



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### OVERVIEW

Each year Catholic Charities touches the lives of nearly 40,000 Catholics and non-Catholics with programs such as counseling services, refugee assistance, adoption services, food pantries, emergency assistance and care for the elderly.

Catholic Charities has eleven programs in nine locations throughout the diocese. Through the *Rooted in Faith ~ Forward in Hope* capital campaign, the diocese allocated \$5 million (\$4.5 million for transitional housing and \$500,000 for Christ House) to address the temporary housing needs of families and individuals served by Catholic Charities.



St Margaret of Cortona – Transitional Housing

### ROOTED IN FAITH ~ FORWARD IN HOPE UPDATE

The \$4.5 million enabled Catholic Charities to purchase and renovate an apartment complex in Woodbridge and launch a new program. St. Margaret's is a transitional family shelter, which addresses the basic needs of homeless families, including the development needs of children. At this time St. Margaret's has the capacity to host 12 families in furnished apartments for 6-18 months with discounted rental rates. Catholic Charities requires each family staying at the complex to have some form of employment. In order to assist the families and to achieve the greatest level of self-reliance possible, the shelter staff works in collaboration with other local service providers in an effort to offer the families a continuum of care, appropriate social services and housing support.



- Today there are 10 families living at St Margaret of Cortona, this includes 27 children
- Over the next 6 months, it's anticipated that two families will graduate from the program.
- In the summer 2011, three more families will have completed the program.

## **CHRIST HOUSE**

Christ house offers 24 hour hospitality by serving the needs of homeless men. They provide meals, temporary housing, counseling and case management. Additionally, the program offers opportunities for job training and placement to help needy persons to become economically self-sufficient. Through the years, Christ House has been the temporary home to almost 10,000 homeless men.



Food Panty at Christ House

More than sixteen hundred volunteers annually contribute their time and talent to the important work of serving those most in need, as result Christ House is able to provide over 18,000 meals each year. Approximately 60 people enjoy a hot meal at Christ House each evening. Christ House also operates a thrift shop, a clothing closet, and provides emergency assistance to individuals and families in need. The emergency assistance program provides limited financial assistance to needy individuals for payment of rent, utility bills, prescription medicine, and other expenses.

## **ROOTED IN FAITH ~ FORWARD IN HOPE UPDATE**

The additional \$500,000 raised for Catholic Charities from the capital campaign was applied towards the renovation of Christ House. The renovations were completed in fall 2007. The renovations included new plumbing, baths, a new fire safety system and renovated bedrooms as well as a renovated dining hall, chapel and kitchen. During the renovation, Christ House's emergency assistance outreach, thrift shop, and evening kitchen remained open.

## **SUCCESS STORY**

Isaac Green had been struggling with alcoholism for years when he discovered that he was HIV positive. He thought his life was over. But Green has since transformed his story from one of despair and addiction into recovery, hope and community service...After getting sober, Green entered the Christ House residency program operated by Catholic Charities. The program provided mentoring, counseling, community and cadre of volunteers to support Green through recovery. "Christ House provided a solid place where I felt comfortable and secure," he said. "They offer much more than a place to stay because they focus on the dignity of the human person, the whole person. It is an excellent place to help you get back on your feet." Green now has a job and volunteers regularly at Carpenter's Shelter and the Creative Center for Non-Violence.