



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF GALLUP

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

Volume 2 Issue 4
SUMMER 2010

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR . . .



Dear Friends:

"The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. . . None of the members were ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles, it was then distributed to any member who might be in need. (Acts: 32-35)

This scripture passage was lived out in our presence this winter.

A supporter of Catholic Charities in Gallup wrote to his sister in Maryland about the hard winter and our need for warm clothing. His sister spread the word to her friends and church by e-mail and before you knew it, we were receiving boxes of warm winter clothing and checks to purchase additional needed items for our people here in the different agencies of Catholic Charities.

"The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul. . ."

June 30 marked the end of our fiscal year and all of our agencies ended the year in the black. The new fiscal year, sees two of our agencies losing their Arizona State Housing Grants because of budget cuts in the state. These agencies have worked with this grant

for over 18 years, keeping families in their homes. The staffs are very sad because now they have less funds to support clients to remain in their home with rent and utility assistance. They are looking for other grants and funding sources to compensate for this loss.

The staff in our Immigration Office and the Office of Life, Peace, Justice and Creation Stewardship are working hard on many social justice issues that affect immigrants, water, and the rights of indigenous people. Please check out our web site for details. (catholiccharitiesgallup.com)

The staff of Catholic Charities of Gallup, wishes you all a blessed summer.

*Sr. Kathleen Driscoll
Daughter of Charity*

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Holbrook Catholic Charities has new home



After a long wait, Good Shepherd Center in

Holbrook has a new home. Sister Bernard Derayunan, RSG, director, has called the location of a new building at the price that could be paid "a miracle."

On May 19, 2010 people from the area gathered as Bishop James S. Wall of the Diocese of Gallup blessed the new building.

The purchase of the new facility to help those in need in Arizona is another example of the generosity of people like you who support the work of Catholic Charities of Gallup. Your decision to be Christ to others through the work of this agency is the "miracle" that made the new center possible (more on page 5)



Bishop Wall blesses the new Good Shepherd Center in Holbrook, Ariz. on May 19, 2010.



San Juan Catholic Charities

By Debe Betts

Drexel House, our transitional housing, received its first audit from HUD. We received an excellent evaluation and were encouraged to apply for another three-year grant.



Our three participating families joined up with *Fishing with Kids* and went fishing and camping.

A great time was had by all. Keep an eye on the web site to enjoy the pictures.

Drop-In Center

His name is Bill, but his friends call him Bear. He is tall, 6'5", big and broad and he always wears farmer overalls and work boots.

Bear is quiet and shy and isn't comfortable when there's a lot of noise around.

Bear is one of our regular visitors at SJCC's Drop-In Center. It has taken 14 months to get to know him — a little.

He grew up on a farm, likes the out-of-doors, was drafted for Vietnam and came home physically and psychologically wounded.

He had medals of valor, but the medals were stolen long ago. He suffers from homelessness and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

(continued below . . .)

"Any day you wake up with the sun in your eyes is a good day."

(continued from above . . .)

Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.—Luke 12:32-34

I like Bear's philosophy: Simple yet profound, and indeed with God's grace, very true.

"Any day you wake up with the sun in your eyes is a good day."

And then there is Silvia. She too is a regular at the Drop-In. She looks old and withered, but she is in her mid sixties. Silvia is a walker. She must clock over five miles a day. Silvia has no home and she usually sleeps at a friend's, if there is room. We take special care of her, especially because she is Navajo and speaks very little English. We worry about her because she walks the street at night.

These are just two of the many stories from the clients of our Drop-In Center Program.

With the coming of summer, SJCC is the only morning program to assist the homeless.

Last quarter we served **4,013** clients; we expect we will serve more during the hot summer months.

**"MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
GOOD!"**



Our **Advisory Board** undertook its first fundraiser – a Breakfast Burrito Sale at St. Mary's Church in Farmington.

We netted \$1,060. Many thanks to all the board members.

Thank You!

We want to thank our many friends. Without your generous donations of time, talent and treasure, we would not be able to do our work.



Volunteers work at the SJCC Food

We ask you to keep us in prayer, all the Bills and Silvias, for they represent all the other people who call the Drop-In Center home.

Contact SJCC at 505-325-3734.





Talbot House recounts a successful winter

It seems like yesterday that we were complaining about the cold, snow, ice and now look it's ninety degrees and we are asking . . . why so hot?

The staff at Talbot House continues to provide peaceful, compassionate and supportive service to the clients who come through the doors.

Over the course of the last three months, we received our share of the Emergency food and shelter funds from Navajo and Apache Counties. We have seen a total of about 40 clients whom we have assisted with rent, food and utilities.

Their stories will touch your heart:

A gentleman was working full time until his diabetes started affecting his

eyesight. He is almost completely blind and is unable to drive or do paperwork. He got behind in his utilities and we were able to assist with his current utility bill. He was very gracious and more than thankful.

Grandma came in also looking for assistance with her utility bill. She was not working and caring for her four grandchildren under the age of nine. After assisting her, she kept blessing and thanking us for helping her.

A young mother with seven adopted children, recently separated from her husband. She came to see us one day. Because of the separation she had gotten behind in many of her bills and she had car troubles. We were able to assist her with her utility bill and funds to get the car repaired.

During the winter months we were able to provide substance abuse aware-

ness classes to some student at one of the local high schools.

Our AA meetings continue to be successful and the members of the Canyon De Chelly AA group are preparing the their annual AA round-up on June 18, 19, 20 in the Canyon. Folks come from all over the area to tour the canyon and hold their AA meeting in the canyon. The staff is busy with registration and preparations for a raffle and a Saturday evening dinner for the participants.

Finally, this agency has been without a local director for two years. Please keep us in your prayer as we continue our search for a new director.



Talbot House, Chinle, Ariz.

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



Catholic Charities Gallup: Tax Help NM

Tax Help New Mexico

By Sr. Mary Thurlough

From Feb. 1 through April 15, as partners of Tax Help New Mexico, I coordinated the filing of state and federal taxes for low-income and elderly persons in New Mexico and Arizona. Five volunteers took the test and were certified to provide free e-filing through Tax Wise and where able to provide financial advice. We filed a total of 501 State and Federal Taxes.

One lady came this year after finding that she had filed last year with a pay day loan company and not only

paid for filing, but received a loan that she was unable to pay off and the percentage kept going up.

A Navajo woman was doing her own taxes as she is unable to pay someone to file for her. This year she calculated money owed to the IRS. In checking her 1040 and her W2's we found she should receive a refund. She was so happy that we were able to e-file her return and she received her full refund. We were also able to correct and amend her last three years of taxes she had filed so she could receive a corrected refund.

We are but small fish in the statewide Tax Help New Mexico pond.

We are proud to report that Tax Help New Mexico (THNM) had the following outcomes for the 2009 tax year.

Active sites: 35
Customers served: 21,880
Returns prepared: 32,615
Dollars returned:
\$19,053,712.00
Preparation fees saved:
\$3,488,450.00

There is more news from Gallup on the back page . . .





Renew America's water



Our public water systems have provided reliable access to drinking water and safe disposal of waste for more than one hundred years, yet crisis looms. When Congress passed the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that our waterways were protected and our drinking water safe, they provided increased funding for community water systems to meet these more protective standards.

However, since the 1980's, the federal government has been cutting back funding to

communities for water infrastructure . . . at the same time, many of our nation's water systems that were built in the early Twentieth Century are reaching the end of their lifespan, unless there are repairs to pipes and water systems that keep our waters clean and safe. This lack of investment in communities' water infrastructure poses a danger to the environment and threatens the safety of our water for future generations.

The campaign to Renew America's Water will create a dedicated source of federal

funding, which will improve water quality, protect the environment, create good jobs and ensure safe, reliable water for generations to come..

For more information or to have your voice heard on this issue go to:

www.foodandwatereatch.org



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

Greetings from the White Mountains!

The snow has long since left us, the sun is shining, the flowers blooming and the wind is blowing hard. As always it is wonderful to be able to help the people of the White Mountains especially in these difficult economic times.

Through the Homeless Prevention Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) grant we have been able to assist three families who, without this assistance, would have been homeless.

In our first family, a mother had a job, but with the economy her hours were cut. The loss of pay resulted in several months of unpaid rent and the landlord served her with an eviction notice. Through HPRP we were able to pay the back rent and pay rent for several more months to get her and her daughter back on their feet. The mother's hours have increased and the daughter has secured full-time employment. Their income is at a level now that

they can afford to pay their bills.

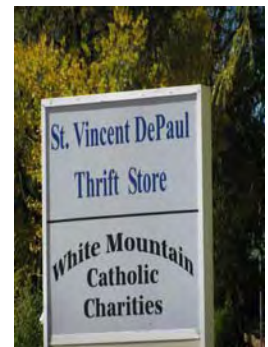
Our second family had a series of events that led to their near homelessness. The mother had a high-risk pregnancy which caused her to be air lifted down to Phoenix many times and resulted in husband losing his job. The wife needed constant care and having no family in town, the care fell on the husband. We are proud to announce that baby Sidney was born on Dec. 21, 2010, a little underweight but otherwise beautiful and healthy. The family has since exited our program thankful for the "hand up".

Our third participant is a single mother of three who through some bad choices was homeless. With the HPRP program we have her and her children in a safe home and with the guidance of our director, Nelson French, she is receiving much-needed life skills.

The HPRP program is very time consuming with all the rules and regulations, but it has been worth the effort to help these families back on the track to sustainability. Sustainability is and always has been our goal for our clients. While we sadly cannot assist all the people who come our way, we have as Mother Theresa said, "let them know someone sincerely cares for them"



White Mountain Catholic Charities Office in Pine Top, Ariz.



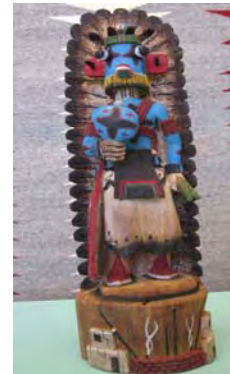


What's on sale at Native Hands?

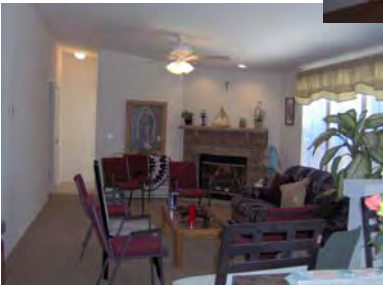
Native Hands Co-Op, located in the Catholic Indian Center Building in Gallup, provides workshops for Native American artisans, a place for them to work on their pottery, jewelry and art work and provides opportunity for them to sell their wares at an appropriate price either in the store or online.

Featured here are a few of the items that you can find at the co-op. For more information contact:

nativehands@catholiccharitiesgallup.com



Holbrook's 'miracle' house dedication, May 2010



Find Catholic Charities of Gallup on **Facebook**. Go to our web page and follow the link: catholiccharitiesgallup.com



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

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More news from Catholic Charities Gallup ...

Drop in Center

From Oct. 1 through April 10, we opened the center for a hot breakfast and warm place for homeless persons during the very cold mornings in the high desert.. From 6:15 a.m. until 8 a.m. Monday through Friday, twelve volunteers served an average of 60 men and women, listened to them and offered help, referrals.

Thanksgiving and Christmas mornings they were served a special breakfast and received a gifts of warm sweatshirts, gloves and personal items.

We served 6,249 homeless persons from Oct.

through April 15. This was 745 more meals than the previous year.

Those whom we serve are very grateful, and never leave without a sincere thank you.

Many have said they like coming to us because we show kindness and respect to them as persons.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

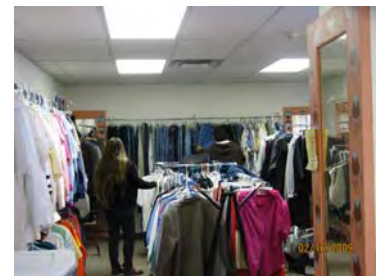
On May 21 a volunteer thank-you dinner was held at Sammy C's for the 5 volunteers from the tax help program and the twelve volunteers from the breakfast drop-in program for homeless

persons. We celebrated 1,127 hours of volunteer service.

Special "I Volunteer" shirts with the Catholic Charities Logo were made for each of the volunteers.



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



Shopping at the clothes closet at Catholic Charities of Gallup.