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CATHOLIC CHARITIES Connections

SUPPLEMENT TO ARKANSAS CATHOLIC • CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS • 2415 N. TYLER ST. • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72207 • JUNE 20, 2015

AT A GLANCE Catholic Charities of Arkansas serves

■ **Adoption Services:** Birth parent services, adoptive family services and search and reunion

■ **Immigration in Northwest Arkansas:** Family-based legal assistance, domestic violence and crime victims services, refugee resettlement, employer trainings, education and advocacy, legal assistance with applications for DACA

■ **Immigration in Little Rock:** Family-based legal assistance, domestic violence and crime victims services, supporting survivors, legal assistance for foreign national priests, legal assistance with applications for DACA, education and advocacy

■ **Parish social ministries:** Parish-based ministry development, disaster recovery parish-based teams, emergency assistance

■ **Social Action:** Prison ministry, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, legislative advocacy, alcohol and drug, Catholic Charities Summer Institute

■ **Westside Free Medical Clinic:** Medical and dermatology clinics for noninsured adults, outreach and community education

■ **Development:** Grants management, Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic, Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl and St. Nicholas Partners

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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www.dolr.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES' MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Catholic Charities of Arkansas of the Diocese of Little Rock is rooted in the challenge of the Gospel: To serve persons who are poor or marginalized; to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable; and to actively promote charity, justice, and the sanctity of life in the Church and the community.

DACA dream leads to Notre Dame

Door opened when Castellano got legal status, work permit

When he was 3, Agustin Sanjuan Castellano was brought to the United States. He doesn't remember anything about his birth country, Argentina.

"All of my memories are from the United States," he said.

He grew up never knowing he was different from his classmates in one vital way: Castellano had overstayed his visa, unknowingly becoming one of the thousands of undocumented students in Arkansas languishing with uncertain futures.

Castellano first learned he was undocumented when he was 13. He remembers students talking about going to high school and learning to drive and he went home and spoke to his parents. They told him he wouldn't be able to get a driver's license because he didn't have immigration status in the U.S. Although his parents wanted him to have the better education and opportunity the U.S. offered, Castellano found many doors were shut to him.

Castellano wanted to go to college, but he knew he wouldn't qualify for in-state tuition or government grants. He knew he could only go to college if he earned academic scholarships. He was interested in math and science and in 2008 he entered the sixth grade at Lisa Academy, a charter school in Little Rock.

On June 15, 2012, Castellano



Agustin Sanjuan Castellano receives his diploma from principal Ilker Fidan May 22 at Lisa Academy, a STEM charter school in Little Rock. He will enter the University of Notre Dame this fall.

remembers his parents calling him to watch President Barack Obama's announcement on television about immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children. Obama described an administrative program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA, which was intended to allow some young people to remain in the U.S. provided that they meet certain criteria. In order to qualify, applicants must be at least 15 years

old when they apply but not older than 30 as of the date of the announcement; be in school, have graduated from high school or obtained a GED; came to the United States prior to age 16; have been continuously residing in the U.S. since at least June 15, 2007; and must pass a criminal background check.

The announcement gave Castellano hope.

"I felt like this was a fresh new

opportunity for me," he said. "A new world had suddenly opened up all of a sudden and there were so many possibilities for me. People don't understand how difficult it is when you can't just get a job and a driver's license like everyone else. This was an opportunity for me to be on a level playing field."

As soon as Castellano turned 15,

See **Dream** page 2

Why we need RFRA and the Fortnight for Freedom

In the Arkansas debate over the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), one of the main arguments used by opponents was that it was unnecessary. RFRA opponents blithely asserted there was no religious discrimination — certainly not in Arkansas.

Religious discrimination is rampant in America and in Arkansas. Just say the word "Catholic" or "priest" out loud in public,

then check a popular Arkansas blog. Blog comments, given unrestrained voice by their pseudonyms, seethe with religious bigotry.

For a current view of religious bigotry in its crassest form, Google "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence." For this internationally chartered group, no sacred aspect of Catholicism is beyond pornographic assault.

Religion in general, and Catholicism

specifically have been under serious political attack for some time. At the time of the Declaration of Independence, to be a Catholic in America meant to live in a colony that did not allow the free practice of the Catholic faith. Even after the U.S. Constitution was signed, several of the states still maintained anti-Catholic laws. New York, for instance, did not allow Catholics to vote or hold public office until well into the 1820s. The so-called "Know-Nothing" Party, active until just before the Civil War, was a nativist political party dedicated to anti-Catholicism. Samuel F.B.

Morse, of telegraph fame, gained greater notoriety in his day not for being an inventor, but for being a much sought after speaker who filled halls lecturing on the evils of the Catholic Church.

Even the Ku Klux Klan spent a disproportionate amount of its history practicing hatred against Catholicism.

Today, secular political forces attack key tenets of the Church. Oregon, California and New York, since the early days of this century, have imposed on the Church, as an

See **Freedom** page 2



From the Director
Patrick Gallaher

BRIEFS

Disaster training coming

Catholic Charities USA will host its national Applied Institute for Disaster Excellence at the Arkansas 4H Conference Center in west Little Rock Nov 2-6.

AIDE is an annual training program that equips the Catholic Charities network, diocesan and parish staff and partner agencies such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Knights of Columbus, for their roles in disaster preparedness and response.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for parishes in our diocese to take advantage of cutting edge instruction," said Patrick Gallaher, executive director of Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

AIDE is a hands-on conference providing instruction on preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation training. The goal of the conference is to make parishes more resilient in the face of catastrophes. Because of its central location in Little Rock, parishes from Arkansas and the bordering states will have the chance to take advantage of the best disaster training offered. This will allow for all of the participants to engage as colleagues on critical disaster issues and Three training tracks will be available, tailored to levels of experience and roles. Disaster 101 is the basic track and emphasizes the foundations in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. This level of training is appropriate for staff and volunteers with limited formal training in disaster strategies.

Disaster 201 is for those who have a good basis in disaster issues either through prior training or experience. Disaster 301 equips the

diocesan and parish ministry-based staff and volunteers for disaster strategies specific to the unique needs of the diocese and parish.

The tentative schedule for the institute may be found at <http://bit.ly/ccusatraining>.

Lodging, meals and training materials for those registering before July 31 is \$479. After July 31, the cost rises to \$525. For those within commuting distance to the 4H Conference Center, a special rate of \$250 has been arranged.

Funding to assist parish and diocesan representatives defray the costs is available. For information on funding, contact Gallaher at pgallaher@dolr.org.

Relief for Nepal quake

The Diocese of Little Rock's collection for Nepal currently stands at \$71,532.73. The money will be directed to Catholic Relief Services to assist victims after two powerful earthquakes struck there April 25 and May 12. When the second earthquake hit, CRS teams were out in the field in the Gorkha district, reaching people in communities damaged in the first quake with relief supplies.

The latest earthquake, centered about 50 miles east of Nepal's capital Kathmandu, was magnitude 7.3. The April 25 quake registered 7.8. It killed at least 8,000 people.

CRS, which has committed \$10 million to Nepal's relief and recovery, has tried to reach people in outlying areas. CRS and Caritas Nepal teams had worked especially hard to reach the village of Satdobato in the Gorkha district, about 50 miles west of Kathmandu, near the epicenter of the April 25 quake.



CNS / Jake Lyell, CRS

Earthquake survivors are seen amid aid supplies from Catholic Relief Services near a village in Gorkha, Nepal, May 3. CRS has committed \$10 million to Nepal's relief and recovery from two powerful earthquakes.

Rice Bowl helps here

CRS Rice Bowl fights hunger around the world, but it also helps people in need here in this diocese. Twenty-five percent of the total collection taken up in Arkansas stays in the diocese. Catholic Charities uses that money as the main funding source for its Emergency Assistance program.

EA helps people through temporary hardships and provides information, referrals and, on a case-by-case basis, financial assistance to people statewide. Requests are usually for utility assistance, rent, shelter or medical bills.

"Our intervention halts a potential domino effect that could turn those temporary hardships into chronic life circumstances," Rebecca Cargile of Catholic Charities of Arkansas said.

Since July 2014, more than 700

people have called EA for help. Eighty-two people, about 12 percent, received financial assistance.

Because CRS Rice Bowl is the main source of funding for EA, parish and school participation is just as important locally as it is globally.

The Emergency Assistance program is staffed by volunteers from different parishes in the Little Rock area. Seminarians work with CCA to gain experience in this area, as do social work interns. CCA collaborates with groups, such as the Ladies of Charity, St. Stephen Benevolence Society, altar societies, other diocesan departments and parishes.

Before making the decision to move past referrals in a specific case to providing actual financial assistance, several factors are considered:

■ If the call is from a pastor on

behalf of a parishioner

■ The amount and purpose of the request

■ The circumstances that created the need

■ Whether one-time financial assistance will resolve the issue

■ Who has the most pressing need

■ How well the need can be documented

■ Available funds, especially in relation to days remaining in month

■ Source of referral to Catholic Charities

It is important to note that EA does not involve case management. Contact with people requesting assistance is handled almost exclusively by phone, fax, and e-mail. However, having volunteers, interns and seminarians all working with EA means that more time can be spent with each person reaching out to us.

Envelope for poor fund

This issue of *Arkansas Catholic* includes a donation envelope printed in blue ink that can be used to support Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

When people approach Catholic Charities for help, they often have a very specific need. Such needs include basic medical care, pregnancy counseling or adoption information, immigration services or assistance with drug and alcohol abuse. In other cases, people need help with food, utilities, prescriptions and other types of modest financial assistance and Catholic Charities can help them.

Donations received through the envelope appeal are put into the Catholic Charities Poor Fund, the primary resource for helping people meet basic needs.

Dream

Continued from page 1

he contacted Catholic Immigration Services in Little Rock. Immigration specialist Dolores Requena was assigned to his case.

Castellano applied for the first time in October 2012.

"I was excited but also nervous," he said. "I didn't know what to expect, and I knew that I had to go to be fingerprinted by immigration and I was scared that they might deny my case even though I qualified."

On Dec. 26, 2012 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services notified Castellano he had been approved for DACA and for a two-year work permit.

"I was so relieved. I was happy," he said. "I went out right away and applied for a job and started working."

Castellano was less nervous when it came time to renew his

DACA in August 2014. The renewal process was simpler and his application was approved in November. He waited for his work permit to arrive, but it never did. He contacted USCIS through its customer service line but was told that the Post Office had the card. He contacted the Post Office using the tracking number provided, but they told him the card had been returned to USCIS. Then to make matters worse, USCIS claimed it never received the returned work

"I went out right away and applied for a job and started working."

permit and he would have to submit another application and pay the \$465 fee again, all for an error that was not his fault.

Maricella Garcia, an attorney and director of Catholic Immigration Services Little Rock, then intervened on Castellano's behalf through the USCIS Ombudsman's

office. Within two weeks of receiving the inquiry, USCIS mailed the work permit to Castellano. When Garcia notified Castellano's parents that the card had been resent, his mother cried.

"Thank God," she said, "I was so worried that something was wrong with his case. God bless you for the help you gave us."

With his new work permit, Castellano is preparing to move forward to achieve the dream he once thought out of reach: college. Graduating from Lisa Academy in May with a 3.96 grade point average, Castellano was accepted to the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He received a full four-year scholarship.

He plans to study mechanical engineering and return to Arkansas once he graduates.

"First I plan to come back to work and get experience," he said. "Then later on hopefully, I'll be able to travel to other needy countries where I can help out. That's the plan ... for now."

Freedom

Continued from page 1

employer, the mandate to supply artificial contraceptive coverage in health insurance policies provided to employees. Illinois, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia, have driven Catholic Charities out of the field of adoptions and foster care with licensing requirements that compel violation of the Church's teaching that a family consists of a husband and a wife.

The federal government has altered its policies, requiring grant recipient organizations helping trafficking victims and refugees to provide abortion and artificial contraceptive education and referral services to clients, in violation of the Church's teachings on the sanctity of life. These same anti-religious political interests are working in Arkansas to limit the public exercise of religious conscience.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops calls all Catholics to The Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to

Bear Witness from June 21 to July 4. This a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power — St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, Sts. Peter and Paul and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year's Fortnight is "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel.

Pope Francis has urged us to exercise our religious freedom by making the difficult life commitments that underlie the core value of our faith.

On May 4, 2013, the pope said, "What does freedom mean? It is certainly not doing whatever you want, allowing yourself to be dominated by the passions, to pass from one experience to another without discernment, to follow the fashions of the day; freedom does not mean, so to speak, throwing everything you don't like out the window."

For more information on the 2015 Fortnight for Freedom, visit <http://bit.ly/fortnight2015>.

Future of Private Option health care is uncertain

Lawsuit, legislation could end state's Medicaid expansion

BY KAREN DIPIPPA
AND PATRICK GALLAHER

Since the advent of Arkansas' implementation of the Affordable Care Act two years ago, a significant momentum has been created by the enrollment of those eligible for both the Private Option, under Medicaid expansion and the Healthcare Marketplace.

Nevertheless, the 90th General Assembly created questions concerning the future of health care in Arkansas — questions to be resolved by the newly created Legislative Task Force by the end of 2016.

The Private Option has had a great impact on health care in the state. The Private Option is the Arkansas version of Medicaid expansion and provides funding for insurance for those with annual earnings less than 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Immediately before enrollment opened in 2014, state officials estimated that as many as 225,000 were eligible. During the first six months of its

operation, 155,567 people signed up. In figures released on June 1, 2015, 234,791 Arkansans have enrolled in the Private Option. This has had a profound impact, creating jobs and improving health care operations. Costs of the program are running under projections and beating the budget caps set.

For those earning more than 138 percent of the federal poverty level but without employer-provided health insurance, the Arkansas Healthcare Marketplace through HealthCare.gov has given the opportunity to purchase coverage. By the end of the open enrollment period on Feb. 22, 2015, 65,684 Arkansas residents had signed up for health insurance. Thus, with the Private Option and the Marketplace combined, more than 300,000 Arkansans now have insurance.

Two issues threaten these accomplishments. First, the U.S. Supreme Court will soon rule on *King v. Burwell*. If the plaintiffs win, those covered through the Healthcare Marketplace will no longer receive federal subsidies to help pay the cost of their insurance. To correct this challenge, the state legislature must construct a state-run insurance exchange (the current Marketplace is a federal-state hybrid). An adverse decision



Carin Araujo / freemages.com

in *Burwell* is likely to cause many of those enrolled to stop participating in their plans because they will become too expensive without government subsidy.

The second issue is the Private Option. Our legislature passed a law ending the Private Option on Dec. 31, 2016. The Legislative Task Force has been charged with coming up with a replacement. The governor has expressed interest in continu-

ing some form of Medicaid expansion. But legislators are split on the issue: some preferring our present arrangement, some wanting a modified plan, and some wanting to end expansion in any form.

Aside from the cost burden to the state economy if the expansion is ended, the greater argument to maintain expansion is that it is the right and moral position. Access to basic health care is a tenet

of Catholic Social Teaching. While we are a nation with the best medical technology in the world, our health costs and fatality rates are higher than many other developed nations. Our faith requires that we continue expanding health care access and reform out of respect for the dignity of the human person.

At the Catholic Charities of Arkansas Westside Free Medical Clinic, the patient base has experienced a demographic shift. As patients obtained Private Option coverage, they left the WFSMFC. Those patients are being replaced by new patients — people not eligible for the Private Option, principally immigrants present in this country without authority from the federal government. Even with coverage, many health needs go unmet: access to dental health, pharmaceutical coverage and access to medical specialists.

The bottom line: changes through mandated insurance under the Affordable Care Act have not resolved all of the challenges. Further, litigation and legislation prevent a clear view of the future. We must continue to participate in our political process to urge our elected representatives to make health care accessible to the entire population of our state.

'Choose Life' boosts birth mother care

One of the biggest sources of community support to Catholic Adoption Services are through the sale of the state-issued Choose Life specialty license plates.

Funds generated by the sale of the Choose Life plate provide grants to agencies that work with pregnant women making a plan for adoption. All the agencies that apply must meet certain requirements and agree to use the funds as stipulated by the grant.

As a grant recipient, Catholic Adoption Services is required to use 60 percent of the funds received to assist birth mothers during their pregnancy and to care for the infants awaiting adoption.

These resources support and improve the lives of our most vulnerable clients. In a recent case, the Choose Life License Plate grant money permitted the adoption agency to help a pregnant woman facing a number of difficult medical issues not fully covered by her health insurance. The grant funds allowed her to receive better, more specialized medical care. In another instance, the money paid for dental work for a birth mother who was in pain from multiple broken teeth and dental decay. She was then able to have a healthier pregnancy free of dental discomfort and infection. In the past, the grant has helped birth mothers experienc-



ing financial need to buy maternity clothes and healthy food and to defray the costs of some housing expenses.

While Catholic Adoption Services usually only assists with the adoption of newborns, on the rare occasions when a mother places a slightly older child, the agency is able to use the funds to buy larger car seats and clothes for the older baby.

"We are truly grateful for the help we are able to offer to clients because of the Choose Life License Plate Grant," director Antje Harris said.

The 40 percent remainder of the grant is used for advertising and training. This allows the placing of advertising to support adoption in a number of forums, including *Arkansas Catholic*. The agency also worked with other grant recipients

to fund a television advertising campaign through Arkansas Right to Life that promoted adoption and encouraged positive attitudes about birth parents and adoptees. The advertising advocated the positive impact adoption has in people's lives and promotes pro-life choices.

The Arkansas Right to Life website at artl.org has more information on the license plates and other pro-life efforts in the state. To obtain a Choose Life license plate, request one when renewing tags or vehicle licenses at the state's Revenue Office. The cost is an additional \$35 for the license and \$25 of that fee can be counted as a tax-deductible donation.

For further information or questions about the license plate, contact Arkansas Right to Life at (501) 663-4237 or artl4237@artl.org.

CCHD works in Arkansas

Anti-poverty work in the Diocese of Little Rock is accomplished through the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**.

Twenty-five percent of the November collection stays in the diocese, and Catholic Charities make grants to applicants in Arkansas.

While the local grants are offered for the purpose of eliminating poverty, the uses of the funds vary widely.

One of last year's grantees was the Yellville Food Pantry, located in rural Marion County and one of the only places where people in that community could go to meet the challenges of food insecurity.

The Arkansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty was another grantee. The organization works directly to preserve the sanctity of life in this state, serving a population that is almost exclusively poor.

At the other end of life's spectrum, Heart to Heart in Fort Smith and Birthright in Little Rock are grantee agencies that

help women find life-affirming solutions to their challenges during pregnancy. Another anti-poverty grantee receiving funds last year was Reachout to Little Rock Homeless. Lastly, CCHD funds were employed to support the Catholic Charities Summer Institute, a program that develops Catholic high school leaders in the diocese by teaching and giving experiences in Catholic social doctrine.

Catholic Charities gives wide latitude to grantees in the use of the funds. The Yellville Food Pantry needed some repair work on its equipment. Heart to Heart used its grant to print brochures in Spanish to better serve its clients. The grant to the Catholic Charities Summer Institute helps cover the transportation costs for the annual event held at St. John Center in Little Rock.

Organizations may apply for the grants up to \$2,000, beginning in January. The application deadline is May 31. Applications can be filled out at dolr.org/catholic-charities/cchd/grant.



Immigration Services works with Fayetteville nonprofit

Catholic Charities Immigration Service received a \$50,000 grant from Arkansas Community Foundation to participate in a collaborative effort to inform and represent immigrants around Arkansas.

The Arkansas DACA/DAPA Collaborative brings together two organizations, Catholic Charities Immigration Services and Arkansas United Community Coalition, to assist undocumented immigrant participation in the DACA-DAPA deportation deferral programs. The organizations will provide timely information to undocumented immigrants across the state, assist many of them to submit applications and refer many others to legal services.

Arkansas United Community Coalition is an immigrant rights nonprofit based in Fayetteville dedicated to empowering immigrants and their communities through community organizing, leadership development, coalition building and the promotion of civic engagement. Founded in 2010, AUCC boasts a network of 105 immigrant organizers and more than 400 active volunteers in 17 communities across Arkansas. To date, AUCC has conducted more than 30 deferred action and citizenship group legal workshops



Catholic Charities Immigration Services opened the Immigrant Resource Center in Springdale in April to assist undocumented immigrants in northwest Arkansas.

in every corner of the state.

Catholic Charities Immigration Services of Northwest Arkansas provides low-cost immigration counseling and support to families and individuals who are eligible for immigration benefits and cannot afford private assistance. CCIS conducts immigration workshops, provides application assistance, counsels clients about immigration-related needs and makes referrals to vetted attorneys for ad-

ditional legal assistance.

When a new federal program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was created in 2012 to assist young immigrants who were brought here as children, Catholic Charities Immigration Services offered professional legal services to the under-served immigrant population to help families stay together and improve both their educational and financial conditions. During the first two

years of the DACA program for immigrant youth, CCIS represented 25 percent of students applying from northwest Arkansas. Catholic Charities Immigration Services of Little Rock has a similar high rate of representation and approval of DACA applicants.

The organizations will also assist immigrants with the potential new expanded federal program called Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA).

AUCC and CCIS received seed funding to pilot work together that expands the immigrant legal service infrastructure in Arkansas by leveraging the expertise and track record of each organization, respectively, in family case management, organizing and the implementation of rural clinics.

Through this collaboration, AUCC and CCIS will be better able to meet the short-term demand for deferred action services in Arkansas, especially by immigrant families: 1) who meet the eligibility criteria and do not have additional legal complications, 2) live under the poverty line and 3) cannot afford to hire a private attorney.

In April Catholic Charities Immigration Services opened a new 2,000-square-foot Immigrant Resource Center in Springdale. With sufficient resources, AUCC and

CCIS plan to open Deferred Action Resource Centers as regional hubs for its operations across Arkansas.

AUCC organizers and volunteer "deferred action navigators," working out of the resource centers, will replicate activities in at least 17 communities across the state.

CCIS is training AUCC staff and deferred action navigators using trainers accredited through the U.S. Department of Justice Board of Immigration Appeals.

Together the collaborative will engage the immigrant community through a tiered approach:

1. Deferred action information presentations (community forums and small groups)
2. Evidence/documentation gathering sessions
3. Deferred action prescreening workshops (determining eligibility for CCIS or discounted attorney assistance)
4. Deferred action group legal workshops
5. AUCC forwards all applications with evidence to CCIS for review. CCIS elects either to represent the client or refer the case to attorneys.

Planned locations for deferred action resource centers include Springdale, Fort Smith, Little Rock, Jonesboro, De Queen and McGehee.

*Honoring fathers
who care, this
Father's
Day —
and always*

Catholic Adoption Services

Touch a life, learn more: (501) 664-0340

www.CatholicAdoptionServices.org



Bishop McDonald – Catholic Charities

21st Annual Golf Classic



21st Annual Golf Classic
Monday, Sept. 21
Maumelle Country Club
8 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. tee times
Four-person Scramble

For more information,
call Helen Clay
(501) 664-0340, ext. 379 or
<http://bit.ly/CCgolfclassic>

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