A Salute to Our Volunteers

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc. could not provide the range and quality of services, many of which are noted in this report, without the dedicated support of so many talented volunteers. More than 33,500 volunteer hours were given in service to those in need throughout our agency in the last fiscal year. We are deeply grateful and thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts. As a tribute to all our volunteers, we share below the personal experience written by one volunteer who demonstrates that the time and effort given in service is priceless!

We moved to Greenville in 1994 and were very fortunate to be welcomed into the community by many generous people who offered many diverse connections to the community. One Christmas, a friend suggested that we take the money we had been spending on gifts for each other and instead donate it to a charity. We all put in money, went shopping and delivered the gifts together. It was so much fun a tradition was born!

In the ensuing years we met the staffs and learned about the services of many fine organizations including, then, Catholic Social Ministries. I was familiar with their ongoing need for food, clothing and household items through church bulletins and St. Peter’s School food drives. I delivered these donations to Catholic Charities. That soon developed into sticking around and offering to help out with organizing and storing these items. My little Christmas donation group had, through time and word of mouth, expanded to include friends, family, neighbors and folks from church and school. All became involved year-round in collecting and donating items for those in need coming to Catholic Charities.

As Catholic Charities grows in clients, I continue to pass the word along to these generous community members and the response is always truly amazing! Now, Catholic Charities is in a new office space and the food and clothing pantry has its own room where the clothes are easily accessible in labeled tubs and the food stored in a large cupboard. The staff consistently show respect and care to all visitors. I feel the effect of this as I interact with people in my own daily life as well as see the effect of this on the clients themselves. Wanting to say thank you in return, we have clients who offer whatever time and talent they might have to help out in the office. Some, for example, bring items of their own to contribute to the pantry when they are able. So, there you have it: starting with a small gesture, taking the time and networking, because we all know someone who can help out; it’s truly amazing to me what a group effort can accomplish!
January 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the year that has passed since the previous Catholic Charities Annual Report, many eastern North Carolinians, along with so many others in our country, have experienced the severe effects of our nation’s economic crisis. In the midst of this turbulence, Catholic Charities remains constant, serving the most vulnerable as a visible ministry of the Church. Through its ministry of service, Catholic Charities is following the command of Our Lord Jesus to love one another.

The support of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal and thousands of direct individual donors make the ministries of Catholic Charities possible. The summary of the audited financial statements in this report gives testimony to the fiscal responsibility and stewardship maintained by the Board of Directors and leadership of Catholic Charities. Examples throughout this annual report reflect the high quality and effective service that is provided by a staff of less than fifty people working throughout our 54 counties. I am inspired by knowing that 1,100 volunteers gave 33,500 hours to help more than 54,000 people during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The mission of the Church calls us all to live our faith with acts of charity and justice. Respect for the dignity of human life in all its forms is the foundation and starting point for the ministry of Catholic Charities staff and volunteers. In client surveys, those served give Catholic Charities consistent thanks for the respect they are shown in each office visit and for the way that those who are served are helped to help themselves.

Our Lord Jesus has called us to love one another. If we do, we are assured that we will go forth and bear much fruit in His name. Please join me in giving thanks for all those dedicated volunteers and employees who serve Catholic Charities and in praying for God’s blessing for all those who are served by Catholic Charities.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh
President, Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc.

January 11, 2009 Bishop Burbidge presided at Solemn Vespers to celebrate the bestowal of Papal Honors by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on Kathleen Walsh, Executive Director of Catholic Charities. Miss Walsh (wearing the award on a yellow ribbon) received the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontificie, the highest award bestowed by the Holy Father to the Laity. It is known as the “Cross of Honor” given for distinguished service to the Church. Kristan Schlichte of CCUSA joined in the celebration.
The Board has seen our agency challenged by the most severe recession in decades. In these difficult times, we have heard many stories of breadwinners who, for the first time, have to seek assistance for their families. Thankfully, Catholic Charities was able to serve more individuals than ever before during this past year. We are providing help and creating hope when it is most critical.

The Board has taken steps to better assist the agency in fulfilling its mission. We revised our long-term planning process to focus greater attention on expanding staff and outreach to rural areas. We adopted the Catholic Charities USA Code of Ethics, which will improve Board oversight as well as fine tune current agency practices. We presented a “State of the Agency” report to Bishop Burbidge which highlighted increased accessibility of services to underserved populations. We, in turn, heard Bishop Burbidge reaffirm his personal commitment to meeting the needs of the poor in our Diocese.

“The Church is God’s family in the world. In this family no one ought to go without the necessities of life.” (Pope Benedict XVI, God is Love, 25b). We thank you for the volunteer hours and financial support you have provided. We encourage those who have not been a part of the Catholic Charities family to join us and help us serve “the least of these” in our Diocese.
Sources of Financial Support

In addition to major funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, Catholic Charities receives support from parishes, United Way, Federal and State Employee Combined Campaigns, private and public foundations and nearly 4,000 faithful, individual donors.

Thank you to all our supporters!
Counseling: A Journey to Empowerment

Catherine is a woman who sought counseling for treatment of her depression and anxiety which was related to a significant history of childhood abuse and trauma. She grew up in a war-torn country where she was routinely traumatized by the impact of ongoing violence. Because of her family’s poverty, she often went hungry. She experienced severe emotional and physical abuse by her father after her parents separated when she was eight years old. As an adult, she had problems interacting with men which contributed to frequent relational difficulties. Her symptoms included sleep disruption, low energy, loss of interest in previously enjoyable activities, feelings of worthlessness, irritability, anxiety and sadness. Over a period of several months she was able to work through much of her trauma related to the abuse and neglect. After a few months, she was ready to conclude her therapy as her symptoms of anxiety and depression had resolved. She reported feeling as though she had been “born again.”

As a result of her therapy, her interactions with her family improved including with her father. She has a boyfriend of several years and their relationship has matured and grown as the result of insights she learned in therapy. She reports significantly fewer difficulties interacting with men. She has deepened her faith and feels that she embodies more of her spiritual beliefs on a day to day basis.

Snapshots of providing help and creating hope.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc.
Mission Statement

The Mission of Catholic Charities is to assist the parishes, communities and Diocese of Raleigh in accomplishing the social mission of the Church. In its roles of servant, advocate, facilitator and convener, Catholic Charities acts in the parish and community-at-large to heighten awareness of issues and, when appropriate, provides services to fulfill unmet needs. Catholic Charities serves people in need through advocating for social and economic justice as well as addressing immediate needs with emergency resources or direct services.
Respect for the Dignity of Human Life

From our Family Support Services to Pregnancy Counseling, Catholic Charities promotes a respect for life at all its stages. One case in point is our Hispanic Family Center in Burlington, Centro La Comunidad, where outreach to expectant mothers has expanded.

The Center staff works with area medical professionals and has posters in many doctors’ offices inviting mothers-to-be to visit Catholic Charities for assistance with prenatal and post-natal concerns. As a result of this public outreach, the Center assisted an increased number of women who used our pregnancy services. Many of these clients have taken part in the women’s support group which meets there monthly and is led by our case manager.