



Catholic Charities

Each year Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington services and counseling touch the lives of nearly 40,000 Catholics and non-Catholics with programs providing food for the hungry, counseling, immigrant assistance, adoption services, emergency assistance and care for the elderly. Catholic Charities has eleven programs in nine locations throughout the diocese.

Through the diocesan capital campaign, the diocese has set aside \$5 million to address the temporary housing needs of families and individuals served by Catholic Charities and for the renovation on Christ House.



New Family Shelter



The diocese seeks to serve the needs of homeless families by purchasing a small apartment facility to serve as a transitional housing shelter. The *Rooted in Faith ~ Forward in Hope* Campaign dedicated \$4,500,000 for the future purchase and operation of this facility. Catholic Charities recently purchased a facility in Woodbridge, Virginia and plan to have it operating by the end of the year.

This complex will be a transitional family shelter, which would address the basic needs of homeless families, including the developmental needs of children whose needs are sometimes overlooked. It will host 12 families in furnished apartments for 6-18 months with discounted rental rates. Catholic Charities will require 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 will work in collaboration with other local service providers in an effort to offer the families a continuum of care, appropriate social services, and housing support.

The facility will house units that will adequately accommodate the special needs of families with children of various ages. Plans also include related supportive services and counseling for the resident families. Consideration will be given to expanding these services to include non-resident clients.

Renovation of Christ House



Affordable, decent housing continues to be a difficulty for people living in our diocese. Many turn to Catholic Charities' Christ House – a 24-hour hospitality house serving the needs of homeless men by providing meals, temporary housing, counseling and advocacy. Additionally, the program provides opportunities for job training to help needy persons become more economically self-sufficient. Through the years Christ House has been the temporary home to almost 10,000 homeless men.

The House provides over 18,000 meals each year. An average of 50-65 people eat at Christ House each evening. Christ House also operates a thrift shop, a clothing closet, and provides Emergency Assistance to those in need. The emergency assistance program provides limited financial assistance to needy individuals for payment of rent, utility bills, prescription charges, and other expenses. More than sixteen hundred volunteers annually contribute their time and talent to the important work of Christ House.

To better serve those in need, the Diocese finished renovating Christ House with funds from the *Rooted in Faith ~ Forward in Hope* Capital Campaign in the Fall of 2007.

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 meals remained open.