

Catholic Charities

Providing Help. . . Creating Hope

A Publication of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse

La Crosse	Prairie Du Chien	Eau Claire	Stevens Point	Wausau
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May 11, 2010

Program Highlights-Financial Counseling

As consumers we must continue to educate ourselves with regard to the ever changing credit card industry. The rules have recently changed with the 2009 Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility, and Disclosure Act that took effect February 22, 2010. You will see this also referred to as the CARD Act of 2009.

It is important that we as consumers read disclosures as we receive them to educate ourselves on the changes that have taken place. Here are just a few of the changes that took place with the new law.

- Consumers now have 21 days to send their payments in instead of 14 and credit card companies must give consumers 45 days notice if their terms change, instead of 15 days.
- If the credit card company decides to lower your credit limit the company can do that without any warning. If this happens one should call the company and ask for it to be reversed. If they refuse, then pay any remaining balance as soon as possible since lowering your credit limit could put you over your credit limit. It may also affect your credit score.
- Your credit card statement has a new look. The statement must make it clear how long it will take you to pay off the balance and how much interest the consumer will pay if he or she only pays the minimum amount every month. Another added feature to the statement is the available access to credit counselors. Each statement has an 800 number to call for a Credit Counselor affiliated with the NFCC (National Foundation for Consumer Credit).
- There has been no change regarding a cap on the interest rates so make sure you understand how the rate is calculated. The Universal Default practice has been banned from a card company being able to increase your rate based upon payment records for unrelated accounts, such as a utility bill.
- College students will no longer be able to get a credit card if they are not 21 years of age. They will be required to have a co-signer or proof of proper income. Nor can a company offer free t-shirts or beach towels if one signs up for the card. These practices are now banned. A college student in most cases has high student loan balances so they do not need more debt. In 2008 college seniors graduated with at least one credit card with an average balance of \$4,138.

Consumers no longer will be charged a fee if the payment is made by phone, electronic transfer or mail.

You may find more information about this new act at www.creditcards.com.

Catholic Charities in the
Community
Upcoming Events

May 18th

Chicken Q—Prairie du Chien
11 am-6 pm at Rickleff's Plumbing
Parking Lot, 100 North Marquette St.
Proceeds to benefit the Catholic
Charities' Domestic Abuse Program
Call 608-326-1616 for tickets!

May 21st and 22nd

Off the Rack Wedding Dress Sale
(dresses never been worn) and
Tag It and Bag It Sale-Clothing and
Household Items (\$4/large bag and
\$2/small bag)
Holy Cross Diocesan Center
Gymnasium, 3710 East Avenue S
La Crosse
**All Proceeds Going to the Emergency
Services Program of Catholic Charities**
For more information call
608-782-0710, ext. 202

Grants and Fundraising

Congratulations to the Financial
Counseling Program on a grant award of
\$5,000 from Bank of America.

Saturday, June 12th
3rd Annual
An Evening in the Chippewa Valley

Sacred Heart Hospital
Eau Claire

All are invited to join Catholic Charities
in welcoming our special guest,
the Rev. Larry Snyder, President of
Catholic Charities USA, for an evening
Mass and dinner as we celebrate 100
years of Catholic Charities USA and 138
years of Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of La Crosse.

Tickets are \$50/person. Please contact
Karen Becker at 608-782-0710 x202 for
more information or to purchase your
tickets. Seating is limited.



Adult Day Program-Disability Services

Our adults have started to make and sell crafts for a small donation. They are focusing on making gifts for the holidays. So far they made 3 plant holders with flowers in them for Mother's Day, as well as two small heart shaped boxes with candy kisses and a basket with candy kisses also for Mother's Day. Each of our adults takes turns decorating the items. One will paint the craft, and the other uses paint gel to write MOM, and they have also glued decorations such as foam hearts, stars, and butterflies on top. We have a small makeshift shop and they have sold 5 of the 6 items already. More items coming for Father's Day!

Programs we offer:

Emergency Services-La Crosse, Eau Claire, Stevens Point, Wausau, Prairie du Chien

Adoption Services-La Crosse, Eau Claire, Stevens Point, Wausau

Post Adoption Program-La Crosse, Eau Claire, Stevens Point

Financial Counseling-La Crosse, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Prairie du Chien, Wausau

HIV/AIDS Ministries-Stevens Point

Immigration Services-La Crosse

Disability Services-La Crosse

Domestic Abuse Services-Prairie du Chien

Catholic Charities Office Locations:

Eau Claire:

448 N Dewey
715-832-6644

La Crosse:

3710 East Ave. S
608-782-0710

Prairie du Chien:

115 East Perry
608-326-1616

Stevens Point:

1408 Ellis Street
715-344-2500

Wausau:

401 5th Street, Ste. 235
715-849-3311