

Successful golf tournament 10
 St. Nicholas' spirit 11
 Immigration myths 12

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Connections

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BRIEFS



Woodrow Butler, Nicholas Trujillo, Teheva Johnson and Flor Lopez congratulate Dr. J. Michael Carney (center) on his Arkansas Association of Charitable Clinics award.

Two clinic volunteers win awards this fall

Two volunteers for the Westside Free Medical Clinic in Little Rock were recently honored for community service. Dr. J. Michael Carney was awarded a Spirit of Excellence Award from the Arkansas Association of Charitable Clinics for his service to the clinic. The American College of Nurse Practitioners awarded Dr. Carmen Paniagua with the 2008 ACNP Community Service Award.

Immigration staffer gets Wal-Mart award

Maria Miller, the Violence Against Women Act program coordinator for Catholic Charities Immigration Service in Springdale, was recently recognized as one of 10 Héroes de Corazón (Heroes of the Heart) by the Hispanic Latino Associate Resource Group at Wal-Mart. Miller works with immigrants who are victims of domestic violence. Each year, the program receives nominations from the community and awards medals to 10 winners.

November is national Adoption Month

Adoption has positively touched the lives of many families throughout the diocese. Each new child is a celebration of life and a beautiful part of God's plan. A family experiencing the pain of a problem pregnancy and a couple grieving from infertility can be joined together in their mutual love for the newborn baby.

Catholic Adoption Services needs one special family to be a temporary foster home for an infant awaiting adoptive placement. Birth parents have 10 days to be sure about their decision to place their child for adoption. Sometimes it is most appropriate for the child to be in one of our exceptional and loving, short-term licensed foster homes.

If you are someone or you know someone who can function

See BRIEFS page 10

Immigration office gets \$450,000

Grant will allow staff to continue helping abused women

Catholic Charities recently was approved for a renewal of a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women to continue its program to help immigrant survivors of domestic violence.

Commonly referred to as the "VAWA" (Violence Against Women Act) program, services are provided through the two Catholic Charities Immigration Services offices in Little Rock and Springdale. The award is for \$446,714 over the next two years.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE VAWA PROGRAM?

The federal Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program is intended to increase the availability of civil and criminal legal assistance to adult and youth survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault who need help in legal matters after that abuse or violence.

In the case of the immigrant survivors served by the VAWA program, these legal issues become even more complex. Inherent in the abuse of immigrant survivors is for the abuser not to petition legal documents on behalf of the survivor and therefore place her in an undocumented status. Abusers often threaten the survivor with deportation if she chooses to leave him.

Abusers will also use children as leverage. If the children do not have legal status, he will threaten to deport only the children, or only the mother, creating a very real potential for mother/child separation. In some cases, some of the children in the family have legal status while others do not. The abuser then will sometimes threaten the mother with having to choose among her own children.

The violence and trauma experienced by some of the survivors served by the Catholic Charities program is hard to fathom. Survivors have experienced abuse ranging from being forced into marriages to strangers, being locked in rooms with no



Maricella Garcia, director of the Little Rock office of Catholic Charities Immigration Services (left), and Rebecca Spencer, development specialist, review the financial reporting requirements for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

contact to the outside world, rape and sexual assault, starvation, strangulation and stabbing. The children caught in the middle of domestic violence situations often also endure similar severe physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

In the most tragic cases, Catholic Charities has dealt with incidents of murder in which the father kills the mother, leaving the children to become wards of the state if no family members are able to take legal custody.

HOW DOES THE VAWA PROGRAM HELP?

The Catholic Charities VAWA program helps survivors determine their eligibility for immigration relief and helps them pursue those options. By attaining legal status, survivors are empowered to escape their abusers, financially support their families and break the cycle of violence.

Though Catholic Charities Immigration Services has been assisting immigrant survivors of domestic violence as early as 2000 under the Violence Against Women Act, it wasn't until 2004 that Sheila Gomez, director of Catholic Charities at that time, applied for LAV grant funds in collaboration with Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the VAWA program was officially established.

With those funds, two full-time VAWA immigration specialist positions were created at the offices in Little Rock and Springdale, and educational programming was provided to the immigrant community and to domestic violence service providers. In 2006, Catholic Charities re-applied and was again awarded LAV grant funds. This time adding the Center for Arkansas Legal Services as a collaborator to address survivors' needs for affordable civil

See ABUSE page 11

Catholic Charities grows from roots of Gospel

Like a tree growing from the roots of the Gospel, the ministries of the Church branch out in many directions to address problematic life issues that harm people in this world of ours.

Social doctrines evolve through Scripturally based Church traditions to address specific social issues. These help to expand our discernment and become the living, growing trunk of the tree. Sorting the wisdom into general areas called Catholic social teachings provides branches filled with life from the root. These branches lift the leaves of life issues up to the sun and their themes are visible behind every ministry and service that sprouts from the study of the signs of the

times, Church teachings and Scripture, and a spirit of prayer open to God's will.



From the Director
 Sister Mary Lou Stubbs

The role of Catholic Charities in each diocese varies based on the emerging and unmet needs within that diocese. One of Charities' basic roles is to assist parishes to develop social ministries, which address the unique realities of the vicinity served

by that parish. The other is to provide services which cannot be done effectively by parishes alone. Here in Arkansas, programs are continually growing and adapting to address changing realities, needs and resources.

And what are the main branches of concern for the Church in this country in this century? First, and underlying all, is the life and dignity of each human person which includes our mutual call to family, community and participation; our protection of the rights of all and awareness of responsibilities of each; a compassionate option to care for the poor and vulnerable; respect for the

See ROOTS page 10

Bishop McDonald joins Golf Classic events

Roots

Continued from page 9

Bishop Andrew J. McDonald, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Little Rock, returned to Little Rock from Illinois to celebrate with a record crowd of participants at the 14th annual Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic Sept. 29. Bishop McDonald also celebrated Mass in Morris Chapel and mingled with guests at the auction and cocktail party the evening before.

An overflow crowd gathered in Morris Hall for the auction and cocktail party Sunday, Sept. 28. This year marked the first time the event was held at St. John Center, and many guests were delighted with the new location.

Nearly 200 auction items were donated and available for bidding. The auction alone earned more than \$10,000 for Catholic Charities. A variety of food and desserts were donated by local restaurants, individuals and parish groups, and beer and wine were once again generously provided by Glazer Distributors of Arkansas. Saxophonist Michael Eubanks helped create a festive atmosphere throughout the evening.

The next morning, players gathered at Maumelle Country Club for a day of golf, contests and more food. The tournament raised about \$47,000 for several Catholic Charities programs. The tournament was blessed with perfect weather, and the impeccable planning of the golf committee made the day a huge success. The St. Bernard's Healthcare team won first place in the cham-



Bishop McDonald joined a record number of participants at the auction and cocktail party and golf classic. He joined Alice Dennis, event chairwoman (left), at the Maumelle Country Club Sept. 29.

pionship flight, with Metro Builders Supply and Glazer Distributors placing second and third.

Volunteer Alice Dennis once again served

as chairwoman for the Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic. Dennis oversaw the planning of the auction, cocktail party and golf tournament.

dignity of work and the rights of workers; our international solidarity as brothers and sisters in Christ; and a shared concern and care for all of creation.

Roots and branches — Gospel and ministry — must be a dynamic reality to help the kingdom of God grow on earth. And if we believe that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5), we must be in a dynamic, living relationship with him so the fruit we bear will be worth our efforts.

The programs of Catholic Charities of Arkansas are formalized ministries of the Church in Arkansas, therefore every Catholic participates in the fruits of those ministries. The stories and information in this special section of *Arkansas Catholic* provide a small glimpse into the day-to-day care given to persons whose lives are at a crisis point or who are weighed down with problems they cannot fully handle on their own.

There are many more ministries that we as the Church in Arkansas share, some of them organized at the diocesan level, some by organizations, and some by parishes. Each, as an intentional ministry of a Church community, answers the invitation of the Gospel and becomes a small branch (or even a twig) on the tree. Each little ministry branch responds to one or more needs in our imperfect world and bears good fruit because it is connected to, and continually fed by, its roots. Many branches, many ministries, yet all are one tree. Let us continue to grow together.

BRIEFS

Continued from page 9

well without a lot of sleep and wants to participate in this labor of love, call director Antje Harris at (501) 664-0340 for more information. We need a family who lives in the Little Rock area, has a flexible schedule, and is not trying to add to their family by adoption. Medical and parenting experience is also appreciated.

Videoconferencing center opens at Springdale office

Through a \$10,000 grant from the Daughters of Charity, the northwest office of Catholic Charities Immigration Services now benefits from a state-of-the-art training facility. In order to keep pace with rapidly changing immigration law and federally mandated training, Catholic Charities has installed a videoconferencing center with two large video screens and networking software in a Webinar-ready study room. The center also has a laptop computer, projector and screen for presentations. The center also will be used for community networking events.

Staff member to join homeless shelter board

Tom Navin, director of social action and prison ministry, was recently named to the board of Our House. The organization in Little Rock provides the working homeless — families and individuals — with safe, clean, comfortable housing, food, free child care, education and job training in order that they may return to independence and lead productive lives.



Better health

Westside Free Medical Clinic's Flor Lopez (left) provides information on the clinic services available to Spanish speaking patients to Consul staff member Oscar Mora López at the recent health fair at the Mexican Consulate. Catholic Charities of Arkansas participated Oct. 7 in the Binational Health Week at the Mexican Consulate in Little Rock. It was the eighth annual health promotion for the Latino community and the Mexican nationals living in Arkansas. Bridget White, an immigration specialist at Catholic Charities Immigration Services in Little Rock, also attended to hand out materials on immigration services.

National association comes to Arkansas

Catholic Charities of Arkansas is a member of the one of the nation's largest social service networks, Catholic Charities USA, whose membership of

more than 250,000 staff and volunteers serves more than seven million people annually. This relationship provides the diocesan organization with connections that assist us to serve the people of Arkansas more effectively.

During the first week of November,



Our House chairman Lynn Hamilton (left) congratulates Tom Navin on being named to the Our House board.

Robert Colbert, vice president of mission integration at CCUSA, visited all of the Catholic Charities programs in Arkansas. He listened to staff about their current services and their hopes for the future and began to provide links into the resources of the national system. National services include five main areas: networking through gatherings, specialty groups and Web-based discussion groups; training and consultation in the areas of leadership, mission and service, volunteerism, disaster and more; a national voice in advocacy, media relations and program development; financial assistance through shared donations, disaster relief grants and scholarships; and program development as needed by local Charities agencies.

As CCUSA moves toward its 100th anniversary in 2010, three of its major programs revolve around cutting the poverty rate in the U.S. by 50 percent by the year 2020; addressing the link between poverty and racism; and providing guidance to local groups as they develop their code of ethics.



The original artwork for this year's St. Nicholas Partners Christmas card was donated by Beebe artist Ciro "Lee" Calles.

St. Nicholas Partners give direct services

Advent and Christmas are almost upon us, and it is time to remember in a special way our brothers and sisters who need our help. Whether it is medical care, the ongoing work of disaster recovery, basic necessities or simply comforting words in times of crisis, the work of Catholic Charities is instrumental in providing help and creating hope.

As you can see in this special *Catholic Charities Connections* section of *Arkansas Catholic*, Catholic Charities of Arkansas offers a variety of important services statewide. Through departments ranging from adoption services to prison ministry, Catholic Charities provided direct assistance to approximately 11,000 people in the past year. However, in order to continue growing and adapting to the variety of changing needs throughout the state, we need your ongoing support.

We invite you to join in our third annual St. Nicholas Partners campaign. St. Nicholas Partners helps raise funds for Catholic Charities' direct assistance programs: adoption services, immigration services, prison ministry, Westside Free Medical Clinic, refugee resettlement, parish emergency assistance, disaster response and VAWA (services to victims of domestic violence).

The original artwork for this year's St. Nicholas Partners Christmas card was donated by Beebe artist Ciro "Lee" Calles. Calles, originally from Detroit, Mich., relocated to Arkansas in 1981. Calles' formal instruction began at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Mich., where he studied drawing, life drawing and oil painting. He also attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, expanding his education in the art of sculpture, silkscreen and commercial art. Calles is currently a member of the Arkansas League of Artists and Mid-Southern Watercolorists.

"We are so grateful to Mr. Calles for his gift, which so beautifully captures the spirit of this holy season," development specialist Rebecca Spencer said.

There will always be need in this world. But we have faith that God will always bless us with the means to meet the need. Please consider becoming a St. Nicholas Partner by giving to Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

Bringing social ministry to your parish

Are you on the outreach/peace and justice committee? On the pastoral council? On a parish staff? A parishioner interested in social service and community outreach?

Not listed here? Never fear, the Parish Social Ministry Office works with a wide range of parish folks. After all, social ministry is the work of every baptized Christian. Grounded in this belief, we work with Catholic parishes to develop and foster their social programs and outreach ministry. This means that we are a resource for support, guidance and information on a variety of topics and possibilities for your parish's social ministry. We offer workshops, retreat days and educational sessions on Catholic social teaching and social concerns topics.

OUR MISSION:

Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry works with parishes to foster their social justice and outreach ministry, educates parishioners to serve those who are poor and vulnerable through both charity and justice, and provides opportunities for the spiritual development of individuals in this ministry.

WHAT IS PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY?

Rooted in the U.S. bishops' statement "Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Ministry of the Parish," Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry works to help parishes realize the vision of an integrated model of social ministry.

"Parish social ministry is the empowerment of the parish as the people of God to fulfill the Church's mission of love, justice, freedom, and peace by communally responding in an organized way to societal and individual human needs." — *Parish Social Ministry: A Vision and Resource; a Catholic Charities Perspective, Catholic Charities USA*

"Parish Social Ministry is simply the effort to organize the Church's ever-broadening love for the world." — *Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith Ministries*

WHAT DO YOU OFFER TO PARISHES?

Looking for opportunities for retreat days? Educational sessions on social justice? Information on social concerns issues? Advocacy? The office will discuss with you your parish's needs and possibilities. We can consult with the pastor and staff, appropriate committee members and/or the pastoral council. These conversations may result in a program(s) offered in the parish that meets the particular needs of your social ministry. We encourage parishes to develop their social ministry to include both charity and justice rooted and grounded in the spiritual growth and development of their members.

WHAT IS CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING?

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just soci-

Abuse

Continued from page 9

legal representation in matters of child support, child custody, legal separation and orders of protection.

The Catholic Charities' VAWA program has consistently been endorsed in Washington by U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln and Sen. Mark Pryor.

One of the new goals of the 2008-2010 grant cycle is to create a comprehensive



Catholic Charities volunteers organized by the parish team at St. Joseph's Church in Center Ridge assist with rebuilding a home for a family who lost theirs in the May tornadoes.

ety and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

- Dignity of the human person
- Call to family, community and participation
- Rights and responsibilities
- Preferential option for and with people who are poor
- Dignity of work and the rights of workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's creation

HOW IS IT CONNECTED TO SOCIAL MINISTRY?

Catholic social teaching is related to social ministry because it offers wisdom and guidance on dealing with the social issues of our day. It analyzes economic, political and societal influences and offers a synthesis of the issues with an eye towards creating a society that is more fair and equal.

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

Catholic social teaching comes out of the rich history of papal encyclicals, bishops' letters and other official documents that focus on the economic, political and social concerns of humanity. This teaching is rooted in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures as well as in traditional philosophical and theological teachings of the Church. In 1891, Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical titled "Rerum Novarum" (On the Condition of Labor). In the more than 100 years since then, many other documents have spoken to issues of vital concern of the time.

resource booklet in Spanish and Vietnamese. The resource booklet will contain a volunteer interpreter list, safety plan, fact sheets relating to domestic violence and pertinent legal processes, and other key resources available to immigrant survivors of domestic violence. The resource booklet will be distributed to immigrant survivors, shelters and other service providers.

Also new this grant cycle is the emphasis on training law enforcement and court officials, health department workers and clergy. In this way, survivors' situations may be dealt with holistically rather than simply being

HOW CAN PARISHES PARTICIPATE IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES?

There are many opportunities for parish involvement with Catholic Charities. Our programs that serve those in need in our diocese rely on volunteers to help fulfill our mission.

Catholic social teaching workshops provided by Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry include:

■ "The Spirituality and Challenge of Catholic Social Teaching": Using the seven major themes, explores the ways we as a Church have applied our understanding of Scripture to the realities of life in our world today.

■ "Following the Footsteps of Jesus": An introduction to Catholic social teaching for adults or teens, and includes input, drawing on experience and practical application.

■ "The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching for Catechists": Foundations and activities for children (adaptable for age level, group size and schedule).

■ "Where on Earth Did These Documents Come From?": The development of Catholic social teaching through movements at the grassroots level reflecting on the social, historical, religious and philosophical factors of the time.

■ The Parish Social Ministry Office, in conjunction with the Vincentian Evangelization Team, offers a workshop called an "Introduction to Parish Social Ministry."

Parishes are encouraged to contact Jamie Deere to schedule a course offering for their parish and the diocese will either bring the course to your parish or region as needed beginning in January 2009 and beyond. For more information or to schedule a course offering, contact Jamie Deere at (501) 664-0340 or jdeere@dolr.org.

viewed as a matter for Immigration Customs and Enforcement.

While the grant covers nearly all the administrative expenses, there is still a tremendous need for direct assistance to meet the basic needs of survivors. Housing (often involving complete relocation), food, transportation, clothing and counseling are all integral parts of providing total safety and security for survivors of domestic violence. If you would like to help by making a donation to the Catholic Charities VAWA program, contact Rebecca Spencer at (501) 664-0340 ext. 355.

Myths vs. facts: What you should know

BY MARICELLA GARCIA
CATHOLIC CHARITIES IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Many people discount immigration reform because they are against an “amnesty” or because they feel that immigrants should have to follow the rules and stand in line, or even because of fear of changing values.

However, many of these distinctions are being made on the basis of myths that have no real basis in reality. In this article, we will explore three common myths to help understand the immigration phenomenon.

MYTH #1: MOST IMMIGRANTS CROSS THE BORDER ILLEGALLY

According to the Department of Homeland Security, around 75 percent of today’s immigrants have legal permanent residence. Of the remaining 25 percent, 40 percent entered legally with a visa. Most immigrants are not in the U.S. illegally and we have to make sure that we don’t assume “immigrant” means “illegal.” There are many categories of immigrants — too many to list here — but it is important to note that legal immigration to the U.S. far outpaces “illegal” immigration.

MYTH #2: MOST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS COULD BECOME U.S. CITIZENS; THEY JUST DON’T WANT TO

This myth has several layers that we need to explore to fully understand. First, there is

no program that allows you to go from undocumented to citizen. You can’t just become a citizen. You have to immigrate first as a resident and then, in most cases, you must wait an additional five years after you receive your “green card” to apply for citizenship. There is no magic wand that turns you into a citizen. In fact, to be eligible for citizenship, you must prove that you deserve it by virtue of activities like working, paying taxes and showing that you are a person of good moral character.

But, the larger issue underlying this myth is the idea that most immigrants could somehow adjust their status, but they refuse to do so. This is not true. Of the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants, most actually have no ability to adjust to a legal status in this country. Stricter regulations implemented in 1996 mean that an immigrant unlawfully present in the United States for more than 180 days who then leaves the country is barred from re-entry for either three or 10 years, depending on the length of the unlawful stay. Further, if they have been unlawfully present and have multiple entries into the U.S. they can be subject to a permanent bar.

MYTH #3: IF WE LET TOO MANY IMMIGRANTS IN, AMERICA WILL LOSE ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE

America should not be about “us” and “them.” We are not defined by one culture or race. With the exception of Native

Americans, all Americans are descendents of immigrants in one form or another. Therefore, we should understand the importance of allowing people the opportunity to make better lives for themselves and their families. American culture, whatever it is, is not tied to one group. Instead of worrying that somehow America will be diminished by the influx of immigrants, we should celebrate the diversity that makes our country great.

Changing our perspective on such a difficult issue as immigration can be hard. But, the next time that you generalize about immigrants, I would ask you to question what underlies your feelings. Are you scared by talk of “waves of illegal immigrants,” are you worried about immigrant’s refusing to assimilate, or are you worried about changing cultural values? If so, I would encourage you to get the facts on immigration. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has created an organization called Justice for Immigrants, which provides facts about immigration. You can get more information at www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

At Catholic Charities Immigration Services, I can safely say that these myths are not reality. We work to reunite families, help regularize the status of people who have waited patiently (sometimes for decades), and most importantly offer new immigrants the opportunity to become a part of the American dream.

AT A GLANCE

The mission of Catholic Charities of Arkansas 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.

This is done through the following ministries:

■ **Adoption Services** guides pregnant women who are considering their option for adoption and works with families who are seeking to adopt. Ongoing follow-up with both families maintains anonymity while providing a venue for exchange of pertinent information for the welfare of the child.

■ **Clinics** staffed by volunteer professionals provide assessments, primary care, links into health systems and management of chronic illness such as diabetes. Clinics are provided with both English- and Spanish-speaking providers to assure that diagnosis and patient understanding are accurate.

■ **Development** provides oversight and coordination of all fundraising activities at Catholic Charities in collaboration with the diocesan development office. In addition to grant management, this program provides support to the annual auction and cocktail party and Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic and coordinates the annual St. Nicholas appeal.

■ **Immigration programs** working out of both northwest Arkansas and Little Rock provide assistance to people from more than 100 countries. The programs assist foreign nationals know both their responsibilities and their rights and assist with the complex legal documents that are required to stay in this country on a temporary or permanent basis. Both offices do family-based processes, community education and the VAWA program for victims of violence. The Little Rock office also sponsors religious workers coming to the diocese and the Springdale office provides refugee resettlement.

■ **Parish social ministry** is expanding its scope to providing education, mentoring and support to parishes as they develop the ministries needed, wanted, and possible in their localities through the new Salt and Light Ministries. This department also works with parish teams in disaster response and assists their outreach through parish assistance.

■ **Social concerns** program monitors the consistency of programs and advocacy activities with Catholic social teachings. This is done through education, alerts on public policies and practices that threaten to mistreat vulnerable groups and through legislative advocacy. This department also coordinates the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, awareness of drug and alcohol issues and prison ministry.

For more information, contact:
Sister Mary Lou Stubbs, DC
Director
Catholic Charities of Arkansas
(501) 664-0340
mstubbs@dolr.org
www.dolr.org/offices/catholiccharities

Volunteers and donations are welcome

Volunteers and donations are needed. If interested, contact Catholic Charities of Arkansas at (501) 664-0340 for the following programs or Sister Mary Lou Stubbs, DC, at mstubbs@dolr.org.

■ **Adoption Services** needs a short-term foster family for infants awaiting adoption. Contact Antje Harris.

■ **Parish Social Ministries and Disaster Response** is available to do trainings for parishes assisting people with long-term disaster recovery. Contact Jamie Deere.

■ **Immigration** programs need a variety of assistance. Contact Maricella Garcia or Frank Head.

The immigration office in Little Rock needs volunteers to help catalog client files for a technology project.

The VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) program needs baby and children’s items for domestic violence clients coming to the immigration offices. Contact Bridget White or Maria Miller.

Volunteer attorneys are needed to assist with complex cases.

■ **Prison ministers** are needed to serve the spiritual and religious needs of Catholic inmates. Contact Tom Navin.

■ **The Westside Free Medical Clinic** has several positions open, including specialists, particularly otolaryngologists and endocrinologists, to see patients either at the clinic or in their private offices, pharmacists and bilingual volunteers to interpret for patients at appointments arranged through the clinic.

The clinic also needs insulated drapes for four windows in the pharmacy. Contact Karen DiPippa.

Coming soon

■ Parish social ministries will begin a series of regional classes in the spring to assist parishes as they develop and grow ministries in their local parishes. There will also be a series of trainings available for parishes with or planning disaster teams. Contact Jamie Deere.

■ The annual Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection will be the weekend of Nov. 22 and 23.

■ In the spring, Catholic Immigration Services will begin to provide training to parishes regarding services available for immigrants who are victims of domestic violence and on immigration issues in general. Contact Maricella Garcia or Frank Head.

Who we serve

Although the actual staff of Catholic Charities of Arkansas is small, many people are helped and multiple services provided by the staff and volunteers.

■ Catholic Adoption Services assists about 300 people for a variety of adoption needs each year and provides about 600 support services each month.

■ Catholic Campaign for Human Development provides grants to about 20 organizations on the state level and facilitates two groups receiving large grants from the national office.

■ Immigration services programs in the Little Rock and Springdale offices combined provide immigration services and educational programming to an average of 1,720 people each month (approximately 20,644 people each year).

■ The parish emergency assistance program works with parishes to assist about 40 people a month who are in



urgent situations.

■ Parish social ministries began in April and has disaster-recovery parish teams operating and plans involving many more parishes.

■ Prison ministry serves more than 1,000 people a year in 13 state prisons and one federal prison.

■ Westside Free Medical Clinic serves about 100 people each month and provides 4,120 prescriptions annually. They also do about two workshops each month that reach between 25 and 30 people.

How we are funded

Funding to support programs comes from a variety of sources, some of which is restricted to specific programs.

Grants and diocesan funds, including Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal, provide some support to most programs.

Grants and fees for service also help to support some programs. Fundraising activities, such as the annual Bishop McDonald – Catholic Charities Golf Classic each fall and the party which precedes it, help fill financial gaps.

All funds are used as designated by the donors. Collections for disaster relief and recovery pass through a carefully monitored system directly to the victims of those disasters.