

The Mission

Serving the Community since 1947

Christ House on Wheels Keeps Rolling Along

Catholic Charities' staff and volunteers loaded the Christ House on Wheels van with household items and appliances on the morning of June 26 and then drove to rural areas of Orange, Culpeper, and Madison counties to deliver the items to more than seventy-five families being assisted by the Diocese of Arlington's Work Camp 2007.

Stephen Luteran, executive director of Catholic Charities, explained the project: "Several months ago, I asked the director of the Diocese's Office of Youth Ministry if there was anything that the families being helped by

Work Camp needed? He suggested that I contact the Work Camp projects coordinator, who was able to give us a list of household appliances and goods that the low-income families had expressed a need for. We were then able to enlist several volunteers to help us collect and sort the items to match each particular family's request."

Requested items included blenders, electric skillets, coffee makers, irons, microwaves, and other small appliances. Sets of dishes and silverware were also added to the inventory, as well as dozens of sheets, blankets, pillows, and towels.



Photo by Jeanne Speath

Staff and volunteers help Stephen Luteran, executive director of Catholic Charities, load the Christ House on Wheels van.

The Christ House on Wheels program aims to serve families in counties of the Diocese where the general population is more than 15 percent below the poverty line. Last year, the van was used to deliver nearly five tons of canned food to needy families in Our Lady of the Blue Ridge Parish and Madison County.

Students Send Baby Blankets

"What do we do for a service project?" Eighth-graders preparing for their May 6 confirmation at St. Katharine Drexel Mission answered that question by making fleece baby blankets and collecting baby clothes for needy families. Catholic Charities' Fredericksburg District Office was the recipient of these items, which helped replenish the Office's "Baby Needs Closet" that serves low-income families.

Stephen Luteran visited the students at their April 22nd confirmation-preparation class at Battlefield High School in Haymarket, where he received twenty-five

Students at St. Katharine Drexel Mission display the baby blankets they made as part of their confirmation service project.



Photo by Stephen Luteran

blankets and seven bags of baby clothes and thanked the students: "Your service project is Christian charity in action." He also thanked the students' catechists, Teresa Hanson and Cindy Buckley, for identifying Catholic Charities as the recipient of the baby items.



Stephen Luteran

FROM THE DESK OF Stephen Luteran

I am hopeful that with God's grace we will be able to carry out our long-range strategic plan, Vision 2010+, which was recently approved by the Bishop and our Board of Directors.

The development of this plan was the result of much input from staff, diocesan priests, parishioners, volunteers, supporters, donors, and community members.

Some elements of the plan,

which can be viewed at www.cdda.net, are the following:

- to complete the renovations of Christ House and reopen the emergency shelter
- to open a family shelter and help homeless families out of poverty
- to establish two new locations in the Diocese
- to increase outreach to all 21 counties of the Diocese and to provide needed items such as food, clothing, household goods, and school supplies to poverty-stricken areas.

In addition to these goals, we will continue to provide quality and faith-filled services through our already existing programs.

As we work toward these goals, we ask for your prayers and your continued support.

Thank you for any contribution you are able to make.

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

Mentoring Helps Released Inmates

“We are like the innkeeper in the biblical story of the Good Samaritan,” says Joseph Dalmage in describing the work of volunteer mentors who help inmates prepare for returning to the community after they complete their sentences.

Dalmage, director of Prisoner Aftercare, and Shirley Coffield, coordinator of Aftercare Ministry of Truro Church, were featured speakers at a May 17 seminar at St. Leo Parish in Fairfax that was organized by Sr. Connie Parcasio, SNDS, director of Catholic Charities’ prison ministry program.

Coffield spoke about the need for churches and community groups to set up cadres of volunteers to mentor inmates, starting three months before they are discharged and continuing after their release to help them find shelter and employment.

Dalmage explained that inmates helped through a mentoring program have a 95% success rate in staying in the community and avoiding re-incarceration whereas inmates without the help have only a 30% success rate in avoiding re-incarceration.

For more information, call Sr. Connie at 703-841-3832.



Joseph Dalmage and Shirley Coffield prepare to speak about mentoring inmates.



CDDA file photo

Jessica Dumas and Enrique Vargas accept the AILA Award.

Honors to Hogar

Hogar Hispano, Catholic Charities’ immigrant services program, was named Pro-Bono Partner of the Year by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) at its May 16 meeting in Washington, D.C. Receiving the award on behalf of Hogar Hispano were attorney Jessica Dumas and paralegal Enrique Vargas.

Dumas, who serves as supervisor of legal services, said, “We are honored to receive this award, and we share the AILA vision of promoting justice and advocating for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy.”

Sun Shines on a Great Day of Golf and Giving

Sunny weather and a beautiful course awaited golfers at the 15th annual Catholic Charities Classic at Country Club of Fairfax on June 25. One hundred and twelve players enjoyed the game, camaraderie, a festive post-game dinner, and a silent auction, with final proceeds raised for Catholic Charities' programs totalling more than \$38,000.

Executive Director Stephen Luteran thanked sponsors, golfers, and the Golf Committee organizer and said, "We especially thank Brian and Donna Roberts who have done a tremendous job chairing the committee for the past three years."

Generous support came from these sponsors:

- All Saints Parish
- Battlefield Ford
- BB&T (tournament sponsor)
- Bill Page Honda (gold sponsor)

Members of the winning team at the 2007 Catholic Charities Classic are (left to right) Geoff Washburn, Buddy Baylis, Otis Poole, and Tom Tate.



Photo by Jeanne Speath

- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Buck & Associates (silver sponsor)
- Cedar Run Landscaping
- Daniel Cooper
- Cox Business Services (gold sponsor)
- Croix Connect
- David Flinchum
- Great American Restaurants
- Knights of Columbus—Mt. Vernon Council (2 silver sponsors)
- Lindsay Cadillac
- M3COM (silver sponsor)
- Mercer Human Resource Consulting (silver sponsor)
- Northwestern Mutual Fund Group
- Ourisman Automotive of Virginia (silver sponsor)
- Peterson Family Foundation
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Sacred Heart Parish (Manassas)
- Saint Thomas a Becket Parish
- Security One Bank (gold and silver sponsors)
- Smitty's Building Supplies
- SunTrust (silver sponsor)
- United Bank (silver sponsor)
- Watkins Sinclair, LLC (silver sponsor)
- Weyh Roberts & Associates

Photo by Ray Plisney



Volunteer students from St. Thomas More Cathedral School help organize files.

Students Lend a Hand

Seventh and eighth grade students from St. Thomas More Cathedral School arrived at the administrative offices of Catholic Charities on May 9 to help with clerical and general housekeeping tasks. Under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Meehan, the students work every year to fulfill a service-project requirement.

"We thank you for your help, and it's a pleasure to meet you—our neighbors just across the parking lot from the Chancery Building," said Executive Director Stephen Luteran.

News In Brief

• Catholic Charities was very pleased to receive \$36,349.88 from the 2006 Fannie Mae Foundation "Help the Homeless" Walkathon. Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance/Homeless Prevention (listed under code CCEAP) was one of the programs that walkers could designate as the recipient of their contributions.

• Catholic Charities thanks Blessed Sacrament Parish for donating the proceeds of its February 2nd Beethoven concert to the prison ministry program. More than \$1,500 was raised at the event featuring the Blessed Sacrament Festival Orchestra and guest soloists.

• St. Mary's Parish hosted a Fredericksburg Office fundraiser at its June 13 parish picnic. More than \$2,000 was raised through a silent auction, sales of Susan Sablon's religious art, and sales of volunteer counselor Rosemarie Gortler's new prayer book for children. The Fredericksburg Office thanks all donors and supporters.

Wish List

- Canned goods and other nonperishable food items to restock the food pantry at Christ House. Call first to confirm delivery dates (703-548-4227).
- Furniture and supplies for the newly refurbished rooms at Christ House. Call 703-841-3836 for details.

Walking for Life

Pro-life supporters put their faith into action May 12 when they joined Catholic Charities' annual Walk for Life at Paul VI High School in Fairfax and Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria. Now in its 24th year, the 5 kilometer walk (actually two walks at separate locations) raises funds for crisis pregnancy counseling, foster care, and adoption services.

Catholic Charities is licensed as a child-placing agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia and has facilitated the adoption of more than 2,700 children since 1947. Client services are available throughout the Arlington Diocese. Call 703-425-0100 (Burke office), 540-371-1124 (Fredericksburg Office), or 1-800-CARE-002. A Children's Services worker is also available weekly at Christ the Redeemer parish in Sterling, and clients can be seen at home if they lack means of transportation to agency offices. Further information is available at www.cca.net.



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

Fr. Michael Kuhn leads participants in prayer before they start the 24th annual Walk for Life.



Nationally Accredited



Member Catholic Charities USA



United Way/ Combined Federal Campaign

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Exec. Director . . . Stephen Luteran
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www.cca.net

Hogar Hispano Offers Hope and Advice

After a harrowing departure from the violence of war-torn Afghanistan, Fatima arrived in northern Virginia as a refugee and was welcomed by her aunt. Eager to become self-sufficient, she applied as a restaurant worker, but when she filled out the job application form and presented her I-94 papers, the manager said, "You need to show me a green card or naturalization certificate."

Fatima was very frustrated because she thought her I-94, the document she received as a refugee entering the U.S., was sufficient. Her aunt suggested that she go to Hogar Hispano, Catholic Charities' immigrant services office.

As soon as Fatima told her story and showed her papers, a Hogar staff person called the manager and explained that federal guidelines accept the I-94 as one of the documents a job applicant can present when

Fatima gets important advice from Hogar Hispano.

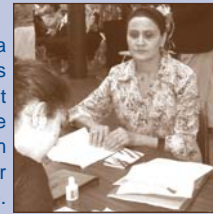


Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

completing the I-9 form (Employment Eligibility Verification). The manager said, "I really did not know that. Please send the applicant back to me," and he subsequently hired her.

Fatima called Hogar later and said, "Thank you. Without your help, I would be jobless."

For information about fair hiring and firing practices and documents for establishing identity and work authorization, call the hotline of the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices at 1-800-255-7688. Or go to the U.S. Department of Justice's web site at www.usdoj.gov/crt/osc. Or call Hogar Hispano at 703-534-9805 and ask for Freshta.

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