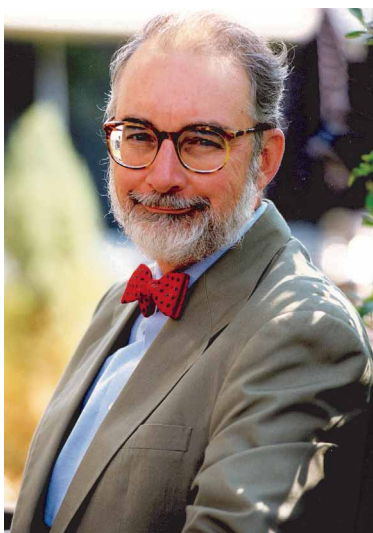




## How to Speak Catholic Social Services

*by Jim Senior, Director of Development*

In my first year here, I am learning how to “speak the language” of Catholic Social Services (CSS) in order to best tell the good news of what has been a well kept secret. What is that good news? That CSS is one of the most effective, compassionate, and well-regarded social service agencies in the Philadelphia region.



This year Catholic Charities USA celebrates 100 years of *providing help and creating hope* for people in need throughout the United States. Here our charitable works date back even further, to the 1800’s when orphanages run by religious sisters and brothers cared for abandoned, destitute, and delinquent

children. Our tradition of caring for at-risk youth continues today through the dedicated efforts of highly skilled lay professionals and the ongoing presence of religious men and women who remind us of our roots and reaffirm us in our faith-based mission and values. The work of CSS has since expanded to embrace families, communities and people challenged with a wide array of difficulties and needs.

I have had the privilege to visit some of our CSS programs across the region – shelters for the homeless, senior community centers for our elderly, residences that provide 24/7 care for fragile children and developmentally challenged adults, family service centers that offer material assistance and referral for

households in crisis, and community group homes for neglected or court-adjudicated youth as well as teen mothers. In all, nearly seventy different sites and programs across five counties positively impact the lives of more than 160,000 people each year.

In good times and in bad, CSS has faithfully brought help and hope in the name of Jesus to the poor and disadvantaged throughout the five-county region encompassed by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These charitable works offer all of us an opportunity to participate in, support and promote a mission of the Church worthy of a best-selling book or movie that would warm the hearts of millions. Most important, those who serve within or support CSS are marked by a genuine and heartfelt concern for others, as **servant leaders** who aspire to imitate the example of Jesus by reaching out to anyone who has felt the pain of being poor, hungry or neglected in some way.

Believe me, there’s nothing quite like visiting a CSS program site and observing a team of staff and volunteers serving,

*(Continued on page 4)*

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**Catholic Social Services**

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

People Find Hope With Us.





## A Message from Joseph J. Sweeney, Jr. Secretary for Catholic Human Services

With September, change is in the air: cooler temperatures, people back from summer vacation, pools closing and schools opening. For Catholic Social Services (CSS), this is a season marked by new structures and relationships, significant accomplishments, and new challenges to face as we faithfully continue the works of Jesus, by affirming, assisting and advocating for vulnerable individuals, families, and communities.

Cardinal Justin Rigali has appointed newly ordained Auxiliary Bishop John J. McIntyre to oversee Catholic Human Services in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Bishop McIntyre is familiar with the work of Catholic Social Services, having accompanied His Eminence on pastoral visits to many of our sites, and we now welcome his wise guidance and counsel in his new role among us.

CSS program highlights include the designation of St. Gabriel's System as a preferred provider of residential and day treatment programs for court-adjudicated Philadelphia youth by the City of Philadelphia and Family Court, in recognition of impressive outcomes for the young men they serve. The System's commitment to Career Technical Education and participation in the national *YouthBuild* program and local *WorkReady* efforts are garnering deserved accolades and attention. Our prevention efforts boast ten community-based Out of School Time programs that continue to thrive, with summer and afterschool academic enrichment and recreational activities keeping children safe and healthy.

Our partnership with public and private funders has been strengthened by ongoing fruitful dialogue to align our services with changing needs and shifting funding priorities. Diversified funding through federal recovery grants enabled us to assist households struggling with the compounded problem of rising mortgage or rent and utility bills. Our United Way funding is now based largely on earning competitive grants based on demonstrated outcomes for supportive parenting, family strengthening, and afterschool

programs. Of course, our programs always rely in large measure on the support of private donors.

Unfortunately, we face tighter budgets due to cutbacks in government funding that have adversely affected many programs. Despite solid efforts to maintain a healthy census in residential child care programs, St. Francis-St. Joseph Homes for Children (SFSJ) recently closed some group homes and trimmed its capacity by 50 beds due to declining reliance on residential placement by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services in favor of community-based models of caring for vulnerable youth. While this caused staff reductions, SFSJ administration has successfully adapted to these new realities and put this storied institution in a strong position for the future.

Our efforts to improve operational efficiencies include working with PECO to conserve energy usage at larger residential facilities. Improved information systems allow us to collect and use data to better manage costs by streamlining staff deployment and reducing overtime. Consolidating large purchasing contracts better leverage our size and scope of services to reap savings in areas like office supplies and food services. A dedicated Development Director within our Secretariat enhances and extends the array of fundraising efforts that support the work of Catholic Social Services year-round. In short, we are pursuing every possible funding source and exploring creative ways to effectively use resources in response to these challenging times, in order to faithfully continue our mission of **providing help and creating hope**. As always, we depend on Divine Providence and are grateful for your prayerful generosity. May God bless us all.

### CSS CONNECTIONS BOARD

- Joseph J. Sweeney, Jr., Secretary for Catholic Human Services
- James Amato, Deputy Secretary for Catholic Social Services
- Edward Lis, Director of Catholic Mission Integration
- Dave Reid, Editor

CSS Connections is published three times a year. Questions, ideas or comments may be directed to Dave Reid at 484.475.2463, or dreid@chs-adphila.org

Please visit us at: [www.catholicsocialservicesphilly.org](http://www.catholicsocialservicesphilly.org)

## A Call to Mercy — Sister Margaret Donohue, RSM

*“Brothers and Sisters Among Us” is an ongoing series that features some of the religious men and women who currently serve in Catholic Social Services.*



For Sister Margaret Donohue, the call to religious life came early: “I always knew that I wanted to be a sister.”

The youngest of nine children in a very Catholic family, she loved school and yearned to be a teacher. A scholarship to the Academy of the Sisters of Mercy drew her to this community of “great teachers who were so easy to be

around. You just knew you were loved by them. That’s when I discovered that I wanted to be a Sister of Mercy.”

According to Sr. Margaret, the hallmark of her congregation is cultivating a heart of service and outreach to the poor. In addition to poverty, chastity and obedience, the Sisters of Mercy — who this year celebrate 150 years of ministry in Philadelphia — take a fourth vow to serve the poor, sick and ignorant. Sister Margaret learned this charism from her large family, themselves rather poor. She speaks fondly of her mother’s kindness to those in need: “Once a woman came to the door selling shoelaces, and mom invited her to come in and have dinner with us. It was beautiful.” She also recalls that whenever her family went downtown to shop, her mother would always stop to speak with those people that others called derelicts, and tried to help them when she could. Such experiences were formative of Sr. Margaret’s own “call to Mercy” which she says “is not just about doing things for the poor, but relating to and talking with them” in ways that preserve their dignity and call forth their goodness.

Sr. Margaret entered the convent right out of high school, and was blessed with opportunities that her family could not afford, earning degrees from Villanova and Georgetown. When first professed, she taught in parish elementary schools for a few years, and after graduate studies returned to her alma mater — now moved to Montgomery County as Gwynedd Mercy Academy — as a teacher and eventually Principal. She later went to Little Flower High School part-

time while serving as supervisor of secondary education, visiting area high schools to support others Mercy Sisters in the educational apostolate. This was tailor-made preparation for what she does now as the Director of Education supporting teachers and overseeing curricula for the entire St. Gabriel’s System.

Before coming to Catholic Social Services, Sr. Margaret spent three years with Jesuit Refugee Services working with Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees living in the Sudanese region of East Africa. Although family and friends worried about her, she had the blessing of her community despite being the only American missionary in the region. Working with the Comboni Fathers and Irish Christian Brothers in a school there, she supervised volunteers providing health and nutrition assistance to refugees and widows from the civil war. Returning early for health reasons, Sr. Margaret admits it was hard to come back: “Much of my heart had been won over by the Sudanese people and refugees in the region.”

*There are currently 10 Sisters of Mercy working in 5 different programs within Catholic Social Services.*

Upon her return, she joined De LaSalle in Towne as a career teacher for two years, then assumed the administrative post she has held for the last 18 years. Her time with St. Gabriel’s System has been wonderful, and she is effusive about the Christian Brothers and her lay colleagues: “you just know when you are in the presence of goodness, and these men and women are so dedicated. I feel privileged to work with them to educate and support the young men in our care.”

Sr. Margaret is grateful as well for the richness of her life as a Sister of Mercy, and her community’s ongoing support for the various ministries in which she has engaged. She says her community is “all about relationships. We are a group of women who like being with each other, who love what we are doing, and who are a pretty happy group, and I think we convey that to others. I always tell my teachers that cheerfulness counts, so be joyful.” Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, once said that “the tender Mercy of God has given us one another.” In that same spirit, we are grateful that Mercy has given us you, Sr. Margaret!

(Continued from page 1)

mentoring, and encouraging all types of people facing all kinds of challenges. You hear the stories of successful outcomes and difficult challenges. You learn *How to Speak Catholic Social Services*, with key concepts in the CSS vocabulary: preserving the **dignity and respect** of people who are “down and out”; **strengthening families** by providing skills and resources needed to stay together through crises; and **preventive services** that keep at-risk youth safe and focused on positive activities like literacy enrichment, project-based learning, and as the good nuns used to say, avoiding bad companions.

We have witnessed great progress and growth for many clients as they take ownership of their lives and futures with our help. That success must continue with CSS supporting those we serve by assisting them with resources, advocating on their behalf, and affirming their own gifts and abilities to

look toward a better future. That’s the CSS goal — **transforming lives** by humbly serving our brothers and sisters in need with the love of Jesus. Our vision is to bring about a more just and compassionate society where each person is valued, families are healthy and strong, and communities are united in their commitment to the good of all people. Now that’s a language worth learning.



*If you would like to learn how to “speak the language of Catholic Social Services” so that you too can be an effective “ambassador” for the good works of CSS, contact me to arrange for a personal or group visit to a CSS program site. E-mail your request to [jsenior@cbs-adphila.org](mailto:jsenior@cbs-adphila.org) or send a note to Jim Senior at Catholic Social Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, 222 N 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA*

## St. Mary’s Residence: A Community of Women Supporting Women



“I feel so blessed to live here. I don’t know where I would go if I didn’t have St. Mary’s.” That is the common sentiment at St. Mary’s Residence, home to 35 women ranging in age from 52 to 80. Once a convent, in 1983 the Sisters of Mercy converted it into a home for working women in need of affordable housing. Most had no family nearby and either could not make it on their own or do not want to live alone. Over two decades, residents have remained beyond their working years, and new residents tend to be older and not working, with most on social security or limited income. All pay a modest monthly rent, but that does not cover total program costs, which include prepared breakfast and dinner seven days a week, and other supportive services provided by staff on the premises 24/7. Each woman has her own room, and also benefits from four common rooms for recreation, a laundry, a rooftop patio garden, and chapel where daily mass is celebrated by the pastor of St. Mary’s Church, Monsignor Paul DiGirolamo.

For much of its existence, St. Mary’s operating expenses have been covered by yearly contributions from the Rulon Trust, a family-based fund intended for housing support to low-income and elderly women. Rising costs have required increasing dependence on those funds, and the Trust may be depleted within a few years if not supplemented by new donors dedicated to seeing this special ministry to a vulnerable population continue. Program Director Kathy Nelson puts it well: “This is a unique house which brings out the best in these women. It is Christ’s work. We have people that have been called to live here ... each person brings a special gift to this house and its ongoing charism.” While no longer a convent, St. Mary’s Residence continues to be a community of women supporting women with companionship rooted in faith and service.



## Building Futures — St. Gabriel's Hall Career Academies

The beading sweat on their brows and the groans heard while pushing wheelbarrows of freshly mixed cement were signs that this was serious business for the dozen or so young men constructing a greenhouse on the grounds of St. Gabriel's Hall. But when asked to pose for a few pictures and answer some questions for this story, the smiles of pride and satisfaction in their work were clear indication that for them it was all worth it. They responded in unified chorus when asked if they were a bit tired at the end of a full day's work under the hot sun, but one by one they told me how much this opportunity meant to them: "I love doing this stuff, and I'm learning how to do it right!" "Yeah, it's hard work, but it feels good seeing the building go up." "Working with these other guys makes it fun."

These teens are at the Hall, a multi-service residential treatment and educational facility, because of early run-ins with the law that resulted in being adjudicated delinquent by the Philadelphia court system. Yet the level of cooperation among their peers and respect for their instructors on the worksite demonstrate the transformative power of being trained in meaningful trade skills that result in productive endeavors like rebuilding this greenhouse. And this is no ordinary greenhouse — it originally sat on the DuPont estate and served as an impulse to the family's contributions to founding Longwood Gardens. Under the supervision of construction site supervisors Kirk Yarnall and Brian Bender, the boys traveled daily to the estate and carefully deconstructed the old structure and transported its salvageable parts to the Hall's campus in Audubon. They then undertook the tedious task of laying a new foundation, learning the essential skills of accurate measures, and the importance of level planes and straight lines when building any structure. Math skills acquired in classrooms at the Hall were now being put to the test through real-world use. Instructor Yarnall, a former self-employed general contractor with many years of industrial experience, stresses the importance of careful attention to detail to ensure the accuracy that produces



successful building projects. He says: "It's been a challenge, but a lot of fun. These kids have gained confidence, a new outlook, and hope for the future that they didn't have before. They work well together, and they are good kids." Bender adds, "The most gratifying part is seeing the guys smile when they've accomplished something, and this greenhouse has really energized them."

What's more, the teens earn money for their work, thanks to funding from two sources: the *WorkReady* Program of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, and the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board, which recently received a \$1.2 million grant from the federal Department of Labor to establish a local *YouthBuild* program. *YouthBuild* is a national federally funded nonprofit organization

that provides on-the-job training in construction trades. According to St. Gabriel's Hall school principal John Mulroney, 33 students were employed in career academies over half the academic year and summer months through *YouthBuild*, and 44 more were gainfully employed through the Hall's participation in Summer *WorkReady* Programs sponsored by the Workforce Investment Boards of Philadelphia and Montgomery County. The City of Philadelphia recognized St. Gabe's Hall as the best *WorkReady* program in the region last summer, and the Hall is currently the only such program in Montgomery County selected to receive *YouthBuild* funding. Solid academic outcomes and certifiable job-ready skills for graduates have earned St. Gabriel's staff an invitation to share the keys to their success at a national *YouthBuild* Conference. Mulroney stresses that these "earn as you learn" career building efforts reflect the *Sanctuary Model* of trauma-informed treatment and care being employed throughout the St. Gabriel's System: "We are responding to a state mandate to launch these guys into the workforce with skills and attitudes to be productive workers and responsible citizens. Becoming job-ready in fields like landscaping, horticulture, construction, culinary arts, and computers — that goes a long way to keeping them safe and focused on a better future."

# CSS Summer Camps — Where Smiles Abound



*"We have so much fun at summer camp, my group leader gets everybody involved, we make really cool stuff. I love it here."*



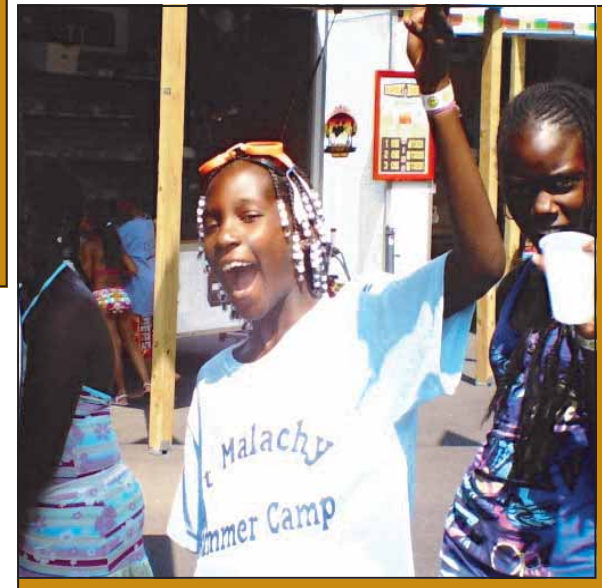
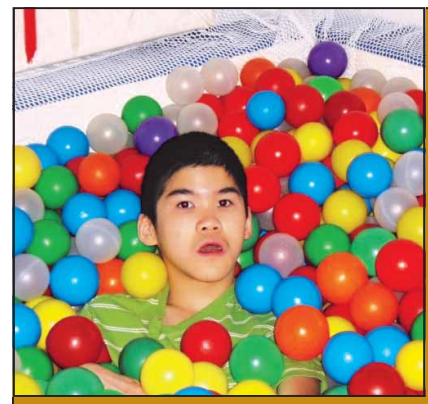
Out of School Time Programs is an important part of the work of the Community-based Services division of Catholic Social Services. These programs, based at Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and at CSS Family Service Centers, offer an array of creative activities aimed at youth development and family support. Programs operate during the summer months and continue in the late afternoon, early evening, and some Saturdays during the school year. Located in neighborhoods with high poverty and crime rates and significant child welfare problems, the programs provide academic enrichment and healthy recreation for school-aged children and adolescents in the local community.

St. Edmonds Home for Children and Don Guanella School, both part of CSS Developmental Programs division, provide annual summer camp opportunities for residents and community campers with developmental disabilities.

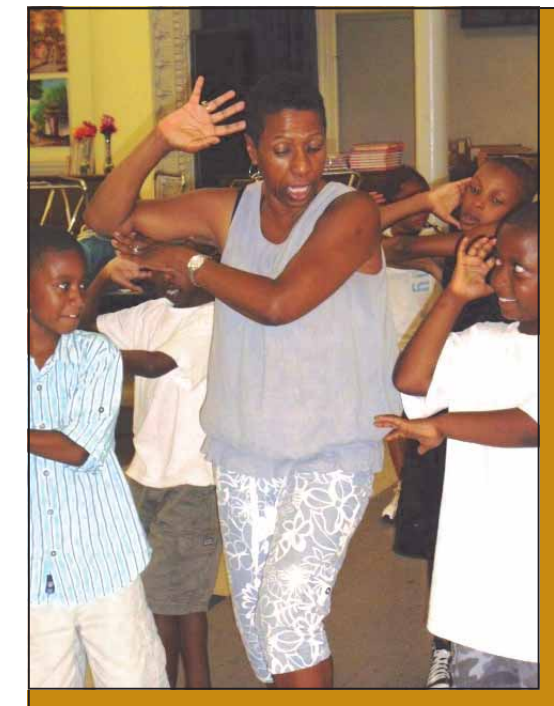
## Children in Summer Camp

Out of School Time (OST) Programs	856
St. Edmond's Home for Children	57
Don Guanella School	28

*"Camp Rainbow helps my daughter maintain skills she developed during the school year. Amazing shows, field trips, pool and story time — great summer memories!"*



*"All the great activities — gardening, cooking, swimming — it's a blast."*



## Growing Organic — The Mitchell Program Garden

Students of the Mitchell Program, which is part of the St. Gabriel's Hall campus in Audubon, are learning what it takes to "give and receive" from the land by growing healthy organic produce. Their summer garden yielded a bumper crop of Tomatoes, Corn, Sugar Pumpkins, String Beans, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Culinary Herbs and beautiful flowers. And the fall harvest of Pumpkins, Watermelon and Bird House Gourds is not far off.

Staff members Dagmar Iris Hull and Jennifer Romano along with volunteer Beth Hollowell (all avid gardeners) assisted the young men residing at Mitchell over the summer to gain organic gardening experience, as well as learn the art of salesmanship by participating as vendors at



two local Farmer's Markets. The Mitchell youth took justifiable pride in showcasing what they had grown.

Small donations given by local community members and friends went toward a "Garden Fund" to pay for educational trips as well as guest speakers and artists who have knowledge and skills related to gardening and environmental issues. Dr. Ana Negron, a nutrition and health expert, taught the boys basic and healthy cooking lessons. Plans are underway to use a portion of the soon to be completed St. Gabe's greenhouse for growing organic food through the winter months. Mitchell

students and staff are proud to be part of the growing movement to "Buy Fresh, Buy Local"!

## OST Programs: Back to School, Out to the Community

Ten CSS Out of School Time programs (OST) received a \$41,250 grant from Philadelphia Youth Network, in conjunction with Public Health Management Corporation, to operate a *WorkReady* Summer Program. The award allowed CSS staff to train and place 75 youth in camp counselor jobs in one of ten CSS summer programs. The teens collaborated with staff on a number of projects: creating two websites to help teens access community resources; producing a documentary about intergenerational understanding; and building a greenhouse at Casa Del Carmen where neighborhood children can learn about gardening and nutrition. A similar program kicks off the school year, with focus on academic and career goals

A newly licensed OST afterschool and summer program opened at St. Malachy School, with the strong support of pastor and regional vicar Msgr. Kevin Lawrence. Program Director Honor Blackburn Grant invited enthusiastic Tai Chi



instructor Ardelia Simmons to work with the children, and developed a partnership with Urban Blazer, a non-profit organization that provides unique opportunities for physical activity and education, contact with nature, and social connection to promote the healthy development of underserved youth in Philadelphia. A volunteer from the Urban Blazer organization will facilitate a group of middle school youth one day a week during the school year.

The Southwest Philadelphia OST is a small program making a big impact in one of the most vulnerable communities in the region. Director Randell Boatwright has diligently worked there for nearly four years to build the program's capacity and reach further into the community. Many of the OST programs have successfully expanded services in order to meet the broader range of needs in their local communities. Examples include the St. Veronica OST implementing parenting classes and family strengthening programs for adults in the neighborhood, and the Nativity B.V.M OST hosting a wide array of community events throughout the year.

## School Social Workers — Bridging the Gap

Catholic Social Services has collaborated with a handful of Archdiocesan High Schools over two decades to provide social work support services to students and their families. The School Social Work Program began in 1989, when the Principal of Little Flower High School for Girls — Father (now Monsignor) Marino — invited a social worker to assist students and their families to cope with the range of socio-economic and relational problems that can impede student attendance and learning. St Joseph Catholic Home placed a full-time Social Worker at Little Flower, with costs shared between the school and CSS. Within ten years, Mercy Vocational High School, St Maria Goretti High School for Girls, Northeast Catholic High School for Boys, and Roman Catholic High School for Boys all added a social worker.

Since 2003 the School Social Work Program has been managed by CSS Community-Based Services Division. Since then, Mercy Vocational received a grant to fund their social worker's salary apart from CSS. With the merger of St Maria Goretti and St John Neumann High Schools, the position at St Maria Goretti was eliminated. With the closing of Northeast Catholic, the school social worker transferred to Bishop McDevitt High School.

One might ask why a school would need a social worker? Most schools typically have a Guidance Department and possibly psychological support services from outside agencies for particular behavioral health needs. Yet none of these helping professionals is specifically trained in how to assess and respond to the broad range of social problems that a student might encounter outside the school, especially at home. Social workers are skilled in making such assessments and they are knowledgeable about how to refer people to local community resources and supports. As McDevitt President Sal Dinenna explains, "I believe that early intervention is important in retaining students. A social worker can identify students with problems (academic, attendance, family issues), and the home visits and other resources they offer to our families are services not performed by traditional school personnel."

Dee D'Aulerio has six years of experience in this role, and is now at McDevitt. She believes social workers are an invaluable liaison between home and school, keeping both families and school personnel well informed of special situations while protecting the privacy of all those involved. This gives students the best chance to persist and succeed. D'Aulerio says: "We work closely with students, having one-on-one



meetings with each of them, and we make contact with their families to let them know we can help with issues like medical insurance, food assistance, relationship conflicts, substance abuse, etc." Student profiles developed with input from both family and student can prompt a plan for providing services to them. Paula Scott is at Little Flower, and she says: "often with attendance problems, we go

out to see what is going on in the home that might be causing absences — sometimes we encounter mental health issues, marital break-ups, financial crises, unemployment, even kids assuming parental responsibility at home. We have at times had to facilitate interventions due to abuse or suicide risks."

Social workers may accept referrals for assistance from school faculty and staff, or directly from students and their families.

*Last year, the School Social Work Program served 439 Students and their families.*

Social workers prep freshmen and transfer students on how to make a smoother transition to their new surroundings. They also assist students and families in the midst of crisis due to parental separation or divorce, chronic or serious illness, job loss, or abusive relationships. By providing case management services to assist clients in accessing resources within the community, they help to maintain or restore a safe, healthy home environment that in turn positively impacts student attendance and academic performance.

Jim Lill, longtime Northeast Catholic Guidance Director, feels that a school social worker fills a gap that often exists in the supportive services needed by students and their families facing social and financial challenges that threaten their academic progress. Lill says "It's all about the protection of the best interests of the child, and social workers have the kind of access to and knowledge about resources and services to effectively reach into families and offer needed help. I was very happy to have a social worker in our school and believe that every school could benefit from having one."



To contact Paula Scott, social worker at Little Flower High School, call 215-455-6900, ext. 149. To reach Dee D'Aulerio, social worker at Bishop McDevitt High School, call 215-887-5575, ext. 243.

## AROUND AND ABOUT CSS

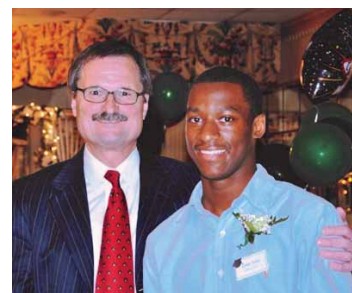
- Seven “Sisters and Brothers Among Us” currently working in Catholic Social Services mark anniversaries of 50 years or more as professed members of their religious communities. Those celebrating Golden Jubilees include: *Sister Rosellen Bracken*, RSM at Montgomery County Family Services; *Sister Maria Christi Drysdale*, GNSH at St. Mary’s Residence; *Brother William Johnson*, FSC at Brother Rousseau Academy; and *Sister Angela Welsh*, RSM at St. Edmond’s Home for Children. *Brother Timothy Dean*, FSC at St. Gabriel’s Hall marks his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious profession, and *Brother Thomas Caldwell*, FSC at St. Gabriel’s Hall 65 years as a Christian Brother. We are grateful to all **Jubiliarians** for their lives of faithful service and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The “Forever Young Senior Drop-in Center” of the **Springfield-Delaware County Family Service Center** received a \$1000 donation from Giant Food Stores to mark the Grand Opening of a new Giant Supermarket at Routes 320 and 420 in Springfield, PA.
- **St. Charles Senior Center** received a \$1,000 donation from Comcast; St. Anne’s received \$750 from families of those members served by the Center; Star Harbor received \$500 from Bravo Health Systems for programming; Norris Square receives ongoing donations from the Spring Garden Soup Society and the Rabbis Fund to support breakfast and holiday meal programs.
- **St. Anne’s, St. Charles, and Star Harbor Senior Community Centers** distribute Surplus Commodities food boxes to 240 low income elders each month. Those centers along with Norris Square distributed Farmers Market Vouchers in July, with 2,300 seniors receiving this food assistance. St. Charles, Norris Square & Star Harbor staff and clients participated in the annual “Walk Against Hunger” to raise funds for their breakfast programs.
- **Star Harbor Senior Center** sponsored its Friends and Family Day in August. Festivities included a talent show, games for all, face painting, caricature drawing, line dancing, door prizes, a birthday celebration and lots of good food. All children in attendance received book bags filled with school supplies, compliments of the Center.
- **St. Charles Senior Community Center** was recognized with an “Excellence in Nutrition for Older Pennsylvanians Award” from the PA Dept. of Aging for its “Home Style Meal Service” program. Members are trained to serve their peers at lunchtime, welcoming new members and assisting others with mobility or chronic health problems.
- **CSS Montgomery County Family Services Center** received \$1500 from the Marion Prochazka Charitable Trust, \$550 from Immaculate Heart of Mary parish CYO and several other donations to replenish its community food cupboard. Dresher United Methodist Church bought a ton and a half of gleamed potatoes for the cupboard, members of Hope Community Church delivered them, and Ursinus College students completed the tag team volunteer effort by bagging and shelving the spuds.
- The **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)** received an additional 5,245 requests for service in all three sites between the months of October 2009 through June 2010. There were 427 households served through the HPRP program, exceeding the goal of 350 households. A total of \$319,000 in financial assistance was provided.
- The Women’s Auxiliary of **St. Edmond’s Home for Children** donated \$200,000 toward extensive hallway renovations at the facility.
- Four young men who have lived in cottages for teenage boys at **Don Guanella School** have upon turning 18 chosen to remain living in one of the Developmental Program Division’s residential programs for adults. Some moved into the Cardinal Krol Center and others into a Community Living Arrangement or Life Sharing through Family Living provider home.



- Family and friends of recently deceased **Divine Providence Village** community worker Maura Lowrey honored her memory with generous gifts to DPV in her name totaling over \$5000. Donations helped create a small garden with park bench adjacent to the Village Work Activity Center. Funds also allowed for a staff break room to be converted into a rest and “first aid recovery area” for clients using the Work Activity Center.



- Casa del Carmen** and the **Northeast and Southwest Family Service Centers** received \$89,907 from Philadelphia Health Management Corporation to provide parenting education and support to 64 families; the three centers also administered \$18,500 in FEMA funds to 46 households. The Northeast Family Service Center was named a Finalist in the Catholic Charities USA Family Strengthening Award competition for 2010, recognizing their effective and innovative services.
- Saint Francis-St. Joseph Homes for Children** honored 19 young men who have earned their high school diploma or GED in a June graduation ceremony. All residents of SFSJ group homes, they completed their studies at either one of two CSS programs – St. Katharine Drexel School (run by SFSJ) and De LaSalle Vocational (part of the St. Gabriel’s System) – or one of five public high schools: Bensalem HS, Pennsbury HS, Delaware Valley HS, Benjamin Franklin HS, and Lincoln HS. Many are now enrolled in community college or trade schools, while others have secured entry-level jobs.
- Saint John’s Hospice** benefitted from over 20,000 hours of volunteer service rendered by individuals and groups during the 2010 fiscal year, the highest total on record in its history.
- American Legion Post 668 of Wayne presented **Don Guanella School** with a donation of \$1,000. Together with other funding, this donation was used to purchase laptop computers for older Don Guanella School students.
- Real Alternatives**, an agency that provides life-affirming alternatives to abortion services and assists women faced with crisis pregnancies throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, delivered services worth \$391,181 to over 650 pregnant clients of Catholic Social Services.



## Supporting Foster Children in Catholic Schools

Catholic Social Services’ Foster Care program has had a long-standing commitment to pay the Catholic school tuition for Catholic foster children in our care. In 1994, based on growing interest and requests from foster parents, this policy was extended to include non-Catholic children with good academic and behavior records. These foster parents appreciate the value of a Catholic school education in providing a structured environment with strong academics as well as religious and moral formation.



For the last two years, an average of 13 children in foster care have attended Catholic elementary and high

schools with full tuition support provided by CSS, at an average annual expense of \$67,000. Of those children currently enrolled, only two are Catholic. Swade Lupton is one of them, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at St. John Neumann-Maria Goretti High School. The Catholic faith of his foster parents, Thomas and Ruth Cleveland, influenced Swade to want to attend St. Benedict grade school. While there, he chose to become a Catholic, and is now an altar server and member of the Junior Knights of Columbus. His foster parents say that Catholic schools have helped him mature and grow in his faith and values. Swade says simply, “My faith is important to me. It’s a great school, I love going there.”

## Looking to Direct Your United Way Gift to an Agency of CSS?

Catholic Social Services has programs and services that affirm, assist, and advocate for people in need in the Southeastern region of Pennsylvania.

The Community Impact Fund of the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania supports Senior Community Centers, the Teen Placement Diversion Program, and programs of St. Francis-St. Joseph Homes for Children and St. Gabriel's System. These programs seek to improve the lives of adults, senior citizens and youth in our community.

If you prefer to designate that your United Way gift goes to CSS programs and services in which you have a personal interest, you can do so through a donor designated United Way contribution.

It is easy to direct your 2010-2011 United Way gift by:

1. Selecting the Donor Choice option on the pledge form you received from your employer.
2. Designating your gift to one of the agencies or programs listed here. Simply enter the codes for the programs you choose on the pledge form.

*Note: These codes only apply to the United Way of Southeastern P.A. For other United Ways or Combined Campaigns, fill in the name and address of the designated facility on your pledge form. Thank you for your support of the works of charity of the Church of Philadelphia.*

Catholic Social Services	00017
Beacon Programs/Catholic Social Services <i>Now called the Out of School Time Programs (OST)</i>	46988
Cardinal Krol Center	01408
Casa del Carmen	00014
Divine Providence Village	00529
Don Guanella School	00942
Good Shepherd Program	00370
McAuley House	06790
Mercy Hospice	00083
St. Charles Senior Community Center	04755
St. Edmond's Home for Children	00292
St. Francis—St. Joseph Homes for Children	00104
St. Gabriel's System	00896
St. John's Hospice	00272
St. Joseph Catholic Home for Children	00016
St. Vincent's Mother-Baby Group Home	06797
St. Vincent's Homes (Tacony)	09414
St. Vincent's Maternity Residence	00106
Visitation Homes	15396
Women of Hope-Lombard	06227

www.catholicsocialservicesphilly.org	
484.475.2463	FAX: 610.338.0625

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CSS CONNECTIONS

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES  
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
222 NORTH 17TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103



*The human person is the clearest reflection of God's presence in the world; all of the Church's work in pursuit of both justice and peace is designed to protect and promote the dignity of every person. For each person not only reflects God, but is the expression of God's creative work and the meaning of Christ's redemptive ministry. — U.S. Catholic Bishops, The Challenge of Peace, #15*