



**Catholic
Charities**

Archdiocese of Washington

**Opening doors
to help and hope.**



"Give them something to eat yourselves" (Lk 9:13).

Faithful to this summons from the Lord, the Christian community will never fail, then, to assure the entire human family of her support through gestures of creative solidarity, not only by "giving from one's surplus", but above all by "a change of life- styles, of models of production and consumption, and of the established structures of power which today govern societies"

-Pope Benedict XVI

On New Year's Day, Pope Benedict the XVI delivered the annual Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace. In this year's address, the Holy Father urged the Church and the entire human community toward swift and concrete action that will alleviate the suffering of individuals and

February, 2009

News from Parish Partners

News and Notes

Working to End Homelessness

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington is the Washington metropolitan area's largest provider of emergency shelter to persons that are homeless. We are also engaged in efforts with community members and political leaders to develop new strategies to end homelessness. We welcome the opportunity to talk to Parish Based Advocacy Groups and Social Justice Committees, or any group of parishioners that is interested in working for an end to homelessness. If you are interested in having Catholic Charities come and talk to your group, please contact Chapman Todd at 202.772.4313, or chapman.todd@catholiccharitiesdc.org.

Downtown Regional Center now offering Parenting Courses!!

Catholic Charities is offering six weeks of Parent Education Classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the James Cardinal Hickey Center - 924 G St. Washington, DC. Classes begin on February 10th and run until March 19th. Classes begin approximately every six weeks. Parent Education is for anyone who could improve their relationship with their child. Parents, grandparents, or guardians are encouraged to bring their children, who will receive fun lessons that encourage positive behavior. Please contact Sonya Hemphill at (202) 772-4319 to register!

Success Stories

Ms. Logan came to see Allie Holsen, the Prince George's County Parish Partner Coordinator, in crisis. Some time ago, Ms. Logan suffered an injury and has been unable to work since that time. While she receives Social Security Disability benefits, she has been struggling to make ends meet for herself and her three children with such a limited income. Monthly, Ms. Logan has had to make difficult decisions regarding which bills to pay, and how to get food into the household to provide for her children.

Ms. Logan's water service was scheduled to be disconnected. She was being forced to decide whether to pay to have the water kept on, or to provide meals for her children. Working in conjunction with the referring parish and another community based agency, Allie was able to obtain the funds needed to pay the delinquent water bill. Using an emergency food fund, Allie was also able to provide \$50 worth of Giant gift certificates to ensure that Ms. Logan and her children were not without food in the immediate future.

Based on Ms. Logan's desire to find ways to increase her ability to pay her bills, Allie and Ms. Logan have begun working on a resume and trying to find part-time work that Ms. Logan can perform. Further, Allie was able to connect Ms. Logan with the SHARE Food Network, a low cost grocery co-op operated by Catholic Charities Enterprises that will provide a monthly package of store quality food items allowing Ms. Logan to save on her monthly expenses and keep current on her utilities and other expenses.

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Parish Partners Contact Information

District of Columbia Parishes: Teresa Martinez, 202-772-4343 teresa.martinez@catholiccharitiesdc.org
Montgomery County Parishes: Ann Marie Kunz: 301-942-1790 ext. 115 annmarie.kunz@catholiccharitiesdc.org
Prince George's County Parishes: Allie Holsen: 301-568-9529 ext. 306 allie.holsen@catholiccharitiesdc.org

Referrals by Parish: October – December, 2008

Parish	Referrals	Parish	Referrals
District of Columbia		St. Raphael	3
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception	84	St. Camillus	21
St. Martin of Tours – D.C.	13	St. Catherine	9
Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle	31	St. John Neumann	5
Epiphany	1	Shrine of St. Jude	1
St. Patrick	5	St. John the Evangelist	3
St. Luke	24	St. Bernadette	2
Nativity	2	Holy Cross	1
St. Francis de Sales	13	St. Michael the Archangel	1
Assumption	190	St. Peter	1
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	8	St. Martin of Tours - Gaithersburg	1
Holy Redeemer	6	Prince George's County	
St. Anthony	21	St. Mary of the Assumption	2
St. Stephen, Martyr	5	St. Ignatius	1
St. Thomas Apostle	1	St. Mark	17
St. Dominic	3	Holy Rosary	2
Our Lady Queen of the Americas	6	St. Philip the Apostle	3
Shrine of the Sacred Heart	18	Ascension	4
Holy Trinity	7	St. Matthias	1
Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament	5	St. Nicholas	1
Montgomery County		St. Edward the Confessor	1
St. Jane Francis de Chantal	8	Sacred Heart - Bowie	1
St. Andrew the Apostle	8	St. James	1
St. Elizabeth	3	St. Bernard of Clairvaux	1
St. Mary - Rockville	3		
St. Francis of Assisi	17	TOTAL	565

Services Provided: October – December, 2008

Presenting Problem:	Referrals	Confirmed Solutions:
Homeless	14	8
Eviction	51	43
Utility Disconnection	108	88
Housing Search	7	3
Insufficient Employment	80	32
Food	119	117
Immigration	4	2
Transportation Assistance	3	3
Services Provided:	# of Clients	
Supportive Counseling	73	
Budgeting	64	
Assistance with Forms	9	
Resume Help/Job Searches	30	
Legal	12	
GED Classes	1	
Food (Share)	74	
Emergency Shelter	3	
ERAP	20	
FEMA	6	
In the Name of the Mother Fund	3	
Financial Assistance	\$\$	
TOTAL CC \$\$	\$9,429.46	
ERAP \$\$	\$11,451.00	
DC Energy \$\$	\$1,311.00	
FEMA \$\$	\$950.00	
Pepco Grant \$\$	\$0.00	
In the Name of the Mother \$\$	\$17,209.79	
Giant Gift Certificates	\$1,300.00	
Referrals:	# of Clients	Confirmed Follow Up
Food	112	110
Clothing	17	17
Financial Management	7	4
Employment Services	22	12

families who live in poverty as the way towards building peace in our world.

The Holy Father commits the Church to fight poverty on two levels: by meeting the needs of those in our midst and our world who are suffering, and to work towards the establishment of more just systems that allow for the full development of the human community.

The message is both an affirmation of all the work that is being done by the Church to bring an end to poverty, and a call to new and creative means to assist those in our midst who suffer the burden of poverty. In this time of economic crisis and uncertainty, Pope Benedict's call to action becomes more urgent, as more and more of our sisters and brothers are suffering. Renewed by the Church's celebration of Christmas, let us respond with renewed commitment and compassion to the call of ending poverty in our world.

-Jay Brown
Parish Partners
Program Manager

These charts feature the services provided to individuals referred from parishes. The first chart is a general snap-shot of how many referrals we received and from where. The second breaks down the needs of individuals we have served and the services we have provided.

The Services Provided chart is an attempt to capture the needs and issues of individuals who are being referred to Parish Partners. Under the Presenting Problems section, we are able to track whether or not a presenting problem has been resolved **within the first 30 days of service**. For example, we were able to prevent 88 out of 108 utility disconnections within the first 30 days in which we worked with an individual or family.

If you have any questions about the reports, please do not hesitate to contact Jay Brown at jason.brown@catholiccharitiesdc.org or 202-635-5904.