

What's for lunch? Head over to Café Hope!

Just ten minutes from downtown New Orleans, Café Hope proves to be a delicious weekday lunch option. Café Hope is one of Catholic Charities' newest endeavors – a restaurant teaching at-risk young adults on-the-job skills in the restaurant/hospitality industry.

You can help us simply by eating lunch at the restaurant. Bring your friends, family or coworkers to taste why Café Hope is an up-and-comer on the restaurant scene. Café Hope's home-cooked Creole style meals are affordable and the creative seasonal menu will have you coming back for more. Try the stuffed bell peppers or the mouth-watering cochon du lait po-boy.



LOCATED AT 1101 BARATARIA BLVD., MARRERO
OPEN FOR LUNCH MONDAY – FRIDAY FROM 11 AM – 2 PM.



notes from the Heart

October 2010

From Our Development Department

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Recently I participated in a leadership retreat for Catholic Charities and one of the themes upon which we reflected was the Catholic identity of Catholic Charities. What does this mean? Many in the community—our clients, donors and friends alike—do not realize that Catholic Charities serves people of all faith backgrounds and traditions and has since the Ursuline nuns began what is now Catholic Charities in the Ninth Ward in 1727.

It is because we are Catholic and our ministry is rooted in the Scriptures that we serve all people regardless of their faith. Our clients come to Catholic Charities because they are in need of our services, not to be evangelized or converted to the Catholic faith. I believe that this respect for the religious beliefs of those whom we serve makes Catholic Charities...Catholic.

The Archbishop's Community Appeal, the annual campaign to support the work of Catholic Charities in our community, recently kicked off with a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond and breakfast at Notre Dame Seminary for our volunteers.

This year's chairperson, Mark Spansel, is a partner with the local law firm of Adams & Reese, and has been a faithful ACA volunteer for many years. We are fortunate that Mark brings his enthusiasm and can-do attitude to the campaign, and we are looking forward to raising our goal of \$1.727 million (in honor of our founding in 1727) under his leadership.

As always, we welcome your comments and feedback to this newsletter. Thank you for your friendship and treasured support of Catholic Charities.

Best regards,

Helen Read Smith
Director of Development

P.S. More photos of the 2010 ACA Kickoff Mass and breakfast are available on our Facebook page.



Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond celebrates the beginning of the 2010 ACA with volunteer Gretchen Schneider and Young ACA Chairperson Kathy Hebert.



2010 ACA Chairperson Mark Spansel with ACA volunteer Evangeline Vavrck and Mark's wife Joy at the ACA Kickoff breakfast.

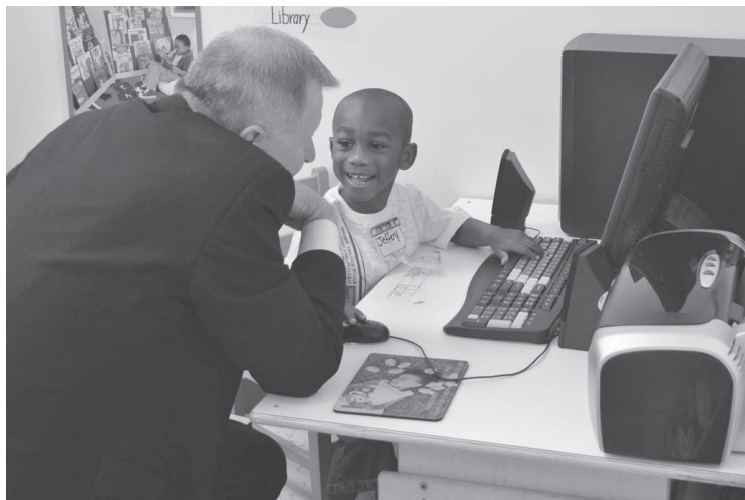
2010 ACA GOAL
As of Friday, September 24,
we have raised 22% of our goal.

\$1.727M **22%**

Archbishop Aymond visits Catholic Charities clients

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond recently joined Catholic Charities Co-Presidents Jim Kelly and Gordon Wadge to visit Catholic Charities programs and minister to our clients.

Archbishop Aymond first stopped at **St. John the Baptist Community & Head Start Center**, where he spent time meeting staff and volunteers. He also played with the 3-5 year old Head Start children, who were enjoying their first day of school for the year.



Next, the Archbishop ministered to the elderly at Christopher Inn, an Archdiocesan housing program for seniors. Each month, Christopher Homes seniors receive a 40 lb. food box from our **Food for Families/Food for Seniors** program, and this distribution coincided with Archbishop Aymond's visit. The seniors enjoyed their special visit with the Archbishop, and he spent time talking to and praying with each senior in attendance.

The last stop of the day was the **New Orleans Family Justice Center**, the Catholic Charities collaboration with the NOPD, DA and US Attorney to serve as a one-stop shop for victims of domestic violence. Mary Claire Landry, Director of Domestic Violence Services for Catholic Charities, and DA Leon Cannizzaro met Archbishop Aymond at the center to describe the unique partnership that serves survivors of violence in our community.

Archbishop Aymond plans to make regular visits to Catholic Charities programs to meet with and minister to the people the Church serves each day.

OIL SPILL UPDATE

The Deepwater Horizon oil well, thankfully, has stopped spewing oil into the Gulf of Mexico. In September the well was permanently killed and sealed shut. However, the problems are far from over for the fishermen who made their living hauling seafood from the Gulf and selling it to local processors. Many processors have shut down. Now that shrimpers are able to go out, they have a hard time selling their catch and prices are so low that they can't make any money.

The Vessels of Opportunity Program, which was keeping some boats working, has scaled back. BP claims checks are smaller under the new claims process. Many families are falling further into debt. Fishermen are growing desperate.

Catholic Charities crisis counselors working at Breton Sound Marina, Venice Marina and our five oil spill centers describe the mood as somber. It seems the nation has moved on to other issues and considers the problem in the Gulf solved. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Catholic Charities has been offering aid to the fishermen since May 1 and will continue to provide counseling and case management. Through September 24, 2010 we have provided:

- **Emergency assistance to 29,332 people* (11,392 families*).**
- **\$811,500 in food vouchers** to affected families.
- **Mental health counseling to 10,085* people.**
- **\$278,021 in other direct assistance and baby supplies** to families.

Our affiliated ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank has:

- Distributed **471,000 meals, worth \$965,020** to families affected by the oil spill, including **1,600 boxes worth \$78,770** to Catholic Charities oil spill relief centers and serves **4,800 people affected by the oil spill every week.**



Photo courtesy of the Clarion-Herald

Creatively supporting our coastal communities

The U.S. government never declared the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico a federal disaster, so there was no financial help available for fishing families affected by the spill. Many typically philanthropic-minded individuals, foundations and corporations figured that the negative economic impact of the spill was BP's responsibility.

But what would happen to the families of our fishing communities if people didn't come up with creative ways to fundraise?

Catholic Charities has truly experienced God's grace to help those in need because of a few groups that thought of innovative ways to raise money to support our response to the oil spill.

- **Abita Brewery** gave us \$100,000 from the proceeds of their oil spill relief brew, Save Our Shore (SOS).
- The **New Orleans Saints** were able to donate \$250,000 – part of the earnings from their Super Bowl Ring Raffle.
- The **New Orleans Home + Interior Show** donated what they raised on their celebrity-designed shrimp boot raffle.
- **Philadelphia Insurance Companies** executives collected sponsorships for their extreme biking challenge, and we received the proceeds.
- Online social action fundraising site **CitizenEffect** created CitizenGulf to help us raise money for oil spill impacted areas.

In addition to collaborating with Catholic Charities on a public awareness video campaign on **YouTube**, **Entergy** gave a generous gift of \$100,000 – about how

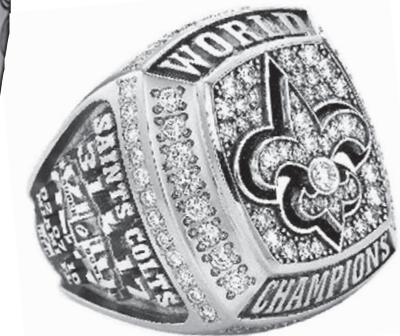
much it costs to run our five Oil Spill Relief Centers for a week.

We have welcomed many traditional gifts—most recently \$5,000 from **BoostMobile** as a result of a texting campaign it held over the summer.

Did you know that the ACA campaign raises unrestricted dollars for Catholic Charities, so that when unforeseen emergencies like the oil spill happen, Catholic Charities can quickly and effectively respond?



Photo courtesy of the New Orleans Home + Interior Show



Help for the holidays



With Halloween right around the corner and Thanksgiving barely more than a month away, it is never too early to plan to help families in need for the holidays.

You can answer God's call to love your neighbor by adopting an individual or family for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

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.

