



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
9 November 2007

Catholic Charities of  
the Diocese of Arlington  
200 N. Glebe Rd., suite 506  
Arlington, VA 22203  
703-841-3833 or 703-919-9872  
www.cca.net

### **Catholic Charities Achieves Reaccreditation**



COA review team leader Martha Halterman (center), seated next to team reviewers Deborah Pinkett (right) and Christopher Kelly (farther right), addresses Catholic Charities' staff and board members at the October 3 exit interview (photo by Jeanne Spaeth).

Catholic Charities received word November 7 that it had once again been nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), which praised Catholic Charities as an “outstanding” provider of “quality services.”

The on-site visit by COA reviewers took place October 1-3 and involved detailed examination of Catholic Charities’ operations, including personnel, safety, and fiscal management, as well as services to clients.

At the October 3 exit interview, Martha Halterman, the COA peer review team leader, said that she found the staff “dedicated and hard-working” and the board “very active and involved.” She also reported, “I received positive feedback from the clientele I interviewed.”

COA is an international child- and family-service and behavioral healthcare accrediting organization that evaluates agencies against best-practice standards. Catholic Charities first applied for COA accreditation in 1987 and has successfully maintained its accreditation, undergoing in-depth reviews and self-studies every four years.

Catholic Charities’ Executive Director Stephen Luteran said, “This reaccreditation affirms that we are providing the very best care and professional services to our clients and that we are responsive to the needs of the community. It attests to the commitment of our caring staff and volunteers.”

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*Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington is a nonprofit social service agency that provides assistance through a soup kitchen/food pantry, emergency shelter, emergency assistance, counseling, foster care, services for the elderly, immigrant assistance, services for the disabled, crisis pregnancy counseling, adoption services, parish social ministry, and prison ministry. It was founded in 1947, is fully accredited, and serves twenty-one counties and seven independent cities in northern Virginia. More information is available at [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net). Catholic Charities helps those in need regardless of their race or creed.*