



From the Director

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board of directors and staff of Catholic Social Service, it is my pleasure to share this annual report about the work of the agency from our last fiscal year.

2010-2011 was a year to celebrate the story of Catholic Charities USA, as people across the country came together to lift up the work that has been accomplished over the past 100 years, and to transition into the next 100 years. We were affirmed by a special collection to celebrate the event. It was a hopeful time as faithful people came together to respond to the call to serve the poor and the marginalized.

We accomplished much through the difficult economic times of the past year. We were able to continue sharing the important message of a healthy

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marriage. We continued to uphold adoption as a positive choice, and we helped young mothers develop the skills they need to be successful parents.

People came to our doors seeking assistance who would not have in other times. We had more volunteers and the highest level of donations that Catholic Social Service has ever experienced.

Thank you for your continued support, assistance, and prayers as we continue to extend the love of Christ to those in need. I also ask that you continue because the needs will always be there.

In Christ,

Deborah J Snapp, Executive Director

Open Adoption . . . in a Technological Age

Using the Internet for adoption services is nothing new. According to Debbie Martin of the *Adoption Institute*, the first adoption website with a photolisting was introduced in 1994. The first Internet adoptive success story was reported in March 1996. Since then, many public and private adoption agencies have begun to use the World Wide Web.

For Catholic Social Service, there were pros and cons to using the internet for adoption services. Would our rural clients be comfortable with using the computer for their adoption needs? How well would we be able to secure our clients' privacy? Would we be able to continue the relationships we had established with our adoptive families and birth parents over the years? On the other hand, it was clear that staying current in the world of adoption meant having a solid online presence for adoption services.

Thus, in 2010-2011, Catholic Social Service began partnering with CAIRS, a market leader in adoption management software, to provide three online services for our adoptive families: MyAdoptionPortal, ParentFinder, and ChildConnect. In addition to a secure experience for our clients, these online services give Catholic Social Service a way to combine personal touch and the merits of technology to provide better service for our adoptive families.

First, myadoptionportal.com gives couples who are interested in adoption a one-stop place to keep

track of their entire adoption process, from paperwork, to education, to a myriad of other tasks that they need to accomplish. Staff members are also able to track progress, and maintain communication with each couple along the way.

ParentFinder is a social network-based product that provides adoptive families the ability to create multi-media rich profiles for birth parents to view. Adoptive family profiles can be viewed on the ParentFinder website, Facebook, YouTube, MySpace, Twitter, in printed form, and on the Catholic Social Service website. Birth parents can find the right adoptive family either by directly browsing family profiles or by performing an advanced search. Contact options available to birth parents and adoptive families include secure email, chat, click-to-call and direct calling. All information is secure and protects both birth parents and adoptive families.

Finally, ChildConnect, aimed at helping adoptive families and birth parents stay connected, is based on the concept of a LifeBook. The LifeBook contains letters, pictures, documents, and videos that are to be shared between birth parents and adoptive families while the child grows up.

Making the transition to these online services hasn't been without its ups and downs! Nevertheless, we have made much progress and we are excited about the new and improved services that we are able to offer for adoptive families and birth parents in southwest Kansas.

Bishop of the Diocese of Dodge City in Southwest KS

The Most Rev John B Brungardt

Executive Director

Deborah J Snapp LBSW

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Teen Moms Graduate . . . And Give Back

The Teen Moms Program, aimed at giving young mothers the support and incentives they need to become self-sufficient and nurturing parents, has been active in the Dodge City area for almost a decade. During the 2010-2011 year, 10 mothers between the ages of 15 and 23 participated in the program. They received support and guidance from four volunteer mentors as they attended workshops and made progress toward their individual goals.

Two of the women successfully graduated out of the program at the end of the season. "Sandra, mother of two, had an overwhelming list of goals," said Amy Falcon, Coordinator of the Teen Moms Program. "She successfully graduated from the program after accomplishing 75% percent of her goals including getting her high school diploma, a job, and taking care of medical responsibilities for her children." Natalie, 23, also graduated out of the program as all participants do at age 23. During her four

years in the program, Natalie accomplished her goal of becoming a registered nurse.

Since graduating, Natalie is already giving back to the program as the new volunteer Special Project Coordinator for the Annual Teen Moms' Bundles for Babies Diaper Drive. Since 2010, this annual diaper drive has resulted in over 100 packages of diapers (the most requested item in the Teen Moms store and the most difficult item to keep in stock), as well as donations, wipes and other items from area businesses and churches.

Eight young mothers participated in the Catholic Social Service outreach service at the Second Opportunity School (SOS), attending monthly workshops and earning "bucks" that they could use in the Teen Moms store. Several teen mothers have become enrolled in the on-site program at Catholic Social Service after being introduced to the program at SOS.

Free Pregnancy Counseling Weathers State Budget Cuts

It was almost closing time when the office door bell rang.

"Are you getting ready to close?" my visitor asked.

"Oh no!" I said. "What can I do for you?" There was a heavy pause as she summoned her response, her eyes already brimming with tears:

"My daughter is pregnant."

Later, our pregnancy counselor, Amy Falcon, explained: "It's an awful time for a parent; they see all of their hopes and dreams for their daughter gone in an instant."

Throughout the 2010-2011 season, Catholic Social Service offered free pregnancy counseling for more than 25 women who found them-

selves facing an unintended pregnancy. Counseling is offered regardless of age, income, marital status or religious affiliation so that each woman receives emotional support, information, and skills to make the best decision for herself and her baby.

Since 1999, these services have been funded through a state crisis pregnancy program called the "Stan Clark Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative." For the past two years, however, funding for the pregnancy maintenance initiative—and our pregnancy counseling services—was eliminated from the state budget. This year, we are happy to announce that funding for the pregnancy maintenance initiative has been reinstated for 2011-2012!

Food Assistance Helps Southwest Kansas

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides food benefits, access to a healthy and nutritious diet, and education about nutrition and how to prepare good food.

In Kansas, the program is known as the Food Assistance Program. It is administered by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) and it provides support for qualifying low-income households including those who are working or transitioning from welfare to work, as well as elderly, unemployed or disabled households.

"The program was designed to work with the economic cycle," explains Bill Ayres, Executive Director of WhyHunger. "When the economy, employment and wages go down the number of recipients goes up. When the economy recovers and unemployment recedes the number of people on the program goes down. It is also a stimulant for the economy because for every dollar it spends it creates between \$1.71 and \$1.79 in local economic activity. That means jobs when we desperately need them."

Unfortunately, many individuals and families who are eligible for food assistance do not

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Despite Challenges, More People Seek Help for Addictions

It's an age old story: in difficult times, people turn to a variety of substances and activities to help them deal with stress. Used in moderation, these substances and activities are fine; it's when they disrupt lives, health, and families that problems arise.

This past year, addiction counselor, Hattie Stein, has seen about 70 clients for a range of addictions including drugs, alcohol, sex, and food, as well as co-addictions and relapse prevention.

Stein identifies three challenges for individuals in southwest Kansas. First, we live in an addictive society. The rule of short-term gratification and long-term consequence—buy now, pay later—prevails in American life and society and it is also the rule of addiction. Second, we live in rural America. Rural America is isolated and there is a significant increase in drug and alcohol abuse in rural areas. Finally, fami-

lies are stressed. With the break down of families, children are raising themselves. Living in the context of isolated dysfunctional families and an addictive society, individuals don't have a lot of support when it comes to living healthy and balanced lives.

"On the other hand," Stein explains, "more people ARE getting help." With more knowledge and education about addiction, there is not such a stigma for people who choose to get help.

In addition to providing counseling services in Dodge City on Monday, Thursday, Friday, and every other Wednesday, Stein travels to Great Bend twice a month on Tuesdays, and to Garden City twice a month on Tuesday and Wednesday. She also works with a relapse prevention group twice a month in Dodge City and Garden City.

Southwest Kansans Reach Out to 2010-2011 Disaster Victims

Catholic Charities USA was still responding to human needs after the 2010 Gulf Oil Crisis, as southwest Kansans watched, and generously responded to some of the most destructive natural disasters of the year between March and May 2011.

First, there was the earthquake and tsunami that struck near Fukushima Japan on March 11, 2011. Then there was the "2011 Super Outbreak"—the largest tornado outbreak ever recorded that took place between April 25-28th, 2011. On April 27th alone, 211 tornadoes killed 346 people across Mississippi and Alabama making it one of the most prolific and destructive tornado days in US history.

Closer to home, a second deadly tornado outbreak took place across the Midwestern and Southern regions of the US between May 21-26, 2011. The EF3 tornado that struck Reading KS on May 21st resulted in damage of more than \$2.2 million; 56 of 110 homes, and 14 of 21 businesses were destroyed. The next day, the deadliest single tornado in the US since 1947 left catastrophic destruction in Joplin MO where 160

people were killed; 900 more were injured. As the storm outbreak continued, it struck painfully close to home on May 24th as the violent winds of yet another EF2 tornado yanked a large cottonwood tree from its roots and flung it onto a family car in rural Stafford County killing Linda and Jeffrey Gleason.

Even for Kansans who are used to the possibility of destructive tornadoes, nothing fully prepares a person for the pain and shock of Mother Nature's destruction. Because of that experience, coupled with compassion for our brothers and sisters, many southwest Kansans gave unsolicited donations which were passed onto Catholic Charities USA—the Catholic Church's arm for domestic natural disaster response.

Here at Catholic Social Service, we continue to pray for the safety and security of all who live in southwest Kansas! We also stand ready to provide critical disaster relief services for people of all faiths including emergency food, shelter, direct financial assistance, counseling, and support.

Food Assistance

(Continued from page 2)

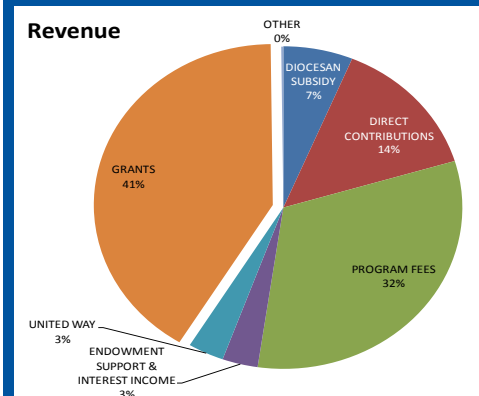
know about the program. Maria Gutierrez in Dodge City, and AmeriCorps members Theresa Arnold and Tashina Diaz in Great Bend have worked hard over the past year to reach out to eligible individuals and families to let them know about the program, and to help them fill out the appropriate paperwork.

As a result of their efforts, 179 individuals were approved to receive \$25,498 in monthly food assistance over the past year. In addition to helping to ensure that these individuals—some of them children—have nutritious food to eat, the Food Assistance Program has also brought \$305,976 into southwest Kansas communities. That's a win-win for all of us!

Financial Highlights* July 2010 — June 2011

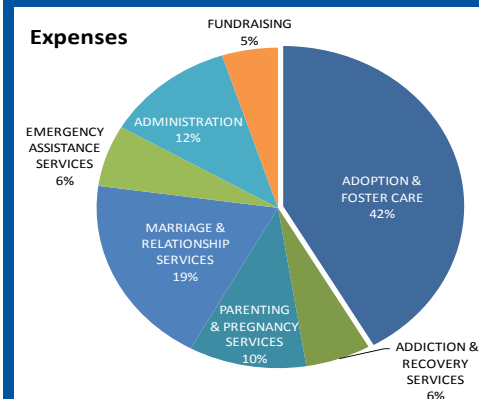
CSS Revenue FY 2010-2011

Diocesan Subsidy	\$53,004
Direct Contributions	\$118,837
Program Fees	\$270,185
Endowment Support & Interest Income	\$27,082
United Way	\$27,375
Grants	\$347,130
Other	\$1,618
Total	\$845,231



CSS Expenses FY 2010-2011

Adoption & Foster Care	\$367,991.27
Addiction & Recovery Services	\$51,407.44
Parenting & Pregnancy Services	\$92,613.68
Marriage & Relationship Services	\$169,476.99
Emergency Assistance Services	\$54,836.68
Administration	\$102,466.74
Fundraising	\$44,058.81
Total	\$882,851.61



People Served by Catholic Social Service

Adoption & Foster Care	394
Addiction & Recovery Services	70
Parenting & Pregnancy Services	70
Marriage & Relationship Services	289
Emergency Assistance Services	175

* Unaudited Numbers

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Healthy Relationships: Better for Couples. Better For Kids. Better for Families.

There's been more traffic coming through the office in Garden City this past Year. "It's been wonderful!" exclaims Brooke Lopez, Family Support Specialist at Catholic Social Service. "It helps us to showcase some of the other things we do."

It's all part of a new program called SCRIMP (Second Chance Reentry Initiative Mentoring Program) that started in December 2010. SCRIMP, funded by a two-year \$298,849 grant from the US Department of Justice, is a grass-roots effort, initiated by volunteers from the Seeds of Hope Jail Ministry, to help repeat offenders stay out of jail through education, mentoring, and case management. The goal of the program is to reduce the revocation rate (offenders who don't complete their probation successfully) by 20%.

For Lopez, the program is a natural extension of the relationship skills classes that she already teaches at the Finney County Jail.

"We were trying to reach the low-income population," Lopez explains.

"Strengthening marriages and families is one of the ways to break the cycle of poverty. We knew that there was a strong cor-

relation between low income and incarceration. So our idea was that by teaching relationship skills in jail, offenders would be ready to transition into a Marriage for Keeps class with their wives when they got out of jail. The classes help them to focus on themselves; the classes with their wives help them to focus on their relationship together."

The SCRIMP education classes include relationship building skills, but the focus is on moral development. The idea behind the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) used in SCRIMP classes is that "as long as clients' judgments about right and wrong are made from low levels of reasoning, counseling them, training them in job skills, and even punishing them will have little long-lasting impact on their behavior. They must be confronted with the consequence of their behavior and the effect that it has had on their family, friends and community." Participants depend on peer assessments to pass through the steps of the program.

MRT has a proven success rate. Published reports show that offenders who have gone through the program have re-

arrest and re-incarceration rates 25% to 75% lower than expected. For Lopez, however, the success of the program extends well beyond the offenders to their children and their children's success.

In addition to working with incarcerated individuals, Lopez and co-worker, Rhonda Goodloe MSW, continued coordinating Marriage for Keeps courses throughout the 2010-2011 season. Thirty-three couples took the Spanish version of the course in Dodge City, and 19 couples took the English version of the course in Garden City. This 10-week "date night" non-faith-based class provides couples with education and skills for better communication, problem solving, stress management and commitment in their relationship with one another.

Lopez and Goodloe are also both certified to facilitate the PREPARE/ENRICH Marriage Inventory that is used by the Dodge City Diocese to assist both engaged and married couples. After a couple has taken the inventory online, Lopez and Goodloe sit down with the couple and go over specific tools and techniques to help the couple address whatever may have come up in their unique relationship.