Catholic Charities
in the Diocese of Paterson

Annual Report
2009
Dear Friends in Christ:

The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity of the Second Vatican Council states that Catholics “everywhere and in all things must seek the justice characteristic of God’s kingdom… preeminent among the works of this apostolate is that of Christian social action.” When we think of Catholic leaders who championed the cause for social justice, we often think of people like Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and Archbishop Romero.

Yet, in our own Diocese of Paterson, hundreds of unsung heroes advocate for social justice. They are the people who staff our various Catholic Charities agencies or who offer their time, talent and financial resources to make life better for people in desperate need. It is through their efforts that we are able to bring Christ’s love and compassion to literally tens of thousands of people each year.

The following pages of the Catholic Charities 2009 Annual Report will give you a good idea of the kinds of services the Church of Paterson provides to the men, women and children who come to us for help each year. I hope you share my pride in all that our local Catholic Church does to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

At a time when we face an economic climate where the cries of the poor have become more urgent, we recommit ourselves to ensuring that our efforts are effective in both the short and long term. I am confident that the dedicated people working at our Catholic Charities agencies and those who generously support this mission will help make this happen.

May God bless you for being the current day champions for the cause of Catholic social justice.

With every best wish, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, STD, SSL, DD
Bishop of Paterson
The pages that follow recount for you the work that goes on every day at the six Catholic Charities Agencies in the Diocese of Paterson as well as our Migrant Ministry, Congregational Health Ministry and Disaster Assistance Programs. With few exceptions the number of people served in almost every category is up and in most cases up significantly over the same period of time last year. These increased statistics are significant for several reasons.

They are significant when considered against the current socioeconomic conditions of our country in general and Northern New Jersey in specific. That is, the current socioeconomic conditions have contributed greatly to the increased demand not only for emergency services but also additional services, counseling services, job development and job training services and more. In many of our programs we are providing for these increased services with flat or decreased staffing due to budget constraints. While we were most fortunate to benefit in some of our program areas from Federal government stimulus monies to New Jersey, those one-time dollars are not guaranteed for the coming year and of themselves were insufficient to meet the increased need. We relied more than ever on the generosity of donors. And our donors did not fail us. Dollar donations and in-kind donations, especially of food, surpassed the year 2008’s donations.

Bishop Serratelli in his remarks on the prior page indicates that this report will give you a good idea of the kinds of services the Church of Paterson provides to those in need. I believe the report will do just that and I commend it to your reading. Additionally Bishop Serratelli speaks to the need for champions of social justice and indicates those people who work and volunteer at Catholic Charities and support the work of Catholic Charities are such unsung champions. That too I believe to be very much true. We could not accomplish all that we do without a wonderful paid and volunteer staff and without the support of our generous benefactors.

The support of our benefactors is both spiritual and temporal and both are needed and much appreciated. I thank all of you who have supported us with your time, your prayers and/or your money. I welcome your continued support. Please be assured that you too are remembered in our prayers.

As I did in my remarks last year, I invite you to make a phone call. When 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
The economy was a major impetus for significant increases in requests for emergency assistance such as food, shelter, household expenses, and clothing. The situation led to increased requests for other services such as counseling, medical bills, job training, even burial costs. We kept pace with such huge increases in need through a combination of factors.

Our dedicated and competent staff continued to take on extra responsibilities; remained open to doing things differently; and was willing to work harder. Though government funding remained essentially flat we were able to secure some additional government funds for emergency services and for two additional staff members in our emergency services department. Years ago we cut any fat that might have been in our budget. This year, as in more recent years we cut to and into the bone limiting expenditures for non-direct services such as supplies, travel, and education. We renegotiated service and supply contracts redirecting that money to service delivery. We increased our efforts to bring in new revenues through donations, events, in-kind donations, and grants. Many parishes and schools started to donate food on a regular basis. Others increased the amount and frequency of their donations. One donor gifted us with $25,000 for mortgage assistance. Another gave us $15,000 for food cards to be shared among all our agencies.

We provided 52,475 meals to 11,575 people, an increase of 96% in meals over 2008 and a 97.5% increase in persons served. We provided rental assistance to 286 families (a 42% increase over 2008) totaling 802 people. 2,130 persons received utility bill assistance, an increase of 67%. These statistics are even more staggering when you consider that in 2008 those numbers were up by double digits over 2007.

We are thankful that we have met the increased need for emergency services. We are pleased that we could maintain and in most cases expand and improve upon all our other service areas.

Our Sussex County Aging Services Department increased its census at the Nutrition Centers and Meals on Wheels Program. We expanded our practice of providing donated pet food to our Meals on Wheels clients that have pets. The Adult Day Center increased its census, expanded its activities program and gave the Center a much needed facelift including new furniture, flooring, carpeting, cabinetry, and a donated grand piano.

Our Passaic County Aging Services Department secured funding for a new car for our up-county senior outreach program and added staff hours there, and for a new bus for our Paterson Adult Day Center. The Center received updated furniture and equipment. Working with volunteers and donated shelving from County of Passaic we opened a free library at the Governor Paterson Towers in Paterson with donated books and magazines.

Our Partnership for Social Services Family Center in Franklin introduced a new concept in utility bill assistance. We offered firewood to local residents in need who rely on wood burning stoves for heat. Initially local Knights of Columbus donated their own firewood. Now the Knights split logs provided for free by Sussex County and then deliver the wood to our office for distribution.

Our Mt. St. Joseph Children’s Center continued to make facility improvements replacing kitchen appliances and doing routine painting. Attic insulation resulted in savings on utility expenses. New beds and
mattresses were also purchased. MSJ enhanced its computer and music programs, and implemented a Guided Reading initiative to further round out its educational curriculum.

Our Early Intervention Evaluation program (for children with special needs) benefited from new carpeting courtesy of a grateful client family. Early Intervention and Special Child Health Services Programs replaced all their computers (donated).

Legal Services began offering pro-bono assistance to families of active military personnel.

Our Multi-Lingual Center’s “Hear Our Music, Hear Our Songs” music program with grant funds, hired a music instructor who with donated instruments and equipment taught clients to play keyboards and percussion instruments. Clients gave a concert in September attended by 400 family members and friends. Our Respite Program received a State grant to purchase a new van.

We closed our Migration and Refugee Services program. We took the opportunity to evaluate this service when our long-time director announced her retirement plans. In weighing the needs of the clients being referred to us versus the costs of housing, the lack of jobs, we decided that NJ was not a viable destination for referrals at this time (which other Catholic Charities in the State had already done). Before closing we resettled refugees from Iraq, Belarus, and Cuba.

Our Marian Aids Ministry expanded outreach services to the imprisoned working with the Knights of Malta Prison Ministry to develop needed services for persons leaving the prison system.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Aging Services: Transport services for 152 persons in Passaic and Sussex Counties totaling 5,017 trips; 121 adult day care clients received 8,225 days of service; 25,500 congregate meals provided to 535 persons in Sussex County; 20,000 meals on wheels delivered to 226 Sussex County residents (plus 500 blizzard boxes to 80 clients). 680 elderly residents in Passaic County received 8,094 visits as part of our outreach and case management service.

Legal Services: 719 families were provided with direct legal representation. Consultations were provided to an additional 344 people.

Emergency Services: 11,575 people received 52,475 meals; 286 families (802 people) received rental/mortgage assistance; 2,130 people received assistance with utility bills; 186 families were provided emergency shelter.

Marian AIDS Ministry/Marian Outreach of Mercy: Provided 203 Pastoral Care visits to 55 terminally ill clients and families; 45 visits to 28 people diagnosed with AIDS; 253 private sessions with 153 incarcerated women and former inmates.

Community Outreach: Provided case management to 415 families and individuals associated with the Paterson Housing Authority.
FAMILY & CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Counseling Services: 4,310 counseling sessions were provided to 635 clients.

Adoption Services: 7 adoptions completed four of which were international; 1,405 individuals assisted with adoption, counseling information and/or referral services.

Mount St. Joseph Children’s Center: 10,489 days of care and schooling provided to 55 residential/day students.

Friendship Corner: 540 children received 131,760 days of day care service; 96 children received 18,240 days of service in our after-school programs; 58 children received 2,230 days of service in our summer program.

Multi-Lingual Center: 55 clients received 3,477 hours of vocational services; 3,348 families received parent training and individual advocacy; 50 families received 12,271 hours of out-of-home respite care; 1,486 families received case management services; 92 families received monthly groceries.

Special Child Health Services/Early Intervention Program (SCHS/EIP): Provided case management to 3,096 families with children with developmental disabilities or delay.

Early Intervention Evaluation Team: Completed 4,737 evaluations and individual Family Service Plans.

SPAN: The SPAN Family Resource Specialist provided consultations to 1,021 families.

Teen Counseling Program: Provided services to 43 Paterson youths at risk.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

Italian Catholic Center: Served a total caseload of 2,100 including 84 new clients. Over the past 41 years, this program has handled 54,175 cases.

Migration & Refugee Department: 35 refugees were resettled. Services to these clients included housing, school enrollment, transportation, health care, job development, job placement, ESL, citizenship, driver’s license, furniture and clothing.

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 individuals 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 have been fully accredited since 1986 by the Council on Accreditation (COA), an international accrediting organization that evaluated all of DPD’s services according to national “best practice” and has commended DPD on the quality of its services.
We have 140 dedicated staff who work tirelessly to make the DPD’s Mission a reality. The staff view their work as a vocation with real meaning and not just a job. We rely heavily on government funding to support our services 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 tremendous. There are over 9,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the State of NJ who are waiting for 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. Our residents range in age from 30-72 and 62% are over the age of 50. A resident who is 50 years old will often have the medical issues generally related to a 70 or 80 year old person. 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 life-long disabling conditions. In order to manage these complex medical changes, we have a registered nurse on staff and added additional direct care staff to help provide the one-to-one care that is needed for their personal care. We have also made some modifications to our homes to make them more accessible so that the people we serve can “age in place” for as long as possible.

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. We have 18 residents who are showing signs of Alzheimer’s. 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, 45% of our clients are dually-diagnosed with developmental disabilities and mental illness, requiring more expertise in daily emotional care. In order to better meet their needs, we have a Behavior Analyst on staff. This person works with the residents and staff to develop behavior plans and to recommend strategies to manage some challenging behaviors and to enhance the residents’ quality of life.

The DPD’s residential programs include nine group homes and two supervised apartment programs. These homes operate 24/7 with round the clock staffing.

The Gruenert Center in Lake Hopatcong provides training and work opportunities to 49 individuals five days a week.

**Residential Services**

**Alexander House** is a large ranch style home in Oak Ridge. DPD provided 3,222 days of care to 5 men and 4 women with developmental and physical disabilities and autism.

**Barnet House** is a large two story home in Pompton Lakes. DPD provided 2,853 days of care to 3 men and 5 women with multiple developmental and physical disabilities.

**Calabrese House** is a ranch style home in Parsippany. Two of the residents use wheelchairs. DPD provided 1,814 days of care to 1 man and 4 women with developmental and physical disabilities.

**Columbus House** is a large ranch style home in Oak Ridge. DPD provided 2,081 days of care to 6 men with significant developmental disabilities, physical disabilities and autism.

**Finnegan House** is a large two story home in Oak Ridge. DPD provided 2,870 days of care to 5 men and 3 women with developmental disabilities and mental health issues.

**Fitzpatrick House** is a ranch style home in Pompton Lakes. DPD provided 1,815 days of care to 5 men with developmental disabilities and autism.
Basile Apartments is a supervised apartment program located in two condominium units at Brittany Chase in Wayne. DPD provided 2,081 days of care to 6 men with developmental disabilities and autism.

Kelleher Apartments is a supervised apartment program located in three condominium units in Cambridge Heights in Butler. DPD provided 2,789 days of care to 3 men and 6 women with developmental disabilities, autism and mental health issues.

VOCATIONAL SERVICES
Gruenert Center, an Adult Training Center for 49 men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities provides opportunities for work at the Center and in the community. DPD provided 10,090 days of work for 49 individuals.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS
The Volunteer Program at the DPD, “People Need Friends”, continues to thrive with 70 active volunteers. This year they accounted for 1,500 hours of service.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
DPD provided 140 hours of family support helping families to plan for and access services needed for their children.

The Director of Pastoral Care provided 200 hours of visitation and advocacy for former residents who are in nursing homes.

Murray House is a split-level style home in Clifton. It is our longest existing group home which first opened in Paterson in 1971 and later moved to Clifton in 1992. DPD provided 2,071 days of care to 3 men and 3 women.

Wallace House is a large ranch style home in Sparta that was donated to the DPD to use as a group home. It is home to 3 women and 3 men with disabilities. DPD provided 2,099 days of care to 3 men and 3 women.

Wehrlen House is a bi-level home in West Milford and is named in honor of the founder of DPD, Msgr. John Wehrlen. DPD provided 2,140 days of care to 6 women with Downs Syndrome and Alzheimer’s.

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. Our staff works with 105 children without regard of their race, creed, color, gender, na-
tional 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.

**After Care & Summer Camp Child Care Program:** Since 1974, the After Care/Summer Camp Child Care Program has offered a quality After Care 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 2009, the program was expanded to serve over 150 “children at risk” (ages 5-13 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, 43 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 179,250 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 2009, 35 long-term and 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 25 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 morning/afternoons. This year, the program serviced 200 youth, meeting its contracted level of service.

**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 3,500 individuals, an increase of 50% from the previous 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 2,655 clients per month and a total of approximately 31,860 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 806 adults have been served through this program in 2009.

**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, 191 students completed our computer training courses. A transportation service continues to provide bus tickets to assist clients in traveling to interviews 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 advance 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.

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

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The Hispanic Information Center continues to excel in its mission by accomplishing the ultimate goal of preserving human dignity, and empowering those who walk through our doors. For the past 37 years the Hispanic Information Center has served as an advocate for the disadvantaged and the victims of unfortunate circumstances. Whether we are assisting the poor, the hungry or the homeless, we provide quality service with care and the utmost devotion to ensure a positive change, no matter how big or small, will take place in the lives of those we help. We provide seniors with hope; leadership training to the youth; serve at-risk populations; contribute to social stability through job placement services, and support to families via crisis intervention. The Center would not be where it is today without the hard work and dedication of our knowledgeable, bilingual and bicultural staff, a team that consistently...
has entrusted the Hispanic Information Center with the mission of recruiting and training resource families to offer their homes as a haven for children who have suffered a history of abuse or neglect. In July, the program celebrated 24 years as the only Hispanic organization to operate and maintain its own Foster Care Program in Passaic County and Hudson County. From January to December 2009, the Foster Care Program served 41 unduplicated cases and 303 duplicated cases in Passaic County. In Hudson County, we served 24 unduplicated cases, and 111 duplicated.

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 2009, The Youth Services Unit served 22 youth ages 9 to 12 in our after-school program with tutoring, mentoring, and other supportive services that increase academic grades, promotes learning skills, and teaches behavior modification.

Community Services: We offer the following: information and resources to low-to-moderate income clients in order for them to enhance their economic self-sufficiency; case management; job placement; apartment searches; emergency shelter; emergency assistance to persons facing eviction or utility shut-offs; and emergency food, clothing and other necessities. This year 634 persons were assisted with job search, 359 with emergency food, 152 rental and 194 utility assistance, 8 with emergency furniture, and 67 with clothing.

Health Outreach: HIC in affiliation with St. Mary’s Hospital and the Commission for the Blind provided vital services to the underprivileged residents of Passaic. St. Mary’s provides screenings for high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, eye screenings, and a range of other services that are typically difficult for people with limited income or lack of medical insurance to attain. With the aid of St. Mary’s staff, our clients are provided with the knowledge to make healthy lifestyle changes in order to improve their quality of life. This year 798 people were served.

Homebound Program: We provide services aimed at maintaining autonomy, improving quality of life and preventing institutionalization. Seniors feel at home with a culturally sensitive staff that ensures that seniors feel comfortable in calling and visiting the Center. Services include transportation to clinics, hospitals, doctors, social security office, and interpreting and translation of documents. Once again, the staff hosted our Annual Mother’s Day and Christmas Luncheons for the elderly, which was sponsored by Amerigroup. This year the program served 277 unduplicated clients and 817 duplicated clients.

Foster Care Program: In operation since 1985, the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services does its best day in and day out to cater to the needs of the disenfranchised and most vulnerable residents of the City of Passaic.
The Teen Mentoring Program served 10 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. We have been successful in helping adolescents change their behaviors and make better choices for themselves. Three young men have joined the Student Council at Passaic High School, abandoning their ties to gangs, and other risky behaviors. We had an exciting and productive year with an eighty percent retention rate, and fifty percent of our parents gained knowledge on parenting styles, and new disciplinary strategies.

The Youth Services Program also serviced an additional 78 cases with the following services: tutoring, mentoring, counseling, advocacy, college preparedness counseling, and other services. Of these cases 15 were duplicated.

This year, thanks to two donations from the NJ NETS organization for basketball, the teen members were treated to dinner at TGIF and then to the game against the Los Angeles Lakers. For many of our teens it was the first time they stepped into a stadium. Another highlight of this year was a special trip to Philadelphia for the purpose of bringing US history to life for students who were having a difficult time with the subject matter. The year concluded with the Annual Christmas party and thanks to the generosity of the staff members of Amerigroup, the youth members received gifts from their annual toy drive.

2009 was a year of growth, collaboration and “firsts” at Hope House. Established 38 years ago, Hope House serves individuals residing primarily in Morris, Warren and Sussex Counties, providing social and clinical services, especially for those who are oppressed, powerless or otherwise disenfranchised. Hope House is a licensed accredited provider of Behavioral Health and supportive social services.

Hope House programs include comprehensive services related to HIV/AIDS and in 2009 served 152 unduplicated clients and their families in Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties. The Mobile Testing and Counseling Van screened and tested over 500 at-risk individuals using a 20 minute oral swab HIV test. Again, in 2009 Hope House was funded from Horizon Foundation for New Jersey to provide HIV counseling.
Clients enjoyed a presentation of “The Color Purple” at the NJ Performing Arts Center as well as other enrichment programs. Hope House Behavioral Health Services are provided by licensed and certified professional counselors and include both mental health and substance abuse counseling as well as prevention programs. A Bilingual Substance Abuse Certified Psychiatrist remains available by appointment. New to Hope House in 2009 was the Ray of Hope Garden, a project of the GAP program. The GAP program, funded by United Way of Morris County, is an extension of the adolescent substance abuse recovery program and assists teens in recovery to identify their strengths and interests, obtain their High School diploma and receive job training. Clients also enjoyed a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens where they met Chef Emeril Lagasse. Behavioral Health Services served approximately 604 clients in 2009. Clinical Directors, Judi Wesley and Kristina Ernst were selected for the Division of Addiction Services Co-occurring Task Force committee and the Administrative Office of the Court, Drug Court treatment committee.

The Latino Women’s Drop in Center (“La Cocina de Mami”) expanded services to include English as a Second Language and citizenship classes. Members identify topics for educational programs; participate in group counseling and social gatherings; receive individual professional counseling; and have access to our consulting psychiatrist. Hope House community-based Senior Services (Hope Connection, Operation Fix-It, and Chore Program) are designed to assist seniors safely age-in-place. Through

Thanks to grants from the Office of Faith Based Initiatives and the Grotta Foundation, Jane Long educates residents from Mount Olive Manor about programs that specifically aim to improve the quality of life, prevent disease and manage their health.

Valarie Golden, local artist and Hope House volunteer, made tie-dye t-shirts with our clients this summer.

and testing outreach to the Latino population. In October, an HIV Resource Roundtable during which Dr. Renee Frankel spoke on HIV/AIDS treatment trends was attended by over 50 Morris County service providers. Through venues like the Consumer Advisory Board, peer mentoring training and advocacy projects, clients were empowered. Subsequently, a Hope House client representative was appointed to the Morris County Human Services Advisory Committee.

Clients ran a flea market in August that funded three clients’ attendance at AIDS Watch, an advocacy event in Washington, DC. Clients contributed to the first “Art of Hope” Art Show held at the River Garden Gallery in Denville. This fall, client art was displayed at the Morris County Administration Building in Morristown. A photography program was added in 2009. We look forward to our first photography show in 2010! Clients enjoyed a presentation of “The Color Purple” at the NJ Performing Arts Center as well as other enrichment programs.
funding from the Grotta Foundation, collaboration with New Jersey Institute of Technology and Hope House was extended for a second year in 2010. This partnership enables clients to have their home adapted for unique safety needs associated with dementia. A first time partnership with the NORWESCAP RSVP Program enabled a new chronic disease management program that has quickly grown through funding from both the Grotta Foundation and the New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives. This program provides an evidenced-based healthy lifestyle education program developed by Stanford University at Morris County senior housing sites.

The Hope Connection, a 24 hour personal, emergency response system, assisted 19 low-income seniors free of charge and served an additional 70 seniors at an affordable rate.

Operation Fix-It seeks to prevent premature institutionalization and help ensure 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 2009, 232 individuals were served.

The Chore Program provides light housekeeping, laundry and shopping services to low-income seniors and younger disabled individuals in Morris County. Chore attendants are trained to perform ongoing safety assessments, and watch for declining health and 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 167 individuals in 2009. In 2009 a record 6,500 volunteer hours of service were provided clients (valued at $130,000).

Hope House serves the local community through a volunteer Food Pantry that was significantly expanded in 2009. With food donated by the community, including support from the Interfaith Food Pantry, over 75,000 pounds of food was distributed in 2009 (100% increase). In addition, Hope House hosts the local Birthright office (which provides material assistance to mothers), the Morris County Child Assault Prevention Coordinator, and local self-help groups.

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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.
To be sure, this mission statement bespeaks a diverse organization that views its role as both expansive, and responsive to a spectrum of health and social needs of our citizens, families and communities. Straight & Narrow endeavors to shape its services and programs to accommodate changing demographics and trends. However, what remains constant is its focus on quality and commitment to core principles.

Each annual report is a retrospective prepared during the Christmas season. Accordingly, we view that year through a prism of gratitude and joy. As ever, we are thankful for the gift of serving.

Completing its 55th year, Straight & Narrow has maintained its “portfolio” and continues to explore opportunities to broaden its base. This grows more challenging as both our national, state and local economies continue to struggle. However, such downturns create greater need for those services we provide. Need and demand have driven higher rates of utilization, retention and successful completion among the substance abusers treated at our various programs. We are especially pleased that the level of satisfaction expressed by clients via questionnaire is the highest in recent history, exceeding 93%.

More clients were served in our Intoxicated Drivers’ Resource Centers by virtue of the opening of our Bergen County program in 2009. More than 2,600 offenders completed the program.

The Monsignor Wall Center, located on the grounds of Bergen Regional Medical Center, provides methadone and suboxone maintenance for opiate dependent clients. At this writing, over 200 are enrolled and benefiting from this service accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

The Straight & Narrow apartments for people with AIDS house 73 people. This resource insures a safe and humane environment for those for whom services and access are limited. As always, a waiting list is maintained. In addition to housing, we provide essential medical and case work services for people with HIV disease at our Medical Day Care program located in Passaic. Over 70 clients have attended this year.

Our residential programs for men, women and women with children, located in Paterson and Secaucus serve approximately 230 people each day, while our outpatient service provided care for 350 over the year.

The La Vida Child Care Centers in Paterson served over 400 three and four year old children in 2009.

The Straight & Narrow Pastoral Care department augments our panoply of services, providing comfort and perspective toward clinical and personal growth. Under its aegis, the gospel choir continues to inspire and uplift. The choir has 3,000 CD’s in circulation. Future recordings are planned. In addition, we will be publishing our sixth edition of the client-produced poetry book.

Our adolescent residential unit has been completely redesigned and renovated. The detoxification unit has been expanded by six beds to accommodate the new Needle Exchange Treatment Initiative, bringing the total to 26.

Our Family Success Center provided 342 families services which included access to information on child, maternal and family health, job readiness, in-
Spanish, parent-child activities, monthly topic workshops and the Parent Advisory Board.

Straight & Narrow must remain in “renovation mode,” as many of our programs are housed in buildings built in the 19th century, not designed for its current uses. 2010 will see another major undertaking as we begin renovating the second floor at 396 Straight Street. This will permit us to plan and execute a significant expansion of our current residential programs for substance abusers.

We continue to be blessed by a gifted and compassionate staff who demonstrate, every day, their steadfast dedication to the provision of compassionate and effective services. Their professional development is essential both for the staff and the organization. At the time of last year’s annual report, 27 staff possessed a Master’s, Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor or Licensed Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor credential. At this writing, there are 40. Clearly, this benefits career development and enhances the level of clinical professionalism.

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**Congregational Health Ministry Program (CHM)**

**Disaster Response Program**

**Rita Kelly, RN, Liaison**

24 DeGrasse Street • Paterson, New Jersey 07505

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**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 healthcare system, access care, obtain accurate information for disease management and connect to services for the elderly, chronically ill and medically underserved.

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Brian Kidd NP offering a program to the residents of Governor Paterson Towers on “Health Living for Seniors.”
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 healthcare providers and local community resources.

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 Congregational 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 2009, 145 participated in the monthly blood pressure screening, including a number of the newly uninsured. Approximately 15% were identified as hypertensive and encouraged to seek medical treatment.

Partnering with HomeCare Options, CHM offered a workshop on Elder Care at the Brownstone attended by over 77 parish nurses, social workers and staff of Catholic Family & Community Services.

Working with a Family Care agency, CHM offered information at four locations within the Diocese to those who are underinsured or uninsured and 120 people received insurance information.

As part of community outreach in 2009 William Paterson University nursing students in collaboration with CHM offered breast cancer education at Father English Community Center and diabetic education to the seniors at the Paterson Adult Day Center. More than 80 clients attended these screenings.
In 2009, the Migrant Ministry team grew in number with the hopes of serving the vast needs of the migrant communities in the Diocese. Fr. Rafael Pisso, ST joined the team after ministering with migrants in the Diocese of Tallahassee, FL. He replaced Fr. Luis De La Cuadra, ST, who moved on to another assignment in his religious community. We thank Fr. Luis for his two and a half years of dedicated and loving service to our ministry. We were also blessed with the arrivals of Br. Raul Mejia, ST and Br. Edwin Guerra, ST, both of whom were warmly received by the communities of Butler and Newton/Sparta, respectively. Their presence in these communities marked a renewed effort to be more present to the daily needs of the migrants under our care.

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 2009 the focus of the volunteer work has been on the rebuilding and exterior painting. Seven teams of 109 volunteers from the Diocese of Paterson traveled to New Orleans with OHH, a Catholic Charities of New Orleans Program. Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson has sent close to 1,000 volunteers to help with Operation Helping Hands since 2006.

Road to Recovery Program: After the tragic and violent death in October of Father Edward Hinds, Pastor of St. Patrick Church in Chatham a program was established to address the needs of the children and teachers, the parish staff and the faith community. The Road to Recovery program offers grief counseling in the form of group counseling and psycho-educational programs for individuals and subgroups including children-at-risk, teachers, clergy, parents and staff of St. Patrick’s Church and then will be transitioned to the faith community for long-term recovery. Since this program was established in early November it has provided support to 172 children and adults.

THE MIGRANT MINISTRY COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (MM)

BR. JOHN SKRODINSKY, ST, ESQ. DIRECTOR
LUIS F. ALIAS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FR. RAFAEL PISSO, ST, PASTORAL CARE
BR. RAUL MEJIA, ST AND BR. EDWIN GUERRA, ST
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A family from the migrant ministry poses outside their cabin at Camp Trinita in New Hartford, CT during a family retreat.
As always, one of our primary concerns this past year was meeting the spiritual, pastoral and sacramental needs of individuals and families in our communities. We also continued to tackle prevalent issues in our communities such as those dealing with: immigration status, landlord tenant problems, employment, medical needs, alcoholism, domestic violence, among many others. We continued our transition to St. Peter’s in Parsippany with the help of Fr. William Santelliz. We began planning with the Parish Community of St. Lawrence in Chester to provide for the needs of the migrant community there. We said goodbye to long time volunteer and friend, Alma Esquivel.

None of our work is possible without the support and the generous involvement of the priests, religious, and parishioners and volunteers from St. Joseph (Newton), St. Peter’s (Parsippany), St. Anthony’s (Butler), St. Mary’s (Pompton Lakes), Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (Sparta), and the Shrine of St. Joseph (Stirling). We also thank St. Margaret in Morristown for providing office space. We are very grateful to all!

Accomplishments and Statistics

1) 155 volunteers offering over 19,000 hours of mission work, including Kevin Wright, full-time volunteers with the Missionary Cenacle Volunteers program.

2) More than 250 Masses were celebrated including the beautiful celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th, 2009 attended by over 550 persons. At this event, a young lady from Hamburg was confirmed. A special thanks to Bishop Rodi-mer for presiding over this year’s celebration. We also want to 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 Parsippany. Holy week, Easter, and Christmas (including Posadas and “Adopt a Family” projects) were also special celebrations/events in various Migrant Communities.

3) Community-wide, 53 infants, youth and adults were baptized. 7 couples were married. 2 of our faithful passed away and were sent home to their God.

4) The ministry sponsored a Pre-Cana retreat for 8 couples in preparation for the holy sacrament of matrimony. 2 follow-up retreats were held with the same couples. A confirmation retreat was held in Pompton Lakes for several youth and young adults who received the sacrament in November and December. A Bible Study group meets in Newton and Sparta twice a month.

5) Members from the migrant communities attended the celebration for Spanish Heritage with Bishop Serratelli at the Cathedral in Paterson on October 4th, 2009.

6) Nearly 4,800 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). Meals are also served after special celebrations like Our Lady

Fr. Raphael Pisso, ST and participants in the procession await the beginning of this year’s Guadalupe celebration at Pope John XXIII High School.
of Guadalupe. In all, we provided transportation for 2,000 persons in Sparta and Newton to Blessed Kateri and St. Joseph Church for Monday evening masses. 300 persons were provided with transportation for masses at St. Peter’s in Parsippany.

7) During 2009 we continued to be in partnership with Christ Episcopal Church at the resource center, “El Refugio,” for the migrant community in Newton. Br. Edwin began providing more of a presence to the community of Newton by holding office hours at El Refugio’s office. The same can be said for Br. Raul, who established office hours at St. Anthony’s in Butler due to the generosity of Fr. John Alderson, OFM and his staff.

8) 180 ESL classes were held for 85 people, for a total of 360 hours in Newton, Butler, Parsippany and Pompton. 3 volunteers were needed to transport many of the students to the classes and back home each evening. The volunteers put in 120 hours of driving this past year.

9) In 2009, due to cuts in the hospital budget, we were not able to provide our mobile clinic from St. Clare’s Hospital. Many clients were instead referred to local clinics or to local emergency rooms for further treatment.

10) 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. Again, this year 8 volunteers spent some 1,250 hours attending the Hot Line. Around 662 people received medical or dental appointments. There were an additional 4,581 hours in transporting our clients and doing follow-up appointments. This year’s Blessed Kateri Migrant Ministry MOM’s group met once a month to support each other through the challenges of being a new mother in a new country and culture.

11) On numerous occasions we have been called to visit migrants in jail and offer assistance obtaining legal counsel and advice.

12) We provided several recreational activities: A summer basketball tournament was held in Pine Brook, together with a family picnic. This was followed by a 3-weekend tournament at the gym at St. Peter’s in Parsippany. Two soccer tournaments/leagues were organized by members of the Migrant Ministry community in Parsippany, with the assistance of the Parsippany Department of Recreation. There was a dinner/dance at the College of St. Elizabeth put on by the college students for the migrant community of Parsippany. The annual “Chip and Diane Lehrer” outdoor picnic also took place at their house on Lake Musconetcong. The Jornada Latina was celebrated monthly at St. Joseph’s Shrine, Stirling. The Jornada Latina consists of prayer and reflection and provides personal, family and spiritual development.

In February 2009, the Migrant Ministry’s Parsippany community moved from St. Ann Parish to St. Peter the Apostle. After Mass at St. Ann’s, there was a procession through the streets to St. Peter’s marking the transition.
Combining the budgets of Catholic Family & Community Services, Department for Persons with Disabilities, Father English Center, Hispanic Information Center of Passaic, Hope House, Straight & Narrow, Inc., and The Secretariat for Catholic Charities, we get a Combined Operating Budget for 2009 of $54,110,169.
Catholic Charities Food Pantries Are Desperate
And so are the people we serve

We need your help more than 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 locally is a reality today. In Matthew 7:7 Jesus says “Ask and you will receive.” Last year we asked you to help us feed the hungry and you did. We thank you most sincerely. We need to ask your help again this year.

The number of people provided food assistance in 2009 far exceeded our 2008 numbers which far exceeded 2007. CFCS pantries at 24 and 26 DeGrasse Street in Paterson served nearly 12,000 persons this year, almost a 100% increase. Our Partnership for Social Services Family Center in Franklin, provided food to 2,103 people, over a 100% increase. Hope House in Dover distributed over 75,000 pounds of food in 2009, double the amount distributed in 2008. The Father English Community Center in Paterson served an average of 3,500 people each month in 2009 up from 2,900 in 2008. The Hispanic Information Center provided food to 359 families in 2009, up from 350 in 2008.

Our pantries continue to meet 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. 64 (up from 41 last year) 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 were near empty or when necessary commodities were 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).

While we are hopeful the need will not grow as dramatically in 2010 as it has the past two years, we expect the need for food will increase in 2010. 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 - Powdered 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 Thomasina Gebhard ● (973) 827-4702

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

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

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
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. Consult your estate advisor.

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.

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