



EM POW! ER YOUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED WITH STRENGTH.

BE A SUPERHERO AND GIVE!

In a world of ordinary mortals, you can be extraordinary this summer and provide **SUPPORT, SHELTER, FOOD, and EDUCATION** to families and individuals in your community. Catholic Charities builds up the people of Southwest Florida with the courage to move beyond poverty and achieve self-sufficiency.

A total of 92 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to our clients.

The Giving is Easy! To donate, please use the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org.

YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT!

(Summertime and the Giving is Easy is continued on page 4)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BETHESDA HOUSE	2
POST HURRICANE IRMA	2
FAMILY HAVEN	3
SUMMERTIME GIVING	4
GIVING CHALLENGE	5
WISH LIST/CLICK AND GIVE	6
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	6
AFCCAAM OUTREACH DAY	6
CEO'S CORNER	7
DONATE YOUR CAR	7
AMAZON SMILE	8
CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOUNDATION	8

NEW LEADERSHIP AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Venice -Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. welcomes Philomena Pereira as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). She will be responsible for the total operation of the organization, overseeing 32 service locations which provide programs and services in the ten-county area of Southwest Florida. Pereira will also manage Catholic Charities Housing, Diocese of Venice, Inc., which offers affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in several communities, and the Catholic Charities Foundation, Diocese of Venice, Inc.



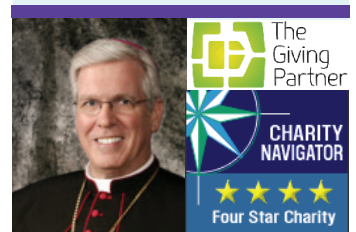
Philomena Pereira

Pereira has over 25 years of experience working in the social services sector. She has served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer at Tidewell Hospice in Sarasota. Prior experience includes CEO at Catholic Social Services in Morris County, New Jersey and Assistant Vice President, Community and Long-Term Services at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in New Jersey, as well as work with additional not-for-profit organizations.

Pereira is a graduate of Ramapo College in New Jersey and earned a master's degree from Columbia University School of Social Work. In addition to her work experience, Philomena is a parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Sarasota.

(New Leadership is continued on page 3)

"My goal is to maintain the good works of Catholic Charities and expand programs that serve the most vulnerable populations such as victims of human trafficking, children and seniors," Pereira said.



Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop

UPCOMING EVENT

Naples - The annual **Undy Sunday** will be held on August 4 and 5 and August 11 and 12 at Collier County churches and synagogues.

Sponsored by Catholic Charities, the community is asked to donate new underwear and socks for needy school children. Also accepted are monetary donations for other necessary school items.

To donate or for more information call 239-455-2655.

BETHESDA HOUSE A WELCOMING AND SAFE PLACE

Sarasota - Bethesda House of Catholic Charities has served the community for almost three decades. The program assists individuals and families living with HIV to achieve and maintain a basic lifestyle that includes nutrition, personal hygiene, simple life skills, and access to necessary medical care.

“Bethesda House, located in downtown Sarasota, serves a specific population,” said Program Director Colleen McMeniman. “The program is unique in that it is the only program of its kind in Southwest Florida. Bethesda House assists anyone who is HIV positive living within the 10 counties of the Diocese of Venice.”

The drop-in community center offers a nutritional program, clothing, shower and laundry facilities, computer assistance, benefit applications, and case management services. In 2017, 254 clients were assisted.



Bethesda House offers case management and a nutritional program along with other services.



A large part of the aid at Bethesda House is the nutritional program which provides low-income clients with high-protein and fresh nutritious food needed to

remain healthy. Last year \$13,000 in grocery cards and 23 tons of food were distributed.

Bethesda House also provides an eight-unit permanent housing complex, Casa San Jose, for males living with HIV which offers wraparound services that empower residents to live independently and cope with their illness.



Casa San Jose is an eight-unit housing complex.

Clients often face discouragement due to societal and health related setbacks. They depend on the continued assistance and encouragement of case managers who understand their struggles, and who help them with issues of self-confidence and, at times, hopelessness. Bethesda House is designed to be a haven for its clients, a safe place from stigma and discrimination. Many clients come in just to get a smile and to feel welcome.

For more information, please call 941-366-1886.

POST HURRICANE IRMA EVENT HELPS RESIDENTS

Immokalee - Hundreds of residents came to Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities for assistance with FEMA and Social Security during a two-day event. Hosted by the Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, the happening offered families and individuals help with Social Security issues and to appeal their denied FEMA claims during the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Representatives from **Salvation Army, Red Cross, RCMA, Immokalee Unmet Needs Coalition**, and other non-profit agencies also were on hand to offer aid from lingering problems post Irma.

Harry Chapin Food Bank and **Farm Share** distributed fresh produce and food bags to families and individuals who attended the sessions at the Catholic Charities program. With so many people of Immokalee displaced after the devastating storm, the event was an effort by non-profit and government entities to get them back on their feet.

For more information, please call 239-657-6242.



FAMILY HAVEN SHELTERS HOMELESS FAMILIES



The Family Haven emergency shelter provides housing for two families.



North Port - Since opening in March 2015, the Catholic Charities Family Haven has served 76 homeless families totaling 198 people. The program provides an emergency shelter to families with children who are residents of South Sarasota County, which includes Nokomis, Venice, Englewood, and North Port.

The Catholic Charities Family Haven offers emergency shelter services for up to 21 days, not to exceed 30 days, based on each client's individual need. Breakfast and dinner are served daily, and bagged lunches are prepared upon request. Residents are assigned to a case manager who assists with accessing community resources, employment search, childcare referrals, and creating a permanent housing plan to reach self-sufficiency. The emergency shelter provides housing for two families. The facility has two family bedrooms, two bathrooms, a communal kitchen and eating area, a washer and dryer, a waiting room, and an office.

The Catholic Charities Family Haven also offers transitional housing for

clients coming out of the emergency shelter that require more time to become independent. While in transitional housing, clients receive long-term case management services that include budget training, home visits, and goal setting. All case management plans are individualized and developed according to the needs of the family. There are five transitional homes for homeless families that are located in North Port, Venice, and Englewood.

“The Catholic Charities Family Haven emergency shelter has proved to be an important part of the South Sarasota County community,” said Program Director Cynthia Townsend. “Homelessness is real, and it has been a pleasure to serve families in need,” she said. “Serving those that are literally without housing and possibly seeking shelter in a place not meant for habitation, means we are giving a family a safe place to sleep and hope for a better future. Not only that, but to work with them toward complete self-sustainability, speaks to how our services are multifaceted.”

Townsend said for example, a family of four entered the shelter because they were sleeping in their car. The family only had one income because the mother lost her job. The father reported a history with drug and alcohol abuse but was sober and asked for assistance in providing a home for his family. The family was assigned to a case manager that worked with them to set goals and create a housing plan. Today, the family lives in their own apartment and both parents are employed. The father has remained sober. The family continues with long-term case management services and participates in budget training and home visits. The children are very happy.

The Catholic Charities Family Haven is supported in part by grants from Sarasota County Government, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Jane's Trust Foundation, and Heron Creek Foundation. **For more information, please call 941-564-8637.**



Transitional Housing is available to families who exit the emergency shelter.



(New Leadership continued from page 1)

She currently serves on several boards and is active in the local community. She is also a member of the 2009 Class of Leadership Sarasota.

“The number one focus of our agency will be our clients and helping them to rise above poverty and reach self-sufficiency,” Pereira said. “The next priority is to make sure our staff has the resources they require to efficiently serve our clients.”

Community and donor relationships also are important to Pereira. “Catholic Charities has a solid reputation for

being a good steward of the funds and contributions received from organizations and individuals,” she said.

“We will maintain that standard and cultivate new partnerships as we go forward to meet the needs of our clients.”

“To quote Mother Teresa: ‘I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples,’” said Pereira. “Catholic Charities provides the opportunities to those who are struggling to take the incremental steps needed to graduate to living an independent and healthy life.”

(Summertime and the Giving is Easy continued from page 1)

SUMMERTIME AND THE GIVING IS EASY



PUT THE **POW!** ON INSTABILITY.

Be a Superhero and Give **SUPPORT**

Catholic Charities supports with stability. Our **Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program** guides victims to attain a healthy life. We administer **Professional Counseling Services** that keep families together and offer relief. Frail and isolated elders come to the **Senior Support Coordination Program** to live independently.



\$1,500

Provides a safe residence for a victim of human trafficking for a month.

\$250

Helps a family with professional crisis counseling.

\$100

Provides a homebound senior with companionship and case management.



Be a Superhero and Give **SHELTER**

Catholic Charities shelters the homeless. The **Family Haven** provides emergency housing and long-term case management for homeless families. At **Our Mother's House**, desperate mothers and their children have a safe place to live where they can work toward self-sufficiency. **Casa San Jose** gives those living with HIV a proper residence to enhance the quality of their life. The **Veteran's House** offers a deserving veteran a roof over their head.

\$2,000

Offers a mother and child residential and support services for a month.

\$500

Provides a mother and child residential and support services for a week.

\$250

Maintains housing for a veteran and his or her family for a month.

\$150

Sustains a special needs resident with food and necessities for a month.

\$6,000

Houses a homeless family for a year.

PUT THE **WHAM!** ON HOMELESSNESS.

PUT THE **KAPOW!** ON HUNGER.

Be a Superhero and Give **FOOD**

Catholic Charities feeds the hungry. Our **Food Pantries** located throughout Southwest Florida distribute thousands of pounds of food every week. Homeless school children are sustained over the weekend through the **Weekend Power Pack Food Program**. The **Casa Maria Soup Kitchen** serves around 35,000 hot meals each year. The nutritional center at **Bethesda House** assists special needs clients with healthy food items.



\$4,000
Nourishes 300 school children for a month on the weekends.

\$1,000
Feeds five families from a food pantry for a month.

\$500
Provides hot meals for one day at a soup kitchen.

\$250
Sustains five families from a food pantry for a week.

\$100
Supplies 50 people living with HIV/AIDS with nutrition assistance for a week.



Be a Superhero and Give **EDUCATION**

Catholic Charities educates children and adults. At **St. Martha's Early Learning Center**, low-income preschoolers become kindergarten ready. The **AFCAAM Center** provides after-school tutoring and mentoring for disadvantaged youth. Our **Summer Camps** offer a fun and educational experience. Families living at **Casa San Juan Bosco** learn beneficial life skills.

\$2,000
Provides mentoring for a middle or high school student for a year.

\$1,000
Ensures after-school tutoring for an elementary student for six months.

\$300
Offers enrichment activities for farm worker families for a week.

\$250
Covers the cost of tuition for a preschool student for a week.

\$50
Sends a youth to summer camp for a day.

PUT THE **ZAP!** INTO LEARNING.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SARASOTA COUNTY
PRESENTS



Be The One

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the 2018 Giving Challenge!

Your gift will help families and individuals in need in our community. Your contribution will benefit **Our Mother's House, St. Martha's Early Learning Center, Family Haven, Bethesda House, New Paradigm, and Casa San Juan Bosco.**

Catholic Charities raised more than \$36,000 for these valuable programs and services.

WISH LIST

We are always in need of basic items for our Catholic Charities programs and services. Your support helps us to provide our clients quality assistance. **We appreciate any help you can give!**

FORT MYERS

Infant and Toddler Supply Program of Catholic Charities
Call Alice at 239-334-2234

- Baby diapers and new clothes for newborn to size 5.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of Catholic Charities
Call Alice at 239-334-2234

- One-gallon zip storage bags.
- Shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, tooth paste and tooth brushes, razors, shaving cream, and facial tissue.



Senior Support Coordination Program of Catholic Charities
Call Alice at 239-334-2234

- Shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, bar soap, tooth paste and tooth brushes, laundry soap, and adult diapers.
- Canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, cereal, canned tuna, and rice.
- Gift cards to the Regal Cinema.
- Birthday cards.



IMMOKALEE

Guadalupe Social Services of Catholic Charities
Call Peggy at 239-657-6242

- Play pens and strollers.
- New or used bath towels and men's razors.



NAPLES

Weekend Power Pack Food Program of Catholic Charities
Call Allegra at 239-793-0059

- Mac-n-cheese, canned ravioli, cereal bowls, granola bars, individual oatmeal packets, cereal bars, and animal crackers.



NORTH PORT

Disaster Response and Recovery Program of Catholic Charities
Call Yuri at 941-564-8738

- Low-cost warehouse space around 2,000 square feet near I-75 between North Port and Punta Gorda.
- 20 new twin mattresses and box springs.



SARASOTA

Bethesda House of Catholic Charities
Call Colleen at 941-366-1886

- Shampoo, body wash, denture adhesive, laundry detergent, and canned soup.
- Gently used shoes for men.

VENICE

Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities
Call Joyce at 941-485-6264

- Pull up training pants sizes 3T, 4T and 5T.
- Golf cart.
- Cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, brooms and dustpans, and mops.



WAUCHULA

Gift Program of Catholic Charities
Call Iris at 863-773-0901

- Baby diapers sizes 5 and 6 and baby wipes.
- Socks and underwear for girls and boys sizes 6 to 10.



Rather shop online? Just visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org and click on the **Click & Give** logo to see our wish lists.

Your gift will have an immediate impact for those who need it most!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Naples - The Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center of Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers for the Family Outreach Program. Volunteer duties include packing food bags and delivering them to underserved neighborhoods in Naples as well as coordinating volunteers and taking inventory. A vehicle will be provided for deliveries. For more information, please contact Allegra at 239-793-0059 or allegra@catholiccharitiescc.org.

Naples - The Family Counseling Center of Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers to assist with answering phone calls, greeting clients, and maintaining and organizing the office environment. For more information, please call Geralyn at 239-455-2655 or geralyn@catholiccharitiescc.org.

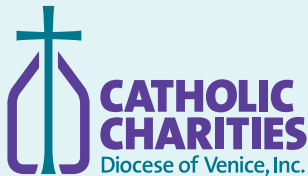
AFCAAM OUTREACH DAY WITH RED SOX

Fort Myers - It was a day like no other for the middle and high schoolers at AFCAAM of Catholic Charities. The students spent the afternoon creating art pieces, taking pictures, laughing, joking, and participating in relay races with members of the Boston Red Sox Baseball team and staff.

For the eighth consecutive year during spring training, Boston Red Sox players, staff and wives of players selected community organizations to donate their time and service. *(AFCAAM Outreach is continued on page 8)*



Boston Red Sox pitcher Brian Johnson works on a project with a Youth Mentoring Program student.



1000 Pinebrook Road • Venice, FL 34285
(941) 488-5581 • (941) 484-9543

www.catholiccharitiesdov.org
www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDioceseOfVenice
www.twitter.com/CC_DOV
www.instagram.com/catholiccharities_dov/

SERVICE LOCATIONS

Arcadia (2 locations)	Immokalee (2 locations)
Boca Grande	Naples (2 locations)
Bonita Springs	North Port (2 locations)
Bradenton	Palmetto (2 locations)
Clewiston	Port Charlotte
Englewood	Sarasota (7 locations)
Fort Myers (3 locations)	Venice (3 locations)
Highlands and Glades Counties	Wauchula

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Adoption Services
- Affordable Housing
- After-School Reading Program
- After-School Tutoring Program
- Casework Services/Needs Assessment
- Citizenship Classes
- Clothing Bank
- Counseling Services
- Day Care Center
- Disaster Preparedness and Response
- Distribution of FEMA Funds
- DUI Groups
- Early Learning Center
- Empowerment Program
- English Classes
- Farm Worker Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Food Assistance
- Food Pantry
- Food Stamps/Medicaid Applications
- HIV/AIDS Housing
- HIV/AIDS Support Services
- Home Buyer Education Classes
- Homeless Shelter for Families and Children
- Housing Counseling and Foreclosure Prevention
- Human Trafficking Victim Assistance
- Immigration Services
- Infant/Toddler Supplies
- Residential Program for Mothers and Children
- Refugee Resettlement Services
- Senior Services
- Soup Kitchen
- Summer Youth Program
- Transitional Housing
- Tutoring
- Veterans Housing
- Youth Mentoring Programs

CEO'S CORNER



Over the past few months, as the new CEO of Catholic Charities, it has been a privilege to meet with my staff and many wonderful and open-hearted supporters who share our mission to provide help, create hope, and serve all. Learning about our organization and getting to know community leaders has been enlightening.

This year in our annual **Summertime and the Giving is Easy** appeal we highlight the power of superheroes. It is a fitting theme as I have been honored to spend time with local heroes such as funders, foundations, and business partners all invested in backing our communities in Southwest Florida. I am grateful for the strength they provide Catholic Charities to deliver assistance that moves our neighbors in need to self-sufficiency.

I also had the pleasure to gather with the talented and dedicated heroes who volunteer to organize our annual events that raise critical monies for the operations of our agency. They give generously of their time to help Catholic Charities deliver impactful outcomes through important programs and services. Their efforts contribute to the health and vibrancy of the cities and towns throughout our diocese.

For many of our clients, life is difficult. But with the tenacity of our loyal heroes on our side, Catholic Charities can offer them a better life. Join us in making a positive difference and engage in the causes you care about by donating to our appeal, volunteering, or becoming a corporate or community partner. You can be a hero for struggling individuals and families and give them courage and hope.

Gratefully,
Philomena Pereira, Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc.

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES!



Tax Deductible **Free Towing** **Easy Process**

Call 855-840-4483 or Visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org

(AFCAAM Outreach is continued from page 6)

This year, AFCAAM of Catholic Charities Youth Mentoring Program was one of the recipients of the league's outreach program.

The day began with introductions and sharing, followed by an art project that teamed a youth with a Red Sox player or staff, and ended outside with relay races that ignited side-bursting laughter and great lessons on team work and team building. It was a day the students will never forget!

AFCAAM of Catholic Charities offers group and one-on-one mentoring for at-risk boys and girls ages 11-17. The program is committed to educating youth by encouraging and inspiring them to be life-long learners, community builders and people of service.

For more information, please call 239-461-0233.

Boston Red Sox pitcher Robby Scott calls out instructions to fellow players and Youth Mentoring Program students.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Catholic Charities!



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Diocese of Venice, Inc.
P.O. Box 2116
Venice, FL 34284-2116

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
FT Myers, FL
Permit No. 184

PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE. SERVING ALL.

DO YOU HAVE A WILL?

Without a will that is valid in Florida, you are at the mercy of the court system as to how your estate, small or large, will be distributed. The State of Florida has a rigid set of rules, called the laws of descent and distribution, that apply to everyone.

You need to be certain that your will is valid according to the laws of the State of Florida. Only an attorney can accurately determine this for you.

WILL WORKSHEETS from the Good Samaritan Guild can help you prepare the information an attorney will require in order to help you write a valid will. Fill in the coupon and we will mail you a set of our Will Worksheets or visit www.ccfdsnswfl.org and download them.

MASS CARDS

Congratulate, celebrate, or honor a friend or family member with the Good Samaritan Guild Mass Cards. We will send two free samples of our beautifully crafted Good Samaritan Mass Cards that can be used for any occasion where a spiritual gift is appropriate.



To learn more about the **Catholic Charities Foundation**, please visit www.ccfdsnswfl.org.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN GUILD



Please enclose \$1.00 to help with postage.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

To receive worksheets and mass cards clip this coupon and send to Catholic Charities Foundation, Diocese of Venice, Inc. at 5824 Bee Ridge Rd., PMB 409, Sarasota, FL 34233-5065

- WILL WORKSHEETS
- MASS CARDS

