

FALL 2010

2010-11 Campaign for Food and Shelter

I believe that everyone reading this has been impacted in some way by the economic downturn, now called "The Great Recession." The work of Catholic Charities is no different: Since 2007, the number of people needing critical assistance has risen dramatically...they need help to get back on their feet after losing their house, job, or suffering salary cuts, all of which put families with children most at risk.

One other fact is that since 2007 the funding we receive from government sources to improve the lives of local citizens has decreased, due to a much smaller tax base.

It is "the perfect storm" - funding cuts matched against increasing needs...and by "needs" we mean basic, safety net services of food and shelter we provide in Napa, Lake and Sonoma counties.

That is why we need your help today. We need you to help us launch our special appeal to raise \$350,000 over the next months...

...so we can say yes to a senior in need of food,
...say yes to a single adult that needs a bed, and a way to start their life again,
...and say yes to families who reach out because there is no other help to be found.

One of the hardest parts of our work is saying, "We have no room right now," or "We ran out of food" at our rural food deliveries. In fact, we say those very rarely because our staff and volunteers are keen to find ways, even if it means driving back to the food bank for more food, or rearranging rooms so one more family can fit. They are up to those challenges and have met them time and again over the past two years.

We have made great strides in the past two years, helping homeless families find jobs and stable housing - in fact, 86 percent of our family moving from the Family Support Center recently went into long-term housing, and 134 people in shelters completed the Coach 2 Career 7-week class and received job offers. In Napa, 70 percent of our transitional housing clients move into long-term stable housing.

We have, however, reached a point when we need more people and more help to do this work; we cannot let the programs shrivel or see the progress we - and our clients - are making take "two steps back."

So, we took the last 90 days to map out a plan to get more community involvement in our work, and raise \$350,000.

Something you may not know is that many parts of the community have already come together to address basic food and shelter needs. We are proud to have been selected to do this work, through long-term contracts with the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma to provide shelter services. Our other strong partners are Community Foundation Sonoma County, St. Joseph Health System - Sonoma and the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Through targeted funding, free rent and at-cost purchase of food, these partnerships result in the cost-effective emergency food and services we provide today in Sonoma and Lake counties. We believe our costs are among the lowest in the state because the community has come together to address the needs.

We now need several hundred more people in this community to understand the hard work and support it with their donations. With your help, will get through this downturn, which we believe will continue for two or three more years.

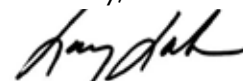
You can help in many ways:

- ask us to speak at your club, businesses or church;
- come to a tour of Catholic Charities - invite a friend;
- start a pledge of \$5 per week (\$20 per month).

Please consider if your church, classroom, business or family can commit to this level of help.

Lastly, please call or email me with your ideas or ways you can help. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Larry Lakes, Executive Director
(707) 528-8712 llakes@srcharities.org



PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL AWISER



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Napa County News

Homeless Prevention Rapid Rehousing Program helping many turn their lives around

Since the beginning of July, we have received hundreds of phone calls regarding our **Homeless Prevention Rapid Rehousing Program** and our office seems to have a non-stop revolving door of people needing rental assistance. Everyone works through an extensive application process, followed by individual appointments for those who qualify. To date, we have 53 active, qualified clients in need of assistance, and have assisted 13 families with homeless prevention. We have helped secure homes for six families who were previously homeless and are hopeful to help another 12 clients who are currently homeless (singles and families).

HPRP Profile: Willie's new path

Willie is a single mother of two children, a daughter 14 and a boy 10. She came to the Napa office a broken-down woman, referred by the Crisis Center. Several counselors worked with her to figure out the best ways to help, because her situation was dire and presented many challenges: Her husband had left her and she had lost her job; she put everything in storage and started living in her car with her children. To make matters worse, she pretended to her children that they were camping. The 14 year



old became aware of the situation and was acting out towards her mother. After a few hours in our office, she walked away with a plan and a purpose. She came back two days later. She located a place to live, held an honest discussion with her children regarding the situation and brought all of her documents and her application ready for processing. One week later, Willie and her children were living in a new home, and she is actively seeking work. We think she is a good example of what the program intends to accomplish. For information, call 224-4403.

Realtor Helps HPRP Client Move Forward

A local realtor went out of his way to help many of our clients; during one consultation, he sat with a client for half an hour talking about the great opportunity she has, with the HPRP program, to change her direction. We thank him and others in the community who take time to understand and do something to help the plight of so many during this recession.

Foreclosure Prevention for city of Napa Residents

Catholic Charities offers no-cost foreclosure prevention counseling for people who reside in the City of Napa and who are behind on mortgage payments and/or facing foreclosure. We plan to assist 30 families while program funding lasts. Call 575-0215 to make an appointment and obtain an application packet. Counseling appointments will take place in Napa (or Santa Rosa office if preferred).

Transitional Housing Clients Making Progress

Renee, a mother of two, has made a successful transition from Rainbow House to her own apartment, thanks in part to the HPRP program and in great measure to the hard work she has done to get her life on track. She continues to work while studying at Napa Valley College where she is receiving very good grades.



PHOTOS: UPPER LEFT, RENEE
RIGHT, MARIA

Maria is such a good employee at her new job, she received a substantial raise after only 90 days. She continues to improve in her English skills.

How the Campaign for Food & Shelter will help Napa Programs

Our Napa programs have always been supported by local donors and foundations. General donations from throughout the entire Catholic Charities community help Napa programs provide the high level of case management services the two transitional housing programs require.



Both Rainbow House, for young, single mothers with children, and Home Base, for young single adults, need new community supporters for their programs.

To bridge the budget needs of these shelter programs for young adults at risk of homelessness, we need 500 new donors, families, businesses or schools step forward with one-time donations or a \$20 per month pledge. Please consider if your church, classroom, business or family can commit to this level of help.

Please call Brian in the Napa office at 224-4403.

To volunteer, call our agency-wide volunteer coordinator at 528-8712 ext. 105 and she will help you find the best fit for Napa programs.

Help Project Homeless Connect

The Volunteer Center of Napa Valley is working with Napa Coalition of Non-Profit Organizations (Catholic Charities is a member) and The Homeless Services Planning Council/The Continuum Care on Project Homeless Connect, an outreach program to the homeless offering many direct services at one site on September 29 at the Napa Expo.

Many volunteers in various roles are needed between 8 and 5 p.m.

Contact Katie Meehan-Rubin at 252-6222, katier@volunteernapa.org.

Lake County News

Women's Luncheon

Our Women's Accessories Luncheon raised nearly \$1500 thanks to 40 women who enjoyed lunch and purchased lightly used accessories. Ten volunteers assisted, including Carolyn Tobin, who recently marked her 8th year as a volunteer with the Rural Food Project. Carolyn and husband Bill



have been staunch supporters of our work. Recently, Bill Tobin and volunteer Bryan Ridste initiated a monthly trip to the Redwood Empire Food Bank to pack up fresh vegetables for Lake Rural Food sites, so our clients will have fresh produce with the distribution of non-perishable food items.

Housing Help Lake County

Do you know someone who needs help with utilities, rent or other payments in arrears? We have now hosted three Community Information Meetings in Lake County on programs that offer financial assistance for rent (for those about to be evicted), utilities or other qualified expenses, and met with 375 families in group or individual sessions. We're helping as many families as we can during this economic recession, and preventing new homelessness in Lake County.

Through our federal financial aid grant (stimulus funding through Catholic Charities from American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009) - we distributed \$60,000 in June, July and August to help people stay in their homes or pay utilities. At that time, together with our partners, we have distributed \$167,000 to Lake County residents in need, representing for 62 households. Additionally, Through Federal Emergency Shelter Grant (FESG) 32 household received \$25,000 in June and July, primarily through utility assistance.

There is no need to wait for a community meeting: If you live in Lake County and think this program can help, go to www.srcharities.org.

HHLC Aid Goes Beyond Financial Assistance

Client "Mary" owed a large sum of money to her utility company and came to us seeking help. She was so paralyzed and trapped by her fear of the growing bill, she avoided her mailbox. Case manager Laura Kerr-Hansen worked with her to receive funding through HHLC, and "Mary" is a new person. She opens her bills, keeps to a budget and now helps her father with his bill paying system. Our service is more than financial aid - Laura helped "Mary" gain confidence in her new found abilities.



Rural Food Project Numbers Are Up

Our fiscal year-end report is in, and we are helping a lot of families make ends meet by putting food on the table. Last year, ending June 30, we distributed 58,223 pounds of food - 10,783 more pounds than the prior year. About 135 new people sought help this year, doubtless due to job losses. Thankfully, we have even more to offer now - Food Stamp application assistance, onsite at food distributions, and the economic assistance programs mentioned earlier in the newsletter.

If you are able to help with funds to buy food or a direct donation of food, please contact call us.

If you can share \$5 a week - \$20 a month - as an automatic deduction or a monthly donation, you will make a big difference in Lake County.

Consider asking your classroom, business, service group or family to commit to this level of assistance.

Think about this - each month we purchase/distribute 3500 - 5000 pounds of food for neighbors in need.

The recession continues.

We need your help.

Call Hedy at 987-8139.

Our Busy Community Center

Our office is a busy place. In July, hosted 25 meetings in our community center/office, and fielded 626 phone calls. Additionally, 61 people walked in looking for help, and we distributed 7 emergency food boxes. Recall that we have only had this welcoming space for one year.

We're looking for 12 Community Angels at \$100 a month to sponsor our office space - If you would like to become a business sponsor of Catholic Charities Lake County Programs, please contact Hedy at 987-8139.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFICE AND COMMUNITY CENTER AT 21257 CALISTOGA STREET, MIDDLETOWN

PHOTO TO LEFT: CAROLYN TOBIN TRIES ON A "FIND" AT THE WOMEN'S ACCESSORIES LUNCHEON.

PHOTO TO RIGHT: CASEWORKER MARTY COMIDO OF LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY IN CLEARLAKE TALKS TO PROSPECTIVE HHLC RECIPIENT ABOUT REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Program Activities

Alzheimer's Respite Resource Center clients, family members, volunteers and staff helped 100-year old "Manda" celebrate her life. She loves to waltz, and revels in the social attention. She has a lively spirit, arising at 5:00am on Respite days, dressing her fashionable best, and keeping her eye out for good dancing partners.



Foreclosure Prevention counselor George Ross spoke on a panel along with U.S. Representative Lynn Woolsey and others at a July foreclosure prevention event held at the Redwood Credit Union headquarters in Santa Rosa for 175 homeowners.

Volunteers from "Lift Up His Name" Women's Fall 2007 Cursillo completed a make-over of the Prayer/Meditation Room, which represents all major religions, at **Family Support Center**. A client, who escaped domestic violence, uses it every morning, and expressed how it helps her maintain stability.

Food Stamp Outreach assisted 522 households by end of July, surpassing our benchmark goals by 31 percent, thanks to an enthusiastic team. A schedule of regular outreach locations in Sonoma County – 36 in August – now includes the north (Cloverdale), south (Petaluma), east (Sonoma), and west (Monte Rio) areas of Sonoma County. Monthly outreach schedule is posted at srcharities.org

Food: Giving and Receiving

One day a woman found our **Rural Food Program** on our website, and left a voice message for Sr. Kathleen. "Sister K" called her back promptly and offered her immediate help, if she could come by for two bags of food. The woman wrote us a note:

"WE JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS. WITH MY HUSBAND LOSING HIS JOB AND ME WAITING FOR SSD, IT'S BEEN REAL TOUGH. YOU TREATED US WITH RESPECT AND YOU GREETED US WITH A SMILE THANK YOU AGAIN FOR HELPING US GET THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME! SINCERELY, J & S"

The next week a lady came by and insisted on giving Sr. Kathleen \$10.00. She had received a food box last week and now wanted to help toward food for another family.

This touching donation is true giving from the heart. Most likely, this person is still living close to the edge. She is probably not buying lunches out or morning Starbucks.

Campaign for Food & Shelter

Perhaps you can consider a donation commensurate to the woman who gave \$10 to help another recipient, or start a new pledge of \$5 a week, \$20 per month, and think of the food you will buy for the needy. We buy about \$100 worth of food for every \$20.

Please consider whether your classroom, business, club or family can commit to this level of donation. Call Rebecca at 528-8712 ext. 159. Please do not wait.

Coach 2 Career Successes

Program serves clients from Family Support Center, Sam Jones Hall, and our transitional housing programs

Two **Coach 2 Career** clients recently reported that their new employers said they were under-qualified for their new jobs, but were the most prepared or showed the most enthusiasm to learn and grow. The 7-week training course includes Mock Job Fairs, a trip to the Dress for Success room, fresh haircuts, and a graduation party. One proud graduate confided she had never before received a certificate. The most recent graduating class celebrated 11 residents' hard work, and the person who turned in the most job applications received a bicycle that had been donated. Of these graduates and others, eight people recently attended Hilton's Job Fair and made it through the initial screening, thanks to a lot of practice and newly gained confidence.



The **Learning Center**, the heart of much of the job training activity, was bursting at the seams, so it was moved to a larger room with eight work stations, a mini library and desk for phone calls. Agilent volunteers, through The Day of Caring, set up the computers, network and workspace. We are now developing ways to expand one-on-one training, and are still seeking computers in good working condition. If you can help, please call Chuck at 542-5426.

Campaign for Food & Shelter

Coach 2 Career and the Learning Center are perfect examples of the activities we must support and grow over the next two years.

Please consider a special donation to keep these services working for clients seeking a better life. Call Rebecca at 528-8712 ext. 159 today.

New Accreditation for Immigration Staff

Our Refugee Resettlement expert, Ashley Abbott, became an accredited immigration representative for Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), making her our fourth accredited staff member. She is currently working with refugees from Eritrea and Iraq. If you would like to receive updates when new refugees need household supplies and furnishings please contact Ashley at 528-8712 ext. 130.

Upcoming Event

Open House

Family Support Center

You are invited to a brief tour of Catholic Charities

Please join us for an inspiring, one-hour tour of Catholic Charities' programs in Napa and Santa Rosa. No cost, no donations requested. Hear from our staff and the people we serve how our programs change lives.

Santa Rosa tours are on selected Fridays, 12 Noon - 1 PM: Tour schedule at srcharities.org

Napa tours are by appointment. For location and reservations, or if you have questions contact Sherrie in Santa Rosa at 528-8712 x 158, rsvp@srcharities.org or Brian in Napa at 224-4403. We encourage group tours.

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Take A Guess...

You would no doubt be surprised at the level of volunteerism for Catholic Charities. So we now give you a little quiz, an opportunity to guess (the answers are below):

1. How many volunteers give time and talents to Catholic Charities on an ongoing, regular basis?
2. How many total volunteer hours were donated last fiscal year (July - June)?
3. What is the dollar value of that time, according to The Independent Sector?

ANS: 1. THERE ARE 750 REGULAR VOLUNTEERS 2. VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR THE YEAR WERE 23,100 3. MONETARY VALUE WAS \$428,663

PHOTO CREDITS: L TO R: MICHAEL AMSLER, MJ WICKHAM, DAN BURKHART, FRAN RUSSELL



Are you ready to volunteer & change a life?

Whether you want to pound nails, answer phones, read to children, or help families in need, Georgette will find the program best suited to your talents. Volunteers bring fresh ideas and help stretch valuable contributions, so we can serve more clients.

Call and find out how your interests can help others: 528-8712 ext 105.

You can read about current volunteer openings at www.srcharities.org



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
GEORGETTE PARRY