



The Mission

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington—Dedicated in loving memory to Brother David Eddy Winter 2010

St. Margaret of Cortona

A resident marks first year amid success, but with challenges ahead

St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Residences provides homeless families with low-income housing and varying levels of assistance during the precarious twelve to twenty-four months following their departure from an emergency shelter. Crissy, a resident, serves as an example of the program's first year success and real-world challenges.

In March 2009, Crissy joined the Catholic Charities program with the hope of making a better life for herself and her three children, all under the age of four. Within a year, she found a great job and started college. "When I first came to Catholic Charities",



Nicolette Davis

Crissy and one of three children.

Crissy said, "I was working at a child care center where I barely received the hours I needed to support my family—childcare is very expensive. It was Catholic Charities and Vince Sheehy that helped me to find a job with Sheehy Honda. I feel very lucky to get this kind of experience."

Crissy's success highlights two

challenges facing all residents: career advancement and the high cost of childcare. Steve Luteran, Executive Director, recently said that young parents like Crissy, "are set on a pathway. We help prepare them for a vocational training program, nursing school or college. But this requires financial support during this delicate period until we can break that cycle and restore the lives of these families again."

As the program enters its second year and Catholic Charities moves swiftly to restore the lives of these young families again, Crissy's spirits remain high that her future is bright.

Mural, Mural on the Wall

Paul VI student leads middle school children residing at St. Margaret's Transitional Residences in artistic endeavors

On Tuesday or Thursday nights you won't find 16 year old Colleen Riggins watching TV or chatting on the phone. Instead, this dedicated volunteer is inspiring and engaging the children at Catholic Charities' St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Residences.

Colleen is using her artistic talent to lead a group of middle school residents in creating a

mural. Visit St. Margaret's multi-purpose room to find their wall sized depiction of "A Wonderful Day." When asked who her role model is, Colleen states, "My mom is courageous and is able to talk to anyone about God and faith."

Colleen is quickly becoming a role model herself with a winning smile and a generous amount of patience, care and love spread



Nicolette Davis

Colleen shares a winning smile with the children at St. Margaret's.

among kindergartners, first graders and second graders on Tuesday evenings and middle school students on Thursday evenings.

Thanks for making a difference at St. Margaret's Colleen!



Stephen Luteran

FROM THE DESK OF **Stephen Luteran**

“For I was hungry and you gave me food”

St. Paul reminds us that we must not cease but persevere in doing good. What our Lord asks of us is hard. It calls for courage and self-sacrifice. But we know that with God’s grace and support we can achieve anything. God is Love.

With this conviction Catholic Charities continues to fight the good fight by feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, visiting the

imprisoned and sick, and clothing the naked. We work around the clock in serving those in need.

Recently, we met with many food pantry volunteers in the outlying counties of our Diocese to discuss the alarming increase in hunger, especially among the elderly and children. The purpose of this meeting was to establish a more coordinated approach in serving those who are hungry in the rural parts of our Diocese. Catholic Charities is working to play a vital role in

addressing hunger through our Christ House on Wheels Food Distribution Program. It is our hope that we will be able to assist these food pantries with food so that no one within our Diocesan boundaries goes hungry, especially the children and elderly.

As we work to address hunger in our Diocese, please continue to support our agency with your prayers and contributions.

Catholic Charities’ Western Regional Office

Feeding, serving Loudoun and neighboring county residents with help from local parishes and individual donors

The Western Regional Office (WRO) of Catholic Charities has been very busy over the winter months. In addition to emergency financial assistance to help the poor with rent and utilities, it is continuing to feed the homeless with lunches twice a week. This service thrives due to the network of churches and groups that have committed to providing food certain days during the month. We wish to thank St. Francis, St. John’s, St. Theresa’s and Our Lady of Hope – this partnership is vital to the WRO program and our



Left to right is Ashley Akers, Marty Maykrantz, Gabrielle Muskett, Dawn Dumas, program manager, & Martin Ciskanik

Dawn Dumas

effort to expand our services to reach the most isolated members of the diocese!

There is a constant struggle to keep the food pantry stocked. While we have seen an exponential increase in the

demand for food from the pantry, we are not seeing a steady influx of donations. The growth of the WRO underscores the under-reported fact that our more rural portions of the Diocese need Catholic Charities’ help and assistance. The WRO and Christ House on Wheels (CHOW) are designed to better serve the rural regions of the Diocese.

To donate food, please bring donations to 12 Cardinal Park Drive, Suite 105 Leesburg, VA 20175. To inquire by phone, call 703.443.2481.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Leads Help Efforts in Haiti

Catholic Relief Services, which has committed at least \$25 million for relief and recovery in Haiti, has received \$13.1 million in cash donations and commitments. On the ground CRS is working with partners from Caritas, the international Catholic aid network, to coordinate their aid response.

To date, CRS has distributed food, water, hygiene kits and plastic sheeting for shelter at informal camps where homeless people have gathered after the earthquake. CRS has also formed medical teams to provide primary care at several sites. CRS is only able to accept short-term volunteers if they are skilled medical staff.

Truly, the greatest support needed is continued prayers, donations and educational efforts at parishes/schools about the work of CRS in their ongoing efforts to respond, long-term, to the people of Haiti. To this end, there are a number of helpful resources on the CRS website at www.crs.org.

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Hogar Immigrant Services

An ESL student's determination and commitment leads to professional success

While Hogar's students are famous for their dedication to learning English, few students' level of motivation can match that of Feliciano Acra. Feliciano came to Hogar in the spring of 2009, only eight months after he left his home country of Peru. He understood only a handful of words in English and was afraid that his lack of fluency would hinder his job and social opportunities.

However, Feliciano studied every day. He achieved near perfect attendance his first semester and studied at home at night. His dedication propelled him into the Intermediate class in the summer of 2009. In addition to his exemplary attendance at

normal class hours in the morning, Feliciano arrived in the late afternoon to use computer software that helped him practice English. Feliciano lived, breathed and slept Hogar English classes.

He is now reaping all that he has sowed. In addition to his academic success, his boss awarded him a significant promotion: position as hotel manager in charge of ten employees.

Feliciano credits his positive life changes to his English classes at Hogar. While we would like to take all of the credit for Feliciano's amazing achievements, he really deserves most of it for his great dedication and commitment in the past year.



Hogar Star Pupil, Feliciano Acra.

John Odenwelder

All That Sparkles, Catholic Charities 2010 Ball Shines Bright

The entire Catholic Charities staff wishes to extend our heartiest 'thank you' to this year's Ball Co-Chairs' Julie Theobald and Elizabeth Loranger, and Special Gifts Chair George Forrester. Two snow storms proved no match. Your dynamic, heady leadership and the passion of all the chairs and volunteers is a real testament to your commitment to the community that you love.



Special Gifts Chair George Forrester, Ball Co-Chair Julie Theobald, Bishop Paul S. Loverde, Ball Co-Chair Elizabeth Loranger and Steve Luteran Executive Director Catholic Charities

Jennifer Morris

St. Martin de Porres Senior Services

The National Theater troupe, “A Class Act”, honors new centurion Eddie Garcia and family

On January 21st, St. Martin de Porres Senior Center, based in Alexandria, celebrated the 100th Birthday of Mr. Eddie Garcia, who has been a regular St. Martin’s participant along with his wife of 58 years, Kiyoko. They were joined for the party by their daughter Linda Jimenez, her husband Michael, family friend Linda Dawson, and of course 50 of their friends at St. Martin’s. Besides birthday cake and balloons, St. Martin’s had a real treat that day in the form of the live musical troupe “A Class Act” from the National Theater.

To ensure that our seniors’



Photo courtesy of Tom Grodek

Eddie Garcia and wife Kiyoko of 58 years are joined by daughter Linda Jimenez, her husband Michael, and family friend Linda Dawson in the celebration.

years are blessed, the staff at St. Martin’s has committed to activities that aspire to fill each person with hope, love and dignity. Catholic Charities of the Arlington Diocese is dedicated to caring for our elderly by expanding the type of activities and programs offered

in the future. We remain hopeful that 2010 will see an increase in financial support to meet the ever-growing need to care and provide for any senior that visits St. Martin de Porres Senior Center.

On average, St. Martin’s assists **52** seniors per day with health and wellness instruction, educational classes, and social/cultural events; served **6,900** meals in 2009; works with INOVA Alexandria Hospital for recurring services; and more than **650** volunteers donate more than **5,600** hours to care and form bonds with the elderly.

The Christ House Challenge to Feed the Hungry

Hunger-fighting charities nationwide compete to raise money, feed the poor

2010 marks the third year for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington to participate in the annual Feinstein Challenge. For 13 years, Alan Shawn Feinstein divides \$1 million dollars among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide to help participating agencies raise funds during March and April. The more donations of money and non-perishable food (@ \$1/per item or pound) made to Catholic Charities during March and April – and

identified for the “Feinstein Challenge”, the more Feinstein money Catholic Charities will receive.

Now is the time for you, your parish, your parish-based and/or neighborhood organization, scout troops, K of C, club or group to pool your efforts to conduct a food drive or take up a special collection for Catholic Charities’ Christ House food pantry program. Please visit www.cdda.net to conduct a

food drive or learn more. Checks payable to Catholic Charities must be noted “Feinstein Challenge” and bags of food that are donated should similarly be marked.

Your financial gift or food donation can be received at Catholic Charities’ Christ House, 131 S. West St., Alexandria 22314 from 9am and 4pm, 7 days a week. For additional information, call 703.549.8644 or visit www.cdda.net.