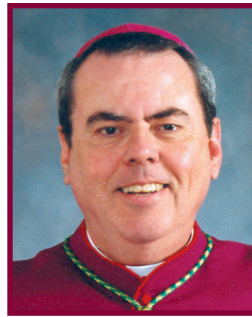


# Leadership



January 2008

Dear Friends,

Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs carries out the indispensable ministry of charity on behalf of our local Church. For this reason our diocesan budget always includes the administrative expenses of Catholic Charities so that 100% of your donations go directly to programs which serve the less fortunate in our community.

I am very proud of the many good works of Catholic Charities. I enthusiastically support their decision to build *The New Marian House* at the same site as the current facility. That property is owned by the Diocese of Colorado Springs, but I have pledged full and exclusive use of the site – rent free – to Catholic Charities for as long as the Marian House continues its work. Last year alone the Marian House served more than 159,400 meals to the poor and hungry in our midst.

When *The New Marian House* is completed, those entering the city across the Bijou Street Bridge will be greeted by the beautiful campus of St. Mary's Cathedral and *The New Marian House* complex – a magnificent expression of the Church's twofold mission of prayer and charity.

Please continue your generous support of Catholic Charities.

With all good wishes for you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan  
Bishop of Colorado Springs



January 2008

Dear Friends,

It is with equal part humility and pride that I present to you Catholic Charities' Annual Report.

The incredible works of mercy taking place each and every day here in the Diocese of Colorado Springs thanks to the efforts of dedicated staff and volunteers is quite simply humbling. Thousands of man-hours....Thousands of lives touched.

We see it in the children needing placement in safe, loving adoptive homes. It's in the stranger seeking integration in our community through literacy. It's in an aging grandparent who can afford food or rent...but not both. It's in the disabled veteran, still fighting his or her own personal war after returning from conflict.

To be part of a mission...a ministry that cares for those I just mentioned – and so many others – it gives one a sense of pride. Our mission at Catholic Charities is to enhance the value and dignity of human life. We've done so in a highly efficient manner being recognized as one of the top charitable organizations in the nation.

These are certainly things to be proud of, but it's an ever-constant reminder that life is fragile. Whether it's an accident, loss of job, or loss of loved one, any one of us can fall into deep physical and/or emotional poverty. In a word: Humbling.

I am most grateful and ask for your continued prayers and generous support of Catholic Charities.

With every good wish for you, I am

Yours in Christ's Charity,

Jason D. Christensen  
Executive Director

# Our Programs

## Family Immigration Services



ESL student prepares for class by dropping off his children in the literacy based childcare program

Family Immigration Services provides English as a Second Language classes to help clients gain language skills for obtaining better jobs, talking with their children's teachers and fully participating in our community.

Volunteer teachers continue to be moved and motivated by the hard-working students, many of whom hold

down several jobs in addition to regularly attending class. In the past year, about 200 adults participated in classes and the program expanded to additional locations. St. Patrick's church opened their doors to a day program on Tuesdays and Thursdays while St. Mary's Cathedral began a night program. Participants come from Central and South America, China and Korea. Childcare is provided so parents can attend classes and achieve their goals.

## Life Connections

As a licensed and accredited child placement agency, Life Connections provides pregnancy options and relinquishment counseling, facilitates prenatal education classes, prepares and supports adoptive families to nurture and parent children in need of a stable family home, and provides post adoption support.

During the past year, we were a vital link in providing guidance and counseling support to 123 individuals facing an untimely pregnancy, a past abortion or wishing to relinquish their parental rights. Fifty-six individuals attended an adoption orientation seminar with 24 enrolled in a state required 2-day

training course. State foster home certification/family assessments and updates were maintained and completed on 15 adoptive families and 2 "Cradle Care" homes. Over 1,740 days of foster care were provided to 12 children in need of a permanent home with all meeting their developmental milestones while in Catholic Charities' care.

Post adoption assistance was provided to 14 individuals who participated in a previous closed adoption and were seeking to be reunified with their birth child/parents. A Prenatal Nurturing education course was provided to 22 parents-to-be focusing on successful parenting skills for newborns. One hundred percent of those who completed the course showed positive change regarding at least one of the curriculum's parenting and child rearing practices, 61% experienced positive change related to at least three of the practices and 46% showed improvement on four or five of the practices. The impact of the program for these participants was much larger than average in terms of their change in attitudes and knowledge of parenting.

## A Bridge to New Beginnings: the capital campaign for The New Marian House

The project to build *The New Marian House* consists of two parts. The first phase is the new commercial kitchen and dining room. Once completed, work will begin on phase two, replacement of the existing building. The second phase will house Emergency and Transition Services: Marian House Community Outreach & Client Services programs, the SET clinic and office space to be shared by representatives of other agencies, working in collaboration with Catholic Charities.

Following approval by the Board of Directors, construction of the new kitchen and dining facility began in May, 2007. It began approximately three months later than anticipated owing to delays in construction approvals from the city of Colorado Springs. Work is now running on or slightly ahead of schedule with the new dining facility scheduled for occupancy in April, 2008.

Our financial goal for the capital campaign is \$6.75 million. This is an increase over the initial target due to inflation and design changes negotiated with the Downtown Partnership and the Boulder Crescent Neighborhood Association. The Board recently authorized replacement of the existing building rather than renovation. The increased cost will be offset by reduced operating expenses and extended building life. Additionally, the facility space will be designed to match the services offered.

The campaign has raised \$4.4 million to date (as of January 2008) in cash and pledges. We have enjoyed broad support from the community, including local and regional foundations, the faith community and individuals. Our leading donors include: El Pomar Foundation; Gates Family Foundation; Boettcher Foundation;



Progress to date on *The New Marian House* dining hall and kitchen. Scheduled to open in May 2008.

Coors Foundation; Edmondson Foundation; Gaylord Foundation; The Daniels Fund and the Crowell Trust. Leading faith based donors include: Holy Apostles Catholic Church; First Presbyterian Church; Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church; First Lutheran Church; Focus on the Family; Woodmen Valley Chapel and St. Mary's Cathedral. We are pleased with the response we have received from the community and are confident of reaching our goal by the end of 2008.

## Marian House Soup Kitchen

In FY 06/07, the Marian House Soup Kitchen served an average of 385 people everyday, 365 days a year. 159,408 meals were served to 140,458 people and over 5,700 meals were served to children and youth.

The Soup Kitchen utilizes over 900 volunteers per month to help prepare, cook and serve the meal. The entire program is extremely ecumenical as most of our volunteers are non-Catholic. In fact, last year alone, over 400 separate groups volunteered at the soup kitchen. Regular groups from First Presbyterian, First Lutheran, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, military installations, corporations and businesses as well as a multitude of individuals are the backbone of the operation. Without volunteer support, the soup kitchen simply would not be able to serve the numbers it is able to accommodate today.

## Emergency & Transition Services

ETS is comprised of four programs: The Life Support Center, Marian House Community Outreach, Marian House Client Services and the Agency Connections Bus. Each provides specific services for our clients.

The Life Support Center, delivers services to families with children, such as distributing baby food & formula, diapers, clothing, furniture, case management and toys through the Birthday Buddy and Christmas Gift programs. In FY 06/07, 2,575 unduplicated adults and 4,402 unduplicated children were served in this program.

Marian House Community Outreach delivers furniture, food, clothing, small household appliances and case management to families and individuals who cannot come to the Marian House or other social service agencies to receive help. Last year alone, Community Outreach delivered over 60,000 pounds of food to people in our community.

Marian House Client Services provides case management on site and helps clients with IDs, birth certificates, information & referrals, clothing, etc. In FY06/07, 1,801 unduplicated clients were served.

The HUD funded Agency Connections bus transports people who are homeless on a specified route to agencies throughout the city to receive services.

## Social Concerns & Public Policy

The office of Social Concerns & Public Policy (SCPP) was formed in September of 2006 as a result of an ongoing grant as part of the Diocese of Colorado Springs strategic pastoral plan.

SCPP seeks to challenge, transform, heal, and sanctify the structures of our society through relationships, education, advocacy, empowerment, and organizing. Parish Social Ministry, Legislative Advocacy, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services and *JustFaith* Ministries are all part of this program.

In March 07, over 60 people attended the first Diocesan Social Ministry gathering, which will become an annual event. SCPP also conducted a Metro Region Workshop focusing on roots of Parish Social Ministry, promoted the awareness education of Fair Trade commodities sales and use in parishes. The Rice Bowl project was also expanded this year, with great results.

Emergency & Transition Services & Soup Kitchen clients chat with ETS Director Maryann Stadjuhar



## Board of Directors

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Anderson              | James MacDougald                |
| Richard Joseph Bowles           | James O. Palmer                 |
| Bob Doerfler                    | Jerry Petersen - Vice President |
| Fr. Don Dunn                    | Michael Pharris                 |
| Doug Hinn                       | Tim Riechert - Treasurer        |
| Mary Cathryn Haller - Secretary | Bishop Michael J. Sheridan      |
| Juan Hernandez                  | Michelle Swanson                |
| James Hurley                    | Gary Joseph Vitt                |
| Tim Keating - President         | Dawn M. Welber                  |
| Brenda Lynn Lammers             | Helen V. Finn                   |

Not all board members are pictured.



## Our Clients

**B** Grogan became pregnant 7 years ago with her first child, Khalilah. Uncertain of her future, she came to Catholic Charities to help her sort through her options. What she found was a caring counselor who discussed with her the options of parenting vs. adoption. B made a well-informed decision to parent, but as she

got closer to delivery, her boss told her she had to take maternity leave, which would be unpaid. B was not sure what she was going to do or how she would manage with no income. Her counselor from Catholic Charities **Life Connections** went with her to apply for benefits which helped her get back on her feet.

Six years later, B found herself pregnant with twins and out of work. It was during this time that B began eating at the **Marian House Soup Kitchen**. She needed help with food for herself and her daughter while the food stamp paperwork was being processed. She says, "I like the Marian House, but they need more room to sit. It's very crowded. They have a special family dining room, away from the crowds, where the kids can eat and they give them milk, yogurt and ice cream, which is really nice." She found that while she was job hunting, eating at the soup kitchen was more convenient than going all the way home. "Everyone is nice there. I arrived when they were closed and the security guard gave me two loaves of bread and a jar of peanut butter. They also gave my daughter a backpack with some school supplies."

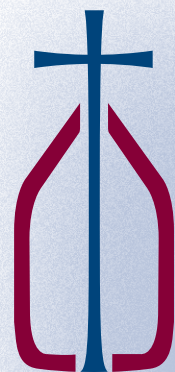
Realizing she was one step from being homeless with a 6 year old and twins on the way, B decided to take control of her life. She once again contacted Catholic Charities. Understanding the dire circumstances, a Life Connections counselor recommended B enroll in our **Prenatal Nurturing Program** so she could build on her parenting skills, and told her about a transitional program offered by Partners In Housing. B interviewed for the two year self-sufficiency program and was overjoyed when she was accepted.

B also got linked to Catholic Charities **Life Support Center**, receiving essential clothing, shoes and bedding items and Khalilah was even able to receive some toys for her new home. With PIH's help, B got a job at a nursing home. In a few short months, the "hand up" B received has put her on a solid path to self-sufficiency. Her next goal is to try to save up to buy a car so she can get the kids to a baby sitter while she's at work. She has a contagious optimism for her future. She says, "Having children changes you. I know we'll be OK."

**Mac** **Marian House** is more than a "soup kitchen" to the guests who come regularly. "Mac", a 94 year old man, has been coming to Marian House for years. The staff and volunteers surprised him with a cake for his 94th birthday at the kitchen. Recently, Mac was put into a nursing home due to his health. However, after 3 months, he missed his former life so much that he checked himself out of the nursing home and back into the Acacia Apartments. Mac walks to the Marian House everyday to enjoy a noon-time meal and socialize with his friends. Mac will tell you he is alive today because of the Marian House. For several days after his surprise birthday party, Mac was absent. The staff and volunteers were worried because it was unlike him to miss the meal so they checked on him at Acacia Apartments. Mac was found on the floor, unconscious. He had apparently been that way for several days. Had he not been missed, Mac would probably be not be alive today.

Diane, a client of the **Life Support Center** for several years, was featured in a story by Channel 13 on the working poor. As a result of Diane's story, several local business people came to her aid, sending her and her children on their first real vacation and providing her with \$3,500 toward her degree at Nobel Beauty College. The owner of the Beauty College kicked in the rest. That was in March 2006. Diane started beauty school in May 2006 while still working at Payless Shoes. That August, her son was attacked by a Pit Bull and her other son had his appendix ruptured. On September 22, 2006, Diane had had enough. She wrote a note to her children, taped up the car exhaust, got her bible and tuned the radio to 102.7, the Christian station and called a friend. She had decided to kill herself. Sensing something was wrong, her friend called 911. They arrived just in time and rushed Diane to Memorial Hospital. Even though she had some good things happening in her life, Diane says, "I was just tired of hurting. I was tired of not being able to provide for my children. I was just tired."

Today, she has no regrets. Although she realized that the suicide attempt was the most selfish thing she had ever done in her life, because of her children, it was the wake up call. Diane knew what she had to do. No matter how tired she was, she had to keep moving forward. She studied harder and in May 2007, she took first place at the "Get Connected" hair show in Castle Rock. That same month, she took third place in the Peels Beauty Supply Warehouse Bridal "Up Do" competition. She graduated from Nobel Beauty College on October 26, 2007 and already has a job lined up with Viva Salon here in Colorado Springs. Diane has big plans. She plans to buy her first house in the next 3 years based on her career goals. She says, "I feel like a new person. I've seen the light at the end of the tunnel and know I can be financially stable and my kids won't want for anything. I won't have to rely on the state to provide heat for my home. I have hope and determination."



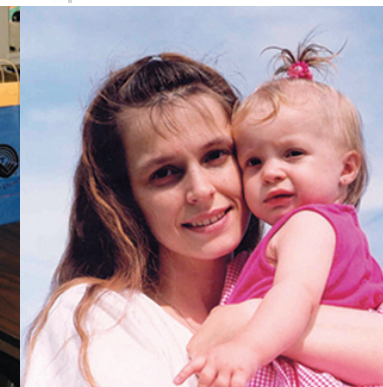
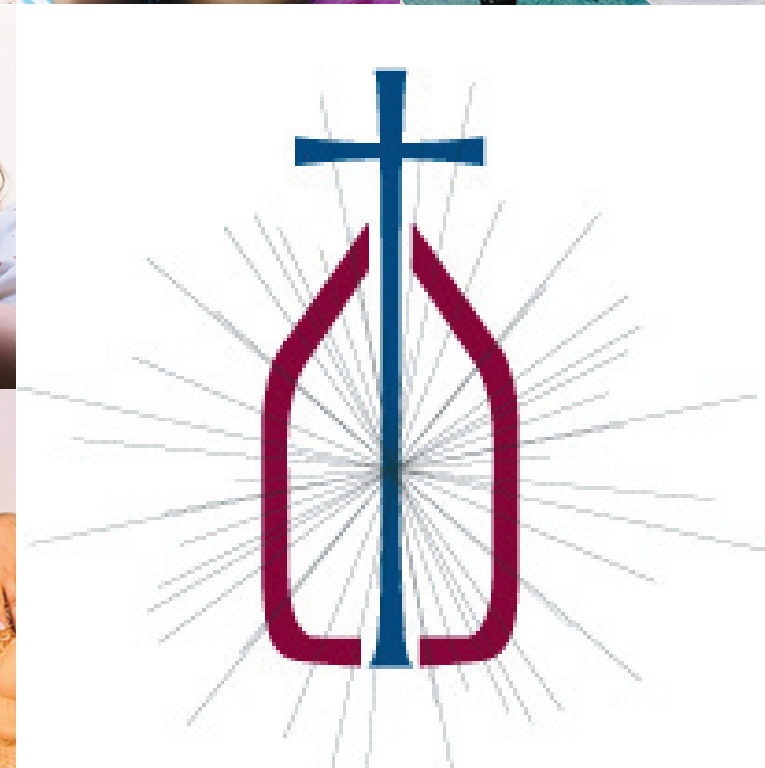
## Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

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www.ccharitiescs.org

Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs is a non-profit organization serving people in need.

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Most photos on the cover courtesy of Liana Sikes/Catholic Charities USA, Alexandria, VA

## Our Clients (cont.)

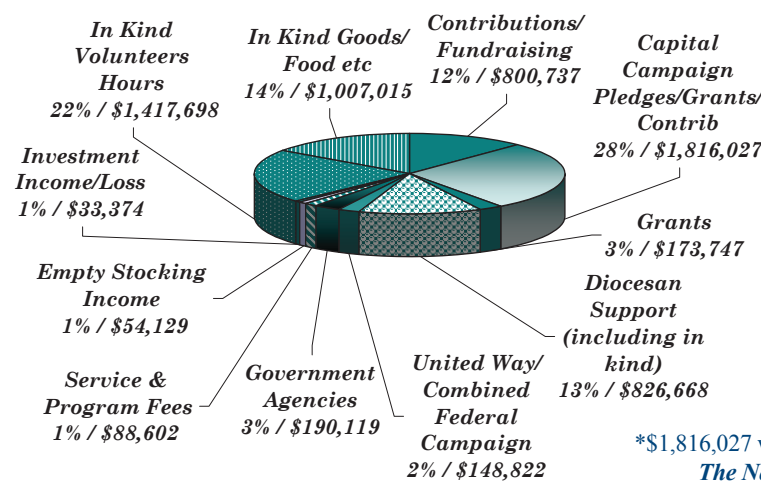
Diane says that Catholic Charities opened the door to the start of her new life. "If not for Catholic Charities being there for me, for giving Channel 13 my information to do the story on the Working Poor, and providing gas vouchers to help me get to work and school, I wouldn't be here today. You made the sun shine. You opened the door to my new life."

Diane still uses some of the services offered by the Life Support

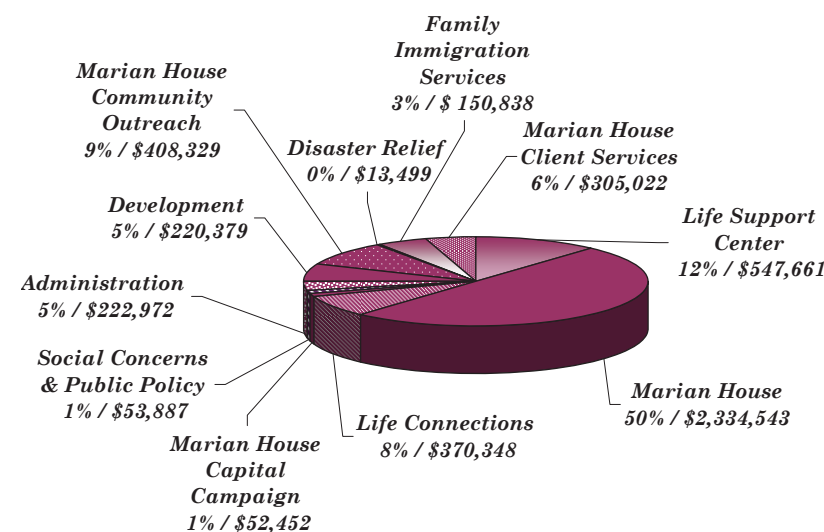
Center, like Birthday Buddies, the Christmas gift program and case management. She says, "When I'm well off in 5 years, I'm going to pay it forward. I'm going to volunteer and help a single mom or dad with a step up, not a hand out. Today I'm just happy. I honestly didn't think my life would be like this. To be poor with riches and to be rich with riches, it's spiritual. God has good things in store for me, I know He does. I'm never going to forget where I've been and where I am now."

## Financials

Total Income: \$6,556,938\*  
(Includes The New Marian House Capital Campaign Pledges)



Total Expenses: \$4,679,930



\*\$1,816,027 was received in cash or pledges for "A Bridge to New Beginnings" - the capital campaign for The New Marian House project. This income will be used only for this designated purpose.  
Note: Diocesan Support Income offsets Development and Administration Expenses so 100% of donor dollars go directly to the programs of Catholic Charities.

# Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs Annual Report FY 2006/2007