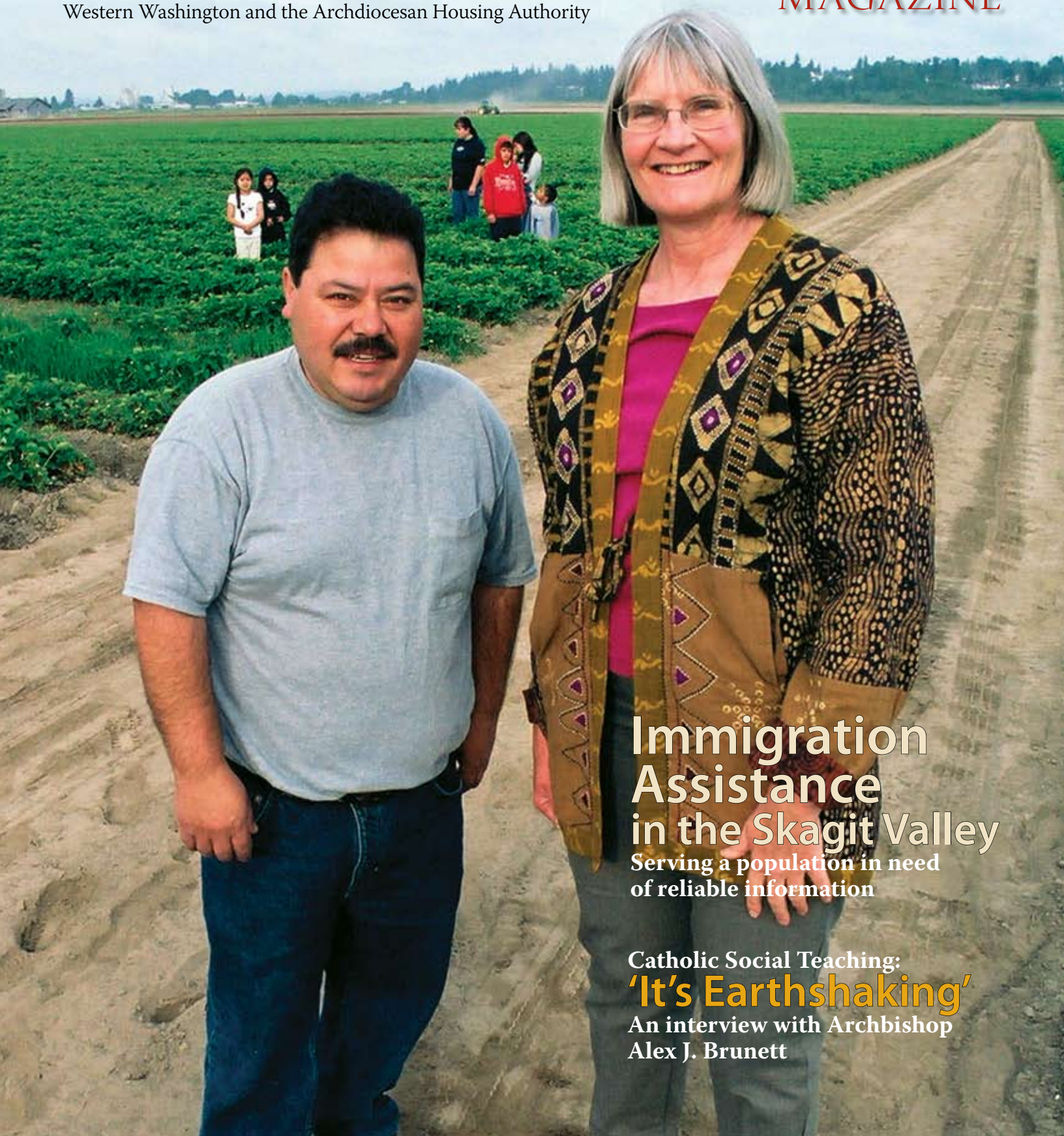


SAMARITAN

Published for the friends of Catholic Community Services of
Western Washington and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority

MAGAZINE



**Immigration
Assistance
in the Skagit Valley**
Serving a population in need
of reliable information

**Catholic Social Teaching:
'It's Earthshaking'**
An interview with Archbishop
Alex J. Brunett

SAMARITAN

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ON THE COVER

Jose Ortiz, pastoral assistant for youth ministry at the Skagit Valley parishes, and Donna Rieper, immigration advocate with the CCS Immigration Project, are pictured in a field in the Skagit Valley.

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A United Way Agency

‘The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor’

By Very Rev. Kenneth Haydock

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church has consistently advocated for a preferential option for the poor, oftentimes in the face of strong challenges. All human beings have a right to a decent human existence, including a decent wage, affordable housing, and health care.

The church’s social teaching is a complex topic, derived as it is from natural law theory, and from a renewed interest in Scripture after Vatican II. In 2004, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace produced a *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. The book was a reminder of the rich legacy of the church’s social teaching.

Many people associate Catholic social teaching with Pope Leo XIII’s encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (*The Condition of Labor*), written in 1891. However, the church’s tradition goes back to apostolic times.

The Acts of the Apostles and the Letters of St. Paul record how the apostles pooled their resources to help the neediest people of the community.

The Hebrew Scriptures – the scriptures of the early church – in large part shaped this response. (What we know as the New Testament had yet to be written.) God commanded that the people always care for the needs of the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner. Because social services as we know them did not exist, the widow, the orphan and the foreigner were forced to beg to survive.

As long as the church was united and focused on its mission, people were helped. Indeed, the church has

consistently provided for the poor, the sick, and the orphaned.

Throughout history, events brought about significant societal changes. Traditional family and community structures changed. The Reformation divided the church.

The age of Enlightenment challenged the assumptions of faith. People turned to reason and science for the answers they sought. The Industrial Revolution forced a change in lifestyle. Villages and small cities yielded to the development of large cities, where people moved from rural communities. Later, people migrated between continents. The United States grew rapidly as millions of people poured in to develop new lands and support new industries.

Leo XIII’s landmark encyclical emerged from myriad concerns. The development of capitalism produced many wealthy people. Resources were concentrated in the hands of a few. The growth of socialism produced a demand for fair wages and a share in governance.

The pope was concerned about the status of workers, and realized that the church could not ignore the great social issues of the day; rather, it needed to bring the wisdom of its tradition to bear. *Rerum Novarum* defended the right to hold private property, argued for a living wage for workers, and affirmed the right of labor to organize and, when necessary, strike. The encyclical initiated the body of papal encyclicals referred to as “social teaching.”

The significance of this encyclical is



Very Rev. Kenneth Haydock is the Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Seattle, and the chair of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Community Services and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority.

twofold: it spoke to issues of the day, and it set in motion the tradition of popes addressing the social problems of the day.

It is also important to recognize the work of the bishops of the United States who, over the years, have produced many significant statements on major social issues. In 1986, they issued a pastoral letter, *Economic Justice for All*, which deals with employment, poverty, food and agriculture, as well as with the U.S. economy and developing nations.

According to the pastoral letter: “The fundamental moral criterion for all economic decisions ... is this: they must be at the service of all people, especially the poor.” (24) “Human dignity, realized in community with others and with the whole of God’s creation, is the norm against which every social institution must be measured.” (25)

The words of Scripture still bear merit: “The Lord hears the cry of the poor.”

Catholic Social Teaching: The Foundation of Our Mission, Vision and Values

By Michael L. Reichert, President and CEO, Catholic Community Services and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority

At the heart of this issue of *Samaritan* magazine are three articles about Catholic social teaching – the foundation of our mission, vision and values at CCS and AHA.

As you may know, Catholic social teaching, and its principles and values, are rooted in Scripture. The Catholic Church's history of social teaching goes back centuries, yet for many Catholics, that teaching remains a "well-kept secret."

In a wide-ranging interview, Archbishop Alex J. Brunett of Seattle discusses how Catholic social teaching influences his ministry and leadership in the Archdiocese of Seattle, and its vital importance for parishes and individual Catholics. Archbishop

Brunett describes the church's social teaching as "earthshaking," and as pertaining to "the essence of being Catholic." In Western Washington, the Catholic Church is an extremely important player in the quality of life for people, especially the poor and vulnerable.

A companion article describes how Catholic social teaching consistently guides the actions of CCS and AHA. One sees it in many ways, from the patience a caseworker shows a difficult client, to our efforts to create a society where everyone can get housing, health care and education.

In his column, Father Kenneth Haydock reminds us that the church's concern and advocacy for the poor



Michael L. Reichert

go back to apostolic times. As he writes: "God commanded that the people always care for the needs of the widow, the orphan and the foreigner."

I encourage you to read and reflect on these articles, and the many other compelling stories in this issue of *Samaritan* magazine. As always, thank you for all you do to encourage and support our ministry of presence.

Calendar

August 3

St. Martin's Programs 14th Annual Golf Tournament at the Harbour Pointe Golf Club, Mukilteo. 425-771-6198.

August 12

Fifth Annual Spirit of Hope Treasure Sale benefiting the CCS Hope House, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Assumption Parish gymnasium, Bellingham. Donated art, antiques, collectibles, furniture and decorative items will be sold to help purchase baby food, formula, diapers, toiletries, food and other items given to people in need. To donate items: 360-734-8087 or 360-223-2165.

August 28

14th Annual "Spirit of Caring" Golf Tournament, sponsored by the South King County Family Center at Washington National Golf Course in Auburn. The "Sunrise Challenge" team competitions tee off at 7 a.m.; the Sponsors' Tournament, at 12:30 p.m. The entry fee for the Challenge is \$225 per two-person team. Players must have verifiable GHIN handicaps to enter. Prize money per team: First, \$1,000; Second, \$600; Third, \$400; Fourth, \$200. 253-850-2532.

September 14

"Salmon at Sunset" fund-raising event benefiting Rose of Lima House, a community of women in Seattle moving out of homelessness. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at Rose of Lima House, 120 Bell St. Tickets: \$15. Dinner at the Flying Fish Restaurant, including access to the Rose of Lima House event: \$40. Dinner served at 6:30 and 8 p.m. 206-956-9366.

September 14

Blessing of Villa San Martin by Archbishop Alex J. Brunett, 2 p.m. The AHA affordable housing facility provides 26 units for farm worker families. Villa San Martin is located at 2623 Abbotsford Loop in Kelso. 206-328-5731.

September 19

CCS Estate Planning Seminar, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Snohomish Family Center in Everett. 425-257-2111.

September 20

Blessing of Kateri Court by Archbishop Alex J. Brunett, 11 a.m. The AHA affordable housing facility provides 40 units, eight of them set

aside for homeless women with children. Kateri Court is located at 100 Chestnut Street in Bellingham. 206-328-5731.

September 21

CCS Estate Planning Seminar, 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Skagit Family Center in Mount Vernon. 360-416-7546.

September 26

CCS Estate Planning Seminar, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Grays Harbor Family Center in Aberdeen. 360-533-9470, Ext. 112.

September 27

Harrington House Luncheon at St. Madeleine Sophie Parish in Bellevue. Harrington House specializes in serving culturally diverse pregnant and newly parenting homeless women 18 years old and older, and their children. 253-850-2517.

September 29

Third Annual "Convening on Aging" co-sponsored by the CCS Long-Term Care System at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center. Social workers, health care providers, parish staff members and the general public are invited. 253-502-2734.

October

"Warm Hands/Warm Feet" collection of hats, gloves and socks by area churches to benefit the CCS Hope House in Bellingham. 360-223-6141.

October 10

CCS Estate Planning Seminar, noon to 2 p.m. at Benedict House in Bremerton. Lunch will be provided. 360-405-9486.

October 13

Annual Downtown Soupline benefiting Sacred Heart Shelter. Mass will be celebrated at 12:10 p.m. in the sanctuary of Plymouth Congregational Church, 6th Ave. and University St. in downtown Seattle. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the church. 206-205-7489.

October 19

CCS Estate Planning Seminar, noon to 2 p.m. at the Public Library in Sequim. Lunch will be provided. 360-405-9486.

October 26

"Coffee and Crayons" benefit event for the St. Olaf Child Care and Early Learning Center in Poulsbo, 8 a.m. at St. Olaf Parish. 360-779-5791.



John Hennessey, AHA Facilities Director for Western Washington, and Father Kenneth Haydock, Archdiocesan Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Charities, are pictured at a cleanup site in Biloxi, Mississippi, in November 2005.

Rebuilding Biloxi

Since September 2005, Catholic Community Services has helped 497 Hurricane Katrina evacuees begin new lives in Western Washington. CCS has provided funds for housing, utilities, transportation, medical services, food, work tools, replacement ID, and more. An estimated 80 percent of the evacuees will stay here. Federal aid is running out, and many evacuees will continue to need help with rent, utilities, and other needs.

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington is reaching out to help Catholics in the Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi, rebuild after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Bill Hallerman, director of special ministries for the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, visited the area three weeks after the storm hit. He found homes full of water and mold, churches in shambles, and shell-shocked residents. Diocesan and parish staff were overwhelmed. At times they would break down in tears as they worked to help others.

“It’s their community,” says Hallerman. “They’re not able to help and respond the way they’d like to because they’re still in shock. It’s important to have folks from another

place come in and bring skills and get things organized and get it going.”

With experience and expertise in a broad scope of relief and development work, CCS was ideally positioned to help.

CCS began by providing staff to coordinate the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who came from all over the country to help with cleanup and debris removal. They focused their efforts on two, especially hard-hit parishes: Our Mother of Sorrows/St. John, in East Biloxi, and St. Anne, Clermont Harbor – both parishes that serve primarily low-income African Americans.

The Archdiocese of Seattle donated \$100,000 to help with rebuilding efforts, money raised through

Archbishop Alex J. Brunett’s appeal to local Catholics.

But it was obvious that more was needed. The Biloxi parishes needed funds to hire permanent staff that would work to rebuild not only homes and church buildings, but the communities themselves.

Without quick action, notes Hallerman, the area was at risk of falling into the hands of developers who wanted to build casinos and upscale condominiums. Such development would price out the low-income residents.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Canadian Office for Development and Peace, an organization similar to Catholic Relief Services in the United States, had received half-a-million dollars in unsolicited gifts from Canadians eager to help Katrina victims rebuild. It was a perfect match. CCS staff put together a proposal and secured \$500,000 in funding from the Canadian charity to create the Katrina Relief Team.

The money pays for experienced relief and community development professionals who will work alongside diocesan and parish staff to rebuild the parishes and vital community resources such as food banks and child care centers.

It’s just another example of how CCS carries out Jesus’ work in the world. “It’s our mission and commitment to serve poor and vulnerable people,” says Hallerman. “And there’s a ton of them in the Diocese of Biloxi right now.”

– Christine Dubois

BILOXI BY THE NUMBERS

Statistics give a snapshot of the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina on the Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi.

- 20** Number of church buildings that were destroyed or suffered major damage
- 10** Number of schools that were destroyed or suffered major damage
- 11** Number of rectories in which the priest lost all of his personal belongings
- 6** Number of convents in which the women religious lost all of their personal belongings



Immigration Assistance in the Skagit Valley

A new immigration assistance program in Skagit County, managed by Catholic Community Services, is providing the growing Hispanic community with reliable help and information, countering attempts by people in the area to scam money from local Hispanics.

“We’ve heard horror stories about Hispanics paying money to unscrupulous people who offered to do immigration paperwork for them but weren’t qualified,” said Donna Rieper, of the CCS Skagit Family Center in Mount Vernon. “So with seed money donated by our local Immaculate Conception Parish and support from the pastor, Father Pat McDermott, we’re open two days a week.”

She said the program, launched with a large



Jose and Lilia Ortiz are pictured with their children. Clockwise from left are: Eric, Kali, Nick, Miguel, Kati and Lilia

Hispanic community gathering at St. Charles Parish in Burlington, offers various immigration services, citizenship information and paperwork, family-based immigration program information, and services such as the replacement of lost documents and referrals to other agencies for various services.

“It’s great that CCS can offer this service,” Rieper said. “We’re also looking for grants to help us maintain and expand the program. Especially with changes in the federal immigration laws coming, we’ll need to help explain the changes to people in the Hispanic community.”

At the present time, she said, Hispanics who have been permanent residents for five years and speak English can apply for citizenship. Many of them want to be able to vote and to participate more in society. Others are trying

to establish legal residency or find out what's happening with their petitions to become permanent residents, sponsored by other family members.

"Word about the new immigration information office is spreading by word of mouth," Rieper said. "That's how we will get 90 percent of our clients."



Father Pat McDermott, pastor of the Skagit Valley parishes, celebrates Mass at St. Charles Church in Burlington.

Janet Simpson, family center director of the CCS Skagit Family Center, said the idea for immigration information "came up long before immigration was a hot item. Eighteen months ago we started to put a program together, with CCS working to make it happen." The CCS program worked with the Archdiocesan Housing Authority's (AHA) Refugee Assistance Program in Seattle, and with the national Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., in planning the program.

She said the idea was brought to CCS by Father McDermott, who serves on the Skagit Family Center's Advisory Council and offers his Skagit ministry team's support for all CCS programs. These include social services, case management, the food bank, a new "microministry" effort, and a critical needs fund for funeral expenses and, occasionally, rent or other assistance.

Tom MacIntyre, CCS Northwest

agency director in Everett, works closely with CCS staff in Skagit County and with Father McDermott on the immigration assistance program.

Parishes in Skagit County, from LaConner to Concrete, also have helped CCS with "angel tree" giving at Christmas time, Simpson said,

The program offers various immigration services, citizenship information and paperwork, family-based immigration program information, and services such as the replacement of lost documents and referrals to other agencies for various services.

providing gifts for as many as 100 families. Members of Sacred Heart Parish in La Conner also have raised funds for youth camps, and to help address the needs of CCS mental health clients.

Collaboration among Catholic Community Services, the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, the Skagit Valley parishes and the Hispanic population – both residents and migrants – has developed on

several fronts over the years. These include the immigration information program, food banks, social service programs, weekly Spanish-language Masses at the Mount Vernon and Burlington parishes, and various parish programs offered in Spanish, including faith formation classes.

Beginning in the mid-1990s, a regional faith community based in Mount Vernon developed, and has been united and served by a team of priests and laity in an effort to serve as many parishes as possible with a limited number of priests. Parishes involved include Immaculate Conception in Mount Vernon; St. Charles in Burlington; Sacred Heart in La Conner; Immaculate Heart of Mary in Sedro-Woolley; and St. Catherine in Concrete.

According to Father McDermott, the immigration information program "holds a lot of promise because the people need to get accurate information about immigration laws. Much of the financial help for launching the program came from Holy Rosary Parish in Edmonds and St. John Bosco Parish in Tacoma. Both parishes regularly send youth groups to the valley to help migrant workers' families during the summers."

Jose Ortiz, pastoral assistant for youth ministry at the Skagit Valley parishes, has 20 years' experience in that ministry. He is involved with the new CCS immigration information program and the summer programs for youth groups from Western Washington parishes who provide child care for migrant workers' families and deliver donated food and clothing from their parishes. Along with their parishes, the youth helped raise the seed money to start the immigration information program.

Father McDermott noted that the AHA's three affordable housing facilities in the Skagit Valley provide much-needed help for the Hispanic migrant community. These include



©PHOTO BY WIRECOM

The idea for "immigration information" came from Father Pat McDermott. The priest serves on the Advisory Council of the CCS Skagit Family Center in Mount Vernon.

La Casa de Padre Miguel, a 10-unit facility in Mount Vernon; La Casa de San Jose, 50 units also in Mount Vernon; and La Casa de Santa Rosa, 15 units in Sedro-Woolley. A fourth facility is in development.

"People are proud to be living in the facilities and are taking very good care of them," Father McDermott said. "They're a real plus for the Hispanic community and the broader community. They show that the church cares for the migrant community."

Isaac Govea, assistant director for Hispanic/Latino ministry in the archdiocesan Cultural and Ethnic Ministry Services Office, said that CCS and AHA have responded to the growth of the Hispanic population in Western Washington – and particularly in areas such as the Skagit Valley – by providing social programs

and housing services for Hispanics.

"Statistically, the growth of the Hispanic population is staggering," Govea said. "From estimates by the Archdiocesan Office of Planning and Research and the Washington State Office of Financial Management, we foresee today's tally of 293,000 Hispanics in Western Washington growing to 365,000 by 2010 and reaching 454,000 by 2015."

In fact, according to state and federal census figures, Washington is now considered a "new Hispanic state" in the United States because, in the years between the 1980 census and the 2000 census, the Hispanic population statewide grew by more than 200 percent and more than 200,000 people. Today, projections estimate there are nearly 500,000 Hispanics statewide.

– John Wolcott

WHERE TO CALL FOR SERVICES

THE ARCHDIOCESAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
206-448-3360

THE CCS LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM
877-870-1582

THE CCS FAMILY PRESERVATION SYSTEM
800-566-9053

CCS FAMILY CENTER LOCATIONS

Northwest Region

Bellingham
Whatcom Family Center
360-676-2164

Everett
Snohomish Family Center
425-257-2111

Mount Vernon
Skagit Family Center
360-416-7546

King County

Bellevue
East King County Family Center
425-284-2211

Seattle
Randolph Carter Family and Learning Center
206-323-6336

Kent
South King County Family Center
253-854-0077

Southwest Region

Aberdeen
Grays Harbor Family Center
360-533-9470

Bremerton
Kitsap Family Center
360-405-9486

Longview
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Family Center
360-577-2200

Olympia
Thurston County Family Center
360-586-2960

Tacoma
Pierce County Family Centers
253-383-3697

Vancouver
Clark/Skamania Family Center
360-567-2211

Thank you!

Your generous response to the 2005 CCS Week Campaign is providing help and creating hope in the lives of thousands of people in need in our local communities!

Last year, more than \$800,000 was raised through CCS Week in our parishes to support the individuals, children, families and elders served by CCS family center programs.

Partnership is key to the success of CCS Week.

Thank you!

... to our pastors, parish staff, donors, and volunteers!

Providing Help. Creating Hope.



Catholic Community Services of Western Washington & the Archdiocesan Housing Authority

www.ccsww.org



Housing Designed to Create Hope and Community

Three CCS/AHA projects open this year

Rising home prices and apartment rents continue to limit affordable housing opportunities for thousands of families in Western Washington, but there will be some welcome relief this year as three more facilities built and operated by Catholic Community Services (CCS) and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority (AHA) open their doors.

Already, years of developing affordable housing through 38 different CCS and AHA programs have created more than 1,800 units for single persons, families, seniors and people with special physical and mental needs. The facilities are designed to create hope and a sense of community for low-income individuals and families. Many CCS services are available to residents of CCS and AHA affordable housing.

The completion of Benedict House in Bremerton, a CCS Southwest facility for 25 homeless men, including one with children, was celebrated May 5 with a blessing of the facility by Archbishop Alex J. Brunett.

On Sept. 14, the archbishop will bless Villa San Martin in Kelso, a 26-unit housing facility for farm workers and their families. Another 40 units will be blessed Sept. 20 at Kateri Court in Bellingham; many of the units are reserved for homeless mothers and their children.

Two other facilities will be blessed in 2007, including Drexel House in Olympia for chronically homeless men and women in Thurston County, and additional farm worker housing in the Skagit Valley.

Earlier this year, 69 affordable housing units were acquired in downtown Everett, including 12 apartments for chronically homeless women, when CCS and AHA collaborated to purchase and manage the historic, restored Monte Cristo Hotel. The Archdiocesan Housing Authority is responsible for development of the complex and its day-to-day operations, while Catholic Community Services of Snohomish County provides on-site, individually tailored case management services for residents. Information is available from Jerri Mitchell, housing and program development manager for the Snohomish Family Center, 425-257-2111.

In Bremerton, having Benedict House open is a relief not only for the homeless men who live there, but also for Sister Pat Millen, a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia who is the developer of the CCS Kitsap Family Center. She has spent almost five years getting the project established.

"It feels great," Sister Pat said of the opening. "Even though our interim HOST (Homeless Outreach Shelter Team) program, shared with area churches, got men off the streets and fed, we weren't able until now to do intensive case management with them to help them learn how to improve their circumstances."

There are about 100 beds available for homeless women in Kitsap County, Sister Pat said, but no facilities have been established for homeless men for many years. The building of Benedict House was funded with \$834,000 in state funds and another \$600,000 in city and county community block

grants. Also, for the next 20 years the state of Washington will contribute up to \$35,000 a year for maintaining and operating the three-story, 6,100-square-foot facility.

Also, Sister Pat has arranged with local churches and restaurants to share in providing meals throughout the year for the residents of Benedict House, a community venture that still needs more help with providing meals, she said.



Sister Pat Millen, Director of Benedict House, and Archbishop Alex J. Brunett of Seattle cut the ribbon during the blessing of the facility on May 5, 2006.

Pictured at the top of the page (left to right); Kateri Court, Bellingham; Benedict House, Bremerton; the Monte Cristo, Everett; and Villa San Martin, Kelso.

"We're full already, including our one room that allows for children with their father," Sister Pat said. "A father and his 8-year-old son live there now. We've found homeless men sleeping in cars, campgrounds, everywhere. You can see real changes

(continued on page 30)

South King County

Growing needs demand time and attention



©PHOTOBYMIKE.COM

Jennifer Malloy, program manager for CCS South King County Family Support Services, gets hygiene packs for homeless clients at the South King County Family Center.

The increasingly high cost of living in Seattle, Bellevue and many other areas of King County is forcing more young people, poor people, immigrants and those without jobs to flee wherever lower rents and social service programs are available.

They're heading for south King County, moving into communities from Algona and Auburn to Black Diamond and Covington, to Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Pacific, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, Vashon Island and unincorporated county areas south of Seattle.

As the influx of new arrivals grows, the demographic shifting in south King County is overwhelming social service agencies, including Catholic Community Services.

"South King County now has the largest concentration of the young and the poor in the county, many of them immigrants and refugees, all of them looking for help with rent, food and other services," said Cameryn Flynn, associate agency director for CCS King County. "The needs far exceed the services available."

Flynn knows the numbers and the needs well. As a member of the South King Council of Human Services, she helped the group produce *A Matter of Need*, a booklet examining the growing service needs in that area. Subtitled "How Children and Families Are Struggling to Survive and Thrive in South King County...And Why It Should Matter to You," the booklet describes the challenging situation in both statistical and human terms.

The increasingly high cost of living in Seattle, Bellevue and many other areas of King County is forcing more young people, poor people, immigrants and those without jobs to flee wherever lower rents and social service programs are available.

South King County has a rich diversity of cultures, creating an assembly of varied nationalities and heritages. Statistically, 603,900 people live in South King County, 35 percent of the county's 1.7 million population. It's the largest segment of the county's population, compared to 7.7 percent in north county (134,400); 24 percent on the Eastside (414,400); and 33.6 percent in Seattle (585,300).

Nearly half of the South King County population is comprised of children (41.4 percent). The households with children account for 40 percent of South King County's residents, compared to 27 percent in East King County, 24.3 percent in Seattle, and 8.8 percent in North King County. And, more than one third of those households are single-parent homes.

Also in South King County, more families live below the poverty level than in any other part of the county, nearly 10,000. And, more families there are on food stamps and state aid than in any other part of the county.

As the South King Council of Human Services' booklet states, the number of residents who need shelter, health care, food and protection from domestic violence continues to increase in South King County, but many of the resources needed to deal with those issues are focused elsewhere.

Government agencies, foundations, corporations, charitable groups, service agencies and the county's philanthropic donors have

traditionally focused their efforts on other parts of the county. Now, the growing needs in South King County are demanding more attention and funding.

"CCS offers 14 social service programs in south King County," Flynn said, noting that CCS King County is re-focusing its services on that high need area.

The statistics also have human faces. The booklet, *A Matter of Need*, tells the story of "Yaza," "Melonie" and their 5-year-old daughter who fled their warring country in East Africa to join the husband's cousin in his manufacturing business in South King County.

When the company closed, Yaza was unemployed, the economy was worsening, and soon they were homeless and hungry. Melonie was pregnant with their second child. They found help through several agencies, including CCS, that provided transitional housing, food vouchers, job training, medical assistance and daycare services.

Today, they live in their own apartment, both parents are employed, and their previously desperate lives have been gradually transformed into hopeful lives.

As the South King County population increases, however, so does the need for assistance for those who are poor, unemployed and homeless. In 2004, a night check by volunteers with the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless estimated there are 8,300 homeless people in the county, double the number found in 2000.

Jennifer Malloy, program manager for CCS South King County Family Support Services, described several of the services CCS provides in the south King County area:

"Transitional housing includes men's shelters and emergency services, such as ARISE, for homeless men in Renton," she said. "There is Elizabeth House for homeless adolescent girls and their infants; Katherine's House for single women in drug program recovery; and HOME, offering shelter in Kent for homeless men."

Malloy also manages the new CCS Mutual Interest Program. Last year, under different management, the program provided security deposits for 163 low-income families for their move from temporary to permanent housing. Several agencies provide rent subsidies, but few provide security deposits, often the last barrier to moving into permanent housing, she said.

"When tenants move out, the deposit money is returned to CCS's Mutual Interest program and half is given to the client for their move," Malloy said.

Susan Vaughn, CCS housing services director in south King County, describes the work of the organization as providing help for the many people who come in need. "That's why we're there," she said. "To help with temporary housing, drug recovery programs, education and job training."

– John Wolcott

Information about CCS and AHA housing and assistance programs is available at www.ccsww.org.

CCS/AHA Highlights Outstanding Volunteers

They 'walk the talk' of Catholic social teaching

'I couldn't turn my back on this'

It was a gerontology class at Western Washington University in Bellingham that led BJ Johnson to the volunteer work she's doing for Catholic Community Services in the Skagit Valley today.

The professor asked students to develop a fictional social service program for seniors. Johnson, who was finishing a degree in Human Services, decided to design a program for grandparents raising their grandchildren. But first, she called around to find out what was already available.

"I was transferred through every agency in the county," she recalls. "I ended up with zero information and no help."

She knew she had to fill the gap.

Johnson estimates that at least a thousand grandparents in Skagit County are facing the challenges of raising grandchildren, often children who are suffering from the effects of their parents' drug or alcohol abuse. Grandparents must revamp their lifestyle and learn to navigate the often confusing network of government and social services agencies.

Johnson, who had previously coordinated support groups for people with AIDS/HIV, formed the "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Skagit County" support group. Four people came to the group's first meeting in February 1999.

In March 2004, the group came under the umbrella of Catholic Community Services, which enabled it to apply for grants as a nonprofit organization.

"I wouldn't be doing a fraction of what I'm doing now if it weren't for CCS," says Johnson.

CCS staff credit Johnson with helping the agency reach out to an

underserved population.

"She has been a fantastic volunteer," says Bob MacGilchrist, assistant family center director of the CCS Skagit Family Center in Mount Vernon. "We're all impressed with her tenacity and follow-through."

Johnson, 47, says it helps that she knows everyone in town. She grew up in Mount Vernon, and later reared her two now-grown sons there. Today she works full time as activity director at the Miravista Care Center. Her husband Dick teaches at Skagit Valley Community College.



BJ Johnson talks with Jere LaFollette, a member of the Board of Directors of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program.

Johnson puts in 25 to 30 hours a month coordinating the grandparents' group. She answers phone calls and email, lines up speakers, and puts out a newsletter. She connects grandparents with counselors and social service agencies, and answers questions on everything from custody issues to TANIF grants to finding a baby sitter.

Her goals include setting up a lending library and providing respite care so grandparents can take a break. And she hopes to recruit more volunteers.

"I'm not doing it because I have free time," she says. "With the knowledge I had, I couldn't turn my back on this."

—Christine Dubois

'We are to give not only of our money, but of our time'

Ginny Larkins will spend this Friday evening where she's spent every Friday evening for the last 15-1/2 years – volunteering at the Archdiocesan Housing Authority's St. Martin de Porres Shelter in downtown Seattle.

She serves dinner – sandwiches, chili, or whatever local churches provide – sells coffee and orange juice, hands out razors, and gets to know the homeless men who come there seeking shelter.

"It's such an uplifting experience," she says. "The guys are so appreciative. They just want somebody to be nice to them."

Larkins is no stranger to community service or to hard times. She's served as a VISTA volunteer, taught school, worked with refugees, and volunteered at food banks and other outreach projects.

"I'm a Christian," she says. "I just believe that we are to give not only of our money but of our time."

Reared in New Jersey, Larkins taught grade school in Baltimore and Denver. In 1967, she moved to Seattle where she met her husband, Al Larkins, a high school teacher and choir director at Madrona Community Presbyterian Church, the church she still attends. Her family did not accept the marriage; Al was African American. He died suddenly in 1977, leaving her to rear their three young children on her own.

Unable to find a job in teaching, she worked as a dental educator, then as a dental assistant with the King County Health Department until her retirement six years ago.



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Percy S. Adams talks with volunteer Ginny Larkins at the St. Martin de Porres Shelter in Seattle.

She's been blessed, she says, with the ability to accept people as they are.

"People are just people to me," she says. "No matter what they look like, no matter what they smell like, no matter what they've done. We're all the same."

Bob Goetschius, director of the St. Martin de Porres Shelter program, praises Larkins' dedication and compassion.

"She's an inspiration," he says. "Just like clockwork, she's here. Whatever job needs to be done, she does it with a lot of compassion and love for the people we serve."

For her part, Larkins appreciates the opportunity to serve in a place where everyone is treated with dignity.

"It's the best volunteer job I've ever had in my life," she says. "It's a place where staff and volunteers are there because they want to be."

Her advice to would-be volunteers? Figure out what your gifts are and find a place to use them.

"We are all gifted differently," she says. "I'm gifted with being able to reach out to people and accept them as they are. And God has given me an opportunity to use my gift."

– Christine Dubois

'There are so many people that need help'

Bob Ross is reading through his driving log for April.

"On the third, I took a woman in Tacoma to the bank. That afternoon I took a woman to Safeway. The next day, I took a woman from Tacoma to the Fred Meyer in Federal Way. On the seventh, I took a woman in Tacoma to a medical appointment in Lakewood."

There's more. The man in Tacoma who needed a ride to his doctor. The woman in Puyallup who had an appointment at the medical center in Federal Way. The Tacoma woman who had to take her cat to the vet.

In a typical month, Ross, a driver with the Volunteer Chore Services (VCS) program, puts 600 to 800 miles on his Buick Sentry sedan, giving free rides to people in need all over Pierce County. He picks people up at their homes, takes them to their destination, waits until they're finished, and brings them home again. The average trip takes about three hours.

For the clients, mostly low-income seniors, the rides can mean the difference between staying in their own homes or being forced to

move into assisted living. For Ross, 69, it's a way to keep busy and help his neighbor.

"I wanted something to do in my spare time," he says. "I enjoy doing it, enjoy meeting the people."

Ross, who is retired from 20-year careers with the Air Force and the Postal Service, learned of the need for VCS drivers in a radio commercial in January 2000. Soon he was driving four or five times a week. VCS reimburses drivers 40.5 cents per mile to help cover the cost of gas and maintenance.

Linda Dombrowski, CCS program coordinator for volunteer services in Pierce County, appreciates Ross's commitment.

"We can always depend on him," she says. "He's willing to go that extra mile to serve those who are vulnerable and in need."

In one case, a man in rural Pierce County needed daily medical treatments for six weeks. Family members could cover the 70-mile round trip from the man's home to a downtown Tacoma hospital three days a week. Ross drove the other four days.



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Volunteer driver Bob Ross holds the car door for Mary Hawkins of Tacoma.

When he's not driving, Ross keeps busy with Wednesday night bowling league and spends time with family. He and his wife Janice live in Tacoma and have 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

After years of working full time, this is Ross's first venture into volunteering. It's been a good fit.

"It makes you feel good," he says. "There are so many people that need help."

– Christine Dubois



Joan Clough, program director of Sacred Heart Shelter in Seattle, welcomes Hassan and Megan Lizardi and their sons, Gabriel (foreground) and Israel.

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Called to Make the World a Better Place

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington isn't the only organization that serves people in need in local communities. But what sets CCS apart is this: its work comes out of its deep commitment to Catholic social teaching.

Catholic social teaching is a set of principles and values that sum up the church's teaching on how Catholics are to treat their neighbors. They include:

- *Respecting the dignity of every person*
- *Valuing family, community, and the common good*
- *Acknowledging that each person has basic rights and responsibilities*
- *Giving preference to the poor and vulnerable*
- *Supporting the dignity of work and the rights of workers*
- *Working for global justice*
- *Caring for God's creation*

As the social outreach arm of the Catholic Church, these principles consistently guide the actions of Catholic Community Services. You'll see it in many ways: the patience a caseworker shows a difficult client; the family-centered goals of the foster care program; the organization's efforts to create a society where everyone can get housing, health care, and education.

"The church goes beyond talking about Catholic social teaching," says Michael Reichert, president of Catholic Community Services and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority. "The Catholic tradition is doing something about it. The Catholic Church has been an extremely important player in the quality of life for people in Western Washington, especially the poor and vulnerable."

Sean Maloney, CCS director of clinical training, leads a three-hour class for CCS employees that helps them better understand the central role of Catholic social teaching in the work of CCS.

"We wouldn't exist if it weren't for Catholic social teaching," he says. "It's not just what we do – though professional work is extremely important – but how we do it."

For example, he notes, CCS programs emphasize family and community. Caseworkers may help recovering addicts sign up for a library card or register to vote – ways of linking them to the broader community. Similarly, CCS's Family Preservation System places children with extended family members whenever possible to give children a sense of who they are.

Equally important, CCS lobbies lawmakers in Olympia on behalf of the poor. The goal is to encourage laws and policies that serve the common good and protect the rights of the most vulnerable citizens.

"We become who we need to be in community," says Maloney. "If somebody in my community doesn't

'We, as the Body of Christ, as a church, have a duty together. That's the rich tradition of the Catholic Church. We make the world a better place, as we're called to do.'

—Michael Reichert, CCS/AHA

have enough, my community is not successful."

For many CCS staff, living out Catholic social teaching means treating the poor with the dignity and respect they deserve as God's children. Caseworkers can't wave a magic wand and instantly make everything better. But they can offer respect and hope.

"I would like us to be known as the agency that cares most for the most poor," says Reichert. "That sets us apart. And that's rooted in Catholic social teaching."

CCS staff practice a "ministry of presence" that includes being totally focused on the person they're with. And they work to make CCS facilities welcoming places, from the art on the walls to the greeting from the receptionist.

Joan Clough, director of the Archdiocesan Housing Authority's Sacred Heart Shelter in Seattle, describes the ministry of presence as

"the most powerful thing we do." She compares it to Jesus spending the day speaking with the woman at the well.

"It's being totally present to the person who comes in the door, accepting that person for who they are at that moment and not making judgments about where they should be, listening to their story unfold."

The result, she adds, is that residents of the shelter begin to feel that they have the power to change their lives.

"It empowers people to believe in themselves," says Clough. "We can help them believe they are part of the community and not invisible."

CCS relies on and works closely with Catholic parishes in carrying out its mission.

"CCS is one place for parishes to live out their call to serve – to be Jesus in the world and see Jesus in the world," says Annette Quayle, director for Parish Services Development and co-director of Mission Integration.

"It's one place where people can come into contact with the poor and serve and experience the transformation that comes from that."

Parishioners contribute financially to support the work of CCS. They also give their time. Thousands of volunteers serve food in shelters, drive seniors to medical appointments, help grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren, and do much more. Several transitional housing facilities, including Seton House in Bothell and Benedict House in Bremerton, were built and are operated jointly by parishes and CCS.

Working together helps parishes and CCS achieve more than either could alone.

"We as the Body of Christ, as a church, have a duty together," says Reichert. "That's the rich tradition of the Catholic Church. We make the world a better place, as we're called to do."

The Colors of Caring

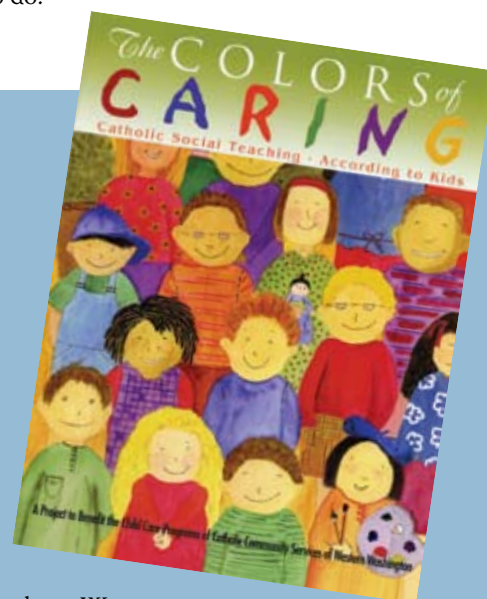
A child-friendly explanation of the principles of Catholic social teaching is available in a coloring book format published by Catholic Community Services.

"The Colors of Caring: Catholic Social Teaching -- According to Kids" is a 14-page workbook that can help people of all ages, said Rosemary Zilmer, CCS Director of Development. While designed for children up to the fifth grade, it can help adults who want to brush up on their knowledge of Catholic social teaching and its seven principles. Discussion questions for each principle are included.

More than 2,000 copies of "The Colors of Caring" have been used by Catholic schools, parishes and individuals in Western Washington and beyond.

The book, which includes four crayons, sells for \$10 (plus \$1 for postage and handling; bulk orders will be less). Proceeds benefit CCS child care programs throughout Western Washington. Eighty percent of the children served by those programs are from low-income or no-income families, some of them homeless.

For more information, or to order "The Colors of Caring," visit the CCS web site, www.ccsww.org, or e-mail rosemaryz@ccsww.org, 206-328-5706.



Catholic Social Teaching: 'It's Earthshaking'

An interview with
Archbishop Alex J. Brunett



Archbishop Alex J. Brunett greets Dolores Valencia and her son, Anthony, at La Casa de la Familia Santa in Centralia. Archbishop Brunett blessed the AHA housing for farm worker families in September 2005.

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Catholic social teaching is “earthshaking . . . and pertains to “the essence of being Catholic,” Archbishop Alex J. Brunett of Seattle said in a recent interview with Kay Lagreid, editor of Samaritan magazine. The spiritual leader of more than 900,000 Catholics in Western Washington, Archbishop Brunett said that Catholic social teaching influences his ministry and leadership because “I believe it is my responsibility to help people understand how to apply their religious belief to life.”

Q: Catholic social teaching is sometimes described as the church's “best kept secret.” How would you describe Catholic social teaching, and what distinguishes it from other Catholic teaching?

A: I think it's fair to say that in the mind of the everyday Catholic who goes to Mass on Sunday and doesn't do much else in the church, Catholic social teaching is a well-kept secret. In fact, that person would be upset if he or she heard a homily at Mass on Sunday about Catholic social teaching. He would think it was a political talk, politicizing an issue or an event.

But Catholic social teaching is very much bound up in the message of the Gospel. Much that Christ said had a social dimension, or implications about how we are to treat other people, seek justice, and live justly in society. Many people don't make that connection.

Catholic social teaching is not to be distinguished from other church teaching and belief; it must be seen as integrated into it. In many ways, it's a conclusion to, and makes a statement about, what we believe about who Jesus was. He spoke about loving our neighbor. In the parable of the prodigal son, he presents himself as the parent. In the account of the Good Shepherd, he is seen as the one shepherding. In the scene of the Last Judgment, he talks about separating the sheep from the goats. Obviously, these are stories that have tremendous social teaching implications. When they are separated from the living out of faith, great damage is done to the Gospel message as a whole.

We can say that there are documents in the church that highlight aspects of Catholic social teaching, and we can talk about Catholic social teaching in general. But it is never to be seen as totally independent of the Gospel message in the historical tradition of the church.

Q: How important is Catholic social teaching to the ordinary Catholic?

A: Unfortunately, there are many Catholics who define themselves by the minimum requirements for being a Catholic. They go to church on Sunday and, when asked, describe themselves as Roman Catholic. When asked how they live out their faith, they may describe what they do. But when you ask how particular social issues affect their life, they are often hard-pressed to articulate a consistent principle. Likewise, they may get involved in particular issues, but not look at the principles that Catholic social teaching presents.

Q: How does Catholic social teaching provide the basis for the church's social action?

A: Catholic social teaching tries to look at the way in which we respond to the issues of life. Throughout history these issues change, and are influenced by societal factors such as education, jurisprudence in a particular country or area, and the political issues of the day. In a country like the United States, where there is wide spectrum of political choice and a wide perspective on the relationship between religion, society and politics, problems arise.

One's response to Catholic social teaching is not a political response, that is, it is not a "politically correct" response. Likewise, it is not a response that accommodates every need, or that will make it possible for us to believe anything or to get along with anybody.

Catholic social teaching is earthshaking because it takes us beyond the realm of doing something, not only because it's the right thing to do, or the nice thing to do. It pertains to the essence of being Catholic. Good, sound social teaching leads to social action. That means that I do what I do because it's the right thing to do, and it is based upon our teaching that says, "This is what my response should be." We must articulate that in our lives,

and live it in society, regardless of our political affiliation.

Q: How has Catholic social teaching influenced your ministry and leadership in the Archdiocese of Seattle?

A: It's always a challenge, and needs to be looked at from many sides. Oftentimes people accuse me of being political because I do something on the basis of Catholic social teaching. The question of illegal immigration is one example. Citing Catholic social teaching, people will say that I must seek justice for illegal immigrants. What Catholic social teaching says is that we must reach out to all people in need. That's a religious principle; it's not a political issue. I take care of people because I love my neighbor and do everything I can to make it possible for every individual to live with dignity and respect. Sometimes that looks like a political statement, but in fact it is a religious statement, and I have a right to practice my religion.

Catholic social teaching influences my ministry and my leadership here because I believe it is my responsibility to help people understand how to apply their religious belief to life. It is one thing to believe; it is another to articulate that belief, and not be embarrassed by it – at work, in one's leisure time, or in political activities. The two must go together, not just on Sunday, but every day of the week.

Q: How is the Church in Western Washington putting Catholic social teaching into action?

A: We do it in several ways. One way is through Catholic Community Services, a very large organization that relates to our society and our culture in many areas and at many levels. CCS is the largest local private provider of social services to poor and vulnerable people in the State of Washington, second only to the state itself.

I am always concerned that we

respond to our social teaching, and that if we talk about societal problems we must address them as best we can. The Catholic social teaching principles that we talk about and support must find expression. For example, it's one thing to condemn a practice, such as abortion, but we must also provide for unwed women who have children, and give them an opportunity to have a decent life. We do this through Catholic Community Services. We build homes for unwed mothers and help them to take their pregnancy to its completion, to have the child, and to have a chance for a decent life.

If we are going to condemn injustices to workers, we must go into the workplace to see how we can help those who are unjustly treated, or at least give them the dignity and respect that's due every human being. For example, when I came to the Archdiocese of Seattle in 1997, I knew that migrant workers often lived in impoverished conditions that demean human life and values, and family life and values. If we're going to condemn that, we need to see how we can improve the situation.

The Archdiocesan Housing Authority has built, and continues to build, adequate housing for migrant workers who come to this country so that they can raise their families in an environment that encourages family life, and gives each individual an opportunity to bloom and to use the gifts God has given them.

With any Catholic agency that is involved with the secular society, a concern is that it not lose its Catholic identity. We don't do things because it's nice to do nice things. We do them because they are an expression of what we believe about how God relates to us through Jesus Christ. We try to articulate that, and what we do ought to be seen in that light. In other words, we do not respond because the government will give us money to start a new program or build housing. In fact, we should not take the money if we're not going to articulate our message. We

‘When we understand Catholic social teaching as an integrated whole,
and not a specialty area, we are faithful to the Gospel.’

must let people know that the reason we do something is because our actions are based upon our belief in Jesus Christ.

Q: *What is the role of the Washington State Catholic Conference in putting Catholic social teaching into action?*

A: The Washington State Catholic Conference gives the three bishops and the three dioceses of the state an opportunity to come together and to speak with one voice in our province. The WSCC is an organization that each diocese in the state supports. Through it, we articulate current and important social issues, as well as the stance we take on them. This often requires that we go to Olympia to lobby for those issues on the basis of our Catholic social teaching and our principles. The purpose of that is to let people know what Catholics believe, based on our Catholic social teaching principles. We need to lobby and make the Catholic position very clear to legislators. It's important work.

The WSCC also prepares programs for use on the parish level throughout the state. Recently, it published important information about making end of life decisions, which is important here on the West Coast, where assisted suicide is being advocated. We have very strong principles about what it means to talk about end of life issues.

Q: *You have written many pastoral letters, and “Op/Ed” articles for the media, about issues that are of concern to the church. What are some of the contemporary social issues to which Catholic social teaching speaks?*

A: The most recent issue is immigration. Another issue for us is the question of what constitutes a marriage, a rightful marriage; I have written a pastoral letter on that. A major concern is the question of voting in a way that is contrary to one's faith. These social issues have great gravity in terms of our social teaching.

In whatever I write, I focus on the

principles involved, and try to make a clear and articulate statement about Catholic social teaching. I don't debate either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party.

Q: *How can the church help Catholics of all ages become familiar with, involved in, and actively committed to Catholic social teaching?*

A: That's a very good question, and a very hard question. It is important to help people understand that they will become a better person by understanding Catholic social teaching. It will enable them to live with their conscience and mind at peace, and it will enable them to live their religion at peace in a world that is very diverse. It's good to have principles in life that can take us forward so we don't fall into one pit or another. One needs to live by principles - not by issues. What are the principles by which I'm going to grapple with issues? For example, how does the principle of the sacredness of life speak to a variety of issues? Many people live with great dichotomy, for example, condemning abortion but supporting capital punishment.

As a bishop, it is my responsibility to write, as clearly as I can, pastoral letters, op/ed pieces and other documents that will help explain in a positive way the all-embracing, enduring love of God poured out in our lives through Jesus Christ, and how that love is lived out in the way we live our lives and the demands to live the reality of who we are. The nature of our religion is not to condemn others or to find fault with them. It is to live on in the love of God.

Q: *Many Catholics' primary experience of church is at the parish. What can be done at the parish level to make Catholic social teaching visible and relevant?*

A: A number of things at the parish level are very important. As I mentioned, it is at the parish level that most people are exposed to the living reality of the

church. Therefore, when a person goes to church he ought to experience Catholic social teaching clearly articulated -- in the way the parish is built, how people are received and accepted, the sense of hospitality, the outreach of the parish. For example, does a parish provide for persons with disabilities? Does the church have a decent sound system? If there is a Catholic school, is it just for the wealthy in the parish, or is provision made for those who do not have as many resources?

These may not sound like social action issues, but they are indications that we understand what we're preaching about. We find ways to accommodate the needs of all people. We start by creating an environment where the social teaching of the church is a lived experience of the people who belong to the parish. You can't talk about justice in the pulpit if you don't have it in the parish. That's a very big demand on a pastor and others in leadership.

Parishes can also offer programs about Catholic social teaching, but there is a potential danger. One can be very articulate about what is said in *Rerum Novarum*, other papal statements, or the recent encyclical on the love of God. However, being familiar with the documentation is not enough. It must be articulated in action, and parish life is where it should happen.

Q: *Is there anything else you would like to say about Catholic social teaching?*

A: Catholic social teaching can be a challenge for people. We must move beyond a catechism understanding of it -- knowing the answers to questions and accepting them -- to living our lives in a way that we express Catholic social teaching through our actions. When we understand Catholic social teaching as an integrated whole, and not a specialty area, we are faithful to the Gospel. If we don't do that, we compromise the credibility of the Gospel itself.

‘Aging in Place’ with Dignity

Three years after being diagnosed with a progressive brain disease affecting his balance, vision and ability to swallow, Dick Bryan can’t be safely left alone for more than a few minutes.

So last fall, Maggie Bryan turned to Catholic Community Services for help in coping with her husband’s illness. Now, three times a week, home care assistant Cheryl Denny watches out for Dick, 67, while Maggie leaves the couple’s Graham home to run errands, go to the gym, or just take a much-needed break.

“I have to get out (of the house) to be healthy and do what I do here,” Maggie Bryan says. “It works really well when there’s someone like Cheryl who loves this job.”

Maggie Bryan is among a growing number of people



Above: CCS home care assistant Cheryl Denny assists Dick Bryan at mealtime.
Right: Maggie and Dick Bryan enjoy time at home.

‘What drives the nonprofit Long-Term Care
System is the care for the person.
That’s our strength.’

—Peter Nazzal,
System Director

who are turning to the CCS Long-Term Care System for assistance that allows aging or disabled loved ones to remain in their homes.

Each year, the state-licensed program provides 1.7 million hours of non-medical home care service – from two to 24 hours a day – to clients in every county in Western Washington. On any given day, 3,000 people receive in-home personal care assistance. An additional 500 are provided a nutritious meal at a meal site, or delivered to their home.

Besides home care, the CCS Long-Term Care System offers nursing care and an adult day program in Lakewood (Pierce County), and collaborates with CCS in King County on the African American Elders Program in Seattle, which helps frail elders obtain social and health services. Under a contract with Pierce County, CCS Long-Term Care delivers meals to homebound seniors and serves senior meals at 17 group sites throughout the county. In mid-summer, a meal site will open to serve African American seniors in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood.

The array of services available for aging persons in

Washington state is quite an improvement from 30 years ago, when “the only service you could get was a nursing home,” said Peter Nazzal, director of the Long-Term Care System. Providing in-home care is much less expensive, he said, and most people prefer staying in their familiar surroundings if possible.

The demand for services to allow “aging in place” continues to rise. Over the last three years, the Long-Term Care System has grown 27 percent. During the past year, offices were opened in Vancouver and Longview. With baby boomers now entering their 60s, Nazzal projects the system will see growth of at least 5 percent each year for the next two decades. The system’s annual budget is currently \$32 million.

As the older population grows, the Long-Term Care System plans to expand adult day services – now offered only in Lakewood – into every area where Long-Term Care services are available, Nazzal said. Adult day services typically host clients for four hours, offering a nutritious meal, activities to stimulate the participants’ minds, and perhaps light physical activities. “Our goal is to become certified by the county to accept DSHS clients,” he said. The Lakewood program would then be used as a model in other communities and counties.

What drives the nonprofit Long-Term Care System “is the care for the person,” Nazzal said. “That’s our strength.” But that priority can also be a challenge, he said, because the system serves people “no matter where they live, no matter what their condition.”

Some home care clients pay the cost of services out of pocket, or with help from private insurance or government assistance programs. The Long-Term Care System offers a free in-home assessment to determine the services a potential client may need and whether the person is eligible for assistance to pay part or all of the

Home Care Services

What does “home care” mean? CCS home care assistants can help clients with:

- Dressing
- Personal hygiene, such as body care, bathing and toilet use
- Walking
- Positioning and transfers
- Companionship
- Protective supervision
- Shopping
- Cooking and eating
- Housework, including laundry
- Medication reminders
- Travel to medical appointments

For more information and a free in-home assessment, call 1-877-870-1582.

cost. About 20 percent of clients are “private pay,” while the rest receive some form of government assistance, Nazzal said.

Treating its clients and workers with dignity is important to the Long-Term Care System. Employees receive a variety of benefits, including health care coverage, vacation, and advancement opportunities.

CCS Long-Term Care employs some 2,000 home care assistants. Applicants undergo a thorough background check and receive home care training. “Persons who have taken care of their aging parents or other relatives are often well-suited for the work,” Nazzal said.

— Jean Parietti

Annual ‘Convening on Aging’ Set for Sept. 29

The third annual “Convening on Aging” co-sponsored by the CCS Long-Term Care System will take place Friday, Sept. 29, at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.

The event is designed to educate and inform people who work with seniors about the services that are available and the latest in senior services, within a context that welcomes the spiritual aspect of aging. Social workers, health care providers, parish staff members and the general public are invited.

Co-sponsors of the event are the Franciscan Health System and the Providence Health System.

According to Peter Nazzal, director of the Long-Term Care System, the Convening on Aging “integrates aging issues and spirituality in a way that few other conferences do.”

Among the workshops are:

- Elder Law
- Aging from an African American Perspective
- A Primer on Senior Services
- The Characteristics of the Five Generations
- Public Policy Presentation: The Governor’s Long-Term Care Task Force
- Veterans’ Benefits

To register for the Convening on Aging, call 253-502-2734.

Assisting Our African American Elders

As a nurse in Seattle hospitals, Indiana Moore spent most of her career taking care of others.

Now the African American Elders Program is helping take care of 77-year-old Moore – whether it’s providing \$50 a month for groceries, signing her up for assistance programs, or checking to see how she’s doing.

“With this program, they come around, they call you, they keep in touch,” Moore said during a recent home visit by her case manager, Gwendolyn Williams.

That personal contact is important for elderly African Americans like Moore, who may be isolated by illness or lack of interaction with family members, according to Margaret Boddie, manager of the Seattle-based program. Many of these elders moved here from the South, where they experienced racial discrimination, so they often distrust the government and social service agencies, she said. They may not know how to apply for services, be reluctant to ask for help, or believe such services aren’t meant for them, according to Boddie, who has worked with elders for some 30 years.

‘We want to make their lives as comfortable as we can.’

–Margaret Boddie, CCS

“When you can show them that you care, then they let you into their lives,” Boddie said. “We want to make their lives as comfortable as we can.”

About 150 seniors are being helped by the African American Elders Program, part of Catholic Community Services’ Long-Term Care System. More than 60 percent of clients are 75 years old and older; three-quarters are women. All of them are chronically ill, frail or disabled; live on very limited incomes; and



Gwendolyn Williams, a case manager for the African American Elders Program, helps Indiana Moore complete an application for a meal assistance program.

PHOTO BY JEAN PARIETTI

need help to remain in their homes.

Finding these elders can be difficult using traditional methods, so Boddie and her staff have been enlisting the community’s help – distributing fliers, asking churches to foster relationships with elders, and hosting a public forum to expand awareness of the problems facing the area’s low-income black women.

The elders program was created in 1997 under the City of

assistance remain with the elders program, where services range from paying rent to buying prescription medications.

On her recent visit, Williams helped Moore apply for meals delivered by a local agency and promised to help her reapply for medical coupons and food stamps. Previously, she linked Moore with a Seattle organization that offers a food bank and helps pay utility bills.

Working within a limited program budget requires innovation, Williams said. “You have to be a detective and really investigate different programs” to find what’s best for each client.

With two case managers, a nurse practitioner and a part-time nurse, the program is at capacity with 153 clients. But the need is much greater, in Seattle as well as in parts of King County, Boddie said. So she’s applying for county funding that would allow the program to expand, particularly to communities south of Seattle.

“I’ve got my fingers crossed,” Boddie said.

– Jean Parietti

For more information about the African American Elders Program, call 206-328-5639.

Sister Peg Murphy, O.P.

Hunthausen Award recipient makes a difference for children, families and the community

Whether helping a community deal with economic adversity, lobbying elected officials or empowering women to improve their lives, Dominican Sister Peg Murphy is devoted to working for social justice.

Her “constant, passionate dedication” to people and causes is an inspiration to the Tacoma Dominican community, said Sister Sharon Casey, who has known Sister Peg since their years in the novitiate. “Peg is the one who, even if it’s Thanksgiving Day and someone calls and needs something, will respond to it.”

Last December, Catholic Community Services honored Sister Peg with the Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen Humanitarian Award, recognizing her nearly 50 years of service to poor and vulnerable people. “It’s very humbling to be given an award in his name,” Sister Peg said. “What a wonderful man of peace and compassion and justice and humility.”

The 72-year-old Sister Peg is also humble: “I don’t think I’ve made that much difference,” she said, stressing that she always works in partnership with others. “I wouldn’t be anywhere without my (Dominican) community. Wherever we are, we are carrying out the mission of the community, which calls for creating a more just society through political, educational and spiritual collaboration.”

Her compassion for others was instilled at an early age in her native Ireland. Her father and mother, parents of eight children, always found time to help someone in need. The couple’s example took root; three daughters – Nora, Mary Pat and Peg – became Tacoma Dominicans.

Sister Peg joined the community in 1958, teaching for 17 years at schools in Washington, Oregon and California. In Sister Peg’s classes in Yakima, students “would always be doing sandwiches for the poor or food drives,” Sister Sharon recalled. “Even then, she was instilling in her students a sense of justice.” She recommended her colleague for the Hunthausen Humanitarian Award.

Sister Peg spent a decade as a pastoral associate in Springfield, Oregon, during the economic hardships of the 1980s, when social service funding was cut and mills were closing. “We started a social service agency in the



PHOTO BY JEAN PARIETTI

‘The way of Jesus for me is very simple. It’s to love and to care and have compassion and try to forgive and help those in need.’

–Dominican Sister Peg Murphy

parish,” Sister Peg said. She also worked with others in the community to open a family soup kitchen and establish a Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

In 1991, Sister Peg was elected to the Tacoma Dominicans’ three-member leadership team, where she served for eight years. She has been involved with the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center in Seattle, Intercommunity Mercy Housing projects for low-income families, and Nativity House, a Tacoma outreach center for homeless persons.

Since 2001, Sister Peg has been the founding director of Catherine Place in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood. The ministry, sponsored by the Tacoma Dominicans, offers spiritual and personal growth opportunities to women of diverse backgrounds.

In her many years of advocating for social justice, “the most satisfying (thing) is working with people and empowering people,” Sister Peg said. By helping women at Catherine Place, “we are making a difference for children, for families, for the larger community,” she said.

Her work is inspired by her community and her faith.

– Jean Parietti

A Call for Recommendations

for the 2006 Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen Humanitarian Award

Catholic Community Services of Western Washington has announced a “Call for Recommendations” for the 2006 Hunthausen Humanitarian Award.

The award, in its 16th year, is presented annually to a practicing Catholic who provides outstanding, faith-based service to poor and vulnerable people in Western Washington, and who advocates for change in the systems that cause human suffering. It is named for retired Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen of Seattle.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, Aug. 25, 2006. Recommendations must be received at the offices of Catholic Community Services of Western Washington by that date.

The recipient of the 2005 award was Dominican Sister Margaret (Peg) Murphy, the founding director of Catherine Place, a faith-based service to poor and marginalized women located in the Hilltop area of Tacoma.

In a letter inviting recommendations for this year’s award, Archbishop Alex J. Brunett states: “The Church in Western Washington is blessed by the selfless service that so many Catholics offer to persons in need. As Archbishop, I want to honor a person who loves unfailingly, seeks justice passionately, and walks humbly with our God.”

Any practicing Catholic in Western Washington involved in faith-based service to persons in need can be recommended for the award. The life and service of a person recommended for the award must be consistent with Catholic social teaching.

Currently compensated employees of Catholic Community Services and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority (AHA), and currently seated members of the CCS/AHA Board of Trustees, are not eligible. Individuals cannot be recommended two consecutive years.

The CCS/AHA Board of Trustees reviews all recommendations, and from these selects nominees for the award. The finalist for the award is chosen from among the nominees by the Selection Committee of the board, in consultation with Archbishop Brunett.

CCS family centers and AHA present awards to, and celebrate the service of, all persons recommended.

Persons submitting a recommendation are asked to provide a thorough response, two typewritten pages in length, to the following two questions:

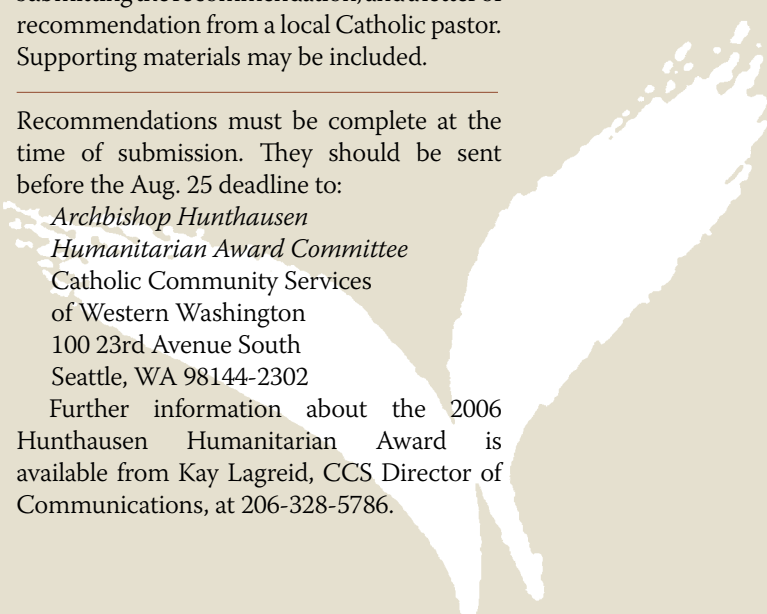
- *How would you describe this person’s specific actions, achievements, and approach to faith-based service to the poor and advocacy to change the systems that cause human suffering?*
- *Why does this person’s service stand out above others?*

The recommendation must include the name, mailing address, phone number, and parish/faith community of the person being recommended; the name and phone number (daytime and evening) of the person submitting the recommendation; and a letter of recommendation from a local Catholic pastor. Supporting materials may be included.

Recommendations must be complete at the time of submission. They should be sent before the Aug. 25 deadline to:

*Archbishop Hunthausen
Humanitarian Award Committee*
Catholic Community Services
of Western Washington
100 23rd Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98144-2302

Further information about the 2006 Hunthausen Humanitarian Award is available from Kay Lagreid, CCS Director of Communications, at 206-328-5786.





PHOTOS BY LINDA THOMAS

Changing the World, One Child at a Time

A day in the life of St. Mike's Tikes

Parents, many with coffee cups in hand, arrive at St. Mike's Tikes in Olympia as early as 7 a.m. to drop their children off for child care. A few hugs and kisses later, they leave to begin the workday with their minds already racing to accomplish tasks on their "to do" lists.

Meanwhile, the happy chatter of children stacking blocks, working on puzzles and even practicing a musical instrument fills the building.

That's how a typical day begins in a Catholic Community Services child care and early learning center. CCS serves about 250 children through four facilities.

For parents, child care isn't a convenience; it's a necessity so they can work. And for children, the center isn't just a place to hang out; it's an environment where they learn and make friends.

"Child care is near and dear to the CCS mission," said Dawn Larsen, director of CCS child care and early learning programs. "All children deserve a loving, nurturing environment, and we're here to help them grow into responsible, caring adults."

Brain development research has led to one of the biggest changes for child care in the seven years that Larsen has been with CCS.

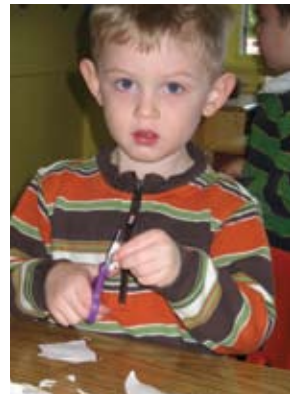
A newborn's brain is only about one-quarter the size of an adult brain. It grows to about 80 percent of adult size by 3 years of age and 90 percent by age 5.

"Children are born learning," Larsen explained. "Even a few years ago we used to send kids to preschool so they would be ready to learn when they went to school. The emphasis today is on making sure children are fully prepared, successful learners before they get to kindergarten."

The National Institute for Early Education found that children who know more words when they enter school do better than their peers.

Larsen, a licensed mental health therapist, said children who have had little contact with adults and limited opportunities for learning enter school "light years" behind the others.

"One of our top priorities is to make sure our kids, who are often from low-income families, enter school on a level playing field," she said. "That's why the curriculum and teachers are so important at CCS centers."



‘Happy children who are eager to learn become adults who make a difference in the world.’

–Deb Harris, CCS



Washington Governor Christine Gregoire agrees with the need to provide better learning opportunities for children from birth to 5 years old.

In April, Governor Gregoire signed a bill into law that creates a new state agency: the Department of Early Learning. Among other things, the agency will come up with standards for child care programs and recommendations for attracting and retaining preschool teachers.

“**Y**te gustarán, tal vez,” Mary Lou Jones said as she read a Spanish version of the Dr. Seuss book, *Green Eggs and Ham*, to her preschool class.

When she was hired at St. Mike’s Tikes she was surprised to learn she’d receive benefits. She earns vacation time, along with the medical, dental and vision package that all CCS employees receive.

“That is rare in child care,” she said. “This is a great place to work and it’s a consistent program for the children because the staff is taken care of.”

Low wages and staff turnover are two concerns for most child care centers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately one third of child care staff leave the field each year because of low wages.

“It’s a blessing that our staff has a lot of education and experience,” said Deb Harris, director of St. Mike’s Tikes. “Nobody was deciding whether they should flip burgers or work in child care. They came here because it’s what they choose to do.”

A low staff turnover rate was one factor that helped St. Mike’s Tikes

win accreditation a few years ago from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Harris said even though St. Mike’s Tikes faces the same challenges as other programs – funding is always a concern and their facility is aging – it is changing the world, one child at a time.

“It’s not our mission to serve the greatest number of children. Our goal is to serve children in a great way,” Harris said. “Happy children who are eager to learn become adults who make a difference in the world.”

– Linda Thomas

CCS CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

Bremerton

Caring Place Child Care and Early Learning Center
Ages 4 weeks – 12 years
360-479-9229

Olympia

St. Mike’s Tikes
Ages 18 months – 12 years
360-586-2960

Poulsbo

St. Olaf Child Care and Early Learning Center
Ages 18 months – 6 years
360-779-5791

Seattle

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Home Center
Ages 4 weeks – 6 years
206-328-5670

Catholic Community Services offers foster care services at several of its 12 family centers throughout Western Washington. Each one has many success stories to tell about families and single persons who provide temporary homes to children and youth. The following success story comes from the Snohomish Family Center in Everett, which currently works with 35 licensed foster families.



Reunited

One might think that Sandy (not her real name), a social worker with the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), would want to leave her work behind at the end of the day. But Sandy decided to go through the rigorous licensing process in order to be a foster parent.

Because Sandy works in Snohomish County as a social worker, she had to abide by the restriction of accepting foster children only from outside the county. A further limitation was that she had only a small, one-bedroom apartment and could take only an infant into care. Consequently, this foster parent was licensed for nearly eight months without a child being placed.

Just when she thought she would not be able to contribute to the many children in need, a call came late on a Friday evening about a six-month-old baby boy who had been abandoned at a Seattle hospital.

The baby was ready for discharge but had no family, and no foster homes were immediately available. Sandy jumped at the chance, volunteered to fight Friday rush hour traffic from Mount Vernon to Seattle, and offered to pick the child up at the hospital. She was delighted with

the opportunity to serve this baby boy.

She quickly realized just how necessary a safe, caring “parent” was for him. At the first diaper change, she discovered that he was covered with new and healing cigarette burns and scars. Her heart ached for him, and she dedicated herself to nurturing him back to health.

That is not the end of the story. Sandy discovered that the baby she was caring for had an older brother, also in foster care for the last few years. He was 7 years old, and living with his fourth foster family in Kent. Discussions began immediately with social workers regarding the need to reunite these boys. Sandy was adamant; they needed to be together and she would do whatever was necessary to make it happen.

This was no small order, considering Sandy lived in a one-bedroom apartment and her licensing restricted her from taking a child older than 12 months. Not to be deterred, she immediately started the search for a two-bedroom, child-friendly apartment complex with easy access to school and child care.

She quickly found another place and within record time was moved, re-licensed and ready for “big brother,” who could not have been more thrilled to be with “baby brother.”

“The relief in his eyes when he saw the baby was priceless,” Sandy said. “They get along so well and both are settling into their new home, school, and family routine.”

It is heartwarming to know that the two boys are reunited in a safe, loving and capable home while the biological parents access services and DSHS works out the details for these boys’ future. This is a success for everyone – and it wouldn’t be possible without compassionate, dedicated foster parents!

“There is always a need for families willing to foster school-aged or older children, some with challenging behaviors,” states Donna Witte, foster care licenser at the Snohomish Family Center. “And of course there are babies and very young children needing care, too.”

Perhaps the most important characteristic a long-term foster parent can have is the ability to love and care for a child, then to be able to let go as the child returns to his or her biological family or moves on to an adoptive home. Families need to remember that they may have given that child the only stability and unconditional love that child has ever known.

Debra Mazick, program director for Children and Family Services at the Snohomish Family Center, said: “We believe, whether for a day or for a lifetime, every child deserves a safe and loving family. We’d love for even more families to step forward to provide foster care. The need is great; the rewards are greater.”

– Amy Cunningham

More information about CCS foster care is available at www.ccsww.org

Volunteer Chore Services Celebrates 25 Years

'People really do want to help their neighbor'

For the last 25 years, Volunteer Chore Services has been helping people help each other.

Volunteers are matched with folks in their own neighborhood who need help with everyday things: shopping, cooking, yard work, running errands, cleaning the house. For the folks who receive the help – low-income seniors and adults with disabilities – it can make the difference between staying in their own homes or having to move into an assisted living situation. For the volunteers, there's that good feeling that comes from making a difference.

"The program's success comes from the fact that people really do want to help their neighbor," says Eileen Rasnack, program manager for VCS of King County. "It's very important to a lot of people to know they're making a difference in someone's life."

Jake Saldana has been volunteering with VCS for the last two-and-a-half years. Every Thursday at 10 a.m., Saldana vacuums the home of an 82-year-old West Seattle man. Since suffering a stroke, "Kevin" can't handle the vacuum cleaner, and with a German Shepherd as a companion, the house needs regular cleaning.

Afterward, the two men sit and talk. The homebound senior is a retired arborist, and Saldana tells him that once the weather warms up, he'll take him outside and get him to show him the proper way to trim trees. The thought brings a smile to the older man's face.

"What he needs most of all is somebody to talk to," says Saldana, a retired machinist and member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in

Seattle. "He forgets about his leg and how depressed he is."

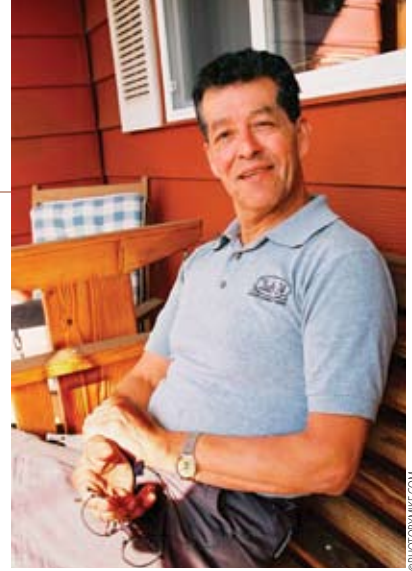
The program began in late 1981 after the state Legislature cut much of the funding for a now defunct state program that paid workers to provide home services to seniors. Working with churches and community groups, Catholic Community Services created a network of volunteers ready to reach out to seniors in their communities. Today, CCS receives funding from the state to administer the program in 35 Washington counties and two Indian Nations.

VCS volunteers are screened, trained, and matched with a senior in their neighborhood. They can choose work that matches their interests and a schedule that fits theirs – generally two to eight hours per month. Since they're helping the same person regularly, the contact often leads to friendships that enrich both people's lives.

Volunteers come from all walks of life, from retired people who want to give back to their community, to professionals who volunteer on their lunch hours, to children who work alongside their parents. Many first hear of the program through their parish.

Barbara Strong was introduced to VCS through a speaker at Holy Family Parish in Auburn three years ago. The retired teacher signed up that day. She's now helping a 90-year-old woman get to doctor's appointments and taking her shopping.

"It's fun, actually," says Strong. "You feel you've done a good deed, rather than sitting around home sorting old recipes and slides and all that dull stuff."



VCS Volunteer Jake Saldana helps an 82-year-old man in his West Seattle neighborhood.

For Strong, it's also a way to repay the people who took care of her mother in Michigan in the years before she died at age 95. "I couldn't be there to help her," she explains. "This is my way of paying that back, by working with someone else's grandmother."

Last year, VCS provided more than 294,000 hours of service to more than 5,000 clients throughout the state. Clients are referred to the program by social workers, senior centers, doctors, or friends. Income guidelines are flexible, says Rasnack, but the program is intended to be a safety net for seniors on fixed incomes who don't qualify for government-paid home care and can't afford to hire someone themselves.

"It's important to people to stay in their own homes as long as they can," says Rasnack. "VCS helps make that possible."

– Christine Dubois

Volunteer Chore Services is looking for volunteers for ongoing and one-time projects. Hours are flexible, and the work is easy. Training and mileage reimbursement are provided. For more information, call 1-888-649-6850 or see www.ccsww.org/volunteerchore.

If you would like to apply to receive volunteer chore services, call 1-888-649-6850. To be eligible, you must be over 60, living on a fixed income, and have some health and/or mobility limitations; or be under 60 with temporary or permanent functional limitations.



Pictured at the check presentation to the CCS King County Foster Grandparent Program are (left to right): Signa Hilton, Investment and Finance Director for Mountain West Senior Housing, who presented the check; Greg Swendrak, administrator of Auburn Meadows Assisted Living; Ethel Jackson, a Foster Grandparent Program volunteer; Eileen Rasnack, Program Manager for Volunteer Chore Services of King County; and Josephine Tamayo Murray, CCS King County Agency Director, who accepted the check.

Foster Grandparent Program receives donation

The CCS King County Foster Grandparent Program received a donation of \$17,200 from Mountain West Senior Housing LLC this spring for the support and development of the program in South King County communities. Josephine Tamayo Murray, CCS King County agency director, accepted the check.

The Foster Grandparent Program provides a dynamic intergenerational link for youth and elders. Each week more than 900 children benefit from 800 hours of volunteer service. Students receive individualized instruction and tutoring critical for their academic success. The positive attention and interaction of the Foster Grandparent volunteers helps children develop emotionally, physically and socially, and helps to prepare them for success in life. The volunteers benefit from the sense of accomplishment and companionship they gain helping youth.

As volunteers in the Foster Grandparent Program, elders over age 60 serve as tutors and mentors. The volunteer work is done in school and child care settings throughout King and Snohomish counties. A small living stipend (non-taxable) is provided for those meeting federal poverty guidelines. Monthly training, meals and transportation reimbursement are provided.

A typical volunteer serves 20 hours per week; the average age of volunteers is 80.

The South King County Family Center in Kent is actively recruiting volunteers for the Foster Grandparent Program. Donations are also welcome, and interested persons are invited to serve as members of the program's Advisory Council. Further information is available at 206-328-5925.

Family Preservation System provides school-based services for students, families

CCS Family Preservation Services (FPS) in Vancouver has begun to provide school-based services for high school students, with a home-based component for parents and families.

According to Don Koenig, director of the FPS Vancouver office, the school-based services, provided through a "wraparound" approach, are a first for FPS, Camas School District 150, and the Camas Alternative Program (CAP), an alternative high school where the services will begin.

Earlier this year, Clark County invited FPS to develop the services, which include traditional school-based counseling and therapy. FPS will add home-based family therapy and an array of community and strengths-based therapeutic activities. Three therapists will work closely with students, teachers and families to personalize services to create a service package currently unavailable in Clark County. A "family partner" will have a special role on this treatment team in supporting parents and connecting families to community resources.

The intent of the services is to reach out to students who are struggling with social, cognitive, and/or emotional difficulties through a combination of counseling, coaching and therapeutic activities. The services are designed to help students improve and to enhance academic performance, along with overall social and emotional well-being.

The primary target population for services are students and families that are Medicaid eligible. This fall, the Camas School District will provide additional funding to serve non-Medicaid students that meet the medical necessity criteria. Students may request the services, and families, teachers and the CAP principal may refer students.

Prior to providing the services, FPS consulted students and families about the types of services that would be helpful for them. Focus and discussion groups and activities that will raise the program's visibility will continue during the summer.

"This is a great opportunity for CCS to collaborate with the Camas School District to offer these new services to the community," Koenig said. "These services by design are flexible and build on students' strengths and interests to hopefully lead to greater success."

The annual renewable contract that FPS has to provide the services is an important opportunity for CCS and FPS, Koenig said. "We expect this wraparound approach to be successful at the Camas Alternative Program and hope it will lead to opportunities with the rest of the school district."

Aberdeen youth shelter set to open in October

A new CCS shelter serving young homeless men ages 13 through 17 is scheduled to open in Aberdeen in October. The shelter will be located on the first floor of the Amazing Grace Lutheran Church hall. It will open daily at 6:30 p.m., and close each morning at 9 a.m.

According to Mike Curry, family center director of the CCS Grays Harbor Family Center, homelessness among youth is increasing in Grays Harbor County. At Aberdeen High School, more than 100 youth each year for the past few years have experienced episodes of homelessness, he said.

The shelter will initially serve five to six young men. CCS will offer a variety of services with its community partners, including meals, clothing, health care, mental health services, educational services, recreational opportunities and job placement opportunities.

Community partners include Evergreen Counseling Services, Educational Services District (ESD) 113, Steven Hutton, M.D., and many others.

"Most of the youth we serve are kids coming from situations where their parents have thrown them out or abandoned them," Curry said. "This isn't a shelter for runaways; it's a safe place for youth with nowhere else to turn."

The shelter is funded primarily by a \$215,000 contract from Grays Harbor County, through SHB 2060 funds. The funding will cover much of the renovation cost and operating expenses of the shelter for the first two years. A \$15,000 grant from the E.K. and Lillian F. Bishop Foundation will pay for supplies and equipment, such as beds, bedding and furniture.

Financial contributions are welcome. Volunteers are also needed for a variety of positions that will help support the youth. Information is available from Mike Curry at 360-533-9470.

System director serves on governor's task force

Peter Nazzal, director of the CCS Long-Term Care System, has been asked to sit on Washington Governor Christine Gregoire's Chronic Care Advisory Committee. Nazzal is a recognized leader in the state on home care services for seniors.

At Governor Gregoire's request, the state Legislature passed legislation that created the task force. Spending on long-term care services represents a significant portion of the state's budget for social services.

The task force is charged with developing recommendations to meet the long-term care needs of citizens now and in the future. The task force has three advisory committees that assist it in its work. The meetings began in April and will continue through September.

"I am honored to serve on this committee," Nazzal said. "I believe the work of the task force will be far-reaching and very beneficial for the seniors of Washington."

Program director travels to Africa for look at refugee application process

Ann Strandoo, director of the Archdiocesan Housing Authority's Refugee Assistance Program, traveled to Africa April 18 to learn about the process refugees go through before they arrive in the United States.

During her three-week trip, Strandoo visited the Overseas Processing Entities that process refugee applications for East Africa. In Kenya, Strandoo met with representatives of the U.S. Embassy, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Organization for Migration. Strandoo will share what she learned with service providers in the United States.

Strandoo's trip included four days of training in Washington, D.C. On her return from Kenya, she presented her findings to staff of the State Department Bureau of Population and Migration, which is responsible for preparing the annual report to Congress advising on the admission of refugees into the country.

In Africa, Strandoo visited the Kakuma Refugee Camp, located near the Sudanese border. Kakuma houses nearly 70,000 refugees from throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The refugees at Kakuma have fled wars in Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and the Rwandan genocide.

At the camp, Strandoo co-taught a pre-departure cultural orientation class for Sudanese refugees that are about to be resettled in the United States. Strandoo said that refugees at the camp live in simple mud hut structures and receive bi-monthly food rations. There are limited medical facilities and schools. The mortality rates from malaria, cholera and AIDS are high.

"It was a great honor to be chosen from among all the U.S. agencies to make this trip, and indicative of the strong program CCS has here in Seattle," Strandoo said. "I'm fortunate to have witnessed life in the refugee camp and the application process refugees go through before they arrive." Strandoo said that many of the refugees shared their dreams for a new life in America.

"It makes me proud to know that through our work we create the opportunity," she said. "Our work is making a difference not only in the lives of the families we resettle, but for generations to come."



Ann Strandoo, director of the AHA Refugee Assistance Program, is pictured with Sudanese refugees preparing to depart for resettlement in the United States. The photo was taken at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya.

Candidates for permanent diaconate to have internships with CCS programs

Men preparing for ordination as permanent deacons in the Catholic Church in Western Washington will participate in an internship program this year that includes Catholic Community Services.

Beginning in September, CCS will provide nine-month internship opportunities for five of the 25 men who are in the third and final year of their education and formation for the permanent diaconate. Each candidate will spend three hours per week in the internship. Their wives may participate with them.

According to Father William McKee, Assistant to the Vicar for Deacon Candidate Formation in the Archdiocese of Seattle, the purpose of the internship program is twofold: to familiarize candidates with the diaconal nature of the local church, that is, serving the needs of others; and to integrate them into existing archdiocesan structures.

One goal of the internship program, Father McKee said, is "to help candidates understand and appropriate what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served." Other goals are the integration of a candidate's academic and spiritual formation through service to others; and assisting a candidate's ongoing vocational discernment.

Annette Quayle, Director of Parish Services Development for CCS Western Washington, worked with staff in the Deacon Candidate Formation Program to identify CCS internship sites.

"CCS is very excited about this wonderful partnership with the Archdiocese of Seattle and the Deacon Candidate Formation Program," Quayle said. "It is an opportunity for the deacon candidates to work with people with whom they may not otherwise be in contact. Likewise, CCS benefits greatly from having people committed to service and justice working with us to serve the poor."

Candidates for the permanent diaconate who will have internships at CCS sites are: John Amlag, HIV/AIDS care services at the CCS Snohomish Family Center in Everett; Jim Decker, Volunteer Chore Services, Bainbridge Island; Roy Harrington, Benedict House, Bremerton; Larry Jesmer, Volunteer Chore Services, Everett; and Fred Johnson, Volunteer Chore Services, Cathlamet.

Other men in the Deacon Candidate Formation Program will have internships in prisons and correctional institutions, hospitals, Hispanic ministries, Native American ministries, L'Arche communities and other ministries.

There are currently 81 active permanent deacons serving in Western Washington. In addition, there are 20 retired deacons, and four serving outside the archdiocese.

Episcopal Church assists Hope House

Catholic Community Services' Hope House in Bellingham will be open Saturdays beginning this summer, thanks to members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Approximately 20 people involved in St. Paul's outreach ministry wanted to do more direct social service, said Cheri Woolsey, Hope House program manager. They responded to an invitation by Rod Elin, CCS chief of staff for Whatcom and Skagit counties, to assist Hope House. Each volunteer has signed a letter of commitment to work one or more Saturday mornings per month for one year.

"Bill Attebery, St. Paul's administrator and lay ministry coordinator, has set up a strong operational program for their outreach committee that will ensure seamless services for the poor in Whatcom County," Elin said. "They're excited and eager to get started. This is a great example of ecumenical sharing of resources for the good of the community."

Woolsey said that being open every Saturday is something she has been hoping for, for a long time. "Many people are unable to come in during the week," she said.

Hope House, located at Assumption Catholic Parish, provides clothing, food, diapers, toiletries, cleaning supplies and other necessities to more than 800 people in need each month. It is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to noon; and Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday hours are 9 to 11 a.m.

Information about Hope House is available at 360-223-6141 and www.ccsww.org.

New program helps pay security deposits

Mutual Interest, a program that works with social service agencies countywide to help people pay refundable security deposits on apartments and rental homes, has been acquired by CCS King County. It makes moving from temporary to permanent housing possible for low-income families in Seattle and throughout King County.

Many agencies provide rental assistance to low-income families, but few can fund security deposits, which become a "deal-breaker" for families in need of a permanent home.

Last year, Mutual Interest provided security deposit funding for 163 low-income families (at 50 percent or below median income) who were living in temporary housing. The assistance made it possible for these families to move into permanent housing and take an important step toward self-sufficiency.

Further information is available from Kurt Kleeh, Mutual Interest coordinator, 253-850-2517, or at www.ccsww.org/mutualinterest/index.php.

– Amy Cunningham

Housing Designed to Create Hope and Community

(continued from page 9)

in their lives when they get a chance to leave the street and we help them get jobs, reduced bus passes and other help.”

In Bellingham, Steve Powers, who supervises AHA housing programs from Everett northward, said Kateri Court joins Bellingham’s Mount Baker Apartments and the Washington Grocery Building Apartments to provide affordable housing there. The latter two facilities are reserved primarily for low-income residents.

Named for Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, a Native American woman, the new 40-unit Kateri Court is unusual in having a mix of commercial and residential spaces, including studio apartments, and one-bedroom units for low-income residents earning below \$12,150 annually, and homeless persons who are being helped to find their way into jobs and permanent housing. There will be a mid-July opening.

An important facet of the facility is that it was built as a LEED-qualified project, qualifying by including materials and features that make more efficient use of energy for heating, and meet environmental goals for a healthful environment. Also, there is no smoking in any part of the building.

In Skagit County, construction will begin in a few months on a new AHA farm worker housing facility that will add more units in Mount Vernon. The workers and their families who live there are permanent residents in the area and work in canneries, nurseries and other farming environments.

Father Patrick McDermott, pastor of the six Skagit Valley Catholic parishes and head of the ministerial team serving the parishes, said that the three AHA housing facilities for farm workers provide much-needed help for the valley’s migrant Hispanic community. The housing includes La Casa de Padre Miguel, a 10-unit facility in Mount Vernon; La Casa de San Jose, 50 units also in Mount

‘It is our desire to create a welcoming, safe refuge for people who have had no home in their lives. CCS meets and serves people where they are, not where we wish they were. It is this affirmation of the individual’s dignity that is the basis for our work and community.’

—Denny Hunthausen, CCS Southwest Agency Director

Vernon; and La Casa de Santa Rosa, 15 units in Sedro-Woolley.

Last September, two new AHA facilities were blessed by Archbishop Brunett: La Casa de la Familia Santa in Centralia, permanent, multi-family housing with 45 units for farm worker families; and Katharine’s Place, 10 transitional housing units, and 15 units of permanent housing, for formerly homeless families in Seattle’s Rainier Valley. It is named for St. Katharine Drexel, the founder of the religious community of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (1891), who established many ministries serving African Americans and Native Americans in the United States.

Another new project named for St. Katherine Drexel is Drexel House, currently under construction in Olympia, and due for completion in December. A program of CCS Southwest, it will serve chronically homeless and disabled men and women in Thurston County. According to Gary Sandwick, family center director of the CCS Thurston County Family Center, Drexel House will be unique in its integration of shelter facilities, transitional and permanent supportive housing at one site.

Included in the \$5.3 million facility will be a 15-bed group residential shelter for homeless men, and 25 transitional housing units and 10 permanent housing units, with a maximum of 50 people living at the facility. Drexel House will also have a central kitchen and dining facilities, a laundry, common socialization

areas and offices for individual case management and counseling sessions.

“We are very excited about this project, which is gifted by broad-based community support,” Sandwick said, including the Olympia City Council and the Interjurisdictional Forum on Homelessness (IFH). The city provided a \$350,000 no-interest loan to CCS to assist in purchasing the property.

Other financial support came from the Washington State Department of Community Trade and Economic Development; the Washington State Housing Finance Commission; the HUD/McKinney Funds; a Community Development Block Grant from the State of Washington and Thurston County; the Housing Authority of Thurston County; the HUD/VA Economic Development Initiative; and private foundations.

The Thurston County Housing Task Force has set a goal of reducing homelessness by 50 percent within five years, a challenge that will be addressed by the presence of Drexel House.

“It is our desire to create a welcoming, safe refuge for people who have had no home in their lives,” said CCS Southwest agency director Denny Hunthausen. “CCS meets and serves people where they are, not where we wish they were. It is this affirmation of the individual’s dignity that is the basis for our work and community.”

— John Wolcott

More information about AHA and CCS housing is available at www.ccsww.org.

Your Enabling Gifts

As a nonprofit organization, Catholic Community Services depends on the generous and faithful gifts of our friends. Without them we would cease to serve the homeless, hungry and hurting. Every gift is important!

We appreciate our 9,500 volunteers who provide time, energy and expertise. These gifts are valuable, and we cherish them. Volunteers help us provide compassionate human touch and enable us to devote 90% of our expenditures to program services. We also value the gift of prayer from the people who pray for our work. Please keep it up!

But there are other gifts we appreciate as well, that enable us to provide help and create hope.

Regular Gifts

Every year, Catholic Community Services receives contributions from more than 20,000 individuals and couples who support our ongoing work. These cash gifts comprise the backbone of the support needed to carry out our mission. For the most part, these come out of a donor's monthly income. In the same way that you make monthly payments for your home and power, you can give monthly to help those in need. Contact us for hassle-free ways to do this through electronic funds transfer or your credit card.

Memorial/Honorarium Gifts

Gifts in memory of loved ones provide a special legacy and extend their spirit of caring to those most in need among us. More people are also honoring people with gifts to CCS on special occasions such

as birthdays, anniversaries, or at Christmas. The honoree receives a card saying a gift was made in their name. It is a blessing to receive a card and know someone is being helped in your name.

Special Gifts

CCS continues to expand its work to heal people who are hurting and provide hope for those who are poor. We challenge our donors to consider making a larger gift, something beyond their regular gift amount. Such gifts may come from savings or brokerage accounts and represent a significant commitment. Stewardship is all about joyfully managing our gifts from God and investing them for a great return.

In-Kind Gifts

Sometimes a cash gift is challenging for a few people. In-kind gifts are also appreciated. Gifts ranging from cars to food and clothing and many other items can help us save precious cash resources. One person called us to offer 8,000 "Season's Greetings" napkins. This saved us money for one of our homeless shelters. Another woman is an artist and gave a painting. We will sell it and use the proceeds in our work. What do you have that we might use?

Planned Gifts

These gifts are in a class by themselves. They are the legacy gifts that you leave that reflect your deepest values. Some people have the means to give an asset such as property or real estate while still alive, and enjoy the satisfaction of seeing their gift put into action. One such donor gave a house to CCS. It will be converted into a home for developmentally disabled adults.

Most people will do their planned gift through a bequest in their will or living trust. What is your dream? What area of human need do you feel passionate about? Our friendly

Thank You

Our deepest appreciation to everyone who has recognized the positive impact **Catholic Community Services** has on the lives of people in need in our communities. Through your gifts to the **United Way Campaign** you are **'Providing Help. Creating Hope'**



planned giving representative will help you achieve your legacy goals. Our services are free and without obligation. Contact us at 1-800-499-5979, Ext. 5707 or plannedgiving@ccsww.org.

The Good Samaritan Society

Catholic Community Services has established The Good Samaritan Society to honor those of all faiths and backgrounds whose bequests or planned gifts will support our mission into the future to serve children, the poor, families and elders. Any amount qualifies for membership, whether you have a "widow's mite" or a larger amount. Membership isn't about amount, but about commitment to a legacy gift.

Please contact us and let us know if you have made or are considering a planned gift.

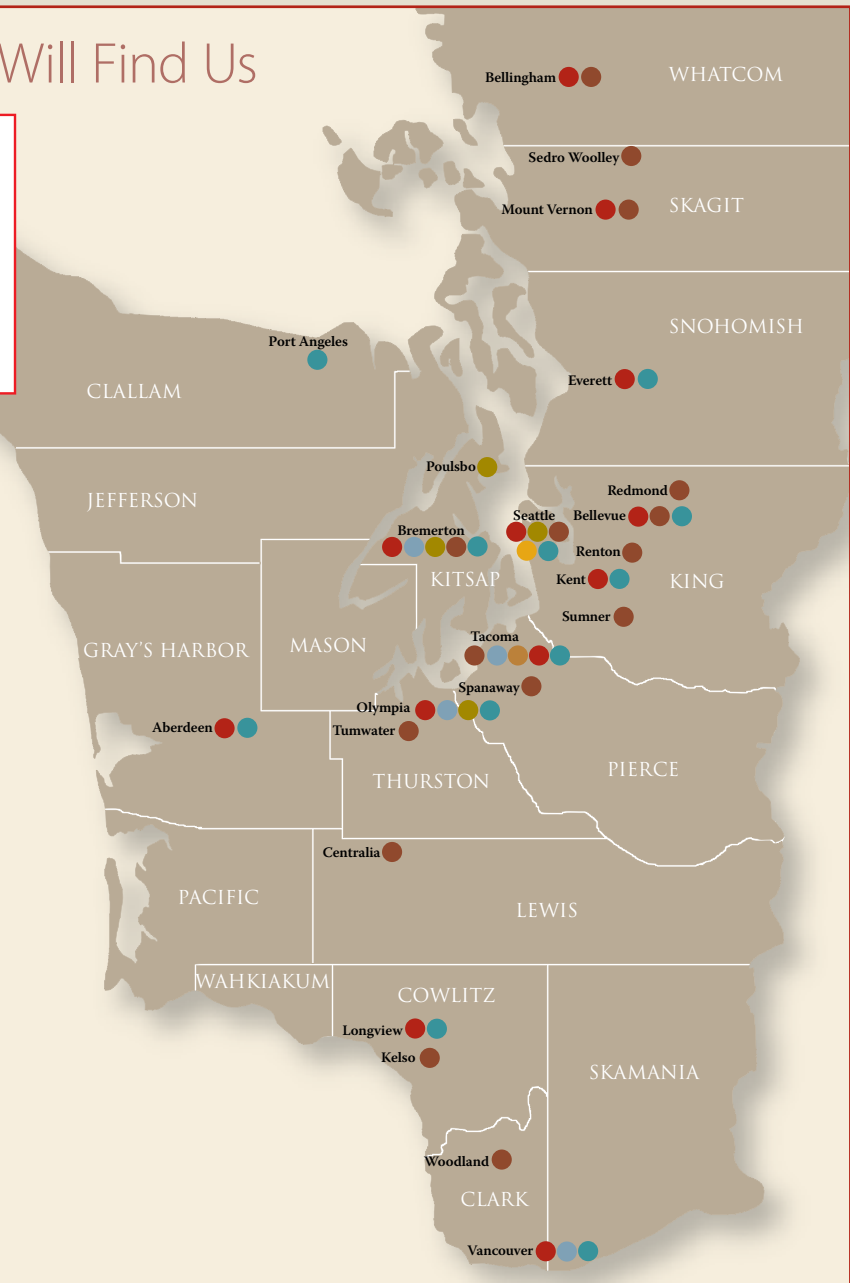
Your enabling gifts make it possible for Catholic Community Services and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority to help people in need 365 days a year. There are so many ways you can make a difference. God has placed a special mission in your heart. What is it? Contact us to help you achieve your goals.

For more information contact: Richard Bray, Director of Planned Giving, Catholic Community Services, 800-499-5979, Ext. 5707 or plannedgiving@ccsww.org.



Where You Will Find Us

- Family Center
- Long Term Care Services (available in every county)
- Family Preservation
- Child Care Center
- AHA Housing
- AHA Special Ministries
- Volunteer Chore Services



Catholic Community Services of Western Washington serves as the official social service agency outreach of the Catholic Church in Western Washington. It includes 12 family centers located throughout Western Washington, a Long Term Care System, Family Preservation System, Child Care System, and the Archdiocesan Housing Authority. CCS/AHA annually serves tens of thousands of people through more than 70 programs, including affordable housing, emergency shelter/services, counseling, home care for elders and the disabled, Volunteer Chore Services, youth services, family support, life skills/parenting education, adoption, foster care, child care, pregnancy support, Hispanic outreach, food programs, chemical dependency services, literacy, job and career counseling, and mental health services.



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