

Good Works: A snapshot of outreach by the Archdiocese

Catholic Human Services

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

The impact of a strained economy on families and children in the region resulted in more requests for emergency and material assistance than ever. Catholic Social Services (CSS) met these increased needs by delivering services and assistance that positively impacted the lives of 162,634 people in Philadelphia and its suburban counties. Dedicated staff provided help and created hope for the developmentally disabled, homeless, at-risk youth and elderly. Volunteers supported the works of CSS with 43,712 hours of service through 70 programs across the region.

The Community Outreach Program assisted 75 developmentally disabled adults with life skills to promote independent living at home or in the community. **The Life Sharing through Family Living Program** supported 60 developmentally disabled adults living with "adoptive" families in the community. **Cardinal Krol Center** received Adult Training Facility licensure to serve developmentally disabled men with complex medical conditions. **Divine Providence Village** reconfigured a cottage with walk/roll-in showers, additional lighting and an enclosed courtyard to serve eight developmentally disabled women with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Child Care Services placed 60 children in foster homes last year and supported another 56 children in "kin care" with relatives assuming parental responsibilities. **The Teen Placement Diversion Program** served 114 girls at risk of foster care placement with ongoing mental health services and material assistance for their families. **Adoption Services** completed 25 adoptions, with 17 more families approved and awaiting children to adopt, and 23 birth parents considering adoption were offered counseling. **CSS Healthy Families Program** was named 2009 Social Services Provider of the Year for assisting 701 women in their choice of childbirth over abortion, the highest annual total in Pennsylvania.

Ten **Out of School Time programs** provided academic enrichment, recreational and athletic programs for 2,915 school-age children and youths in challenged neighborhoods. Four **Senior Community**



Centers served meals to 1,168 seniors in 2009, and support services to another 1,515 individuals. **Immigration Services** provided consultation or legal assistance to 470 clients and closed 245 cases, many resulting in legalized status and family reunifications. Eleven **Family Service Centers** across five counties served more than 30,000 clients. Three

Philadelphia Family Service Centers assisted 349 households in danger of homelessness to apply for rent and utility assistance under the federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. **Montgomery County Family Services Center** provided 54 families with rent or mortgage assistance, and more than 5,100 families with grocery assistance. **Delaware County Family Services Center** offered housing/mortgage counseling, credit and financial education, budgeting and debt reduction assistance to

1,394 families, and its baby cupboard served 80 families monthly.

St. Vincent Homes provided residential support to 200 neglected or abused teenage girls and their infant children in five renovated community group homes. **St. Francis-St. Joseph Homes for Children** served 225 at-risk males ages 12 through 20, with 120 boys residing daily in residential group homes and 25 young men in Supervised Independent Living apartments. **St. Gabriel's System** assisted 92 court-adjudicated youths earn high school diplomas, as well as Microsoft Office, OSHA-10 or ServSafe certification. Day treatment educational programs at **De LaSalle Vocational, De LaSalle In Towne** and **Brother Rousseau Academy** together served more than 235 court-adjudicated youths daily.

St. John's Hospice served 81,690 meals to clients, more than 3,000 men with mail service, 2,000 individuals with brief casework services, and 697 chronically homeless men in an overnight coffee-house. **Mercy Hospice** served 9,174 meals to more than 1,000 women and provided residential support to 100 women in recovery. **Women of Hope** served 58 chronically homeless women with mental health needs at their Lombard and Vine Street sites.

CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Catholic Health Care Services (CHCS) offers residential and community-based programs and services to seniors throughout the region, providing compassionate care to 2,532 elders in six nursing homes and four independent and assisted living communities. The **Archdiocesan Parish Nurse Program** made 3,440 contacts and home visits to serve health needs in the community, and **Catholic Care Option and Programs for the Elderly** assisted 321 individuals in finding a Catholic or other nursing home for a loved one.

An extensive renovation and expansion project commenced at **St. Monica Manor** in South Philadelphia. Acquisition of an adjacent former school building has made possible the addition of new resident areas and support space as well as upgrades to the existing building. Final renovations will include a beautiful new chapel, enhanced dining and lounge areas and an enlarged physical therapy room. An attractive new entrance will link the expansion to the existing

nursing home.

St. Francis Country House in Darby continued its renovations by expanding the four-story McShain Pavilion to include beautiful new dining rooms with woodland views where residents enjoy meals served home-style. A redesigned building front funded by the Women's Auxiliary features a garden, walkways and fountains. **Villa St. Martha** in Downingtown and **St. Mary Manor** in Lansdale each received accreditation as a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) offering a continuum of independent and assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care.

New computer software systems implemented across the CHCS system will facilitate more efficient use of electronic records, enhancing resident care and allowing caregivers more time with their residents. CHCS offers a **CNA and Caregiver Career Ladder Program** to provide professional development and advancement opportunities that affirm employee dedication.

Catholic Education

The schools across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia gave special attention to the request of Pope Benedict XVI as he declared June 2008 to June 2009 the Year of St. Paul. Liturgies, prayer services, posters, a closer study of the letters of St. Paul, Power Point presentations outlining his life and work, innovative projects and creative murals were only a few of the many activities that underscored the impact Saint Paul has had on the life of the Church.

At the conclusion of the school year, art work and creative writing pieces fashioned by students from elementary, secondary and special education schools centered on St. Paul were displayed at St. Paul Parish in East Norriton. The entries were judged prior to the closing liturgy with certificates offered to the best works. Students and their families will be invited to review all of the entries at the conclusion of the liturgy on June 28, 2009.

As each school deepens its Catholic identity, it is important for the students to have their attention drawn to a person who has or continues to follow Christ. In this way, the students are better able to hear the call from their own baptisms to follow Jesus throughout their lives. After the year of St. Paul, the students were much more aware of conversion

of mind and heart to the Lord.

Our Catholic identity calls us to provide the most excellent and up-to-date academic program for our students. This school year we have begun an initiative known as PLP: Powerful Learning Practice which delves into the current technology tools that teachers are able to incorporate into their instructional planning for both teacher and student use. The 20 secondary schools have created a cohort of five members to receive the training and then present the same to their entire faculty. The level of student engagement in their learning will steadily increase with the use of these online tools.

The International Center for Leadership in Education has worked all year with the staff in the Office of Catholic Education to create a strategic plan that focuses on three key areas for future growth. These include: Catholic identity, centers for academic excellence and sustainability. All administrators from secondary, elementary and special education have received an overview of the plan and will begin to fashion their local level objectives on the same plan. As we work together throughout this 21st century, we see a future full of hope as our schools remain on the cutting edge of faith, academic and life formation.

NUTRITIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Feeding children and the hungry in the community is a year-round work of charity. With the help of governmental and community partners, Nutritional Development Services (NDS) provided 10,089,432 meals with school-based and childcare center programs experiencing the most growth in utilization. NDS works closely with archdiocesan Catholic schools on wellness and nutrition activities to encourage healthy eating habits among school-age children. The **Community Food Program** collected 871,110 pounds of food with an estimated value of \$1.1 million from archdiocesan parishes, schools and other community service groups, and supported by the Catholic Charities Appeal, Operation Rice Bowl, foundation grants and charitable donations. These efforts resulted in more than 2 million meals provided to men, women and children in need of nutritious food assistance.

OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Office for Community Development (OCD) is collaborating with Catholic Health Care Services to develop projects that serve the elderly. The former Nativity B.V.M. School in Port Richmond received HUD funding to be converted into 63 apartments of affordable housing for independent seniors. Vacant buildings elsewhere are being evaluated for future reuse as senior housing, and the feasibility of expanding senior services is being explored.

OCD continues its work to revitalize the neighborhood surrounding Visitation B.V.M. Parish in Kensington. More than 100 local stakeholders participated in a process that culminated in the **Visitation Gateway Neighborhood Strategic Plan**, which provides community leaders and organizations with clear direction for future revitalization efforts, focused on reducing blight, developing a community plaza with green space and creating affordable housing for families and seniors.