

CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICE INC.

A Newsletter To Our Friends

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Summer, 2010

Dear Friends of CFS:

I am writing to you for the last time as Executive Director of Catholic Family Service. Later this summer, I will begin a new position that works with meeting the needs of medically underserved people in Lubbock and the surrounding communities. This is a wonderful opportunity for me, and one that I begin with enthusiasm and with hope.

The nearly ten years that I have served at CFS have been a great joy for me. I have gotten to know so many of you as faithful friends and volunteers of CFS. You are the lifeblood of our agency, and carrying out our mission of compassionate service is not possible without you. When I arrived in Lubbock in the fall of 2000, I never envisioned how deeply CFS would become a part of my life, and so I leave this work with some sadness alongside the excitement of being able to offer my gifts in this new capacity. To Board members both past and present, volunteers who help in our various programs, staff who labor daily to make people's lives better, and all of our generous donors, I simply say: THANK YOU! Thank you for ten blessed years during which we have been able to further the mission of CFS to "serve the least among us."

At the national level, these years have seen great trials of human suffering: the terrorist attacks of 9/11, two foreign wars, Hurricane Katrina, and two recessions, the latest of which continues to impact the poor and how we serve them. But also at the national level, Catholic Charities USA, our umbrella organization, has committed itself to work toward reducing poverty by half in the United States by 2020. Faced with human suffering due to poverty in our society, our Catholic Charities network offers help and hope to those who are tempted to despair. At the local level, we are greatly blessed to have a Bishop who is so committed to the social mission of the Church, and to reducing poverty in our area. Bishop Rodriguez sets the tone for our Diocese of Lubbock, and our pastors and parishes collaborate in the corporal works of mercy in very tangible and effective ways.

I leave CFS in good hands, with a talented and committed staff that serve in the various programs of the agency, connecting many people with resources that help them to improve their lives. I know that the Board of Directors will find the right person to lead CFS into a future full of hope. This person will bring new ideas and gifts that will build on what we have accomplished over the past ten years. I am humbled to have followed in the footsteps of Kathleen Walsh and Steve Hay, both pioneers and servants. Their impact was abundantly clear as we celebrated our 25th anniversary last year.

May each of you know that I hold you close to my heart as I turn to another chapter in what has been an immensely fulfilling life. May the journey each of us takes, no matter where it leads, enable us to make a difference in the lives of our sisters and brothers in need!

Sincerely,

Jeff Malpiede



Summer Updates:

After six years of developing leaders from several of the rural towns surrounding Lubbock, the **Rural Community Organizing Project** of Catholic Family Service came to a close at the end of June. This project was funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development as well as other foundations, and it brought a heightened awareness of how people from low-income neighborhoods can organize to address problems in their communities. Many of these people who have received significant leadership training, continue to meet and discuss local issues that they want to address. CFS is grateful for the funding that made this community organizing project possible, and is committed to working in the rural areas of the Diocese of Lubbock to better the lives of low-income families.

The **Self Sufficiency Program** helped 54 households

move from poverty to economic self sufficiency during the first six months of 2010, which was the target goal for the entire year. The success of this program consists in the ability of those assisted to find good jobs that provide a living wage for their families. CFS helps qualifying low income college students with various forms of assistance as they complete their studies: tuition, books, rent, utilities, and childcare.

In order to further develop its **Elderly Outreach Program**, which is funded by the Lubbock Area United Way, CFS staff are putting together a community advisory committee which will meet on a quarterly basis and provide ideas and input on how to strengthen this service to Lubbock's medically needy elderly population.

Over the past few months, the **Resale Center** completed some much needed improvements to the store. These improvements were made possible through generous foundation grants, and they included: Installation of new energy efficient fluorescent lighting throughout the entire store, including the work areas, new exterior and interior signage, a new security camera system that enhances customer safety, improvements to ductwork to help with cooling and heating, painting of various areas of the store, and new paint and carpet for the break room for staff and volunteers. If you haven't been to the Resale Center lately, come by and shop in a brighter and more inviting environment!