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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES Connections

SUPPLEMENT TO ARKANSAS CATHOLIC • CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS • P.O. BOX 7565 • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72217 • NOVEMBER 24, 2012

## 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 foreign national priests, legal assistance with applications for DACA, education and advocacy
- **Parish social ministries:** Parish-based ministry development, disaster recovery parish-based teams, 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**  
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### 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.

## Hoping to start over in a safe place

### Refugee resettlement might be needed as Middle East unravels

**C**atholic Charities of Arkansas has long served refugees, helping them to resettle and begin a new life in America.

This is accomplished in cooperation with the State of Arkansas, the federal government and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. A reminder of the role the Church plays in refugee resettlement came with the recent release of Bishop Anthony B. Taylor's report on his USCCB Middle East fact-finding mission Oct. 7-20.

From the mid-1970s to the present, Catholic Charities has helped to resettle thousands fleeing devastation in their home nations. Peoples from Southeast Asia, particularly Vietnam and Laos, were first to come. This first wave was soon followed by those coming from Cuba, then Haiti.

In recent years, the refugee resettlement office with Catholic Immigration Services in Springdale has provided resettlement services for refugees from Iraq, Burma and, recently, Syria. With support from the federal government, the goal of resettlement is for the refugee to become self-sufficient as quickly as possible.



CNS / Abdalghne Karoof, Reuters

**A Syrian child** stands in a refugee camp near the Syrian-Turkish border Oct. 22. Refugees from Syria's war numbered more than 362,000 in late October.

Where numbers of refugees from the same ethnic and language groups come, they can be settled in self-supporting clusters. More challenging cases a refugee traveling alone who must be settled without the available aid of family, friends or fellow countrymen. In case of a refugee traveling solo, a Catholic parish community can provide the needed support structure to sponsor a successful

resettlement.

As Bishop Taylor's report demonstrates, the geopolitical situation in the Middle East is tenuous. Any number of contingencies throughout North Africa and the Middle East could cause the region to descend further into uncontrolled chaos.

With its present capabilities, the Catholic Charities of Arkansas' refugee resettlement effort has

an estimated capacity to handle a surge of up to 50 refugees a year. A greater population could be addressed if parishes committed to sponsor individual refugees.

A widespread conflict in the Middle East, resulting in catastrophic population displacement on the scale of that following the fall of Saigon, would require a significant expansion of resources to provide the needed capacity.

## DACA is challenging for young immigrants

**T**he immigration offices within Catholic Charities have been exceptionally busy since June 15.

On that date, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced a policy initiative regarding a single class of unauthorized immigrants. This policy change was an exercise of prosecutorial discretion and has been titled "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals," or DACA.

Under DACA, young people between 15 and 31 who were brought into the United States as children and who meet a list of qualifications can apply for a two-year deferral of deportation and a work permit. It has been estimated there may be over 1.7 million potential DACA beneficiaries in the U.S.,

and nearly 5,000 in Arkansas.

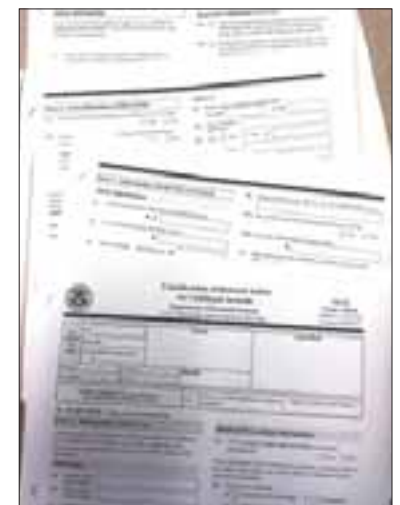
The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service began accepting DACA applications on Aug. 15. Immigration advocates predicted that as many as 250,000 applications would be filed immediately. The predictions failed to materialize as fact. In the first month, just over 82,000 applied. In the second month, the total number of applicants rose to nearly 180,000. At the end of the second month of processing, 4,591 cases had been approved.



From the Director  
Patrick Gallaher

In Arkansas, the two Catholic Immigration Services offices combined to process an estimated 20 percent of the eligible applicants — screening those interested to identify eligible candidates and then processing the applications most likely to be approved. By the first week of November, the Little Rock and Springdale offices had submitted 236 applications. Two cases had been approved. Another 142 applicants were scheduled for appointments.

Other agencies processing DACA applications within the state include private attorneys and immigrant advocacy groups, such as Arkansas Justice for Our Neighbors and Centro San Martin



*Although the application for "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" is not complicated, finding the proofs it requires can be hard.*

See DACA page 10



*Wage theft is the term used when an unscrupulous employer refuses to pay all or part of an employee's pay. The Northwest Workers Justice Center in Springdale helps individual workers recover the pay they're entitled to and is cooperating with state legislators to introduce an anti-wage theft bill.*

## Local CCHD grant helps agency work for workers

Each year the Catholic Campaign for Human Development solicits grant applications for its national grant program. CCHD funds projects organized by low-income people. The goal of the grants is to help people in economically depressed localities break the cycle of poverty and to improve their own communities.

Annual CCHD contributions to support community organizations are made possible by Catholics throughout the United States who contribute to CCHD each year. In Arkansas, the national CCHD office works closely with Catholic Charities of Arkansas to solicit grant applications and then to

carefully screen the applicant organizations. Applicants must work to end local poverty, but must not promote, in any manner, activities that work against Catholic values. Even after grants are awarded, CCHD and Catholic Charities of Arkansas

continue to monitor the recipient organizations to ensure they continue to help the poor while working within the requirements of Catholic social doctrine.

One such organization that has received CCHD grants is the Northwest Workers Justice Center in Springdale. This organization has a demonstrated commitment to the dignity of the human person and is led by people living in poverty and working to address the root causes of poverty by facilitating expanded participation in the community.

The Workers Justice Center has taken action to change an economic challenge in their community and have expanded the effort to the state. That challenge is wage theft, a phenomenon where an unscrupulous employer refuses to pay all or part of an employee's pay. Until the Workers Justice Center began working on the issue, indi-

vidual workers had no practical recourse if they went unpaid. The Workers Justice Center educated Springdale workers and employers about the issue. Additionally, they were able to campaign for and obtain the passage of an Anti-Wage Theft ordinance in Fayetteville. Over the past several years, the Workers Justice Center has helped in recovering more than \$200,000 in lost wages for employees.

Presently, the Workers Justice Center is cooperating with state legislators to introduce an anti-wage theft bill in Arkansas. Under the bill, an employer would be required to pay all wages owed to a worker who leaves employment and would

have to do so no later than the regularly scheduled payday of the last pay period worked. An employer who violated the law would be liable for a civil penalty of \$100 or the full amount owed the employee, whichever is greater.

The subcommittees of the House and Senate committees on public health, welfare and labor are conducting an interim study on a draft bill by Rep. Greg Leding of Fayetteville. On Aug. 27 a team from the Workers Justice Center visited the State Capitol to testify before the subcommittees. The purpose of the hearing was to educate the state representatives about the wage theft crisis in Arkansas.

Committee members expressed shock at learning there is no current sanction in place to deter employers from engaging in the practice of wage theft. Department of Labor attorney Daniel Faulkner shared concerns of how difficult it is to collect owed wages after a determination concludes an employer is guilty of owing wages. Catholic Charities of Arkansas is hopeful the bill (HB 1881) will come up for a vote in the 2013 legislative session.

**Applicants (for grants) must work to end local poverty, but must not promote ... activities that work against Catholic values.**

# Medicaid expansion needed to serve vulnerable Americans

BY KAREN DIPIPPA  
WESTSIDE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

In its seven tenets of teachings, Catholic social teaching lists adequate health care as one of the basic rights required for human decency.

Catholic Charities of Arkansas opened the Westside Free Medical Clinic to address that needed health care in the early 1970s and patients without insurance or with inadequate insurance have been seen since. However, needs continue to increase and if Medicaid services are cut, the health needs increase even more.

In the ongoing debate of Medicaid expansion versus Medicaid reduction, the legislature will determine the direction of this system. However, in the final plan, if Catholic social teaching is followed, the focus should highlight those with the greatest health care need.

If Medicaid services are simply reduced, that means many children, pregnant women, those with disabilities and our senior citizens will not receive needed health care.

The top recipients of care are children, children and adults with disabilities and pregnant women. In fact, 66 percent of Medicaid services are for children while 8 percent of services are for our seniors over 64 years old. Disability health services and independent living for seniors total more than 203,000 people with Medicaid coverage.

According to the non-parti-

## DACA

*Continued from page 9*

in El Dorado.

The disparity between the numbers of those eligible and those who have applied for DACA raises the question of why so few young immigrants have taken advantage of DACA. Review of newspaper articles and discussions on internet blogs give some indications. There is a high level of apprehension regarding the application form itself. The form seeks precise personal identifying information, which is data applicants fear may be used against them by an administration that has been deporting immigrants in record numbers.

There was added concern about the election outcome. The reelection of President Obama should calm those feelings. Nevertheless, although the program should continue to function as originally announced, it is only a policy initiative and can be



Charitable clinics already have a waiting list of two to six months for basic care and charitable clinics cannot absorb the specialized care which is covered by Medicaid.

san Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, Arkansas has the third highest poverty rate in the nation and the fifth highest poverty rate among children. More than one fourth of Arkansas residents — 26 percent — are enrolled in Medicaid. Where will these persons obtain health care without Medicaid? Charitable clinics already have a waiting list of two to six months for basic care and charitable clinics cannot absorb the specialized care which is covered by Medicaid.

changed or even eliminated without warning.

One of the more important reasons that young people have not been applying in the numbers expected is cost. Although the DACA application itself is free, the government's fees for the work permit and fingerprinting is \$465. The government fee is in addition to any fees a preparer, such as a lawyer, might charge.

The DACA form itself is not overly complex. It is fairly straightforward and requires strict truthfulness in responses. In many cases, though, its terminology and the implications of answers require professional interpretation and explanation. Most burdensome is the collecting of documentary evidence to prove a continuous presence in the U.S. for the required time periods.

Many applicants in Arkansas have been challenged obtaining the necessary school records to complete a successful application. Some school districts have been unable to produce the records, while others have been seemingly

If the Medicaid expansion is accepted, 251,000 Arkansans would be newly eligible to obtain health services. Furthermore, there is no initial cost for the state for this coverage. In fact, after three years, the state's responsibility for this cost is only 10 percent of the total cost. Without an expansion, these most vulnerable patients will not have sufficient and dependable health care access, hospitals will see an increase in uncompensated care, current services could be in jeopardy and we lose sight of the right to health care as part of our Catholic social teaching.

One might then wonder, where does that put the role of charitable clinics? According to the Arkansas Department of Health, even with expanded coverage, 10 percent of the population is projected to fall short of insurance for one reason or another. However, the 10 percent uncovered persons will still need services which make charitable clinics necessary.

In fact, with expanded Medicaid care, this gives the charitable clinics a chance to reach out to the largest group of persons without access to health care: our immigrants, documented and undocumented. Moreover, with Medicaid expansion, the waiting lists for charitable clinics across the state will be reduced, and more persons can be treated for basic health care. That meets the social tenet of Catholic social teaching.

*Karen DiPippa is the director of the Westside Free Medical Clinic.*

uncooperative.

Lastly, the very nature of the program itself has caused confusion. DACA was not carefully considered by the administration. It was hastily implemented; political expediency was only thinly veiled. Applicants seeking advice from lawyers and immigration specialists received a wide variety of answers giving no sense of certainty.

It appears then that the overwhelming majority of those eligible to apply for DACA have decided either to wait for clarity, or they have decided not to apply for this temporary stopgap program at all. This suggests a conclusion: the immigrant community is not receptive to a temporary, make-shift process that is no solution to the underlying issue. The time is to press for a proper resolution. We must press our political leaders and elected representatives for a just and practical immigration framework.

*Patrick Gallaher is the director of Catholic Charities of Arkansas.*

# Catholic Relief Services' Lenten campaign has new name

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI  
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Catholic Relief Services' popular Lenten Rice Bowl campaign is getting a new name and a new look.

Now called CRS Rice Bowl, the program will encourage greater connection between Americans and millions of people around the world struggling to overcome hunger.

CRS President Carolyn Woo also pledged \$150 million from the agency during the next three years

toward food, nutrition and agriculture programs. The pledge is part of a \$1 billion effort by members of InterAction, an alliance of U.S.-based international humanitarian organizations.

"It is not enough just to commit funds. We must also strive for new solutions to also address hunger," Woo said in introducing the revamped program in an online news conference Oct. 16 marking World Food Day.

"Through prayer, sacrifice and donations, the CRS Rice Bowl enables our actions to make a dif-

ference in the lives and well-being of others," she said.

The program also focuses on a new message: "For Lent, for Life: What you give up for Lent changes lives."

The agency is planning to develop a series of online, multimedia and social media resources to supplement the tradition of collecting funds in a card board "rice bowl" placed on family tables and in classrooms nationwide for 37 years. Materials will be accessible via computers, tablet computers and cellphones.

For Lent 2013, the program will look at CRS efforts in Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Lesotho and Pakistan.

"The lack of food is a threat to all aspects of society. A lack of food will hurt society at its core," Woo said.

"It is important to remember that CRS Rice Bowl is about living our faith and doing our part to alleviate hunger both in the United States and overseas," she added.

The Rice Bowl campaign collects about \$8 million annually, with 25 percent of funds staying

in local diocesan communities to fight hunger. The remaining 75 percent funds CRS anti-hunger efforts around the globe.

Woo outlined several hunger-fighting programs that CRS has implemented including efforts to help urban residents in Nigeria grow vegetables to increase the diversity of food they eat, work with Malawian farmers in combating drought and assist small farmers in Ethiopia gain access to international markets and thus obtain higher prices for their commodities such as white beans.

## BRIEFS

### INTERN

Tonderai Mutsawu has joined Catholic Charities of Arkansas as an intern. A senior at the University of Arkansas of Little Rock, Tonderai is enrolled in the School of Social Work. As an intern, she is learning about



Mutsawu

how a nongovernmental organization runs and the many ways it can deliver services to those in need, as well as developing her skills as a social worker. During this semester, Mutsawu has helped with cases in the Catholic Adoptions Services, investigates request for emergency assistance and assists with issues that arise in Catholic Immigration Services.

She was born in Zimbabwe and comes to Arkansas by way of the United Kingdom. In the future, she would like to continue her education to obtain a master's degree in social work, and, ultimately, start a nongovernmental organization to address the challenges faced by young mothers.

### AWARD

On Nov. 7, Tom Navin, director of social action, was honored with an award at the Institute of Interfaith Dialog Annual Friendship and Dialog Dinner at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock.

The Institute of Interfaith Dialog grew out of the need to address the question, "How can citizens

of the world live in peace and harmony?" The institute was established in 2002 by Turkish-Americans and their friends. The institute aims to eliminate or reduce false stereotypes, prejudices and unjustified fears through direct human communication.

Navin was given the Institute of Interfaith Dialog Community Service Award, recognizing his



Navin

### Hunger in Africa



Malea Hargett

**Peter Kimeu, regional technical advisor for Catholic Relief Services in East Africa, visited the Diocese of Little Rock Oct. 11-15. He was joined by Carla Aguilar, advocacy program officer in CRS's Southwest Regional Office. The two came to Arkansas so that Kimeu could tell his story of growing up hungry in Kenya, share about Africa today and what CRS is doing to combat hunger and poverty there. During their stay, they addressed students at Catholic High School and diocesan staff at the St. John Center in Little Rock and St. Andrew Parish in Yellville. In Yellville the CRS representatives were treated to a lunch of Kenyan dishes made by parishioners. For more information about Catholic Relief Services, contact Rebecca Cargile at (501) 664-0340, ext. 355.**

contributions, particularly those involving his prison ministry in which he was able to bring greater understanding between different religious groups: Catholics, Protestants and Muslims.

### EXPANDED SERVICES

The Westside Free Medical Clinic is offering a new service out of the McDonald Center at St. John Center in Little Rock. Once a month, McDonald Center is the site of a dermatology clinic. Starting Nov. 15, on the same evening as the dermatology clinic, the clinic also offered diabetic eye examinations.

As diabetes advances, blindness

can develop. With a proper and thorough examination, the developing condition can be identified early before there is permanent vision damage.

Catholic Charities is benefiting from the generosity of Our Lady of the Holy Souls parishioner Dr. Jerry Shue, who donates his time, expertise, and, with help from Jack Stone, provides the equipment needed to conduct the examinations.

In addition to these new services, clinic director Karen DiPippa and program specialist Flor Lopez have been working with the Mexican Consulate in Little Rock. Lopez represented the clinic at the

Binational Health Fair at the consular offices during October. The Binational Health Fair was a one-stop resource for immigrants to obtain appointments with the consulate and also offered flu shots, health screenings and provided health information. DiPippa and Lopez have been invited to join the advisory committee to assist the consulate regarding health issues and in planning next year's event.

### ADOPTIONS

On Oct. 23 St. Joseph's Helpers/Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center banquet was held at the Chenal Country Club. Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center is a powerful ministry staffed by trained counselors who know how to compassionately respond to those involved in an unplanned pregnancy.

For this year's program of events, instead of a featured speaker, the focus of the evening was a documentary made to showcase the work of St. Joseph's Helpers. Antje Harris, director of Catholic Adoption Services, was featured in the film, helping to explain how the adoption question comes to play in the decisions regarding a new baby's life. Harris and adoptions specialist Rebecca Jones, have been especially busy since July 1. Since that time, they have assisted in placing three newborns into adoption.

### NEW EMPLOYEE

Derron Martin joined the staff of Catholic Charities as its administrative assistant in September.

A native of northwest Arkansas, Derron has a bachelor's degree in applied economics from the University of Arkansas. His life's journey has led him through careers as a statistical analyst with the U.S. Department of Agriculture,



Martin

time with Tyson Foods and as a certified nursing assistant. Martin helps maintain the logistical and administrative

functions of Catholic Charities, as well as taking action on emergency assistance requests. In addition to his duties in Catholic Charities, Martin is contemplating his vocation in life and his service to the Church.

### ST. NICHOLAS PARTNERS

St. Nicholas Partners asks donors each year to put love in action. This year's Christmas card was included in the Nov. 17 issue of *Arkansas Catholic*. Catholic Charities was blessed to have Father Alan Rosenau, an artist and associate pastor and chaplain in Hot Springs, share his gifts by creating an original artwork for the Catholic Charities Christmas card. Student Mary Margaret Gallaher, also of Hot Springs, colored the image of St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas Partners is one of the ways that Catholic Charities raises the funds to continue to help people through its various programs. Gifts to Catholic Charities can assist someone in need, buy medicine for a patient of the Westside Free Medical Clinic or help a family find a temporary shelter when they have nowhere to go. Donations can be sent to St. Nicholas Partners, Catholic Charities of Arkansas, 2500 N. Tyler St., Little Rock, AR 72207.



The artwork for this year's St. Nicholas Partners was created and donated by Father Alan Rosenau and student Mary Margaret Gallaher, both of Hot Springs.