Catholic Charities
Diocese of Paterson

Annual Report
2007
Dear Friends in Christ:

In *Gaudium et Spes*, The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, His Holiness Paul VI tells us “The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ...”. Later in that same document, his Holiness tells us “there is no more eloquent expression of [our] solidarity” with the poor than to “throw the light of the Gospel upon their problems and supply humanity with the saving resources which the church has received”. Jesus teaches us: This is how all will know you for my disciples; your love for one another” (John 13:35).

Our Catholic Charities Agencies see the “grief and anguish” of the poor and afflicted every day. Where they see grief or anguish they provide “saving resources” that offer help and provide hope. In so doing we all stand in solidarity with the poor as one human family. The report that follows is a story of discipleship at Catholic Charities. It records the love of our Catholic Charities Agencies and of the people of our Diocese for the poor and the marginalized and in so doing affirms our discipleship of Jesus.

As you read this report you will learn of the many and varied programs and services available to people in need all across Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties, some extending even beyond those geographic boundaries. I commend this report to you; invite your prayerful reflection on all that has been accomplished and that has yet to be accomplished; and ask your prayers for those in need and those who serve.

I continue to be most grateful to all the staff at Catholic Charities and to all who support them. They and you are a wonderful gift to the Church of Paterson. Together we will turn grief and anguish into joy and hope.

With every best wish, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, STD, SSL, DD
Bishop of Paterson
In his message to us Bishop Serratelli references a Vatican II Document, *Gaudium Et Spes* which reminds us that the grief and anguish of the poor is the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ. Further, Bishop Serratelli quotes from the Gospel of St. John “this is how all will know you for my disciples; your love for one another”.

Those references, *Gaudium Et Spes* and the Gospel of St. John, are good news and bad news for us, surely though, more good than bad. The bad news is that today in the world, New Jersey, and Morris, Passaic, and Sussex Counties many are poor, have no housing or inadequate housing, are hungry, suffer from addiction or other medical problems and cannot access treatment, do not have a pair of gloves or a winter coat, or are alone feeling unloved and unwelcome. In Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties in 2007 there were over 100,000 people living in poverty of which almost 28,000 were children; there were over 1,500 people including children who were homeless on any given winter day; almost 25,000 children depended on food stamps for their daily food.

The good news is that the work of Catholic Charities with the support of the people of the Diocese evidences our shared love for the poor and marginalized and that we accept the responsibility of discipleship. This report is our accounting to our supporters, our clients and the local community of those served and services provided. While we rejoice in the good news that tens of thousands of people in need were cared for again this year, we are disheartened that there are many in need who are unaware of our services, and sadly some that had to be referred out due to a lack of resources.

So, please read this report cover to cover. Become more familiar with our Agencies and programs and the life affirming and saving work that goes on in them across Morris, Passaic, and Sussex Counties daily. Pray for those in need. Pray for our paid and volunteer employees. And consider making a phone call. As you read this report, why don’t you identify one agency or one particular program about which you would like to learn a little more than you already know. When you do that, please call the Executive Director responsible for that program or Agency, introduce yourself and ask to come in for a tour and visit. We would be honored to host a visit.

Peace.

Joseph F. Duffy
Executive Secretary for Catholic Charities
Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) began its Campaign to Reduce Poverty in 2007. This is a multi-year effort intended to reduce poverty in the US by 50% by the year 2020. CFCS is committed to this Campaign. Throughout the year CFCS has been informing people of the extent of poverty in Morris, Passaic, and Sussex Counties. Each CFCS department is working on plans to address the goal of reducing poverty from within their own service capabilities. This effort will be ongoing for years to come.

The Campaign comes at the right time, though at a challenging time. Our economy has slowed. Government funding for social service programs is shrinking. The poor are getting poorer. It is the perfect time to commit to reduce poverty. While government funds are shrinking the needs of the poor are growing, thus, the challenge. Our role as advocates for the poor is more important than ever.

The number of people provided food assistance through our Emergency Services Department and the amount of food given increased by double digits this year. More people were provided emergency shelter than last year. Sadly the number of people provided utility assistance was reduced for lack of funding. A mild winter helped us avert a catastrophe.

In 2008 our Emergency Services staff will distribute basic information packets to include vital information to reduce poverty; e.g., food stamp information and applications, utility assistance applications, Earned Income Tax and Child Care Credit information and applications, NJ Family Care and more. These packets will be distributed at other points of entry within CFCS such as our Aging Services offices, our Partnership for Social Services Family Center in Franklin and our many children and youth programs.

Our Marian AIDS Ministry/Marian Outreach of Mercy is moving in new directions. Sister Maria Whilifer expanded outreach efforts to include clients seriously ill with any diagnosis, and women who are incarcerated. We offer pastoral care, family support, information and referral assistance to our clients in the hospital, nursing home, the homebound and those who are incarcerated.

Our Adoption and Counseling service celebrated a milestone this year, its 60th anniversary. Over the past 60 years we have completed 1,920 adoptions. Under the leadership of Fr. Tom McGrath the anniversary was observed via a multi-month outreach effort to hospitals, high schools and parishes informing them of our services and culminating in an open house celebration in November attended by over 50 adoptive parents and their children. We also introduced a new adoption service website: www.adoptionscfcs.org.

Our Aging Services Department has experienced some significant change. Our Paterson office Director, Phyllis Anderson has begun a parish outreach effort to inform parishes of our services in hopes of identifying elderly persons who could benefit from them. Carolyn Gerri, the Coordinator of our Project LINC office successfully relocated that office to shared space at St. Mary Parish in Pompton Lakes. Project LINC is our upper Passaic County senior outreach office. This move affords us the opportunity to
establish a closer working relationship with the Parish’s outreach services and to identify local seniors in need of service. Our Director of Aging Services, Pat Reidy-Ebert worked to increase funding from Sussex County for our Meals on Wheels and Congregate Nutrition programs. Sadly we closed our Kilroy Residence for seniors. Despite our marketing efforts, the census there shrunk so that we concluded there was not sufficient need for the service.

Our Mount St. Joseph Children’s Center under the leadership of Pat Verduin and her staff continues to improve its facilities and services for boys with behavioral disabilities. A new computer room was outfitted with flat screen PCs supported by a grant from the John Victor Machuga Foundation. The Knights of Malta provided funding to create a Music Room. The Learning for Life Curriculum (from the Boy Scouts of America) was incorporated into our curriculum. After-school clubs were expanded. Educational and recreational trips were expanded. Some trip destinations included the Newark Museum, NJ Botanical Garden, Space Farm and Zoo, NJ Naval Museum, Pequest Trout Hatchery, NJ Marine Sciences Consortium, and the Fosterfields Living Historical Farm.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY SERVICES
Aging Services: Our Kilroy Residence provided 1,303 days of service for 7 clients; transport services for 262 persons totaling 3,008 trips; 145 adult day care clients received 10,576 days of service; 21,374 congregate meals provided to 435 persons; 17,034 meals on wheels delivered to 200 persons; 530 elderly residents in Passaic County received 5,279 visits as part of our outreach and case management service.
Legal Services: 663 families were provided with direct legal representation. Consultations were provided to an additional 381 people.
Emergency Services: 3,284 people received 17,383 meals; 393 persons received rental assistance; 1,013 people received assistance with utility bills; 162 families were provided emergency shelter.
Marian AIDS Ministry/Marian Outreach of Mercy: 27 seriously ill clients, 18 clients diagnosed with AIDS, and 72 incarcerated women received these services.
Community Outreach: Served 355 clients residing in Paterson Housing Authority buildings.

FAMILY & CHILDREN’S SERVICES
Counseling Services: 1,556 counseling sessions were provided to 247 clients.
Adoption Services: 24 adoptions completed; 1,130 individuals assisted with adoption, counseling information and/or referral services.
Mount St. Joseph Children’s Center: 11,294 days of care and schooling provided to 60 residential/day students.

Friendship Corner: 560 children received 131,600 days of day care service; 155 children received 28,830 days of service in our after-school programs; 96 children received 3,744 days of service in our summer program.
Multi-Lingual Center: 45 clients received 2,364 hours of vocational services; 3,401 families received parent training and individual advocacy; 50 families received 12,218 episodes of out-of-home respite services; 1,304 families received case management services; 748 families received monthly groceries.
Special Child Health Services/Early Intervention Program (SCHS/EIP): Provided case management to 2,627 families.

Early Intervention Evaluation Team: Completed 3,510 evaluations and individual Family Service Plans.

SPAN: The SPAN Family Resource Specialist provided consultations to 718 families.

Teen Counseling Program: Provided services to 44 Paterson youths at risk.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

Italian Catholic Center: Served a total caseload of 1,788 including 75 new clients. Over the past 39 years, this program has handled 51,000 cases.

Migration & Refugee Department: 60 refugees were resettled (almost double from 2006); 82 refugee cases from 2006 continue to receive assistance. Services to these clients include housing, school enrollment, transportation, health care, job development, job placement, ESL, citizenship, driver’s license, furniture and clothing. Additionally 827 walk-in clients received help with various needs including green cards, asylum, citizenship and family reunification; assisted 47 persons with adjustment of status. We assisted 25 older refugees who applied for citizenship; 4 clients became naturalized U.S. citizens.

THE DEPARTMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DPD)

JULIE A. TATTI, MED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1 CATHOLIC CHARITIES WAY • P.O. BOX 2539

OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

TELEPHONE (973)406-1100 • FAX (973)406-1112

EMAIL: info@dpd.org • WEBSITE: www.dpd.org

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Student volunteers from Catholic HEART Workcamp enjoy a picnic with their new friends at the DPD.

The Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD) holds that life is sacred and people are God’s gifts, regardless of any disability. The DPD environment is one in which people with significant disabilities can live a full and happy life; enjoy a healthy self-esteem; experience acceptance; and live in a place where all people are valued.

The DPD Board appointed Julie Tatti as the new Executive Director in December. Julie has over 35 years of service at the DPD and will continue the tradition of outstanding services for people with developmental disabilities.

The DPD is internationally accredited by the New York City based Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children (COA). The DPD has been continually accredited since 1986. During a recent evaluation, evaluators commented that DPD is one of “the best and most effective organizations of its kind, anywhere!”

Our dedicated staff and volunteers continuously work to make the agency’s mission a reality. Salaries continually remain low. Staff received a 1% wage increase in 2007, well below the cost of living. Yet 26% of our staff has been with us for over 10 years and 51% for over 5 years. Most of the staff
at the DPD views their work as a vocation with real meaning and not just as a job.

Persons with developmental disabilities often have the physical and medical condition of individuals 20 to 30 years older. Many who live with us have experienced dramatic loss of functioning and worsening of life-long disabling conditions. Helping people cope with serious illness, death and dying has become an important part of our ministry.

Some of our homes provide for the special needs of persons with dementia while others are geared to caring for persons with behavior issues. 48% of our clients are dually-diagnosed with developmental disabilities and mental illness, requiring more expertise in daily emotional care.

The aging of the DPD’s residents has increased the need for more specialized services. To meet this challenge, this year the DPD hired a full-time nurse and a full-time behaviorist to provide assistance to the residents to meet their health and behavioral requirements, as well as providing up-to-date health, wellness and behavior modification strategies and techniques to assist the staff to acquire new skills to respond to the residents’ needs. Our staffs’ responses have been overwhelming in acquiring these new skills and they have responded to residents’ needs with continued compassion and tireless service.

The DPD’s residential programs include nine group homes and two supervised apartment programs located in Passaic, Morris and Sussex Counties.

The Gruenert Center in Lake Hopatcong provides exceptional work activities for 49 adults with developmental disabilities. Participants are paid for the work they do, which includes packaging, mailings, ceramics, crafts, and going out on work crews to perform cleaning at local businesses and rectories. This state-of-the-art facility provides a very positive atmosphere of comfort and welcome for clients, staff and volunteers.

The Volunteer Program at the DPD, “People Need Friends”, continues to thrive with over 100 volunteers from around the Diocese. This year they accounted for 2,178 hours in service to the residents.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Alexander House serves 9 residents with mental retardation and physical disabilities. Residents received 3,184 days of care.

Barnet House serves 8 residents which includes some of our older residents with developmental disabilities. Residents received 2,621 days of care.

Calabrese House serves 5 residents with developmental disabilities; two use wheelchairs. Residents received 1,789 days of care.

Columbus House is home to 6 men with significant physical and mental disabilities. Residents received 1,933 days of care.

Finnegan House is home to 8 residents. They received 2,844 days of care.

Fitzpatrick House is home to 5 men with disabilities. Residents received 1,690 days of care.

Murray House is our longest existing group home and serves 6 individuals. Residents received 1,952 days of care.

Wallace House is a large ranch style home that was donated to the DPD. It is home to 6 individuals with disabilities. Residents received 2,064 days of care.

Wehrlen House is named in honor of the founder of DPD, Msgr. John Wehrlen. It is home to 6 women with Downs Syndrome and Alzheimer’s. Residents received 2,001 days of care.

Basile Apartments is a supervised apartment program located in Brittany Chase in Wayne. It is home to 6 men with disabilities. Residents received 1,782 days of care.
VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Gruenert Center, an Adult Training Center for 49 men and women with disabilities provided 10,080 days of work for 49 individuals.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

DPD provided 132 hours of family support working with families to plan for and access services needed for their children with developmental disabilities.

The Director of Pastoral Care provided 248 hours of visitation and advocacy for former residents who are in nursing homes or hospitals.

Kelleher Apartments is a supervised apartment program located in Cambridge Heights in Butler. It is home to 9 individuals with mental retardation, autism and other disabilities. Residents received 2,463 days of care.

The spirit of Father Francis English, pastor of St. Boniface Parish until his death in 1974, lives on at the Father English Multi-Purpose Community Center. Father English dreamed of a complex of buildings that would be a center for youth and families living in Paterson. For more than 30 years, the dream continues to be lived out each and every day by the people of the community who use one or more of the Center’s programs as a resource and for those who are on the staff of the Agency. As an Agency committed to serving the marginalized in our society, the Father English Multi-Purpose Community Center continues to provide quality, compassionate care always striving to “make a difference” in the lives of the people we serve.

A Child’s World/El Mundo Del Nino: Since it opened in 1974 this program has provided a quality education to children who live in Paterson. Over 90 children were served this year without regard for their race, creed, color, gender, national origin or religion.

A World Of Colors/El Mundo De Colores: Since it opened in 1992, A World of Colors/El Mundo De Colores located on Ward Street in Paterson, NJ has provided full-time educational, social and wrap-
abuse, neglect or homelessness. We provide 24-hour shelter, food, clothing, referrals, counseling, crisis intervention, medical intervention, educational support and recreation. In 2007, 18 long-term residents, 37 shelter residents, and 5 runaway clients were served.

Passaic Teen Center Emergency Shelter And Group Home: The Passaic Teen Center has been providing services to youth since the year 2000. It provides a safe haven for boys age 11-17. Services include clothing, food, shelter, therapy and one-on-one counseling for youth who are involved with DYFS and the Division of Child Behavioral Health Services. Sixty adolescents were served this year.

Senior And Disabled Transportation Program: Established in 1978, this program provides an invaluable service to seniors and disabled persons in Passaic County. This year, a fleet of 10 vehicles transported 3,400 clients for a total of 39,500 trips to doctor appointments, hospital visits, nutrition sites, recreation sites for the disabled, sheltered workshops, adult day centers, and work sites.

Emergency Food Pantry And Clothing “Boutique”: Since it opened in 1988 when about 60 clients were being served monthly, the pantry has continually expanded in its mission to meet the needs in food and clothing assistance among the working poor families and individuals from this community. At present, the program is serving over 2,700 families monthly.

Case Management Program: Working in conjunction with our pantries, this program provides an avenue for clients seeking employment and additional services including referrals to detox programs, immigration concerns, and a host of other crisis-centered needs. A total of 1,088 adults have been served through this program in 2007.

Work Assistance/Computer Training Program: Our Work Assistance/Computer Training Program continues to provide beginners and advanced computer training courses for persons seeking these skills for employment opportunities. This year, 143
students completed our computer training courses. A transportation service continues to provide bus tickets to assist clients in traveling to interviews and jobs.

**English Literacy Program**: English classes are taught in three 10-week sessions per school year with basic, intermediate and advanced classes offered in both the morning and evening. Then the program serves about 600 people from the community by helping them overcome the challenges and fears they face in everyday living, working and interacting in another language and culture.

![El Mundo del Nino Thanksgiving dinner](image)

**Monthly staff meeting at Father English Community Center.**

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**Hispanic Information Center Of Passaic, Inc. (HIC)**

**Lorenzo T. Hernandez, MSW, Executive Director**

186 Gregory Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey 07055

**Telephone** (973)779-7022  ●  **Fax** (973)779-0453

**Email**: hicpassaicinc@aol.com

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**Annual Report 2007**

In the spirit of our founders, The Hispanic Information Center (HIC), in its 35th year of operation, continues to be a social change agent in advocating for the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and striving to protect human dignity by empowering those who walk through our doors.

This wonderful tradition commenced 35 years ago and today it is still true to its Mission. We provide seniors with hope, create leadership in youth, serve at risk populations, contribute to social stability through job placement services and support to families via crisis intervention. The Center does what it does by relying on a team of dedicated bilingual and bicultural staff. Our team gives its best every day to serve the disenfranchised and most vulnerable residents of the City of Passaic.

On every anniversary, we recognize our Lord’s unending love and goodness, and are thankful for the opportunity entrusted to us in serving the hundreds of persons who knock at our doors seeking someone to understand them, identify with their experience while at the same time receiving hope and guidance.

**Community Services**: This component provides low-to-moderate income consumers with information and resources that will increase their economic self-sufficiency. Our dedicated team of community workers provides case management, job placement, apartment searches, emergency shelter, and assistance to persons facing eviction or utility shut-off, emergency food and clothing, etc. This year 800 persons were assisted with job search; 125 with emergency food; 79 rentals and 93 utility assistance; 8 with emergency furniture, and 85 with clothing.

**Health Outreach**: The Center, in cooperation with St. Mary’s Hospital and the Commission for the
The children remain in foster care homes for six months to one year, but longer if necessary. They attend school in their respective foster family’s school district. Children who are unable to attend regular school schedules are encouraged to apply for alternative schooling. This year through the advocacy efforts of the Foster Care Coordinator one of our foster children was prevented from falling through the cracks in school when the 16 year old was placed in the 7th grade without being tested in her native language to determine if she could perform at a higher level. The Foster Care Coordinator contacted the Bi-lingual Director who in turn had the child tested and scored at 9th grade level. Based on the scores she was able to attend high school where she has already earned second honors in her first marking period. The fact that someone has cared made a tremendous impact on this child’s outlook on life and she dreams one day of becoming a pediatrician.

We are proud to acknowledge the work of the foster care staff in accomplishing one of the main goals of the program by reunifying five children with their biological parents, and the adoption of two of the children who are now privileged to have a permanent home.

Youth Services Program: Since 1975, HIC has offered support and guidance to assist local youth with behavior and learning difficulties in school, and social adjustment on the street. In 2007, the Youth Services Unit served approximately 35 youth ages 9 to 18. Our program offers tutoring, mentoring, and other supportive services that increase academic grades, promotes learning skills, and teaches behavior modification.
This year through a special subsidized funding from BJ’s the youth staff was able to implement the Re-Create Project that offered our youth an opportunity to build up their character, self-esteem, and modify negative behaviors through art projects that included sculpting, finger-painting, musical performances, yoga, self-expression, and role-play.

This year the youth were fortunate to attend two professional basketball games, visit New York City’s St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and attend the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall.

**Alcohol Program:** In its 22nd year of service, this program provides a 16-week outpatient treatment service. Clients are referred mainly by Straight & Narrow’s Office of Intoxicated Drivers Resource Center, and Passaic County Parole and Probation Office, plus individual walk-ins. Thanks to our Alcohol-Drug Certified Counselors, 106 unduplicated clients received counseling and treatment in 2007.
Hope House offers **Behavioral Health Services** which are provided by licensed and certified professional counselors and include both mental health and substance abuse counseling (offering comprehensive adult, family and adolescent therapeutic services; women’s and men’s anger management groups in English and Spanish as well as prevention programs; substance abuse evaluations; Intoxicated Driver’s Resource Center programs; parenting education classes and Strengthening Families Program). An on-site bilingual Substance Abuse Certified, Psychiatrist is available for consultations by appointment. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings, in both English and Spanish, are held weekly at Hope House. Behavioral Health Services served approximately 500 clients in 2007.

In 2007, Hope House implemented a new **Latino Women’s Drop In Center** to assist women with information and support as they care for their families in a bicultural world. In addition, Jersey Battered Women’s Services and Hope House initiated a collaborative domestic violence support group for Latino women in a safe community setting.

**Supportive Senior Services** provided include interventions to assist seniors age in place in a safe and age-adapted environment. These services include Hope Connection, Operation Fix-It, and Chore Program.

**The Hope Connection** is a 24 hour personal, emergency response system allows at-risk clients to remain safely in their homes. In 2007, 25 low-income seniors received the service free and 73 seniors received services at a discounted rate.

The primary goal of the **Operation Fix-It** program is to prevent premature institutionalization and help ensure our clients live in a safe and healthy environment. Operation Fix-It provides minor safety and health-related repairs to low-income seniors and younger disabled individuals. In 2007, 559 individuals received assistance to correct potential hazards and live in a safe environment.

The **Chore Program** provides services such as light housekeeping, laundry and shopping to low-income seniors and younger disabled individuals in Morris County. In addition, the Chore attendants are trained to perform ongoing safety assessments, watching for declining health or new safety concerns. This is especially important to help prevent premature institutionalization especially for clients that are homebound and without family support systems. The Chore Program provided more than 6,900 service hours to over 200 individuals in 2007.

In 2007, Hope House sunset the **Home Sharing** program. Over the years this program enabled successful home sharing relationships. In 2007 five clients were matched.

In addition, Hope House hosts the local Birthright office, which provides material assistance to mothers; the Morris County Child Assault Prevention Coordinator, and the Missionaries of God Soup Kitchen.
Fifty-four years and counting! The first community-based organization to treat alcohol and drug dependence, Straight & Narrow continues its tradition of providing effective and humane services to its valued clients.

What began as a facility for the treatment of alcoholism has evolved into an agency offering uniquely designed programs responding to diverse needs. Every day within our facilities you will see infants residing with mothers in residential treatment, and you will see clients in their 60’s and 70’s residing in our addiction programs or in our AIDS apartments. Remarkable, as well, is our experience treating those whose parents or grandparents were assisted within our panoply of services.

While our range of programs may appear to some as widespread, they are bound by, and consistent with, our Mission Statement which guides the planning and execution of all our efforts:

To develop and deliver effective prevention, education and treatment services to clients with addictive disorders and HIV disease;

To advocate for effective and adequate health and human services;

To convene scholars, practitioners and consumers to shape effective practice and approaches;

To maintain a commitment to learning and developing knowledge with which to inform those who set policy affecting those in our care.

The tenure and success of Straight & Narrow is owed to myriad factors. Among these is a dedicated and compassionate staff that maintains an environment for change and growth through the blending of science and practice. The Board of Trustees insures that there is accountability and adherence to the Mission, Vision and Values of both Straight & Narrow and Catholic Charities. Ultimately, however, our clients have built and sustained the bedrock through their focus and hard work toward self actualization – no small task.

That there are insufficient dollars to support our efforts is news to no one. Not for profit, human service agencies continue to struggle nation wide. Unusual to Straight & Narrow is a “portfolio” of old and aging facilities which demand and drain scant resources. Re-entry facilities, providing transitional housing to men and women successfully completing our residential programs, were phased out after many years of operation. Straight & Narrow provided this service with no government funding. Staff continues to explore and pursue grant opportunities to rehabilitate existing properties and/or acquire suitable property to address unmet needs.

Space issues notwithstanding, Straight & Narrow will provide direct services for over 4,000 people at facilities in three counties. The largest drug and alcohol agency in New Jersey, Straight & Narrow is unique with respect to its diversity of clients and programs.

The Monsignor Wall Social Service Center, on the grounds of the Bergen Regional Medical Center has begun a Suboxone initiative for the treatment of opiate dependence which complements our ongo-
The La Vida and La Vida Too Child Care Centers have completed another successful year of service to families and community, serving over 400 children. Both are vigorously pursuing national accreditation. Historic levels of volunteerism and donations reflect ongoing integration and public support. As with all such facilities, the challenges of repairs, maintenance and requisite upgrading are constant. However, each center endeavors to insure that the environment is one that is pleasant, safe and efficient.

As ever, the Pastoral Care Department engages both clientele and community. There were over 40 outings, including visits to churches and schools and Christmas tree lighting ceremonies. We are especially proud of our gospel choir which gave over 30 performances in 2007. They are “booked” through June, 2008!

Residential clients continued to benefit from the generosity of many toward attendance at sporting events, theater, fishing, etc. Such activities, while therapeutic for those with little exposure to such diversions, serve to balance the rigor of the treatment experience at Straight & Narrow. Moreover, it is important that our residents see and enjoy the gifts of a caring community.

The Straight & Narrow tenure and development and successful methadone maintenance program. Of special note is the awarding of a full three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, a credit to the hard work and dedication of the Monsignor Wall staff. Monsignor Wall Social Service Center served 231 methadone clients and five Suboxone clients in 2007.

The Intoxicated Drivers Resource Center, located in Passaic, continues to operate at capacity. Renovations and upgrades have been completed, offering a more pleasant and efficient environment for both clients and staff. Straight & Narrow will seek to expand this important service to respond to increased need in our State. A total of 2,225 clients were served: 845 clients in our 12-hour program and 1,380 in our 48-hour program.

Under the leadership of our Medical Director, our newly renovated Detoxification Hospital and Medical Unit provides care to those within our treatment programs, as well as patients from the community. The Detox Hospital admitted 630 clients for detoxification. The Medical Unit served 367 inpatient treatment clients.

Our programs and services to people living with HIV/AIDS demonstrate both humane care and community integration. Straight & Narrow’s apartment buildings for those with HIV disease remain full and well-managed. The Adult Medical Day Care facility insures that its clients access the necessary services to maintain health and well being. The Straight & Narrow apartments provided housing for 73, and 59 clients were admitted to the Medical Day Care Center.

Straight & Narrow was approved as a Community Work Experience Program site for women receiving welfare cash assistance benefits. Five Straight & Narrow clients are working at this site.

As part of our prevention efforts, The Incredible Years primary prevention program offers parenting groups for mothers and fathers engaged in treatment. The FACES program, which provides primary health care, mental health and early childhood educational services, thanks to a supplemental grant from the Department for Children and Families, will be “upgraded” to the Family Success Center. A full-time Program Coordinator for Prevention and Family Services works closely with appropriate staff to insure integration and coordination of services throughout Straight & Narrow; 49 male/female S/N clients completed The Incredible Years Program; 377 Paterson families were served through FACES.

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Straight & Narrow was approved as a Community Work Experience Program site for women receiving welfare cash assistance benefits. Five Straight & Narrow clients are working at this site.

As part of our prevention efforts, The Incredible Years primary prevention program offers parenting groups for mothers and fathers engaged in treatment. The FACES program, which provides primary health care, mental health and early childhood educational services, thanks to a supplemental grant from the Department for Children and Families, will be “upgraded” to the Family Success Center. A full-time Program Coordinator for Prevention and Family Services works closely with appropriate staff to insure integration and coordination of services throughout Straight & Narrow; 49 male/female S/N clients completed The Incredible Years Program; 377 Paterson families were served through FACES.
The mission of the Congregational Health Ministry (CHM) is to address the health needs of our communities through services that provide, restore and maintain well being. CHM is a collaborative effort among St. Clare’s Hospital, St. Mary’s Hospital, and St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center (Paterson). The term health ministry is used to include everyone who is called to work for the promotion of health and wellness; this includes a parish nurse and others. Health ministries at parishes in the Diocese provide outreach to members of their local faith community. Often the health ministry includes an outreach component where parish volunteers reach out to the homebound, sick, dying or bereaved. In addition, health ministry volunteers often help families to navigate the health care system, access care, obtain accurate information for disease management and connect to services for the elderly, chronically ill and medically underserved.

Catholic Charities Congregational Health Ministry program exists as a support and liaison to the members of the faith community interested in implementing a parish-based health ministry. My role as the liaison is to meet with the pastors, speak with the pastoral staff or interested parishioners and assist with the formation of a health ministry program, or offer support to existing programs. Assistance may include program development, mentoring of health ministry leaders, volunteer training, networking with the hospitals, other parish nurses and community resources.

Each parish creates a ministry that is unique to its needs and resources. The presence of a health ministry builds community while bridging the gap between professional health care providers and local community resources.

Most health ministries provide regular blood pressure screenings throughout the year, identifying many individuals with hypertension in need of treatment.

The bidding grows tense at the annual Straight & Narrow Annual Auction held at the Brownstone House in Paterson

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY PROGRAM (CHM)  
RITA KELLY, RN, LIAISON  
24 DEGRASSE STREET ● PATERN, NJ 07505  
TELEPHONE (973)279-7100 X33 ● FAX (973)523-1150  
EMAIL: chm@catholicharities.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The mission is built on the hard work of tens of thousands who have presented at our doorstep and reclaimed lives and sustained sobriety and productivity. We are privileged to have been part of that process. The challenges we face in 2008 are formidable, but not daunting. Within Straight & Narrow reside the strength, resilience, resourcefulness and faith to persevere toward organizational and individual excellence.
medical follow-up. As a parish nurse, the liaison for Congregational Health established both a Free Blood Pressure program at CFCS and Health Education Bulletin Board to provide ongoing screening and education to both staff and the community. In 2007, 145 participated in the monthly blood pressure screening and approximately 5% were identified as hypertensive and encouraged to seek medical treatment.

Opportunities to learn about parish nursing were offered in various settings in 2007. In March, 12 nurses attended the “Basic Preparation Course for Parish Nurses” at St. Joseph’s Wayne Hospital. This curriculum included parish nurse outcomes, scope of nursing practice and organizing a health fair. To date, over 233 participants have completed the certification course. This course also provides a venue for nurses to come together for continuing education programs throughout the year.

In November, 94 parish nurse and other health ministry volunteers attended a breakfast on “Depression in the Elderly” co-sponsored by Catholic Charities, Congregational Health Ministry and HomeCare Options in Paterson.

DISASTER RESPONSE

Katrina Aid Today: In March 2007, Catholic Charities ended the Katrina Aid Today case management program. This program provided assistance to people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Client families received advocacy, referrals and financial resources to assist them toward their individualized plan for recovery.

Operation Helping Hands (OHH): OHH brings volunteers from across the country together to gut homes of elderly, disabled, or uninsured victims of Hurricane Katrina. The flooding in the aftermath of the hurricane severely damaged many of the homes in the Greater New Orleans area, and gutting these homes is the first step in the road to rebuilding. House gutting included removing salvageable items, appliances, furniture and other items from flooded homes and tearing out walls of homes and spraying houses with bleach to kill mold. The volunteers must be sensitive to the needs of the homeowner with the ultimate goal of enabling the displaced resident to return and rebuild.

We sent 22 teams (296 people) to New Orleans this year. 2008 will bring excitement to both the volunteers and to the people of New Orleans as Operation Helping Hands moves into the rebuilding phase. At present 7 teams (156 people) are anxiously awaiting their trips to help rebuild.

April Floods: In Northern NJ April flooding caused rivers to overflow forcing many to evacuate their homes and seek shelter elsewhere. The poor, elderly and disabled were disproportionately affected. Many were unable to return to their homes, their personal property destroyed by the flood waters. The Disaster Response Program’s first response to the floods was to participate in a coordinated effort involving several faith-based disaster programs offering cleanup assistance to about 20 families. Our Disaster Program established a case management program to
serve the needs of those affected by the floods. The Passaic County United Way and the American Red Cross helped to offset the costs of case management; 95 families were assisted by this program offering advocacy, referrals and available community resources. A $10,000 grant from CCUSA and private donations enabled us to provide over $30,000 in direct cash grants to clients. This cash assistance provided much needed resources such as food and clothing gift cards, bedding, furniture, to help to pay utility bills, and security deposits to help with relocation.

An annual report 2007

There was a significant transition in our Ministry team this year. Our Director, Fr. Odel Medina, ST left to pursue other missionary efforts. The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity commitment to the Ministry continued with the assignment of Fr. Luis de la Cuadra, Br. Carlos Urquina, and Br. John Skrodinsky to work with the migrant community. We are grateful for Fr. Odel’s time and service, thankful for the strong support of the STs, and look forward to great things with the expanded team. With the indispensable help of Associate Director, Luis Arias, the new team will continue to advance the Mission of the Ministry which is: “To help create communities of faith, welcome, and service adapted to the particular needs of sisters and brothers from other countries temporarily working and living in the Diocese of Paterson”.

As people of faith it is our privilege and responsibility to welcome brothers and sisters who arrive here from other countries as temporary workers. They come, often at immense personal sacrifice and risk, seeking work to support their families in their country of origin. Most arrive with little knowledge of our country and with few resources. They are what the Scriptures call “Strangers” (Ex. 23: 9)

They work on small farms, in restaurants, landscaping, and construction, often 80 to 90 hours per week to maintain themselves and send money home to support their families. Typically they are isolated from one another and from the normal civil and ecclesiastical structures. They form a type of hidden subculture and are often exploited, especially by employers and landlords.

The Ministry was able to maintain and expand services with the support and generous involvement of priests, religious, and parishioners from St. Joseph (Newton), St. Ann’s and St. Peter’s (Parsippany), St. Anthony’s (Butler), St. Mary’s (Pompton Lakes), Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (Sparta), and The Shrine of St. Joseph (Stirling). Our Migrant Ministry would not exist without the selfless generosity of the 145 volunteers (providing 15,000 hours of service) who together with the Migrant workers form the community of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Services provided include: Mass, pastoral care, spiritual direction, catechesis, evangelization, advocacy, ESL classes,

Volunteers posing in front of a house in Paterson which they helped clean up after spring rains

THE MIGRANT MINISTRY COMMUNITY of OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (MM)  
BR. JOHN SKRODINSKY, ST, DIRECTOR  
LUIS F. ARIAS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
6 SAGAMORE TRAIL, SPARTA, NJ 07871  
TELEPHONE (973)726-0543 ● FAX (973) 726-0543  
EMAIL: themigrantministry@hotmail.com
recreation programs, mobile clinic, work and housing assistance, and information on health and legal matters. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these parishes and volunteers. You are very kind (muy amable)!

Accomplishments and Statistics

1) 204 Masses including the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th, attended by over 600 persons. At this event, four migrants from Parsippany received their First Communion and Confirmation. A special thanks to Msgr. Kieran McHugh and the staff of Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta for hosting us. Holy week, Thanksgiving, and Christmas were also observed among the Migrant Community.

2) Ten youths from Pompton Lakes were Confirmed (two also received First Communion). Community-wide 25 infants, youths and adults were baptized; two couples were married; three of our faithful passed away and were sent home to God. Following the cultural traditions of Latin America, five babies were presented to the Catholic migrant community at St. Anthony’s in Butler.

3) Four spiritual, developmental and catechetical retreats were held throughout the communities.

4) Members from the migrant communities also participated in Diocesan-wide events. Some attended the celebration for Spanish Heritage with Bishop Serratelli at the Cathedral in Paterson on October 27, 2007. Others joined a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

5) Nearly 3,000 meals were served after the celebrations throughout the year. We provided trans-portion for 1,550 persons in Sparta and Newton to Blessed Kateri and St. Joseph Church, while 2,500 were brought from Pine Brook, West Caldwell, and Parsippany to St. Ann’s Church.

6) We continued to be in partnership with Christ Episcopal Church at the new resource center for the Migrant community in Newton. The center, called “El Refugio”, is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 9am to 4pm. Further efforts are being made to collaborate with “El Refugio” to provide legal assistance to the migrant community in Sussex County.

7) 200 ESL classes were held for 142 people for a total of 415 hours in Newton, Sparta, Butler, and Parsippany. Twenty volunteers (putting in 300 hours) transported most of the students to the classes and back home each evening.

8) St. Clare’s Hospital continued to provide the services of its mobile clinic. Volunteers served as translators to provide services for 36 visits (a total of 72 hours) for 137 persons in St. Ann’s Church in Parsippany. Many clients were then referred to the clinic in Dover for further treatment.

9) We have also continued working with The Hot Line 1(877) 724-5112 for the area of Newton and Sparta, with information on transportation, clothing, furniture, ESL, and Mass schedules. The most important use of the hot line is for requesting medical appointments, or medical needs. This year 14 volunteers spent 3,400 hours staffing the Hot Line; 501 people received medical or dental appointments; 2,200 hours were expended in transporting our clients and doing follow-up appointments.

10) A soccer tournament was sponsored by the Migrant Ministry in Parsippany over the course of three
weekends. Eight teams participated from four different migrant communities. The team from Parsippany also practiced every week in the fall. There was also one outdoor picnic and three dinner dances. The Jornada Latina consisting of prayer and reflection was celebrated several times at St. Joseph Shrine in Stirling. It provided personal, family and spiritual development.

11) The Department of Labor and OSHA presented two programs for our migrant workers on wage and hour regulations and workplace safety.

12) We provided for the social service and advocacy needs of our clients. Services included transportation to activities, celebrations, hospitals or medical/dental appointments and community agencies. We assisted our clients in search of bilingual attorneys, and many times appeared with them in court as translators or companions.

13) We visited migrants in jail and assisted them in obtaining legal counsel.

Fr. Luis de la Cuadra and members of the migrant community pray the Posada which is the re-enactment of Mary and Joseph looking for room at the inn.

**LET US END POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Poverty in America is a moral and social crisis. It threatens the health and economic well-being of our families and our nation. In response to this crisis, Catholic Charities USA has launched the

**CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE POVERTY IN AMERICA.**

The Campaign is a multi-year, multi-faceted approach to alleviating poverty in the United States. The goals are:

*To reduce poverty in the United States by 50 percent by the year 2020;*

*To call upon the government to do more to serve those who are poor,*

*and to improve public policies that strengthen and support families;*

*To educate policymakers and the public about the struggles of those living in poverty* *

*and the good work of those who serve them in local communities;*

*To engage those who are most impacted by government policies* *

*to be active participants in developing solutions to reducing poverty;*

*To work with individuals and organizations across the country* *

*to address poverty in our country.*

**You can help by endorsing the Campaign.**

Log onto: [www.catholicharities.org](http://www.catholicharities.org) then click on **Poverty In America** for more information
Catholic Family & Community Services  $16,214,145
Department for Persons with Disabilities  6,391,020
Father English Center  6,797,679
Hispanic Information Center of Passaic  1,616,606
Hope House  2,288,928
Straight & Narrow, Inc.  18,500,000
The Secretariat for Catholic Charities  184,704

Combined Operating Budget for 2007  = $51,993,082
Save the date . . .

Saturday evening, October 25, 2008
Catholic Charities Caritas 2008
10th Anniversary Gala Dinner & Dance
- The Grand Ballroom
Hanover Marriott Hotel
6:30 - 11:00 PM
For information & reservations please call
Fr. Edward G. Lambro at 973-523-4456
Email: email@catholicharities.org

Consider Catholic Charities in your will

As you plan for the future, have you considered Catholic Charities Diocese of Paterson in your estate plans? You can establish a legacy gift by simply naming Catholic Charities Diocese of Paterson in your will as a beneficiary of a specific amount, a percentage of your estate or a portion of the remaining value after your loved ones have received what you have designated for them.

To include Catholic Charities Diocese of Paterson, please use the following language:

*I give, devise or bequeath to Catholic Charities, a charitable organization located at 24 DeGrasse Street, Paterson, NJ 07505-2001, ($____________) for the general charitable and educational purposes in carrying out its mission.*

This wording is only a suggestion. Your attorney should always prepare the legal forms.

Thank you for considering Catholic Charities in your estate plans. For more information, please call Father Edward Lambro in our planned giving/development office at 973-523-4456
The Secretariat for Catholic Charities
Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson

24 DeGrasse Street - Paterson, NJ 07505-2001
Phone: 973-279-7100
1-800-494-3292
Email: info@catholicharities.org
Website: www.catholicharities.org

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Catholic Family & Community Services
Comprehensive Human Services Programs
24 DeGrasse Street - Paterson, NJ 07505-2001
Phone: 973-279-7100
Email: cfcs@catholicharities.org

Department for Persons with Disabilities
Group Residences/Employment, Spiritual & Volunteer Programs
1 Catholic Charities Way - PO Box 2539 - Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
Phone: 973-697-4394
Email: info@dpd.org

Father English Multi-Purpose Center
Community Center & Human Services Programs
435 Main Street - Paterson, NJ 07501-2817
Phone: 973-881-0280
Email: admin@fatherenglish.org

Hispanic Information Center of Passaic
Community & Human Services Programs
186 Gregory Avenue - Passaic, NJ 07055
Phone: 973-779-7022
Email: hicpassaicinc@aol.com

Hope House - Catholic Social Services of Morris County
Community Social Services / Outpatient Substance Abuse Programs
19-21 Belmont Avenue - Dover, NJ 07802-0851
Phone: 973-361-5555
Email: information@hopehousenj.org

Straight & Narrow, Inc.
Comprehensive Substance Abuse Treatment Programs
508 Straight Street - Paterson, NJ 07503-2004
Phone: 973-345-6000
Email: info@straightandnarrowinc.org

Congregational Health Ministry Program
Health and Wellness Programs, Parish Nurses, Continuing Education
24 DeGrasse Street - Paterson, NJ 07505
Phone: 973-279-7100 x33
Email: chm@catholicharities.org

Migrant Ministry
Advocacy for Human Rights - Spiritual and Day to Day Living Needs
6 Sagamore Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871
Phone: 973-726-0543
Email: themigrantministry@hotmail.com

Office of Public Relations & Development
Public Awareness and Responsible Stewardship Programs
476 Seventeenth Avenue - Paterson, NJ 07504-1123
Phone 973-523-4456
Email: email@catholicharities.org