

# 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

May 25, 2010

### **Selected Portions from Catholic Charities USA Newsroom**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010 Snapshot Reveals Social Services on the Edge--Economic recovery missing in action**

Alexandria, VA—Across the country, Catholic Charities agencies are battling a seemingly unending economic crisis. Life-sustaining programs are in jeopardy, some have already closed, and waiting lists for emergency services are growing by the day. Catholic Charities USA's 1st Quarter 2010 Snapshot, released today, raises the question: Where is the recovery? The full report can be found at: <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/2010snapshot>.

The snapshot survey paints a vivid picture of the new America middle class. Of the agencies responding to the survey, 75% report an increase in families seeking assistance, 72% report an increase in the working poor seeking assistance, 61% report an increase in the middle class seeking assistance, and 58% report an increase in the homeless seeking assistance. Keeping a roof over one's head appears to be the biggest issue for consumers as 75% of agencies report an increase in requests for rent/mortgage assistance since the 4th quarter of 2009.

The results of the survey align with the current unemployment rate: 89% of agencies report an increase in unemployment and 64% report an increase in underemployment. According to survey respondents, a lack of jobs paying a livable wage (83%) and a lack of jobs in general (64%) are huge barriers to employment and self sufficiency.

**Praise for Catholic Charities from Brian Williams, NBC News Anchor, during Notre Dame Commencement, May 16, 2010:**

“Wherever I’ve come across people suffering and dying, I’ve also found Catholic Charities right there standing alongside them, ministering and soothing, helping and healing, without regard for self. Every one of them a shining towering example of sacrifice and selflessness Let’s make that what people think of when they think of the Catholic Church in America.”

Catholic Charities in the  
Community  
Upcoming Events

June 9th

Free Community Picnic, Carnival and Agency Fair; Dunn County Fairgrounds, 620 17<sup>th</sup> Street E, Menomonie; 4:30-7 pm, Contact: Laura Draeger, Eau Claire Office

Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Grants and Fundraising

Congratulations to the Wausau office on a grant award of \$2,500 from the Greenheck Foundation.

As always, the kindness and generosity of our donors inspires us as we provide help and create hope. Your *Utility Appeal* gifts have enabled us to provide assistance to individuals and families throughout our Diocese and ensuring that utilities remain on for those in need. Our clients are truly grateful for the services that we are able to offer them. Because of your contributions, parents and their children will be able to walk into their homes tonight and experience the glow of the lights and the use of appliances. Without your help, these basic needs may not have been met.

***THANK YOU!!***



Pentecost was Sunday, May 23rd and as we reflect on this birth of the church, we can pray:

Father of light, from whom every good gift comes,  
send Your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind,  
and by the flame of Your wisdom open the horizons of our minds.  
Loosen our tongues to sing Your praise in words beyond the power of speech,  
for without Your Spirit man could never raise his voice in words of peace  
or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord, who lives with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

From: <http://www.wf-f.org/Pentecost-prayers.html>



**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