

Annual Ministries of Mercy

Booklet

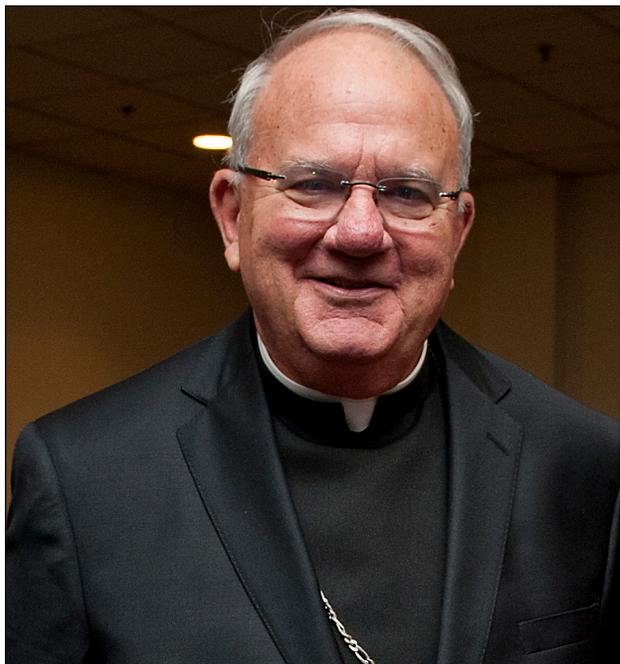
Fall 2013



Catholic Charities

Diocese of St. Petersburg

A Message from Bishop Lynch



Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch
Bishop of St. Petersburg

**“During the 2012-2013 fiscal year,
285,368 meals were served to the
homeless residents of Pinellas Hope.”**

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg provides help and creates hope. Through the Ministries of Mercy Life, Food and Clothing, and Shelter programs, we work with our parishes and individuals to serve families who find themselves struggling after an emergency situation occurs. We are there to help when they face an unplanned pregnancy, an eviction or power shut-off notice, the loss of a job, or a disability.

For example, Decethia and George Garrett turned to Catholic Charities after he lost his job and she began to struggle with epilepsy. We helped them by paying their rent and electricity. When George found a job, Catholic Charities gave them a car for him to get to and from work. The family of Amanda, six months pregnant, her son Ziek, eighteen months old, and Michael walked into Catholic Charities because they were homeless and needed help. They had no money or food, few belongings, and were very concerned about where their family would end up. We gave them shelter and help towards self-sufficiency.

With the support of our parishes and individuals who support our Ministries of Mercy programs, we are able to help people like Decethia and George Garrett, Amanda and her unborn child, Ziek, Michael, and many more.

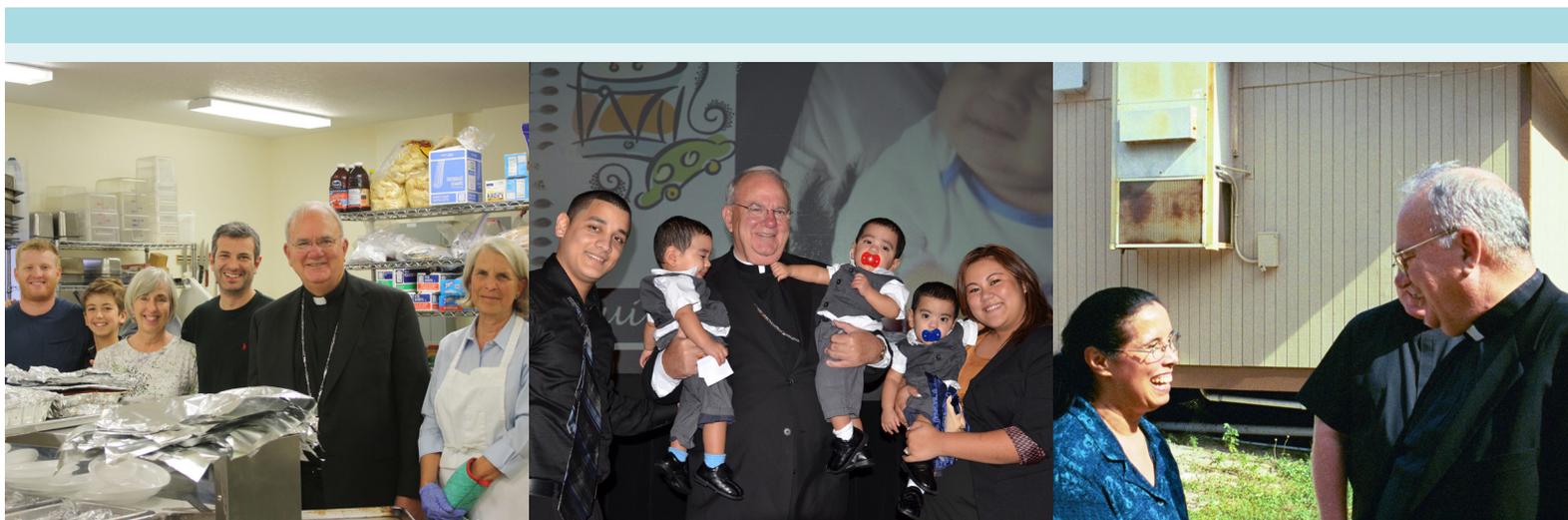
Christ calls us to serve Him in some way through the Ministries of Mercy. Please prayerfully consider how you can help support our efforts so that Catholic Charities and our parishes may help more people in our community.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lynch".



Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch
Bishop of St. Petersburg



From Our President

Dear Friends and Supporters of Catholic Charities,

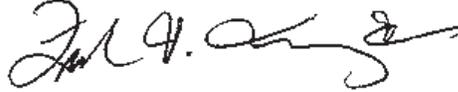
Catholic Charities has offices in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus counties. Our mission is to serve everyone with charity and compassion. We offer services to feed and shelter the poor, to shelter seniors and relieve caregivers, to strengthen and protect families, to support women facing unplanned pregnancy, and to welcome immigrants and refugees.

We recently opened two new offices in Spring Hill and Homosassa. The new Catholic Charities offices increased our ability to provide help to more individuals and families in need. We were able to eliminate the waiting list for our Respite Care Service clients with Alzheimer's and Dementia and to work with local organizations to bring a food pantry and dental services to the community in those areas.

Our Family Housing programs are also growing. We are now able to provide affordable housing to single parents, students, individuals, and families who were homeless or are currently near the poverty level. And a new women's shelter in Pasco, will give us the ability to provide support services and temporary/transitional shelter for homeless women and homeless women with children.

Thanks to the sharing of your time, talent, and treasure, we served 14,246 individuals and families during the 2012-2013 fiscal year, many of whom were struggling to become self-sufficient. In this report, we invite you to see how Catholic Charities, individuals, and our parishes have served the needs of our brothers and sisters in the Tampa Bay area through the Ministries of Mercy programs.

Sincerely,



Frank V. Murphy, III
President, Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg

“During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, we provided services to 14,246 individuals and families.”



Frank V. Murphy, III
President, Catholic Charities
Diocese of St. Petersburg





Foundations of Life

Foundations of Life programs provide pregnancy, adoption, and other support services to women and families experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. With your help, we provided **18,320** baby and maternity items plus **70,068** diapers to support mothers and babies in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

St. Mark the Evangelist, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Joan of Arc, St. Paul, Tampa, and St. Lawrence Catholic Churches, Kids Wish Network, and New Dawn Restoration Center donated Christmas gifts.

8th grade students from St. Lawrence Catholic School donated diapers and baby items, helped decorate for Christmas, and sorted baby clothes.

Paola and the Niños Cantores of the Venezuelan Suncoast Association passed out information about FOL. As a result, donations of diapers, wipes, clothes, toys, and other baby items overflowed our offices.

Eagle Scout Project participant volunteers did landscaping, shoveled rocks, placed mulch, and picked up trash.

St. Theresa and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Catholic Churches collected donations during Respect Life month.

Corpus Christi Middle school students supported us with volunteers.

St. Leo College, St. Rita Catholic Church and Toys for Tots donated gifts for more than two hundred children.

Christ the King Catholic School held a May Crowning Baby Shower. **The Catholic Student Union at USF** held a Mother's Day Collection.

The Knight of Columbus Mother Seaton Council initiated a fund drive to buy a new 3D/4D ultrasound machine for the Tampa office.

Did You Know...

- **\$10** - will buy wipes for one month.
- **\$69** - will buy a convertible car seat.
- **\$70** - will buy a stroller for a child.
- **\$100** - will buy diapers for a baby for one month.
- **\$150** - will buy a crib and mattress.





Shelters of Hope

Shelters of Hope programs provide safe living environments for families and individuals facing a limited income, disability, crisis, or other situation that causes them to be without housing. With your help, we were able to offer shelter to **4,162** individuals and families during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Holy Family Catholic Church donated their hall for the Benedict Haven "Have a Heart" fundraiser. They also donated Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas gifts for the residents.

New Dawn Restoration Center Women's Ministry provided our Mercy House and Mercy Apartment residents with a Thanksgiving meal and gift baskets.

St. Leo University students collected over 200 canned goods and other non-perishable items for the residents of Bethany Family Apartments.

Chili's Restaurant held a fundraiser to support Mercy House and donated 10% of the proceeds raised.

Spirit FM collected 300 blankets overnight for Pinellas Hope after an unexpected cold front.

Knights of Columbus Councils 2105 and 10157 hosted a dinner at **St. Raphael's Catholic Church** benefiting Pinellas Hope.

Good Samaritan Project participants volunteered at Pinellas Hope.

St. Justin, Martyr Catholic Church, Seminole Lake Country Club, and Feather Sound donated Christmas gifts for the residents of Pinellas Village.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church donated Christmas gifts for the residents of Bethany Family Apartments.

St. Anthony's Hospital donated Christmas gifts to Pinellas Hope.

St. Joseph-St. Petersburg and St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Churches, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 158, and New Dawn Restoration Center donated Christmas gifts.

Did You Know...

- **\$25** - will buy bedding or a bus card for an HIV/AIDS Housing Services resident.
- **\$120** - will replace a tent and a sleeping bag for a Pinellas Hope resident.
- **\$200** - will buy a bedroom set for a family at one of our Shelters of Hope.
- **\$495** - will pay rent for one month for a family at San Jose Mission.





Friends in Need

Friends in Need programs offer hope and help to families and individuals in need. With your help, we provided case management, life skills, job placement education, free medical care, and support services to improve stability for 8,173 families and individuals in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The Gap Foundation donated \$250.00 and 25 hours of volunteer services from employees to our Refugee Services' clothing boutique.

Our Housing Connection Financial Literacy program partnered with **United Way** to increase awareness for tax season.

Refugee Services employee **Christy Sui** organized a Burmese Festival for our Burmese clients.

Corpus Christi middle school students volunteered in the Refugee Services' clothing boutique.

The Faith Community Nurse Group at St. Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin put together hygiene kits for our Catholic Mobile Medical Services' back-to-school event.

Beth-El Mission Presbyterian Church gave donations to Catholic Mobile Medical Services for their back-to-school event.

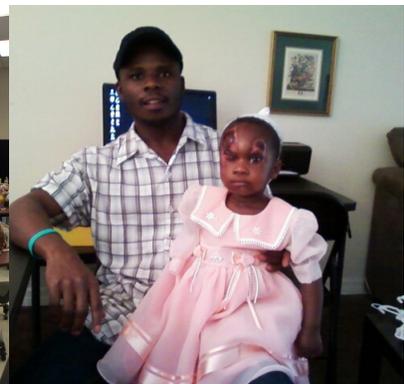
Christ the King Catholic Church youth group volunteered in our Refugee Services' clothing boutique.

St. Vincent De Paul donated a freezer, bread and cakes to Respite Care Services.

St. Joan of Arc, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Theresa Catholic Churches and Spring Hill Grace World Outreach Church supported Respite Care Services with volunteers.

Did You Know...

- **\$10** - will buy a starter hygiene kit for a refugee family.
- **\$25** - will provide diabetic testing supplies for one person for two months or a bus card for an Access to Recovery client.
- **\$300** - will buy a living room set and kitchen table set for a recently arrived refugee.
- **\$750** - will help pay for prescription medications and doctor visits.



Providing Help • Creating Hope

Twins: A Double Blessing

Frances and Johnny had been in a relationship for about six years and already had three children together. Johnny was unemployed and Frances had been unable to work during the pregnancy. When the couple learned Frances was pregnant with twins they began to consider adoption. They knew they could not give the twins the care they would need while also caring for their three other young children. They selected Eugene and Joyce; a couple thankful for the opportunity and who had the resources to parent. The birth parents are very happy with their decision of adoption. The twins are thriving with their adoptive parents. ∞

The Road to Recovery

Anthony turned to Catholic Charities after he was involved in a car accident which left him with a spine injury and severe pain. He was prescribed oxycodone and methadone and eventually became addicted. When his prescriptions ran out, he started to self medicate with cocaine.

Our Access to Recovery program

paid Anthony's rent for a month so he could remain sober, find a job, and get his paperwork together to qualify for a PELL Grant to attend college. He just completed his first semester and is grateful to Catholic Charities for giving him the opportunity to get his life back. ∞

The BEST of What We Do

A few months ago, Catholic Mobile Medical Services assisted South Florida Hospital with a field worker who had been hospitalized twice in six weeks for uncontrolled diabetes and did not have money to pay for help. The worker received intensive one-on-one diabetic instruction and all testing equipment, medications, and

supplies needed. After eight weeks, the diabetes was under control, the worker felt great, was back working and understood how to continue to take care of himself. ∞

Home Sweet Home

John, an ex-veteran, needed help because his income was too low to manage all of his bills and take care of his grandchildren. HIV/AIDS Housing Services was able to place him in a program that based his rent payment on his household income. Not having to worry about a place to live, John was motivated and had time to enroll in school and graduate at the top of his class. His grandchildren are back with their mother, he's purchased his first home, and expresses gratitude for our help. ∞

Keeping Hope Alive

Michael received help from Pinellas Hope Respite Services after having two hospital stays due to chest pain, atrial fibrillation, other cardiac concerns, and spontaneous retinal detachment on his right eye. Despite the challenges, Michael continued to work. When the vision in his left eye started to become affected, he was given shelter at Pinellas Hope. Pinellas Hope Respite Services has assisted Michael with food, shelter, and support. Michael has since moved to his own apartment with income from retirement age benefits. ∞

Achieving Self-Sufficiency

Alyssa, a resident of Pinellas Village, is a single mother of three who came to Pinellas Village after being homeless for four months. Since then, she's graduated and is in her second year of teaching. "I felt inadequate and knew I could accomplish more for myself and my children if I just had the chance. The opportunities afforded to us at Pinellas Village have played an integral role in my success, and we will forever be grateful." She's now looking to purchase her first home. ∞

* Some client names and pictures have been changed to protect confidentiality.



Foundations of Life

Adoption Services
Project Rachel

Pregnancy Centers

- Hernando
- Hillsborough
- Pasco
- Pinellas

Friends in Need

Access to Recovery
Catholic Mobile Medical Services
Citizenship Services
Disaster Relief
Housing Connection
Immigration Services
Pathways to Self-Sufficiency
Refugee Services
Respite Care Services
St. Andre Free Clinic

Shelters of Hope

Bethany Family Apartments
Benedict Haven
Pasco County Women's Shelter
Pathways Housing
Pinellas Hope I and II
Pinellas Hope Medical Respite
San Jose Mission
Veterans Transition in Place

Shelters of Hope cont.

Catholic Charities Family Housing

- Arbor Villas
- Fountain View
- Palm Island
- Pinellas Village
- Riviera Manor
- The Palms at University

HIV/AIDS Housing Services

HUD 202 Elderly Housing

- Bethlehem Housing
- Blessed Sacrament
- Casa Santa Cruz
- Casa Miguel
- Kings Arms
- Kings Manor
- Patrician Arms I and II
- San Clemente Villas
- San Lorenzo Terrace II
- Transfiguration



What Can I Do for Catholic Charities?

- **Leave us in your will:** A special program has been approved by the Board that allows us to direct your gift to the ministry of your choosing (**Foundations of Life, Friends in Need, or Shelters of Hope**). Your **entire gift** will be used within that ministry. To learn more, please contact us at (727) 893-1315.
- **Donate funds.** Use the enclosed envelope or give via credit card by going to www.ccdosp.org and clicking on the "Donate Now" link. To give by phone, call (727) 893-1314, Ext. 210.
- **Donate time:** We are always in need of volunteers for phone and office support, client mentors, or medical professionals. Some volunteers help out in our clothes boutiques, are church liasons, do marketing and fundraising, are sidewalk counselors, or spend time singing, playing cards, or just sitting with our elderly/respite clients. Families and organizations can also prepare and serve a meal to 300 of our homeless residents. To learn more about how to donate your time, call: (727) 893-1314, Ext. 210.



Catholic Charities, Diocese of St. Petersburg
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