

Prison ministry: Challenging, yet valuable 10

A new family forms with adoption blessing 11

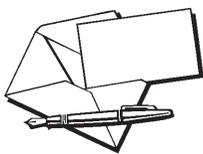
CATHOLIC CHARITIES Connections

SUPPLEMENT TO ARKANSAS CATHOLIC • CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS • P.O. BOX 7565 • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72217 • JUNE 19, 2010

'Blue envelopes' give Catholic Charities clients extra help

A small blue and white envelope is included in this issue of Catholic Charities Connections. These envelopes are our way of asking for your help.

Catholic Charities of Arkansas has been blessed time and again with resources that enable us to launch specific projects, reach out to new communities, start new programs and allow us to continue operating effectively in Arkansas.



Some of these resources come to us through grants. Some come through special fundraisers, such as the Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic and St. Nicholas Partners. Some money comes in each year through the Combined Federal Campaign and through Operation Rice Bowl. However, there is one funding source and one area of need that seem to just go together: Individual donors helping our clients with their simplest, most basic needs.

When people approach Catholic Charities for help, they often are looking for help with a very specific situation. People with health concerns connect with Westside Free Medical Clinic. Families interested in adopting a child contact Adoption Services. Survivors trying to escape abusive situations reach out to our VAWA program.

Many of our low-income clients live right at the tipping point between a manageable shortfall and a downward-spiraling crisis. By helping with food, utilities, prescriptions and other types of modest financial assistance, we can help some of these low-income families.

Donations received through this "blue envelope" appeal are put into the Catholic Charities Poor Fund.

■ By donating \$25, you have bought a tank of gas that will allow an elderly man to travel to the distant town where he must receive cancer treatments.

■ By donating \$35, you have bought dinner for an entire family.

■ When two people donate \$50 each, they have helped buy emergency medicine for patients in rural areas.

■ With 10 people, each donating \$10, together they have paid a heating bill that enables a mother to keep her children warm in the winter.

Please consider taking that blue envelope and sending a gift to Catholic Charities. The elderly man, the family, the rural patient and the mother will be grateful that you did.

Welcoming refugees to Arkansas

A brief history of the diocese's refugee resettlement program

BY REBECCA BRYANT
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS

In 1975, the Diocese of Little Rock launched its Indochinese Refugee Resettlement Program — with a bang.

Former director Eddie Pannell said, "I was working seven days a week, literally 24 hours a day. People would call me in the middle of the night with all kinds of problems. I didn't have a day off in two years."

North Vietnamese troops captured Saigon on April 30, 1975. Departing U.S. troops left behind highly vulnerable populations of South Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians who had fought alongside them or assisted in other ways. Many were granted refugee status and began to arrive in the U.S.

At the time, Father Joseph Biltz, known for his activism on behalf of the poor and dispossessed, directed the social justice program for the Diocese of Little Rock. Father Biltz had the will and the government provided the way (grants), so the diocese began overseeing the resettlement of refugees in Arkansas.

"When Father Biltz heard that I was volunteering with refugees at Fort Chaffee and that I spoke and wrote Vietnamese, he hired me to direct the program," Pannell said.

BACKGROUND

Catholic parishes and dioceses have been helping refugees since the founding of the nation, but over the past 62 years, efforts have been increasingly shaped by government programs — and politics. The first official refugee law was the Displaced Persons Admissions Act of 1948. President Harry Truman denounced the legislation as "flagrantly discriminatory" against Catholics and Jews but signed it anyway. In subsequent years, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic



With the assistance of the Refugee Resettlement Program and the donation of a good used car, this family that came to the United States from Iraq now has the transportation they need to help them settle in their new homeland.

Committee for Refugees assisted in the resettlement of more than 100,000 postwar refugees, mostly Protestant.

The next big push came in 1975 with the fall of South Vietnam. After the first two hectic years, Pannell finessed a grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to hire additional employees — the first such grant in the country, he said. The program became more proactive, assisting refugees with jobs, housing, English as a Second Language and health care.

One Catholic Charities employee, Sunny Vongsaravane, was herself a former refugee.

"Due to the Vietnam War," she said, "I fled Laos in 1979, along with my four minor children, to a refugee camp in Thai-

land. My husband joined us two months later. On Jan. 31, 1980, we came to the U.S. under the auspices of the United States Catholic Conference."

The family landed in Arkansas shortly before two significant events in refugee settlement. The first was the signing, on March 17, of the Refugee Act of 1980. Spurred by the chaotic experience of resettling Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians, Congress standardized resettlement services for all refugees admitted to the U.S.

This proved to be a rare and felicitous example of governmental foresight because the second event — an exodus of Cubans

See REFUGEE page 10

Catholic Charities grows, changes with needs

"(It is) only God, who makes things grow. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:7, 9)

Catholic Charities of Arkansas moved this month — literally! We are now blessed with offices in the renovated Bishop McDonald Center on the diocesan campus. The building is quiet and welcoming; it provides a good base for current programs and some space for growth.

The theme of this edition of Catholic Charities Connections is growth — growth in our response to the call to live the Gospel in these times and this place. As Church, we are called to reach out to our brothers and sisters, with a special emphasis on providing effective care for those who are suffering misfortune. (Matthew 25:34) There are some basic types of adversity that people have faced throughout history, but changing societal situations

make it imperative that we continually adjust how we respond to those needs.

As CCA works in conjunction with parishes and other diocesan programs, we are adapting to better address the problems faced by people impacted by issues such as child-bearing, migration, bigotry, illness, incarceration, violence, natural disasters and advocacy for justice consistent with Catholic social teachings.

Every Catholic is called to be a global thinker, to be aware of and respond to the pain of the people who are our brothers and sisters

in Christ. Actually, the word "catholic" comes from the Greek *katholikos*, meaning "universal." Our very name calls us to continually broaden our perspective and our outreach to others. The programs of Catholic Charities are only a tiny part of the needed outreach of the Church in Arkansas. We do things that need focused training such as adoptions and immigration law; and we work with parishes and others to support them and help them grow in ministries needed in local areas.

The articles in this supplement represent a small portion of the services done on behalf of the Diocese of Little Rock. Please join us in service, in support, and in prayer.

"The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ." (*Gaudium et Spes*, paragraph 1)



From the Director
Sister Mary Lou Stubbs

Refugee

Continued from page 9

out of Mariel harbor (the Mariel boatlift) — began one month later. By Oct 31, 1980, about 1,700 boats and 125,000 Cubans had landed on the shores of Florida. Crowded conditions in South Florida immigration processing centers forced U.S. agencies to move many of the Marielitos to other locations, including Fort Chaffee, Ark.

"Things got touchy for a while," Pannell admitted. "Many of the Cubans had prison records, and they rioted at Fort Chaffee because of conditions there and because they weren't getting out of the camps as quickly as they wanted."

The riots were a factor in the re-election defeat of then-Gov. Bill Clinton.

The Cuban resettlement initiative was intense but short lived.

"About 90 percent of the Cubans moved out of state," Pannell said. "Next, we started getting Russian Jews, Kurds and other ethnicities from Eastern Europe."

When Pannell resigned in 1981, his assistant, Dutch Dorsch, became director. Over

Dorsch's 20-year tenure, the flow of refugees dwindled to a trickle.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference combined in 2001 as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which is now the national focal point of Catholic programs in refugee resettlement. About the same time, Frank Head became director of the Arkansas Refugee Resettlement Program. Currently, the program is headquartered in Springdale under the auspices of Catholic Charities.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The most recent surge of refugees is a direct consequence of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. By toppling dictator Saddam Hussein, the U.S. government set into motion a series of unintended consequences, including an uprising of Shiite militias that began to persecute Sunnis, Christians, Jews and Kurds. Millions of refugees fled to neighboring countries, causing further destabilization of the region. The average refugee arriving in Arkansas today is an educated, middle-class Sunni who has spent one to three years attempting to survive in Syria, before gaining official refugee status through the U.N. and

"They are highly traumatized, due to the murder of family members and sometimes their own abduction and torture. ... it is commonplace for women and girls to be forced into prostitution ... because refugees are not allowed to legally work in Syria or any of the other neighboring countries that accept refugees."

— Frank Head, director of the Arkansas Refugee Resettlement Program

acceptance by the United States.

"They are highly traumatized, due to the murder of family members and sometimes their own abduction and torture," Head said. "We don't know if this is the case for any of our clients, but it is commonplace for women and girls to be forced into prostitution, while waiting for entry to the U.S.,

because refugees are not allowed to legally work in Syria or any of the other neighboring countries that accept refugees."

In addition to Iraqis, the resettlement program has an active caseload that includes Vietnamese, Burmese, Cubans and Iranians. Currently, because of limited resources, the program accepts only refugees that have a family member living in Arkansas (typically described as a "host"). However, on May 4, the USCCB issued a plea, asking each diocese to resettle additional refugees.

"We will soon reach out to the 10-15 parishes in northwest Arkansas to see if any of them want to serve as surrogate hosts in a new pilot program," Head said.

The most daunting challenge for refugees is learning English. Without adequate English, they can't study the driver's license manual or pass the test. Without a car, they can't get or keep a job. Without a job, they can't survive.

Anyone who would like to become an English as a Second Language teacher, donate an car in good working order or hire refugees should e-mail rebbry49@yahoo.com or call (479) 927-199, ext. 309.

Rebecca Bryant is a refugee resettlement specialist in the Springdale office.

Three things you need to know about prison ministry

Lay Catholics can offer honesty, commitment to people in prison

BY TOM NAVIN
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS

When I first arrived in this diocese in November 2005, Bishop J. Peter Sartain said that someone was needed to take over prison ministry. Then he announced I was the person. I had never been in a prison before, but I felt this was a new opportunity for me.

On my first visit to the Ouachita River Unit of the Arkansas Department of Correction, I was impressed by the cleanliness of the facility. I guess I had a bad perception of what a prison would look like. There was no doubt I was in a prison, guards, doors locking and unlocking, bars in windows and a group of men that didn't look happy to be there.

Most of those behind bars have made one big mistake. They are now paying for that mistake and will be paying for that mistake

all their lives.

Now that I've been at this for awhile, I have come to learn what to expect.

■ Prison is like a foreign country; it's wise to be quiet and observe, listen, learn the language and prison culture before advancing strong opinions.

■ Expect to meet many nice, valuable people in prison. Expect also to meet some champion manipulators. Don't be surprised if these sometimes turn out to be one and the same person.

■ You can expect to be lied to by everyone you come in contact with. That includes staff, prisoners and other volunteers. Some of the untruths are unconscious but nevertheless untrue. The more they see you the less likely they are to tell an un-truth.

However, you should tell the truth all the time. This is the best way to establish trust. Trust is the most valuable thing we have to offer the incarcerated.

In spite of the things I've talked about here, going into prison ministry can be a very rewarding experience. Jesus was not kidding when he said "I was in prison and you visited me."



Tom Navin, director of prison ministry, shelves Bibles in his new Catholic Charities office in the Bishop McDonald Center. Bibles in English and Spanish are provided to federal and state prisons by prison ministry volunteers.

Volunteers and donations are needed. If interested, contact Catholic Charities of Arkansas at (501) 664-0340 for the following programs or e-mail Sister Mary Lou Stubbs, DC, at mstubbs@dolr.org.

DONATIONS

■ The adoption program needs an end table in the counseling room. Contact Antje Harris.

■ Some attractive small pieces of furniture are needed in a variety of locations in the new office building, including end tables, bathroom supply cabinets, a small desk or library table and a 5-by-8 oriental rug for the reception area. Contact Rhonda Pritts.

■ Immigration services in Little Rock needs three five-drawer locking lateral file cabinets to store client files and four two-drawer locking lateral file

cabinets for staff use. The office also needs three computers for a lab so clients can access their information online without having to have an appointment. The VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) program needs baby and children's clothes, toys, diapers, women's clothes, toiletries and backpacks or large totes for domestic violence clients. VAWA also need financial donations and volunteers to help remove victims from emergency situations. Contact Maricella Garcia.

■ Immigration services in Springdale needs a five-drawer lateral file cabinet for storage of paper files. Contact Frank Head.

■ The Westside Free Medical Clinic would like insulated drapes for four windows in the pharmacy. Contact Karen DiPippa.

VOLUNTEERS

■ Volunteer receptionists are needed to assist in the new CCA office building on weekdays. Contact Rhonda Pritts.

■ Immigration services in Little Rock and Springdale needs volunteers to help catalog client files for digital storage and volunteer attorneys to assist with complex cases, especially in court. Contact Maricella Garcia in Little Rock or Frank Head in Springdale.

■ Prison ministry needs volunteers to serve the spiritual and religious needs of Catholic inmates. Contact Tom Navin.

■ Refugee resettlement in Springdale needs English as a Second Language/literacy tutors and reliable used cars that can be given to families as they settle into their new homeland and move toward citizenship. Contact Rebecca Bryant or Sister Mary Lou Stubbs.



Can YOU help?

■ The Westside Free Medical Clinic is recruiting specialists, pharmacists and physicians to volunteer at the clinic once a month or every other month. They also need bilingual volunteers to serve as receptionists at the evening clinics. Bilingual volunteers are needed during the day to interpret for patients at appointments arranged through the clinic. Contact Karen DiPippa or Flor Lopez

In adoption blessing service, families transfigured by love

BY DEACON RICHARD PAPINI

Jesus invites us to be transformed and to experience transfiguration. On Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 14, I actually had a transfiguration experience of my own. Just like Peter, James and John were blessed to experience Jesus' Transfiguration, there were several others who also shared the Transfiguration experience with me.



Deacon Richard Papini

My wife, Andrea, and I were invited to be a part of a blessing service climaxing the adoption of a baby. At this blessing were the birth mother, a young girl in her teens; the birth grandmother, who herself is in her early 30s; the adoptive parents; the foster parents who cared for the newborn baby for the 10 days before he was free for adoption; and the diocesan directors of Catholic Adoption Services and Catholic Charities.

During this blessing service, I heard testimonies from each of the parties involved, and I could not believe the power and glory of God that shone through these testimonies and in the lives of those involved. Each person involved had a story to tell of how their lives were changed — transfigured — by the love of Christ.

As I listened to their stories, the radiance of Christ's love shone from their faces — all because people had made a decision to follow Christ's way by putting the needs of others ahead of their own.

A young single mother first of all made a choice to let her baby live. Then she made a

courageous decision to put the baby's well-being and the promise of a bright (and healthy) future ahead of any desire she had of keeping that baby. She also withstood many criticisms from her peers that she was abandoning her baby. She selflessly chose to give her baby a chance to grow up in a home in which there will be two loving parents, both strong Christians, who will be better able to help form that child into the Christian that Christ is calling that child to become.

The adoptive parents were willing to accept the apparent fact that they were not

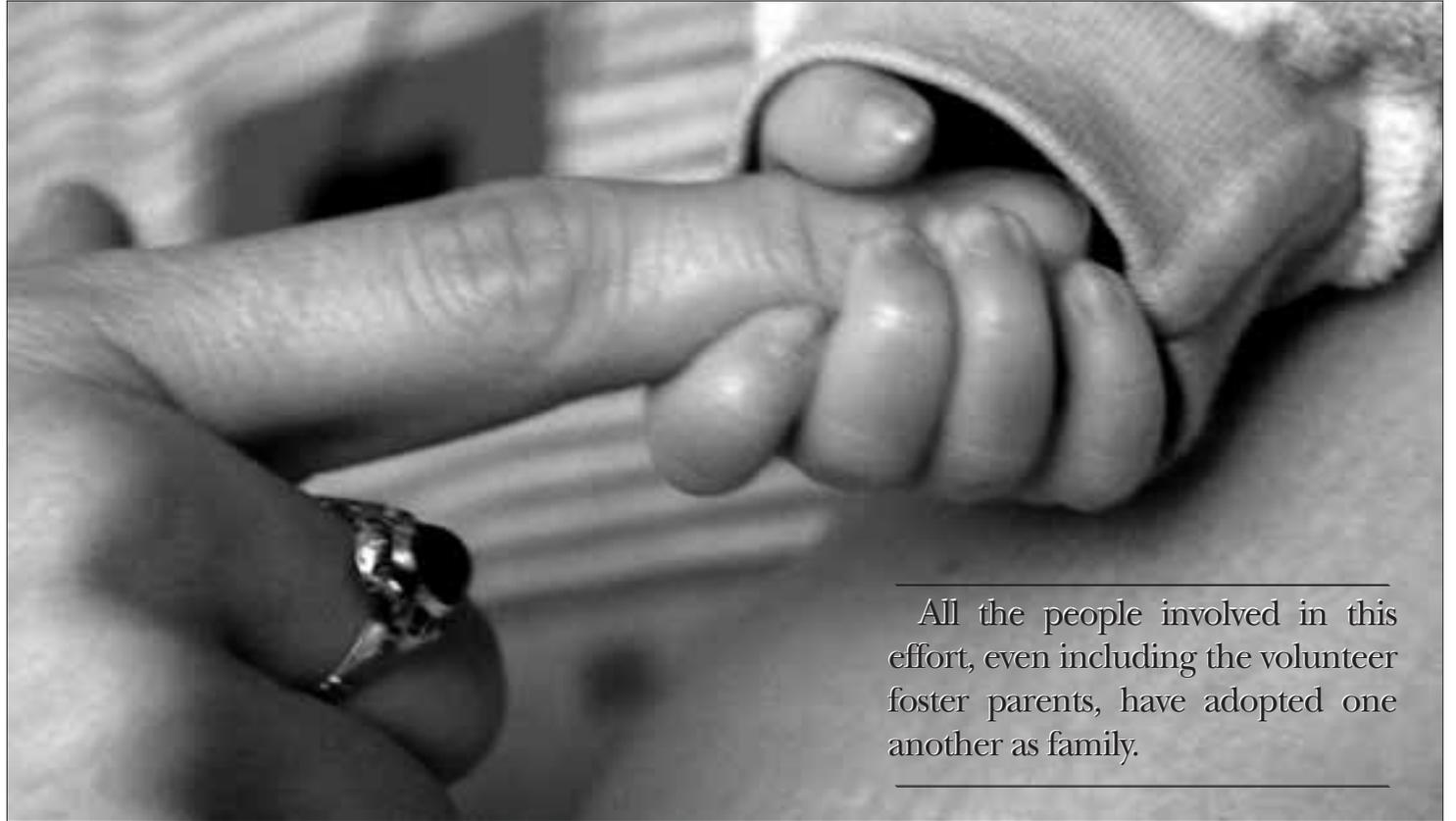
able to conceive a child, but out of love, they were willing to share their Christian love and parenting with someone else's baby, even a baby of a different race. They know that they are the ones who are truly blessed to be parents.

And here's the "icing on the cake" so to speak. All the people involved in this effort, even including the volunteer foster parents, have adopted one another as family. Their testimonies and their expressions of love shared with each other, made it absolutely clear that they were indeed family to each other; and the love of Christ was expressed

and shared in such a way, that their lives were truly transfigured.

Through their willingness to put others' needs ahead of their own (i.e. dying to themselves), each person, in their own way, experienced the glory of the Resurrection in their lives. And if we are willing to take up our own crosses and follow Christ, in the way that he may be calling us to follow him, we can experience this same promise of resurrected glory, not only in eternity, but now.

Deacon Richard Papini serves at St. Joseph Church as well as director of Catholic Campus Ministry in Conway.



All the people involved in this effort, even including the volunteer foster parents, have adopted one another as family.

Auction, cocktail party, golf classic to benefit CCA

The 16th annual Bishop McDonald Catholic Charities Golf Classic will be held Monday, Sept. 20 at the Maumelle Country Club. Four-person scrambles are scheduled for 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with awards and prizes following both morning and afternoon play. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To register a team, call Rebecca Spencer at (501) 664-0340.

The annual auction and cocktail party will be on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in McDonald Hall at the Cathedral of St. Andrew. Tickets are \$20 and all are welcome to attend. Golf Classic players, sponsors and their guests will be admitted for free. Cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction will be included in the evening's fun. Proceeds from both events will directly benefit Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

First national Catholic Charities Sunday, Sept. 26

On Sunday, Sept. 26, the entire Catholic community in the United States will gather together in liturgy and prayer to celebrate the work of local Catholic Charities. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops honors Catholic Charities with this designation to recognize the rich history of service on behalf of those

in need. Visit www.catholiccharitiesusa.org for parish coordinator materials.

Adoption agency opens office in Springdale

Catholic Adoption Services has opened a branch office in northwest Arkansas in order to better serve clients in the process of adoption, especially in regards to legal services and court appearances. The office is located in the Catholic Charities Center in Springdale, which houses Catholic Immigration Services. Adoption Services will not have staff in the northwest on a daily basis and will continue to receive phone calls through their Little Rock office number at (501) 664-0340.



Antje Harris, director of Catholic Adoption Services, shares her ministry with students participating in Catholic Charities Summer Institute in 2008.



Rebecca Bryant



Nubia Torres



Reagan Stanford



Diony Bonds

Summer institute keeps expanding after four years

Catholic Charities Summer Institute, better known as C²SI, a successful social justice youth education effort, has continued to grow each year. The July 12 to 16 session at St. John Center in Little Rock is full and is not taking more registrations. The program is a collaboration between Catholic Youth Ministry and Catholic Charities' social action program.

Immigration offices welcome new employees

Four new employees have recently joined the Catholic Charities Immigration Services staff. Rebecca Bryant works in the Springdale office as a refugee resettlement specialist. Nubia Torres is the new VAWA immigration specialist who provides legal assistance to victims

of domestic violence and human trafficking in the Little Rock office. Reagan Stanford is in the new position of crime victims services coordinator, working out of Little Rock to provide education across the state. Diony Bonds is the office manager in the Little Rock office.

Directors can help parishes with ministries

The local Church is where most people live out the Gospel. Each parish community is unique in its gifts and in the needs of the people who are within the parish and to whom the parish reaches out to help. As parishes assess the realities of their locality, they will identify goals that they would like to work toward together. Parishes who would like help with this process are invited to contact Sister Mary Lou Stubbs, DC, at mstubbs@dolr.org.

Clinic offers care without boundaries for four decades

Volunteers have made it possible for clinic, pharmacy to expand

BY KAREN DIPIPPA
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS

The first charitable clinic in the state, Westside Free Medical Clinic, was founded in the early 1970s to help patients who lacked the means or the access to health care.

Sister Concetta Mazzanti, OSB, the first clinic coordinator, was encouraged by Dr. Edwin Barron who first realized the need for a charitable clinic from patients finding their way to his office. He was seeing patients with neglected health issues and worked with Catholic Charities, then called Catholic Social Services, Father James Savary and Sister Concetta to form a free health clinic.

This, of course, was with the help of many named and unnamed volunteers who jointly made this project work. Because of the possibility of missing an unsung volunteer hero, the volunteers listed are representative of all our great staff. Each volunteer at the clinic and each donor are appreciated more than they can possibly know.

A 1971 publication noted the many service hours donated by founding volunteers; Mrs. Kenneth Hiegel, Sister Bernice Kraus and coordinator Carolyn Dasher. After the initiation of the clinic, the difficulty of filling a prescription was duly noted and a pharmacy was developed with the support of the St. Vincent Infirmary hospital, Ellen Lamb and Dan Spadero from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Volunteers mentioned in the 1980s publications who impacted the clinic were Dr. James Metrailler, Dr. Kevin Bay and the entire Little Rock Family Practice with special mention of Dr. Bob McGowan, Dr. Harold Hedges and Dr. Stephen Tucker who adopted us as their outreach to the community and like many devoted volunteers still help today.

Logs from the 1990s include Dr. Eleanor Lipsmeyer, Dr. John Kagy and Alyce Haley, steadfastly giving of their time and talents to



Dr. Kevin Bay, shown here at Westside Free Medical Clinic in 2004, has been an active volunteer doctor at the clinic since the 1980s.

help those persons in need. While additional new charitable clinics were developing in the 1990s, we witnessed a growing influx of Hispanic patients without any access to health care and the director, Karen DiPippa, requested a clinic for Spanish-speaking patients.

With the approval of Bishop J. Peter Sartin and with the assistance of Flor Lopez, a long overdue clinic began in 2002 to accommodate this unmet need in the Hispanic community. Dr. Carmen Paniagua, a nurse practitioner and instructor at UAMS, has been a loyal volunteer and recruiter of bilingual professionals for our clinic. Like Dr.

Barron in his family practice and Dr. Don Greenway in his gastroenterology practice, Dr. Mike Carney noted the lack of care for patients without insurance and began a small dermatology clinic for Westside Free Medical Clinic patients specifically to address that need a few years later.

As the economy fluctuates and health care costs continue to rise, services are needed today as much if not more than the 1970s. Without insurance, patients cannot get their foot in the door for standard care unless it is critical. Our aim is to prevent patients from reaching that emergency room critical stage.

Originally designed to serve the John Barrow neighborhood, the clinic has expanded to accept patients without geographic restrictions. Family practice has evolved with specialized medicine, and we are grateful for the many physicians too numerous to mention who have assisted us in their specialized fields whether gastroenterology, cardiology or podiatry, etc.

While the practice of medicine has changed, the heart of medicine and the clinic have not changed. Westside Free Medical Clinic continues to see patients without charge for basic family practice attempting to keep patients healthy for a lifetime.

AT A GLANCE

Catholic Charities of Arkansas programs

"God gives the growth," (1 Corinthians 3:6) as we work to assist those needing caring assistance through the programs of Catholic Charities of Arkansas.

■ **Adoption Services** serves pregnant women who are considering adoption for their child and with families seeking to adopt. Ongoing support includes search and reunion services.

■ **Westside Free Medical Clinic** serves adults without medical insurance through clinics, using volunteer medical providers. Primary care, medications, facilitation into other health resources and education for disease management are provided. Clinics are provided with both English and Spanish speaking providers.

■ **The Development Office** helps Cath-

olic Charities ministries pursue and maintain funding for basic operations and program development. The Development Office assists with the Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic, oversees the St. Nicholas Partners program, and coordinates the "Blue Envelope" appeal for individual donors (envelopes found in this issue). In addition, the Development Office is responsible for promoting the programs of Catholic Relief Services, particularly Operation Rice Bowl.

■ **Immigration Services: NW Arkansas** provides legal services to assist people through the processes of applications to the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for families seeking reunification and stabilization and for victims of criminal violence. Refugee Resettlement and community education are growing components of their services.

■ **Immigration Services: Little Rock** provides legal services to assist people

through the processes of applications to the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for families seeking reunification, victims of criminal violence, and missionaries serving in the Diocese of Little Rock They also provide education to judicial systems, police departments and community groups about the civil rights of immigrants.

■ **Parish Social Ministries** provides education, mentoring and support to parishes as they develop their local ministries. This program also coordinates Disaster Response and Parish Assistance.

■ **The Social Action** ministry monitors public policy matters and conducts workshops based on Catholic Social Teachings. This office also coordinates community activities that reach out to the poor and underserved.

■ **Prison Ministry** is responsible for seeing that the sacraments are available to

the incarcerated in the 14 state prisons and four federal prisons. Training is provided to volunteers who are interested in this ministry.

■ **The Drug and Alcohol** ministry serves as a referral source for those seeking help through Alcoholics Anonymous. Workshops on addiction are also conducted in the diocese.

■ **The Catholic Charities Summer Institute**, also known as C2SI, is a week-long, on-campus immersion program directed to high school students in order that they may experience the social inequities that the poor in our community face.

■ **The Catholic Campaign for Human Development** is the U.S. bishops' effort to help eliminate poverty and serve and organizations in need. The collection is taken up in November each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. A portion of this collection stays in the diocese to provide grants for local organizations.