Catholic Charities
in the Diocese of Paterson

Annual Report
2008
Dear Friends in Christ:

As the Church continues to celebrate the ministry of St. Paul and his work, it is fitting to look at this annual report from our Catholic Charities agencies in the Diocese of Paterson as a message of evangelization. Just as St. Paul traveled the world proclaiming Christ as our Savor, we are called to do the same in both word and deed.

Our Catholic Charities agencies do this each and every day by bringing the love of Christ to every person who crosses their threshold. Regardless of religion, race or gender, each person is treated as a child of God. They are clothed and fed, comforted and loved. We serve over 60,000 people each year, not because they may or may not be Catholic. We serve them because we are Catholic.

I am so grateful to all the staff at our Catholic Charities agencies for their dedicated service. You are a great gift to the Church of Paterson. I want to especially thank all those who volunteer their time and contribute financially to the work of our many agencies. You are the lifeblood of our social outreach ministry, and we are blessed by the gift of your stewardship.

With every best wish, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, STD, SSL, DD
Bishop of Paterson
I recall as a high school freshman reading Dickens “A Tale of Two Cities”. I remember its famous line, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”. It strikes me that that quote aptly applies to the situation we here in Catholic Charities faced in 2008 and no doubt will face throughout 2009. In so many ways these are the “worst of times”. Unemployment is up. The cost of living is up. Disposable income is down making it difficult, sometimes impossible, for people to put food on the table, pay rent, utility and other bills.

At times such as these we experience a greater demand for counseling services, for substance abuse services, for concrete assistance with such things as food, utility costs, rental assistance and more. While demand for services increases we find that with few exceptions our largest funding stream, that is, our government sources has remained flat and in some cases has actually decreased. Some of our other funders continue to fund us but have had to decrease funding. And yet in 2008 we balanced our budget because these are also the best of times.

In his message to us Bishop Serratelli tells you that Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson serves over 60,000 people each year, not because they may or may not be Catholic but because we are Catholic. We have very much experienced the goodness of our Catholic community of support primarily through our parishes but also through our schools and from many individuals. People in all of these settings are experiencing the impact of this economy and yet more people than ever gave to us in 2008 and that trend continues so far in 2009. I believe they are doing so because they realize the need is greater and that while they might be hurting, others are hurting more and feel compelled by their faith to help. A donor called us a couple of months ago indicating she knew these were hard times, and was sure our needs were greater than ever and so gave us a hundred thousand dollars to help. This same spirit of wanting to help is alive in hundreds of other supporters and it is because of that spirit that these are also the best of times.

As I do each year, I invite you to again read this Annual Report from cover to cover. You will become more familiar with our agencies and programs across Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties. I ask for your prayers. Please pray for those in need. Please pray for our paid and volunteer staff. Please pray for our donors and other supporters who themselves have to cope with this bad economy. I also invite you to make a phone call. As you read this report no doubt there is one program or one agency about which you will have a question or which you find to be particularly interesting. When that happens please pick up your phone and call the Executive Director responsible for that program or agency, introduce yourself and ask your question – better yet ask for a tour and come visit us.

Peace.

Joseph F. Duffy
Executive Secretary for Catholic Charities
Our staff was significantly challenged this year. To say they were asked to do more with less is an understatement. CFCS continues to rely heavily on government funding for the majority of its revenue. Government funding was essentially flat this year. But operating costs and client needs were not flat. As you might expect in this economy, our operating costs soared. Gas for our vehicles went up by double digits as did our heating costs. Many of the food staples in our residential and feeding programs also experienced double digit increases.

The need for services went up in two ways, both significant. Most of our regular clients saw their real earnings decrease as their incomes remained flat or failed to keep pace with their own individual costs of living. As a result many of our regular clients came to us more often and/or in need of more assistance with food, utilities costs and rent/mortgage costs. New clients came to us because they lost their job or because living on a fixed income (e.g. social security) they could no longer meet their monthly expenses without our help. Some of our donors are now our clients.

Like many food pantries across the country our food pantry experienced a first – empty shelves. Not too many years ago we actually had to be sure to rotate inventory to be sure it did not spoil. Now it seems the food goes out as fast as it comes in. Appeals to our parishes, employees, vendors and community friends did not go unanswered. They have been most generous in assisting us – some with weekly donations, others monthly and still others with one-time donations of food or money to buy food to keep up with the need. Every week an anonymous donor slips an envelope with $20.00 in our mail slot.

In 2008 we provided a total of 26,775 meals to 5,857 people, an increase of 78% in the number of people served over 2007. We expect that number to grow in 2009. We more than doubled the number of people provided rental assistance to 801 and increased by 26% those receiving utility bill assistance to 1,275 persons.

We had great success in our grant writing efforts that helped make up the difference between our increased operating costs and flat funding streams, bringing in almost an additional $300,000 in grants. With new grants, increased donations of dollars and goods and continued belt tightening, we ended the year in a break-even situation.

Mount Saint Joseph Children’s Center celebrated its 100th anniversary in September. Bishop Serratelli attended our Centennial celebration, blessed the building, the cornerstone, and our new music room. This music room was donated by the Knights of Malta, longtime friends of MSJ. The Bishop also blessed our new flagpole and flag which was a gift of the Knights of Columbus, St. James of the Marches Council 6574.

Our Marian Aids Ministry completed its transition in services which was mentioned in our 2007 annual report. Since closing our residence for persons with AIDS and serious illnesses in 2007, ministry director Sister Maria Whilifer has expanded her community outreach through several parishes, local hospitals and jails. Sister Maria has begun working with the Knights of Malta Prison Ministry to establish a collaborative working relationship.

Our Aging Services Department too went through a significant transition in 2008. In March we
added a new position of Assistant Director for Aging Services for Sussex County and hired Ms. Linda Ward for that position. Linda became the Acting Director almost immediately as the Director went on leave of absence. Rita Kelly our Liaison for Parish Nursing and Director of Disaster Services assumed supervision for our Passaic County Aging Services. In January of 2009 after our Director of Aging Services resigned, Linda Ward became the Director for Aging Services in Sussex County and Rita Kelly became the Director for Aging Services for Passaic county while retaining her other responsibilities.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY SERVICES
Aging Services: Transport services for 179 persons totaling 3,155 trips; 145 adult day care clients received 10,576 days of service; 20,350 congregate meals provided to 506 persons; 18,163 meals on wheels delivered to 243 persons; 603 elderly residents in Passaic County received 7,301 visits as part of our outreach and case management service.

Legal Services: 688 families were provided with direct legal representation. Consultations were provided to an additional 411 people.

Emergency Services: 5,857 people received 26,775 meals; 801 persons received rental assistance; 1,275 people received assistance with utility bills; 143 families were provided emergency shelter.

Marian AIDS Ministry/Marian Outreach of Mercy: Provided 256 Pastoral Care visits to 44 terminally ill clients and families; 51 visits to 34 people diagnosed with AIDS; 310 private sessions with 193 incarcerated women and former inmates.

Community Outreach: Provided case management to 467 families and individuals associated with the Paterson Housing Authority.

FAMILY & CHILDREN’S SERVICES
Counseling Services: 1,518 counseling sessions were provided to 225 clients.

Adoption Services: 7 adoptions completed one of which was international; 1,021 individuals assisted with adoption, counseling information and/or referral services.

Mount St. Joseph Children’s Center: 11,052 days of care and schooling provided to 56 residential/day students.

Friendship Corner: 540 children received 131,760 days of day care service; 156 children received 30,576 days of service in our after-school programs; 101 children received 3,838 days of service in our summer program.

Multi-Lingual Center: 53 clients received 3,503 hours of vocational services; 3,205 families received parent training and individual advocacy; 50 families received 12,770 episodes of out-of-home respite services; 1,392 families received case management services; 843 families received monthly groceries.

Special Child Health Services/Early Intervention Program (SCHS/EIP): Provided case management to 3,308 families with children with developmental disabilities or delay.

Early Intervention Evaluation Team: Completed 3,780 evaluations and individual Family Service Plans.
SPAN: The SPAN Family Resource Specialist provided consultations to 780 families.

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

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

Italian Catholic Center: Served a total caseload of 1,805 including 72 new clients. Over the past 40 years, this program has handled 52,075 cases.

Migration & Refugee Department: 22 refugees were resettled; 57 refugee cases from 2007 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 345 walk-in clients received help with various needs including green cards, asylum, citizenship and family reunification; assisted 33 persons with adjustment of status.

THE DEPARTMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DPD)

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The Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD) believes that all life is sacred and every person is a gift from God. The DPD serves adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in an environment where each person can live a full and happy life; work productively; enjoy a healthy self-esteem; experience acceptance; and live in a place where all people are valued.

All DPD services are accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), an international accrediting organization. During the last evaluation, the reviewers stated that DPD is one of “the best and most effective organizations of its kind, anywhere!” The DPD has been continually accredited by COA since 1986.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers continually work to make the agency’s mission a reality. Our staff salaries remain low with annual raises well below the increase of their cost of living. In spite of the low wages, 14% of our 147 employees have been with us for over 15 years, 23% for over 10 years and 43% for over 5 years. Most of the staff at the DPD view their work as a vocation with real meaning and
not just a job. We rely heavily of government funding, and this funding has remained flat over the last several years. We need to do more with less, but we continue our commitment to provide the highest quality services to the people we serve. The need for our services is great. There are over 9,000 people with disabilities in the State of New Jersey who are waiting for these services.

The past few years have been difficult for many of the residents in our homes because of significant health issues. Persons with developmental disabilities often have the physical and medical conditions of individuals 20 to 30 years older. Because many of our residents have lived in our group homes for over 35 years, they are experiencing dramatic loss of functioning, serious illnesses, and worsening of lifelong disabling conditions. In order to manage these complex medical changes, we needed to add a registered nurse to the DPD staff and additional direct care staff to help provide the one-to-one care that is needed for their personal care including bathing, toileting, feeding, transferring, and engaging the residents in meaningful activities. We also needed to make modifications to our homes to make them more accessible so that the people we serve can “age in place” for as long as possible. Helping our residents to cope with serious illnesses and even death has become a significant part of our ministry.

Besides the increase in medical issues, the DPD is also providing care for residents who have developed Alzheimer’s. There is a much higher incidence of Alzheimer’s disease in people with Downs Syndrome than in the general population, and it can begin in these individuals while they are in their 30’s. We have 18 residents who are showing signs of Alzheimer’s and other dementia. We are providing ongoing training to our staff to help them assist these people effectively and compassionately.

In addition to the medical issues and dementia, 48% of our clients are dually-diagnosed with developmental disabilities and mental illness, requiring more expertise in daily emotional care. In order to better meet the needs of these individuals we have a Behavior Analyst on staff.

The DPD’s residential programs include nine group homes: Alexander House, Columbus House and Finnegan House in Oak Ridge; Wehrlen House in West Milford; Barnet House and Fitzpatrick House in Pompton Lakes; Calabrese House in Parsippany; Murray House in Clifton; Wallace House in Sparta; and two supervised apartment programs: Basile Apartments in Wayne and Kelleher Apartments in Butler.

The Gruenert Center is a work-activity center where 49 adults are paid for the work they do. This includes packaging, mailings, ceramics, crafts, and working on cleaning crews in the community.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

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St. Mary’s Parish, Pompton Lakes volunteers assist resident at Barnet House in painting a birdhouse.
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Program at the DPD, “People Need Friends”, has over 100 volunteers. This year they accounted for 1,900 hours in service to DPD clients.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

DPD provided 130 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 225 hours of visitation and advocacy for former residents who are in nursing homes or hospitals.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Gruenert Center, an Adult Training Center for 49 men and women with disabilities provides opportunities for work at the Center and in the community. DPD provided 10,146 days of work for 49 individuals.

FATHER ENGLISH MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY CENTER (FECC)

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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 used 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 opening in 1974 we have provided quality education to Paterson children. In 2008 staff worked with 105 children without regard of their race, creed, color, gender, national origin, or religion. Staff also worked with our students’ families to give our students a safe place to grow and learn while preparing them for success in Kindergarten and beyond.

A World of Colors/El Mundo De Colores: Since opening in 1992, A World of Colors/El Mundo De Colores Child Care Center has provided full-time educational, social and wraparound (after-school and summer care) services to hundreds of children year-round. Current program enrollment is 105 multi-ethnic children from primarily low-income families residing in Paterson.

AfterCare & Summer Camp Child Care Program: Since 1974, the AfterCare/Summer Camp Child Care Program has offered a quality Aftercare and Summer Camp Program for school-age children of working or in-school parents. Services include meal provisions,
academic tutoring, music and enrichment programs. In 2008, the program was expanded to serve 150 “children at risk” (ages 5-11 years).

T.A.P. After School and Summer Camp Child Care Program: This quality after-school program was conceived as a safe, supervised environment where teens from 12-15 years old are trained to act as peer counselors with a goal toward becoming productive citizens. Participants are provided group counseling, behavior modification, peer mentoring, digital storytelling, recreational trips, gang awareness, sports activities, homework assistance and educational supervision. Over the course of the past year, 42 teenagers participated in this program.

Child Care Food Program: The Child Care Food Program, funded by the State of New Jersey, Department of Agriculture, provides meal service “in-house” to all children enrolled in the agency’s preschool and school-aged child care programs. For this fiscal year this on-site Child Care Food Program provided approximately 195,000 meals including breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon snack to over 350 children ranging in age from 3-12 years old.

Project Youth Haven Group Home and Emergency Shelter: Project Youth Haven is a home for girls ages 11-17, who have experienced abuse, neglect or homelessness. We provide 24-hour shelter, food, clothing, referrals, counseling, crisis intervention, medical intervention, educational support and recreation. In 2008, 21 long-term residents and 37 shelter residents were served.

Passaic Teen Center Group Home and Emergency Shelter: The Passaic Teen Center opened its doors in the year 2000 to provide services for males age 11-17. The Center provides a variety of treatment services, which include shelter, clothing and food, individual rapport counseling, individual therapy, group therapy, recreation, case management, and educational assistance. The program is designed to assist children who are involved with DYFS and/or The Division of Child and Behavioral Health Services, due to a situation of homelessness or abuse and neglect. A total of 53 children were served this year.

Outreach to At-Risk Youth: Started in January 2008 as a part of Governor Corzine’s prevention strategy of deterring crime and gang activity in urban areas throughout the State, this program is designed to give at-risk youth ages 11-18 an alternative to the negative influences that surround them. Consisting primarily of recreation (basketball, performing arts, tournaments, field trips) and life-skills training (group counseling, coping mechanisms, a science enrichment curriculum, gang prevention workshops), the program runs during hours that most agencies are closed: late night weeknights and Saturday mornings. In its first year, the program serviced 300 youth, far surpassing its own expectations.

Bob and Carol’s 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, clothing and furniture assistance among the working poor families and individuals from this community. At present, the program is serving over 2,930 families a month up from 2,700 last 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 the fleet of seven vehicles transported approximately 2,700 clients per month and a total of approximately 32,800 for the year to doctor’s appointments, hospital visits, nutrition sites, and recreation sites for the disabled, sheltered workshops, adult day centers and non-competitive employment.

Case Management Program: Working in conjunction with our pantries, this program provides an avenue for clients seeking additional services, such as employment, referrals to detox programs, immigration assistance, and a host of other crisis-centered needs. A total of 1,115 adults have been served through this program in 2008.
Work Assistance/Computer Training Program: Our Work Assistance/Computer Training Program continues to provide beginner and advanced computer training courses for persons seeking these skills for employment opportunities. This year, 146 students completed our computer training courses. A transportation service continues to provide bus tickets to assist clients in traveling to interview and jobs.

English as a Second Language: English classes are taught in three 10-week sessions each academic year (September through June), with basic, intermediate and advanced classes offered in both the morning and evening. The program serves about 600 adults who come from Paterson and surrounding areas, by helping them overcome the challenges and fears they face in everyday living, working and interacting in another language and culture; 588 adults were served in 2008.

The Hispanic Information Center has been a social change agent advocating for the poor, the hungry, homeless, and striving to protect human dignity by empowering those who have walked through our doors for 35 years. We are committed to provide quality, compassionate service to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. We provide seniors with hope; leadership training to youth; serve at risk populations; contribute to social stability through job placement services, and support to families via crisis intervention. Our dedicated bilingual and bicultural staff gives its best every day to serve the disenfranchised and most vulnerable residents of the City of Passaic.

Community Services: Community Services provides information and resources to low-to-moderate income clients that will enhance their economic self-sufficiency. Staff provide case management, job placement, apartment search, emergency shelter, emergency assistance to persons facing eviction or utility shut-offs, and emergency food and clothing, etc. This year 626 persons were assisted with job search, 340 with emergency food, 132 rental and 126 utility assistance, 7 with emergency furniture, and 48 with clothing.

Health Outreach: In cooperation with St. Mary's Hospital and the Commission for the Blind HIC pro-
Homebound Program: This program helps seniors improve their quality of life, and prevent institutionalization. Services provided include transportation to clinics, hospitals, doctors, social security office, and interpreting and translation of documents. Staff again hosted our Annual Mother’s Day and Christmas Luncheons for the elderly. This year the program served 275 unduplicated clients and 809 duplicated clients.

Foster Care Program: Since 1985 the Hispanic Information Center has been recruiting and training resource families to offer their homes as a haven for children who have suffered abuse or neglect. In 2008 the Foster Care Program served 39 unduplicated cases and 355 duplicated cases in Passaic County. In Hudson County, we served 15 unduplicated cases, and 56 duplicated. Two children were adopted by their foster mother, 14 children were reunited with their families, and two became permanent residents of the United States.

Children live with resource families for 6 to 12 months, longer when necessary. They attend local schools. As needed, children are enrolled in alternative schools. Each resource family has a case manager as its advocate. A perfect example of the case manager’s role is the case of a foster child who arrived to our program three and a half years ago. She was three months pregnant, did not speak a word of English and did not wish to attend school. Her dedicated case manager was able to turn this child around. Now she is attending Passaic High school, and has obtained her permanent United States residency. She is in therapy and reports that she feels better about herself. She recently reunited with the father of her child and the couple plans to wed. She still maintains contact with our agency and the foster parent for support.

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 2008, the Youth Services Unit served 25 youth ages 9 to 12 in our after-school program with tutoring, mentoring, and other supportive services that increase academic grades, promote learning skills, and teach behavior modification.

The Teen Mentoring Program served 24 at-risk youth ages 13 to 18 that were failing in school, truant, had mild to severe depression, and were engaging in other risky behaviors such as gang activities, teenage pregnancy, and drugs and alcohol experimentation.

The Youth Services Program provided 86 children with the following services: tutoring, mentoring, counseling, advocacy, college preparedness counseling. Of these cases, 15 were duplicated. We had an exciting and productive year with an 80% retention rate; 50% of our parents gained knowledge on parenting styles, and new disciplinary strategies; 80% of all our participants increased their academic grades by one letter grade or more; and 80% of our participants demonstrated an increase in positive decision making skills and behavior modification.

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA) bus is ready to help clients at the Hispanic Information Center. Pictured left to right are Mariela Monzon, a St. Mary’s Hospital, Passaic, nurse in charge of community health education programs; Ana Rivera, HIC’s community development coordinator; Lorenzo Hernandez, executive director of HIC; and Rita Kelly, Liaison for Congregational Health Ministry.
This year we sponsored four parent meetings/workshops that addressed parenting styles, adolescence, discipline, and nurturance as well as six workshops for youth and teens that discussed bullying, diversity, youth violence, HIV/AIDS, conflict resolution, and anger management. The youth participated in trips to New York, swimming at Sandy Hook State Park, Camel Beach Water Park, and Poetry Jam Sessions, hiking at Garrett Mountain, and visiting local museums and parks. The youth members were also given the opportunity to participate in several community projects to promote leadership and teamwork such as working outdoors; washing the youth vans; and helping around the agency with some light cleaning tasks.

**Alcohol Program:** In its 23rd 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. In 2008 thanks to our Alcohol-Drug Certified Counselors, 64 unduplicated clients received counseling and treatment.

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**Hope House (HH)**

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF MORRIS COUNTY, INC.**

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In 2008 Hope House HIV/AIDS services served 144 unduplicated clients and their families in Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties. The Mobile Testing and Counseling Van screened and tested 657 at risk individuals using a 20 minute oral swab HIV test. Again, in 2008 Hope House was funded from Horizon Foundation for New Jersey to provide HIV counseling and testing outreach to the Latino population. In October, an HIV Resource Roundtable during which Dr. Lee Perlmutter spoke on changing HIV/AIDS treatment trends was offered. Our Consumer Advisory Board and clients were empowered through peer mentoring training and advocacy projects. Client activities included fundraising (Mother’s Day plant sale, August flea market) to sponsor three clients to attend AIDS Watch, an advocacy event in Washington, DC each April. Clients presented to the Morris County Human Services Advisory Committee in May 2008 about HIV/AIDS. Clients attend a weekly Art Therapy program and are planning an Art Show for 2009. In 2008, Hope House, Eric Johnson House, and the Interfaith Council for Homelessness entered into a collaboration to bring services to Morris County residents through the new “Central Park” location formerly the Greystone Psychiatric Park.

Hope House’s **Behavioral Health Services** are provided by licensed and certified professional
counselors and include mental health, substance abuse counseling, and prevention programs. A Bilingual Substance Abuse Certified Psychiatrist is available by appointment. New to Hope House in 2008 was the Giving Adolescents Promise (GAP) program. GAP, funded through United Way, assists teens in recovery to identify their strengths and interests, obtain their high school diploma and receive job training. In 2008, Hope House added an early intervention substance abuse program and became a provider agency in the New Jersey Division of Addiction Services Co-Occurring Network. Behavioral Health Services served 561 clients in 2008.

**Our Latino Women’s Drop In Center**, called “La Cocina de Mami” grew in 2008. This program assists women to gain coping skills while receiving peer support and professional counseling. This year, 61 Latino women from the community participated in support groups, educational programs and social gatherings. Jersey Battered Women’s Services and Hope House continue to collaborate on a domestic violence support group for Latino women in a safe community setting.

**Senior Services** (Hope Connection, Operation Fix-It, and Chore Program) provided by Hope House are designed to assist seniors safely age-in-place in an adapted environment. Through funding from the Grotta Foundation, a new partnership with NJIT and Hope House was initiated in 2008. This partnership enables clients to have their home adapted for unique safety needs associated with dementia.

**The Hope Connection**, a 24 hour personal, emergency response system, assisted 21 low income seniors free of charge and 12 seniors received services at a discounted rate.

**Operation Fix-It** seeks to prevent premature institutionalization and help ensure our clients live in a safe and healthy environment. Operation Fix-It provides minor safety and health repairs to low-income seniors and younger disabled individuals. In 2008, 208 individuals received assistance to correct potential hazards and live in a safe environment.

**The Chore Program** offers light housekeeping, laundry and shopping to low-income seniors and younger disabled individuals in Morris County. 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 5,000 service hours to over 165 individuals in 2008; 260 volunteer hours were provided to Chore clients.

Hope House also serves the greater community through its **Food Pantry** that was significantly expanded in 2008. With 100% of the food donated by the community, over 34,000 pounds of food was distributed in 2008.

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.
It is Christmas Eve day as we finalize this report. Bishop Serratelli has just addressed staff and clients at his annual prayer service and visitation. That tradition is treasured at Straight & Narrow as it enters its 55th year of service. While tradition is valued at Straight & Narrow, so too, is change.

The effects of a dramatic economic downturn are felt throughout our society. We can see the impact on those individuals and families who present at our doors. As we assist our clients on their journeys toward self-sufficiency, we are faced with significantly decreased opportunities in the labor market for those ready to re-enter. Moreover, the loss of jobs and concurrent loss of health benefits will, without doubt, create greater volume of admissions into those agencies serving those with neither resources nor access. It is both our Mission and privilege to provide for our clients without regard to their ability to pay.

Although we adapt to a fluid funding environment and new political and economic realities, we are steadfastly guided by our Mission:

To develop and deliver effective prevention, education and treatment services to clients with addictive disorders and HIV disease;
To provide infants and children with a healthy foundation for their physical, emotional and cognitive development;
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.

This Mission provides context for our clients, staff and Board of Trustees as Straight & Narrow dedicates itself to humane, clinically sound and cost-effective care in all its programs. All services have been sustained throughout 2008 with an increase in utilization rates.

Our organizational “portfolio” is unique. The oldest (founded in 1954) and largest agency of its kind in New Jersey, Straight & Narrow is also the most diverse with facilities providing prevention, education, treatment, medical care, day care and housing. Over our 54 years, we have helped over 250,000 clients. In 2008, 6,500 people received direct services.

The Passaic County Intoxicated Drivers’ Resource Center (IDRC) serves close to 2,500 offenders annually. Since its inception in 1985, more than 73,000 offenders have completed the program. This year Bergen County awarded to Straight & Narrow its IDRC. That new program operates out of Bergen Regional Medical Center in space near our Monsignor Wall Service Center.

Our Monsignor Wall Center continues to provide both Methadone and Suboxone maintenance services for approximately 200 clients daily. Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabili-
lation Facilities, it is a modern and clinically effective effort in medically assisted treatment. Hours of opera-
tion have expanded to seven days a week. Of special
note is an increase in client satisfaction for 2008 from
96 to 98%.

Our **Medical Department**, directed by a
physician certified by the American Society for Addic-
tion Medicine, oversees all medical services through-
out the Straight & Narrow System. In 2008, the posi-
tion of Director of Nursing was established and filled.
A new HIV Coordinator was hired. After renovations
to be completed in early 2009, our detoxification ca-
pacity will expand by six to accommodate referrals
from the Needle Exchange Treatment Initiative. The
referral base continues to expand for those services, as
there are insufficient resources in state. In addition to
detoxification, the Medical Unit provides medical care
for those in residential treatment. Almost 1,000 were
treated in 2008.

Our newly renovated residential **male adoles-
cent treatment unit** will be completed in 2009. Treat-
ing up to 40 youth per day, this is a long-standing
service available to those in need Statewide.

Our **Family Success Center** will be relocat-
ed to larger and newly refurbished quarters, allowing
for significant expansion of services which includes
parenting classes, referrals for education, housing and
employment, nutrition and fitness. Services were pro-
vided to 175 families in 2008.

The **residential programs for men, women,
and women with children** are located in Paterson and
Secaucus. On any given day, 230 adult clients are liv-
ing in our treatment facilities while 73 people reside in
our apartment buildings for people with HIV/AIDS.

55 people with HIV/AIDS attend our **Medical
Day Care program** each day. This program,
along with our LaVida child care centers serves both
Straight & Narrow clientele, as well as the community
at large. LaVida and LaVida Too provided care for
over 400 children in 2008.

Our **outpatient department** provided indi-
vidual and group counseling, and intensive outpatient
services to 344 clients in 2008.

**Pastoral Care** remains an essential com-
ponent in our array of services. The number of Straight
& Narrow Gospel Choir CDs in circulation approaches
2,000. This remarkable group of current residen-
tial clients continues its active schedule throughout
the State. It performed at the New York Theological
Seminary in 2008 and was warmly received.

**There are 27 discrete programs at Straight
& Narrow.** Those described above offer but a glimpse.
We are hopeful that, for our 2009 annual report, there
will be the realization of more initiatives in the plan-
ning stage at this writing.

![The Straight & Narrow softball team pursues its next trophy.](image1)

Fairness, consistency and teamwork are reinforced on the
ball field and in the program.

![The faces say it all. Our treasured youngsters at La Vida Child Care Center are engaged, challenged and happy](image2)
**Annual Report 2008**

**Congregational Health Ministry**

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 resource 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.

In working with the Passaic County Cancer Coalition and St. John’s Cathedral, Paterson and St. Mary’s Parish, Pompton Lakes the Liaison offered oral cancer screenings to more than 75 parishioners who were evaluated by a local dentist.

As part of community outreach in 2008 William Paterson University nursing students in collaboration with the Liaison offered blood pressure screenings and education at St. John’s Cathedral and St. Anthony’s Parish in Paterson. More than 105 parishioners attended these screenings.

Through the efforts of the Congregational Health Liaison in conjunction with three agencies, HomeCare Options, Hispanic Information Center, Hope House and St. Mary’s Parish in Pompton Lakes, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance Bus was able to assist over 75 people with little or no health insurance from Morris and Passaic Counties access information about applications for medications.

Most health ministries provide regular blood pressure screenings throughout the year, identifying many individuals with hypertension in need of medical follow-up. As a parish nurse, the Liaison for Con-
gregional Health established both a monthly free Blood Pressure Program at CFCS and a Health Education Bulletin Board to provide ongoing screening and education to both staff and the community. In 2008, 109 participated in the monthly blood pressure screening and approximately 10% were identified as hypertensive and encouraged to seek medical treatment.

The Liaison for Congregational Health, in collaboration with St. Joseph Regional Medical Center created a Wellness Program at CFCS offering a series of workshops to the staff. The first workshop offered was “Women and Heart Disease” presented by St. Joseph’s Women’s Heart Center. The series of programs will continue through 2009.

Disaster Response Program

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.

In 2008 the focus of the volunteer work has been on the rebuilding and exterior painting. Eleven teams of 184 volunteers from the Diocese of Paterson traveled to New Orleans with OHH, a Catholic Charities of New Orleans Program. Since this program began in 2006, the Diocese of Paterson has sent 880 volunteers to New Orleans. This is the largest number of any Diocese in the Country. In 2008 OHH was able to rebuild approximately one house per week.

April Floods: In March 2008 the case management program for the April floods of 2007 was finally closed. Over 95 families in Passaic and Morris Counties were assisted by this program offering advocacy, referrals and available community resources.
The Migrant Ministry team and its volunteers provide a variety of services to six migrant communities, but 2008 brought change to our ministry in several forms.

2008 brought more uncertainty and often times fear to our migrant communities. Several communities experienced the trauma of the threat and reality of immigration raids. Workshops were held to unite the communities and begin planning strategies to prepare for future raids.

Our team reviewed our philosophy, purpose and practice. We wanted to place even more emphasis on the importance of forming lay leaders who would become apostles in their daily lives, helping meet the needs of individuals and their own migrant communities. Discussions were held with leaders of our six communities to see how this vision could be reflected and carried out in each community.

Conversations began about preparing migrant ministry communities for integration into local parishes. The integration of the community at St. Ann’s Parish in Parsippany into the Parish of St. Peter the Apostle will begin in early 2009. We are most grateful to St. Ann’s for welcoming our migrant community there for many years.

With the support and 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), the Migrant Ministry was able to again expand its range of service with the community of migrant workers. We are grateful to all!

Accomplishments and Statistics

1) 140 volunteers offering over 17,000 hours of mission work, including Kevin Wright, full-time volunteer with the Missionary Cenacle Volunteers program.

2) 222 Masses including the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th, 2008 attended by over 650 persons. At this event, seven migrants from Parsippany, Butler and Newton completed the sacraments of initiation receiving First Communion and Confirmation. A special thanks to Bishop Serratelli for presiding over this year’s celebration. We thank Msgr. Kieran McHugh and the staff of Pope John XXIII High School in Sparta for hosting us. Guadalupe celebrations were also held in Pompton Lakes, Butler and for the first time together with the migrant ministry, in Parsippany. Holy week, Easter, Thanksgiving (with dinner afterwards at St. Ann), and Christmas (including Posadas and “Adopt a Family”
1) Projects were also special celebrations/events in various Migrant Communities. With help from the Shrine of Saint Joseph (San Jose Community), a Spanish Mass is now held monthly at St. Vincent Martyr parish in Madison.

3) Safety reflective vests were handed out in Parsippany and the surrounding areas after the tragic deaths of two young men on bicycles this past summer in Lake Hiawatha. The vests are also being used in the other migrant communities with the hope of sponsoring various bicycle safety courses in the spring of 2009.

4) 30 infants, youth and adults were baptized. Two couples were married. Four of our faithful passed away and were sent home to their God, including an infant of five months. Following the cultural traditions of Latin America, 15 babies were presented at several of the Catholic migrant communities. Members of several migrant communities accompanied Fr. Luis and attended to the family of a young baby girl brought to the U.S. from Peru for urgent medical care.

5) Five spiritual, developmental and catechetical retreats were held throughout the communities including one bilingual. A Bible Study group meets in Newton and Sparta twice a month.

6) Members from the migrant communities attended the celebration for Spanish Heritage with Bishop Serratelli at the Cathedral in Paterson on October 5th, 2008.

7) Nearly 2,000 meals were served after the celebrations throughout the year. (These meals regularly take place after some of the Masses at St. Joseph’s in Newton and Blessed Kateri). In all, we provided transportation for 1,550 persons in Sparta and Newton to Blessed Kateri and St. Joseph Church for Monday evening Masses; 2,500 were brought from Pine Brook, West Caldwell, and Parsippany to St. Ann’s Church for Sunday evening Mass.

8) During 2008 we continued to be in partnership with Christ Episcopal Church at the resource center, “El Refugio,” for the migrant community in Newton.

9) 166 ESL classes were held for 108 people, for a total of 283 hours in Sparta, Butler, Stirling, Parsippany and Pompton. Twelve volunteers were needed to transport many of the students to the classes and back home each evening. The volunteers put in 240 hours of driving this past year.

10) In 2008, our mobile clinic, sponsored by St. Clare’s Hospital, provided a certified nurse to the community in Parsippany. Volunteers served as translators to provide services at St. Ann’s Church. Many clients were then referred to the clinic in Dover for further treatment.

11) The Blessed Kateri Migrant Ministry has continued providing a variety of service through the Hot Line 1(877) 724-5112 for the area of Newton and Sparta. The Hot Line gives information on transportation, clothing, furniture, ESL, and Mass schedules. However, the most important use of the Hot Line is for requesting medical appointments and expressing medical needs. This year 8 volunteers spent some 1,250 hours attending the Hot Line. Around 600 people received medical or dental appointments. There were an additional 4,200 hours in transporting our clients and doing follow-up appointments. This year’s Blessed Kateri Migrant Ministry MOM’s group met 12 times to support each other through the challenges of being a new mother in a new country and culture.

12) We provided several recreational activities: One basketball tournament was held in Pine Brook (with several other pick-up events at St. Peter’s in Parsippany). Two soccer tournaments were organized by members of the Migrant Ministry community in Parsippany, with the assistance of the Parsippany Department of Recreation. There were also two dinner dances held at the Police Athletic League in Parsippany and

Bishop Serratelli at the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe along with Fr. Luis de la Cuadra, ST, Associate Director of the Migrant Ministry and newly confirmed from Parsippany, Newton and Butler
one at the College of St. Elizabeth. One outdoor picnic also took place at the house of one the Sparta’s volunteer couples. The Jornada Latina was celebrated regularly in St. Joseph Shrine, Stirling. The Jornada Latina consists of prayer and reflection and provides personal, family and spiritual development.

13) One presentation from the Department of Labor was conducted this year for our migrant workers, with information on wage and hour regulations and safe working environments.

14) On numerous occasions we have been called to visit migrants in jail and offer assistance obtaining legal counselors.

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SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES
DIOCESE OF PATERSON
AGENCY BUDGETS FOR 2008

Catholic Family & Community Services $17,332,674
Department for Persons with Disabilities 6,671,911
Father English Center 7,260,532
Hispanic Information Center of Passaic 1,708,698
Hope House 2,276,675
Straight & Narrow, Inc. 18,648,971
The Secretariat for Catholic Charities 184,704

Combined Operating Budget for 2008 = $54,084,165
CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRIES ARE DESPERATE
AND SO ARE THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

We need your help more then ever!

Jesus says to us (John 21:15) “If you love me...feed my sheep”. The Gospel writer Matthew (Chapter 25) reminds us that will be asked if we fed the hungry. Hunger is more a reality in our communities than it has been for years.

Every Catholic Charities food pantry served more people in 2008 than in 2007. CFCS pantries at 24 and 26 DeGrasse Street in Paterson served almost 6,000 persons this year, a 78% increase. Partnership for Social Services Family Center in Franklin, provided food to 1,034, a 19% increase. Hope House in Dover distributed between 1,200 and 1,500 pounds of food per month throughout 2007. In December of 2008 Hope House distributed over 6,000 pounds of food. The Father English Community Center in Paterson served an average of 50 to 70 families each month in 2007. During the last quarter of 2008 the monthly total of families provided food averaged 130 families. The Hispanic Information Center provided food to 340 families in 2008, up from 125 in 2007.

Our pantries are meeting the demand without any additional government funding. Appeals for help have been generously answered by parishes, schools, community groups, individuals, some of our vendors, and our own employees. 41 schools and parishes (see pictures) collect food for us. Most collect food for us on a monthly basis; some weekly. One generous donor provided $15,000 in supermarket gift cards which we use as needed to stock our shelves when they are near empty or when necessary commodities are low. Even with increased donations we are just keeping even with the need. On any day of the week in any of our pantries the shelves are seldom more than half full, and we are always low on one or more staples (see pictures).

We expect the need for food will increase in 2009 so again we are looking for additional food donations. We welcome any food donations especially recurring ones. If you are already supporting our pantries and feel you can increase them please call any of the pantry contacts listed at the end of this article. If you are not currently supporting our food pantry and would like to, again please call any of those listed. Below is a suggested list of items we have prepared for those interested in conducting food drives.

FOOD DRIVE ITEMS

Cash • Supermarket gift cards • Canned meats • Canned fish • Canned soups
Canned stews • Canned fruit • Canned vegetables • Canned spaghetti sauce
Canned spaghetti • Various pasta products • Boxed macaroni and cheese • Hot and cold cereals
Powered milk • Parmalat • Peanut butter • Jelly • Canned juices • Healthy snack foods
Crackers • Manual can openers • Canned milk • Powdered drink mix
Instant cocoa • Boxed rice products • Baby formula • Diapers • Hygiene products
Granola bars • Breakfast bars
I

Call one of our individual agencies and programs
to deliver food directly to their pantries

WHERE TO GIVE FOOD FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRIES

Catholic Family & Community Services
Emergency Services
24 DeGrasse Street, Paterson, NJ 07505
Ariel Alonso ● (973) 279-7100, x20

Catholic Family & Community Services
Partnership for Social Services Family Center
48 Wyker Road, Franklin, NJ 07416
Sister Sr. Thomasina Gebhard ● (973) 827-4702

Hispanic Information Center
186 Gregory Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055
Delia Rosario ● (973) 779-7022

II

Organize a food collection
at your parish
at your school
at work
among your neighbors

III

Donate funds directly to
Catholic Charities
Emergency Food Fund
by check or credit card

and send to

Catholic Charities
Emergency Food Fund
c/o The Office of Development
476 17th Avenue
Paterson, NJ 07504-1123

Volunteer from Our Lady of Good
Counsel Parish in Pompton Plains delivering food to the
Father English food pantry

Hispanic Information Center (HIC) staff member Lorena Garcia provides a bag of food to a client from stock quickly disappearing from the pantry shelves

Students from Immaculate Conception Regional School in Franklin deliver food to our Sussex County pantry

Emergency Services Director, Ariel Alonso fills a bag with food from the depleted CFCS food pantry shelves

Sister Roberta assisting a client at the Hope House food pantry

Low stock on the shelves of Bob & Carol’s Food Pantry at the Father English Center, which provided over 374,000 meals in 2008

Catholic Family & Community Services
Parents Place
26 DeGrasse Street, Paterson, NJ 07505
Rose Kardashian ● (973) 279-7100, x41

Father English Community Center
435 Main Street, Paterson, NJ 07501
Carlos Roldan ● (973) 881-0128

Hope House
19-21 Belmont Avenue, Dover, NJ 07802
Judeth Wesley ● (973) 361-5555, x158
CONSIDER CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN YOUR WILL

As you plan for the future, have you considered Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson in your estate plans?
You can establish a legacy gift by simply naming Catholic Charities in the 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 in the 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
24 DeGrasse Street - Paterson, NJ 07505-2001
Joseph F. Duffy, Executive Secretary
973-279-7100 x 38
On the web at www.catholicharities.org
The Secretariat for Catholic Charities in the 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

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: 973-406-1100
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: rkelly@catholicharities.org

The Migrant Ministry
Advocacy for Human Rights - Spiritual and Day to Day Living Needs
44 Westminster Drive, Parsippany, NJ 07054
Phone: 973-585-4143
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