

Golf classic to memorialize late bishop 10

Insurance changes mean patient load decreasing at free clinic. 11

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Connections

SUPPLEMENT TO ARKANSAS CATHOLIC • CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ARKANSAS • 2415 N. TYLER ST. • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72207 • JUNE 21, 2014

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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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.



Andrea Minor / Catholic Charities

Client Neal Henry provides information during client intake with Susie Rhoads-Mickels at the Multi-Agency Response Center (MARC) in Vilonia May 3.

After disaster, hope comes to help

Tornado response gives many an opportunity to serve

On Saturday after the April 27 tornado, I prepared to leave my home for Vilonia. On impulse, I put my nightstand rosary in my pocket. That Saturday was the first Catholic Charities deployment to begin enrolling clients for long-term case management.

Staff members Rebecca Cargile and Tom Navin accompanied me that weekend. Case managers An-

drea Minor and Susie Rhoads-Mickels came to help from Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. They shared their expertise earned responding to the Joplin tornado.

We worked out of a so-called Multi-Agency Response Center — a MARC. That MARC operated for a week. We worked in conjunction with other agencies — FEMA, Small Business



From the Director Patrick Gallaher

Administration, the Red Cross, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army and other faith groups. We heard the stories of the survivors and began making plans to help them for the coming months as the recovery progressed. In these initial days, we looked for people with pressing, immediate needs and were able to provide diapers, diabetic supplies and temporary lodging. Since then, we have worked out of other MARCs in both Mayflower and Vilonia.

Catholic Charities also worked with our parishes. The parishes most directly involved — St. Joseph in Conway, Immaculate Heart of

Mary in Marche and Christ the King in Little Rock — each immediately assessed the involvement of their own parishioners and began reaching out in their own communities.

St. Joseph served as a shelter and offered space to Catholic Charities for a remote office. Father T.J. Hart at Immaculate Heart of Mary went into the tornado-stricken neighborhoods. The children at Christ the King School raised \$10,000 for disaster relief in only five days. Each of these reactions was selfless and proof that every parish is a Catholic charity.

See Disaster page 10

DACA renewal turns out expensive and confusing

Professional legal help is needed from an immigration attorney or accredited immigration law specialist to assist those applying for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program, Catholic Charities Immigration Services said.

In August 2012, the federal government instituted the DACA program. While not conferring immigration status, DACA allowed for a deferment of deportation in certain circumstances. Successful applicants for DACA are young people who entered the United States before age 15, who were continuously present in the U.S. for five years, were under the age of 31

on June 15, 2012, who met education requirements and who had no significant legal issues.

More than 500,000 people nationwide and more than 3,000 in Arkansas successfully applied and were granted a DACA deferment.

With DACA, a young person received a work permit, a Social Security card, and, in Arkansas, can apply for a driver's license. But, the deferment only lasts two years and must be renewed. The renewal will be for an added two years.

The cost to renew for each person will be the same as with the original application — \$465 for a work permit and fingerprints. Additionally, a new application form

must be completed. The application forms are deceptive. Although initially intended to be simple, the application forms have questions, the answers to which are traps for the unwary. A mistake in providing correct, accurate, legal and truthful answers could result in the application being rejected, or worse, deportation.

Further, there are precise time windows for submitting an application to renew DACA. One may not submit for renewal more than five months before the two-year date of expiration. Yet, filing too close to expiration will allow the work permit to expire when the deferment expires, even though an

application is pending. With the expiration of the deferred action comes the expiration of the driver's license.

The bottom line: Those wanting to renew DACA should get help from a licensed attorney experienced in immigration law or with an accredited immigration law specialist at either the Catholic Immigration Services office in Little Rock at (501) 664-0340 or Springdale at (479) 927-1996. Applicants are warned to avoid those not authorized to practice law, often called "notarios." Further information regarding the DACA renewal process may be found at www.bit.ly/renewdaca.

BRIEFS

EWTN GOES TO PRISON

The longtime dream of Bill Unger, who works in prison ministry for the diocese, has come to fruition.

Recently, equipment enabling reception of the Eternal Word Television Network, the Catholic television and radio network, was installed at the North Central Unit of the Arkansas Department of Correction located in Calico Rock. Working with warden David White and chaplain Patrick McGowan, Unger was able to get permission for the installation. Jack Kennedy was the technician recruited by Unger to complete the necessary work.

EWTN, founded by Mother Mary Angelica, has been around for the past 30 years. Its mission is to spread the Gospel to everyone and bring together the Church's theologians, Scripture scholars and speakers to educate and inspire. Mass is broadcast daily.

Unger, a member of St. Andrew Parish in Yellville and St. Peter the Fisherman in Mountain Home, is a designated certified religious assistant by the Department of Correction. Certification requires a three-day training program at the DOC site. Unger has been involved in prison ministry for the past seven years. At 84 years old, Unger never misses a chance to visit the inmates at the North Central Unit and meet their needs. His work is appreciated by the inmates as well as White and McGowan.

For more information about the prison ministry program, contact Tom Navin at (501) 664-0340.

MEDICAL OUTREACH

Westside Free Medical Clinic in Little Rock has increased its outreach service to Latino families. Health fairs are one avenue for outreach and allow collaboration with community agencies. Flor Lopez was the Westside Free Medical Clinic representative for several events this spring and assisted with glucose testing June 7 at the St. Vincent East Health



Arkansas Catholic file

The fondness for golf of the late Bishop Andrew J. McDonald (right) was well known and led to establishing an annual golf classic benefitting Catholic Charities of Arkansas in his honor. The 20th anniversary tournament in September will honor his memory.

Fair. Lopez participated in the Cinco de Mayo Hola Arkansas Health and Safety Fair May 3 and assisted about 50 people with glucose tests, which is an easy detection for possible diabetes.

Lopez also served as an interpreter for the Vestido Rojo program sponsored by the American Heart Association and held at St. Edward Church May 31. It was the first year for the Go Red For Your Heart program to bring awareness and prevention tools of heart disease, the number one cause of death for Latinas.

SUPPLY DONATIONS

Westside Free Medical Clinic in Little Rock is fortunate to be a recipient of the Direct Relief organization. This program distributes surplus supplies and medicines donated by pharmaceutical companies to be distributed to nonprofit health care providers.

Currently there are 1,136 facilities receiving donations. In 2013, Direct Relief provided supplies to the clinic valued at \$22,224.32.

Supplies like sunscreen, eye drops, cough drops, ace bandages and prescription medicine are a few examples of the supplies donated. Director Karen DiPippa said it has been an invaluable resource for patients, particularly those in transitional housing. Necessary over-the-counter supplies like sunscreen can be too expensive for some people living on a low-income budget. This program attempts to better meet the needs for uninsured patients.

The clinic also buys medicines and supplies through its pharmacy budget and its connection with St. Vincent Health System.

RICE BOWL

Dozens of parishes and schools across Arkansas participated in

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl this year, collecting thousands of dollars in donations. More is expected to come in during the next few weeks. Seventy-five percent of the money raised goes to CRS to support vital projects. Twenty-five percent of the collection will remain in the diocese. Donations go into the Catholic Charities' Poor Fund. Catholic Relief Services acts as our hearts and hands in action in more than 100 countries worldwide.

GOLF CLASSIC

Catholic Charities will mark the 20th Annual Bishop McDonald-Catholic Charities Golf Classic and remember the bishop, who died April 1. The event was named after him to recognize his love for golf along with the fact that Catholic Charities of Arkansas was established while he was bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock. The

McDonald Center, which is home to the offices of Catholic Charities, is also named in his honor.

The tournament will be held at Maumelle Country Club Monday, Sept. 29, with tee times at 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and snacks and beverages will be available throughout the day. Player registration brochures will be mailed in July and also will be available at www.dolr.org. The Golf Classic is the main fundraiser that supports all Catholic Charities programs. Information on sponsorship opportunities can be found at <http://bit.ly/CCgolfclassic>. To become a sponsor, download the form or contact Cathey Henry at (501) 664-0340, ext. 379.

ENVELOPE APPEAL

This issue of *Arkansas Catholic* includes a donation envelope printed in blue ink that can be used to support Catholic Charities of Arkansas. When people approach Catholic Charities for help, they often have a very specific need. Such needs include basic medical care, pregnancy counseling or adoption information, immigration services or assistance with drug and alcohol abuse. In other cases, people need help with food, utilities, prescriptions and other types of modest financial assistance and Catholic Charities can help them.

Donations received through the envelope appeal are put into the Catholic Charities Poor Fund, the primary resource for helping people meet basic needs.

Recently Catholic Charities was able to help an elderly woman pay off an overdue electric bill, make a mortgage payment for a couple that fell behind after one of them had a stroke, provide shelter for a woman and her children so that they would not have to sleep in their car over Easter weekend and pay required, upfront costs that enabled a young woman to keep two medical appointments that she could not have afforded otherwise.



Disaster

Continued from page 9

While attention was focused on the areas where the storm struck, parishes from across the state sent disaster supplies and generous contributions. Clean-up crews came from a number of parishes, including Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Hot Springs Village, St. Augustine Church in Dardanelle and two teams from St. Joseph

Patrick Gallaher / Catholic Charities
Volunteers assemble boxes in a food pantry production line running out the door at Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Hope May 21.

Church in Conway. The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth sent a crew from Kentucky. Blessed Sacrament Church of Jonesboro sent a crew of home rebuilders. A parish in Memphis sent 10,000 disaster meals. A school in New Orleans sent \$1,000 collected by students.

Although the tornado was first in our minds, parishes throughout the state continued to meet the more routine requirements of those in need. On May 21, I travelled to Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Hope to witness the refreshing charity that parish offers their community. The parishioners sponsor a food pantry. In a program that

I listened to many heart-rending stories. I saw great resolve, as well.

started years ago to provide holiday food for 15 families, today Our Lady of Good Hope distributes several thousand pounds of nutritious food to 200 families each month. The effort is supported entirely by monetary contributions from the parishioners and food donations from area businesses. Every parish is a Catholic charity.

On that first Saturday after the tornado, I listened to many heart-rending stories. I saw great resolve, as well. Catholic Charities was able to bring hope.

At the end of the day, as I was

finishing with my last client, I overheard Susi Rhoads-Mickels speaking with her final client, a gentleman wearing an Army retiree ball cap. I heard the man ask Susi if she had any rosaries. She told him, "No." I took the rosary from my pocket, put it into his hand and turned away to complete my business. The man shed a tear, explaining to Susi that the rosary he lost in the tornado was the rosary he had carried during five tours of duty in Iraq.

Because I was given this great opportunity to help people, this man now carries a rosary my daughter made for me.

Sister makes a place where poor women can transform

If necessity is the mother of invention, Mercy Sister Lee Ann McNally's response to a need in the 1990s opened a floodgate of sorts that led her to launch the Center for Women in Transition in 2005.

The center is a grant recipient of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development via Catholic Charities of Arkansas. The center ministers to women in the Pulaski County Regional Detention Center and when they return to society.

Her journey to CWIT started as a pastoral associate at Our Lady of Holy Souls Parish in Little Rock. She kept hearing from women seeking counsel or spiritual direction that there "wasn't much for them."

With the blessings of then-Bishop Andrew J. McDonald and pastor Msgr. David LeSieur, Sister Lee Ann opened Sophia's Center next to the church rectory.

"It was a spirituality center for women," she said. "We did retreats, book discussions and spiritual direction, not just for the women of Holy Souls, but for anyone who wanted to come to us."

She wasn't content to keep it at Sophia's.

"We always wanted to take those programs to the detention



Mercy Sister Lee Ann McNally stands in front of the Center for Women in Transition in Little Rock. The center was originally in a two-story house next door until moving to its one-story home in 2009.

facility ... to women who could not come to us."

Sister Lee Ann started at the jail in August 2001 because Sgt. Robin Ballard, director of detention services, needed somebody to teach eight life skills classes.

Armed with lessons on how to balance a checkbook and apply for a job, Sister Lee Ann headed to her first class understanding that "as a Sister of Mercy you don't ever presume you know what somebody

wants to learn."

Thirty-six women voluntarily attended, but everyday life stuff wasn't at the top of their list.

"Immediately one woman said, 'Teach us to forgive ourselves for what we've done.' Another said, 'Teach us to communicate with our children so they don't end up here like we have.' I told Sgt. Ballard I will teach the classes but this is not what they need to learn."

Sgt. Ballard trusted her to de-

velop her own life skills curriculum, which covered basic and often raw areas — relationships and anger, self-esteem and drug and substance abuse issues.

"I averaged 30-35 women per class, but there was nothing for them when they came out. No place to go, no place to continue to receive support, or insight into themselves," Sister Lee Ann added. "So I approached my religious community about establishing a 501c(3) that would work with them while they were incarcerated and when released. At the time, no one was working with women in either the jails or state prison system, and even today no one is providing the programs that we are."

CWIT emerged at a house near downtown Little Rock in 2005. It didn't come any too soon because the number of women entering prison and being released is growing faster than the percentage of men entering and leaving, according to Sister Lee Ann.

"Because there was nothing for them when they left jail, a lot of women re-offend — go back to abusive relationships, drug patterns or similar situations," she said. "Many already have abuse issues from childhood that no one's

ever dealt with."

Substance abuse — drugs or alcohol — are not their real issues, she pointed out.

"Their issues are what got them into drugs or alcohol in the first place. Many have co-occurring issues; many are bipolar with anxiety disorders. A lot of post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) in women due to abusive backgrounds. It was amazing to me that so many of them don't know what post-traumatic stress is and yet a lot of them suffer from that."

This year's \$2,000 CCHD grant helps women with basic needs, such as bus passes so they can get to and from work and shopping, rent, clothes and personal items. The center sees about 150 women a year and the jail ministry has reached more than 2,000 in the past 12 years.

"When you get into that world, so many needs not being met," Sister Lee Ann continued. "I felt this was one reason God put me on the earth — to work with this population of people, women in particular, because the Sisters of Mercy have a commitment to serve women and children, and those who are poor and struggling, the marginalized, and our women are."

Free medical clinic trying to go out of business

Director praises benefits of insurance under 'private option'

BY KAREN DIPIPPA
WESTSIDE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

With the controversy concerning the recent Affordable Care Act, I am pleased to report greater than 75 percent of Westside Free Medical Clinic patients in the English-speaking clinic qualified for the private option insurance and now have coverage, some for the first time.

This is a moment all of us in charitable clinics have worked for, the moment when we would be put out of business because people had access to coverage. Yet it is difficult to say goodbye to patients we have seen for 25 years because in that amount of time you develop relationships and think of your patients as friends. However, the chance for fuller health for our "friends" outweighs the goodbye, and we are glad to have been part of their health care along the way.

While we would like to be put out of business, we are closer but not there yet. There are a few patients who have hit a few snags in their enrollment and we will assist them until they are fully covered.

Furthermore, a large popula-

tion of immigrants is ineligible for health coverage at this time. This will be our major focus until there is comprehensive immigration reform. Our focus may be shifting, but we are not going out of business just yet. We appreciate all our volunteers and donors who sustain this ministry of health and are grateful for their support.

The Private Option and Healthcare Market insurance programs put in place by the Arkansas General Assembly in 2013 are revitalizing the delivery of health services in Arkansas. More than 200,000 Arkansans who were previously unable to find affordable health insurance now have coverage because of these two opportunities. As a result, the financial pressures on rural health clinics, and federally qualified health clinics has lessened to the extent that they are in a better fiscal position to provide services than ever before.

Hospitals have seen a 22-percent increase of insured patients in emergency rooms and a 29-percent decrease in uncompensated cases. This is allowing hospitals to hire more physicians to meet their increasing pools of bill-paying patients.

Contact your state senator and representative and let them know how much you appreciate this expansion of medical coverage.

Catholic Adoption Services marks 30 years of connecting families

Adoption Services celebrated 30 years as a licensed agency in April.

Babies placed many years ago are now adults often with families of their own. Adoptees and birth parents are coming forward looking to reconnect with each other. Sharing the love behind the decision to place the child is a healing experience for all involved.

New babies continue to be placed with grateful and loving families. Birth parents are usually more involved with the plan for adoption. The reassurance that their child is doing well and the ability for everyone to access future important medical updates continues to reinforce the choices toward a more open placement.

Currently a campaign is underway to reach out and share more about Catholic Adoption Services. Advertisements in *Arkansas Catholic* and www.arkansas-catholic.org include hands to represent the care and connection between parents and children and the hope that more Catholics will also connect to find out more about the agency.

Director Antje Harris was recently involved with adoption training for staff and volunteers at the Arkansas Pregnancy Resource



Center/St. Joseph Helpers in Little Rock. A baby girl attended the meeting with her adoptive parents to show the faith-filled women that their prayers and hard work can have beautiful outcomes. Another adoptive mother shared the stories of her two children.

Catholic Adoption Services is happy to announce it will receive the Choose Life Adoption Assistance Program Fund again this next fiscal year. The agency is grateful to Arkansas Right to Life and Arkansans who purchased the special license plates for the much-needed funds. Pregnant women considering a plan for adoption are appreciative of the assistance provided with food, maternity clothes and other per-

sonal needs. Getting the word out about adoption is an on-going challenge that is assisted by the remainder of the grant.

Christ the King Church in Little Rock provided a grant to buy infant car seats for the agency's three licensed, short-term foster families and for other clients who need help.

The Ladies of the Sacred Heart in Hot Springs Village poured out their generosity with all the baby supplies and clothes needed for the year. Joyce Iselin donated handmade blanket and sweater sets for each baby placed for adoption.

For more information, call (501) 664-0340 or visit www.catholicadoptionsservices.org.