



BLESSINGS

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc.

<http://catholiccharities.dioceseofraleigh.org>

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Summer 2007

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Burlington Family Center Open House

Celebrating one year in its new location, Centro La Comunidad, the Piedmont region's Hispanic Family Center, hosted about 80 people at its Open House this Spring. Among the guests were Anne Stahel a Catholic Charities Board Director; Cindy Brady, President, United Way of Alamance County; Centro's Advisory Council members and media representatives.

The event was organized to honor the donors who have generously contributed to the center's growth and to invite parishioners and community members to become familiar with Centro's work. Centro La Comunidad director Jeremy Ireland welcomed the guests and shared the history and mission of el Centro. The array of services that Centro La Comunidad provides to its clients was also presented. The event culminated with a ribbon-cutting by Chief of Police Michael Gauldin and volunteer Hugo López of Blessed Sacrament Church. Guests enjoyed authentic refreshments typical to the Oaxaca region in southern Mexico.

Centro La Comunidad, the only Hispanic family center in Alamance County, provides human services information and referrals, family support, case management, interpretation and translation services, child development screenings, income tax assistance, educational workshops, and advocacy. Last year, the center moved into a highly-accessible storefront location in east Burlington in order to better meet the needs of the community. The new location provides additional space for programs, classes, and volunteer activities.



Albemarle: Respecting the Vulnerable

The Albemarle Regional Office of Catholic Charities recently expanded services to HIV/AIDS clients by establishing a service site in Dare County. Providing case management to 17 patients includes offering mental health support, ensuring they are receiving adequate medical treatment and assistance with life's basic necessities.

Answering a request from St. Anne's Women's Club, the staff took dinner to 120 children at the Edenton Boys and

Girls Club this spring. Many of the children had never seen a taco let alone knew how to assemble one. Such was the case with one slight ten-year old. We engaged her and showed her how to make a taco. She returned for repeat servings, as did many children, saying "I did not know eating could be so fun!" She helped us clean up and talked to us all. The head of the Boys and Girls Club informed us that prior to our taco bar that little girl would not eat and interact with anyone.

Parish Social Ministry Conference Set for September

Save the date for the third Regional Parish Social Ministry Training, September 28-30, 2007, at Our Lady of Lourdes Center, Raleigh. This is a major event for all parish social ministry ministers and anyone interested in promoting the social mission of the Church. The Office of Peace and Justice of the Diocese of Richmond, Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh are sponsors of the training. Beginning on Friday, September 28 "Our Faith, Our Lives, Our World" will be the theme of this training utilizing presenters from Marquette University, JustFaith Ministries and Maryknoll. Highlights of this Parish Social Ministry Regional Training include:

- An opportunity to learn new skills
- A prophetic vision of church in our world today
- The fundamental call we share to be church to each other and the stranger
- A spiritually renewing and encouraging atmosphere.



This regional assembly needs your voice and your perspective. Bring your unique experience to this gathering to learn, to share, and to be encouraged and challenged!

Registration by September 14 is \$95; after 9/14 \$105 and includes: Fri/Sat receptions; Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday breakfast.

Hotel Options: Holiday Inn, Crabtree Valley, Raleigh group rate: \$79 plus tax. Reservations by Sept. 14 (800)465-4329.

To register, call Catholic Charities Office of Peace and Justice (919) 821-9751 or go online to download the registration form at www.dioceseofraleigh.org

Estate Planning Program Generates Interest

For the first time, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc. offered estate planning tips to two deaneries. After working in cooperation with the diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development so as to reach more regions, the Resource Committee of Catholic Charities Board of Directors chose to conduct the programs in the New Bern and Albemarle regions.

Twenty attended the May program at Holy Family in

Elizabeth City, with guests coming from as far away as Columbia.

Attorney M. Powell Peters donated his time and estate law expertise to address the group. Topics covered stressed the importance of:

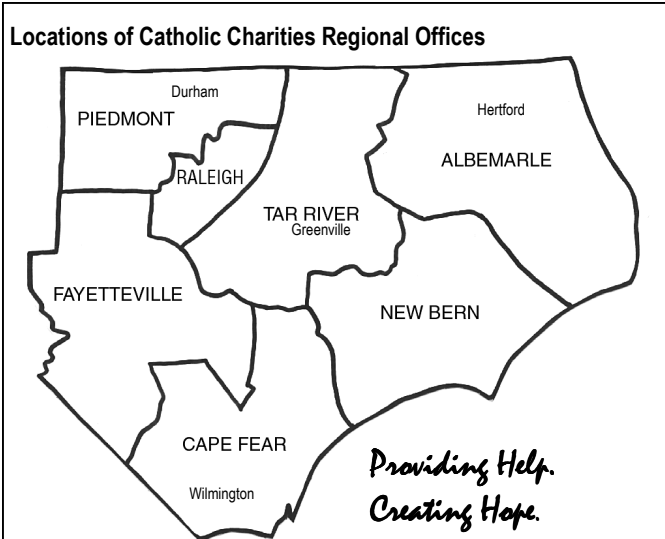
- Making a will
- Designating guardians for minor children
- Considerations for probate avoidance
- Charitable gift vehicles

Attorney John King presented at the June seminar at St. Paul's in New Bern. If you missed either seminar and would like to take our at-home planning course, please email patricia.reid@raldioc.org or call (919) 821-8146 for a personal consultation.

Charitable Gift Annuity Living Legacy

Several years ago, a donor created a Charitable Gift Annuity where she received annual income from her contribution, an immediate tax deduction and upon her recent passing, left nearly \$70,000 to Catholic Charities programs. The family wished her gift to remain anonymous. With this planned gift, the donor's legacy will have a tremendous positive impact for years to come. On behalf of all those we serve, we express our heartfelt gratitude.

REMARKABLE REGIONAL REPORTS



Fayetteville...leading productive lives

An Employment Counseling Program was established through a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to assist Catholic Charities clients in securing meaningful employment. A comprehensive range of services is now available which includes: skills assessments, interviewing techniques, resume development, and use of job search engine technologies.

Since the program began, an increasing number of clients have availed themselves of the service. Between 5-10 individuals are assisted each week. Approximately one-third of those served have found jobs. Clients are assisted by trained Catholic Charities volunteers and college interns under the supervision of the Family Support Case Manager.

New Bern...making a difference

The Senior Pharmacy Program recently received a generous donation of \$2000 from the Adelaide Gurganus Jackson Foundation based in New Bern. The Foundation has been giving to local charities since 1982 and has been a contributor to our Senior Pharmacy Program for several years. Thanks are extended to Ann Johnson, a granddaughter, who dispersed the Foundation monies.

Linda McAlister, Regional Director, continues each month assisting volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul at Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, Washington. She assists them in determining eligibility for utility and other financial aid, as well as providing information, referral and supportive counseling services. St. Vincent de Paul operates a food pantry every Wednesday morning.

Cape Fear...helping families

Seven months after a tornado struck the Riegelwood community, Catholic Charities continues the disaster relief effort which has assisted families with food, transportation costs, temporary housing, clothes and medications. Donated funds have been used to build a new house and repair damaged homes. Through funds donated for tornado relief, Catholic Charities has paid funeral expenses, created memorial markers, and is contributing to an education fund set up for three surviving children who lost parents in the tragic event.

One family at a time...

Catholic Charities Cape Fear Office convened several community agencies to assist a teenage mother who was a victim of domestic violence. Through collaborative efforts, mother and baby found secure placements.

Raleigh...adoption process detailed

On May 23, an adoption information meeting was held at Catholic Charities Raleigh Regional Office. An overwhelming response to notices in the parish bulletins resulted in 22 people attending and a second meeting held on June 13.

The goal of the meetings was to introduce families to adoption and to the adoption services offered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh. The information meetings addressed the history of adoptions at Catholic Charities, the different types of adoptions, an overview of the adoption process, domestic versus international adoptions, and general information on the primary countries placing children into the United States.

For families considering adoption or wanting information, please contact Sally Umbdenstock, Coordinator of Adoption Services for Catholic Charities at 919-790-8533, ext. 52 or by e-mail umbdenstocks@raldioc.org

Tar River...finds a new home

After several years at the South Memorial Drive location, Catholic Charities has relocated to a more secure and functional location. Please call for an appointment to tour the new facilities...all are welcome!

The physical address is:

204 E. Arlington Blvd., Greenville, NC 27835

PO Box 8241 and Phone 252-355-5111 remain the same.

The Catholic Diocese of Raleigh
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc.
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Para la versión de la carta informativa en español
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Help Wanted: Ambassadors
for
Catholic Charities Sunday

A long-standing tradition has been that parishes allow Catholic Charities one weekend a year to thank the community through bulletin inserts, announcements, distribution of our brochures and volunteers addressing the congregation at the Masses. This year's Catholic Charities Sunday will be the weekend of October 27-28.

Hopefully, you will find our agency highly visible at your parish during the Catholic Charities Sunday and perhaps be treated to a speaker who will express our appreciation for all you and your fellow parishioners do to support our mission.

Help is needed in arranging speaking time, brochure distribution, hosting display stations. If you are interested in volunteering to be a Catholic Charities ambassador at one of the Masses in your parish the weekend of October 27-28, please contact your Regional Director or Patricia Reid, Development Director at (919) 821-8146 or email patricia.reid@raldioc.org.

Thank you... Thank You...

Thank you!!!

From our hearts to yours, on behalf of all those we serve, thanks to all who have contributed to our most recent Spring appeal which was mailed in May.

As you may know, Catholic Charities is supported by the BAA, United Way, employee campaigns, foundations and individual donors. We conduct our own semi-annual fundraising campaigns in November and May. Your generosity in helping us to serve those in need throughout the diocese is most appreciated. Thank you for your continued assistance.