



The MISSION

Spring 2012

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News from "Drexel Plaza"

Catholic Charities' Education Center and the Mexican Consulate will inaugurate the first Community Plaza of Tulsa, an official INEA location where Latinos with low literacy levels can earn elementary and high school diplomas.

Catholic Charities is looking for bilingual volunteer teachers for the Plaza.

Teaching: Our Way to Love

Every week, more than 114 students receive free classes at Catholic Charities' St. Katharine Drexel Education Center. However, the most important lesson taught at the center is not in the books.

Each year, more than 350 students receive GED, ESL, computer, NFP, job hunting, literacy and parenting classes at Catholic Charities. More than 25 volunteer teachers and staff from organizations including Union Schools, Tulsa Health Department, Tulsa Public Schools, Oral Roberts University and Sodexo work together in the program.



Catholic Charities' Education Center welcomes the YWCA and the Mexican Consulate as new allies

"Most of the students and volunteer teachers come to class after a long day at work, but you see the hope in their eyes and the commitment in their hearts. It is a true testimony of reciprocal love," said Heidi Hernandez, coordinator of the Education Center. The mission is not only helping the students build the skills needed to have a better life, but sharing Christ's merciful love.

Many students are surprised when they find out their teachers are volunteers. What begins as "just a class" becomes a lesson about inclusion and fraternal love.

Natural Family Planning for All

"Openness to life is at the centre of true development." ~ Pope Benedict XVI

Our Education Center offers a Natural Family Planning program with the mission of promoting the culture of life, responsible sexual behavior, NFP and the Billings Ovulation Method™ (BOM) among clients of Catholic Charities. To date, more than 158 participants have received instruction and guidance in these areas. The Education Center offers NFP classes in both English and Spanish, led by Margarita Summers, Heidi Hernandez and Lindsey Graham. Also offered are orientations in bioethical Catholic teaching to couples dealing with sub infertility and infertility. For more information, call 918.508.7102.

To learn more about our education program, contact Heidi Hernandez at 918.508.7102

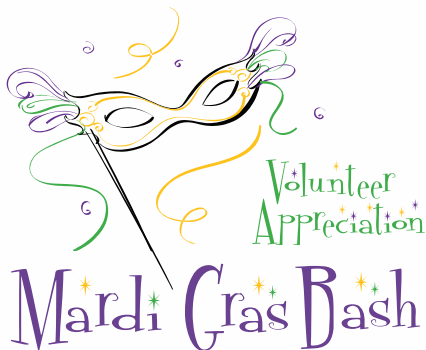
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
of the Diocese of Tulsa

Rev. Dcn. Kevin M. Sartorius
Executive Director

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The MISSION

cooking up  compassion



Cooking Up Compassion sizzled in January! The seventh annual Cooking Up Compassion was held January 21st at the Tulsa Convention Center Ballroom. Over the past seven years, we have raised an estimated \$3.5 million dollars! Cooking Up Compassion creates awareness of the work of Catholic Charities and raises funds for our mission of serving those who suffer.

The evening included delicious appetizers from 18 local chefs, a fabulous dinner prepared by Chef Devin Levine, CEC, and an exciting live auction. Guests also heard live music from Tulsa's very own Mary Cogan. Rev. Msgr. Dennis Dorney was the Honorary Chair.

This year's Presenting Patrons were the Mary K. Chapman Foundation and Kathy Craft. A total of 63 patrons sponsored the event, which raised more than \$530,000 in net proceeds!

A big thank you to Tim and Melissa O'Sullivan, co-chairs of this event, and all of our committee members.



From left: Rev. Dcn. Kevin M. Sartorius, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Most Rev. Edward J. Slattery, Bishop of Tulsa, Rev. Msgr. Dennis Dorney, Honorary Chair, and Melissa and Tim O'Sullivan, Co-chairs at Cooking Up Compassion 2012



Laissez les bon temps rouler! Volunteers from Catholic Charities' office in Sallisaw were ready to let the good times roll at our Volunteer Appreciation Mardi Gras Bash on Fat Tuesday. More than 150 volunteers and guests attended.

Catholic Charities celebrated the outstanding service of our volunteers on February 21st with a Volunteer Appreciation Mardi Gras Bash held at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish. Volunteers, their guests, and staff enjoyed live music and a cajun feast prepared by our own Matt DeWeese.

Volunteerism continues to thrive at Catholic Charities, with more than 2,600 volunteers in 2011. All we can say is THANK YOU! With the valuable service of our volunteers, we are able to serve nearly 50,000 people each year.

Spring is in the air and that means the 22nd Madonna House Tea and Fashion Show is not far away! Women and children of all ages will gather for brunch and fashions at the Renaissance Hotel on April 21st.

This year's event will begin with a "Mimosa Mingle" at 9 am, with the brunch and fashion show starting promptly at 10 am. The program will feature presentation of the Helen B. Lauinger Award to outstanding volunteer Janet McDaniel as well as speakers from Madonna House.

This year's fashion show will highlight trends from stores and local boutiques for men, women and children.

Mary Whelan and Kim Nelson are co-chairing the event.

Patronships and tickets to the event are available by contacting Lindsay Hughes at 918.508.7115 or lhughes@catholiccharitiestulsa.org.

Mega Raffle tickets are available before and at the event. Mini Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. (You must be present to win Mini Raffle.)

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.

Holiday Program Wrap-Up

Catholic Charities helps more than 50,000 people each year through its 12 programs, but the busiest time of year is when the weather gets cold and the holidays draw near. Here are some fun facts about the 2011 holiday programs:

Trav's Coats for Kids

With the help of Yale Cleaners and Channel 6, more than 14,000 coats were distributed through Catholic Charities and St. Mark's Parish in Pryor.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Catholic Charities distributed 400 Thanksgiving basket tickets and 500 Turkey only tickets. Due to the efforts of Bishop Kelley intern, Elliott Walz, the Turkey only ticket holders also received the "basket" or additional items. More than 750 baskets were picked up on the distribution day. More than 1,300 turkeys were provided on the first day and in the days that followed, including 200 that were sent to Pryor. Food baskets were stocked by generous donations from St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Holy Family Cathedral, TRC Restoration, Bishop Kelley High School, School of St. Mary and St. Catherine School.

Christmas Food Baskets

Catholic Charities distributed 1,000 Christmas basket tickets and 825 baskets were picked up on the distribution day. The remaining baskets were given out during the last four days before Christmas. St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish provided turkeys for the baskets.

St. Nicholas Toys for Family Joy

Christmas toys were provided for 866 children during the week before Christmas. Toys were provided by Bishop Kelley High School, Cascia Hall Preparatory School, School of St. Mary, St. Pius X Church and School, St. Benedict Parish, Monte Cassino School, and Marquette Catholic School, as well as State Farm, Laredo Petroleum and Gallagher Bryce Insurance.

Thank you to all who donated to our holiday programs in 2011. Your generosity brings hope to many during the holiday season.

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	Passenger Van (Low Mileage, Gently Used)
Cleaning Supplies	Peanut Butter
Diapers (all sizes)	Personal Hygiene Supplies
Maternity Clothes	Spaghetti Sauce

Volunteer Spotlight: Elliott Walz

Bishop Kelley High School senior, Elliott Walz, has served at Catholic Charities since he was eight years old, when he volunteered with his mother at Holy Child Center. When he got his driver's license his sophomore year, he began volunteering on his own. He recently spent his senior internship on our campus, working five days a week and some Saturdays. Elliott is an invaluable member of our procurement team, gathering donations from the food bank, Reasor's and any other organizations offering surplus food.

Elliott says he encourages his friends and family to volunteer and has organized groups from Bishop Kelley and All Saints to come out and get involved.



Elliott Walz with pallets of carrots and onions he procured from the Tulsa Community Food Bank during the holidays.

"For me Matthew 25:40 says it best," Elliott explained. *"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*

We are all made in the image of God and therefore called to treat one another as such. We are called to be Christ's hands and I feel if I stood by and did nothing and brushed aside the needs of others then I would be committing the greatest sin of all. That is why I serve."

Catholic Charities appreciates Elliott and all our volunteers who make it possible to fulfill our mission to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer.

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 fundraising event? Our Mission Advancement Department needs you! Contact Debbie Crowley at 918.508.7114 or dcrowley@catholiccharitiestulsa.org.

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2012 Annual Appeal

As of March 9, 2012, we have reached 94 percent of the \$1.4 million goal for our 2012 Annual Appeal. This will help serve 47,000 of our 50,000 clients in need. Will you help us serve the other 3,000?

At Catholic Charities, our mission is to be Christ's love to those who suffer. We thank each and every person who donates time, talent and treasure to help us fulfill this mission. To make a donation, please use the attached envelope or visit www.catholiccharitiestulsa.org.