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notes from the Heart

December 2010

Good Tidings to All

As the end of 2010 fast approaches, I wanted to wish you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I also wanted to remind you of how important your year-end gift is to Catholic Charities, and particularly to our Archbishop's Community Appeal (ACA) campaign.

Did you know that the Christmas tradition of gift giving is passed down to us from the Magi who presented gifts in Bethlehem to celebrate the birth of the newborn Savior, Jesus Christ?



Although modern gift giving looks different than in Jesus' time, the significance is no less. Your year-end gift to Catholic Charities and the ACA provides critical support needed to fund our

more than 44 life-changing, anti-poverty programs. The support of generous donors like you helps Catholic Charities respond quickly and effectively to unexpected disasters, like the Gulf oil tragedy, as well as to everyday problems.

Your year-end gift before December 31, 2010 also affords you a valuable tax deduction for 2010.

In the midst of the busy holiday season, please take a moment to make your year-end gift to the ACA. You can even make your donation in honor of friends and family members—a great Christmas gift for the person who has everything!

For more information on how to make your ACA gift a Christmas gift for someone, please contact Cathy Gomez in the Development Office at (504) 592-5694 or cggomez@ccano.org

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best regards,



Helen Read Smith
Director of Development

Holiday donations are a blessing

Each year, we are thankful for the hundreds of generous donors who reach out to support our clients through holiday gifts.

Some of our Thanksgiving donors even donated frozen turkeys and fresh vegetables with the traditional canned vegetables to empower our clients to cook their own meal. Our featured photo is a food box for a young adult at our Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) in Marrero.

Christmas gifts have been pouring in as well. Each year we receive toys, books, and bikes from Santa for our younger clients, and toiletries and other essentials for our adults.

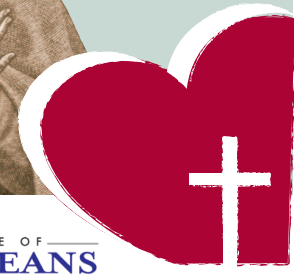
Please keep our clients in prayer during this blessed holiday season.



Did you know?

Catholics celebrate more than 300 saints during the month of December, including St. Francis Xavier (Dec. 3), St. Nicholas (Dec. 6), St. Stephen (Dec. 26), and St. John the Apostle (Dec. 27). We at Catholic Charities look to the saints as our example in perseverance, humility, and concern for those in need.

Source: Catholic.org



2010 ACA GOAL

We're 44% of the way toward our ACA goal!
As of Nov. 23, we've raised \$766,420 of our \$1.727M goal.



Oil Spill Update

We are humbled to continue to serve the hardworking fishing communities on the Louisiana coast that have been affected by the oil spill.

More creative fundraisers have come out of the woodwork since our October newsletter hit the mail.

- Three young men from New York cycled nearly 1,500 miles from their home to New Orleans to raise money for spill victims under the name *Ride to Heal*. The young men, Sebastian Jindra-Cotilla, Donald Lilly and Daniel Unger (pictured outside of Manhattan) brought an \$8,000 check to Catholic Charities upon their arrival in New Orleans.
- We were also grateful to receive \$2,850 from the friends and family of two teens who recently celebrated their Sweet 16 in Bel Air, CA. Instead of accepting gifts for themselves, the teens asked for donations to Catholic Charities for our clients suffering from the oil spill.



Look out for our Christmas cards

Our 2010 Christmas cards are on the move. Look out for this year's design, the fifth in our series of cards featuring stained glass from church parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. It features an exquisite stained glass nativity scene from the chapel in Notre Dame Seminary, in the heart of the archdiocese. If you'd like to make a Christmas gift on behalf of a friend or loved one (who will receive one of these cards on your behalf), please call Cathy Gomez at (504) 592-5694.



Oil Spill Response by the Numbers

As of November 29, 2010:

- Catholic Charities has provided **emergency assistance to 37,913 people (14,987 families)** and distributed **\$848,400 in food vouchers from community grocery stores** to affected families.
- Our affiliated ministry 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 12,492 people.**
- Catholic Charities has also distributed **\$327,167 in other direct assistance** (rent/mortgage assistance, utilities, medication, etc.) and **\$31,267 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.**

Spotlight on Volunteer Fundraising: Dr. Ralph Dauterive

83 year-old Dr. Ralph Dauterive has been a part of the Archbishop's Community Appeal (ACA) since its inception in 1966. He remembers that his friend, the late Fred Sigur, Sr., brought him on board in the early days with one simple statement: "I need you." Dr. Dauterive was an experienced volunteer fundraiser for a number of charitable causes in St. Bernard Parish, including United Way. He turned his considerable talents to the ACA and Catholic Charities.

Dr. Dauterive and his wife, Lily, are St. Bernard natives and lived in the parish for 78 years until Katrina forced them to a new home in Slidell. The couple were loyal parishioners of St. Louise de Marillac Church, where Dr. Dauterive served on the Parish Council and was a member of the choir. His new home parish, Our Lady of Lourdes in Slidell, now benefits from his experience and talent.

His dedication to Catholic Charities is unwavering. Dr. Dauterive says, "It's the greatest. I always tell people they do the best job with your fundraising dollar. They have programs that support the needy from the very start of life to the very end."

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He also believes that fundraising begins in your own pocket. He always gives first, before reaching out to others for a donation.

We at Catholic Charities are blessed to have supporters like Dr. Dauterive. We thank him for his 44 years of dedicated service.



Dr. Dauterive inspects his award for 40 years of service to the ACA a few years ago.

CLIENT SUCCESS: Betty Landry...From homeless to home owner

Betty Landry was left homeless after Hurricane Katrina. The apartment she and her three children called home in Kenner was flooded. Her automobile was also lost to the flood.

She came to Catholic Charities with a load of debt and unable to get credit. Betty enrolled in one of our homeless support programs, Bridges to Self-Sufficiency, which provided her with life skills counseling, job support, financial literacy training and more. She was eventually able to improve her credit score enough to qualify for a car loan. She moved into transitional housing where Catholic Charities paid 70% of the rent and Betty paid 30%. Perhaps the most important step was homeownership training Betty received.

After several years of hard work and discipline,

Betty is now the proud owner of a home in Marrero. The home has a big backyard that her children love to play in and it's just a few doors down from the school bus stop. Betty is proud of her furnishings, also provided with the help of Catholic Charities.

Not long after moving in, Betty and her children, Temperance, Victor and Marcus adopted a homeless puppy named Baby and gave him a home.

"Our house has been a blessing to us with the help of Catholic Charities. So we are very grateful and thankful for y'all taking a chance on us," Betty said.

Empowering someone to go from homelessness to homeownership is at the core of Catholic Charities' mission. We congratulate Betty and her family and wish them a bright future.