Community Acts as God’s Hands on Earth

Disaster Relief at Catholic Charities started March 5, 2012, three days after the horrific tornado on March 2. We found ourselves in a situation with a steep learning curve, but our volunteer coordinator, Lauren Young, was a quick learner and soon put the disaster relief program into effect that helps survivors in the cycle of “7, 70, and 700 days after a disaster”. In the first 7 days, the focus is on the immediate needs of those affected: shelter, food, spiritual and emotional care. In the next 70 days, the priority is cleanup and beginning to rebuild. Disaster experts estimate that recovery from a disaster takes the next 700 days, or roughly two years after the event. After about two years, the survivors have more or less adjusted to the “new normal.”

After the March 2012 tornado, during the initial seven days, our first response was outreach into the communities affected to see what assistance was needed. There was a second collection at Mass in parishes throughout the diocese the weekend after the tornado. The response from the Northern Kentucky community was enormous – an outpouring of donations, supplies, volunteers, and of course, prayer.

During the second phase of 70 days, we organized several specific volunteer days. Four Catholic high schools (Covington Catholic, Notre Dame Academy, Newport Central Catholic and St. Henry District High School) worked together to clean up debris. The Jesuit Spiritual Center participated in a service retreat called iPlunge, where several groups went to different sites for clean-up. Our website became a diocesan wide resource for those looking for volunteer opportunities. We organized Dumpsters from Rumpke to be delivered to specific sites. The NKY Knights of Columbus had many volunteers and ready available to work at specific locations as skilled professionals.

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Dear Friends

Charity in the Year of Faith.

Many of us have been taught from a young age to give charity. Maybe we learned the Corporal Works of Mercy, or shared our pocket change in the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl collections during Lent, or we observed our parents donating to the local St. Vincent de Paul chapter. Giving to the poor is an essential Catholic teaching. But our Catholic faith challenges us through Catholic social teachings to a deeper understanding of charity that is rooted in love.

Pope Benedict, in his encyclical Caritas in Veritate, Charity in Truth, says “This dynamic of charity received and given is what gives rise to the Church’s social teaching, which is *caritas in veritate in re sociali*: the proclamation of the truth of Christ’s love in society.” (CIV n.5) Justice says that I give to the other what is due to him, but charity says that I give to other out of what is “mine.” “…Charity demands justice: recognition and respect for the legitimate rights of individuals and peoples. It strives to build the *earthly city* according to law and justice.” (CIC n.6) But as Christians, we are called to love neighbor and desire their good, as well as, working to make that happen in our social relationships including economic and political realms.

Our willingness and ability to love neighbor as Christ desires can only come when we feel truly loved by God. We can love freely because “…the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5) And, with the love that has been poured out on us freely it is our mission to bring God’s love, mercy, and compassion to those struggling with poverty, insecurity, and lack of housing or other basic needs.

Our world in many ways is fulfilling the words of Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* when he said that we were creating a “culture of death,” one in which we value material goods over our brothers and sisters living in poverty, or view people who cause a burden to others as less worthy of life. There are more and more addictions, prisoners and wars. We suffer unemployment, homelessness and lands ravaged by natural disasters.

Yet, the workers at Catholic Charities bring the light of Christ into our world to conquer the darkness. Through their work, they allow God’s love to show through and fulfill their mission: “To promote healing, restore hope and affirm human potential through services that empower, voices that speak for justice; and, partnerships that strengthen communities.”

Let us in the Year of Faith open ourselves up to God’s love poured out on us through the Spirit, so we can share our faith in charity to others. We ask God to bless the new Pope to guide us by faith to create a culture of life, hope and love.

The Board and Staff of Catholic Charities thank everyone for the prayers and good wishes for our Executive Director, Bill Jones. Please continue to pray and keep Bill in your thoughts as his recovery progresses.
Women’s Reentry Finds a New Home at Catholic Charities

In July 2012, Catholic Charities became the new home of the Women’s Reentry Program, commonly known as NKY Female Offender Reentry Project, which provides case management services to women coming out of jail or prison to establish successful transition back into the Northern Kentucky community, and reduce recidivism. The program is funded by the Kentucky Department of Corrections and is staffed by two full time Case Managers. Staci Alder, Program Supervisor, has a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from UC, and is also a Licensed Social Worker. Nikki Hizer has a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from NKU. Both Case Managers also hold certification from the American Correctional Association as Certified Corrections Supervisors.

The typical client served in this program is a Caucasian woman in her late thirties or early forties, who has been incarcerated because of offenses related to illegal drug use, such as trafficking or possession of illegal drugs, theft and typically a lengthy history of prostitution. She has several children who are either in the State foster care system or living with relatives. Her relationship with them is fragile because of her absence from their lives, and because of the behaviors which led to her criminal conviction. Often the client is from a family with a long history of criminal behavior and mental illness, and she may suffer from significant historical trauma, along with mental health and substance use disorders.

Staci says that “Reentry is a fairly new concept in Kentucky Corrections. It’s part of a move away from punishment toward rehabilitation.” There is a practical reason for this. An ex-offender who is rehabilitated and successful in society is much less likely to re-offend and go back to jail or prison. Incarceration is very expensive, and preventive programs such as Women’s Reentry actually save the State money in the long run.

Staci and Nikki begin working with clients up to six months before release. They establish a relationship of trust with their clients, which is necessary in order for them to be successful, and make sure that they have a safe place to go upon release. They also set up services clients need once released, including mental health and substance abuse treatment. Substance abuse treatment is important because although it is easy to be sober in a controlled setting such as jail, it’s a different story “on the outside.” Relapse into drug use is most likely in the first ten days following release, when clients reconnect with friends and family who may still be using drugs, and when they are vulnerable as they struggle to rebuild their lives. Staci says their clients understand that the Case Manager’s role is “to be supportive, but they understand that we can’t keep secrets.” The Case Manager works with the client before release to make a plan for what will happen should the client relapse. “The parole officer will often sign off on a treatment plan when relapse occurs, rather than send the client back to jail,” says Staci. The Case Manager also notifies the parole officer when the client is successful.

Nikki runs two Seeking Safety groups at Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women (KCIW) in Pewee Valley, KY. Seeking Safety is a curriculum for survivors of trauma, and it teaches women healthy coping skills and the tools they need to make healthy choices. These women are in prison in part because they have poor coping skills, and have never learned how to keep themselves safe, which is shown by their involvement in illegal activities such as use of or trafficking of illegal substances, or prostitution. The groups meet for six months, and women who complete the program can earn time off from their sentences. Between August 2009 and February 2012, the Women’s Reentry program saved the State of Kentucky $2.7 million. This is the amount of money the State did not spend during this time period on returning ex-offenders to jail or prison. The current cost to incarcerate one (1) woman in KCIW per day is $76.07, therefore evidence shows that funding services in the community for reentry purposes is not only more cost efficient for the State, but also more productive for the community.

“...Evidence shows that funding services in the community for reentry purposes is not only more cost efficient for the State, but also more productive for the community.”
Catholic Charities Welcomes New Board Members

Charles Bradley

“I am blessed by the opportunity to serve on the Catholic Charities’ board. Each year during the diocesan annual appeal, we see how Catholic Charities puts faith into service. Catholic Charities is very active in our communities and serves as the hands of Christ to many in need. I am excited to be part of the organization and look forward to supporting the good works of Catholic Charities across the diocese.”

Fred Hollmann

“I am very excited to be involved with Catholic Charities. God has blessed me in ways more than I could have ever imagined. As a board member, this will be the opportunity to be part of a team that will make a positive difference in someone’s future.”

Thomas Neltner

“I am humbled to be chosen to be a part of the Catholic Charities’ board. I know the great work that Catholic Charities has done over the years bringing assistance those in need. God calls us to serve one another. God expects us to use our talent and treasure to take care of those that need us the most. I pray that through my service on the Board I can add a little something that will help the organization in its mission. I am grateful and honored to be a part of an organization of faith-filled people who are striving to do God’s will.”

This newsletter is published three times a year in spring, summer and winter for friends of Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides adoption services, housing support, therapeutic counseling, neighborhood and community organizing, parenting services, pregnancy counseling, substance abuse treatment, jail ministry and prisoner reentry services, youth development services, intake and referral, and volunteer support.
A Total of 70 Years of Dedication
to Catholic Charities

Joy Boothby and Mary Gray

At Catholic Charities, we pride ourselves on the fact that staff and volunteers tend to stay here for a very long time. Both staff and volunteers report that in addition to their commitment to our mission, the warm, caring and supportive atmosphere of the agency makes it hard to leave. This year we are celebrating two individuals: the long term commitment of a volunteer, and we are also celebrating a staff member.

Any agency would appreciate having a volunteer like Mary Gray who has been serving Catholic Charities for 30 years. Mary served on our Board of Directors for two terms and was President for two years. She presently volunteers every Wednesday morning, where her primary task is to keep the paperwork and records in Volunteer Services up-to-date, although Mary is always more than happy to do anything else that is needed. Mary is an associate with the Notre Dame Sisters, and is presently the volunteer coordinator of the Notre Dame Urban Education Center, where she has developed a successful volunteer program to provide tutors that help children who have fallen behind in their studies or need a boost. Mary is a valued gift to Catholic Charities and to other agencies in the community. She exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism.

Joy Boothby began working with Catholic Charities as Office Manager 40 years ago. She served as administrative assistant for Msgr. Thomas Finn, Fr. William Mertes and Sr. Joan Boberg. She recruited volunteer receptionists in the late seventies, and volunteer receptionists have remained an integral part of the Agency for more than 30 years. Other volunteers she recruits offer assistance in school services, the business office and on the cooking team. Planning, preparing and serving good food is one of Joy’s many gifts. Staff, volunteers and guests have enjoyed the fruits of those labors at staff luncheons, board meetings and the CaSSba, the Agency’s annual fundraiser.

Mary and Joy have worked together for many years and complement one another as a team. Mary is the “detail oriented” person, while Joy is more the “people” person. They call themselves the “odd couple” and together have made Catholic Charities Volunteer Services successful with recruitment and placement of thousands of volunteers through the years.

Joy often says that with 40 years, she has “gotten rich working for Catholic Charities – working with colorful and dedicated people, both staff and volunteers, who choose to serve those in need.” She considers herself blessed to be a part of it.
Adopt-a-Family for Christmas Program a Huge Success

This past year, Catholic Charities was able to provide Christmas gifts for 58 families consisting of 77 adults and 126 children. Of course we were not able to do this on our own; we had support from many members of our community, including VonLehman CPA & Advisory Firm, West Latonia Neighborhood Association, Latonia Business Association, Ft. Mitchell Fire Department, NKPAC of Kenton County, Dorning Supply, and Hasbro Inc. We also partnered with the Congregation of Divine Providence, Blessed Sacrament Parish, St. Barbara Parish, St. Catherine Parish, as well as many families and individuals who “adopted” one of the families we serve. Catholic Charities is very blessed to have support from our generous community who helped us provide a Christmas celebration to those we serve.

We also celebrated the Christmas season with a Christmas Party for our residents at St. Joseph’s Apartments. Food was catered by Hot Heads Burritos, desserts supplied by Blessed Sacrament St. Vincent de Paul Society, crafts provided by Lisa Bezold and friends, and a special visit from Santa Claus and helpers from VolunTEENS at Covington Catholic High School and St. Henry District High School. The party was a huge success!

If you are interested in more information or participating in our Adopt-a-Family Christmas event please contact Lauren Young at lyoung@covingtoncharities.org or 859-581-8974 ext. 136.

Community Acts as God’s Hands on Earth (continued from Cover)

During the past year, we have been part of the recovery process for about ninety families and individuals affected by the storm. We have continued to work with volunteer groups donating both skilled and unskilled labor to help with specific projects. Holy Trinity High School from Louisville has made three separate trips to help a particular family rebuild what was lost on their farm. Catholic Charities staff and volunteers have offered case management services to aid with the rebuilding process. With the help of a diocesan wide collection the Sunday after the tornado, CCUSA, and generous donations from the community, we have been able to offer financial assistance to those who qualified, and spiritual and emotional support was provided by several counselors at Catholic Charities.

As the one year anniversary passed this past week, and we are approximately halfway through the 700 days, we are pleased to say that two more families no longer need case management and will be moving into their new homes within the next few weeks. Catholic Charities would not have been able to take the lead in disaster relief for the diocese without the support of our national organization, Catholic Charities USA. We are very grateful for the strong support of Bishop Foys and his diocesan staff. We are also thankful for the support of local agencies assisted with their resources, and of course the volunteers in the community who helped us financially or physically to act as God’s hands on earth to our neighbors.
Newly Expanded Donor Recognition Program Launched

At Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Covington, our donors are like family. We are especially grateful to those who have indicated that our ministries are among their charitable priorities. There are now two separate donor recognition programs to honor their thoughtful contributions and significant role in our work. The two programs are the Wings of Hope Association and the Matthew 25 Association.

We would be honored with your membership in one or both of our recognition programs!

The Wings of Hope Association
$1,000 and above

Established in 2010 to promote and acknowledge leadership support of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington, the Wings of Hope Association was expanded in Fall 2012 to include seven societies that further recognize our major contributors. Six of the societies are named for icons of the Catholic faith who reflect the spirit of our donors and inspire our work.

The de Marillac Society
Named for St. Louise de Marillac
$1,000 – $1,499

St. Martin Society
Named for St. Martin of Tours
$1,500 – $2,499

The Blessed Mother Teresa Society
$2,500 – $4,999

The St. Augustine Society
Named for St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo
$5,000 – $7,499

The St. Joseph Society
$7,500 – $9,999

The Guadeloupe Society
Named for Our Lady of Guadeloupe
$10,000 & above

The Next Generation Society
(Ages 50 years and younger)
$500 & above

The MATTHEW 25 Association
No minimum gift required

The society comprises both Sustaining Members, those who donate every month, and Legacy Members, those who have remembered the Agency in their will or other estate plans. Monthly giving and in particular, planned gifts (gifts made through wills, bequests and other estate planning tools) indicate a donor’s special connection to the mission of our agency. Both monthly gifts and planned gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. We treasure the affirmation these contributions represent. Our monthly donors help the agency plan and meet our budget through a consistent stream of support. Estate gifts allow us to continue, improve or create vital services for our Northern Kentucky community offering hope and independence for those in crisis, all as a legacy of our benefactors.

Commitments of any size are greatly appreciated.

“Then the King will say… ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

– Matthew 25:34-40, New International Version (NIV)

For more information about both donor programs please visit the How You Can Help/Donate page at www.CovingtonCharities.org
SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, August 17, 2013
5th Annual Northern Kentucky Knights of Columbus Golf Classic
benefitting Catholic Charities’ LifeLine Fund.
Twin Oaks Golf and Plantation Club
Tee off begins at 8:00 a.m.
$85 per golfer (includes 18 holes with cart, breakfast, lunch, dinner, beer and soft drinks.)
RSVP: Denis Elix, 859-442-0292
or Carl Biery, 859-781-5054

Catholic Charities’ LifeLine fund was established to provide financial assistance to young women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

Sunday, August 25, 2013
Catholic Charities
“Salutes Our Armed Forces”
at CaSSba 2013
Drees Pavilion, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Admission is $50 per person / CaSSba Cash tickets are $20 each

Monday, August 5, 2013
2nd Annual Catholic Charities Board of Directors Golf Outing
Triple Crown Golf Course
The board is looking for agency sponsors and golfers!

Please visit www.covingtoncharities.org for more information.

Catholic Charities is now registered with the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

If you have a Kroger Rewards Card please sign up for the Community Rewards Program by April 30, 2013 using the number 83331.

This does not affect your fuel points but Catholic Charities will get money on a quarterly basis for all the purchases that are made under our number. Thank you for your support!