

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

Spring 2008 Newsletter

Sometimes getting a second chance at life can be as dramatic as receiving a life-saving heart transplant; sometimes as subtle as an open heart with a helping hand.

A man and his wife had had a bad life of abusing drugs. He was still able to work until a logging accident nearly cost him his arm. With the limb nearly useless, he could no longer perform the work he had done all his life. He and his wife turned to God for guidance and strength. They managed to get off drugs and are now working to get their lives back on track. The wife developed some mental deficits, probably from the drug abuse. The husband has found some work but because they don't have a car, must rely on others for transportation. So far, co-workers have been gracious enough to take him to work and back home. When he is not working, he volunteers at a local food pantry.

It is evident to see that God is in their lives and they are doing their best to live good Christian lives. They have not lived in our community very long and the move here drained all their finances. They live in government-subsidized housing, but needed some help with the current month's rent. A high util-

ity bill left them short for the month. Through our own crisis assistance program and the Perry County Clergy Association Benevolent Fund, we were able to help with the rent.

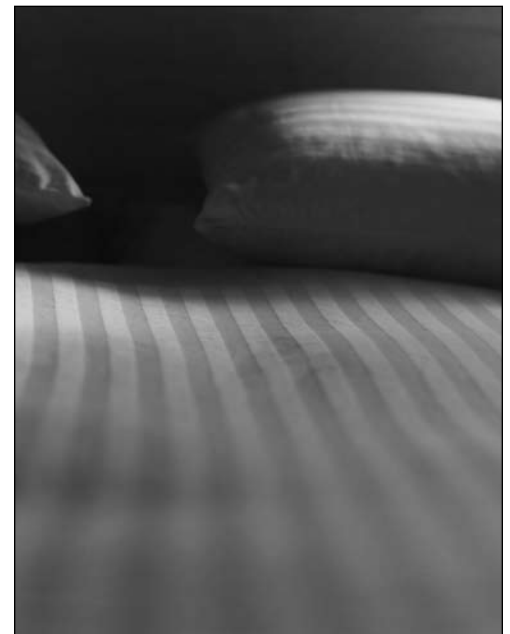
We sat down and talked about what the options are for this couple. Due to the wife's medical problems, she has filed for disability payments. Catholic Charities helped them track down some needed paperwork to complete her application. They desperately needed some transportation. After making some phone calls, Catholic Charities located an old car that the owner was willing to give to the young man in exchange for some work that the car's owner needed to have done. Through the conversation, we made sure they signed up for food stamps and gave them names and numbers of other agencies that may be able to help them.

When he left, he told me that when he got a better job (he had an interview lined up since he was going to have transportation), he plans to make a donation to Catholic Charities. He was so very appreciative of not only the financial assistance, but the time spent solving some of their other problems.

This is a classic example of how Catholic Charities Tell City can help someone struggling to get back on their feet. It isn't always money that a person needs. A patient, compassionate approach to the person's total well

being goes much farther than just paying a bill.

Restoring hope through dignity is an ever-present goal of Catholic Charities Tell City.



Crisis Relief and Shelter



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.



Financial Assistance

If you have never had to ask for financial assistance to get through a crisis, be thankful. If you have had to ask for financial assistance but were able to go to family members for that help, be thankful. If you have needed financial assistance but didn't know where to turn, be thankful that your neighbors have shared their resources with Catholic Charities Tell City so you have somewhere to turn.

Take for instance the story of a young, healthy single man working every day in the construction industry. He is in great physical shape as he participates in kickboxing and other martial arts activities. One day he hits the punching bag wrong and breaks his wrist badly. He requires surgery and will be off work for 6-8 weeks, if all goes well. His employer

does not offer health insurance and he has no money coming in. His mother has pitched in to help where she can, but she lives on a small fixed income herself. He comes to Catholic Charities Tell City and asks for help. He doesn't ask for much, but for him, it is a very humbling experience. He has to travel out of town for his surgery and needs some gasoline money. Catholic Charities is able to help him with this request.

He came back about a month later, needing gas money again to go visit the out of town doctor for a check-up. Again, we were able to help him with his request. He has moved in with his mother in order to save money, but has been promised his old job back once he is released from doctor's care. The physical rehabilitation is

going slow, but he continues to work diligently.

I do not expect this young man to need any further assistance from Catholic Charities Tell City as he heals and returns to work. His is not a story of continued need, but definitely a time of crisis in his life. Lending a helping hand to those in need is confirmation of the mission of Catholic Charities Tell City.

Photo by: Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA



Did You Know Catholic Charities Tell City...

- Served more than 1,600 families in the past year. Did you know that this is accomplished by one staff person and many dedicated volunteers?
- Speaks at civic and social meetings in order to educate the general public about the work of Catholic Charities?
- Has held two bereavement support group programs and plans to expand this ministry?



Partner Profile

Catholic Charities Tell City and United Way of Perry County have worked together very well during the past two years. During the Christmas season of 2006, Catholic Charities became involved in the Holiday Helpers Program administered by the United Way. In 2007, we made the decision to become more involved and began as the main coordinator for the annual coat drive and distribution.

The public was so very generous! Many businesses, youth groups, religious groups, and individuals donated coats, gloves, and hats. More than 250 coats were distributed to those in need during the 2007 Christmas season. Hilger's Laundry and Cleaners and Alvey Cleaners cleaned all the donated coats so those receiving them would be sure to receive a clean garment. Hauenstein's and Fifth Third

Bank loaned the use of clothing racks so the coats could be hung up for distribution. Tom Kramer, Marlene Kunkler, and Phyllis Schaefer donated time and energy organizing the many racks of coats.

It took a partnership of the whole community to make this a successful coat drive season. Plans are already being formulated to make next year's event better for all involved.

Thank you to all who helped in any way – through donation of coats, materials, or time.

We are in this together to make our community better for our poor and vulnerable neighbors.



Community Partner



Agency Director Message

By Joan Hess



Spring 2008 has finally arrived! Sometimes we grumbled about the dreary winter and wondered if it would ever be over. But spring always comes in all its wondrous beauty. It is such a wonderful time of the year – to see the trees regain their new green leaves, the daffodils in their happy yellow, the tulips in their rainbow of colors, the sound of children once again playing outside. I often think God is rewarding me for making it through another winter.

Our lives are often like that as well. Tough times happen for all of us and I know that many are experiencing difficulties in their lives as they read this newsletter. And many of you will soon enjoy a springtime in your lives. Your difficulties will lessen and the world will once again be beautiful. Unfortunately, for some of our community’s citizens, their winter lasts much longer. Financial problems; health problems; housing difficulties; grief over losing someone they love – all of these issues make for a winter in our lives. That is where Catholic Charities Tell City can try to be of assistance: providing help and creating hope.

By providing help to conquer life’s daily battles, we are able to create hope in the futures of the clients we serve. We strive to feed the poor through Martin’s Cloak Food Pantry in Siberia and our involvement in the Perry County Food Coalition. Poor and struggling

pregnant women and new mothers are assisted with diapers, formula, clothing, and other baby essentials to allow them to keep their children with them. Our bereavement ministry continues to grow and we are planning new aspects for that ministry. Our crisis assistance program deals with numerous requests on a daily basis. As our economy continues to struggle and the price of daily living increases, the needs of the clients of Catholic Charities will also increase.

We can always use volunteers to help with our programs. If you are interested, please contact me at 812-547-0903 or jhess@catholic-charitiestellcity.org. As our programs continue to evolve and grow, we will need more and more of your help.

An issue that is becoming more urgent all the time is that of homelessness. In our community, we really don’t see the homeless person on the street. Several people rely on friends and relatives to give them shelter for a few nights and then they move on. People are also living in vehicles. I attend regional homeless council meetings and we are trying to work on a solution for our area. This is a huge undertaking and will require a coalition of several agencies. We are blessed to have agencies willing to work together in Perry and Spencer counties.

If you see a need in our communities, please let me know about it. We may be able to help or at least alert someone who can.

It has been almost two years since I joined Catholic Charities Tell City. We have come a long way and most of that has been because of the tremendous support shown to our agency. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but together I know we can make a difference in someone’s life. God bless all of you for your support of Catholic Charities Tell City in our mission to provide help and create hope.



Photos by: Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

Agency Council Members

- Father Adrian Burke**
- Father Barnabas Gillespie**
- Glenda Gogel**
- Father Sean Hoppe**
- Marlene Kunkler**
- Father Guy Mansini**
- Rita Marsili**
- Tammy Saalman**
- Gary Stath**
- Father Timothy Sweeney**
- Father Anthony Vinson**

Ex-Officio
David Siler
*Executive Director for
Catholic Charities and Family Ministries*



Ensuring Access to Safe Affordable Housing

Catholic Charities USA Calls for Increased Support for Affordable Housing Development, Homelessness Prevention, Gulf Coast Recovery, and Low-Income Housing

As our Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America declares, poverty in the United States is a moral and social wound in the soul of our country, one that threatens the well-being of our nation. One of the ways in which our well-being is threatened is through the lack of safe affordable housing.

Our nation's affordable housing crisis displaces millions of people into homelessness each year. More than five million others live on the brink of homelessness or in severely substandard conditions as they struggle to meet enormous increases in housing costs, which for a number of years have largely outpaced wages. It is estimated that on average a worker would have to earn \$16.31 an hour to afford rent in our country, paying no more than the affordability standard of 30 percent of their income on housing.¹ Today, nearly one in three U.S. households spends more than 30 percent of its income on housing, and more than one in eight spends upwards of 50 percent. Persons burdened with severe housing costs find themselves struggling to pay for basic needs such as food and health care and have nothing to contribute to long-term investments such as education and savings.

Catholic Charities agencies nationwide can be found working at every point in the housing continuum, from homeless street outreach to foreclosure prevention to affordable housing development. We can be found counseling young couples as they move toward homeownership or an elderly widow as she considers converting her home equity into a desperately needed stream of income. We can just as easily be found helping a young, single mother find an affordable apartment so that she can reunify with her children.

In such work, Catholic Charities agencies

daily witness the emotional, physical, and financial toll that the lack of safe affordable housing levies upon our brothers and sisters. We have seen federal funding for affordable housing wane over the past few years; fund-



ing for public housing declined by 25 percent between 1999 and 2006.² In addition, we have seen the challenges of people on long waiting lists for housing assistance. People can be on



waiting lists for Section 8 housing vouchers for several years in many cities, and for every one low-income senior housed in Section 202 housing, there are 10 more low-income seniors waiting. On top of that, homeless persons arrive at shelters and have had to be

turned away.

Catholic Charities agencies rely on partnerships with government, public housing authorities, private business, and community groups to leverage enough resources to provide desperately needed housing services to the poor and the vulnerable. We cannot do this work alone. Government must be an equal partner. Indeed, Catholic Charities USA will continue to hold our partners, especially the federal government, accountable in their commitment to provide desperately needed housing programs. Congress must take immediate action to address America's growing affordable housing crisis.

Detailed information on housing policies and our positions can be found on the Advocacy page of the new Catholic Charities USA website: www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Karen Wong, legislative policy and research analyst for Catholic Charities USA, contributed to this article.

This article was originally published in its entirety in the 2007 Fourth Quarter issue of Charities USA. Reprinted with permission of Catholic Charities USA.

1. National Low Income Housing Coalition (NHLIC), 2006. Out of Reach 2. Rice, D. and Sard, B. The Effects of the Federal Budget Squeeze on Low Income Housing Assistance. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2007.



Providing Help. Creating Hope.

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

A few years ago, Catholic Charities USA, the national member service organization for the Catholic Charities agencies throughout the United States adopted the tagline, “Providing Help. Creating Hope.” Now, our own archdiocesan Catholic Charities organization has embraced this statement to clearly communicate what we do and what we seek to achieve.

Help is provided in many different ways: helping homeless families find permanent housing; helping seniors find companionship; helping children find a safe haven after school; helping pregnant mothers make the best choice for their children; helping refugees find a home and a job; helping the hungry find food; helping the depressed find happiness.

Help can come in so many different and varied ways, and the ultimate goal in providing help is to create hope. When a family has a home, a senior has companionship, children are safe after school, pregnant mothers make good decisions for their children, refugees find a home and a job, the hungry have food, the

depressed find happiness, the light of hope can enter their lives. The light of hope is the brightest of all lights and can make all the difference in the world.

I would imagine that all of us at some point of time in our lives have experienced a “poverty of hope” – those times when it seems that nothing will change to make our lives better. If we’ve lived through those times and gotten to the other side, I also imagine that we can look to some small ray of hope that revealed itself that gave us the strength to hold on.



At Catholic Charities we know that the source of genuine hope is love – and since God is love we can

also say the source of hope is God. Just before the conclusion of Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical, God is Love, our Holy Father states it this way, “Love is the light – and in the end, the only light – that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working”.

I am reminded of an old song Burt Bacharach called, “What the World Needs Now

is Love”. Some would judge the song to be “corny” but it tells us that there is just too little love and that the world needs more love. I think Mr. Bacharach’s song connects with the gospel of Jesus who came to remind us that God loves us and wants us to live in the glory of this love.

Our Catholic Charities staff and volunteers provide help in many varied, formal ways through our 35 different programs. But, we don’t need a program to provide help. In both the very smallest and in the largest of ways that each of you gives help, you too create hope for the receiver of the help and by God’s grace, you too experience hope as the giver since “it is in the giving that we receive”.

How will you create hope today?

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 for the secretariat

Stefanie Anderson, communications and marketing coordinator for the secretariat

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 | |

The Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries encompasses six Catholic Charities agencies:

- Catholic Charities Indianapolis
- St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services
- Catholic Charities Bloomington
- Catholic Charities Terre Haute
- Catholic Charities Tell City
- St. Elizabeth – Catholic Charities (New Albany)

Each agency serves any person in need in their respective deanery, with the exception of our adoption services available in Indianapolis and New Albany. These two agencies are licensed adoption agencies for the states of Indiana and Kentucky.

Donation and Volunteer Needs

Matrix Lifeline Ministry – helping young and struggling mothers and their infants with some of their material needs.

- Diapers in all sizes and baby wipes
- Gently-used furniture: baby beds and mattresses, strollers, high chairs, bathtubs, etc.
- At this time, we cannot accept clothing but hope to be able to do so in the near future.
- Volunteers to make sure all donations are clean and in usable condition before being distributed.

Please call Catholic Charities to make arrangements for bringing these items to our office.

Bereavement Support Task Force

Also, we have completed two bereavement support groups and the requests for more are really starting to pour in. To better meet the needs of those grieving, we would like to form a task force to help the ministry grow. The hope is to get volunteers from all parishes in the deanery to help formulate what direction this ministry should take. Anyone interested in helping should contact Catholic Charities.

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