



Home of the brave

Persistence. Determination. Bravery. These are just a few of the words that describe many people who come to the United States seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

Rafael Zamudio is no exception. At the age of 16, he left his home and family in Mexico to join a brother living in Fort Wayne. He came with two goals in mind: to pursue a brighter future for himself and to provide for the parents and siblings he left behind.

Persistence

Despite the fact that he didn't speak a word of English, Rafael was able to obtain employment within two weeks of his arrival. But then, hard work was nothing new to Rafael. Despite his parents' best intentions, they just weren't able to provide for their children, leaving Rafael to fend for himself from the time he was a child.

It's a life he doesn't want his three children to experience—ever. That's why he's working hard to pursue his United States citizenship, a goal he hopes to achieve with Catholic Charities' help. The sole provider for his family, he will do whatever it takes to make sure his three daughters have a stable life.

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Above:

Rafael Zamudio with his daughters.

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Issue 2, 2014



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Determination

It hasn't been easy. A victim of domestic violence, Rafael experienced verbal and physical abuse at the hands of his American wife. Through the Violence Against Women Act, he has been able to reach out for help as he now raises his girls alone. "Most people don't realize that men can be victims of domestic violence, too," says Luz Ostrognai, immigration supervisor. When his wife gave him full custody of their three daughters, he knew he had to take steps to attain permanent residency (a green card), so he could legally provide for his children. "Their dad is their hero," says Luz. "He's the only thing they have, and he's taking steps to make sure that's enough."

Bravery

As a victim of domestic violence, Rafael is not alone. Unfortunately for male immigrants, abuse at the hands of their wives is more common than many people realize, especially among Hispanic men. Although they may find the situation too embarrassing to share, Rafael encourages men in similar circumstances to reach out for help. "Don't let that happen to you," he says. "There is always a solution, but you have to speak up first."

Integrity

Yes, determination, persistence, and bravery describe Rafael's journey. But those words in and of themselves don't give the full picture. In order to fully understand this strong young man, we need to add the word "integrity" to his list of character traits. Says Luz, "In

my 13 years of working at Catholic Charities, I have never seen such a wonderful, loving, and dedicated single father. Even though he is only 27 years old, his responsibility toward his daughters is beyond words."

Luz continues, "One of the reasons we were able to help Rafael is because of his good moral character. This is a wonderful, beautiful country, but you can't take anything for granted. You have to know and follow the rules." In that, Luz has no doubt Rafael will succeed. "I am sure he will be just fine, because he understands that you have to do the right thing and act accordingly if you want something in the future."

For his part, Rafael is grateful for Catholic Charities' help as he pursues his citizenship. "I want to live and work in the United States for the rest of my life," he says, "so I can be a productive member of society and give my girls the chance for the education I never had." Will the United States truly become "the land of the free and the home of the brave" for Rafael Zamudio? Time will tell, but one thing is certain. If persistence, determination, and integrity are any indication, this is one man who has already passed the test. ■

Note: The fees for our immigration services cover only a small portion of the costs for this program. If you'd like to help even more immigrants realize their dream of becoming United States citizens, please consider making a contribution today!

School's not out for pantry donations

The need for donations at Catholic Charities' two food pantries in Auburn and South Bend continues to grow, especially with the end of the school year.

"The need actually increases over the summer months when kids are out of school," says Claire Coleman, Catholic Charities West Region director. "Families with low incomes qualify for free or reduced-cost school meals. When kids from those families aren't attending school during the summer, there might not be enough food in the house for them."

Important donations include nonperishable items such as canned and dry goods, frozen meat, and fresh vegetables and fruit. Household and personal-care items are also welcome donations.

To learn more about how you can help in the South Bend area, contact Claire at (574) 234-3111, ext. 33. To contact the Community of Caring Food Pantry in Auburn, call (260) 925-0917.



Here's to dads everywhere

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Catholic Charities, I want to wish all fathers and grandfathers in our Diocese a happy Father's Day! Last month, Catholic Charities launched an appeal focused on supporting hard-working, self-sacrificing mothers. In this letter, I want to acknowledge how much we also appreciate and value the role fathers play in family life.

When I walk through the lobby of Catholic Charities, it always puts a smile on my face to see fathers, uncles, and brothers accompanying mothers and sisters to appointments, holding babies, and keeping little ones occupied while they wait. I usually don't know them, and they likely have no idea who I am, either. Still, I feel it's important to meet their gaze and smile warmly to show my appreciation for their support of the women and children in their lives. We always want fathers as well as mothers to feel welcomed at Catholic Charities.

My "smile at everyone you see, whether you know them or not" custom stems not from a suggestion, but rather a requirement established by my mother and father for their five children. My mother, a wonderfully devout Catholic woman, taught us how to pray the Rosary and always encouraged us to pray for others. Mother also ensured that the Sacred Heart of Jesus, statues of Mary, and crucifixes were placed prominently in our home as symbols of our Catholic faith. They reminded us that Jesus is always with us and supported our prayer life.

My father's faith wasn't always displayed as openly as my mother's, but because of the remarkable way my father treated other people, I consider Dad one of my greatest Catholic role models. When I was young, the fact that my father routinely brought strangers from all walks of life home to use our shower, join us for dinner, or stay for the night seemed—well, frankly—a little weird.

No one else's father did that. Mom fully supported Dad in this way of serving others, and both Mom and Dad would cook for our "guests" and converse with them as if we had known them for years.



As I grew older, I became aware of the fact that not all of our unexpected guests were in need of clean clothes, a hot meal, or a place to rest. Some of them were financially well off but in need of spiritual sustenance. What my father had to offer them was not always tangible, but I believe it was always needed and appreciated.

My Dad was also highly patriotic, born in the United States as the second son of immigrant parents. He served in the Marine Corps, was a Korean War veteran, and was the proudest American citizen I've ever known. He encouraged love of family, love of neighbor, and appreciation for every blessing. My father always told us as long as there is a roof over your head and a meal on your table, you are blessed, and when you are blessed, you should share your blessings with others who don't have as much.

My faith is the foundation for my service at Catholic Charities. This month, the month of my father's birth and the month in which we celebrate everyone's "Dad," I'm proud to say that I learned from one of the best how to demonstrate my faith to others. Thanks, Dad. Rest in the peace of Our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gloria". The script is elegant and cursive.

Gloria Whitcraft, *Executive Director*

Did you know?

Between January 1 and March 31, Hoosier Corps volunteers in Region 3 provided 964 hours of volunteer service.

The RSVP of DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben Counties Share the Warmth program collected and distributed more than 1,200 coats and more than 600 hats, scarves, and sets of gloves and mittens to those in need this winter.

Donors

Thank you to all who gave from Jan. 1 through April 30, 2014.

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Thank you, SIRVA

When SIRVA Worldwide, Inc., a leading provider of relocation and moving solutions, recently closed an office in Illinois, they needed a place for an over abundance of office furniture. In a broad stroke of generosity, they chose to donate the extra furniture that they couldn't use in their Fort Wayne office, giving it to local charities.

This in-kind contribution has saved Catholic Charities thousands of dollars in meeting our office furniture needs—dollars that will now be available to benefit our clients instead of furnishing our new office. Thank you, SIRVA, for helping us serve those in need in our community!

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By James & K. Agnes Houk

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By Margaret Pieri

Virgilene Rich
By Gene & Lisa Miller

Dolores Hill
By George Hill

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 Haines Families**
*By Richard & Theresa
 Copenhaver*



**All those who have lost
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 and protecting others**
By Joan Jordan

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By Andrew & Kathleen Goff

Eileen & Richard Connolly
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 Immaculate Conception,
 Auburn
 Immaculate Conception, Ege
 Immaculate Conception,
 Kendallville
 Little Flower, South Bend

Meese Chapel, *Auburn*
 Most Precious Blood,
Ft. Wayne
 Our Lady of Good Hope,
Ft. Wayne
 Our Lady of Guadalupe,
Warsaw
 Our Lady of Hungary,
South Bend
 Pleasant Chapel Church
 of Brethren, *Ashley*
 Queen of Angels, *Ft. Wayne*
 Queen of Peace, *Mishawaka*
 Robinson Chapel, *Ft. Wayne*
 Sacred Heart, *Ft. Wayne*
 Sacred Heart, *Notre Dame*
 Sacred Heart, *Warsaw*
 Sacred Heart of Jesus,
South Bend
 SS Peter and Paul,
Huntington
 St Pius X, *Granger*
 St. Adalbert, *South Bend*
 St. Aloysius, *Yoder*
 St. Anthony de Padua,
Angola
 St. Anthony de Padua,
South Bend
 St. Augustine, *South Bend*
 St. Bavo, *Mishawaka*
 St. Bernard, *Wabash*

St. Casimir, *South Bend*
 St. Catherine of Alexandria,
Roanoke
 St. Charles Borromeo,
Ft. Wayne
 St. Dominic, *Bremen*
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Ft. Wayne
 St. Francis Xavier, *Pierceton*
 St. Gaspar Del Bufalo,
Rome City
 St. Hedwig, *South Bend*
 St. Henry, *Ft. Wayne*
 St. John Bosco, *Churubusco*
 St. John the Baptist,
Ft. Wayne
 St. John the Baptist,
New Haven
 St. John the Baptist,
South Bend
 St. John the Evangelist,
Goshen
 St. Joseph, *Bluffton*
 St. Joseph, *Brooklyn Ave.,*
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 St. Joseph, *Garrett*
 St. Joseph, *Hessen Cassel,*
Ft. Wayne
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 St. Joseph, *Roanoke*

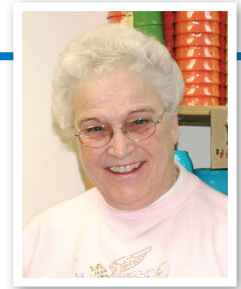
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 St. Mary of the
 Annunciation, *Bristol*
 St. Mary of the
 Assumption, *Avilla*
 St. Mary of the
 Assumption, *Decatur*
 St. Mary of the Lake, *Culver*
 St. Mary of the
 Presentation, *Geneva*
 St. Mathew Cathedral,
South Bend
 St. Michael, *Plymouth*
 St. Michael the Archangel,
Waterloo
 St. Michael, *Ukrainian*
 Catholic Church, Byzantine
 Rite, *Mishawaka*
 St. Monica, *Mishawaka*
 St. Patrick, *Arcola*
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St. Patrick, *Ligonier*
 St. Patrick, *South Bend*
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 St. Paul Chapel, *Angola*
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New Carlisle
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Elkhart
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Ft. Wayne
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St. Joseph
 The Church of Jesus Christ
 of Latter-Day Saints,
South Bend

Farewell, Pauline

“Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” – Matthew 5:16

It is with heavy hearts that we say, “Good bye,” to Pauline Klinker, a faithful volunteer at Catholic Charities, who passed away on May 5.



Over the last six years, Pauline, along with her sister and husband, traveled from Paulding, Ohio, to sort and organize donations for refugees. “They made sure everything was packaged nicely for each newly arrived family,” says Nyein Chan, resettlement services director. “She was a wonderful and dedicated volunteer and will be sorely missed.”

The Villa: affordable living in a family atmosphere

Residents at Villa of the Woods, Catholic Charities’ state-licensed residential community for older adults, love their community, and for many reasons: comfortable accommodations, a lovely environment inside and out, great food, fun activities, a caring staff, amenities that make for easy living—the list goes on. The atmosphere of friendship and family, however, may top that list.

“Our residential community is smaller than many others in our area, so there’s a real sense of family here,” says Villa of the Woods Residential Care Administrator Kathy

Retzios. “Our residents develop wonderful friendships with one another and with members of our staff. And residents and their families have a voice in everything we do here, from the food to the activities.”

Catholic Charities’ mission at the Villa is to provide high-quality living at affordable rates for older adults in moderate- to low-income brackets. Fees include all meals, 24-hour staffing, medication setup and delivery, housekeeping, linens, cable TV, Internet, and phone. All rooms are private and include a personal bath, individually controlled heating and air conditioning, and

UPCOMING EVENTS

RSVP – St. Joseph/Elkhart

Senior Conversation Series Luncheons will be offered from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Friday, June 20, and on Friday, July 18, at the Waterford at Edison Lakes in Mishawaka. June will feature audiologist Dr. Pam Riley speaking about whole health and wellness during later years of life, and July will feature Humana Marketpoint discussing Medicare options for those who qualify. Contact Josh Story at (574) 234-3111 or jstory@ccfwsb.org.

The Elkhart County Senior Luncheon and Expo will be held on Thursday, October 30, at the Matterhorn Conference Center in Elkhart. The luncheon will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by the expo from 1 until 3 p.m. Contact Josh Story at (574) 234-3111 or jstory@ccfwsb.org.

RSVP of DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben Counties

The 33rd Annual Quilt and Art Show and Sale will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, October 24-25, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 East 7th Street in Auburn. Pre-sale admission is \$7.50. Nationally known artist Tim George, who has appeared on national TV and is known as Mr. Etch A Sketch, will provide the featured presentation on Saturday at 1 p.m. Raffle tickets will be available on the Autumn-theme sampler quilt. The Quilt Block Contest theme this year is “Baskets.” Contact RSVP at (260) 925-0917, rsvp@locl.net, or sjohnson@ccfwsb.org.

The RSVP Senior Expo will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Thursday, November 13, at the Kendallville Event Center, 615 Professional Way. The event will feature flu shots, blood screenings, Francine’s Friends Mobile Mammography Coach, and many organizations providing important information for older adults. Contact Terri Pfenning at (260) 925-0917 or tpfenning@ccfwsb.org.

Villa of the Woods

The Villa, 5610 Noll Avenue in Fort Wayne, will host “Getting Ready for the Holidays” on Saturday, October 25, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Various home-party groups such as Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, Perfectly Posh, and Premiere Jewelry will have booths to demonstrate their products. Contact Kathy Retzios at (260) 745-7039 or kretzios@ccfwsb.org.

Immigration in Fort Wayne

Citizenship classes are offered every Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. Contact Bertha Spaulding at (260) 422-5625, ext. 282, or bspaulding@ccfwsb.org.

Christmas in South Bend

Individuals, families, and groups are needed to sponsor children in need and low-income seniors at Christmas. Contact Barbara Burlingham at (574) 234-3111 or bburlingham@ccfwsb.org.

an emergency call system. What’s more, the Villa is part of a wooded residential area, and conveniently close to a bus line, a public library branch, and a shopping center.

“Our standards are very high, and we’re always challenging ourselves to perform better,” Kathy says. “Members of our staff are dedicated to serving our residents. In fact, over 60 percent of our staff members have been with us for 14 years or more. That means we maintain a level of consistency in our care and services that you won’t find in other residential communities.”



We need your help! It is your referrals that keep the rooms at the Villa filled. If you or someone you know would like to call the Villa “home sweet home,” please contact Kathy at (260) 745-7039 or kretzios@ccfwsb.org. She’ll be happy to arrange a tour.

World Refugee Day celebration set for June 20



Catholic Charities will host its World Refugee Day 2014 celebration at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center from 1 to 3 p.m. on Friday, June 20.

The celebration, which will be held in the garden-level banquet room, will include light refreshments, guest speakers, and native costumes, dances, and dishes.

"Our annual World Refugee Day celebration in Fort Wayne has a twofold purpose," says Nyein Chan, resettlement services director for Catholic Charities. "It's a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the many refugees who have made the best of the new opportunities they've found here, and it's a time to thank everyone in our community for their support."

Established in 2000, the United Nations World Refugee Day is an annual observance and celebration of the indomitable spirit of refugees forced to flee their native lands to avoid persecution and potential violence against them.

Did you know?

The "working poor" are usually the service people (e.g., child-care workers, waiters, janitors, hotel housekeeping) who earn less than \$10 an hour.

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WISH LIST

Fort Wayne

Family Services (May be dropped off at Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton Street): New car seats, Pack 'n Plays, diapers, antibacterial wipes (like Wet Ones), and formula.

Resource and Referral (May be dropped off at Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton Street): Diapers (especially larger sizes), antibacterial wipes (like Wet Ones), formula, household cleaning supplies, personal-hygiene products, bus passes, financial donations for assisting clients with rent, utilities, deposits, and food.

South Bend (May be dropped off at 1817 Miami Street): Nonperishable food, new Ziploc-type sandwich bags, trash bags (33-gallon size), grocery or gas gift cards, disposable diapers (all sizes), new baby items (rattles, bottles, onesies, etc.), laundry detergent, personal-care items (shampoo, feminine products, toothpaste, etc.), school supplies, new children's reading and coloring books, toilet paper and paper towels, yarn, thread, and fabric.

RSVP Auburn (May be dropped off at 109 West 5th Street.): Nonperishable food items, bath soap, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, dish soap, plastic and paper bags for the food pantry, thread, fabric, and yarn.



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