

WORKS of HOPE



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa Winter 2011

Almost there!

Success in challenge match for Project HELP, but Campaign for Food & Shelter still needs \$70K

You probably saw one of our Project HELP (Help End Local Poverty) ads over the holidays, asking for help to feed and shelter people less fortunate.

These safety net services are vital to keep children healthy and families together, at a minimum. Yet they are only the first step for Catholic Charities – our food and shelter programs often lead to food security, new work opportunities and a stable transition to housing.



We met the first of several markers set forth in July on a yardstick that ends at \$350,000 in funding for these programs. Over the holidays, many good people more than matched a \$100,000 Valis Fund challenge grant to Project HELP, so we are now more that half-way to our goal.

Simply put, we need \$70,000 more in new donations by June to keep these programs whole and moving forward. We intend to feed and shelter all who need help...just as we always have.

If you haven't yet, please consider if your church, classroom, business or family can commit to a new or extra donation to help us keep funding food and shelter programs. Go to srcharities.org and click on Project HELP to see the many levels of giving that will make a difference.

Introducing New Leadership

We welcome this New Year by introducing ourselves as the new co-interim executive directors at Catholic Charities. Both of us are currently employed as senior program directors at Catholic Charities, and bring management experience from prior work in the non-profit sector. We look forward to a smooth transition and bright future under new leadership.

Sincerely,

Gloria M. Eurotas

Gloria Eurotas
(707) 575-0215 ext. 169

Chuck Fernandez

Chuck Fernandez
(707) 542-5426 ext. 121

Thanking our Donors...

...for helping us help others in need. Our work is possible because of your dedicated partnership.

Donors during calendar year 2010:

\$10,000 and above

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Bruce and Louise Bowe
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Hill

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Napa County News

Working with Napa Women's Emergency Shelter (NEWS) and Wells Fargo

A new collaboration brought "Voice of Strength" meetings by NEWS to Rainbow House. Six meetings were held with each young woman, and all were pleased to learn more about their decision-making process and life choices.

NEWS will return and facilitate more groups this year to address Domestic Violence issues and how women recover. Many clients acknowledge past abuse, and know at this time in their life a relationship is out of the question, having recognized that they choose the wrong partners. We are pleased to bring this expertise to our clients, as the key to long-term life-style changes must be comprehensive.

In January we started Financial Freedom classes, taught by two Wells Fargo employees. The classes cover opening up a bank account, managing a check book, and clearing up bad credit history.

Facilities Rehab to Start Soon

You'll soon see construction trucks outside Home Base and Rainbow House on Jefferson Street. Last year we were awarded special state grants to upgrade these properties. The winning bidder was A.E. Nelson Construction of Rohnert Park, a contractor who has worked many state controlled projects. The same company will perform work on our Santa Rosa DeMeo House.

Napa Valley Community Foundation recently provided a grant to purchase much needed appliances for the Jefferson Street properties: a new commercial grade cook stove and refrigerator for Rainbow House; a freezer to store food for Chefs' Night activities; and, ADA compliant appliances for the new Home Base accessible unit.

Holiday Assistance's Tough Year

Despite a dramatic decrease in donated gifts (down ± 40% from last year) Napa's Holiday Assistance Program (HAP) proved a remarkable success. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Val Agguire, our volunteer program coordinator—Val devoted countless hours to the program and managed to coordinate all of our partners and volunteers to achieve a remarkably successful and well-organized program. We served in the neighborhood of 1,000 families.



In addition, we owe debts of gratitude to the following: Barbara Peterson, who despite a recent injury was still able to wrangle a legion of volunteers (including high-schoolers) at St. Apollinaris' to sort and distribute gift packages; the entire parish of St. Helena for contributing gifts and cash above and beyond what their community received from the program; our Napa staff for answering phones, soliciting donations, and volunteering their time; and the community of Berryessa, which contributed \$3,000 at the 11th hour to help purchase much-needed gifts. Thanks also to collaborative efforts with our Santa Rosa programs: the Rural Food Program and Family Support Center, provided canned soup, cookies, and other food when local food supplies ran short, and much needed Christmas gifts to fill local wishes.

Building on the lessons learned from this year's program, the HAP Working Group will be developing a 180-day planning document over the next few weeks that will carry the program into the future. If you would like to help with this effort, please call Brian at 224-4403.

PHOTO:
HAP VOLUNTEER MOVERS & SHAKERS
LEFT TO RIGHT:
VOLUNTEERS BARBARA PETERSON, COORDINATOR FOR HAP FOR 14 YEARS,
BERNIE MASON, AND JUDY MERWIN, ALL FROM ST. APOLLINARIS CHURCH

cont'd, \$1000 - \$4999

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good news napa

Project HELP

Help fund
Napa Programs

Both Rainbow House (for young mothers and their children) and Home Base (for young single adults) need new local community supporters for their programs.

Please consider if your church, classroom, business or family can commit to a new or extra donation to help us keep funding food and shelter programs.

Go to projecthelpnapa.com and click on Project HELP to see the many levels of giving that will make a difference.



Lake County News

How the Spirit of the Season succeeded in this recession...

First, a few facts: Over 1000 people were fed in Spirit of the Season (SOS is Middletown, Cobb and Hidden Valley Lake program) and our Kelseyville Christmas food programs.

In Kelseyville, 100 boxes from the Rural Food Program, plus a second box from the Lakeport Rotary, were distributed, totalling 200 boxes of food to 482 hungry people. Christmas dinner boxes were donated over the last 4 years through the Rotary, with the assistance of Lisa and Pat Lambert and Beth Berinti of Lake Family Resource Center.

In the SOS area, 150 families were assisted with food boxes and gifts.

How did all this happen?

We worked from September through the SOS distribution date with approximately 40 volunteers, using funds and food raised within the community. Highlights include:

St. Joseph Church opened an area for the distribution

A total of \$7,609 was donated for the SOS program, which pays for food and gifts for children. (One blessed donation accounted for 25 percent of the total,



which was down significantly from \$11,000 in 2009). In total more than 50 people sent donations this year

U.S. Representative Mike Thompson's representative, driving through driving rain, brought us over 100 toys

An anonymous donor donated 100 pounds of hamburger to give to clients in coming months

Over 6,000 pounds of food was donated by Twin Pines Casino

The Hunger Task Force donated 100 squash and garlic from gardens for Christmas boxes...and a great deal of food was donated by the post office, schools, and area boy scouts

About the SOS helpers...

Hedy reports, "Our volunteers are fantastic!"

Eight AmeriCorps volunteers showed up to assist the other local volunteers with Spirit of the Season.

Srs. Marti and Eva have helped for six



years, and Hettie and Jim Hendrickson from Clover Stornetta Farms contributed butter and milk again, as they have for eight years, and JoAnn Harmon, Middletown United Methodist Church, has helped our program director Hedy Montoya with SOS since the beginning.

Kudos for Kelseyville St. Mary's parishioners: MaryAnn and Joe Sanderson, Suzanne Schneider and Teresa Aguirre; Lorrie Grey of the Hunger Task Force, Tammy Alakszay, coordinator of Americorps volunteers, and Iris Garcia.

In all, it was a successful year, and we thank everyone who participated in many different ways. Thank you helping people in need in our community.

PHOTO TO LEFT: OUR BUSY VOLUNTEERS
PHOTO TO RIGHT: LEFT TO RIGHT:
JOANN HARMON, SR. MARTI
MC CARTHY, SR. EVA LUMAS,
HETTIE AND JIM HENDRICKSON

cont'd \$250 - \$999

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 Ms. Melinda Rivera
 Mr. William J. Ronchelli
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 Robert and Dolores Zeni

Each contribution makes a difference in our work. Every year, thousands of people, businesses, schools and organizations donate critical funding, substantial material goods, vital food, and copius amount of their time and talents.

Thank you – we could not do our work without your partnership. go to pg. 7 for more donor recognition

UPCOMING EVENTS

U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson to speak



Middletown Luncheon Club
 Wednesday, April 20
 11:30 – 1:00 PM
 United Methodist Church
 Middletown
 \$5.00 per person, proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Lake County Programs.



We Have MOVED!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LAKE COUNTY OFFICE HAS MOVED TO 21085 BUSH STREET, MIDDLETOWN

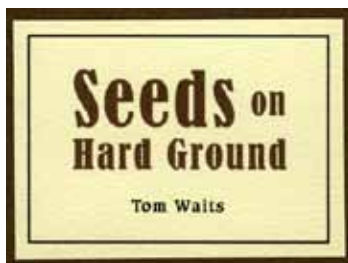
WE NEED A 8 X 6 RUG OR CARPET - PLEASE CALL 987-8139

good news

Program Activities

Rural Food Program coordinator Sr. Kathleen McGrath and her large cadre of volunteers at the food distribution at La Luz Community Center were greeted one freezing morning by a neighbor bearing a large container of a fragrant, steaming drink of hot oatmeal and cinnamon, reminding us that people give back in many ways.

Nationally-recognized musician Tom Waits has written a poem called "Seeds on Hard Ground," and proceeds of the sale of the limited edition, handmade "chapbook" will benefit our programs. The poem was inspired by Michael O'Brien's photographic portraits of



people who are homeless. It is sensitive and intense, wistful and wrenching. He peers from the soul of a man who examines his life's ironies and his parents' before him. In today's parlance, "He totally gets it." We are grateful to Kathleen Brennan and Tom, long-time supporters, for designating our Homeless Services Center and Family Support Center, and the regional food bank as recipients of funds from the project. The first edition of 1,000 copies was pre-sold out overnight. You can read the full text at tomwaits.com (link to Flickr), and learn how to purchase forthcoming editions.

Homeless Services Center's (HSC) work often entails the minute-by-minute health and welfare maintenance of the people who are homeless and without shelter — showers, referrals, phone calls. But at other times, it takes a higher arc. Recently, Tomorrow's Leaders Today (high school students) toured HSC and heard "Dwayne" tell his story. One student reported, "On our human services day,

I saw true leadership in a man at the Homeless Services Center. He had a rough background involving drugs, becoming a father at a young age, and more. However...he has a job there controlling the communal phone. I saw leadership in this man because he did not let his past affect his future. It seems to me that he is trying to change his life to benefit the community as well as himself. This act of leadership impacted others by providing an example of success. Knowing that he was homeless and in need of necessities to live, this man could have given up. He could have given up trying to start over and gone back to his old habits. However, he listened to advice and created a new life and a new success story that he can be proud to tell of for the rest of his life."

New Van for Children's Trip

After Leadership Santa Rosa Class XXVI toured the Family Support Center (FSC) last year, they were determined to buy a van for youth field trips. Fast forward a year, and voila! A beautiful, fully refurbished 2004 Honda Odyssey was delivered by the enthusiastic group who spent a year fundraising and finding the right car.



As an extension of the Homework Club and Discovery Center, fields trips are offered to youth who attend FSC homework help sessions and complete their work. Field trips to local college campuses, museums and other education trips are designed to help inspire future educational goals and dreams that extend beyond the family's current circumstances.

PHOTO: LEFT TO RIGHT: FSC PROGRAM DIRECTOR CHUCK FERNANDEZ RECEIVES KEYS FROM TODD SHEFFIELD, CEO/PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY FIRST CREDIT UNION.

Helping seniors live better, longer, with dignity

We meet the most interesting people in the Alzheimer's Respite Resource Center - a former ship captain, restaurateur, agency director, nurse, grape-grower, airline pilot. Sue (photo below), an active, aged client in the day program, came to the U.S. from Japan. Despite dementia, she vividly recalls her earlier life in an internment camp during WWII. She spoke with Eleanor Roosevelt, who "told me she was sorry that I had to live in a camp and that we did not merit living like that." Sue later worked for Birdseye Frozen Foods and sold washing machines, while raising four children. In the day program, she loves the Tennessee Waltz, dancing, singing, and laughing out loud. She has attended Respite for four years, while living with her son.



I'm Home Alone client Bruce died in his sleep - he just "slept away" quipped his sister-in-law. The Home Alone Emergency Responder (ER) found him in his comfortable chair at home, just the way he wanted to go. How did we know? After reading a logged notation that indicated he was not feeling well the day before, and several unanswered calls, the ER was called to make a home visit.

Like many others, we had been calling Bruce daily for three years, helping him feel more secure that there was someone watching, and checking in. I'm Home Alone volunteers call 120 people, mostly seniors, every day of the year.

Donors Recognition for Fiscal Year 2009-10

Due to a clerical error, we omitted the following donors in our annual report for Fiscal Year 2009-10. We apologize, and thank you for your contributions.

\$250 - \$999

Bill and Gail Bettinelli
Keith Bruzzone
Fr. Steve Canny
Julie Carver
Paul and Addie Desideri
James Gray
Pam Hawkins
June Hunter Clarke
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Mike and Lucy Tamayo
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Law Offices of Shario, Galvin, Shapiro & Moran
Sonoma Bank
St. Joseph Health System
Sonoma County
Wells Fargo

Project HELP for people who need food today!

Food is a critical need for many people, and you CAN make a difference by helping one person or family.

Please consider a special donation to Catholic Charities' Project HELP.

Go to www.srcharities.org or call Rebecca, 528-8712 ext. 159 today.

good news

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 how our programs change lives from our staff and the people we serve.

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 x158, sprior@srcharities.org or Brian in Napa at 224-4403. We encourage group tours.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa
PO Box 4900
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
707-528-8712
www.srcharities.org

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Take a Guess...

What do you know about our programs that feed hungry people? (the answers are below):

1. How many prepared meals does Catholic Charities serve every day of the year in our homeless shelters?
2. Into which communities do we take supplemental food weekly, helping people who are unable to reach the central food bank and urban pantries?
3. How many people did the Rural Food Project serve last year (unduplicated) with supplemental food?

ANS: 1. WE SERVED 135,000 MEALS AT FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER AND SAM JONES HALL LAST YEAR, PLUS 10,000 EMERGENCY MEALS. 2. WE PURCHASE, TRUCK, PACK AND DISTRIBUTE PERSON-ALTY TO PEOPLE IN NEED IN HEADSBERG, FULTON, BOYES HOT SPRINGS, OCCIDENTAL, GRAYSON, MIDLETON AND KEISEWILLE, WHERE WE ALSO CONNECT THEM WITH OTHER NEEDED SERVICES, SUCH AS FOOD STAMPS. 3. THIS COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAM, RUN PRIMARILY ON VOLUNTEER ENERGY, SERVED 15,000 INDIVIDUALS LAST YEAR. MOST OF THOSE PEOPLE CAME TO DISTRIBUTION EVERY WEEK.

PHOTO CREDITS: L TO R: B TIMM, DAN BURKHART, FRAN RUSSELL, DAN BURKHART



Church liaisons needed - Please volunteer!

Would you like to help share the amazing work of Catholic Charities?

That we serve all people, regardless of religion?

And that our programs reach seniors, immigrants and families in crisis?

We need your help to tell our stories in church communities.

Please call Georgette Parry
528-8712, ext 105.



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
GEORGETTE PARRY