CCFW's President and CEO Heather Reynolds was pleased to accept the check on behalf of the

agency from Bank of America's U.S. Trust Managing Director Mark Paukune.

#### Catholic Charities Maine Celebrates Fundraising Success



Catholic Charities Maine CEO Stephen Letourneau (center) celebrates a record-breaking Fall Appeal, up 32 percent from last year, with staff from Development and Independent Support Services, the campaign's beneficiary. This image was sent in an e-card thanking donors for helping CCM reach this fundraising milestone.

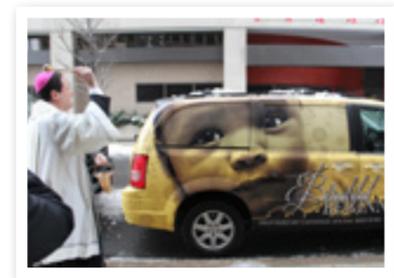
#### Catholic Charities in Chicago Launches Healthy Social Enterprise

Through its combined nutritional programs, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago provides more than 29 million meals annually to Chicagoland residents and their families. Many communities in Chicago face issues such as food insecurity and lack of access to nutritious food. Catholic Charities started Crisp! Mobile Produce, an innovative social enterprise, to address the issue of food deserts in underserved areas of the city while generating revenue to fund other Catholic Charities food and nutrition programs.

Crisp! Mobile Produce launched in June of 2013 with a grant from the USDA Farmers Market Promotion program. Crisp! is a mobile grocery that delivers fresh fruits and vegetables right to customers' doors. For many, traveling far from home is simply not possible due to age, disability, or lack of transportation. Crisp! has been a great resource especially for seniors. Jean Inouye, service coordinator of Heiwa Terrace senior center says, "It has been convenient for them as seniors, especially during this winter weather. Your customer service is excellent, always accommodating the residents."

As its primary goals, Crisp! increases fresh produce availability to food desert areas in Chicago; helps local farmers by using regional products and reducing carbon emissions; and financially supports Catholic Charities nutrition programs. Crisp! has also partnered with a youth center to provide healthy snacks for youth after school. The program has gained support from community members, other Chicago businesses and organizations, and has received recognition in the local media.

#### "Beautiful Beginnings" Van Brings Pregnant Women a Real Alternative



Catholic Social Services (CSS) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia now has another tool in its arsenal for the protection of unborn life. During a ceremony at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in February, Auxiliary Bishop John J. McIntyre officially blessed a new "Beautiful Beginnings" van that will provide mobile community outreach to pregnant women and new mothers throughout Philadelphia and its surrounding counties. Bishop McIntyre likened the staff who will utilize the van, and the women who will benefit from it, to Mary the Mother of God's great "Yes" to new life as epitomized in the Annunciation and Visitation.

The van, imprinted with a picture of a newborn baby on all sides, will be the first of several deployed throughout Pennsylvania by Real Alternatives, a private agency that administers funding through the state's Department of Public Welfare along with federal TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) funds. Thomas Lang, Real Alternatives vice president of operations and a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Harrisburg, noted: "We also have programs in Texas and Michigan and are currently helping other states set up similar programs, [with] counselors who can provide women referrals and let them know where they can go, that help is out there."

CSS of Philadelphia has been a Real Alternatives service provider for over 18 years, serving 3,357 women last year through the program, for which CSS was honored as Service Provider

of the Year at the Real Alternatives annual conference in late March. Amy Stoner, director of CSS Community-Based Services, oversees her agency's Real Alternatives program and staff, and presented a workshop at the conference about the opportunity for a broader reach and impact through a mobile unit: "The Beautiful Beginnings van is a visible witness to our support for pregnant moms, and positions us better than ever to ensure that they are able to make the choice for life with the support of seasoned counselors who will be right where the action is. This is truly front-line, pro-life work."

The van, which will travel to locations throughout the five counties served by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, is based and staffed out of CSS's Northeast Philadelphia Family Service Center, which is being acknowledged as last year's top Real Alternatives service site statewide.

#### South Carolina Catholic Charities Meets Growing Need for Immigration Services

In response to the increased demand for immigration legal services in South Carolina, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Charleston's four offices statewide served over 1,300 individual clients and over 5,300 total household and family members last year. The agency assisted immigrants in navigating the often-complex world of applying for valid immigration status, including family-based cases, citizenship, U visas, waivers of inadmissibility, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and self-petitions

under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

The agency's staff continues to grow as well. In January 2014, Alyson Beinert joined the Charleston office as an immigration attorney. Alyson obtained her undergraduate degree in Spanish from the College of Charleston and her law degree from the Charleston School of Law, both in Charleston, SC. She volunteered extensively with the office before officially joining their team as a staff attorney.

In addition, Blenda Suarez, who heads up one of the offices in Greenville, SC, obtained her Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accreditation. This BIA accreditation will allow Blenda to represent clients in front of USCIS and will give her much more independence in helping her clients. Through on-the-job training and extensive trainings through our national affiliate, CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.), Blenda has worked hard to obtain this accreditation.

#### FBI Honors San Antonio Catholic Charities with Leadership Award

The FBI San Antonio Division recognized Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc. as its recipient for the 2013 Director's Community Leadership Award for the agency's commitment to the local community in providing supportive services to families and individuals, including a growing refugee population in San Antonio.

J. Antonio Fernández, president and CEO of Catholic Charities, flew

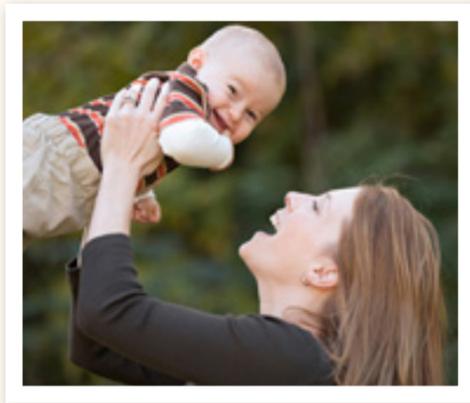
out to Washington, DC, to attend a formal ceremony in which FBI Director James B. Comey presented Catholic Charities, along with 58 other recipients from across the country, with a formal award.

Throughout the history of the agency, programs have been established to better serve vulnerable populations in San Antonio and the 19 surrounding counties that makeup the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Among these programs are Immigration Services, established in 1973 as the first recognized immigration certification program in Texas, and Refugee Services, established in 1975 in response to the need of over 100,000 Vietnamese refugees escaping persecution.

Catholic Charities has six parenting programs and offers two home-based parenting education programs, Building Strong Families and Great Start Plus, for families that have been or are currently involved with Child Protective Services with a focus on improving parent-child interaction, increasing the families' protective factors, and reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect.

For 73 years, Catholic Charities has provided culturally sensitive, bilingual services for the most vulnerable among us. It is for this reason that the San Antonio FBI Division has recognized Catholic Charities' commitment to the safety and well being of our community. ■

# PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.



Shawna grew up in a way no child should have to. Her mother was addicted to drugs and mired in a dark and vicious world, which, as a young child, Shawna was exposed to.

"I had guns held up to me. I saw my mom shot at and handcuffed to a car while they drove around," said Shawna.

When her mother would disappear for weeks, Shawna would stay with her grandmother. Both physically and verbally abusive, her grandmother told Shawna that she was going to be a "whore" and a drug abuser just like her mother.

"People don't understand that when they instill that in you, that's what you know," said Shawna.

Her mother didn't believe her when she told her, at age 8, that she was being sexually abused. When her grandmother found that it was true, she had Shawna come and live with her for good. About two months later, Shawna heard on the news about a woman's body that had been found.

"I knew it was my mother. I loved my mother. It didn't matter that she was a crack whore," said Shawna. "She loved me and showed me affection."

Shawna ended up in foster care, but could never let herself get close to anyone. As time went on, she began following in her mother's footsteps—using drugs, going in and out of jail, having babies. It's what she knew—it was normal.

When she was sent to prison, something clicked. She was on the wrong path. "I wanted something different, something different for my kids," said Shawna. "When I walked out, whatever brick was on me fell to the ground. I wasn't going to give up on my children."

But she was nervous. Who was going to have as much faith in her as she did in herself? She called around for parenting classes and everyone told her no except for Catholic Social Services (CSS) in Columbus, OH. They let her in right away.

She enjoyed the classes, learning and practicing good parenting techniques with supportive teachers. When she found out that CSS offered counseling, she was eager to start. "I wanted to keep talking and seeking help."

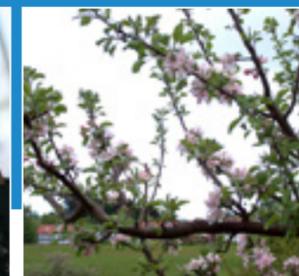
Her counselor gave her tools to understand her life in a different light, and she's making progress. "When you're a child and go through a lifelong trauma, you don't come out of it just like that. You need the help," said Shawna. "I'm not all the way together, but I'm trying. I'm getting there."

Shawna is now working two jobs, seeing her kids every week, and coming to CSS weekly for counseling. Having the support of her friends there has given her strength to keep moving forward. "Believing in yourself is good, but it's even better when you have others believing in you, too." ■

# CALENDAR

## 2014 TRAINING & EVENTS

<b>May 20-21</b> <b>Partners in Excellence</b> <i>Fort Worth, TX</i> Jean Beil jbeil@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>June 8-12</b> <b>Called to Serve</b> <i>Chicago, IL</i> Kathy Brown kbrown@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>August 17-23</b> <b>Social Venture Boot Camp</b> <i>South Bend, IN</i> Maria Gonzales mgonzales@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>October 4-7</b> <b>Annual Gathering</b> <i>Charlotte, NC</i> Amy Stinger astinger@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org
<b>October 20-24</b> <b>AIDE</b> <i>Hickory Corners, MN</i> Fani Cruz fcruz@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>October 24-25</b> <b>PSM Regional Gathering</b> <i>Little Falls, MN</i> Tina Baldera tbaldera@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>November 14-15</b> <b>PSM Regional Gathering</b> <i>Charlottesville, VA</i> Tina Baldera tbaldera@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org	<b>2015 Training and Events</b> For more information on upcoming events, please visit our website! www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org



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