

POVERTY IN A WORLD OF PLENTY

Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry. We all have to think if we can become a little

poorer, all of us have to do this. How can I become a little poorer in order to be more like Jesus who was the poor Teacher?"

- POPE FRANCIS



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

because we all need a little help along the way

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we serve all people in need with compassion, competence, advocate for justice and encourage all people of good will to join in these efforts.

WHO WE HELP:

Most Vulnerable: Refugees, immigrants, pregnant women, infants, children and whomever they bring, the elderly, families in crisis, individuals and couples seeking professional therapy.

HOW WE HELP THEM:

Basic NeedsPages 6-8

St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter,
St. Mary Family Center & Refugee Resettlement

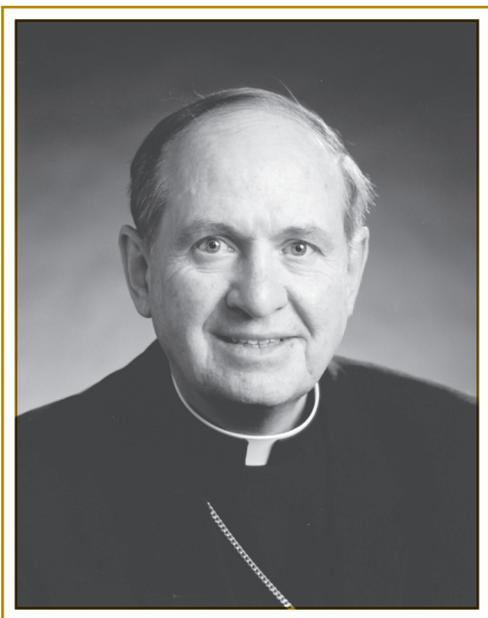
EmpowermentPages 9-11

Hispanic Community Outreach Program, Phoenix House
Domestic Violence Shelter & Center for Life Counseling

Community InvolvementPages 12-13

Social Justice Consortium, Board of Directors,
Volunteers & Supporters

FROM THE PRESIDENT



**MOST REVEREND
RICHARD E. PATES**

“How I would
love a church
that is poor
and for the
poor.”

- POPE FRANCIS

Dear Friends,

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35

This Gospel message is central to what we do as Catholics to serve the poor and vulnerable in our midst. As we reflect upon those we have fed, clothed, sheltered, counseled and welcomed this past year, let us continue to open our hearts and minds to what we can do to affect change for our brothers and sisters in need, and live out the Gospel message. Indeed, Catholic Charities represents “Faith in Action.”

I invite you to travel with us through these pages to learn more about this important work. I encourage you to consider volunteering at our outreach centers, participating on a committee, donating and praying for those we serve now and in the years to come.

It is my belief that your life will be enriched in numerous ways as your support and involvement continues to affect the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Richard E Pates*

**Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines
President of Catholic Charities**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



NANCY GALEAZZI

“How marvelous it would be if, at the end of the day, each of us could say: Today I have performed an act of charity towards others!”

- POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER

Dear community of supporters,

I'd like to invite you to take a trip around Central & Southwest Iowa to see the faces and hear the stories of people whose lives have been touched throughout this past year through the work of Catholic Charities. It is with the work of all our hands that we have been able to provide resources to the most vulnerable among us.

Our services seek to alleviate the adverse effects of poverty, addressing each client's needs to the best of our ability. Throughout the last year, Catholic Charities has served individuals from many backgrounds and many cultures, treating each with dignity and respect.

As our needs as an agency evolve, your contribution to Catholic Charities assists us in providing an avenue out of poverty for our clients. Even through recent tough economic times, the support of Catholic Charities' donors has been immense. We appreciate your generosity.

Thank you for being part of efforts to provide “a little help along the way.”

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Galeazzi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Galeazzi
Executive Director
Catholic Charities

Refugee Resettlement: Future bright for refugee who survived war

By Patrick Schacherer

In refugee resettlement, it is rarely the case that Catholic Charities receives a bona fide war hero—especially one who fought to defend ours. Such is the story of Nabiullah, or Nabi for short.

In 2009, while planted firmly in a country in perpetual conflict, Nabi made the choice to drop his former job to pursue an opportunity with the United States National Guard as an interpreter. In addition to English, Nabi is fluent in Pashtu, Farsi and Dari—making him a valuable commodity to the National Guard.

As an interpreter in Afghanistan, Nabi's role was both physically and emotionally taxing. Even though interpreters are hired for their language skills, they are also expected to be full participants in military operations. As such, Nabi saw his fair share of combat and violence, but one incident stands out in Nabi's mind—getting hit by a roadside bomb. As Nabi and the lead vehicles of his unit rolled into a rural Afghan province, an I.E.D. (Improvised Explosive Device) exploded directly beneath Nabi's seat. "After we realized we were all alive, we let out the loudest cheer we could. We were still alive. We were hurt, but still alive." After the incident, Nabi spent the next few months in a military hospital, having suffered neck and back injuries that still plague him to this day.

**208 refugees were resettled
last year from Burma,
Bhutan, Eritrea, Iraq,
Somalia and Sudan.**



Nabi, his wife Saleh and baby Arman were resettled through Catholic Charities this past year.

During the next couple of years, Nabi and his family were put through all the rigors necessary to come to the United States. As a former member of the Army National Guard, a group of service members from Iowa endorsed Nabi's immigration to the United States and have continued to support him since his arrival, by providing dishes, toys for his infant son and other items to make the family feel at home in America.

The future for Nabi and his family is bright in the United States. Nabi's job outlook is very positive says Catholic Charities' employment coordinator, and the support he has received from his friends in the Army National Guard, will provide Nabi and his family with opportunities not possible in Afghanistan. Though painful memories of his former country still lurk in his mind, Nabi continually stays positive, often repeating the phrase "Just keep going. Never stop."

St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter: New playground

Nearly 60% of the guests who stay at Catholic Charities' St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter each year are children. Last year alone, 239 kids called St. Joseph's home.

It is no surprise then, that the addition of a new playground is big news.

The playground, funded by a grant from the Variety Club of Iowa, will play an essential role in the overall health of the families staying at the shelter.

"These families are under a huge amount of stress. The playground provides an opportunity for parents to let their kids play in a safe environment outside," said Celeste Egger, St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter House Manager.

Sheltered 395 people, 239 were children

After staying at St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter and receiving case management: The number of adults that were employed doubled from entry to exit 52 families moved to permanent housing, 62 moved into transitional housing and 19 moved into another emergency shelter

1089 families, or 2596 people, were turned away because the shelter was full



The playground, funded by a grant from the Variety Club of Iowa, will play an essential role in the overall health of the families staying at the shelter.

"It also enables parents to plan a more structured playtime for their kids, which helps the entire family in the long run.

Volunteers from the St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus and Graham Construction helped to assemble the new playground which is complete with an airplane panel and several slides including a spiral slide.

As Polk County's only 24-hour emergency family shelter that keeps the entire family unit together, St. Joseph's fills a dire community need. Once at the shelter, families have a private room, three meals a day laundry facilities. They also work with a Family Advocate to take the steps needed to move on to transitional or permanent housing, find employment and work towards self-sufficiency.

St. Mary Family Center

By Trish Radke

Each year, as the hot Iowa summer fades slowly into the cool, crisp season of fall many Central Iowa families face the reality that a warm coat just isn't in the family budget. At Catholic Charities' St. Mary Family Center, these families can come to find good-quality winter coats, hats and gloves at no cost.

For thirty-three year olds James and Tina Johnson, who work full-time seasonal jobs from October to April, new coats are a luxury they simply cannot afford for themselves or their daughter. "I just don't have the money right now to buy my daughter a coat. I wish I did," Tina said.

The opportunity to come to St. Mary Family Center and get an emergency food box and warm coats for the family is help that they are grateful for. Both James and Tina are looking for year-round work, so far with little luck.

The need for this kind of assistance in Central Iowa is great. On this day alone, 119 coats were given away at no charge along with 34 blankets. Three hundred ninety-three people also visited the food counter making it one of the busiest days of the year. The center strives to provide basic necessities in a dignified atmosphere so people can focus their resources on finding jobs that pay a living wage, pursuing education or getting the medical care they need to live healthy and productive lives.

On average, 400 people seek assistance at the food counter each day at St. Mary Family Center



Tina and James seek assistance at St. Mary Family Center as they search for work during their "off" months from seasonal jobs that employ them fulltime from April through October.

10,486 families received free clothing and nearly 100,000 items were given away last year.

1883 families received an emergency food box, 484 families received diapers and 203 families received infant formula

665 families received a Thanksgiving or Christmas food box including a ham, turkey or chicken

Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program: Spreading hope to 5 more counties

By Rachel Fitzgibbon

This year, the Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program more than doubled the amount of hope they will offer to Western Iowans. The Phoenix House now serves 9 counties instead of 4 on the Western edge of the state.

Although the challenge of adding 5 counties is large, staff members at the Phoenix House remain hopeful about the support they are able to offer vulnerable Iowans. Guests of the Phoenix House shelter have the opportunity to take educational classes and attend support groups; visiting nurses check in once a week; free haircuts are offered every other week. Children of Phoenix House guests can take advantage of free music lessons and tutoring.

Prevention education efforts reached 878 college age, high school and middle school students. In addition two coaches from Iowa Western Community College used prevention education curricula with male athletes.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response and Referral Teams responded to 60 calls from local hospitals.

“Our services help women understand how domestic violence is affecting them, and provide them with information to help them move on and be independent,” says Shelter Coordinator Velma James. Sometimes, she acknowledges, this process can be long. “It didn’t take overnight to get them here, so it takes longer to get past it.”

Never the less, the long road does lead to success for many. Outreach Coordinator SaraAnn Lampert says, “We see people who have fled [their homes], and then in a couple months they have an apartment, a job, a whole new life.”

For Velma, the children are signs of hope. “I do see the changes: the kids who come in clinging to their mom in fear go back to being children within hours of arriving. It seems that something about our environment is peaceful and comforting.”

Now peace and comfort will be spread to even more Central & Southwest Iowans who are in need of encouragement and hope. While residents of the newly acquired counties may not directly experience the Phoenix House environment, they are not outside the reach of the support offered by staff. No matter where a client is located, Velma says the most important thing is that “they go away with the understanding that they don’t deserve [the situation] and that it’s not their fault.” The Phoenix House now offers that hopeful message to even more Iowans who need to hear it.

Hispanic Community Outreach: Graduation is just the beginning

By Rachel Fitzgibbon

“This is just the beginning,” Mireya Ramirez reminded her students on August 1 at the Catholic Pastoral Center. “It is not over when you receive the certificate.”

Nineteen students received a computer competency certificate after completing the 8-week class offered by Catholic Charities’ Hispanic Community Outreach Program. The certificate serves as a well-earned testament to the important skills learned in the class – skills that can have a positive impact at work and at home. Competency in Microsoft Word and Excel, the Internet and e-mail helps graduates further their careers and better provide for their families.

The graduation ceremony began with a warm welcome from Mireya, recognition of the many volunteers who make up a “very important part of the classes,” and plenty of applause for everyone involved. Several graduates shared personal testimony about the importance of the class as close family members listened and cheered them on.

One graduate encouraged those who are considering taking the class. “It is never too late to start,” she said. Others expressed their gratitude

102 students graduated from computer classes

31 students attended citizenship and nutrition classes



for Mireya and the possibilities their new skills would open to them. One man said sincerely, “I give thanks to God.” All of them smiled with pride.

Just before the big event of the evening – the hand-shaking, certificate-receiving, picture-taking finale – Mireya raised a challenge to her newly graduated students.

“Promise me that you will come to my office in a year or less and say, “Teacher, I have a better job now because of this class.” That is the important difference the computer class can make for graduates: initiating a path to continual success and advancement.

When asked if students eventually visit to report their successes, Mireya smiled. “Yes, they do come.” Like she said, graduation is just the beginning for the Hispanic community members who master these necessary skills.

Center for Life Counseling

Center for Life Counseling at Catholic Charities provides supportive relationships with a focus on managing anxiety in a positive way. Our licensed, professional therapists work with clients of all faiths regarding a number of issues including depression, anxiety, stress, issues concerning relationships, child behavior problems, marital conflict, eating disorders, sexual abuse, separation and divorce issues, criminal behavior, addictions, physical handicaps, health problems and spiritual crisis. Go to www.CenterforLifeCounseling.org for tips from the therapists on everyday issues including stress and anxiety.

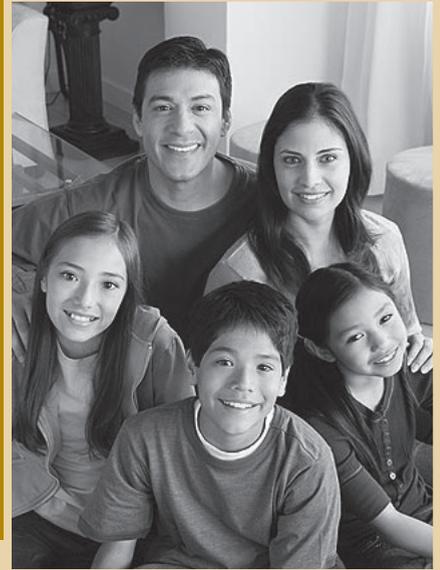
Many newcomers to Iowa are bearing the stresses of working multiple jobs, raising their families, and learning a new culture – often while cut off from the family support systems in their home countries. As one of only a few bilingual therapy options in Des Moines, Center for Life Counseling offers counseling support to individuals, families and couples whose first language is Spanish.

862 sessions were scheduled with our bilingual therapist alone.

Number of clients served- 2073



Center for Life COUNSELING



A New Beginning



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling

Search and reunification

Nine cases were opened last year resulting in 6 reunifications. Two cases are still in progress.

Pregnancy Counseling

Ten women received counseling or assistance due to an unintended pregnancy.

Adoption

No adoptions were finalized last year.

Social Justice Consortium

By Trish Radke

The Social Justice Consortium promotes the social justice mission of the Catholic Church through a coordinated effort to work toward a comprehensive and consistent ethic of life for the pursuit of the common good. Led by Bishop Richard Pates, a variety of advocacy efforts including meetings with legislators, action alerts and events take place throughout the year. Examples of some of the Social Justice Consortium efforts this past year include: Life is Precious Day, Mass for Life, Poverty Simulations, Rural Life Mass, Farm Bill advocacy, Protect Life and Religious Freedom postcard campaign and action alerts and postcard campaign for comprehensive immigration reform.

Initiatives:

- Respect Life
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Catholic Relief Services
- Center for Social Ministry
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
- Emergency & Disaster Response
- Iowa Catholic Conference
- Justice for Newcomers
- Rural Life
- Poverty Campaign



Social Justice Consortium: Poverty Simulation



The Board of Directors at St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter. Board members brought donations of juice to the shelter where they held their Spring meeting.



Volunteers

St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter - 2,268 hours/year

St. Mary Family Center – 10,372 hours/year

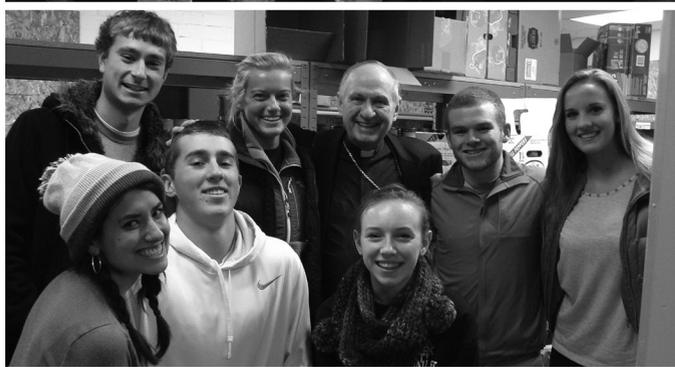
Hispanic Community Outreach Program – 11 volunteers, 196 hours

Refugee Resettlement – More than 100 volunteers helped with apartment setups, grocery shopping, transportation, assisted with paperwork, bus training, financial literacy and language classes.

Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program – 107 volunteers, 1605 hours

Approximately 100 Board and committee volunteers, parish ambassadors and special event volunteers contributed countless hours planning, advising and promoting the work of Catholic Charities.

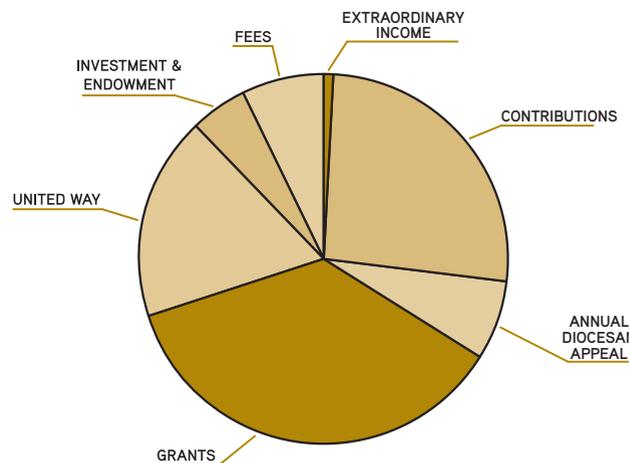




Revenue	
Contributions	\$823,873
Annual Diocesan Appeal*	\$230,00
Extraordinary Income	\$33,837
Grants	\$1,124,399
United Way (Central Iowa and Midlands)	\$570,436
Investment & Endowment	\$168,604
Fees	\$206,790
Total Revenue	\$3,157,940

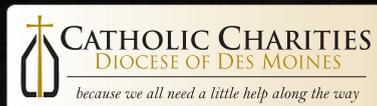
** The Diocese of Des Moines Annual Diocesan Appeal supports Catholic Charities by providing both direct operating revenue as well as facility and administrative support.*

TOTAL INCOME



Expenses	
Counseling & Pregnancy Counseling	\$532,439.33
Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling	\$47,054.89
St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter	\$294,163.57
St. Mary Family Center	\$156,827.90
Hispanic Outreach	\$41,046.34
Refugee Resettlement	\$654,726.93
Domestic Violence	\$532,854.36
Development	\$113,283.69
Administration	\$598,791.18
Total Expenses	\$2,962,188.19

WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESDM.ORG



LOCATIONS AND CONTACTS

A New Beginning | Center for Life Counseling | Migration & Refugee Services

601 Grand Ave. - Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone 515-237-5045 - Fax 515-237-5099

Center for Life Counseling | Phoenix House

300 W. Broadway Suite 223 - Council Bluffs, IA 51503
Counseling Program: 712-328-3086 - Phoenix House Phone: 712-256-2059

St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter

1535 11th Street - Des Moines, IA 50314
515-282-1235

St. Mary Family Center

1815 Hubbell Ave. - Des Moines, IA 50317
515-262-7290