

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON CCHD GRANTS 2016-2017

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. Seventy-five percent of the amount collected is distributed through CCHD's national grant program, and **twenty-five percent of the funds collected stay in the Diocese to fund local anti-poverty efforts**. Funding applications are reviewed by the volunteer members of the CCHD Diocesan Advisory Board. Informed by this review and by personal visits to the applicant programs, Board members make funding recommendations to Bishop Michael Burbidge regarding local or national grant applicants located within the Diocese. Funded projects must meet the following criteria:

- They must abide by the moral and social teaching of the Catholic Church;
- They must address the root causes of poverty by creating economic development opportunities within the low-income community (such as new businesses), or by fostering institutional changes that help people move out of poverty;
- They must be planned and implemented, with training and assistance, by low-income people themselves.

The following projects have received local grants for 2016-17:

A collaboration between **Good Shepherd and St. Louis parishes in Alexandria** was awarded **\$20,000** to assist the low-income residents of two mobile home parks near those parishes. The parishes hosted a summer school/camp for students of the local elementary school whose poverty put them at risk. Combining academic work with the teaching of coping skills and the building of self-esteem, the summer program sent about 30 students back to school with improved tools for success. Now the parents of these students, as well as other residents of the mobile home park, will come together to discuss how to work together to solve common problems.

Buyers and Renters Arlington Voice (BRAVO) was awarded **\$20,000** to help low-income Arlington tenants gain an effective voice in the housing issues that affect them. As apartment communities are renovated and redeveloped, tenants work together and with landlords and legislators to preserve low-and moderate-income housing so their families can remain in stable housing. BRAVO has close ties with the Catholic community, several local parishes having been founding members. BRAVO is giving people the tools to obtain and retain dignified housing, and works cooperatively with landlords and developers to achieve "win-win" solutions.

Fredericksburg Regional Head Start was awarded **\$20,000** for its family-strengthening Parent Project, which equips low-income parents to participate actively in their children's education, and helps and encourages them to advance their own educations and job goals. This project works closely with St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception parish in Fredericksburg.

The Consumer Advisory Council of Pathway Homes, a Fairfax non-profit that provides a range of housing options to people with mental illness, has been awarded **\$10,000** to provide an Activities Fund for the Council. The Fund will enable Pathway's low-income clients to build the skills to advocate for employment opportunities, transportation options and other needs, and to organize the community to support systemic changes to improve the lives of people with mental illness.

The following project has received a national grant for 2016-17:

Centreville Immigration Forum has been awarded **\$50,000** to support its work, which helps immigrant workers as they struggle to receive just wages, acquire English language skills, build stable lives and contribute to the community.

To learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Program in the Diocese of Arlington, contact Carla Walsh, Diocesan CRS/CCHD Coordinator, at 703-841-3839 or cwalsh@ccda.net.