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They Came Bearing Boots

Bethany Billman came to New Orleans as a volunteer after Hurricane Katrina and joined Catholic Charities full-time working with Operation Helping Hands in October of 2009. The Catholic Charities program began weeks after the hurricane struck and has used volunteers to gut, repair and repaint the homes of 2,550 senior citizens and disabled hurricane victims.

Bethany's parents, Debra and Terry Billman, of Pardsville, Wisconsin have now made it a family affair. Terry works for Grande cheese factory in Wyocena, where the famous Wisconsin dairy product is manufactured. The company requires that all employees' work boots are replaced every six months. Terry realized there was a lot of life left in those castoff boots and that maybe people in the New Orleans area could use them. When he went to his employer with this idea, they were excited about the prospect of recycling the boots and doing something to support the New Orleans area.

Deb and Terry drove from Wisconsin to New Orleans with 20 pair of steel-toed leather and rubber boots in late



February. When they arrived, they spent eight days with their daughter as the boss. The couple rolled up their sleeves and helped out with landscaping and painting for OHH clients.

Deb and Terry say they'll be back with another delivery of boots soon.



notes from the Heart

April 2011

ACA End of Campaign Celebration

We are pleased to announce that the 2010 Archbishop's Community Appeal (ACA) exceeded its \$1.727M goal, raising \$1,759,866 to support the programs of Catholic Charities.

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond welcomed the ACA volunteer fundraisers to his home on March 30 to thank them for their commitment to supporting the humanitarian arm of the Church.

Archbishop Aymond recognized 2010 ACA Chairperson Mark Spansel and announced that the chairperson for the 2011 campaign will be David Andignac.

ACA volunteer fundraisers celebrating milestones of service were:



2011 ACA Chairman David Andignac, 2010 Chairman Mark Spansel and Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond

40 YEARS

Leon J. Reymond, Jr.
T. Benbury Lockett
J. Garic Schoen

35 YEARS

Francis A. Courtenay, Jr.
George R. Simno III
Claiborne Perrilliat, Jr.

30 YEARS

John B. Levert, Jr.

25 YEARS

Robert B. Acomb, Jr.
Wayne J. Lee
William M. Soniat

20 YEARS

Robert W. Nuzum
Kirth M. Paciera

15 YEARS

Joan Coulter



Keith & Mary Johnson with Sonya & August Gallo



Leon & Terry Reymond with Wayne Lee

Thanks to all our volunteers for the work you do to support the poor and vulnerable in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

THE OIL SPILL: *One Year Later*

As the first memorial of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico approaches, we remember in prayer those who lost their lives and those whose livelihoods are still negatively affected.

Catholic Charities remains a forever responder to fishing communities on the Louisiana coast. Since May 1, 2010, we have provided food, financial assistance and counseling to those in need.

We continue to journey in solidarity with the coastal communities. Our case managers are helping fishermen navigate the confusing claims process through the Gulf Coast Claims Facility. Our BP-funded Spirit of Hope program reaches out to hundreds whose mental health has suffered in wake of this disaster. We've helped people find interim jobs. And we're still helping families who are struggling to pay their bills.

From May 1, 2010 through press time,

- Catholic Charities has provided emergency assistance to **39,710 people* (16,149 families*)** and distributed **\$877,700 in food vouchers** from community grocery stores to affected families. Second Harvest Food Bank has distributed **610,785 meals, worth \$1,368,158** to families affected by the oil spill (as of August 31), including **1,600 boxes worth \$78,770** to Catholic Charities oil spill relief centers.
- Catholic Charities' mental health crisis counselors have provided counseling to **13,958* people**.
- Catholic Charities has also distributed **\$415,305 in other direct assistance** (rent/mortgage assistance, utilities, medication, etc.) and **\$31,749 in baby supplies** (diapers and formula).
- Second Harvest Food Bank continues to work with **150 faith-based and nonprofit member agencies** serving all 14 civil parishes affected by the oil spill. Through this member network, Second Harvest is able to serve **4,800 people** affected by the oil spill every week.

**Many individuals and families have received multiple services from Catholic Charities.*



Thank You, Jim Kelly

Catholic Charities bid farewell to Co-President & CEO Jim Kelly last month after Jim accepted the position of Executive Director at Covenant House New Orleans.

Jim's years of service to the Church in his leadership role at Catholic Charities, especially during the difficult time during and after Hurricane Katrina, will always be recognized a blessing.

"I have truly enjoyed my years at Catholic Charities," Jim said. "It had been an honor to work in ministry with so many dedicated and caring colleagues."

Jim's transition to Covenant House was a familiar one – Jim has been affiliated with the organization's board of directors for years and even served as an executive during the charity's early years.

We at Catholic Charities wish Jim the best and continue to pray for him as he settles into ministry at Covenant House.

Gordon Wadge continues in the role of President & CEO of Catholic Charities.

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A FATHER-SON TEAM

George Simno and his son Renny have a combined record of volunteer service to the Archbishop's Community Appeal (ACA) of almost 40 years. George became involved more than 35 years ago when his uncle, Norris Fitzmorris, asked him to join the campaign. Renny came on board about four years ago at the invitation of his former Loyola classmate J.T. Hannan as part of a push to involve another generation of volunteers in the ACA. The father and son duo are among a handful of volunteers who encompass three generations of service.

George Simno worked for many years on the ACA campaign under the leadership of the venerable Irma Braden and said, "The campaign is always so well organized that it's never a burden to help raise money to support Catholic Charities." He is especially

drawn to the programs that care for the aging population and children with special needs, such as PACE and Padua, respectively. He appreciates the diversity of Catholic Charities programs and the fact they provide service to a broad segment of the needy.



George & Renny Simno

Renny echoes his father's sentiments. "Catholic Charities helps so many people throughout the community," he said. "You always feel confident knowing that any monies raised are spent wisely."

Renny is impressed with the mission of Catholic Charities and the leadership of Archbishop Gregory Aymond. "When you hear directly from the Archbishop about the needs in the community and how the funds we help raise will be spent, it's very powerful," he said. Renny believes it's a combination of those factors that encourages him to continue to volunteer with Catholic Charities.

It is especially gratifying for George to see his son continue a family tradition of service to God, Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Concluding Our Lenten Journey

The Lenten journey is rooted in the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church that we are to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and enrich our spiritual lives during this holy season by prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl helps us to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who battle hunger and poverty overseas and here in the United States. The money dropped into the small, cardboard 'rice bowls' (pictured) during Lent will provide tangible assistance to those in need around the world.

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Operation Rice Bowl supports CRS projects around the world.

75 percent of the money contributed here goes to support development

programs that help families overcome the challenges of hunger and poverty. CRS is currently in 100 countries and works with the poor without regard to race, religion or nationality. 25 percent of Operation Rice Bowl proceeds remain in the Archdiocese of New Orleans to support local efforts to alleviate need.

Catholic Relief Services was active in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. The group is hard at work in Haiti, where much work remains to be done to help victims of last year's earthquake. In Japan, CRS is offering support to victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

If you'd like a Rice Bowl, which includes a calendar with daily prayers and reflections, contact Nick Albares, with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Justice and Peace, at 504-592-5692.

