



2013: A review of the year

Thanks to the many gifts and contributions, Catholic Charities continued in its mission during fiscal year 2012–2013, serving “those in need as Christ would have us do.”

Above:

Volunteers make a difference with Homework Help.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

In Fort Wayne, Resource and Referral served a total of 245 individuals and households. Services included referrals to other agencies, food, limited shelter assistance, bus passes, utilities, clothing, and material items (e.g., hygiene and paper products).

Through the Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP) Phase 30, 37 households received either rent or mortgage assistance. This assistance helped families prevent eviction or the start of foreclosure.

In South Bend, a program of the Christ Child Society provides new winter coats, shoes, underwear, and at least two school outfits for children up to the age of 12. Fifty-five households were screened and determined eligible.

In Fort Wayne, the Christmas Program helped 30 families. In South Bend, 53 local families with a total of 150 children received gifts of clothing, food, and toys from individuals, schools, or group sponsors. The South Bend office also

... continued on page 2

Inside this issue

- 2 Thank you from staff.
- 3 Christmas Program sponsors.
- 6 IRA Charitable Rollover.

Issue 3, 2013



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

We've been on the move

In case you hadn't heard, we've moved our Fort Wayne offices to a new location: the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center at 915 South Clinton Street. Our phone and fax numbers, (260) 422-5625 and (260) 422-5657, respectively, have remained the same. Our mailing address has changed, however, to P.O. Box 10630, Fort Wayne, IN 46853.

Thank you for your past and continuing support of our organization, and please stop by to see us in our new location.

Got time?

Catholic Charities is in need of Fort Wayne professionals to volunteer about five hours (or more) per week to help Senior AIDES trainees develop job-readiness skills. Contact Kela Guy at (260) 422-5625, ext. 286, or kguy@ccfwbs.org.

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sponsored a special holiday food basket and small gift program for 20 seniors in need or alone for the holidays. All of this was made possible by compassionate community donors and businesses.

FOOD PANTRIES

In South Bend, 3,479 families made up of 11,943 individuals were served by the Food Pantry. Of the 3,479 families served, 1,007 were new to the service. When available, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, and personal-care items were also distributed.

The RSVP Community Center of Caring Food Pantry in Auburn served 4,980 families representing 19,072 individuals. In addition, 400 new families representing 1,402 new

individuals were served. An estimated 209,000 pounds of food were distributed.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Hardest-Hit Fund Hoosier Corps Volunteer Service Program focuses on helping qualified unemployed recipients avoid foreclosure on their home mortgages in exchange for their participation in job training, education, or volunteer service. The program served approximately 113 participants during the fiscal year.

FAMILY SERVICES

The Pregnancy Program provided information on adoption and support services to approximately 12 young women considering placement. Three followed through with making an adoption plan.

The Adoption Program completed 45 home studies for agency, private, step, and relative adoptions. International adoption services were not offered due to the ever-increasing complexity and cost of complying with new laws and the ever-shrinking number of countries allowing adoption.

One hundred and nine persons contacted the South Bend office for information on reconnecting with birthparents or adult adoptees. Five actually began the process with a formal search through the agency.

Education Creates Home and Opportunity (ECHO) is a school- and home-based



Our food pantries served approximately 30,000 people last year.

Christmas Program sponsors needed

Catholic Charities is seeking individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations to serve as family sponsors or contributing sponsors in this year's Christmas Program in Fort Wayne and South Bend.

Family sponsors provide toys and clothing for specific families based upon a list of suggestions provided by Catholic Charities. Contributing sponsors provide gift cards or monetary support (any amount is appreciated), which is then pooled to

provide food and to satisfy other needs of families enrolled in the Christmas Program.

Without your generous support, many families, many children, will go without any form of Christmas cheer.

If you or your organization would like to help in the Fort Wayne area, contact Tori Kaufman at (260) 422-5625, ext. 283, or tkaufman@ccfwsb.org. In South Bend, contact Barbara Burlingham at (574) 234-3111, ext. 31, or bburlingham@ccfwsb.org. ■



program that provides guidance and resources to pregnant and parenting teens, enabling them to complete their education and successfully parent their children. In Fort Wayne, 52 clients were served. All seven eligible seniors enrolled in the program received their diplomas. Case managers made a proactive effort to support and encourage the graduating teens to further their education, and six of the seven graduates are currently enrolled in college.

In South Bend, a total of 55 ECHO clients requested assistance in completing their high school education. Nine of nine seniors graduated successfully, and one client completed a GED. Of the nine who graduated, two will be attending college. At times, this program has had a waiting list as knowledge of its services becomes known in the community.

The Pregnancy Program provides information on adoption and other support services.

IMMIGRATION

In Fort Wayne and South Bend, 270 immigration consultations were completed, providing initial guidance in individual immigration cases. There were 385 applications submitted to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); of those, 299 applications were approved, and 86 applications are pending for approval.

Since May 2010, the immigration supervisor has successfully completed religious visas for visiting priests on behalf of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese.

Fifty-two students participated in citizenship classes and 35 successfully graduated.

In January 2013, the Translation and Interpretation Program began, providing interpretation for clients in our office as needed, in addition to the translation of documents in four languages: Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English. From January to June 2013, 462 translations were completed.

In South Bend, 50 students completed the English-as-a-new-language (ENL) program, and 15 students completed the civics classes.

In Fort Wayne, the Hispanic Health Advocate program provided services to 267 individuals. That entailed 671 completed appointments. Women and

... continued on page 6

Thank you to all who gave from June 1 through August 31, 2013.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Citizenship classes will be offered on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. from January 7 through February 25. Contact Bertha at (260) 422-5625, ext. 282, or bspaulding@ccfwsb.org.

AARP now has over 30 million members, enabling it to act as a powerful advocate for older Americans on public policy issues such as Social Security and health care.

... continued from page 3

IRA charitable rollover extended for 2013

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 signed into law by President Obama on January 2, 2013, reinstated a popular charitable giving tool: the IRA charitable rollover. As before, donors age 70½ and older can make IRA transfers directly to public charities, including Catholic Charities.

An IRA charitable rollover is a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 from a traditional IRA to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, such as Catholic Charities. Contributions to donor-advised funds and private foundations generally do not qualify as tax-free IRA charitable-rollover contributions. It also cannot be used to establish a life-income gift such as a charitable remainder trust or charitable gift annuity.

Transfers must come from your IRA directly to the charity. If you have retirement assets in a 401(k) plan or 403(b) plan, you must first roll those funds into an IRA, and then you can direct the IRA provider to transfer the funds from the IRA directly to the charity.

Besides supporting favorite charities, donors benefit by not having to count the donated amount as income for tax purposes. For federal purposes, you would not recognize the transfer to the charity as income, provided it goes directly from the IRA provider to charity. However, you are not entitled to an income tax charitable deduction for your gift either. Moreover, each state has different laws, so you will need to consult with your tax advisor for the law in your particular state.

IRA charitable-rollover gifts are required to take place by December 31, 2013; we advise contacting your IRA administrator no later than December 1 to allow time to process your gift request prior to the end of the year.

For more information about the IRA charitable rollover, please contact Elisa Smith at (260) 422-5625 or esmith@ccfwsb.org. ■

children were the primary individuals served in this program.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

The program received a total of 119 refugees for reception and placement. Burmese refugee arrivals were still the majority. The agency expects to see more diverse refugee arrivals and anticipates the arrival of 170 refugees in the next year.

The Medical Advocates and Interpretation Program accomplished 73 appointments for infectious disease control, 147 refugee screenings at the Department Of Health, 61 chest X-ray appointments at St. Joseph Hospital, and 115 doctor appointments.

Refugee job developers accomplished 257 placements. Employment opportunities for refugees in Indiana were better this fiscal year, with about 600-700 refugees working at local companies such as Peyton's Northern Contribution Center, Vera Bradley, and Flair Interior Sewing Company.

There were 81 enrollees in the Match Grant program. The program continues to track secondary migrant refugees and is able to enroll them in the Match Grant program within 31 days from their arrival date in the United States. More than 65 percent of employable adult Match Grant enrollees obtained employment in this reporting year. We were able to raise \$30,502.70 cash and \$75,537.62 in-kind for the last fiscal year.

The Extended Case Management Program continues to operate English-as-second-language (ESL) classes at Autumn Woods Apartments. The case manager teaches and helps participants with the Indiana driver's license manual and citizenship questionnaires for their adjustment of status. A total of 122 refugees received Extended Case Management services.

The Homework Help program is provided at Autumn Woods Apartments, where many Burmese refugees live. The program benefits children and adults residing in the neighboring areas. A total of 109 children (K-12) received homework assistance last year.

SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) had 990 active volunteers serving at 121 different sites and contributing 138,352 hours of service. The value of these volunteer hours according to the Private Sector/Points of Light is \$2,801,628.

South Bend and Elkhart both hosted senior expos as fundraisers, as well as worked with the Old to Gold program with the University of Notre Dame. RSVP of South Bend-Elkhart's knitting and crocheting group made many items that have been distributed to the poor and needy in the community.

RSVP of DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben Counties continued special service projects such as the Share the Warmth, Pack-A-Backpack, and lazy eye screenings. RSVP screened 343 children for lazy eye, distributed 884 backpacks to children in need of school supplies in DeKalb and Noble counties, and distributed more than 1,200 coats.

The RSVP Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program through the Internal Revenue Service completed 468 tax returns, bringing \$467,592 back to our community for low-income individuals. Five volunteers were trained and passed an IRS test, enabling them to provide this service.

A new program of RSVP that started in March 2013 provides mentoring for children

ages 9 to 17 who are at risk due to truancy, pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, or gang-related issues. Mentors commit to working with a child a minimum of two hours a week for at least one year. This program serves DeKalb and Noble counties.

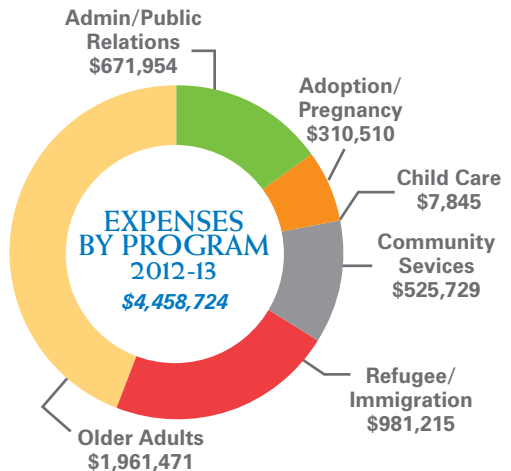
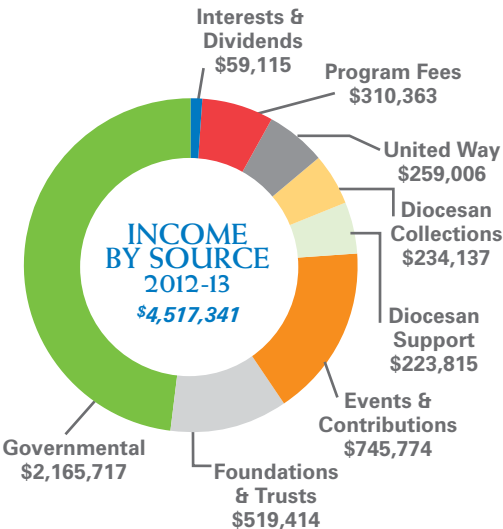
Senior AIDES served approximately 172 participants. A total of 92,340 community-service training hours were completed, with 76,644 hours to the general community and 15,696 to the elderly community.

Villa of the Woods, a senior retirement community in Fort Wayne, housed a total of 16 residents for whom 5,079 days of care were provided. At the end of the fiscal year, the Villa had 12 residents due to the transfer of four residents to nursing homes.

ADMINISTRATION

The agency is currently working on the third year of its strategic plan. Progress continues to be made in several areas that needed to be strengthened.

The agency's COA (Council on Accreditation) site visit occurred June 9-12. Due to the commitment to best practices by the staff and board, the agency was notified on June 20 that it received reaccreditation. Catholic Charities' Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI) and risk-management processes have proven to be beneficial in fulfilling the expected COA standards. ■



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fort Wayne

Villa of the Woods, 5610 Noll Avenue, will host a Thanksgiving dinner on November 21 at noon. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. RSVP by November 17. Contact Kathy or Julianne at (260) 745-7039.

Villa of the Woods will host its Family and Friends Christmas Dinner on December 19 at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. RSVP by December 15 by contacting Kathy or Julianne at (260) 745-7039.

South Bend

The RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and St. Joseph County Senior Expo are scheduled for April 10, 2014, at the Gillespie Conference Center in South Bend. For more information or to reserve vendor booth space, please contact Josh Story at (574) 234-3111.

Auburn

The Share the Warmth Program started on Monday, October 21, and will end in January. Coats may be picked up Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Coats, hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves will be available for those in need in DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben counties. New or gently used clean coats may be dropped off at the RSVP office in Auburn.

RSVP will sponsor the Northeast Indiana Senior Expo on Thursday, November 14, from 8 a.m. until noon at the Kendallville Event Center, 610 Professional Way. Francine's Friends Mobile Mammography will be there, and Walgreens will provide flu shots. Personnel from Parkview Noble Hospital will provide chem 17 blood draws and free eye screenings, and vendors representing businesses and organizations will offer information for seniors and their families. For more information, call Terri at (260) 925-0917.

The RSVP Spring Auction is set for Saturday, April 5, 2014, at the First Christian Church, 910 North Indiana Avenue in Auburn. The doors will open at 9 a.m., and the auction will start at 10.



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