

# CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICE INC.

A Newsletter To Our Friends



August 2008 • Volume 2008 • No. 1

## Inside this issue

- Volunteers and Friends p. 2
- Food Pantry p.2
- Program Updates p. 3
- Catholic Charities Address Poverty and Racism p. 3
- A Night To Remember XVII p. 4



## Catholic Family Service Completes Major Building Expansion

After nearly nine months of construction and renovation, Catholic Family Service has completed a major expansion of its main facility at 102 Ave. J in Lubbock. The project included adding two new conference/activity rooms, making the facility fully handicap-accessible, including new restrooms, addition of storage areas, adding offices, remodeling the old conference room for youth at risk offices and counseling areas, significant expansion of the food pantry, and new landscaping.

Catholic Family Service purchased its current building and surrounding land in 1993, and this was the first major expansion and renovation since the agency occupied the facility. Due to a continuing growth in programs and services, CFS had simply outgrown the building it occupied, and the need for expansion was evident.

Following the sale of its old offices on North Ave. N in August, 2006, the CFS Board and staff embarked on planning for the expansion with the help of a local architectural firm. As the plans for the building were modified and improved, they provided a very helpful basis for approaching foundations and other donors whose assistance was vital in securing funding for the building. With enough resources in hand, the CFS Board approved the contract to begin the project in August, 2007, and construction began in October, 2007.

The addition consists of approximately 4,000 square feet, with about 900 square feet of the current building being renovated. The construction timeline remained on schedule, and staff, volunteers

and clients began use the new facility daily in early June.

The addition to the CFS main offices is being named in honor of Steve and Palmira Hay-Perea, who dedicated 18 years of service to CFS and the thousands of people it serves each year. Just as Steve and Palmira looked both at the immediate needs of people as well as the longer term mission of CFS, so this expansion is a statement about the future of this agency, which exists "to serve the least among us."

The CFS Facility Expansion Project would not have been possible without the help of many, many generous individual donors, as well as major grants from foundations who support our mission of service to those most in need. As the

project progressed, CFS was very fortunate to continue successfully accessing grant funds and major donations. With the completion of this expansion, the building and furnishings are paid for, the staff and volunteers have a much better facility out of which to serve the needy, and more people will be able to be served for many years to come.

The Board and staff of Catholic Family Service are deeply grateful to everyone who made this such a successful project, and who recognized the urgent need that this expansion is addressing in Lubbock and the South Plains. All of our wonderful benefactors remain in our prayers. If you haven't had an opportunity yet to come by and tour the facility, please do so!





**Catholic Family Service, Inc.**  
**Diocese of Lubbock**

102 Ave J  
Lubbock, Texas 79401  
806-765-8475  
806-765-8630 (fax)  
www.cfslubbock.org

**Directory of Programs and Services**  
**Central Administration:**  
CFS Primary Office Site  
Lubbock..... 765-8475

**Administrative Services, Finance, Emergency Assistance, Immigration, Adult Counseling, Self Sufficiency Program**

**At-Risk Youth Services**  
Lubbock..... 806-765-8475  
.....1-800-530-4704  
Brownfield..... 637-1651  
Crosbyton ..... 675-0474  
Dimmitt..... 647-0323  
Haskell ..... 940-864-5188  
Levelland ..... 894-6235  
Plainview..... 296-7044  
Quanah ..... 940-663-2876  
Vernon ..... 940-553-3334

**Resale Center\Thrift Store**  
Lubbock..... 763-8315

**Elderly Outreach Services**  
Lubbock..... 765-2611

Program Directors  
**Jeff Malpiede**  
Executive Director -  
Jeff@cfslubbock.org  
**Cynthia Quintanilla**  
Administrative Assistant  
**Dick McCann**  
At-Risk Youth Program Director  
**Sam Ortegon**  
Family Life Service Coordinator  
**Virginia Alamanza**  
Emergency Assistance Coordinator  
**Reyes Pequeno**  
Rural Community Organizer  
**Sabrina Robbins**  
Self-Sufficiency Program Coordinator  
**John Vasquez**  
Resale Center Director  
**Rosario Jimenez**  
Immigration Coordinator

## Thanks to the Volunteers and Friends of Catholic Family Service

Catholic Family Service has a faithful extended family of friends and volunteers who give of their time, talent and treasure on a regular basis to help advance the mission of the agency to serve “the least among us.” We are truly blessed by your generous help, and the staff of CFS is much more effective because of your commitment to service.

Each year, CFS honors its volunteers as well as its Friends (financial donors) at an appreciation dinner, and in late March of this year, over 100 supporters of CFS gathered at Holy Spirit Church for a festive meal and a program which expressed the thanks of the staff and Board for all that our volunteers do throughout the year. The theme of this year’s recognition evening was “Celebrating Life,” and it served as an affirmation of how life is enhanced by the generosity of supporters of CFS. Jeff Malpiede, Executive Director of CFS, presented a summary of the donations made by volunteers and friends during 2007, reporting that over 7,000 volunteer hours were donated last year, and individual donations from all sources totaled \$255,267. In his report given to those in attendance, Malpiede stated: “Poverty can bring on the darkness of despair, but through your generosity, we are able to help people in need see some light in their lives.”



A highlight of the evening was the performance of a group of students from the Carver School in Levelland, Texas. They dramatized short stories that reflected the theme of “Celebrating Life” in a most creative way, and captured what it means to be life givers to others. The Board and staff of CFS hopes that all those in attendance, as well as those friends and volunteers who could not attend, realize how much they are appreciated and needed. As we continue to meet the challenging needs of people in Lubbock and the South Plains, we do so confident that we are strengthened by the extended family of CFS!

## CFS Food Pantry Helped by Generous Donors

With the rapid rise in food costs during 2008, many low-income individuals and families have struggled to make ends meet. Inflation has impacted the “working poor” in a more dramatic way than those households with greater means. Gas, medications, food, housing, health care: all of these basic necessities have become harder for families to afford, and consequently, charity agencies across the country are being stretched with the limited resources they have to help in a time of need.

Catholic Family Service is no exception. During the first six months of 2008, 1,188 individu-

als and families were helped with food from the CFS food pantry. A typical food box given to a family contains enough food to feed them for a week. During May and June of 2008, the Emergency Assistance staff has seen a considerable spike in the number of families coming to CFS for food assistance. Very often, families coming for assistance are having special difficulties because of the higher costs of all the basic commodities mentioned above, or have experienced a job layoff or health emergency. Frequently, CFS Emergency Assistance staff will give additional aid to an individual or family that may

include utility or rental assistance, prescription medications, basic dental or eye care, or clothing, furniture or household items from the Resale Center.

CFS’s food pantry relies on many generous donors to provide food to the large number of needy households it serves each year. In late July, the Knights of Columbus, Council #3008, gave a donation of \$3,000 to purchase food for our pantry. This donation came at a most critical time of the year, as summer donations tend to be down. This generous assistance, raised by member Knights through their fundraiser (See **Food Pantry**, Page Four)

## Resale Center:

The Resale Center continues to help individuals and families in need with quality clothing, household items, and furniture. During the first six months of 2008, the Resale Center assisted 233 households with a variety of items with a total value of \$19,697. These items come from the hundreds of donors who give thousands of useful items each year to the store. Families who need help are first screened through the Emergency Assistance Program at CFS, and then given a gift card for clothing and/or a voucher for household items or furniture.

## OTHER PROGRAM UPDATES

The Resale Center during 2008 has also entered into a partnership with Family Promise, a local organization that provides short term shelter for families in the Lubbock area. The Resale Center has committed to providing furniture and household items to families leaving this shelter program who have found permanent housing. The items from the store are provided at no cost to the family who is get-

ting on their feet. In return, Family Promise directs all of its donors who give furniture, clothing and household items to give these items to the Resale Center. This partnership is mutually beneficial to both organizations, and creates a more efficient way of helping families with basic household needs once they leave shelter.

As a result of an increase in donations and lack of adequate storage space, CFS has leased a building in the Guadalupe neighborhood for storage and for bulk sales. This 2,500 square foot building enables the store to accept and process more donations, and to increase the amount of items put out for sale at the Resale Center. If you would like to schedule a pickup, please call the Resale Center at 763-8315.

## Catholic Charities in Texas Address Poverty and Racism

In late April, 2008, about ninety representatives of Catholic Charities agencies, parish social ministries, and social concerns offices gathered at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio for their 22<sup>nd</sup> annual convening. The focus of this year's conference was *"Poverty and Racism Through the Lens of Homelessness, Health and Child Welfare."* As a result of a local grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, four representatives of the Diocese of Lubbock were able to participate in the conference over the course of three days.

By means of major presentations, workshops, and interactive discussions, participants grappled with some of the effects of poverty and racism, especially as they impact the most vulnerable populations that are served through a variety of our Catholic ministries.

Although some of the heartbreaking personal stories of individual struggles were hard to listen to, the conference retained a hopeful theme, as participants were continually made aware that our Church's social teaching is put into action every day by thousands of faithful servants throughout our State. These representatives of diocesan and parish agencies are committed to the alleviation of the suffering of the poor, as well as to building more just structures in our society which has so often excluded people of color or people lacking financial resources.

The theme of this year's statewide gathering was chosen in tandem with the national focus of Catholic Charities USA, which is committed to working toward cutting poverty in half in the United States by the year 2020. Although this is a very ambitious goal, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Charities agencies across the country have made this a top priority.

Poverty and the structures that keep people poor are a scourge and a scandal in this nation of abundance, and Catholic Charities USA is focused on helping more and more Catholics take to heart Catholic Social Teaching, which guides us in principles such as Human Life and Dignity, the Option for the Poor, and the Common Good of all. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) helps us to understand our faith tradition more deeply, and to realize that as a nation, our goodness is reflected in how we help the poor to lift themselves out of poverty. Our strength as a nation is rooted in promoting the common good, and ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are given preferential treatment.

The Bishop of our Diocese of Lubbock, Most Rev. Placido Rodriguez, CMF, and Catholic Family Service, have publicly committed to the campaign to cut poverty in half in the US by 2020. If you would like more information on this campaign, as well as our local efforts to reduce poverty, please contact Jeff Malpiede at the CFS office.

## Youth At Risk:

The At Risk Youth Program has exceeded the targeted number of youth and families served for the fourth straight year. The program is funded by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, as well as the Federal Administration for Children, Youth and Families. The program serves youth and families in 30-counties of the South Plains, which encompasses approximately 26,000 square miles. Sixteen youth counselors carry out the program, which includes individual and family sessions, group skills building, parenting classes, child abuse prevention services, and the SAFE PLACE program, which now has 62 sites throughout Lubbock. CFS has just completed an application for a four year renewal of the state funding for its STAR program, which will continue these vital services to youth and their families in the 30-county area.

## Rural Community Organizing:

The Rural Community Organizing Project held a "Founders' Convention" in early 2008 at Holy Cross Church in Post, Texas. The purpose of the convention was to bring supporters of the project together to commit to an "action agenda" to be carried out in their communities, as well as to publicly commit to a dues structure for the member churches. 40 people attended the convention, representing  
(See **Program Updates**, Page Four)

# Number XVII Was Truly a Night To Remember!

On Sunday, June 1, Catholic Family Service held its seventeenth annual "Night to Remember" at the Catholic Renewal Center in Lubbock. The event, which is CFS's only major fundraiser of the year, drew a large crowd, and the participants were treated to a delightful evening of food and drink, live entertainment by Anthony Garcia, and silent and live auctions that featured a great variety of items on which to bid. The planning committee for the event worked for several months in preparing everything to ensure a successful fundraiser, and their dedicated work paid off. Each year, the Night to Remember is a wonderful opportunity for the many supporters of CFS to come together, celebrate and socialize, and help the social justice/social action arm of the Diocese of Lubbock raise funds so that it can more effectively carry out its mission of service to people in need.

The Board and staff of CFS are most grateful to all our generous donors who



helped make "A Night to Remember XVII" such a tremendous success. The event netted over \$60,000, which, in a year when the overall economy is not doing very well,

is a great return. The date for "A Night to Remember XVIII" has already been set: **June 7, 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center.**

## Food Pantry *from Page Two*

at Buffalo Springs Lake, will help Catholic Family Service continue to be a Sign of Hope for families who are experiencing a difficult time.

The staff of CFS is most grateful for this wonderful gift from the Knights of Columbus, Council 3008. With our expanded pantry, CFS will be able to accommodate many more food donations, and will assist more people.

## Program Updates *from Page Three*

several churches from the various communities where the project is in operation. Brief presentations were given on the realities facing families in the rural communities, and some of the obstacles they face in building stability both within their homes and their neighborhoods. Even with the challenging realities presented, the spirit of

the convention was positive and hopeful, focusing on the possibilities that can be achieved when communities organize for change. As a result of the convention, local core groups have been meeting in some of the rural towns, continuing to discuss how to implement some of the directions set at the early 2008 convening.

**CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICE INC.**  
 A Newsletter To Our Friends  
 102 Ave. J • Lubbock, Texas • 79401-1438

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 LUBBOCK, TX  
 PERMIT NO. 179

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED