



## A Partnership for the Future of Catholic Charities

### Have you thought about including Catholic Charities in your will or estate plan?

Catholic Charities joined the Tulsa Community Foundation's Planned Giving Partnership Program to serve you with complimentary, confidential and professional guidance for your gift planning needs. Information regarding financial instruments that could benefit your loved ones and Catholic Charities, as well as help you achieve your other financial goals, is available at no obligation. Your lasting support will help individuals and families improve their lives through Catholic Charities' programs and services.

#### Contact Us

If you would like more information about how to perpetuate your compassion through gift planning, please let us know. We can provide information about ways you can help carry out our mission, and also arrange for you to take advantage of confidential and professional planned expertise. Contact Mrs. Tish Stuart, CFRE, Director of Mission Advancement, at 918.508.7116, or TStuart@CatholicCharitiesTulsa.org.

## Our Legacy Society

*Catholic Charities is establishing a legacy society to recognize people who have made a gift plan with a bequest or estate gift to carry out our mission for many years to come.*

*If you named Catholic Charities in your will or in other ways, please contact Mrs. Tish Stuart to discuss this recognition and to ensure we can carry out your wishes.*

Contact Tish at 918.508.7116, or TStuart@CatholicCharitiesTulsa.org.

Blessings!



Summer 2012

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## Taking Care of Those Who are Hungry



*Catholic Charities' food pantry has increased the number of people served by 15% over the past two and a half years. During the same period of time, food costs have risen by 20%.*

During the past two and a half years the number of people seeking food for their families and children has been rising, and with your support we have been able to increase the number we serve by 15%. We have served more people even though during the same two and a half years our food costs have increased by 20%. If we continue to meet increased needs this year we will serve more than 38,000 people in Tulsa, and thousands more at other locations in our diocese.



*Long-time volunteers Cindy Poor and Ed Burns pack food at our Tulsa food pantry. This and other Catholic Charities food pantries in the diocese will receive additional food with funds from the July 14th & 15th second collection.*

After learning that one in four families in our state is going hungry, Bishop Edward J. Slattery announced a one-time second collection at Masses on July 14th & 15th. The funds are being used to purchase food in bulk quantities at very competitive prices, and part of the funds went to the Catholic Charities helping centers with food pantries in other cities in the diocese.

We also ask people to continue donating food, since we always need it to fill the grocery bags. Please drop donations off at your parish collection box or bring it to the drop-off doors at the Tulsa campus. Because of your continued support, we are able to provide each family with enough food for about four days.

**We will report on the second collection and gifts-in-kind donations in the fall. Thank you for being the Hands of Christ!**

## Program Spotlight: *Pregnancy and Adoption Services*

Each year, more than 50,000 people receive services through Catholic Charities' twelve programs and services. Of those twelve, these four programs are under the Pregnancy and Adoption Services umbrella. All of the people served by Catholic Charities' Pregnancy and Adoption Services have access to our other programs and services and are encouraged to use them if needed. For more information on these programs, contact Mary Lee Ingram, LCSW, Director of Pregnancy and Adoption Services, at 918.508.7142 or mlingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org.

### Blessed Mother Teresa Women's Health Services

is a pregnancy program in the Blessed Mother Teresa Health Center on the Catholic Charities campus. The program provides patients with the necessary medical needs of pregnancy such as pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, prenatal care and postnatal care. In 2011, the program's first year, 235 babies were born under the care of Blessed Mother Teresa Women's Health Services. In the first four months of this year, more than 100 babies have already been born! BMTWHS works in cooperation with the Oklahoma State University Health Sciences OB-GYN Department, which operates the medical program. Several Catholic Charities staff and volunteers provide counseling and other services. BMTWHS is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information call 918.508.7199.

### St. Anne Adoption Services

works closely with birth parents and adoptive parents to create loving adoptive families. Adoption Services has been bringing families together since the 1950's. So far this year, two babies have been placed in loving homes. Before adopting, parents must complete the online pre-application, attend one of our monthly orientation meetings, submit documentation and paperwork, and complete an Adoption Home Study. Support groups for adoptive families and birth mothers are also offered. For more information, please contact Christa Van Tassell, LCSW, at 918.508.7132. Birth mothers and prospective adoptive families are always needed.

### Rachel's Vineyard

provides support and healing to those struggling with the effects of abortion. Those involved with Rachel's Vineyard retreats include therapists, clergy, trained peer companions and individuals who have personally experienced abortion. Women and men who are struggling to find peace and comfort are encouraged to inquire about attending a retreat. A monthly support group and individual counseling is also available for those who are interested. For more information, please call

918.508.7142 or  
918.978.4673.  
*All calls are confidential.*



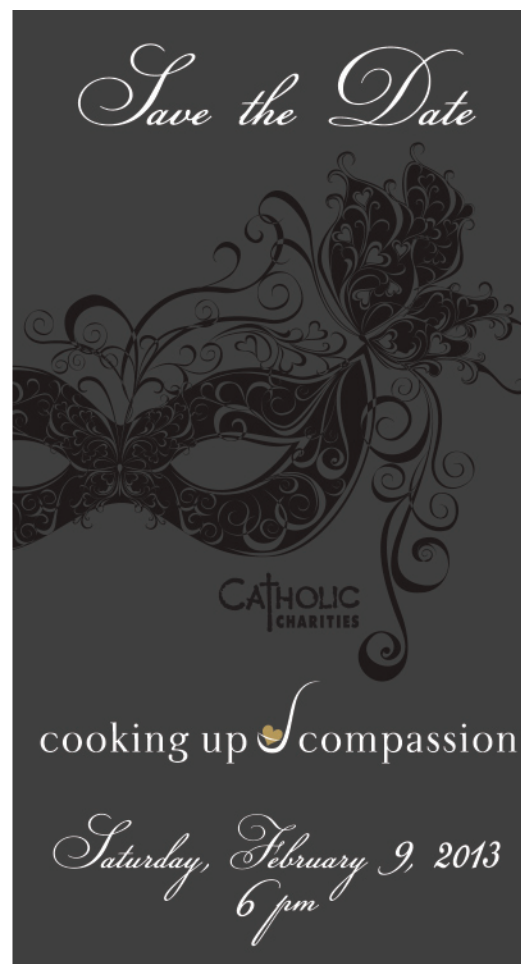
### Madonna House

is a residential and transitional program for women who are pregnant and above the age of 18. This program assists women and their newborn babies with essential life skills. Madonna House residents are able to take advantage of the many services we offer on our campus, including counseling, medical services and education. Several classes are available to residents to help them become loving mothers, such as parenting classes, car seat classes, and bible study. GED and computer classes are also available to help residents prepare for life outside of Madonna House. Last year, 15 babies were born, and there are currently six women and their babies living at Madonna House. Women who are interested in Madonna House may contact Karen Guzman, MS, at 918.508.7141 for more information.

## Wish List

These are just a few items needed in our various programs. Our donation drop off hours are M-F 9am-3pm. Thank you!

Cereal  
Cleaning Supplies  
Diapers (all sizes)  
Fans and New A/C Units  
Gently-Used Furniture (beds in particular)  
Maternity Clothes  
New Pillows  
Peanut Butter  
Personal Hygiene Supplies  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Storage Unit or Storage Space



## Volunteer Spotlight: *Outstanding Volunteers*

Catholic Charities is blessed to have numerous volunteers who selflessly give of their time, talent and energy for years...and for some volunteers, we are talking a lot of years! All listed in this article have at least five years of service.

Long-time volunteers **Phil Duffy, Darryl Merle, Gladys Terrell, Tim Neumann, Ed Burns** (10+ years), and **Robert Casey** (15+ years) serve in our food pantry, while **Stan and Carol Staubach** and **Barbara Blackwell** have all served in the clothing center for more than five years. Emergency Services is blessed with **Lucy Dierker** as a receptionist. **Cindy Poor** recently changed from the food pantry to our new hot meal ministry and has served for almost eleven years. **Melissa and Tim O'Sullivan**, our 2010 and 2011 Cooking Up Compassion Chairpersons, volunteered for years at St. Elizabeth Lodge and Tim serves on the Board of Governors; Melissa serves on the Board's Finance Committee.

Our Sallisaw Helping Center is blessed with five volunteers with more than five years of service: **Patricia Applewhite, Louise Cantonwine, Edna Franchino, Cherly Lockwood** and **Etta Sellers. Barbara Huff** and **Marilyn Skaggs** have each served more than ten years.

We also have long-term volunteers on our Board of Governors including **Rich Minshall, Dick Boerger, John Jarboe, Tom Tejada, Deacon John Johnson** and **Msgr. Dennis Dorney**, who was one of the original members of the Board of Governors in 1982.

Our longest continuing volunteers are **Mary and Andy Bidasio** (right), who have served weekly (or more often) at Catholic Charities since mid-1983 – that is 29 years! Mary and Andy recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary and continue their volunteer presence in the Holy Child Shop working with baby and infant clothing and accessories.



By these examples, we can see that volunteering can become a long-term vocation to serve those in need.

If you would like to experience the life-giving effects of living the Catholic Charities mission "to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer," call John O'Neill at 918.508.7125 to discuss the possibilities.

*At Catholic Charities, our mission is to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer.*

Catholic Charities is the primary instrument of the Diocese of Tulsa in carrying out the works of mercy by Catholics and others in fraternal goodwill through time, talent, and treasure.

*Want to be more involved with Catholic Charities?*

Would you like to share the mission of Catholic Charities with your parish? Want to help plan a fund raising event? Our Mission Advancement Department needs you! Contact Debbie Crowley at 918.508.7114 or dcrowley@catholiccharitiestulsa.org.