

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON CCHD GRANTS 2011-12

Each November, a second collection is taken up in the parishes of the Diocese to support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the anti-poverty program of the Catholic Bishops of the United States. 75% of the amount collected is sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for distribution through the National Catholic Campaign for Human Development Program, and **25% of the funds collected in the Diocese stay in the Diocese to fund local anti-poverty efforts**. Applications for funding are reviewed by the volunteer members of the Diocesan Committee for Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Informed by personal visits to the applicant programs and information provided by them, Committee members make funding recommendations to Bishop Paul Loverde regarding projects located within the Diocese which have applied for local funding as well as those which have applied for funding through the national office of CCHD. All funded projects must meet the following criteria:

- They must address the root causes of poverty by creating institutional change through a non-partisan approach;
- They must be planned and implemented by low-income participants;
- They must abide by the moral and social teaching of the Catholic Church.

The following projects are receiving local grants in 2011-12:

Fredericksburg Regional HeadStart (Fredericksburg)

Fredericksburg Regional HeadStart has been awarded **\$15,000** for its Parent Empowerment Project (PEP), which extends and supports the mission of HeadStart – to ensure that preschool children are healthy and demonstrate academic emotional and social readiness for Kindergarten. The PEP trains parents in the skills they need to support their children in school and encourages them to become active partners in their children’s education. Parents have learned how to work with teachers, how to advocate on education issues at the local, state and national levels, and in the process have learned how to improve their lives and their families’ lives in a host of other areas.

Hispanics Against Child Abuse and Neglect (Fairfax), , which educates and engages immigrant high school students in leadership and service, receives **\$17,000** for its STAR Program (Students Training in Advocacy and Responsibility). The program began in the Culmore neighborhood, meeting at JEB Stuart High School, and recently expanded to Annandale High School. Participants are taught to analyze issues and develop advocacy skills, and to serve and give back to the community. They receive academic assistance and develop the skills they need to be able to go on to college. They are introduced to civic activities such as visits to the local Board of Education meetings, County Commission hearings, and the U.S. Capitol to meet with representatives from the U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

HUMAN Community (Winchester) has been awarded a **\$12,000** economic development grant for its Latino Youth Leadership Development project. The project is a summer program that trains Hispanic youth in financial literacy skills and life skills, helps put them on the road to college, and helps build bridges between them and other ethnic communities. Still in its infancy, this project has great potential to assist the youth of the western part of the diocese.

Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington County (OAR) (Arlington) receives **\$13,000** to train and equip volunteers (ex-offenders and non-offenders) to help meet the special needs of those coming out of incarceration – specifically the need for employment and safe and affordable housing. OAR's Advocacy Council is a project to help ex-offenders learn presentation skills and attempt to change current laws and regulations that make it legal to discriminate against ex-offenders in a number of areas, most notably jobs and housing. This is the second year CCHD has funded this project, and the Advocacy Council appears to be producing skills and confidence in its members, and having an impact on their lives.

The following projects are receiving national grants in 2011-12:

BUGATA (Arlington) is receiving **\$25,000** to continue its efforts to organize Hispanic and other immigrant communities to advocate for adequate low- and moderate- income housing, and to continue to expand the organization beyond the Buckingham neighborhood, where it began by fighting the displacement of long-time immigrant residents by developers, to other Arlington neighborhoods. It also has a very effective youth organization that is engaging other minority and majority communities, working to break down barriers among diverse community members and advocating for needed services, such as keeping the community center open at night when budget cuts threatened to shut down all evening activities.

disAbility Resource Center (Fredericksburg) is receiving \$25,000 to continue to train its two Advocacy Teams, the Adult Advocacy ("A-Team") and Youth Leadership (YLT) Teams, both composed of people with disabilities, to advocate for institutional change such as improved transportation, housing and job opportunities for those with disabilities. dRC's mission is to provide four core services to disabled persons: independent living training, peer counseling, advocacy for the disabled, and information and referral. It has now added advocacy **BY** the disabled to its activities, and is doing a very good job of training members of the A-Team and the YLT to lobby and advocate for their rights.

To learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Program in the Diocese of Arlington, visit http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/offices/catholic_campaign.php or contact Carla Walsh, CRS/CCHD Coordinator, at 703-841-3839 or cwalsh@ccda.net.