



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF GALLUP

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

Volume 2 Issue 2
FALL 2009

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ...



Dear Friends,

As you read our Fall issue, we are moving through a time of soaring unemployment; we are responding to the unmet needs of persons who are poor; and witnessing a rising number of persons coming for help with food, utilities, housing, and other needs.

As the mornings are becoming colder, our Drop-In Center Breakfast

Program for persons who are homeless was opened Oct. 5. Within two days we went from 17 guests to 50 as the word spread. Without the help of our generous donors and volunteers it would not be possible to serve our guests.

Our six agencies that have programs assisting people directly continue to see an increase in first-time clients, who are experiencing difficult times, have lost jobs, and those who need ongoing support.

With decreases in funding, our office in Chinle, AZ will move to a four-day-a-week schedule to avoid letting staff go and to continue outreach to people in need on the Navajo Reservation.

As we enter the

holiday season we ask for donations of new sweat-shirts, warm hats, gloves and socks for our homeless people.

Our "Breakfast with Santa" program invites families for breakfast. The admission is a new toy for our Christmas shop. This provides a community outreach for young people from Gallup Catholic School who provide activities for the children attending, along with their parents and Santa.

The donated toys are placed in our Christmas Shop, a part of our thrift store. The donations offer low-income parents the opportunity to select new toys that they could not otherwise afford for their children. (see Executive Director's page 3 ...)

Catholic Charities in White Mountain has new home and an increased workload ...

For many years Catholic Charities' home in the White Mountains was located in McNary.

The office was about five miles from the bus stop and our clients had to walk to get to us.

With the generous

donation of Fr. Dan and the parishioners at St Mary of the Angles Parish in Pinetop, AZ and the St. Vincent DePaul Society, we have a newly-renovated facility near the bus stop. We are now more accessible to the people we serve.

Thank you to all who made this possible!

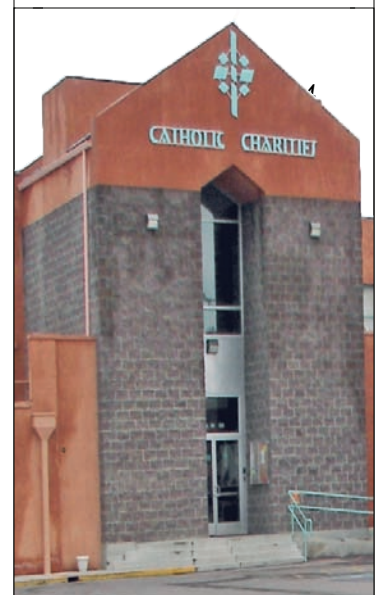
Our food banks have been a great help to our families with this tough economy and we have seen a 30% -40% (See White Mountain page 2 ...)

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White Mountain CC has a new home . . .



Bishop Wall meets with staff of White Mt. CC

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increase in persons seeking help this year. We have given out 75,338 pounds of food which we couldn't have done without our wonderful volunteers both in the food banks and the office.

This year so far we have assisted 383 clients with utilities, rent, food and other needs; 255 were people we have never seen before or who have never received prior assistance of

any kind. The staff at White Mountain also began a program to offer

"Swine Flu (H1N1) Protection Packets." *(See photo below)*



Talbot House says good-bye to multi-talented volunteers

Robert (Bob) and Margie Hake from Rochester, MN. They are the parents of three grown daughters. They discerned a call to give a year of service to the people of God. Through the Franciscan Volunteer Program Bob and Margie arrived in Chinle, AZ in late Aug. 2008.

Margie worked in the parish thrift store, sorting through bags and bags of donations; organizing and reorganizing the shelves and the storage in the back room; and washing much of the donated clothing. Margie also played the piano for the Saturday evening Mass, taught in the religious education program for children, and the adult RCIA program. Near the end of the year of service, Margie also worked in the food bank.

Bob was a "jack of all trades." He worked in the many different AA programs at Talbot House. He taught a class at Many Farm High School on drug and alcohol prevention, did some individual counseling, taught a parenting class, attended AA meetings, provided some counseling classes at the jail and was a liaison with many community groups. Bob was also on the road a lot, delivering food to Pinon; clothing to the distant Chapter Houses; and providing transportation for some elderly folks he met along the way. He also spent many hours working the food bank.

Bob and Margie both spent several Sunday's calling Bingo for Our Lady Fatima Parish.

The year of service has ended and Margie and

Bob left Chinle in early Sept. 2009, heading back to Rochester. They will be celebrating the marriage of a daughter in November.

Nothing was too small or too big for them to tackle. Their hearts were open and they responded to whatever need arose.

What a blessing Margie and Bob were to the works of Talbot House Catholic Charities and Our Lady Fatima Parish.

We wish them well and call upon the Great Spirit to bless them as they continue to serve God's people.



Margie and Bob Hake

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink — Matt 25:35



More than three decades of service reaps benefits at Casa San Jose in Grants

This year marks 34 years of caring for pregnant and parenting teen mothers and their children at Casa San Jose in Grants, NM.

Casa San Jose has been an alternative to abortion, jail, abuse and homelessness.

After a referral and interview, teen mothers arrive at Casa and begin their journey in school as well as living with others, participating in new experiences and succeeding in what they do.

Casa has group sharing as well as independent apartments for older teens who need to learn to live on their own.

Casa welcomes

teen moms or pregnant teens from ages 13 to 21.

Education is important .

Amy, Brittany, Tina and Heather graduated with their GED and are living and working on their own. They keep in touch and are trying to succeed in a world that is difficult for single moms.

Cheryl is working as a nurses aide with a nursing certificate and is planning on going on to college for her nursing degree within the year.

Meshia completed one year of high school in six months.

Micolleen graduated with honors and re-

ceived numerous awards completing the eighth grade. Before coming to Casa she had not been attending school.

Juanita, a former resident, visited Casa San Jose this summer and was so please to see Casa again. She has an 18-year-old daughter who was born at Casa, and she wanted to bring her to see where she lived. Juanita is married with two other children and still feels a connection with Casa's programs.

Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. — Matt 25:40



Executive Director's letter continued ...

(From page one . . .)

We ask that you consider helping us bring hope to those in need; to remember all our sites in your prayers; and if you are able, consider supporting us financially.

In living out our baptismal call to share God's love we are inspired by the words of Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical letter, **Charity in Truth:**

“Charity--- is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity--- Charity goes beyond justice and completes it in the logic of giving---Openness to God makes us open toward our brothers and sisters and towards an understanding of life as a joyful task to be accomplished in solidarity—it gives us courage to keep

working for the benefit of all”

On behalf of our sisters and brothers who are part of the Catholic Charities of Gallup family, we thank you and daily pray for you and your needs.

*Sister Kathleen Driscoll
DC*

Executive Director



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Drop-In Center in Farmington gets new manager

Fifteen years ago Ron Love came to Catholic Charities to apply for the job of managing the Drop-In Center for persons who are homeless. Ron offered to do this for just one year.

After 15 years Ron, at age 79, is retiring. Prayers and best wishes Ron. We know we will see you around from time to time! The members of the Drop-In Center had a party for Ron Sept. 30.

Welcome to Betty Newton who worked with Ron in his first years and is now back to overseeing the Drop-In.

The Drop-In Cen-

ter averages 1,500 persons per month, offering a hardy breakfast, snacks, coffee and a place to be warm, socialize, read and receive help.

Drexel House, our transitional housing program for families who are homeless, celebrated one graduate who was able to work on her skills, find a job and a home after spending only nine months in the program.

Good work and congratulations!

With the help of the parishioners at St. Mary's Parish and Sacred Heart Parish we have been

able to provide 337 food boxes to those in need so far this year. Since January we have seen an increase in the number of person coming for help.

Thank you all for your donations. We could not have done this without you.

Welcome back to Juanita Madrid who completed her social work internship at Catholic Charities in May. Congratulations on obtaining your BS degree! Juanita is now working toward accreditation with CLINIC-- as well as obtaining her MSW.



Catholic Charities – Farmington

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him? – James 2:5