



notes from the Heart

February 2011

Archbishop's Community Appeal Update

Dear Catholic Charities supporters,

As we prepare to close the books on the Archbishop's Community Appeal campaign for 2010, we wish to thank the many people who supported our efforts. Accomplishing our fundraising goal of \$1,727,000 is within our reach and with just a few more gifts, we fully expect to achieve this benchmark in the coming weeks.

2010 ACA chairman Mark Spansel has done an outstanding job of leading our efforts. Mark's passion for helping the vulnerable and his belief in the work of Catholic Charities energized our staff and volunteers.

The prayerful leadership of Archbishop Gregory Aymond is central to this campaign. His spiritual guidance and direction to care for the least among us, as Jesus taught us, focus our efforts and continually remind us that the money we raise is dedicated to a higher purpose.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks to our ACA volunteers and donors. Because of your compassionate support, Catholic Charities is able to perform the work that God calls us to do. We pledge to keep you informed throughout the year on how your generous donations are used to carry out our mission.


Sincerely,




Helen Read Smith
Director of Development

GEORGE WINSTON CONCERT AT LOYOLA FOR OIL SPILL RELIEF

Renowned pianist George Winston will perform a benefit concert at Loyola University New Orleans on February 19 to help families who have come to Catholic Charities for aid due to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.



George Winston in Concert
Saturday, February 19 at 7:30 PM
at Roussel Hall
on the campus of Loyola University New Orleans
Tickets \$40
Student/Staff/Faculty \$20
Tickets available online or by telephone:
<http://montage.loyola.edu> or 504-865-2074



To date, we have provided \$860,403 in food assistance and \$378,787 in direct financial assistance to 39,630 fishermen and their families along the coast. Mental health counselors have logged 13,588 visits with those struggling to cope with the disaster. Case managers continue to help fishermen with the often-confusing and time consuming claims process.

George Winston plays more than 100 solo piano concerts a year in America and beyond, inspired by the seasons. These concerts feature a variety of styles, including his melodic folk piano, stride piano, New Orleans R&B piano, Vince Guaraldi's Peanuts pieces, songs by The Doors and more. His new CD is titled *Love will Come – The Music of Vince Guaraldi, Vol. 2*.

Non-perishable food items for our affiliated ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, will also be accepted at the concert.



The POWER to Win \$1,000

Each month, our generous community partner Entergy Charitable Foundation will be giving \$1,000 to a worthy nonprofit agency. Want to help us win the money and help to get the word out about the great work that we do? All you have to do is go to www.facebook.com/thepowertocare each month and post an update on their wall about an event or program you attended, a photo, a success story that moved you, or any kind of info about Catholic Charities. Anyone can post!

And of course, don't forget to "like" Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans on Facebook for up-to-the-minute updates on our work, fundraisers, clients, advocacy and more.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES ON CAPITOL HILL

Tom Costanza, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Office of Justice and Peace, recently testified before the U.S. Senate Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery to plead for additional resources for local fishermen affected by the BP oil disaster. The committee, chaired by Senator Mary Landrieu, also heard from Gulf Coast Claims Facility Director Kenneth Feinberg and representatives of several social service agencies. The committee will evaluate the progress made and the challenges remaining for oil spill claimants and social service providers, such as Catholic Charities.

"Our fishermen are still suffering tremendous effects as a result of the BP oil spill. The claims process is cumbersome and doesn't weigh the unique and special needs of the fishermen. People can't wait any longer for help," said Costanza. He made several recommendations, including streamlining the claims process.

Sen. Landrieu praised Costanza and Catholic Charities for outstanding efforts to provide assistance to those impacted by the spill.

Catholic Charities continues to provide aid to fishermen and their families through five oil spill relief centers in Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Orleans Parishes.



Marching for Life in Baton Rouge

Catholic Charities staff and volunteers joined in the first Louisiana March for Life in Baton Rouge on January 22, the 38th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the U.S. Our representatives were among 3,000 people who turned out to commemorate the lives lost to abortion since the ruling.

Martin Gutierrez, Executive Director of Neighborhood and Community Services, and Michelle Black, Director of Pro-Life Services, led the local Catholic Charities contingent.



"It was truly energizing to see so many people come together to rally for life," said Gutierrez, who was accompanied by a number of young Catholic Charities supporters. "When the march started, the temperature was below freezing in Baton Rouge, but that didn't stop any of our staff and volunteers from participating."

"In our daily work, we encourage our clients to choose life," said Black. "It is so affirming to see so many others who support our point of view."

This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of ACCESS, a Catholic Charities program that provides free, confidential pregnancy testing, support and referrals for women facing an unplanned pregnancy. The program was founded in 1971 to give women a viable alternative to abortion and to provide support during their pregnancies.

WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Catholic Charities and our three affiliated ministries recently welcomed several new board members to help guide our organizations in 2011. Thank you to all of our current and former board members for your commitment to serving these humanitarian agencies of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Welcome to our new Catholic Charities board members: Terrel J. Broussard, John Hummel, Leon J. Reymond, Jr. and Dr. Elizabeth Fontham.

Welcome to our new PACE Greater New Orleans board member: Very Rev. Warren Cooper.



Welcome to our new Second Harvest Food Bank board members: James Carter, Bill Mohl, Sheila Sanderford, Anna Frachou, Steve Kuiper and Stephen Boh.

Welcome to our new Café Hope board members: Jerry Bologna, Earl Brandon, Jr., Lorraine McInnis, Stan Salathe and Fr. Otis Young.



Celebrating National Mentoring Month

Our affiliated ministry Café Hope recently hosted the New Orleans Kids Partnership Celebration of Mentoring event to recognize citywide mentoring as a part of January, National Mentoring Month.

The evening featured special guest speakers like Jefferson Parish President John Young, Judge Lee Faulkner and WDSU's Rachel Wulff. New Orleans area sports stars Mike McKenzie, Skyler Green and Marlon Favorite also made appearances to show their support for youth development in the New Orleans community.

About 130 partygoers enjoyed the sounds of the Soul Rebels Brass Band while dining on delicious food prepared and served by the students at Café Hope.

Café Hope and two Catholic Charities programs, Crescent House and Cornerstone Builders, rely on the guidance of mentors for children and young adults. Mentors need no experience or special skills – our only requirements are that you have a good attitude and are reliable.

If you're interested in becoming a mentor for a Catholic Charities program or affiliated ministry, please visit www.ccano.org/volunteers/mentoring or call (504) 310-6962.

Mike McKenzie, Marlon Favorite and Skyler Green with Café Hope students and staff.



Thank you for your second collection generosity

Catholic Charities would like to thank all parishes and parishioners of the Archdiocese of New Orleans for participating in our recent second collection. It is only with your help and collaboration that we can continue to serve the poor and vulnerable of our region.

If you missed the Catholic Charities Parish Appeal, held February 12-13, please consider donating through the enclosed remittance envelope or online at www.ccano.org.

Look for reports on how much the collection raised in future newsletters.