



Catholic
Charities

VISION

The compelling future state toward which we aspire and strive

A community thriving in the abundance of GOD's love and selflessly serving the needs of one another.

MISSION

Our unique purpose that defines why we exist, whom we serve and what we produce

We create hope for those in need by promoting self-sufficiency, strengthening families, fighting poverty and building community.

CORE VALUES

The principles that guide us and constitute what we believe

FAITH

Being an inter-faith community
Hoping for the things unseen
Believing with strong conviction

LOVE

A sense of underlying oneness
Manifesting charity

CARING

Compassion for all
Empathy for all

RESPECT

Dignity of others
The individuality of others
The uniqueness of others

INTEGRITY

Honesty
Transparency
Trustworthiness
Fairness

INCLUSIVITY

Openness
Diversity
Reconciliation of differences

COLLABORATION

Partnering with others
Seeking others with the abilities to find solutions



Pope Francis: Who is he? | *by Jim Gannon*

As I sit down at my computer to begin authoring this message Pope Francis is probably arriving back at the Vatican after his visit to Brazil. Pope Francis is certainly a charismatic person and he seems to bring a new energy to the Church and the laity in particular. His constant message of service and obligation to the poor has rung out loudly and clearly with the folks in the pews. Actually this is not so surprising considering that observers have suggested the corporal acts of mercy and social teachings serve as a mortar, a cement bond for many of the laity to the Church. Perhaps more importantly his message is being positively received by the Catholics who have vacated the pews in the recent past.

Francis's approach is not unlike the fictional Pope in the novel and film "The Shoes of the Fisherman" from the 1960s. He has a sense of the ordinary person and a simple message. Are his words preparing us for even greater action, what are his intentions? These are all questions that it seems a lot of us are struggling to answer. Our pastors each have probably heard a million and one questions on who is Francis, what is he doing, why is he saying that, and what does it all mean?

The Holy Father seems to be using conversation and not formal communications



Executive Director, Jim Gannon

to place accents on our theology and teachings. When he suggested being prepared to sell the Church's buildings to feed the poor he emphasize that we must be "a poor Church and a Church for the poor." When he asked who is to blame for the suffering of refugees, he answered collectively, noting the "globalization of indifference." To a diocesan director of Catholic Charities, Pope Francis is a welcome ally in advocacy and works. Those who remember the old Merrill Lynch commercials realize that when Pope Francis speaks everyone stops to listen.

Like his namesake Francis is reminding us that the Church is not the grand buildings of worship, but rather the people. When we gather in Jesus's name it is not only to receive the Eucharist, but it can be to restore power to an elderly woman's home, it can be tutoring a parent in math who just wants to be able to help their child escape poverty, it is opening a door to a new start for a family escaping genocide. When we assist those in need we are reaching out not just with our hands, but we are the hands of the Holy Spirit and we are not just helping a neighbor in need, we are ministering to Christ.

Our parishes and their buildings are important. We need gathering places, we need the nourishment of the Holy Eucharist and we need places of community. Francis perhaps is reminding us that they are not fortresses to wall us off from society, but places to gather and go out into the surrounding community. Places to muster and leave strengthened by the Holy Eucharist to provide services and build facilities in the greater community that are statements of a belief in the dignity of the human being, all human beings.

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Federal Campaign.*

Pope Francis



Catholic Charities welcomes Pope Francis's advocacy, we welcome the renewal he is providing to our staff and volunteers; his papacy has brought new volunteers coming to serve, who have accepted his challenge to do more. We are hopeful that Pope Francis's words will encourage our clergy, our fellow Catholics and the larger community to re-evaluate their priorities and like Francis be an ally in advocacy, in action and in gathering the means to make an even greater difference. The shoes of the Fisherman are indeed very big.

Meet the Development Team

Liz Lozano Lopez, Director of Development and Beth Chavez, Capital Campaign Coordinator make up the Development Team at Catholic Charities. Liz has a strong background in fundraising having worked with Immaculate Conception Parish/St. Mary's Catholic School and the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber. "I'm honored to have joined the team and think we have a great opportunity to increase community awareness about the work of Catholic Charities," said Liz Lopez. Beth has many years of experience in development working with various organization in Albuquerque, most recently with ACCION.

She has been with Catholic Charities for the past two years and looks forward to bringing the vision of "Casa de Corazon" to fruition.

Every day we are building community and changing lives at Catholic Charities. Our work would not be possible without the extraordinary support of our donors and volunteers. The development staff welcomes the opportunity to visit with you regarding how you can partner with Catholic Charities in providing much needed assistance to those in need. Liz can be reached at 724-4693 and Beth can be reached at 724-4637.

It's That Time Of Year

Please consider designating Catholic Charities as your charity of choice during the fall kickoffs for the United Way Campaign and the Combined Federal Campaign (code 31653). Your support makes a difference.



10th Annual Festival of Trees

The mission of Catholic Charities is to create hope for those in need by promoting self-sufficiency, strengthening families, fighting poverty, and building community. For the past 68 years, Catholic Charities in New Mexico has been dedicated to finding solutions to some of the most pressing social challenges individuals and families face. In the spirit of the holidays we realize that at no other time of the year, we can come together, take matters into our own hands and make a difference in the lives of families and children throughout our community.

For the 10th year, Catholic Charities will host its gala fundraiser, the **Festival of Trees** on Saturday, November 23, 2013, at the Hyatt Tamaya Resort on the Santa Ana Pueblo. **Festival of Trees** is the signature fundraiser supporting Catholic Charities' five Centers of Excellence - **Center for Education Opportunity** (Children's Learning Center, Adult Education Program), **Center for Refugee Settlement and Support** (Services for Employers Hiring Refugees, Refugee Youth Support), **Center for Self-Sufficiency** (Partners in Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Proyecto La Luz, Courtroom Advocacy Homeless Prevention, ACCESS Albuquerque's Continuum of Care for Enhanced Support Services), **Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assis-**

tance (Family Unification Program, VAWA Violence Against Women Act, Human Trafficking Prevention), **Center for Community Involvement** (Senior Transportation, Volunteerism, Parish and Faith Community Outreach). These programs address the needs of individuals regardless of race, religion, country of origin, disabilities, age or gender.

It's not too early to think about how you can help. The **Festival of Trees'** Planning Committee, co-chaired by Mr. Stuart Prager, Computer Literate, LLC, and Ms. Maureen Healy, Gonstead Family Chiropractic, are currently accepting donations for the silent auction. Items such as gift certificates to a restaurant, your favorite store or theater tickets, a specialty food basket, vacation package, jewelry, or an exquisite piece of art would be greatly appreciated.

Tickets for this wonderful semi-formal event are \$150.00 per person or \$1,500 to sponsor a table of eight. For those wanting to show their support and creativity, Christmas trees and wreaths are available for decorating. Your business, parish or organization chooses a theme and decorates the tree/wreath, which is then hi-lighted and sold during the live auction. The evening begins with music, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar reception as you mingle through the silent auction, followed by a



scrumptious dinner. Event Sponsorships are also available.

Catholic Charities is dedicated to taking aid to a higher level. Please join us in this commitment by supporting the 10th Annual **Festival of Trees**. To reserve your tickets, sponsor a table or donate a live or silent auction item, please call Maria Bustamante at (505)724-4626 or contact Liz Lozano-Lopez for sponsorship information (505)724-4693. Information is also available on our website at www.ccasfnm.org or email us at fot@ccasfnm.org.



Please pray for the refugees in our community, and pray that Catholic Charities may find the ways and means to more effectively help them.

Program Expansion to Sandoval County

Sandoval County, like much of our state, is an area of disparities. On the one hand, we see the affluence of a community like Placitas, where the median home price in July was just under \$500,000 and many residents have impressive resumes and hold prestigious positions at some of our community's premier workplaces. On the other hand, we see a community like Algodones, with a median household income of only \$39,464, placing that community well below the national median of just over \$52,000. Slightly over 12% of Sandoval County's residents live in poverty; 15% of Sandoval County's children live in poverty. These disparities and statistics are not uncommon in New Mexico, nor are they the worst in our state. Yet they very clearly show that those in need are frequently very close at hand. Sandoval County and Catholic Charities' expanding presence in the county is an excellent example of how Catholic Charities identifies areas for program expansion and how program expansion is made possible.

About two years ago, the CEO of Catholic Charities sent each member of the management team to far flung areas of the Archdiocese (a 60,000+ square mile area) to evaluate the need for services and gauge the local communities' interest in collaboration and the feasibility of providing services in that area. Out of these trips, an undeniable need was identified throughout the Archdiocese, and several communities mentioned and demonstrated their considerable need to us. The process of expanding services, however, is a slow, incremental process where we try and to answer three basic questions. What is the need in the community? Do we have the money, personnel, and ability to provide services in that area? And what will be the outcome that we wish to see and how do we make sure we are having an impact?

One of the greatest needs that we identified in Sandoval County was a need for greater services for the homeless and close to homeless. The need is striking; in spite of being one of the most populous counties in the state (over 6% of the state's population), Sandoval

County does not have a homeless shelter. The county was also hard-hit by the recession, and the area saw a significant increase in unemployment, particularly as the once booming residential home market ground to a halt there. As in much of the state, it was clear there was a need but in early 2011 we were not yet sure if we had the capacity to meet those needs.

In order to address the funding and capacity needs we identified, Catholic Charities applied to the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness in the fall of 2011, proposing to expand its La Luz program, which is a transitional housing program that supports single parents through rental assistance and case management so that they can transition to self-sufficiency through employment. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds the majority of these types of programs in the state and has designated the Coalition to evaluate proposals and coordinate housing services throughout the state. After nearly a year of review and evaluation, including additional review by HUD, Catholic Charities was selected by the Coalition as one of a handful of agencies that would be funded to begin new projects in New Mexico.

By the time all the necessary approvals were in place and HUD had accepted the Coalition's decision, it was August of 2012 before our agency had the funds in place to begin providing services. Once we began operating, we immediately encountered two additional barriers to meeting the community's needs. First, many of our fellow human services providers and individuals in the community were not aware of the additional resources in their community. As a result, we began working closely with organizations like Haven House, which is a domestic violence shelter in the county, St. Vincent de Paul, and others to ensure that eligible clients were being referred to our program. Another problem that we continually encountered was related to the need we had come to address. Ilyssa Bozza, the Director of the Center for Family Self-Sufficiency and Housing Assistance at Catholic

Charities, noted that "One of the challenges we have encountered in our outreach efforts is that those who become homeless in Sandoval County tend to make their way to Albuquerque where there are significantly more services available for those experiencing homelessness. Once in Albuquerque, many prefer to stay where there are more services and where public transportation is available." Although we had arrived in Sandoval County in an effort increase the resources available, our presence was not always able to shift the structural barriers that were present in the area. A lack of public transportation, for example, made the likelihood of transitioning an individual to self-sufficiency much more difficult. Nonetheless, the program has achieved some impressive outcomes and has served 46 families and 132 individuals since its arrival in August of 2012. Even more impressive is that 96% of individuals have transitioned to stable housing.

The painstaking process of program expansion takes significant time and resources. Catholic Charities' expansion into Sandoval County took nearly two years before the agency could establish services. The expansion demonstrates the types of strategic planning and community and governmental support that are required to expand programming. Now, finishing our first year in Sandoval County, Catholic Charities anticipates a permanent and sustainable presence in the area. Jim Gannon, the CEO of Catholic Charities notes, "Our expansion into Sandoval County is an excellent example of how Catholic Charities looks at program expansion. First local community members came to us with a need in their community, the need was real and Catholic Charities had the programmatic expertise to respond to it. We also were able to identify and work with a funding partner to assure that we were able to establish a sustainable long term presences in the area. Our expansion was a combination of an identified need, ability to serve, commitment of the local Catholic community and other local partners to work with us to address the needs of the most vulnerable in the community."

Seeing Daylight Ahead

Recently a sizable crack appeared in our Bridge Street building. Certainly the crack, which appeared suddenly overnight, was a convincing and visible testament to Catholic Charities' pressing need for a new building - Casa de Corazon. The new building will house our Centers of Excellence and allow us to continue serving those in need of our help. For more information about the Capital Campaign go to our website or contact Beth Chavez at 724-4637



Matthew 25 Giving Society Awards

Catholic Charities hosted its annual Matthew 25 Giving Society Awards Reception at the Candelaria office on June 26th, 2013. The Matthew 25 Giving Society is the result of Catholic Charities partnering with individuals or organizations who give of their time and talent, and share a common belief in the responsibility to be of service to their neighbor. This collaboration furthers Catholic Charities’ mission to create hope for those in need by promoting self-sufficiency, strengthening families, fighting poverty and building community.

Archbishop Michael Sheehan addressed the crowd and referred to Catholic Charities as “The Crown Jewel” of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. He also presented the *Hands of the Holy Spirit* honorees with a hand-carved Santo of St. Francis of Assisi. These faithful partners often went beyond what was expected and did so without seeking acknowledgement of their activities. This year’s recipients included Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish and School, Ms. Thelma N. Domenici, and Mr. Bill McHugh.

Our Lady of the Annunciation Vice-Principal, Amy McCarty, accepted the award on behalf of the parish and school which supported Catholic Charities through an amazing and diverse display of outreach. This much needed support came not only from monetary donations but also included a donation box in the vestibule of the church, a special collection of emergency food at Thanksgiving, and a first ever Lenten Giving Tree, which was a combined effort of the Parish Social Concerns ministry and the Young Adult ministry. Also working hand in hand with the school, a year-long Social Justice Project was established that included Christmas toys, school supplies, pots and pans, blankets, pajamas, books, bikes and helmets. The Annunciation Women’s Guild stepped in to support the social justice project by donating a beautiful hand-made quilt to raffle. All of these donated items supported Catholic Charities’ Centers for Immigration, Refugee, Education, Housing and Community Involvement.

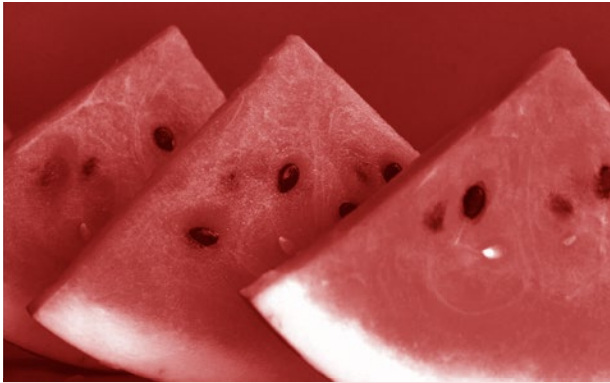
Thelma Domenici’s involvement with Catholic Charities goes back a number of years. She has volunteered, often behind the scenes, assisting the agency in its strategic planning, structure and fundraising. Ms. Domenici is a known advocate and strong supporter of the organization’s

program of work. She has brought her vibrant leadership skills and business experience to Catholic Charities, believing that Catholic Charities is not only an asset to the Catholic community, but to the entire community. Thelma is famous for saying “I have my angels working on it”, but truth be known, she herself is an angel.

Bill McHugh began volunteering at Catholic Charities in the Center for Refugee Settlement and Support in 2009 and was recognized for his longstanding selfless acts of kindness. Mr. McHugh began as a Conversation Partner, practicing English with refugees for over a year. He is known as one of the agencies’ most consistent and reliable transportation providers, always willing to drive folks to their doctors’ appointments. For several months, Bill drove well over 50 miles a week, providing a mother and daughter, living in different parts of the city, the opportunity to spend time together. On another occasion Bill took on the task of introducing a hearing-impaired Nepali couple to the Albuquerque bus system; their first step on a long road toward self-sufficiency. Mr. McHugh is described as patient, completely understanding, and never judgmental of the challenges client’s face, even when he himself has been inconvenienced.

The *Simon of Cyrene Awards* were also presented during the evening event. Just as Simon of Cyrene carried the cross after Jesus fell on the road to His crucifixion, this award recognizes individuals who have helped Catholic Charities by stepping up and carrying some of the burdens faced in providing assistance to those in need. Five recipients representing the five Centers of Excellence at Catholic Charities included: Mr. Will Steinsiek, ReadWest - Center for Education Opportunity; Mr. John Schmidt, New Mexico Human Service Department - Center for Refugee Settlement and Support; Mrs. Kathy Kenna, St. Vincent de Paul, Bernalillo - Center for Self-Sufficiency and Housing Assistance; Ms. Mary Woods, Catholic Radio - Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assistance; Mr. Robert Singer, The New Mexico Law Group, P.C. - Center for Community Involvement.

Catholic Charities recognized that each of these individuals allowed the Holy Spirit to use their hands for charity, and through their acts of kindness, gifts of time and talent, made a difference in the lives of many.



EL CORREO *(The Mail)*

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Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan and Pete Robinson - Catholic Charities Board Chairman, present Thelma Domenici with a “Hands of the Holy Spirit” Award