

From the heart

Hardworking, dedicated volunteers devote their time and energies to help Catholic Charities bridge the gap between the agency's resources and the demand for services.

Just how important are volunteers to Catholic Charities? Jo Fisher, administrator of the West Region headquartered in South Bend, has the answer.

"Being a not-for-profit agency, we rely heavily on volunteers, and they enhance everything we do," Jo says. "In fact, I think not-for-profit organizations such as Catholic Charities would cease to exist without volunteers."

Indeed, volunteers—people who devote their time and talents to help others—are instrumental to Catholic Charities' ongoing efforts to assist the most vulnerable among us, strengthen families, and make our communities better places to live.

At the South Bend office, Jo and her staff benefit from the efforts of about 20 regular dedicated volunteers who perform a wide variety of tasks ranging from office work to serving in the food pantry. They range in age from high school students to retirees.

"The volunteers we have now are simply awesome," Jo says. "Volunteers free up staff members so that they can attend to other tasks. I know volunteers make my job much easier. Our volunteers are conscientious—they'll do anything that's asked of them, and they take ownership of every task or project, large or small. They even make it



RSVP member Mary Lou Freed sorts donated clothing.



Catholic
Charities

Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese

Together, we can perform miracles

It's pretty clear that in 2009, the needs of many are great. It's also clear that resources available are utterly insufficient.

Working at our agency makes it easy to envision those 5,000 hungry people, the apostles, a few loaves of bread, and a couple of fish. On the face of it, the situation was hopeless. But that view overlooked the presence of Jesus.

In our area today, there's a great hunger for jobs, food, heat, and hope. This agency certainly doesn't have the personnel or the money to help all those in need. But we do have God to turn to, and we also have His people to ask for help. It's certainly worth noting that in Mark's version of the loaves and fishes, Jesus didn't elect to make that feast out of nothing. He made a point of first finding out what everyone was capable of giving, and only then did He stretch to meet the needs of everyone.

I grew up in a family and a small town that followed His example by expecting everyone to do his or her part. My mom was my role model—volunteering for and donating to the VFW Auxiliary, Girl Scouts, church, and, of course, my school.

My mom and dad instilled in my sister and me the value of hard work. When we were old enough, all of us were expected to earn some of our own money with after-school or summer jobs. In addition, they taught us that it was important to contribute to the greater good by volunteering.

One of my first and fondest volunteer experiences was with our church. The highlight of every summer in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, was the

Henry County Fair. And every county fair meant rides, tractor pulls, beauty contests, cotton candy, and, for me, it meant volunteering at our church's concession under the grandstand, where among other things, we served cold pop out of ice-filled stock tanks. It was fun, and I got a great feeling knowing that I was helping our church, which, in turn, helped so many people in our community.

When I was a little older, I began volunteering at the local hospital. In college (Iowa Wesleyan, right in Mount Pleasant), we were required to perform 200 volunteer hours before graduating. So, I became a Girl Scout leader to fulfill this requirement. As a parent, I continued to volunteer, driving kids on field trips at St. Therese Catholic School and working at school functions at Bishop Luers High School. And although it's tough to find the time, I still volunteer today, as a reviewer for the Council of Accreditation.

My point is that if you can find the time—and you can—volunteering is a wonderful way to help us help so many others. When you volunteer your time and talents, you free up precious manpower and resources we can redirect to other areas of need. And as a volunteer, you get as good as you give, making new friends and expanding your horizons. And, of course, there's the pleasure, unlike any other, of helping someone in need.

I've never underestimated the power of generosity, and I've always known that miracles do happen. So please reach into your pockets and see what you can spare. I assure you we will make it multiply. And please look at your calendars to see if you can spare time to help us empower those in need. I promise you—miracles will follow.

Did you know?

Catholic Charities resettled 977 refugees from Burma, Liberia, and Ukraine in 2007–2008.



Debbie Schmidt, M.Ed.

Wish list

Catholic Charities has an ongoing need for new and gently used items. If you have something to contribute, please contact Barb Burlingham in South Bend at (574) 234-3111, ext. 31, or Judy Schmidt in Fort Wayne at (260) 422-5625, ext. 229. Donations can also be left at Catholic Charities, 315 E. Washington Boulevard in Fort Wayne, or 1817 Miami Street in South Bend.

Refugee Resettlement

- Computers for clients
- Snow boots for clients (smaller men's, ladies, children's sizes)

Furniture

- Mattresses and box springs (all sizes)
- Bed frames
- Cabinets/drawers
- Couches or living-room chairs, side/center tables
- Dining table/chairs
- Side tables for bedroom
- Lamps (bedroom/living room)
- Study desk/table
- Floor rugs (kitchen/bathroom)

Kitchen

- Cutlery (spoon/knife/fork)
- Dishes (plates/soup bowls/mugs/glasses)
- Pots and pans
- Rice cooker
- Mixing/serving bowls
- Kitchen utensils/knives
- Can opener
- Water pitcher
- Plastic containers
- Kitchen towels
- Cutting boards
- Microwave
- Rice/beans
- Cooking oil
- Salt
- Dried food (noodles, etc.)

Linens

- Bath towels/wash cloths
- Sheets (all sizes, flat/fitted)
- Pillow/pillowcases
- Blankets
- Shower curtains/rings

Toiletries

- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- First aid kit

- Body wash/soap bar/body lotion
- Female hygiene items (sanitary pads, tampons)
- Razor, shaving cream
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Medication (aspirin, balm, pain killer)
- Diapers (all sizes)

Cleaning supplies

- Laundry detergents
- Bathroom/kitchen detergents
- Sponges/cleaning rags/paper towels
- Wastebaskets/bins/trash bags
- Laundry baskets
- Mops/brooms/dustpans
- Vacuum cleaner

Refugee Job Development

- Adult male blue jeans (waists 27-32)
- Polo shirts (small and medium)

Brief Services (FW)

- Toilet paper
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry soap
- Hygiene products

RSVP Auburn

- Winter coats, hats, and gloves
- Donations for Spring Auction
- Cash donations
- Gas cards
- Donations to pantry: canned goods (soup, vegetables, meat), cleaning supplies (laundry and dish detergent, floor cleaners), hygiene supplies (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toilet paper).

South Bend pantry

- Food
- Chest-type freezer
- Rakes, shop broom, trimmers
- OSHA-approved ladder (250-pounds-and-over rating)
- Yard equipment
- Work gloves
- Paint

Villa of the Woods

- Shampoo
- Kleenex

Nyein Chan and Cathy Gallmeyer with coats donated through Senator Lugar's local office.



Did you know?

The Catholic Charities network nationwide provided food services to 6,533,080 people.

Catholic Charities in Fort Wayne served 17,006 unduplicated clients last year.

a point to call when they're sick and can't make it in, even though it's not required."

The Fort Wayne office has around 30 regular volunteers working in a variety of capacities. Many of them help out with refugee resettlement, which continues to be a major point of need.

Jan Moore is the volunteer coordinator for the Refugee Resettlement Department. "My job is to match volunteers with jobs they'd like to do," Jan says. "There's a long list of opportunities to help, from assisting caseworkers and English-as-a-second-language instructors, to setting up households for new arrivals, to providing transportation to essential appointments."

Three people making a big difference in refugee resettlement efforts are sisters Blanche Schaefer and Pauline Klinker and Pauline's husband, Major. The trio spends every Tuesday at Catholic Charities, organizing

the storeroom where donated items—clothes and household goods—are kept for newcomers. It's a big job as new items arrive every week.

Pauline and Blanche have a good deal of experience in organizing donated items; they both volunteered at St. Pat's Closet at St. Patrick's Church in Fort Wayne before it was closed in 2007.

"Pauline and I came from a family of 11 children, so we knew how to work," Blanche says. "Everyone in the family has volunteered at one time or another. I guess it was just born into us—the desire to help other people. And I've always felt the need to stay busy."

Pauline says she has a heart for refugees adapting to a new culture. "I feel for the refugees coming into our community, and I want to help them," she says. "I've got the energy, I've got the time, and I wasn't put on this earth to just sit around. I think it's very necessary for people to volunteer, and it's very rewarding for them as well."

Major spares the ladies the heavy lifting during what is a never-ending

Pauline and Major Klinker



Helping at the helm

When people think of all the volunteers who help Catholic Charities in the pursuit of its mission, most probably don't think of those who actually help steer the agency: members of the board of directors, who commit considerable time and talent—and sometimes, treasure, too.

Two board members, Suzie Light and Barbara O'Dea, recently donated money to purchase Catholic artifacts from the Bishop Noll Center Bookstore in Fort Wayne. Among the items purchased were two art prints depicting Jesus with people of many nations and Mary holding the baby Jesus. Two of each print were purchased for the Fort Wayne and South Bend offices.

"Pieces of art such as these serve as physical reminders of Catholic identity," says Suzie, who's following in her father's footsteps as a member of the board. Her dad, Jerry Kralis, was on the board when he passed away in 2004.

"Growing up in a family of 12 kids, my parents modeled service to the Church through their actions, singing in the choir, preparing food for a funeral dinner, or volunteering to drive people to church," Suzie says. "Mom and Dad shared time, talents, and financial resources. I was honored when Bishop D'Arcy asked me to serve Catholic Charities because it embodies Christ's love for all people, a lesson I learned from Dad and Mom at an early age."



Suzie Light with her father, Jerry Kralis.



Barbara has served on the board for five years, but her work for Catholic Charities began several years prior to that when she served as an interim foster parent for infants before they were placed in adoptive homes. "Having a strong Catholic upbringing, going to Catholic school—those are things that never leave you," Barbara says. "I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of Catholic Charities, a wonderful organization that does so much good in our communities."

effort to organize donations. "I just like to help people out," he says. "I've always liked to help someone else when I can, and you get a good feeling from doing it, too."

Says Jan: "Volunteers like Blanche, Pauline, and Major do great things for Catholic Charities. Some people help directly, and some help indirectly, such as through the recent coat drive at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. Students there donated hundreds of coats, hats, and mittens for Burmese refugees adjusting to Midwestern winter weather. It was just a wonderful effort."

One of the greatest volunteer opportunities for older adults is with the Catholic Charities-supported Retired Seniors Volunteer

continued on next page

Catholic Charities distributed more than \$240,000 in direct financial assistance in our diocese last year.

Did you know?

Did you know?

RSVP of DeKalb, Steuben, LaGrange, and Noble Counties distributed more than 1,400 backpacks in 2007–2008.

Program (RSVP), which has three chapters and hundreds of volunteers in northern Indiana. RSVP mobilizes people 55 and older to assist social service agencies, schools, libraries, hospitals, parks, and other nonprofit organizations.

About 1 million children in the United States live with an adoptive parent.

One longtime RSVP member is Mary Lou Freed, who's been with the organization since 1991. Freed is very active with RSVP in Auburn, where she works in the food pantry and has been instrumental in the success of the Pack-A-Backpack program and Share the Warmth coat collection program. Freed has donated more than 1,000 hours of service during each of the last five years, and she's also a member of RSVP's advisory council.

As with many RSVP members, volunteering provides Freed with social interaction. "I really enjoy volunteering with RSVP," Freed says. "Whatever they ask me to do, I try to do it. Volunteering gets me away from home and out among other people, and I'm doing something for someone besides myself."

"Regardless of what form it takes, volunteerism is a way to show that you care," says Lisa Young, assistant director of Catholic Charities. "Our volunteers donate their time and expertise, and they do it from the goodness of their hearts while expecting nothing in return. Our volunteers care about their communities, their neighbors, and they care about our agency. We're very blessed to have such an industrious, devoted group of people to help us pursue our mission. But, of course, we could always use more volunteers."



Jan Moore and Blanche Schaefer

Zest Fest is simply the best

RSVP of St. Joseph County's first Zest Fest at the Century Center Convention Center in South Bend in November was a rousing success.

"Zest Fest was designed to celebrate the accomplishments of seniors on the move and offer these Michiana residents information that will help them take advantage of all the opportunities available to them throughout St. Joseph County," says Jennifer Tindell, RSVP program coordinator. "Zest Fest was also designed to be a signature fundraiser for RSVP of St. Joseph County."

Admission, parking, and all the seminars were free and open to the public. The day's festivities included everything from live entertainment, to flu shots, mammograms, and blood pressure testing, to seminars concerning current health issues, fitness, financial security, ID theft protection, and volunteer opportunities.



Just a sampling of the seminars, which were fun and informative:

"Whose Knocking on Your Door?"
(presented by the St. Joseph County Sheriff's Department)

"Easy, Nutritious Meals for One"
(presented by nationally renowned Chef Kip)

"Get Up and Move"
(presented by Silver Sneakers and Senior Fit)

There were also 73 interactive booths providing information on a variety of recreational opportunities found throughout the Michiana community. In addition, entertainment featuring senior artists was scheduled throughout the day.

Although an exact date for Zest Fest 2009 hasn't been set, vendors interested in participating should call Tindell at (574) 287-0500.



Members of the Apartment Association of Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana recently presented clothing—11 coats, 188 hats, 198 pairs of gloves, and 90 scarves—to help warm people in need this winter. From the left are Kathy Keller, Soe Aung, and Lisa Young of Catholic Charities; JaCarla Washington, chair of the association's community outreach committee, and Beth Wyatt, executive director of the association; and Carolyn Eltzroth of Catholic Charities.



Jerry Henry: a friend of our community

Catholic Charities—and the community as a whole—lost a good friend with the passing of Jerome “Jerry” F. Henry Sr. in November. He was 82.

Henry served 22 years as director of Catholic Social Services, the forerunner to Catholic Charities. Debbie Schmidt, now executive director of Catholic Charities, joined the agency’s adoption program in 1990. She recalls working with Henry before his retirement in 1991.

“Jerry was tireless in his efforts to help others, and he touched the lives of so many families and individuals in our community,” Schmidt says. “He genuinely cared for people and was a true advocate for people in need. He took to heart Matthew 25, which says that what we do for the least among us, we also do for God. Jerry was also instrumental in the creation of many families, taking a personal interest in the adoption process.

“People like Jerry Henry don’t come along often, and he will be missed dearly,” Schmidt adds.

Henry served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, he went to college on the G.I. Bill, later becoming one of the first social workers in the Fort Wayne area to have earned a master’s degree.

In the ‘60s, Henry was a superintendent at the Indiana Reformatory, where he was instrumental in the creation of the first work-release program. He was also active in politics, running for the Fort Wayne City Council and the State Legislature. During his two terms as a Fort Wayne Community Schools board member, he was an advocate for school desegregation.

Henry and Marge, his wife of 59 years, had 17 children, including current Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry.

A fitting tribute

Phyllis Mizer (left), brief services case manager, and Lisa Young, assistant director of Catholic Charities, display the 17 children’s coats the agency was able to purchase with a donation from Leonard J. Andorfer Co. LLP, a Fort Wayne accounting firm. The significance of the number 17? That’s how many children Jerry Henry and his wife, Marge, raised. Mizer was a member of staff when Henry was director of Catholic Social Services, the forerunner to Catholic Charities.



Upcoming events

RSVP of DeKalb, Noble, Steuben, and LaGrange Counties: The annual RSVP Spring Auction is set for Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn, 500 East Seventh Street.

RSVP will host National Volunteer Week picnics in its counties: Noble (April 20), LaGrange (April 21), Steuben (April 22), and DeKalb (April 24).

RSVP of St. Joe County: During National Volunteer Week, RSVP will host its annual Recognition Luncheon on Wednesday, April 22.

Villa of the Woods: An open house to celebrate Older American's Month will be held from 2 until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19.

Adoption: Adoption information meetings are offered on the first Thursday of each month (this year's July meeting will be on the 9th) from 10 to 11 a.m. at Catholic Charities, 315 East Washington Boulevard in Fort Wayne. No registration is necessary. Adults only. Parking is located at the intersection of Washington and Lafayette Street. Please park in spaces marked "Catholic Charities."

Refugee Resettlement: World Refugee Day will be celebrated at Villa of the Woods in Fort Wayne on Friday, June 18. Call Nyein Chan at (260) 422-5625, ext. 230, for details.

Foundation 'inspires' nonprofits

In 2008, Catholic Charities was one of 22 nonprofit organizations to receive an Inspire Grant from the Foellinger Foundation. Catholic Charities received \$25,000.

Totalling a half-million dollars, the Inspire Grants were created to commemorate the Foellinger Foundation's 50th anniversary. During that half-century, the foundation has provided more than \$130 million in grants to benefit Allen County residents.

"Those of us in this area are so fortunate to enjoy the beneficence of the Foellinger Foundation and its founders, Esther and Helene Foellinger," says Catholic Charities Executive Director Debbie Schmidt. "Their vision and generosity will continue to strengthen our community for generations to come."

The Inspire Grants are an investment in the leaders of nonprofits and have two phases: inspire and action. The inspire phase will enable leaders to look beyond their daily duties, renew their energies, and provide developmental opportunities for key staff and board members. During the action phase, newfound inspiration will be implemented to strengthen an organization.

In addition to the Inspire Grants, the foundation granted \$1 million to the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department for improvements to the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory and Foellinger Outdoor Theatre.

The Refugee Job Development Program served more than 500 clients seeking employment in 2007–2008.

Senior AIDES will assist approximately 310 people this year. The program serves all 14 counties of the diocese.

Did you know?

Donors

Thank you to all who gave from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2008.

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Teach English as a new language

You can train to become a volunteer English-as-a-new-language (ENL) instructor—no prior experience is necessary! ENL classes begin Tuesday, January 27, and will be held for eight weeks from 6:30 to 8:30 Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Community Resource Center for Refugees, 2826 South Calhoun Street in Fort Wayne.

There is no cost for this training, but a commitment to teach sessions throughout the following year is required. This class is being sponsored by a federal ORR grant, Ivy Tech, and the Reclamation Project. Dr. Kelli Odhuu is the instructor. To sign up, or to receive more information, call (260) 494-5742.

Catholic Charities celebrates the spirit of Jesus and fosters personal dignity by serving the needs of our neighbors. Catholic Charities serves those in need with special emphasis on the most vulnerable populations—the poor, disabled, migrants, elderly, and children. The agency is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals, the family, and the community.

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