Employee receives national recognition . . . . . . . . 10

Assistance from Catholic Charities improves life of Cuban refugee . . . . . . 11

# Connec tharities 1018

SUPPLEMENT TO ARKANSAS CATHOLIC • CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS • P.O. BOX 7565 • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72217 • JULY 16, 2011

#### AT A GLANCE

## Catholic Charities of Arkansas serves

- Adoption Services: Birth parent services, adoptive family services and search and reunion
- Immigration in Northwest Arkansas: Family-based legal assistance, domestic violence and crime victims services, refugee resettlement, employer trainings, education and advocacy
- Immigration in Little Rock: Family-based legal assistance, domestic violence and crime victims services, supporting survivors, legal assistance for foreignnational priests, education and advocacy
- Parish social ministries: Parish-based ministry development, disaster recovery parish-based teams, parish emergency assistance
- Social Action: Prison ministry, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, legislative advocacy, alcohol and drug, Catholic Charities Summer Institute
- Westside Free Medical Clinic: Medical and dermatology clinics for noninsured adults, outreach and community education
- Development: Grants management, Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic, Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl and St. Nicholas Partners

For more information: Catholic Charities of Arkansas 2500 N. Tyler St. Little Rock, AR 72207 (501) 664-0340 www.dolr.org

## Catholic Charities' mission statement

The mission of Catholic Charities of Arkansas of the Diocese of Little Rock is rooted in the challenge of the Gospel: To serve persons who are poor or marginalized; to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable; and to actively promote charity, justice, and the sanctity of life in the Church and the community.

## Law students aid trafficking victim

## Modern-day slave finds a permanent home in Arkansas

ince 2009 Catholic Immigration Services-Little Rock has worked with the University of Arkansas William H. Bowen Law School to help when an immigration crisis arises.

The Immigration Rapid Response Team was created with the assistance of several partners, including the Hispanic Law Students Association.

The organization helps promote the program and recruit volunteers. Law student volunteers were trained in basic immigration law to mobilize and respond when an immigration crisis occurs. The training has now become an annual event with former students now participating in training new members.

"Establishing the Immigration Rapid Response Team with the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law and Catholic Charities Immigration Services of Little Rock was a natural fit for the Hispanic Law Students Association," said Michael Salorio, president of HLSA. "During my three years as a HLSA member, and as a former vice president and president, I felt it was vital to the organization's future success that we develop community outreach efforts in the local Hispanic immigrant community in order to help our members put their law student training to use by helping out those less

fortunate than they.

HLSA had the opportunity to respond to a pressing immigration issue earlier this year when "Maria", whose real name has been withheld, a mother of three and a human trafficking survivor, was reunited with her children after six years of separation. After being alone for so long, Maria needed a house that could accommodate her children and needed to be able to fill the house with necessities like appliances and beds. For a victim of human trafficking, trying to start a new life was a huge obstacle to overcome.

Maria had originally come from Honduras looking for a way to support her family, and with dreams that she would one day be able to give them a better life. Instead, Maria was sold into sex slavery and suffered abuse at the hands of her traffickers. Eventuallv. Maria was rescued and worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Little Rock to help dismantle the trafficking ring that enslaved her. But her journey was far from over. After escaping, Maria spent another three years before she was able to reunite with her children.

Catholic Immigration Services spent several months making arrangements to bring the children to the United States from Honduras, including finding a chaperone and arranging appointments at the consulate in Honduras and for transportation to the United

See Students page 10



**Hispanic Law Students** Association members host a bake sale this spring to help "Maria," a trafficking victim, and her family settle in Arkansas. The association raised more than \$900 and donated clothing, toys and books.

## Thanks for collaboration in our common goals

he word collaborate can be broken up into the phrase "co-labor." When we work together in "co-

labor," we move toward a common goal by sharing our gifts and our work.

Wise people say that no goal is impossible if you don't care who gets the credit; this is particularly true when the mission is the service of persons in complex situations of distress or poverty.

Each of the programs coordinated



From the Director
Sister Mary Lou Stubbs

through Catholic Charities depends on the collaboration of others in order to provide an effective and holistic approach to the care

of the suffering persons they seek to assist.

Throughout this issue of *Catholic Charities Connections* you will read about many groups that contribute to the care of each client or patient. Even the title of this insert, "Connections" indicates a network of relationships and cooperative effort.

Collaboration is particularly evident during this time of multiple natural disasters as parishes, organizations, public agencies and individuals stop what they are doing to lend a hand. But group effort and teamwork, whether through a formal alliance or informal joint efforts, is essential in all complex problems.

One of God's greatest gifts is our reliance on interdependence — none of us can solve major problems by ourselves. Each of us is a member of many groups and social support networks, both personally, and in our ministries.

This is my last issue of *Catholic Charities Connections*. As a mem-

ber of the Daughters of Charity, I am available to be sent wherever there is a greater need, and I have been "missioned" to start a parish-based system of services as a part of a Catholic Charities organization in the northern portion of New York state.

I would like to thank the entire staff of Catholic Charities of Arkansas, all the diocesan programs and support offices, the wonderful pastors and people of our parishes and all who help the Church in Arkansas make the Gospel live in this time and place.

It is the collaboration of the

See **Director** page 11

#### **BRIEFS** -

#### **GOLF CLASSIC SET FOR SEPT. 19 IN MAUMELLE**

The annual Catholic Charities Golf Classic, named in honor of Bishop Emeritus Andrew J. McDonald, will be on Sept. 19 at the Maumelle Country Club. Tee times are 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Prizes for winners will be awarded after both morning and evening flights. The tournament will conclude with a "Par-Tee!" To register, contact Rebecca Cargile at (501) 664-0340 or rcargile@dolr.org.

#### **OUR LADY OF THE LIGHT** LAUNCHED IN ROGERS

Elizabeth Schaeuffler, a volunteer at Catholic Immigration Services-Springdale and parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Rogers, organized a new ministry in her parish to provide support and spiritual assistance to women impacted by domestic violence. Schaeuffler said her parish's Liturgy Commission approved the ministry and it was launched in

#### 30 years serving refugees, immigrants



The Catholic Legal Immigration Network in Washington honored Sunny Vongsaravane, an immigration specialist for Catholic Charities Immigration Services-Little Rock, for 30 years of service to immigrants, refugees and asylees at the National Annual Convening in Seattle in June.

#### For a good cause



Chuck Becker (center), youth minister at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fort Smith, and students who participate in the River Valley Life Teen helped raise money for the tornado victims in Arkansas in April and May with a car wash June 4-5.

March. Domestic abuse victims are invited to pray before the Blessed Sacrament once a week.

"We pray the Marian Rosary and prayer of healing and liberation," she said. "We get together on Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. It is my idea that once the group grows to 10 people, we will extend the session to two hours — the first hour is for adoration and the second hour will be for talks to build self-esteem."

#### WESTSIDE CLINIC EMPLOYEE **EARNS STATE AWARD**

Flor Lopez, program specialist for the Westside Free Medical Clinic in Little Rock, earned the Health Education Program Award from the Arkansas Human Development Corporation in June for her cooperation and support of education and prevention programs.

#### **BLUE ENVELOPE APPEAL** STRENGTHENS POOR FUND

A small blue and white envelope is included in this issue of Catholic Charities Connections to support the "poor fund." Catholic Charities of Arkansas has many programs specifically designed to help Arkansans meet a variety

of needs. However, just as no two people are alike, no two needs are alike. The unique circumstances of each person, along with his or her input, help us determine what type of assistance may be most beneficial in meeting that person's need.

Sometimes, a client's circumstances warrant a collaborative effort among the different Catholic Charities departments, using the combined expertise of the staff. Collaboration with individual parishes helps, and we can take advantage of our network of collaborating service providers to pass along referrals. Ultimately, though, when Catholic Charities is approached for help, Catholic Charities must play a leading role in providing that help. Many times this response is best facilitated by providing short-term, direct financial assistance.

Donations received through the Blue Envelope Appeal are put into the Catholic Charities Poor Fund. The Poor Fund is the primary source for providing Catholic Charities clients with limited financial assistance. A little money can go a long way in these cases. A contribution through the Blue Envelope Appeal can make a world

of difference to someone who just needs a hand up during today's persistent economic challenges. Please consider using that small blue and white envelope and offering your hand to one who needs your help.

#### **NEW CASE MANAGER HELPS VIOLENCE CLIENTS**

Ashley Bachelder joined Catholic Immigration Services-Little Rock as the supporting survivors

case manager May 9. She will workcloselywith the Violence Against Women Act program to support victims of domestic violence, violent crimes and hu- Bachelder man trafficking.



Bachelder is a joint student with the Clinton School of Public Service and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

#### **PARISH FACILITATES A** RESCUE WITH HELP OF FUND

Parishes throughout the diocese turn to the Parish Emergency Assistance program when they need either guidance or financial assistance in their response to requests from those in crisis. Funds donated to Catholic Charities assist, but it is the parish that ministers to people who reach out to them for help and provides support for them throughout their time of need.

Recently, a family that frequently makes donations to Catholic Charities to help others found themselves at a point of crisis. Their parish worked on their behalf and Catholic Charities provided funds that helped them bridge the gap until they were again employed.

"Thank you so much for your aid when we were so desperately in need," the family wrote. "You truly were a Godsend. We could have been homeless and ruined our credit if not for the help of your ministry ... We will always be grateful for your compassion and financial help."

#### **Students**

Continued from page 9

Finally, once the children were on their way, Nubia Torres, the Violence Against Women Act specialist who deals with cases involving domestic violence as well as human trafficking, traveled with Maria to Dallas to meet the plane. Maria was reunited with her children, a 7-year-old girl, a 12-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy, exactly six years to the day after she first entered the United States seeking a better life for her

Once Salorio heard about Maria's story and the need her family faced, he volunteered HLSA members to help in whatever way possible. It was quickly decided that HLSA would hold its spring bake sale and donate the proceeds to help Maria and her family. Members donated various goodies including pan dulce, churros, tres leches cake and other snacks to the fundraiser.

Members also shared Maria's story with the law school community and collected in-kind donations over the following weeks. Through its efforts HLSA raised more than \$900 to help resettle Maria's family. HLSA also collected donations of clothing, food, toys, furniture and books.

"As a whole, Bowen students are committed to seeing their community become a better place to work and live, so I'm not surprised at the success HLSA has had this year," John DiPippa said, law school dean and member of the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Little Rock. "I am proud of the work of our HLSA chapter. They are one of the leading student groups at our law school. They embody our core values of professionalism, public service and access to justice in everything they do. This project was a particularly good example of their commitment."

Maria and her children are grateful every day for the many blessings they have received from people who cared about her story even though they had never met



## **2011 RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE** That They May Have Life to the Full

#### **August 12-13**

Conference begins 5 p.m. Friday St. John Center, Little Rock \$20 per person (includes three meals) Registration deadline: August 4

To register or for information, call (501) 664-0340, ext. 326 or see complete details at www.dolr.org

Lodging available on campus for an additional charge.

Msgr. Philip J. Reilly, founder of Helpers of God's Precious Infants and a pioneer in sidewalk prayer and sidewalk counseling

SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK RESPECT LIFE OFFICE

### By the numbers

The programs of Catholic Charities can look deceptively simple on the surface, but when you delve into the quantity and quality of the services that are needed to reach the desired outcomes, the insight can be overwhelming. Over the past few years, Catholic Charities has attempted to keep track of a variety of things on a monthly basis for each program.

These statistics are the "tip of the iceberg" of activities because they indicate simple quantities of activities, not the preparation, intensity or challenges of those activities. The learning curve of tracking activities accurately has also been a challenge.

The following are some of the numbers associated with some of the programs between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2010.

#### People receiving direct services: 9,278

•
Adoption Services
Parish Social Ministries & Assistance
Immigration in Little Rock
Immigration in Springdale
Refugee Resettlement
Social Action
(includes CCHD, Drug and Alcohol Ministry, Prison Ministry, C <sup>2</sup> SI)
Victims of Criminal Violence in Little Rock
Victims of Criminal Violence in Springdale 612
Westside Free Medical Clinic

#### Services provided to those people: 39,162

Adoption Services
Parish Social Ministries & Assistance1,659
(includes 1,332 at Helping Hand)
Immigration in Little Rock 3,920
Immigration in Springdale 8,484
Refugee Resettlement
Social Action
(does not include services provided by prison ministry volunteers)
Victims of Criminal Violence in Little Rock 591
Victims of Criminal Violence in Springdale 842
Westside Free Medical Clinic

Source: Catholic Charities of Arkansas records



#### **Director**

Continued from page 9

people in Arkansas that I will remember most about my time here. There is a rare attitude here — a mind-set expressed as "we'll make do," a spontaneous gathering of

effort in times of disaster, a friendliness that tends to accept that others are of goodwill unless they prove otherwise.

May God continue this growth of love and care for each other in each of you as you co-labor in his name. You will remain in my prayer.

## A born-again capitalist from Cuba shares his story of survival

he formal United Nations definition of a refugee has two parts. First, the person must have a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or ethnicity. Second, because of this fear, she or he must have fled her or his country of origin to a temporary, host country.

There are exceptions to the second criteria, most particularly Cubans, who usually come to the U.S. directly from their homeland by boat. They receive resettlement assistance from Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

A young Cuban man, who arrived by boat in Miami in the fall of 2009, shares his story with Catholic Charities. "Roberto" made his way to northwest Arkansas to live with a relative. He offered to tell his story but requested that a pseudonym be used out of fear that the Castro regime might retaliate against family members still in Cuba.

Catholic Charities: Why did you leave Cuba?

Roberto: I was a teacher in Cuba, earning \$18 a month. All my family members were professionals too — doctors, a bank manager, a university professor, a priest. One of my uncles, a surgeon, earned \$40/month or 1,000 Cuban pesos. We were just barely surviving.

CC: You left Cuba for economic reasons?

Roberto: Yes, but also because I didn't have any freedom. The government told me what to say in the classes I taught and how to behave. Since I was a child, the government told me that capitalism is bad and communism is good. I realized this was propaganda a long time ago.

CC: How did you get to the U.S.? Roberto: I learned there was a trip to the U.S. by boat and decided to go. The first time, I spent 26 days on the sea, and we ran out of gas. There were 33 people in the boats



CNS / Enrique De La Osa, Reuters

**A woman buys food** at a market in Havana, Cuba, Aug. 3. The country's weak economy is the biggest concern among Cuban people, said Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino in an interview last August.

and four children. We were literally dying of dehydration. The Coast Guard caught us and sent us back to Cuba. The government put me in a detention center with guards for three days and asked questions about the trip. After that, I couldn't get a good job in Cuba and had no choice but to try again.

The second trip took six days and almost 400 miles. We landed in Miami. A boat came and took us to the immigration office. After several hours, they put us on a bus and took us to a Catholic church. I called an aunt in Miami, and she picked me up. Two months later, I came to Arkansas.

CC: What do you like most about living in the U.S.?

Roberto: Everything, starting from the fact that I can express myself and talk to anyone without concern of what it would cost me. I can afford to live an honest life.

Rebecca Bryant, refugee resettlement specialist for Catholic

Charities Immigration Services-Springdale, said Roberto has several advantages to resettling in Arkansas.

"First, he had strong and capable family ties in the U.S. Second, he spoke intermediate English. Roberto immediately threw himself into further studies, taking advantage of online ESL classes. We also enrolled him at a local literacy council, which assigned a personal tutor. In order to attend meetings with the tutor, he needed transportation. The refugee program bought him a bicycle."

With his Employment Authorization Card, Roberto got an entry-level job at a Wal-Mart store and bought a used car.

"Eight months after starting at Wal-Mart, he was selected Associate of the Month," Bryant said. "Roberto recently enrolled at a local community college. His long-term goal is to get a master's degree in marketing and work at the Wal-Mart corporate office."

#### CAN YOU HELP?

For more information on how you can help Catholic Charities of Arkansas as a volunteer or to make a donation, call (501) 664-0340 in Little Rock or (479) 927-1996 in Springdale. their ne recovery training are nee

Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence: Care bag items for children and families including new or gently-used stuffed animals, toys and art supplies; hygiene items (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, feminine products, toothpaste, toothbrushes); women's and children's shoes/clothing of all sizes or funds to purchase them. Contact Maricella Garcia

**Disaster Recovery:** Parishes willing to develop teams to assist

their neighbors through long-term recovery activities can receive training. Contact Edi Gabriel

**Drug and Alcohol:** Volunteers are needed to conduct AA meetings. Contact Tom Navin

Immigration Services Offices in Little Rock and Springdale: Volunteer attorneys to assist with complex immigration cases; attorneys for civil legal issues, help to catalog files for digital storage; five-drawer lateral file cabinets for storage of paper files. Contact Maricella Garcia or Frank Head

**Prison Ministry:** Spiritual books are appreciated by many prisoners and volunteers are needed to serve

the spiritual and religious needs of Catholic inmates. Contact Tom Navin

**Refugee Resettlement:** Donated used cars are needed by families as they settle into their new homeland and move toward citizenship. Contact Frank Head

Westside Free Medical Clinic: Volunteers are needed, including medical specialists willing to take referrals in their private practice, physicians, pharmacists, bilingual receptionists, bilingual dieticians and bilingual diabetic educators. Day volunteers are needed to interpret for patients at appointments arranged through the clinic. Contact Karen DiPippa

## Collaboration key to clinic success

BY KAREN DIPIPPA CATHOLIC CHARITIES

inistry does not occur in a vacuum. Whatever the nature of the ministry, it generally involves more than one party. Westside Free Medical Clinic in Little Rock is no exception. As expected, clinic ministry involves patients, dieticians, nurses, pharmacists and physicians as a team of collaborators and volunteers and this ensures the best medical options available.

However, to get to that point, Westside was fortunate to have founding partners in the early stages of development. It was helpful to have both a priest, Father James Savary and a nun, Sister Concetta to get things off the ground. The Diocese of Little Rock provided funding and the initial OK to answer the unmet health need in the community.

Many ecumenical hands have helped along the way too. Camp Aldersgate, the Little Rock Veteran's Office and HUD housing all provided clinic space throughout operations. Camp Aldersgate remains our current location and "partner." Good-hearted volunteers from parishes and the medical community joined in to open the clinic. Volunteers remain the collaborating heart of our ministry, and we are grateful for their dedication.

Our volunteer certified interpreters provide an added bonus to their language skills. In many instances, our association with interpreters provided a bridge to the services of a medical work place. Medical professionals provide services in their private offices for specialized medicine patients. Among a few of these specialists are Dr. Don Greenway. Dr. Dan Hennessy, Dr. Michael

Volunteers remain the collaborating heart of our ministry, and we are grateful for their dedica-

Carney, Dr. Steve Hutchins, Dr. Ted Saer and the Little Rock Family Practice with Dr. Kevin Hiegel, Dr. Stephen Tucker and Dr. Hal Hedges.

Many hands have helped the clinic formation. In the 1990s, Christ the King and Holy Souls Outreach committees awarded us with our first grants, which established our lab and pharmacy contracts with St. Vincent Health System. Our teaching institutions like the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock provide student volunteers from their schools of medicine, pharmacy and nursing. As a result of the Tobacco Settlement grant from the Arkansas Department of Health, we have formed partnerships with three area dental offices (Healthy Smiles, Little Rock Family Dental Office and Dr. Gil Caver) to provide dental services not available at our clinic site. With these offices, we have been able to assist 200 patients with dental care.

We have had a strong partnership with the Mexican Consulate since its first health screening and continue to network with area health agencies like the Office of Minority Health. One more collaborator is the Arkansas Association of Charitable Clinics, which provides not only a support system but also access to pharmaceuticals and other donated medical supplies available to members.

In the 1980s the word "collaborator" was used often as if it had just been invented and many of us shy away from using it today. However, it really is a good word describing a partnership that goes beyond support, direct membership or assistance. It is a word that conveys a shared ministry.

## At Adoption Services, it's Thanksgiving all year

**BY ANTJE HARRIS** 

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS

e at Catholic Adoption Services want to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful "partners in prayer" and all of the great folks who do so much to encourage birth parents to choose life for their child and who support our work.

On the frontline working with pregnant women are St. Joseph Helpers, Birthright of Greater Little Rock and Arkansas Right to Life. We deeply appreciate their hard work and trust in us when they refer birth parents experiencing a crisis pregnancy to come and talk with us.

We thank the dedicated hospital social workers, nurses and doctors who provide excellent care for the moms and babies.

We are grateful for the professional legal services we have had from Wright, Lindsey and Jennings over many years and also from Kaye McLeod and Keith Morrison. They help us and all of our clients to sleep well at night knowing that our adoptions are legally solid and everyone's rights have been pro-

We thank our faithful board of directors - Suzanne McCarthy, Cathy France, David Menz and Dr. Bruce Schratz. They have been with us for so long and their support and wisdom have been invaluable.

We could not have an adoption agency without our incredible foster families. They provide loving care for the precious newborns while the birth parents make sure they have peace about their decision for adoption. The foster parents love the babies and are able to let them go to the wonderful new parents. Their reward is seeing the joy the adoptive mom and dad have in beholding their new child!

Last but not at all least, we are thankful for our parish support, our many generous donors including those through memorials, honorariums, our Christmas card campaign, St. Nicholas Partners, Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal, the Bishop McDonald Golf Classic, the Choose Life license plate friends and the special Ladies of the Sacred Heart in Hot Springs Village for our much needed baby items. To the diocesan staff who support our work and the work of Catholic Charities, you help us to be on the frontlines of doing the work with those whom Christ has called us to serve. We could not do it without all of you.

Bishop McDonald – Catholic Charities

## 17th Annual Golf Classic & Par~Tee!

#### 17th Annual Golf Classic

Monday, Sept. 19 Maumelle Country Club 8 a.m. & 1:30 p.m tee times Four-person Scramble

#### Par~Tee!

5-8 p.m. Cocktails • Auction Live entertainment

For more information, call Rebecca Cargile, (501) 664-0340, ext. 355 or visit www.dolr.org

St.Vincent



#### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

- Auction & Party Sponsor \$5,000
- Entry fees for three teams of four golfers
- 24 party admissions
- Special recognition at party
- Signage at all events

#### ■ Double Eagle Sponsor \$3,000

- Entry for three teams of four golfers
- 24 party admissions
- Recognition & signage at all events

#### ■ Eagle Sponsor \$2,000

- Entry for two teams of four golfers
- 16 party admissions
- Recognition & signage at all events

#### ■ Birdie Sponsor \$1,000

- Entry for one team of four golfers
- 10 party admissions
- Recognition & signage at all events

#### **■** Fairway Sponsor \$700

- Entry for one team of four golfers
- 8 party admissions
- Recognition & signage at tournament

#### ■ Hole Sponsor \$300

- 2 party admissions
- Signage at tournament

## Theology for you, too

As a new year of the Little Rock Theology Institute begins in September, you can begin a program to enrich your spiritual journey, improve your ability to minister within your own parish, and gain understanding and confidence in your Catholic faith.

Learn at a comfortable pace at home and in 10 monthly weekend sessions on the St. John Center campus in Little Rock. You may take the course for your own enrichment, or to earn a second bachelor's degree.

For information, please call the Office of Religious Education and Christian Initiation:

(501) 664-0340 ext. 323

www.dolr.org Please register by Sept. 1 Classes begin Sept. 9



#### 'Just the tip of the iceberg'

The Little Rock Theology Institute offers students the opportunity to take their knowledge ... to the next level. As a convert and lifelong student, I was looking for such an opportunity and am well pleased. The instructors are excellent and often quite provocative in ways that challenge students to open up to the great richness of Catholic faith and culture. What I thought I knew coming into class was just the tip of the iceberg. I can't wait until class resumes this fall.

> Clark Wilkinson. First Year Student Our Lady of the Holy Souls, Little Rock

Little Rock Theology Institute