

# The Mission

*Serving the Community since 1947*

## Renovations Begin at Christ House

The renovation of Catholic Charities' Christ House shelter in Alexandria began April 2, funded with a \$500,000 contribution from the Diocese of Arlington's Rooted in Faith—Forward in Hope Capital Campaign.

Bishop Paul S. Loverde inaugurated the renovation project, which will include installation of new heating and air conditioning systems with energy-efficient controls, new electrical wiring, and new fire-protection and alarm systems. Bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen areas, client lounges, and staff offices will be

refurbished and remodeled.

During the inaugural ceremony, Bishop Loverde blessed the building and prayed for the welfare of the workers who will be involved in the repair work.

Executive Director Stephen Luteran said, "After the renovations, we will once again have a year-round emergency shelter for the homeless. This is a service we had to suspend three and a half years ago, and we will soon have the program back in operation. We

will be offering shelter as well as counseling and job placement."

During the renovation work, Christ House staff has relocated to the nearby Thrift Shop and continues to oversee the Emergency Assistance program and preparation of the evening meal for the hungry, assisted by volunteers.



Bishop Paul S. Loverde helps mark the start of renovation work at Christ House along with (left to right) Stephen Luteran, executive director; Cassandra Lee, case worker; and Sally O'Dwyer, associate director.

Photo by Ray Plisney



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

## Helping Mothers and Babies

Susan was 20 and pregnant, living 2,000 miles from her parents' home and trying to hold onto her job and pay her rent. Her boyfriend quickly advised an abortion and then disappeared. Knowing she could never harm her unborn child, Susan located an out-of-state adoption agency through the Internet and, after two telephone calls, was set to relinquish the

baby at the time of delivery.

From the hospital, Susan called the agency, but there was a complication and they could not come for the baby. Beginning to panic, she got a list of licensed adoption agencies from the hospital social worker and selected Catholic Charities.

As soon as Susan called, Catholic Charities arranged for one of its social workers to visit her in the hospital. Much to her surprise, the social worker told her that Catholic Charities would provide support for whatever course of action she chose—to make an adoption plan or

to raise the baby herself, an option the out-of-state agency had not even mentioned.

After further counseling and time to realize that her parents would want to know of the birth and give support, Susan decided to raise the baby herself. During her time of reflection, her little boy was safely and lovingly cared for by a Catholic Charities' foster family.

Susan said, "The Children's Services staff at Catholic Charities saved me in my time of confusion and helped me make a plan for the best care for my baby. They were my life-line."

For information about Children's Services, call 703-425-0100.

Photo by Jeanne Spaeth



Stephen Luteran

## FROM THE DESK OF Stephen Luteran

A short time ago, I was reading a scripture passage to my 7-year-old daughter, Maria. It is a great practice to read scriptures with a child because it gives you a glimpse of what it must have been like for the first Christians who were hearing the Word for the very first time.

The passage we were reading was the story of the Good Samaritan. As Divine Providence would have it, later that week, Maria came

to the office with me. It was Easter break for the schools.

At the end of the day, a homeless couple came to our office and needed a place to stay. They were an elderly couple carrying three suitcases that held all their earthly possessions. He was a veteran and disabled, and they were evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. We located a place for them to stay and then drove them there.

When Maria and I finally made it home, her first words to my wife were, "Mommy, I'm sorry we are late for dinner, but we were helping a homeless couple find a place

to live, just like the story we read in the Bible about the Good Samaritan."

It was the perfect "teachable moment," set up, I believe, by Divine Providence. This was one of those precious moments when the Gospel comes to life.

May we all see the Gospel at work in our daily lives. You, yourselves, are true to the Gospel message each time you help us help others. Thank you for your continued support!

Stephen Luteran, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities  
of the Diocese of Arlington

### St. Martin's Marks 30th

Thirty years ago, Catholic Charities' St. Martin de Porres Senior Center opened its doors and began offering services to the elderly. Program director Carol Augustine announces, "Our anniversary celebration will be May 1, and we invite all to come join us. It has been a privilege to serve the seniors in our community."

The center serves elderly persons in need and helps them retain their independence by participating in center programs and accessing available community resources and parish support. The center offers lunch, wellness activities, health screenings, education classes, individual counseling, support groups, and social services.

The City of Alexandria honored St. Martin's anniversary by making an official proclamation of thanks for St. Martin's contributions to the community. The proclamation was read out loud at the April 24 city council meeting.

Photo by Jeanne Spaeth



Jeff Chenoweth and Laura Burdick of Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. extend best wishes to Nancy Jane Shestack (right).

### Hogar Hispano Bids Farewell to Director

"I will have worked 50 years as of this Fall, and it has been a joy to work with people who share my mission and dream of how this country should be," said Nancy Jane Shestack, departing program director of Catholic Charities' Hogar Hispano (Immigrant Services), at her festive April 16 farewell.

Catholic Charities' Executive Director Stephen Luteran said of Nancy Jane, "I can't think of a better person who could have navigated our program since 9-11. The last 6 or 7 years may have been the most difficult time for a person to come to this country to get citizenship."

Jeff Chenoweth, division director of CLINIC, summed up Nancy Jane's skills as a supervisor and attorney, "Nancy Jane, you are the best!"

# Volunteers Thanked at Liturgy and Reception

**D**edicated volunteers provide invaluable support to Catholic Charities' programs throughout the year. Their generosity was recognized at an April 14 volunteer appreciation event at St. Thomas More Cathedral, with Bishop Paul S. Loverde celebrating Mass, followed by a reception in Burke Hall.

In his homily, Bishop Loverde said, "As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on this second Sunday of Easter, the Risen Jesus reminds us that we are recipients and evangelists of his Divine Mercy.... We must proclaim his mercy to all as evangelists and must pray for all. We must reach out to the poor and needy among us—whether poor of body, mind, or soul. And I am thinking especially of the volunteers of Catholic Charities who are living signs of God's mercy to all those whose lives they touch."

Before the Final Blessing,

At the April 14 event, Bishop Loverde (right) greets volunteers Dennis Holley, a member of the JustFaith advisory council, and his wife Patty, a member of the special task force of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services. Laura Tramonte (below), who served as the 2006 co-chair of the Catholic Charities Ball, arrives with her daughter Katherine.



Photos by Jeanne Spaeth

the Bishop said, "The Diocesan Church is grateful to the Catholic Charities volunteers for making God's mercy and love known."

At the reception, Catholic Charities' Executive Director Stephen Luteran said, "We have over 1,200 volunteers. We could not do this job if it weren't for you. As volunteers, you are responding to the universal call to holiness spoken of by John Paul II. I give thanks to all of you."

Noting that Catholic Charities' theme for its 60th anniversary year is "Lift Up Your Hearts," Luteran said, "You, our

volunteers, lift up your hearts to the Lord when you serve others."

The event was organized by Catholic Charities' Anne Murphy, assisted by volunteer John Oldenwelder, to coincide with National Volunteer Week, April 15–21.

Concelebrants at the Mass were Fr. Bjorn Lundberg and Fr. Paul Berghout.

For volunteer opportunities, go to [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net).



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth  
Tom Ryan, Peter O'Dwyer, and Kathleen O'Dwyer (left to right) pray during the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart.

## Students Spread Message

Bishop O'Connell students visited Catholic Charities April 5 to pray with staff members and to place images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sacred Heart of Mary on office walls. As members of the Legion of Mary, the students and their advisor James Wellsford encourage dedication of schools and offices to the Lord.

## News In Brief

- Maguire-Reeder, an award-winning media producer in Alexandria, created a new video about Catholic Charities' programs and services. The video was premiered at the February 9 Catholic Charities Ball and received high praise from viewers. It will be used to orient staff, supporters, and the community about the agency's mission. Maguire-Reeder donated staff time to support the filming at program sites and studio time to edit and perfect the final product.

Catholic Charities especially thanks Dennis Reeder, Bart Woodward, Eric Slagle, Alanna Savage, and Jane Wholey for their generosity.

- Catholic Charities' handsome new web site is the handiwork of Professor Barry Erdeljon, Chair of Communications and Graphic Design, and his students and associates, including Sarah Gulick, at Marymount University. Catholic Charities thanks them for kindly donating their design and programming skills to create the appealing, easy-to-navigate site. Go to [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net) to view the new look.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 1 – 30th Anniversary of St. Martin’s Elderly Services (703-751-2766)

May 12 – Walk for Life at Paul VI High School and Fort Hunt Park, Area A (703-425-0100)

June 2 – Parish Liaison Network and Diocesan Gathering— “Poverty in America” (703-841-3831)

June 25 – Catholic Charities’ Golf Classic (703-841-3835)

Sept. 16 – Catholic Charities’ 60th Anniversary Mass and Celebration (703-841-3836)

## Wish List

- Volunteers to help in the Christ House Thrift Shop (703-841-3838)
- Lunch servers at St. Martin’s (703-751-2766)
- Assistants to help with used-car ministry (703-841-2531)
- Individuals interested in making memorial donations to furnish newly renovated rooms at Christ House (703-841-3836)



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Exec. Director . . . Stephen Luteran  
Editor . . . . . Jeanne Spaeth  
www.cdda.net

## Ball Breaks Fund-Raising Record



Photo by Beth Fitzpatrick

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Charities Ball were (left to right) Kenneth J. Tarpey, special-gifts co-chair; Mary Beth Carroll, Ball co-chair; Bishop Paul S. Loverde; Connie Nelson, Ball co-chair; Robert J. Smith, special-gifts co-chair; and Stephen Luteran, Catholic Charities' executive director.

The February 9 Catholic Charities Ball raised more than \$550,000, the highest net amount ever raised by the Ball to support Catholic Charities' programs.

To mark the Ball's 25th year, Catholic Charities' Executive Director Stephen Luteran announced the inauguration of the James J. Matthews Legacy Award,

named after the man largely credited with establishing the annual Ball. Describing the award as recognition of "an individual or individuals who exhibit drive, spirit, and long-term commitment to Catholic Charities," he presented the award to Matthews' three daughters: Joan Matthews, Julie Matthews Howard, and Jan Matthews Test.

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