



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF GALLUP

Happy those concerned
for the lowly and poor—
Ps. 41

Volume 3 Issue 1
FALL 2010

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ...



Dear Friends:

As I sit to write to you this quarter, there are many things I wish to share with you.

First, on Sept. 27 we, the Daughters of Charity who are the administrators for Catholic Charities of Gallup, celebrated the completion of the Jubilee Year of the 350th anniversary of the death of St. Vincent De Paul, Patron of Charity and St. Louise de Marillac, Patron of Social Workers.

In the 1600s, Vincent and Louise directed the attention of the public to the poor and most vulnerable of their time and, in doing so, gave birth to modern social institutions.

Today, the Vincentian Family comprises some 260 groups and institutions that share in the charism of Vincent and Louise. What holds these groups together "is the one mission of loving and serving those persons living in various forms of poverty and marginalization."

For more information on the Vincentian Family go to their web site: famvin.org.

Second, Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), our umbrella organization, founded

in 1910 celebrated its 100th anniversary. Did you know that Catholic Charities USA came into existence two years before New Mexico became a state? Three of us were privileged to attend this historic celebration in Washington, D.C.

During the Annual gathering, CCUSA for the first time drafted federal legislation. Sen. Robert P. Casey (D-PA) and Rep. James McGovern (D-MA) introduced The National Opportunity and Community Renewal Act (S.3854), a culmination of 12 months of work by CCUSA in their Centennial Year to identify innovative strategies existing in communities throughout the country that will serve to re-vamp our nation's approach to poverty prevention and alleviation.

Third, CCUSA served over nine-million persons living in poverty last year. Throughout the country, there was a 10 percent increase in the need for basic nutritional, housing and financial services. Recently we learned that one in every seven Americans lives in poverty and more New Mexicans (19 percent) are living in poverty. Only two states have a larger share of their population in poverty.

We here at Catholic Charities of Gallup, tucked away in the northwest corner of New Mexico and the northeast corner of Arizona, do not need the Census Bureau or Catholic Charities USA to tell us of the growing poverty in our country. We experience it daily in the lives and stories of the people who come through the doors of our agencies seeking assistance, many who are simply out of

options.

We struggled through 2009-2010. One agency went to a four-day workweek; there have been no cost-of-living increases; and some have taken time off without pay. But, we are blessed with dedicated and compassionate staff and volunteers who reach out with understanding and compassion and we are able to continue to minister to our brothers and sisters who are marginalized in our community.

THANK YOU, our friends and donors for your prayers and financial support

Sr. Kathleen Driscoll
Daughter of Charity



Sister Janet Cashman offers her reflections on the celebration in Washington, D.C. on page 7.

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Statue of St. Vincent de Paul from Our Lady of Providence Chapel at St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester Medical Center, Massachusetts.



Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki marked in Los Alamos

Find Catholic Charities of Gallup on Facebook

By Sr. Rose Marie Cecchini, MM

On July 30, I joined Pax Christi members and other nuclear disarmament advocates in commemorating the 65th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Los Alamos, birthplace of the atomic and nuclear bombs. The rallying themes expressed the hope of people worldwide: "65 Years Is Enough! Retire the Bomb! We Want a Nuclear Free World!"

All those taking part in the 65th commemoration shared deep concern and opposition over the current direction of the Obama administration which is moving ahead with the development of new nuclear weapon components at three key weapons facilities, while at the same time conducting a sweeping review of U.S. nuclear weapons policies. The new replacement facility in Kansas City will manufacture electrical and mechanical non-nuclear parts, with an estimated price tag of \$673 million for construction and \$1.2 billion over the next 20 years. The facility at Oak Ridge, TN plans to reinvest in its capability to produce uranium components for nuclear weapons.

Closer to home in New Mexico, the new Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Project building at Los Alamos



Laboratory plans to increase U.S. capability to produce plutonium pits, the core of a nuclear weapon, from 20 pits to 125 pits annually. The U.S. Senate has yet to approve of this increase.

Events began Friday evening with Bishop Gabino Zavala, President of Pax Christi, USA, at El Museo Cultural in Santa Fe. Pax Christi members from eastern and western states welcomed Bishop Zavala's words focusing on signs of hope and challenge in our ongoing work for worldwide nuclear disarmament. There is a gathering storm of hope, he said, heralding change, bringing powerful winds and life-sustaining waters. His message identified signs of hope for nuclear disarmament in the political and ecclesial spheres.

Saturday 9 a.m. — noon we gathered at Santa Maria de la Paz Church in Santa Fe, where Keith Beirbaum led us through three hours of non-violence training in preparation for our sackcloth and ashes disarmament vigil in Los Alamos that afternoon. At 2 p.m. a large crowd gathered at Ashley Pond in the center of Los Alamos for the opening blessing of the sackcloth and ashes each would receive.

Donning our "fair trade" coffee burlap bags, with a bag of ashes in hand, we began to process single file down Trinity Drive (named for the first atomic bomb tested at White Sands) until we had a line extending to the bridge leading to Los Alamos Laboratory.

This year our ranks were swelled by about 50 with youth from **Think Outside the Bomb**, the nation's largest youth-led network working for nuclear abolition. Hundreds of young people traveled from around the country to Los Alamos in small groups, stopping in towns along the way, holding events to raise awareness and enlist support for the movement to create a nuclear-weapons-free-world. It was truly an awesome sign of hope to witness these dedicated young people so committed to creating

a world free of weapons of mass annihilation. They are the future!

Together we sat along the sidewalk, in our circle of ashes, and joined in silent prayer and meditation for 30 minutes to repent of the death-dealing evils of war and nuclear weapons, imploring the God of Peace for the gift of total nuclear disarmament. Monsoon clouds hovered overhead and a gentle rain began to fall during our vigil, as a blessing on our prayers embracing the planet.

A closing ceremony back at Ashley Pond featured speakers, including Ellie who told us of her experiences on the flotilla bringing food and aid to the Palestinians, and how they were attacked by Israeli military. Music and singing added to the joyful atmosphere.



Gallup's Pax Christi members (Sr Rose Marie Cecchini, MM, Director of the Office of Life, Peace Justice and Creation Stewardship) on the right

The entire day, meeting and talking with deeply committed people working for peace, was infused with hope, new sources of life-giving energy, and a tangible sense of renewed commitment to continue the struggle for global nuclear disarmament.



Banner of Pax Christi New Mexico at Nuclear Disarmament and Peace rally in Los Alamos, NM

Man and beast shall be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; every man shall turn from his evil way and from the violence he has in hand. — Jonah 3:9



A view from the “Mountain”

White Mountain Catholic Charities

The fall season is about to cloak us. The trees are beginning to turn colors and God’s little creatures are scurrying around gathering for winter. We at White Mountain Catholic Charities continue to be extremely busy making the Arizona Homeless Prevention Rapid



Marge Keeto-Paxton, bookkeeper and Patricia Nix Case Manager prepare application for housing assistance.

Recovery Program (HPRP) work successfully in Navajo county.

We are currently training our new case worker, Trish.

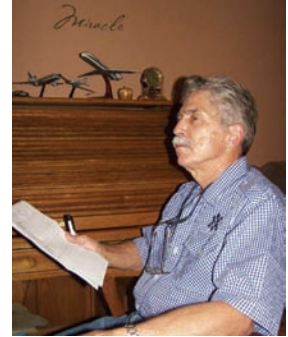
An example of how HPRP is being implemented is as follows:

A woman, her disabled, elderly mother and two adolescents entered an agreement by phone to rent a house in Pinetop . They arrived with all their worldly possessions in a 30-foot rental truck only to find that the house had been rented out by the landlord to a relative.

WMCC has been actively involved in getting them settled in a house they have subsequently selected. In the meantime WMCC also worked with the family to get the rental truck out of impound and to secure temporary housing in a motel.

We made sure that the home selected was within their household income. Then, a deposit, first and last month’s rent, was made. They are currently moving in.

This is one of many events that happens here on the Mountain.



Nelson French, Director of White Mountain Catholic Charities



“ Yes, we can help.”

Talbot House Chinle, AZ



We finally received our Emergency Food and Shelter Program monies from the Federal Government. Over the last few months we have been busy dispersing those funds, assisting with emergency payments of utilities and rent bills and emergency food boxes.

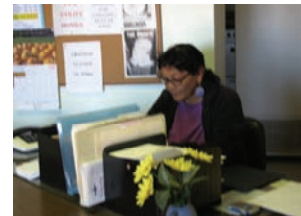
With our funds for Navajo County, we assisted 31 families (58 adults and 44 children) with utilities payments and 29 families (51 adults and 95 children) with emergency food boxes.

With our funding for Apache County we assisted 43 families (69 adults and 98 children) with utilities payments; one family (2 adults and 5 children) with rent and 12 families (20 adults and 37 children) with emergency food boxes.

What a blessing it is to see the grateful faces of the parents when we say: “ **Yes, we can help.**” Many of the families fell behind with payment

because of loss of a job or an unforeseen illness that put them out of work for a time.

One family in particular had a sick child who had to be taken back and forth to Phoenix for treatment. The mother had to give up her job to stay with the child. This put a burden on the family with mom being away and with the extra gas, food and hotel expenses. They were so grateful to receive utility assistance and a food box. We are happy to report that the child is home doing well and back in school.



Lottie Yazzie, receptionist / bookkeeper prepares EFSP emergency assistance applications



“I’m still not sure I believe in God—but would you teach me to pray this?”

At San Juan CC a rosary opens a clenched fist

Terry and his wife came to San Juan Catholic Charities in early June seeking assistance. To be accurate, it was Terry’s wife, Dee, who came inside to apply for assistance for the two of them.

Terry paced back and forth, inside and outside; one hand balled into a fist, the other hand taking the hard blows. We learned the reason for Terry’s anger from his wife.

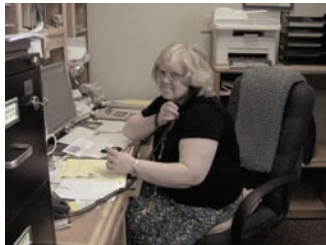
Two weeks before arriving at SJCC, Terry had lost his job. Understandably, Terry was upset. He searched for work every day, with no success. The

two had little money and no food, so they came to us for help.

Terry was angry because he could not provide for his family and his anger flared when he opened the door. Terry told us that he didn’t believe in God and didn’t feel “right” about coming to a Catholic agency. We told him our doors were open to all and we talked with them about our agency and other resources in the community.

Their food box was prepared and Dee said she would keep in touch, Dee did keep in touch.

Terry came back to see us a few months later, after encountering a traumatic incident. He was no longer filled with anger; instead he was crying. We went into an office to talk and he said: “I’m still not sure I believe in God—but would you teach me to pray this?” In his hand was a rosary.



Debe Betts, Director
San Juan Catholic Charities

San Juan CC holds an open house

On Aug. 14 San Juan Catholic Charities held an Open House!

All of our programs were featured. We displayed our recent history with a DVD presentation and photos. Drexel

House, the Drop-In Center, the Food Pantry—everything was



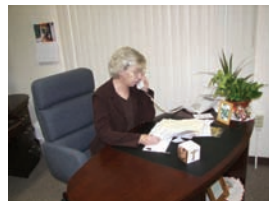
available for visitors to see!
Our residents, clients

and volunteers were present to talk with guests about programs.



Board members and staff gave tours all afternoon, soliciting feedback and support. We all had a great time.

Arizona law causes hardships for immigrants



By Sister Janet Cashman,
SCL Immigration Specialist

The title of this article is “legalize” for the new anti-immigrant law that went into effect in Arizona in July. Although some parts of the law were judged unconstitutional, everyone knows that Sheriff Joseph Arpaio of Maricopa County will continue to harass immigrants and deprive them of just and humane treatment. His

unjust treatment does not stop there. On the day the law went into effect, over 70 protesters of the law were arrested.

We need to remember at such times that the immigrants, both those with and those without documents are people with stories, hopes and dreams.

continued on page 5 . . .



Arizona law causes hardships for immigrants

continued from page 4 . . .

During the weeks leading up to the implementation of the law someone described Phoenix Hispanic neighborhoods as a giant yard sale. Those who were leaving Arizona for other states or to return to Mexico needed to rid themselves of excess baggage. What was left over was loaded into their vans or trucks for the long journey to someplace different.

One such immigrant passed through Gallup. He related that it even became dangerous for them to be seen driv-

ing down the highway with their cars loaded. That became a sign that they were illegal and they would be stopped by law enforcement and arrested. Others were arrested for their "illegal presence" at the US-Mexican border as they were trying to return to Mexico.

Just two years ago Catholic Charities Immigration Services was preparing to assist the many who would benefit from passage of comprehensive immigration reform. Now instead we are trying to assist those who even in New Mexico

are stopped by members of the local law enforcement for minor traffic violations, taken to jail and put on ICE hold. That is one step away from deportation unless the person has the resources for hiring a lawyer.

You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt—Exodus 22:20

Life made whole at Holbrook

Catholic Charities Good Shepherd Center – Holbrook, AZ

Being homeless puts you in touch with a variety of people; some with sad stories, some with drinking and drug problems, some violent and some just wandering from place to place with no purpose. One such person has been in touch with this seamy side of life in our community for many years.

"Susan" comes from a family that was church-going and capable. Her grandmother was a lovely Catholic Native American woman who was educated in the early days at St. Michael's. "Susan", herself, is capable of doing many responsible tasks. One day in the DES office she helped her fellow street people fill out forms.

"Susan" would often come by Catholic Charities for a plate of food or a change of clothes. Many times she was

"under the weather" at the time and would cuss out Sister M Bernard, our director, in the saltiest language she could muster. However it never stopped her from coming to talk to Sister when she was sober just to unburden herself. Her trust in Sister was evident, when at her worst moment, Sister Bernard was the only one who would listen to her.

"Susan" had an accident which left her with a broken leg. The local Indian Hospital simply treated it and sent her on her way. Her "way" was nowhere as she had nowhere to sleep that night. She came to Sister with an infection. Sister took her in; fed her; and saw that she had a decent place to stay where she would feel safe.

Then Sister Bernard began the process of getting her into the Campus of Care in Winslow where she could recuperate until her leg was healed.

Among other Native Americans, "Susan" felt at home. The time there gave her an opportunity to overcome her desire and need for alcohol.

When she was released, Sister picked her up physically as well as spiritually. "Susan" had a taste of a new and different life, one that gave her a sense of belonging and dignity. She was set up in an apartment and invited to come every day to be here at Catholic Charities until she felt sure of herself.

She managed to get a variety of cleaning and dishwashing jobs. She began to like her new life and felt she had her dignity again. She and her sister, who worked at a local office, had been estranged for the many years "Susan" was on the street. Slowly but surely this relationship began to heal.

"Susan" now lives in her apartment and does regular work for
See Becoming whole on pg. 8 . . .



Children from area enjoy their summer camp activities at Good Shepherd Center in Holbrook.

"Susan" had a taste of a new and different life, one that gave her a sense of belonging and dignity."



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 4, 2010

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Sacred Heart Cathedral Family Center



Admission - a new toy per family

All toys are put in our Christmas Shop where parents can purchase these new items for a reduced price.

We believe there is pride in saying "I bought this for my child."

Toys and financial donations are accepted for this project.



Nailing down roof repairs and passing grades at Casa San Jose



Several evenings during our wonderful monsoon season this year, there were pots and pans on and by the kitchen table. This has been a sore spot for several years and we thought we had found that little leak and redid the ceiling in the kitchen twice. Father Henry, our volunteer from Kansas, will have a 'fit' when he reads this. He does not want to do another roof after doing three with his youth.

This little leak, however, has expanded to the dining room, so we've had pots and pans there too. However, one evening at the dinner table, a resident noted that the bowl under a light in the ceiling fan

was filled with water. Needless to say, we have not used that light since.

We are seeking any group of youth and adults who could rebuild that side of the roof. It slopes very badly in front. The back section of that roof was rebuilt in about 1996 by the America Corps Group. We plead for any ideas to permanently fix this "little leak".

Our garden grows by leaps and bounds as our youth successfully complete their high school and GED programs. Youth, who have been out of school, are demonstrating how to succeed with the support of oth-

ers.

Two such youth are Martha and Mary, who successfully completed their GED's in September and are living in a safe and secure home. They completed the Casa programs in Recovery and Resiliency for Substance Abuse, their life skill program and their probation agreements.

Like Martha, one resident had to work very hard while Mary, the other, just took her time but both youth and their children will benefit from this achievement. We may not be able to see how this garden will produce but others will.



Catholic Charities USA Centennial Celebration

By Sister Janet Cashman, SCL

I had the privilege, along with Sisters Kathleen and Mary, to participate in the Catholic Charities USA national conference celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The event started with the celebration of Mass at the National Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I. current president of the USCCB was the main celebrant. He was accompanied by numerous Bishops, priests and faithful representing nearly all diocesan Catholic Charities in the US.

There followed two days of encouraging and inspiring presentations by known speakers including Cardinal Paul Josef Cordes, President of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum at the Vatican and Rev. Larry Snyder,

President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA. Also, during these two days numerous individuals were awarded a Centennial Medal in recognition of their dedication and contribution to the service of Catholic Charities. At break-out sessions, we were able to concentrate on learning more about a specific area of service.



As a part of its centennial celebration Catholic Charities USA prepared a piece of legislation that has been introduced into the US Senate by Sen. Robert Casey of Pennsylvania and into the House of Representatives by Rep. James McGovern

of Massachusetts. The legislation is known as the Community Renewal and Opportunity Act. Its aim is to reduce poverty by 50% by the year 2020 through putting flexibility in monies received from the federal government for those in need.

At this time the money received is designated for one particular area such as food, education, or transportation. If this legislation is approved, the money received could be utilized in a more holistic manner. For example a client who needs help with food could also receive help with transportation to be able to get to a job.

On Tuesday, all participants visited their respective Senators and Representatives advocating for this legislation. The three of us from New Mexico were received by staff and were honored to be received by Rep. Ben Ray Lujan.

Since this is our last newsletter before the Holidays, the staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities of Gallup wish to extend to all



Happy Thanksgiving



**Blessed Christmas
and**

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



Happy those concerned for the lowly and poor—Ps. 41

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Good Shepherd Center in Holbrook

Becoming whole from page 5 . . .

a company that prepares and cleans houses that are being built or renovated. She enjoys her new, clean appearance and better clothes which are part of the donations given to CC in Holbrook.

With the little money she makes she has saved enough to buy one of the donated bikes. Her leg has healed completely and she enjoys coming by on her bike to see Sister and be renewed in friendship and acceptance.

Aside from our core program of helping people in need of monetary assistance, Good Shepherd Center is home

to many of the area's young children. Forty children enjoyed our summer camp program last June as is evidenced by the happy faces around the new table and bench combination units near the play yard that were donated by our Bishop James Wall. Teachers from St. Louis have looked forward to coming here each summer for over ten years to donate their services to this project.

In addition there is the Back Pack giveaway at the beginning of school and the Angel Tree program, beginning soon, to help youngsters in financially strapped families to have a nice Christmas. The community of Holbrook has been very gener-

ous in this regard.

All of our extra programs are carried on by volunteers such as Cathy who does English as a Second Language classes three times a week for those in need of language skills to apply for citizenship.

Teens are regular visitors, especially those seeking help in getting their GED. Catholic Charities in Holbrook helps people in need and welcomes those people who wish to use their skills and generosity to help others.



Children from area enjoy their summer camp activities at Good Shepherd Center in Holbrook.