

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

TELL CITY

802 Ninth Street • Tell City, IN 47586 • Phone 812-547-0903
CatholicCharitiesTellCity.org



Serving all in need in Perry and Spencer Counties

March 2009 Newsletter

Hope in a Time of Crisis

Mike and Rita are expecting their sixth child, but what is normally a time of celebration has become more stressful and the problems seem to keep escalating. Mike has a debilitating medical condition that has left him unable to work. He applied for disability with Social Security, but has been told it will be at least another four to five months. Due to complications from Rita's pregnancy, she is unable to work at her normal job at a local nursing home and has been in and out of the hospital.

They had been receiving food stamps, but when it was time for their six-month review, their food security was completely jeopardized. In mid-November, they faxed in all the necessary paperwork through the State of Indiana's new enrollment process.

They did not receive any food stamps in the first week of December and were told they were ineligible because they had not submitted the required paperwork. They quickly proved the paperwork had been submitted, but were then told the paperwork had been received but never reviewed. After resubmission, the family was denied benefits because they missed the original deadline!

Rita then called someone she knew would be there for her: Catholic Charities. We immediately got them food from our pantry, but then connected them with two other local organizations for Christmas assistance and additional food. We went through a list of all the resources that their family may have also been eligible for.

The change from local food stamp and Medicaid offices to a state-wide process-

ing center has caused many problems with our most vulnerable families in our area and across the state. In many cases, the burden has been shifted back on to the family and to community nonprofits, like us.

Catholic Charities, locally and together with the other agencies in the archdiocese, are trying to educate our government on the problems the changes have caused for families without food, medical benefits and those necessities of a dignified life. We want to make sure these problems get solved in this new system.

Because of your support we are able to offer the flexible help needed by families of all faiths and backgrounds. Locally, we can connect families like Mike and Rita's to additional resources, working with state and local agencies and other community organizations. We offer the unique perspective of being able to provide help, but also create the hope this family needs that better times lie ahead.



Mission Statement

The mission of Catholic Charities Tell City is to work together as parish communities, fulfilling the call of the Gospel, and to help people improve their lives. We believe that through reaching out in service to those in need, by loving our neighbors as Christ loves us, we not only enrich their lives—but ours as well.



A Light of Hope

The phone rings at Catholic Charities and on the other end is a single mother of two. Sara is frantic because her electricity is about to be disconnected. The children’s father lost his job and hasn’t paid child support for the past two months. Her hours have been reduced at her job and she has fallen behind on her bills.

Catholic Charities pooled our resources with other local agencies to pay Sara’s utility bill. We helped her complete the paperwork for Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) and food stamps. We also got her a supply of diapers for her youngest child.

Sara recently called and chatted with Agency Director Joan Hess. Joan mentioned

she could hear the hope in Sara’s voice, even a bit of a smile, because her life had been put back in order. She received her government services and had been able to pick up a few

more hours at work. The situation had come full circle with Catholic Charities providing the help that creates hope.



The Bridge of Help, Connecting Generosity with Need

The economic times are bringing many new faces to the door of Catholic Charities. Most of these people have worked all of their adult lives and have been able to take care of themselves and their families. They are scared, embarrassed, and don’t know what to do. Sometimes they need emergency financial assistance. Sometimes they need information. All of the time, they need a sympathetic, compassionate ear.

Catholic Charities understands that help takes many forms. We have the good fortune of being seen as a resource for many people. For those with resources to donate, they know their donations of money and goods go directly to those who need it most. We sometimes hear of someone having excess furniture that they would like to donate. Within a few days, we will find someone needing those items and are able to match

the generosity with the need.

There are extremely kind and caring people who have come to Catholic Charities wanting to know if there is a family that can use their help. They wish to be anonymous in their charity and come to Catholic Charities to act on their behalf. Once again, our agency is a bridge of help to hope, connecting giving hearts with thankful hands.

Katie Pappano: The Face of Generosity

Katie is a resident of Tell City and a member of St. Paul Catholic Church. She was a member for six years of the Catholic Charities Advisory Council, where she also served as president and secretary. She continues to support Catholic Charities by making herself available to lend a hand in whatever capacity needed. You may find her in the food bank organizing donations of non-perishable food items; in the office stuffing envelopes for mailings; or lending an ear to the agency director to help work through an issue.

Katie’s love of helping those in need extends beyond Catholic Charities. She and her husband Tony are the owners of Insight 2000, which administers housing rehabilitation

grants to low and moderate income households. She also serves on the board of directors for Crisis Connection, an organization working to end sexual and domestic abuse in our area.

Katie is known for taking lots of pictures and frequently donates her time and talents in taking pictures for her church and other organizations. She is tremendously motivated and organized and shares those abilities in her volunteer work with Catholic Charities and other causes.

Katie and her husband are the parents of five children. In her “spare time”, Katie enjoys crafts, gardening, traveling, and spoiling her seven grandchildren.



Katie, her son and his friend, at a local restaurant.



Engaging a Wider Circle of Friends to Prevent Child Abuse

“No man is an island” rings true for everyone and no community service agency can provide all services to everyone. It takes many people and organizations to help a community take care of the poor and vulnerable.

Catholic Charities works to have good relationships with many other groups and agencies working to serve those in need in our area. We try to stay in contact with each other, sharing ideas and information.

As an extension of our mission, Catholic Charities Tell City convenes groups and individuals together to discuss issues and find

solutions. Catholic Charities has brought together a group of individuals, government officials, and organizations for the purpose of re-establishing a Child Abuse Prevention Council in Perry County. Prevention is the key and this council will help parents and caretakers recognize the warning signs in relationships with children, and give potential abusers educational tools to prevent any abuse. We hope to be able to educate the general public, and in particular, families with children, about issues surrounding the subject of child abuse. Prevention is the key and that will be the burden placed on this council: to help parents and

caretakers recognize the warning signs in relationships with children, and to give potential abusers educational tools to prevent any abuse. It has been proven that education does indeed help prevent child abuse.

All of the people involved in establishing this council have been very excited and engaged in this process and the opportunity to help Perry County’s children. If you would like more information about the Perry County Child Abuse Prevention Council, contact Catholic Charities at 547-0903 or jhess@catholiccharitiestellcity.org.

Planning for the Future

Catholic Charities recently held a strategic planning session. Lynne O’Day has led the four other Catholic Charities agencies in our archdiocese through an intense assessment process to determine the best direction for Catholic Charities. Under her guidance, council members and the agency director came together to talk about the future of our agency. Here are our areas of focus to ensure Catholic Charities stays in our community to help the poor and vulnerable.

- Tailoring the services of Matrix Lifeline to provide more services for women encountering crisis pregnancies;
- Expanding bereavement ministry;
- Creating a strong communication plan to educate parishes and others about the agency; and
- Developing a plan to insure the future of our programs and agency through any personnel changes.

Reducing Poverty: One Person and Community at a Time

Catholic Charities USA has set an aggressive goal: reduce poverty in the United States by 50 percent by 2020. In turn, they have challenged all local agencies to do what they can to help accomplish this goal. While our local agency is daily bombarded with immediate needs and requests, a vision for the future must always remain in the forefront of our minds.

We must constantly strive to find ways to help people find their way out of poverty. There are many avenues we explore to try to help each individual and family we encounter. As we’ve stated before, we know Catholic Charities can never serve all the complex needs those in poverty face.

We firmly believe in education and encourage anyone who does not have a high school diploma or equivalent to contact the Even Start program or other organizations to get their GED. We will also promote lifeskills education by starting a household budgeting class for those requesting financial assistance. When someone comes to us without a job, we encourage them to register with the local WorkOne office, where they have specific skills in helping adults obtain employment.

Working towards a more long-range solution, Catholic Charities continues to be a community partner in the 4Community2 Initiative sponsored by the Indiana Association of United Ways and facilitated locally by the United Way of Perry County. We are working towards establishing a Community Resource Center that will house many service providers in our area. By combining services under one roof, the hope is that the service providers can work more efficiently. More importantly, we hope to make obtaining the services a better process for those in need.

Public transportation is a serious issue in our area and we must do everything in our power to conserve the often meager transportation resources of those seeking our services. Along with this resource center, plans are being formulated to be able to have a way of bringing those services to various locations throughout Perry County.

Lastly, this agency furthers the case of education being a resource to end poverty by learning about the culture and causes of poverty. By increasing our knowledge, we can better serve the poor and vulnerable in our area.



Food pantry volunteers sort through cans of nutritious food at the food bank. Nutritious food is always needed to help feed our community's hungry.



A volunteer sorts through clean coats last December. Coats arrive already cleaned by a local dry cleaners and then given away to anyone who needs a warm winter coat.

Sometimes I find it difficult to say good and positive things about the first months of the year. It's cold and dark and often full of bad weather. But then I stop to think: Valentine's Day is in February, a sweet and lovely break in the month. The days are getting longer, allowing more daylight into our lives. And spring is just one month away! As I reflect on the positives, suddenly, I feel better.

And so it is with our work at Catholic Charities. It's often easy to only see the pain and heartache in people's lives. But then something wonderful happens: a client finds a job, an illness ends, a generous donation is received. And once again, I feel better.



As we continue to maneuver through these difficult times together, my prayer is that all of us continue to witness the many good things in our lives that we have received because of God's good nature and grace. Seeing the positive of life is not always easy as so many jobs are in jeopardy, prices rise daily on life's

essentials, and our own aches, pains, and illnesses seem to consume us.

Yet, if we truly take a closer look at our lives, we can understand how very blessed we are, even in poor economic times. We may have had to cut back in certain areas to make ends meet, but how wonderful to have those areas of expense that can be trimmed back.

I am so appreciative of our donors who continue to support us and believe in our mission. The kind and generous attitude of our neighbors here in southern Indiana is a testament to the work ethic and compassion of our donors.

I believe 2009 will continue to be full of challenges for all of us, in terms of the economic climate. But we all need to remember how blessed we are here in America. I ask for your continued prayers as Catholic Charities continues in its quest of providing help and creating hope for the poor and vulnerable in our area.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Hess,
Agency Director

Agency Advisory Council

Marlene Kunkler, St. Mark, *President*

Vacant, *Vice President*

Gary Stath, St. Paul, *Secretary*

Rita Marsili, St. Pius, *Treasurer*

Father Anthony Vinson,
St. Meinrad Monastery

Glenda Gogel, St. Isidore

Tom Busam, St. Michael

Tammy Saalman, St. Augustine

Father Adrian Burke, St. Meinrad,
St. Boniface, and St. Martin of Tours

Father Barnabas Gillespie,
St. Pius and St. Michael

Father Timothy Sweeney, St. Paul

Father Guy Mansini, St. Isidore
and Holy Cross

Ex-Officio

David J. Siler, *Executive Director,
Secretariat for Catholic Charities
and Family Ministries*



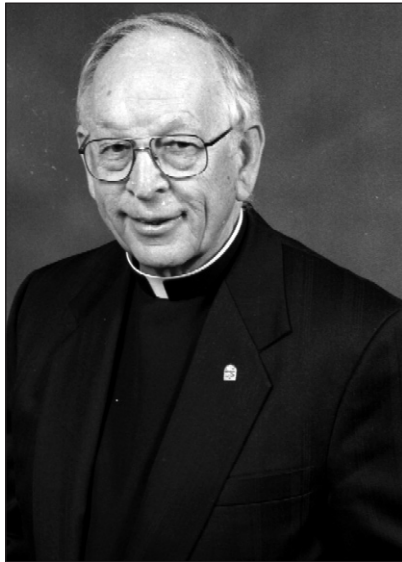
Creating a Hopeful Legacy: Father Donald L. Schmidlin, 1930-2008

David Siler reflects on a life lived in service.

The Catholic Charities family lost one of its most committed members on Feb. 5, 2009. Rev. Donald L. Schmidlin served as the director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from 1962 – 1976, while also faithfully serving a number of Indianapolis parishes.

Father Don was very healthy at the age of 78, when just a few weeks prior to his death he became severely fatigued. Within a few days of running tests, he was diagnosed with lung cancer that had already metastasized to his liver. By the time the cancer was discovered his liver was beginning to shut down. He died just two weeks later.

I had the privilege of counting Father Don among my dearest of friends after we became acquainted when he was assigned the pastor of



my parish, St. Matthew in 1993. Since he held my job for more than 47 years, he became a great mentor to me during my time with Catholic Charities. Shortly after being appointed as the director, I asked Father Don to serve on my advisory council. As always, he served faithfully in that capacity for five years – always challenging us to do more to serve the poor and vulnerable.

Father Don’s life was an example to me and hundreds of others of a true life of service. He had a deep love and compassion for those on the margins of society. He often shared with others his own battle and victory over alcoholism as a way to demonstrate that he understood the struggles of life and that God’s grace

is available to us all – no matter the circumstances.

Catholic Charities was a very small ministry when Father Don took over in 1962; and 47 years later we have grown several times its original size due to his vision and commitment. He had a wonderful knack for getting others involved, helping them to see their responsibility of meeting the needs of the poor.

Just as in his life, he taught us all a great deal in his dying. While visiting Father Don in the hospital I witnessed him working hard to learn the names of his caregivers and showing them compassion and care and making sure that they knew that he was praying for their needs. He was a tremendous example of putting the needs of others first.

Father Don Schmidlin left us all a wonderful legacy. He lives on in all of you who continue to support the mission of Catholic Charities. May he rest in peace.

Celebrating Anniversaries in 2009

- 175th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis: Celebrate Mass and Confirmation on Sunday, May 3 at 3 p.m., Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis
- Catholic Charities Indianapolis’ 90th Anniversary
- St. Elizabeth’s 20th year of pregnancy and adoption services in New Albany
- Catholic Charities USA’s Centennial Anniversary

Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis: Serving more than 100,000 people last year

CatholicCharitiesIndy.org

- Catholic Charities Bloomington
- Catholic Charities Terre Haute
- Catholic Charities Indianapolis
- St. Elizabeth—Catholic Charities (New Albany)
- Catholic Charities Tell City

Secretariat Advisory Council and Staff

Each agency has an advisory council to help determine local priorities. In addition, the secretariat (department) has an advisory council to determine the priorities of Catholic Charities a-whole. Many of these members also serve on their local agency advisory councils.

David J. Siler, Executive director for the Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries

David J. Bethuram, Associate executive director

Stefanie Anderson, Communications and marketing coordinator

Bill Spangler, President of the Secretariat Advisory Council

Members

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bob Buckner | Jim McGillivray |
| Mary Ann Browning | Ron Mead |
| Deacon Mike East | Sister Marlene Shapley |
| Dave Grimes | Deacon John Thompson |
| Tom Hirschauer | Roberta Walton |
| Deacon Bill Jones | |

DONATION AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Donations:

- Non-perishable, canned food especially meat, tuna, pasta and sauce
- Dry pasta and cereal
- Diapers (all sizes) and baby wipes
- Infant formula
- Money to help cover utility bills for those like Mike and Rita. Check out their story on page 1.

If you'd like to host a food drive through your organization, group or church, please contact our office. Your support is needed year-round.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.



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Community Partner



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