

Save the Date for Pew-To-Do

If you missed last year's popular Pew-to-Do, you have another chance to get in on the fun and own one of the beautiful, artist-decorated pews from the historic St. John Bosco Chapel on the Hope Haven Campus in Marrero. Pew-to-Do 2012 will take place on November 9, with a sponsors' patron party from 6 – 7 pm, the main event beginning at 7 pm and concluding at 9 pm. Pews decorated by well-known local artists will be available for auction and undecorated pews will be available for sale.

Tickets are \$25 and guests will enjoy fabulous food and drink from West Bank restaurants. This year's Pew-to-Do will feature a gift shop with handmade crafts and mementos from the St. John Bosco Chapel. Call Fany Hernandez at 504-227-3494 to purchase tickets or go online <https://donate.ccano.org/pace-pew-to-do>. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. Sponsorships are still available for the event.

The funds raised at Pew-to-Do benefit Catholic Charities PACE Program. Our Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) currently serves 160 participants at the Shirley Landry Benson PACE Center in the Bywater area of New Orleans. Plans are currently underway to expand the program to the Hope Haven Campus. PACE promotes the health, independence and dignity of senior citizens with its mission to provide the services to enable frail seniors to remain in their homes as long as medically and socially feasible.



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Catholic Charities Archdiocese
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life-giving services through
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Isaac's Impact: A Continued Call to Serve

Since Hurricane Isaac's impact, we have been actively responding to the increased needs of the community in the wake of this storm. In the days immediately following Isaac, Archbishop Gregory Aymond travelled with us to some of the hardest-hit parishes, conducting pastoral visits to speak and pray with the residents and the hard-working teams at Emergency Response Centers. The Archbishop, our team leaders and I saw first-hand the devastating effects of this storm on so many families. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO) has immediately jumped into action. We have been providing relief services and support to residents of the six hardest-hit civil parishes: St. John the Baptist, Plaquemines, Jefferson (Lafitte), St. Tammany, St. Bernard and Orleans. Highlighted in this issue is a small snapshot of our Hurricane Isaac relief and recovery work.

Our work is far from done. We are now gearing up to face the challenge of long-term recovery. Unlike Katrina, which was of devastating magnitude and touched the hearts of Americans across the country, Isaac is off of the national news and those impacted can be easily forgotten. We can't let that happen. We at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans are committed to our role as a "Forever Responder" – we



will remain a resource and a support as residents journey toward recovery; a journey, we know that is not completed in a day, or even a week or a month. Archbishop Aymond calls us to be the "hands and heart of Jesus," and we are committed to answering this call in the wake of Hurricane Isaac.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Please pray especially for those who are struggling to recover and rebuild.



Gordon R. Wadge
CEO, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

AHCA: New Name, Same Mission

The volunteer-led fundraising effort established in 1966 by Archbishop Philip M. Hannan to fund the work of Catholic Charities has always been known as the Archbishop's Community Appeal, or ACA. This year, it has been re-christened the Archbishop Hannan Community Appeal in honor of its founder, who passed away on September 29, 2011. Archbishop Gregory Aymond and the Catholic Charities Board of Directors thought it most appropriate to name the fund after the beloved Hannan, who dedicated his life to serving the poor in our Archdiocese.

Byron and Shannon Adams are chairing the 2012 campaign and remind donors that the focus of the drive is exactly the same as it has always been: to raise funds to meet the same challenges and needs facing the poor and vulnerable in our community that Archbishop Hannan identified after being on the job only a short time in the mid-1960's. As evidence

that history really does repeat itself, in 2012 we find our agency responding to Hurricane Isaac, just as Archbishop Hannan who arrived in New Orleans in 1965 realized the need for undesignated dollars to respond to those devastated by Hurricane Betsy. Money given to the AHCA allows us to respond quickly to unexpected disasters, where the immediate need is great, but donations may lag behind.

"Charity is the Bond of Perfection" was Archbishop Hannan's episcopal motto. He lived his motto daily, reminding family, friends and donors that helping the less fortunate was a duty, not an option.

The goal of the AHCA in 2012 is an ambitious \$1.85 million. Please call or email Helen Read Smith today at (504) 592-5688 or hsmith@ccano.org to be a part of this new tradition!

Early Responders, Forever Responders: Hurricane Isaac Relief Efforts Continue

Hurricane Isaac may be off the radar of national news, but Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO) is dedicated to addressing the continued need for services and support in Isaac-affected areas. Our work continues as we enter into the long-term response phase for Hurricane Isaac recovery. CCANO will continue to be a resource and a helping hand in the wake of Hurricane Isaac. We are actively seeking committed support to ensure that those affected will not be forgotten.



CCANO staff receives a donation of 210 brand new pairs of shoes from Robert Gilberti for Hurricane Isaac victims.

Here is a snapshot of CCANO's Isaac relief work:

- Over 30 CCANO case managers and crisis counselors have been offering support and information at over 8 different locations throughout the six priority Parishes.
- Our staff and volunteers served over 758 hours as interpreters for D-SNAP workers to process applications of Spanish, Vietnamese and Cambodian speakers.
- CCANO provided staff, supplies and coordinated donations for a shelter at Camp Hope in St. Bernard for Plaquemines Parish evacuees returning from North Louisiana.
- Our staff and volunteers have coordinated and distributed over 10,000 meals, water, ice, 2000+ cleaning kits and hygiene kits, and diapers to residents in LaPlace, Braithwaite, Verret, Lafitte, Madisonville and Slidell.
- CCANO coordinated 2 Archdiocese-wide volunteer days of service for Isaac relief involving over 285 volunteers. We continue to coordinate and assign volunteers weekly.
- CCANO staff has been embedded at various Emergency Operation Centers, working closely with the Red Cross and FEMA.
- We have been coordinating efforts and donations with Second Harvest Food Bank, Beacon of Hope, the Salvation Army, Save the Children, the Knights of Columbus, Greater New Orleans Disaster Recovery Partnerships, The Church of Latter Day Saints, First Baptist Churches of Madisonville and Mandeville and other organizations and individuals.
- Operation Helping Hands (OHH) is gearing back up to assist those in need of house gutting. CCANO has assembled work teams with the help of Community Staffing Services and Cornerstone Builders to kick-start this program back into action!



Love Among the Ruins: A Really Great "How I Met My Husband" Story

Sara Johansen thought her New Orleans encounter would be an 8 week stint to fulfill her desire to do some volunteer work before she started graduate school in the fall of 2007. Those 8 weeks turned into a full year. Sara spent that year living at St. Raymond's with dozens of other Operation Helping Hands (OHH) volunteers who were gutting and remediating houses flooded by Hurricane Katrina. It was at St. Raymond's she met her future husband, David Harms. The couple fell in

love during their volunteer stint.

"I'd never been to New Orleans and I had no idea what to expect," says Sara, regarding the hurricane remediation work she'd signed up to perform. In 2007, there were still a lot of houses that needed gutting and some neighborhoods in which Sara worked were still isolated and empty. At the time, OHH was transitioning from gutting to rebuilding and Sara realized that she wanted to make a longer commitment and lend her talent to rebuilding the city she had come to love.

After Katrina, David came to the area as a Mennonite volunteer in the fall of 2006. He signed on with Catholic Charities as a long-term OHH volunteer and met Sara.

The two were married in Sara's hometown of Tipton, Missouri in August of 2010. Sara went back to graduate school and after earning her master's degree, she



Sara Johansen and David Harms

and David decided to return to New Orleans. David went back to work for OHH and Sara took a job with Catholic Charities development department.

Sara says she and David are not the only match made at OHH. Several relationships have bloomed through the volunteer experience.

Head Start Returns to Upper 9th Ward at St. Mary of the Angels



This fall, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans Head Start welcomes 70 new young students at the newly opened St. Mary of the Angels Head Start and Early Head Start Center in the Upper 9th Ward. This is the first time Head Start will be back in this area since Hurricane Katrina. The St. Mary of the Angels Community Center, which formerly housed an elementary school, recently underwent a \$2.7

million renovation of its first floor with funds made available to the Archdiocese of New Orleans from FEMA post-Katrina. The Archdiocese and FEMA are currently in discussions to complete the second floor of the building for additional community services. St. Mary of the Angels Head Start will serve 54 preschoolers and its Early Head Start program will serve 16 babies and toddlers.

Head Start programs provide education, social services and health screenings to infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans is proud to serve over 250 children annually through its Head Start programming that is now available at 6 locations throughout Greater New Orleans including the new Head Start and Early Head Start at St. Mary of the Angels!



"Prayer in action is love and love in action is service . . . The point is to do something, however small, and show you care through your actions by giving your time . . . Do not worry about why problems exist in the world – just respond to people's needs . . . We feel what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but that ocean would be less without that drop." - Mother Teresa

Spotlight on Isaac Relief

The amazing outpouring of care and support by local parishioners, neighbors and residents in Isaac-impacted areas has been truly moving. St. Anselm Parish in Madisonville, Assumption Parish in Braithwaite, St. Patrick's in Port Sulphur and St. Joan of Arc in LaPlace, just to name a few, have rallied their communities to help one another, often in the midst of personal tragedy. CCANO has been working hand-in-hand with these local Church parishes to get supplies and needed support to the residents.

One such parish making extraordinary efforts in the face of tragedy is Ascension of Our Lord in LaPlace. Through the coordination of Fr. Walter Austin, Pastor of Ascension

of our Lord, parishioners and Mike Abbate and Toni Ruiz of Ascension of Our Lord School, LaPlace residents have received a helping hand in recovery including 8,700 hot meals served, 2,500 buckets of cleaning supplies and 2,000 personal cleaning kits distributed, 600 homes gutted, among many other efforts.

"All of this effort goes out to people from the church parish, the community and other parts of the country who gave their time, energy and good will to help people affected by Isaac," said Fr. Walter Austin. "Some of my core leaders did this work in spite of the fact that they needed to tend to their own flooded homes. They exemplify the quote attributed to St. Francis of Assisi 'Peach the gospel, use words if necessary'."



Mike Abbate helps clean up Hurricane Isaac debris at Ascension of Our Lord School



Isaac relief volunteers distribute meals and cleaning supplies from Ascension of Our Lord Church

Give Thanks And Remember...

The holiday season is right around the corner! Please remember your neighbors in need, especially those recently affected by Hurricane Isaac. Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans is accepting Thanksgiving and holiday donations in all shapes and sizes. You can answer God's call to love your neighbor by adopting an individual or family for Thanksgiving or Christmas, donating food for holiday baskets, or making a financial donation to CCANO. Please call Shannon Murphy, Director of Volunteer Services, at (504) 310-6962 or visit <http://www.ccano.org/volunteers/drives-and-holiday-donations/> to see how you can brighten someone's holidays this year.