

## Catholic Charities' Loudoun Office Is Dedicated

Photo by Jeanne Spaeth



Bishop Loverde greets Fr. Arthur Johnson, SA, as he arrives for the dedication ceremony, while Cecilia Diaz-Yap (left), a Catholic Charities' social services associate, looks on.

**B**ishop Paul S. Loverde blessed Catholic Charities' office at Christ the Redeemer Parish in Sterling at a September 9th ceremony attended by more than fifty people.

The office, which opened in the Fall of 2003 at the invitation of the pastor, Father C. Donald Howard, SA, is now staffed five days a week and offers counseling, immigrant assistance, and adoption services.

During the dedication ceremony, which included the psalm response "The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor," Bishop Loverde

said, "It is fitting that today we also celebrate the Feast of St. Peter Claver, who ministered to the poor

enslaved people who came from west Africa. They needed a sign that they were loved. Are we not doing what Peter Claver did—revealing Christ's love to those who are shackled by slavery in the form of despair, poverty, apathy, and loneliness?"

The Bishop praised the staff and board members of Catholic Charities: "I'm proud of your organization—of this new dimension of increased extension of Christ's love." He also thanked Fr. Howard and the Friars of the Atonement for welcoming Catholic Charities to the parish.

### Help for Hurricane Katrina Victims

**C**atholic Charities assembled toiletry bags for nearly 100 Hurricane Katrina evacuees, thanks to the contributions of Spring Hill Elementary School students in McLean.

The toiletry supplies were delivered to Catholic Charities for sorting and bagging, and the results were 32 kits for men, 32 bags for women, 12 kits for girls, 9 bags for boys, and 4 bags for babies.

Catholic Charities thanks the Spring Hill School PTO for



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

Catholic Charities' Beth Fitzpatrick (left) and volunteer Maureen Vasquez take inventory before packaging toiletries for evacuees.

organizing the collection and the students for their generosity. PTO mothers Marie Stinger and Ann Shaw personally delivered the soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, combs, tissues, and other items.

### United Way / Combined Federal Campaign

Please designate Catholic Charities as recipient of your donation: #8055 (or #6404 in the Rappahannock area).



Stephen Luteran

## FROM THE DESK OF Stephen Luteran

**I**t has been a year of natural disasters. You may recall that we began the year with the tsunami aftermath, followed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and most recently the earthquake in Pakistan and India. These events have killed hundreds of thousands, and the survivors have been left in desperate situations.

In the midst of these tragedies, I have been inspired by the heroic efforts of victims and everyone who has come to their aid.

The Diocese of Arlington has responded to Hurricane Katrina by launching Partners in New Hope. Through this collaborative response of parishes, schools, the Office of Resettlement, and Catholic Charities, we are making a difference. Evacuees who have arrived to our area are being placed in homes and receiving lots of assistance from parishioners, Catholic Charities, diocesan schools, and other diocesan staff.

Natural disasters force us to expand our love of neighbor. One thing I have noticed is that many of the victims, when being interviewed, speak about their faith in God. At such a desperate time, many speak of their love of God and of their deep appreciation of

being alive. Very few have spoken about material things and jobs. It becomes clear that many realize the meaning of life is found in relationships, not things.

While we are responding to victims of these natural disasters, please also remember the local poor who live in our midst everyday. More than ever, we count on your donations to help us serve our "local" brothers and sisters in need.

Thank you for all that you do.

Stephen Luteran, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities  
of the Diocese of Arlington

### Hogar Hispano Thanks Partners



Hogar Hispano's Esmael Hussein (right) thanks CLINIC's Jeff Chenoweth for his agency's support at a Citizenship Assistance Workshop.

**C**atholic Charities' Hogar Hispano thanked partners for their help in sponsoring Citizenship Assistance Workshops, which Hogar organizes eight times a year. At a September 17 workshop, Esmael Hussein, Hogar's naturalization coordinator, presented certificates of appreciation to Jeff Chenoweth, division director of national operations and support for the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC); Sowatha Chea, community outreach specialist for Arlington County; Gloria Williams-Brevard, community relations officer for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Amina Shego, director of the Refugee Elderly Assistance Program of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and others.

CLINIC has awarded Catholic Charities a grant to support citizenship outreach.

### Emergency Preparedness Kit

- Water, one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a 3-day supply of non-perishables
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- Moist towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit has canned food)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Unique family needs, such as daily prescription medications, infant formula or diapers, and important family documents
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

Source: U.S. Dept of Homeland Security  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

• The Emergency Assistance program at Christ House was pleased to receive a \$4,500 grant from Shepherd's Gate, the grant program of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria, to cover medical prescriptions for the poor during Fiscal Year 2006.

• Catholic Charities thanks the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Education for a grant to support Hogar Hispano's English Literacy/Civics Education program. The \$83,445 grant covers September 15, 2005, to June 30, 2006.

• Catholic Charities thanks Burke Lake Self Storage for its generous support.

• The Fredericksburg District Office now offers counseling services at St. Isidore the Farmer Church in Orange. Office hours are Wednesday, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to noon. Special appointments are also available for adoption, foster care, and crisis pregnancy coun-

## St. Martin's Cares

Seniors at St. Martin's, most of whom live on small, fixed incomes, insisted on taking up a collection to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. They collected \$277 in early September. Many of these elderly individuals remember the poverty of the Great Depression, and one of them said, "We know what it's like to have nothing. We've been through this type of loss ourselves, and we want to help."

St. Martin's also welcomed two hurricane evacuees as participants in its day program. The two seniors, sisters who were living in New Orleans in housing for the elderly managed by Catholic



Photo by Meghan Koranek

St. Martin's seniors collect money for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Charities, were forced to evacuate their buildings before the hurricane hit. They are currently living with relatives in Alexandria until their Louisiana housing is restored.

seling. Call 540-371-1124. For a listing of support groups, go to [www.cdda.net](http://www.cdda.net).

Catholic Charities thanks Fr. George Griffin, St. Isidore's pastor, for providing free office space to Catholic Charities.

• St. Martin's Senior Center held its annual Flu Shot Clinic October 6. Seniors over age 65 with Medicare or Medicaid received the immunization free of charge. Nursing staff from

INOVA Health Care administered shots to 109 seniors.

• Christ House continues to operate its evening meal program, which it has offered for more than thirty years. It thanks volunteers assisting the program and welcomes new volunteers willing to come to Christ House to help prepare and serve meals for the underprivileged of the area. Call 703-549-8644 to volunteer.

## Great Golfers and Sponsors Support Programs

The "Lucky 13th" Catholic Charities Classic raised \$34,000 to support Catholic Charities' programs and services. The June 20 event at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria drew 120 players.

Brian Roberts and Donna Weyh Roberts co-chaired the Golf Committee. If you would like to serve on next year's Committee, call 703-841-3835.

Generous support came from these sponsors:

- Allan & Donna Algosio (silver sponsor)
- BB&T (gold and silver sponsor)
- Bill Page Honda (gold sponsor)

- Buck & Associates (silver sponsor)
- Cox Business Services (silver sponsor)
- Croix Connect
- Howard C. Handy & Sons (silver sponsor)
- Knights of Columbus—Mt. Vernon Council (silver sponsor)
- Lindsay Cadillac
- Mercer Human Resource Consulting (silver sponsor)
- Murphy Funeral Home (silver sponsor)
- Ourisman Automotive of Virginia (silver sponsor)
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers (silver sponsor)
- R.T. Pizzano General

Golf committee chair Brian Roberts calls golfers for the shotgun start of the 2005 Classic.



Photo by Jeanne Spaeth

- Contractors (silver sponsor)
- RealOps (silver sponsor)
- Smitty's Building Supply (gold sponsor)
- St. John the Apostle Church (silver sponsor)
- SunTrust (gold sponsor)
- The Washington Bank (silver sponsor)
- Weyh Roberts & Associates
- XA Systems (silver sponsor).

## Walk for the Homeless

Photo by Jeanne Spaeth



Students and teachers from St. Thomas More Cathedral School walk for the homeless in a 2004 mini-walk.

The 18th annual Help the Homeless Walkathon, sponsored by the Fannie Mae Foundation, is scheduled for November 19 at the Mall in Washington, D.C. Catholic Charities (code CCEAP) is one of the non-profit agencies that may be listed as a beneficiary on a walker's registration form.

Besides the main event, many elementary

schools sponsor mini-walks to support the walkathon's mission of helping the homeless and preventing homelessness.

Funds from diocesan school mini-walks are shared by Catholic Charities, Borromeo Housing, Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services, and Catholics for Housing. For registration forms, call 1-877-925-5484 or go to: [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org).

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Nov. 5 – Restorative Justice Seminar (Catholic Charities' Prison Ministry: 703-841-3832)

Nov. 19 – Help the Homeless Walkathon, CCEAP-code for Catholic Charities; [www.helpthehomelessdc.org](http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org)

Dec. 10 – Friends of Children's Services Christmas Party (703-425-0100)

Dec. 10 - 11 – Catholic Charities Christmas Collection (2nd collection at all Masses)

Dec. 14 – St. Martin's Senior Center Christmas Party (703-751-2766)

Jan. 30 – Catholic Advocacy Day in Richmond (703-841-3831)

Feb. 24 – Catholic Charities Ball (703-841-3835)

*The Mission*, Fall 2005

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[www.ccda.net](http://www.ccda.net)

# The Mission

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