

# Home sweet home

# Catholic Charities' new Fort Wayne home brings agency back into the fold.

After the usual transition period that comes with any major move, Catholic Charities is settled into its new home at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center at 915 South Clinton Street.

After a move a few days earlier, Catholic Charities was ready for business again at the Noll Center on October 24. An open house on November 6 made it all official. The agency's Fort Wayne offices had been located on Washington Boulevard for more than 23 years.

"We like our new home very much," says Catholic Charities Interim Executive Director Lisa Young. "It's much nicer for us here, and we feel more connected to the Diocese. Now we feel like we're under the Diocesan umbrella and part of the big picture. More people in the Diocese can see our services and the people we serve. Being here puts a face on what we do.

"The Diocesan employees have been very welcoming, and Bishop Rhoades and Monsignor Schulte have made sure that we had all the resources we needed during the transition," Lisa adds.

Catholic Charities occupies two floors at the Noll Center. The first floor is home to most of the client services. The seventh

#### Above:

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks at the open house held on November 6.

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Issue 1, 2014



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#### From our staff

# A heartfelt thank you to all

All of us at Catholic Charities want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who's helping to make our current transition a smooth one. We'd like to thank everyone who helped with our move and those who were patient with us during that time.

We also want to thank everyone—financial contributors, volunteers, and others—who continue to make the pursuit of our mission possible. Of course, we don't think there's a higher mission than to serve "those in need as Christ would have us do."

We pray for your continuing support in all our endeavors. Thank you.



Scenes from the open house on November 6 celebrating Catholic Charities' new offices.

#### ... continued from cover.

floor is for administrative offices and some programs, such as Senior AIDES.

"That has been an adjustment—we were so accustomed to having everyone and everything on the same floor," Lisa says. "But this new arrangement still allows easy access for those with disabilities, and because we're on the first floor, we have visibility—people know where to go. Having our new logo clearly visible at the entrance to our offices is another plus.

"The most important thing people need to know is that we'll continue to provide the same important services to our community," Lisa says. "That will never change."

In case you're wondering, the phone and fax numbers, (260) 422-5625 and (260) 422-5657, respectively, have remained the same. The mailing address has changed, however, to P.O. Box 10630, Fort Wayne, IN 46853. ■

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

#### South Bend

The South Bend Food Pantry is seeking a volunteer with a truck or van who would be available periodically throughout the year to assist with pickups, loading, and unloading food. For more information, please contact Barbara Burlingham at (574) 234-3111 or bburlingham@ccfwsb.org.

RSVP of St. Joseph and Elkhart counties needs volunteers to serve with Hospice Care Friendly Visitors, the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, and Meals on Wheels, and as greeters for the United Way and child mentors in South Bend, Mishawaka, and Elkhart schools. Please contact Josh Story or Sarah Baker at (574) 234-3111 or jstory@ccfwsb.org or sbaker@ccfwsb.org.

#### Auburn

RSVP needs volunteers in the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in DeKalb, Noble, and Steuben counties. Contact Terri Pfenning at (260) 925-0917 or tpfenning@ccfwsb.org.

#### Fort Wayne

Refugee Resettlement needs volunteers to assist with job training, teach English as a second language, assist refugee children with their homework, establish households, pick up donations, help with orientation and acculturation, serve as mentors, and much more. Please contact Necia Annis at (260) 422-5625, ext. 244, or nannis@ccfwsb.org. ■

### Welcome, Gloria

Please join us in welcoming Gloria Whitcraft, our new executive director. Gloria was recently appointed by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and will begin on March 3.

Gloria has worked for several area social service agencies, including 13 years at Lutheran Social Services of Indiana. She most recently worked at Choices, Inc. Gloria earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in education with a marriage and family counseling major at IPFW. She's licensed in Indiana as a marriage and family therapist. Gloria and her family attend St. Jude Parish.



# Your invitation to RSVP

#### Opportunities to serve keep older adults active.

Staying active is an essential part of life for older adults, especially after retirement. When you're not going to work every day anymore, you may be missing the social interaction, sense of purpose, and exercise that will help keep you mentally sharp and physically and emotionally healthy for years to come.



You can stay active and be a valuable asset to your community—as a member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which is administered in northern Indiana by Catholic Charities. RSVP enlists people 55 and older to help

meet a wide variety of community needs and places volunteers based on their talents, interests, and schedules.

Catholic Charities sponsors RSVP in DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, St. Joseph, and Elkhart counties. During fiscal year 2012–13, the nearly 1,000 active RSVP participants served at 121 different sites and contributed 138,352 hours of service.

A good portion of what RSVP does is simply folks helping other folks. For example, RSVP of DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben Counties, headquartered in Auburn, collects and distributes coats and other winter wear during Share the Warmth, collects and distributes backpacks filled with school supplies to children in need during Pack-A-Backpack, facilitates lazy-eye screenings for children, and operates the very active Community Center of Caring Food Pantry.

"Share the Warmth has been a godsend for so many people who have nothing during what has been a very cold winter," says Patti Sheppard, the RSVP program director in Auburn. "Coats and other winter items can be donated to us anytime of the year. We're always in need of children's coats."

Another service offered by RSVP of DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben Counties is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). A program new to RSVP in 2013 provides mentoring for at-risk children ages 9 to 17 in DeKalb and Noble counties.

RSVP members also organize and participate in special events. Last year, RSVP of St. Joseph and Elkhart hosted two senior expos and worked with the Old to Gold program with the University of Notre Dame. In other activities, the RSVP of St. Joseph County Yarn Crafters make comfort items that are distributed to people in need.

"RSVP provides so many wonderful opportunities for older adults to stay active, make new friends, and make their communities better places live," says Josh Story, RSVP project coordinator for St. Joseph and Elkhart counties. "We're always looking for new members, and we offer something for everyone."

To learn more about becoming a member of the RSVP headquartered in Auburn , call (260) 925-0917 or write to rsvp@locl.net. In the South Bend area, call (574) 234-3111 or write to jstory@ccfwsb.org. ■

#### Donors

#### Thank you to all who gave from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2013.

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# Did you know?

Rent and mortgage assistance through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program is available to those in need in Allen County. Contact Lisa Young at (260) 422-5625, ext. 287.



# Need for donations to food pantries continues

Catholic Charities' two food pantries served more than 30,000 people during calendar year 2013, and the need continues to grow. Additional ongoing donations are vital.

The RSVP Community of Caring Food Pantry in Auburn served 20,001 people, while the South Bend Food Pantry served another 12,923 people last year. A great portion of the people served were children and the elderly.

"So many people in the areas we serve are still struggling to put food on the table," says Claire Coleman, Catholic Charities West Region director. "We continue to see many clients who are unemployed or underemployed and simply do not have adequate means to provide food for their families. We also see disabled and elderly clients living on a limited income who need help with food.

"The federal safety nets that directly assist families with food and that may provide food resources through the local pantries have all been cut in recent years and months," Claire continues. "We rely upon the generosity of individuals, school or parishes, businesses, and community groups to continue to serve those in need."

Although the donation of nonperishable food such as canned and dry goods is always appreciated, donations of frozen meat and fresh vegetables and fruit are essential for a well-balanced diet. Personalcare items, such as toilet paper, are also important donations.

To learn more about how you can help in the South Bend area, contact Claire at (574) 234-3111, ext. 33. To contact the Community of Caring Food Pantry in Auburn, call (260) 925-0917.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

# Fort Wayne

Citizenship classes will be offered every Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m., April 7 through May 28. Contact Bertha Spaulding at (260) 422-5625 or bspaulding@ccfwsb.og.

A Refugee Core Services meeting will be held at Catholic Charities from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 16. Contact Nyein Chan at (260) 422-5625, ext. 230, or nchan@ccfwsb.org.

Villa of the Woods, 5619 Noll Avenue, will host *Aging with Grace* featuring speakers discussing how we can deal with the aging process on May 22. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to Kathy Retzios by May 20 at (260) 745-7039 or kretzios@ccfwsb.org.

Villa of the Woods will host a World Refugee Day celebration on Friday, June 20, from 1 to 3 p.m.

# South Bend-Elkhart

RSVP of St. Joseph and Elkhart counties will hold its annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on April 10 at the Gillespie Center on the St. Mary's College campus in South Bend. The Senior Expo will follow from 1 to 4 p.m.

RSVP St. Joseph and Elkhart counties is sponsoring a trip to Chicago, June 17-19. For additional information, contact Josh Story or Sarah Baker at (574) 234-3111.

# Auburn

RSVP of DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben Counties will hold its annual Spring Auction on April 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Auburn. Contact Terri Pfenning at (260) 925-0917 or tpfenning@ccfwsb.org.

This year's IRS Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA) program in DeKalb, Noble, and Steuben counties runs through April 9. You must make an appointment by calling (260) 925-0917. Qualified RSVP members provide individuals and couples free tax assistance. The single or combined income must be under \$55,000 to qualify. Copyright © 2014 Catholic Charities. Published for friends, supporters, and staff of Catholic Charities, a nonprofit organization, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana. Articles may be reproduced with proper attribution. Phone: (260) 422-5625 Fax: (260) 422-5657

# WISH LIST

Funity Services (May be dropped off at Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton Street): New car seats, Pack 'n Plays, diapers, antibacterial wipes (like Wet Ones), and formula.

Resource and Referral (May be dropped off at Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton Street): Diapers (especially larger sizes), antibacterial wipes (like Wet Ones), formula, household cleaning supplies, personal-hygiene products, bus passes, financial donations for assisting clients with rent, utilities, deposits, and food.

South Bend (May be dropped off at 1817 Miami Street): Non-perishable food, new Ziploc-type sandwich bags, trash bags (33-gallon size), grocery or gas gift cards, disposable diapers (all sizes), new baby items (rattles, bottles, onesies, etc.), laundry detergent, personal-care items (shampoo, feminine products, toothpaste, etc.), school supplies, new children's reading and coloring books, toilet paper and paper towels, yarn, thread, and fabric.

RSVP Auburn (May be dropped off at 109 West 5th Street.): Non-perishable food items, bath soap, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent, dish soap, plastic and paper bags for the food pantry, thread, fabric, and yarn.



P.O. Box 10630 Fort Wayne, Indiana 46853

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