

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

TELL CITY

802 Ninth Street • Tell City, IN 47586 • Phone 812-547-0903
CatholicCharitiesTellCity.org



Serving all in need in Perry and Spencer Counties

Summer 2008 Newsletter

Providing Help. Creating Hope. The Essence of What We Do.

A young woman and her young son walked into Catholic Charities Tell City's office one day hoping for the help they needed. Ginger is a single mother raising her three-year-old son. Until this spring, she was doing okay. She was having issues with her babysitter and decided to move closer to her boyfriend's parents who were willing to help out with childcare. She had a job she liked and was paying her bills. Then she got sick and because she was missing so much work, she lost her job. Then her food stamps stopped and she found out her Medicaid also stopped.

She had moved from one county to another, but when she switched addresses all of her benefits got transferred to the wrong county. This caused her to miss her required appoint-

ment with the governmental agency because she did not know her paperwork went to the wrong county. She had to re-file for food stamps and Medicaid benefits.

She is also having difficulties with her landlord who is not adequately repairing her trailer. The septic tank is backing up into her trailer and soaking the bedroom and bathroom floors. She had to stay with friends for three days and her son is not safe playing outside because of a large hole in the yard.

Through all of this, she has remained upbeat. She has had one surgery this year and is probably looking at another one, which hopefully will take care of her medical problems. She hopes to start looking for employment this summer, after being released by her doctor.

Ginger has a love for photography and has taken photos for a few weddings. She loves doing this and hopes to make it more of a career.

Her immediate need was for help with utilities. Catholic Charities Tell City and Salva-

tion Army assisted her with this bill. We also gave her information on area food pantries and advised her to contact her legislator's offices to get help in straightening out her Medicaid and food stamp confusion.

Ginger is trying to find another place to live because the conditions at her current home are not good for her son and she is becoming concerned about her landlord. She is really trying to build a better life for her and her son.

Catholic Charities Tell City was there to help with the immediate need of utility assistance, but we were also there as a sounding board and resource for other long-term needs. Ginger and Catholic Charities Tell City continue to stay in touch to work on a better future for her young family. She said, "I know I can count on you to give me honest answers and opinions. I know I can always call on you." Building relationships with our clients allows us to provide help and create hope. Our clients' lives and situations are unique and we treat each with the dignity that they deserve.



Mission Statement

The mission of Catholic Charities Tell City is to work together as parish communities, fulfilling the call of the Gospel, and to help people improve their lives. We believe that through reaching out in service to those in need, by loving our neighbors as Christ loves us, we not only enrich their lives—but ours as well.





Dealing With Life's Setbacks Despite Best Intentions

A family of four with both parents working – one as a professional: why would they need the services of Catholic Charities Tell City? The mother recently graduated as a registered nurse. The family was hoping things would start looking up for them. However, before she could get full-time status on her job, she becomes ill. The bills were piling up. Catholic Charities Tell City assists with food and utility assistance. Slowly they begin digging their way back out of the hole.

A few months later, the father becomes very ill and is subjected to a long-term hospital stay. At the same time, the grandmother also becomes ill and spends several months in the hospital. During this time, the mother has had to miss some work as well,

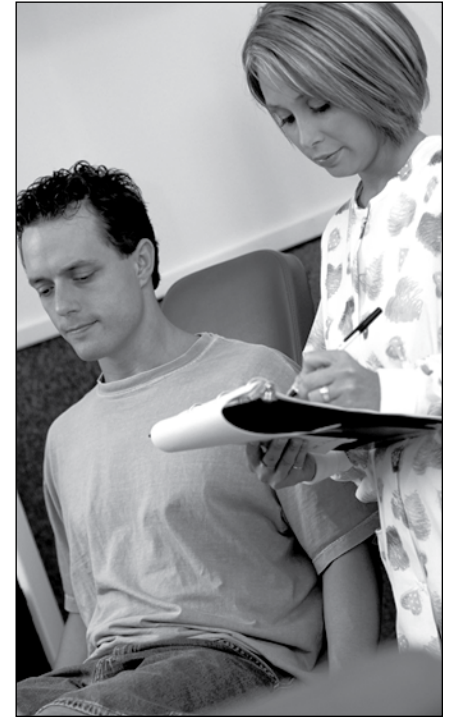
because both her husband and mother are in the hospital an hour away.

Once again, they turn to Catholic Charities Tell City for assistance. We help, along with Salvation Army and the Perry County Clergy Association, with utility payments; we provide them with other resources and agency contacts. We suggested contacting all the utilities to keep them abreast of their situation so payment plans can be established until they get back on their feet.

As with many of our clients, we promise to pray for them and be there as a shoulder to cry on. I told the mother that she could call me anytime to talk or if she just needed to vent her anger. She called and shared her frustrations and thanked me for allowing her to do so. With her hus-

band still convalescing, she tries to be strong at home, but sometimes it is just too much.

This family will survive this crisis. It won't be easy and it won't be quick. However, they were able to get the help they needed due to the generosity of our donors. Without the support of our donors, we would not be able to reach these families in need.



Did You Know...

- Catholic Charities Tell City serves as a resource and connection point for many families needing only information: how to fill out government paperwork, finding additional food pantries, and making alternative transportation arrangements?
- Catholic Charities Tell City serves as the clearinghouse for funds from the Perry County Clergy Association and Salvation Army?
- Martin's Cloak Food Pantry in Siberia, Ind., serves more than 50 families on each Saturday morning that it is open?
- Matrix Lifeline assists mothers and pregnant women in need of services by providing diapers, formula, baby furniture, clothing, and help in contacting other agencies so they can raise their baby with dignity?

Partnership Profiles

Catholic Charities Tell City has an active Emergency Assistance program. In March 2007, the Perry County Clergy Association, Salvation Army and Catholic Charities Tell City began operating their programs as one, administered by Catholic Charities. We are now better able to serve the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our community because of this efficiency.

Our clients often do not have reliable transportation or access to a telephone. By combining these three funds under one roof, we have made it easier for our clients to utilize their meager resources. It also allows the agency a better opportunity to verify the current needs of the individual or family being served and reducing duplication.

Problems can be solved more efficiently and ease the burden on the

needy. This has proven to be a wonderful collaboration that benefits those we are serving. Catholic Charities Tell City is grateful to the Perry County Clergy Association and the Salvation Army for their trust.



Lauren Chelec/Catholic Charities USA, Alexandria, VA



Message from the Agency Director

By Joan Hess

It's so hard to believe we are in the summer of 2008. The year is more than halfway over! Soon, we will begin a new school year. That event seems to put the carefree days of summer behind us and makes us begin planning and sticking to routines.

One routine that we can all establish is to pray for those in need. We can make it a part of our daily lives in so many ways. And possibly, through this prayer, we will decide to put our prayers into action.

That action can take many forms, but here at Catholic Charities Tell City, our actions focus on providing help and creating hope.



Catholic Charities Tell City serves all people in need, regardless of faith. We strive to do so in an atmosphere based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, including human dignity, the common good, and a special emphasis on helping the poor. We are here because there is a need in our area.

Daily we work with clients whose needs exceed their resources. We help families and individuals who need emergency assistance, food, help paying rent

or utilities, diapers and formula for their babies, or a shoulder to lean upon in times of grief.

The principles of our Catholic faith give us the strength and compassion to help people where they are in life. Our hope is to assist them on a journey of self sufficiency where they can stand on their own and contribute to society.

None of our work is possible without the generosity of our deanery community and the community-at-large. Individuals, parishes, and business partners have all helped us provide help and create hope in many lives.



Lauren Chelec/Catholic Charities USA, Alexandria, VA

Please consider joining with us in our mission to help the poor and vulnerable among us by donating today.

2008 Summer Flood Relief Update: Volunteers and Donations Needed

Since the floodwaters hit much of Indiana in June 2008, Catholic Charities has been working to help folks restore their homes and lives. Our local agencies have been helping with case management, volunteer coordination and mental health services in Martinsville, Columbus and Terre Haute.

We know from experience with other floods and Hurricane Katrina the recovery process will take several years. Currently volunteers, both skilled and unskilled in construction are needed to help haul away debris, clean up and rebuild homes. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jane Crady at jacc1@tds.net. Operating out of St. Martin of Tours in Martinsville, Jane is currently in need of tools and monetary donations. Visit CatholicCharitiesIndy.org for all the details.

The Columbus and the Terre Haute areas are in need of similar assistance. In Terre

Haute contact, Catholic Charities Terre Haute at 812-232-1447. In Columbus contact St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church at 812-379-9353 ext. 227 or floodrecovery_stb@yahoo.com.



Agency Advisory Council

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Father Barnabas Gillespie, St. Pius and St. Michael

Father Timothy Sweeney, St. Paul

Father Guy Mansini, St. Isidore and Holy Cross

Father Sean Hoppe, St. Mark and St. Augustine

Ex-Officio

David Siler, *Executive Director, Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries*



Ten Percent of People Living in Poverty Turn to Catholic Charities

In 2006, one out of ten people living below the federal poverty line sought help at Catholic Charities agencies, according to a CCUSA report released in November 2007 on Capitol Hill. The report, *Poverty in America: Beyond the Numbers*, provides a state-by-state look at the types of services local Catholic Charities agencies provide to ad-

dress the pervasive effects of poverty in this country. The report is based on the findings of Catholic Charities USA's 2006 Annual Member Survey.

Catholic Charities served nearly 8 million people in 2006, including 4.1 million people living below the poverty line. The report found that 52 percent of Catholic Charities clients in

2006 lived below the federal poverty line—up from 43 percent in 2002.

The survey of local agencies shows that more people are turning to Catholic Charities for food. Agencies saw a 12 percent increase in the need for food service programs in 2006. Between 2002 and 2006, the number of clients receiving food services—such as soup kitchens, food banks and food pantries, home delivered meals and congregate dining—increased by 2.7 million, or nearly 60 percent.

As the need for food assistance continues to rise, local agencies say they continue to struggle to meet the needs of food service requests. In 2006, agencies responding to the survey said they were unable to serve nearly 1,800 clients requesting prepared food and nearly 91,000 clients requesting distributed food.

Other key findings of the 2006 survey include the following:

- More than 45 percent of Catholic Charities' clients were either under 18 or over 65.
- Services to build strong communities—such as education, social support, health-related services, and neighborhood activism, to name a few—reached 7 percent more people in 2006, for a total of more than 3.6 million.
- Nearly 1.1 million people received services that strengthen families, including counseling and mental health services and immigration services.
- Requests for temporary shelter increased 24 percent over the past five years. In 2006, Catholic Charities managed more than 176 temporary shelters (nearly 7,800 beds). Yet they were unable to serve more than 31,000 people because all available beds were full.



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Faith, Hope & Charity

SHINE! A Social Ministry Renewal: Spreading Hope In Neighborhoods Everywhere!

By: David J. Siler, executive director for the Secretariat for Catholic Charities

Beginning with a large, archdiocesan-wide event for pastoral leaders during the day on October 1, 2009 and for everyone during that same evening, the Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries will lead a year-long effort to respond to Pope Benedict's invitation to bring about more love in our midst.

In the Pope's encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, he writes, "Love is the light—and in the end, the only light—that can always illuminate a world grown dark ... to experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter the world—this is the invitation I would like to extend with the present encyclical." This in turn

is the invitation that we extend to all of you.

We are challenged by our Holy Father to take a good long look at how we are living out our individual and collective baptismal call to bring light (hope) into the lives of others. The Pope tells us that the ministry of charity is as important to the Church as the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments. We will invite our local church to ask

if we are giving due attention to the ministry of charity.

The Catholic liturgy itself beautifully contains the three essential elements of the Church: we gather to be fed by the word of God; we join together in the most Blessed Sacrament – the Eucharist; and we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord. The sending forth for service is where our faith becomes real, tangible and felt by those around us.



Holy Spirit at Geist, a parish in our neighboring diocese to the north concludes every Sunday liturgy with the congregation reciting together this phrase, "The mass never ends. It must be lived. So let us go

forth to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!" What might happen in our neighborhoods if this became the lived reality for all of us?

From October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, we will invite all of you to celebrate all that is done for those in need by our Catholic parishes, schools, agencies, hospitals and other social service institutions and we will in

turn challenge ourselves to ask, "Are we doing all that we could/should do to serve those in need around us?"

We will know that we have been successful if we can see that more people are engaged in the ministry of charity, if more individuals and families are being served and if our Church is more fully alive. We hope that this year-long intensive focus on the ministry of charity will live well beyond a year and that we will all be inspired to live the invitation of the Holy Father and Christ himself who calls us to be light.

To learn more about SHINE and how you and your parish can become involved, visit the Catholic Charities website.

www.CatholicCharitiesIndy.org

Secretariat Advisory Council and Staff

Each agency has an advisory council to help determine local priorities. In addition, the secretariat (department) has an advisory council to determine the priorities of Catholic Charities as-a-whole. Many of these members also serve on their local agency advisory councils.

David J. Siler, executive director for the Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries

David J. Bethuram, associate executive director

Stefanie Anderson, communications and marketing coordinator

Bill Spangler, President of the Secretariat Advisory Council

Members

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jake Asher | Peggy Magee |
| Bob Buckner | Jim McGillivray |
| Mary Ann Browning | Ron Mead |
| Mike East | Father Don Schmidlin |
| Pinkie Evans | Sister Marlene Shapley |
| Dave Grimes | John Thompson |
| Tom Hirschauer | Roberta Walton |
| Bill Jones | |

St. Elizabeth/Coleman and Catholic Charities Indianapolis Now Have One Agency Director

St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services is now part of Catholic Charities Indianapolis, with David Bethuram serving as the agency director of this expanded agency. Serving together as sister agencies for nearly 90 years, we will now combine the strengths of each agency and our ministries, which will allow us to deliver innovative services to complete adoptions and provide professional support for women experiencing unplanned pregnancies in central Indiana. It also allows us to become better stewards of our resources, particularly in the areas of fundraising, accounting and administrative support.

- Catholic Charities Bloomington
- Catholic Charities Terre Haute
- Catholic Charities Indianapolis
- St. Elizabeth—Catholic Charities (New Albany)
- Catholic Charities Tell City

DONATION AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer

- Answer phones and perform light office duties one morning each week.
- Help enhance our bereavement ministry through planning. You do not have to volunteer to lead a group – just help us plan where to go with the ministry.

Donate

- As your gardens continue to bear fruit, consider sharing your abundance with Martin's Cloak Food Pantry. Contact Catholic Charities to make arrangements to drop off any produce or non-perishables.
- Diapers (all sizes – especially large) and baby formula for our Matrix Lifeline program are always needed.



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