

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 2009 Newsletter

Helping Others Find the Strength to Help Themselves

Kathy was a Perry County neighbor who often felt alone and had difficulty making friends. She is a woman of color, and that can sometimes be a challenge, particularly in our area.



Kathy came to Catholic Charities looking for a winter coat during our annual Holiday Helpers coat drive and giveaway. She kept coming back for companionship. She was in a bad relationship and had no one to turn to for support.

Catholic Charities became her shoulder to lean upon and share her troubles. She was treated with respect and compassion at all times, but she was never lied to and often did not like what she heard. She thought she wanted someone to solve all her problems. However she ended up solving her own problems once she understood that she had the strength to take care of herself.

Kathy had trouble finding a job. She had been in trouble with the legal system before and that made her unemployable in some instances. But she really wanted to work.

Kathy also needed to get out of her current relationship. We put her in touch with Crisis Connection and they helped her work through many of her issues. Kathy moved into her own place when she found a job. Even though the job was temporary it helped provide some stability. She was now safe and providing for herself,

a major boost for self esteem.

What Kathy needed and wanted most was to be around others from her own culture. She not only felt like she didn't fit in, she experienced instances of bigotry. Kathy realized that she was looking for something she would not find in our area, and made the decision to move to Evansville. Catholic Charities put her in touch with services in the Evansville-area and helped her move. She now has a job that she really loves and has found a place to live. Life is looking up for Kathy.

Kathy's story reminds each of us of the need to be accepting of and to be accepted by all of our neighbors. A friendly smile, a welcoming hello, an encouraging word would have gone so far to help this young woman feel accepted in our community. Another "Kathy" may be living next door to you. By your gentle actions, you too can embrace the mission of Catholic Charities: providing help and creating hope.

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.



Council member spotlight: Rita Marsili

With a quiet strength and a willing spirit, Rita Marsili has served as a member of the Advisory Council for Catholic Charities Tell City for six years. Rita never asks for the spotlight or the lead role, but serves as a strong supporter, always willing to help and full of encouragement for those around her. During her tenure on the council, she has served for two years as vice president and two years as council treasurer.

Rita and her husband Frank are the proud parents of five, but her life is lit brightly by their six grandchildren, termed as "wonderful" by Grandma Rita. She has been employed by Abbey Press for over 30 years and is currently the manufacturing applications engineer.

Rita says, "I have enjoyed the people I served with on Catholic Charities and the op-

portunity to do things to help those in need. I have seen Catholic Charities Tell City grow into a viable resource for helping those in need in our local communities. It has been a very rewarding experience!"

Rita encourages others to be involved with Catholic Charities and helps us find additional council members. "It is an enjoyable group to work with and has a great director who works very hard at fulfilling our mission statement. The meetings are focused and many things are accomplished, yet [it] does not require a huge time commitment."

Thank you, Rita, for your many years of service and dedication to Catholic Charities. We look forward to your support and encouragement in the future!



Partnership Profile: 4C2

Catholic Charities continues to be a pivotal member of the 4C2 community partners group working toward helping the poor and vulnerable in our community. We are moving forward in our quest to establish a Community Resource Center for our area.

One of our short term goals is to educate and communicate with other service providers, government officials, school administrations, counseling services, clergy, and interested members of the public.

To this end, our collaboration brought the "Bridges Out of Poverty" program to our area. We quickly registered 80 people for this poverty simulation program, the maximum attendance, as attendees came from several counties, including Perry, Spencer, Crawford, Dubois, Harrison, and Orange.

In the morning, attendees were immersed in the lifestyle of those living in poverty through a simulated month in the life of those struggling to pay bills and feed their families. They dealt with school, day care, hospitals, utilities, pawn shops, community services, among others. They learned hard lessons about transportation, waiting in long lines to get health care, selling their possessions at a low price, and trying to pay bills before the utility office



Joan Hess, agency director and pawn shop owner for the day, at the "Bridges Out of Poverty" simulation activity.

closed. It was truly an educational and eye-opening experience for those in attendance.

The afternoon was a more in-depth look at the teachings of Dr. Ruby Payne, the founder of the "Bridges Out of Poverty" curriculum and movement. There are two major categories of poverty: generational and situational. This curriculum highlights the reality of generational poverty, and helps others understand this segment of the population and the ways in

which we can engage these neighbors to help them be more self sufficient.

Because this program was so well received, we hope to bring more of these presentations and educational opportunities to our area. The members of the 4C2 community partners are Catholic Charities, United Way of Perry County, Lincoln Hills Development Corp., Perry County Community Foundation, and SIRS.



A Letter From The Agency Director

Times are tough – times are good. The sun is shining – the rain is falling. Loved ones die and babies enter the world. And so it is, time keeps marching forward. It will not slow down and wait for us to find the perfect time to do the good works we keep promising to do when - the kids grow up, I don't have to work so much, the weather is better. But as we have all encountered, there is never a time when our lives do not seem to be overflowing with things to do and places to go.



This is true for many of the people who are now seeking help from Catholic Charities. They have always worked and been able to take care of themselves and their families. They are now faced with new challenges that they never dreamed would occur in their lives. All of us need to remember that we could be there someday soon ourselves. No job is guaranteed and no investment is without risk.

Today is the day that we can each thank God for our blessings and reach out to those who are struggling. During the recent "Bridges Out of Poverty" and poverty simulation exer-

cise that was conducted locally, many people were able to feel a little bit of the frustration and hopelessness that many of our brothers and sisters experience every day. This frustration and hopelessness comes from just trying to keep a roof over their heads and food in their stomachs.

I thank each and every one of you who continue to support the work and mission of Catholic Charities through financial donations and always, through prayer. For those of you considering making a donation some day, let today be that day.

Any size donation helps. In return, you receive the knowledge and satisfaction that you have helped one of your neighbors in need. If you have always wanted to help those in need but did not know how, then let Catholic Charities be your way to fulfill that ambition. It is indeed difficult to impact lives on your own, but by coming together we can make a difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable among us.

God bless you for your past and continued support of Catholic Charities.

Peacefully,

Joan Hess, agency director

Agency Advisory Council

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Ex-Officio

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

Parish Social Ministry Regional Training

Leadership training for parishioners to serve those in need
in their parish neighborhood through social ministry.
CatholicCharitiesIndy.org

November 6-7, 2009

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center
1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107
www.benedictinn.org • Registration fee: \$90

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Community Partner



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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.
- Help the unemployed file their unemployment claims. Volunteer time is Monday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Donate:

- As your gardens continue to bear fruit, consider sharing your abundance with Martin's Cloak Food Pantry. Nutritious non-perishable food is always needed. Contact Catholic Charities to make arrangements to drop off any produce or non-perishables.
- Diapers (all sizes – especially large) and baby formula for new mothers.
- Gently used baby beds.
- Money is always needed as we struggle to help families during these difficult economic times with basic needs: rent, utilities, medical co-pays, etc.



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PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.