

Café Hope's BBQ Champions



Café Hope's second-annual Bright Futures Festival on March 3 brought out some serious carnivores to its barbecue championship. Team Gator Mc Klusky (pictured: Chris Cuccia, Jr., Mauricio Bustillo, Kathy Cuccia, Chris Cuccia, Louis Cuccia and Javier Bustillo) brought home the win for best barbecue.

Parish Appeal report

The second collection to raise undesignated funds for Catholic Charities took place at all Masses the weekend of February 11-12.

We are pleased to report that, as of March 26, the collection has raised \$182,265.65 with 86 of 110 Catholic Church parishes reporting. We expect to receive gifts from the rest of the parishes within the coming weeks. Thank you for generously contributing to this collection.



notes from the Heart

April 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Susan R. Johnson
Chairman

Byron A. Adams, Jr.
Sr. Anthony Barczykowski, D.C.
Shawn M. Barney
Robert S. Boh

Terrel J. Broussard
Charles P. Carriere IV
John L. Eckholdt
John J. Finan, Jr.

Dr. Elizabeth H. Fontham
Alejandro P. Gershanik
The Hon. Piper D. Griffin
Michael F. Hulefeld
John Hummel
Rev. James J. Jeanfreau
Wayne J. Lee

Michael O. Read
Leon J. Reymond, Jr.
Lloyd A. Tate
Sr. Sylvia Thibodeaux, S.S.F.

Joseph F. Toomy
Tommie A. Vassel
Qiana W. Wiggins
Roy Zuppardo

Gordon R. Wadge
President/CEO

Celebrating the 2011 ACA's success

Springtime in New Orleans is one of my favorite times of year. I enjoy it, not only because the weather is (usually) cool and pleasant, but also because spring is festival season! As we all know, festivals are part of the rich tradition of this community—they provide occasions to celebrate great things that are integral to our culture—like oysters, strawberries, and jazz. Without them, life wouldn't be as joyful and sweet.

At Catholic Charities we're celebrating this spring, too. For one, we're celebrating the success of the 2011 Archbishop's Community Appeal (ACA) campaign, under the leadership of its chairman, **David Andignac**. The campaign exceeded its **\$1.75M** goal and raised a total of **\$1,762,136**. Of course a campaign cannot succeed without hard working volunteers, and we're recognizing and celebrating our ACA volunteers who have given their time, talent and treasure to the campaign year after year. Special congratulations and thanks to **Dr. Ralph Dauterive** who has given **45 years of service** to the ACA!

ACA volunteers who are celebrating milestone years of service to the 2011 ACA campaign are as follows:

45 YEARS
F. Ralph Dauterive, D.D.S.

40 YEARS
Roy R. Alberts
Harold J. Lamy
G. Frank Purvis, Jr.
Michael O. Read

35 YEARS
A.J. Capritto
James M. Linn, Jr., D.D.S.

30 YEARS
Fred J. Lipps, Jr.

25 YEARS
Betty V. Lauricella

20 YEARS
David F. Andignac
Gayle M. Benson
Ralph P. Fontcuberta, Jr.

15 YEARS
John D. Becker
Susan R. Johnson
Timothy P. McLanahan

10 YEARS
Sharon R. Rodi

5 YEARS
Rita Benson LeBlanc
Robert L. Menard
Kristin Shannon
Eve A. Vavrick

There are so many great things happening at Catholic Charities, and with a turn of the page, you can learn about what else we're celebrating this spring.

Thank you, our donors and friends, for your partnership in our ministry. If we may be of assistance or service to you, please contact me personally at (504) 592-5688 or hsmith@ccano.org.

Helene Read Smith

Penn students experience interfaith New Orleans

Midway through the ten-year relationship between Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans and the University of Pennsylvania, both parties have reaped benefits. In early March, a group of 19 people involved with the Fox Fellowship program at Penn spent four days exploring the New Orleans area with an eye toward enjoying an interfaith learning experience.

Five undergraduates from Penn Hillel and five from Penn's Catholic Association, along with staff members and the five Fox Fellows currently assigned to New Orleans met with Archbishop Gregory Aymond, toured St. Louis Cathedral and Beth Israel Synagogue, rode an oyster boat in Pointe a la Hache and took a little time to explore New Orleans music and nightlife. The group attended Purim services at Shir Chadash Synagogue.

Four of the current group of five Fox Fellows assigned to Catholic Charities are rotating out of their New Orleans assignments. Nicole Dillard will begin the second year of her commitment. Erica Halpern has completed her assignment, but has chosen to remain on staff at Catholic Charities in the development office. Four new Fox Fellows will be arriving soon from the University of Pennsylvania to begin their two-year rotations.

The ten-year commitment between Penn and Catholic Charities began shortly after Hurricane Katrina, when the university agreed to send five fellows for two-year assignments to assist Catholic Charities in its recovery work. The students live in community and experience all that New Orleans and Catholic Charities have to offer.

Halpern says her two-year stint with Catholic Charities is an experience she'll never forget. "The opportunity that Penn and Catholic Charities have given to all of the fellows is an incredible one. It allows us to live in and experience a new city, to work for an organization and work with people who truly want to help others, and it gives us the opportunity to figure out our own path in life."



Easter Reflection

by Deacon Steve Ferran,
Vice President of Catholic Identity and Mission

Our Lenten journey is coming to an end. Our feet are being washed. We are walking with our scourged and weary Lord along the bloody steps to Calvary. Did we really shout "Crucify Him!?" We did. Our sins are laid bare. By his stripes we are healed. By his wounds we are made whole. By his dying we are reborn.

Our crucified and risen Lord loves us despite our sins and our failings. Through His love, may we be given the strength and the courage to welcome the poor and the stranger; to share our bread with the hungry; and to see Christ in the rejected and the vulnerable and say: "Be not afraid. I am with you. I will walk with you into the house of the Lord. The God who made us both has sent me to be with you. God has overcome sin and death. The Lord is risen, and He walks with us. Be not afraid. We are not alone!"

Crescent House brings hope to families

A few years ago, a young woman came to Crescent House, our domestic violence healing and empowerment center. She was only 23, but had been in an abusive relationship for ten years.

The violence she survived was brutal; in addition to verbal and emotional abuse, she suffered through severe beatings, strangulation and even rape. The abuse led to clinical depression, but she was unable to afford her medication and couldn't hold onto a job.

The abuse also affected the young woman's 3 year-old son and 1 year-old daughter. Her son was hyper vigilant and was suspicious of everyone he encountered. He also had difficulty sleeping. Her daughter was often irritable and hard to comfort.

Over the years, Crescent House provided counseling and group therapy for the young woman and play therapy for her children. We connected her with housing assistance, a mental health clinic for her depression, and support services including food, personal supplies and

occasional direct assistance. When this family first visited Crescent House, they were broken. Now, after more than two years, they are healthy and happy.

This family now lives in a stable and secure apartment. The young woman holds a job, which enables her to provide for her two young children. Her mental health has greatly improved, as has the well-being of the children. Her little boy has become an outgoing, happy boy and her daughter is learning new words every day.

This young family embodies the hope that Catholic Charities brings to the people we serve each day.

Spring Tours

On March 8, about 35 members and guests of St. Elizabeth's Guild visited two Catholic Charities programs they helped to fund: St. John the Baptist Head Start Center and Café Hope. The ladies enjoyed interacting with the 3-5 year-olds at St. John (pictured) and raved about the lunch at Café Hope. St. Elizabeth's Guild has supported



children and young adults at Catholic Charities for decades through fundraising events like their annual volunteer activist luncheon. If you're interested in getting involved with St. Elizabeth's Guild, please contact Suzette Herpich at (504) 296-6698 or suzieqkenner@aol.com.

THE HUMAN MATTRESS DROP



LaQuinta Inns & Suites recently held its annual conference in New Orleans, and to show its commitment to the City of New Orleans' plan to end homelessness, LaQuinta held the "Largest Human Mattress Domino Drop." This event, where 800 mattresses were set up to fall like dominoes, broke the record in The Guinness Book of World Records for the world's largest human mattress domino drop. After the drop, charities around the city received mattresses for clients. Catholic Charities received 162 mattresses for its programs, including Voyage House, Baronne Street Transitional Housing, Jefferson CARE Center, Hispanic Apostolate Community Services and St. Louise de Marillac Ministry.

ACCESS Pregnancy & Referral Centers was also on tour in March. On March 30, the Lenten Tour for Life visited all three ACCESS locations: Metairie, Bywater and Marrero, concluding with Mass and lunch at Café Hope.