



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Office for Social Justice

SEEDS of JUSTICE

CCTWINCITIES.ORG

POVERTY FOR NO ONE. OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE.

NOVEMBER 2013



Inside this Issue

WHERE'S THE ACTION?
PART TWO!.....1 - 2

PUBLIC POLICY:
.....3 - 4

RESEARCH CORNER:
.....5

PARISHES AT WORK:
.....6

RESOURCES & EVENTS:
.....7

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS:
.....8



Contact Us:

60 Plato Boulevard E
Suite 230
Saint Paul, MN 55107
651-647-2588

Where's the Action? Part Two!

The last issue of SEEDS included an article that described the need for advocacy action at the state, regional, and federal levels in order to advance policy and budget items of importance to many living in our region.

Today, I would like to invite you to take a trip with the staff of the Office for Social Justice that will give you a better idea about the ways we are engaging the community in an effort to strengthen our advocacy voice at many different levels. Since the last issue of SEEDS landed in your mailbox, we have traveled many miles (just take a look at our mileage reports, if you don't believe it) and had the opportunity to present and engage many fellow travelers at state-wide conferences, colleges and universities, parishes, Archdiocesan events, and levels of government.

Our parish outreach and consultation has included a variety of activities: exploring the impact of youth homelessness, issue education on poverty, immigration reform, Catholic social teaching, the connection between charity and justice, service learning, housing and homelessness, a new chapter in the life of the Dorothy Day Center, budget challenges for low-wage workers, advocacy forums, the connections between the work of Catholic Charities staff in direct service and the advocacy efforts of the agency.

We have traveled to urban, suburban, and rural parishes in an effort to support the work of education and social justice

in parish communities. Among the parishes that we have been present at are: St. Olaf, Pax Christi, St. Mary of the Lake, St. Hubert, St. Joseph (Red Wing), St. Bridget, St. Timothy, Mother Mary of the Church, St. William, St. Patrick, and St. Vincent de Paul. We also worked the State Fair, a Hunger Housing and Hops Next Generation event with Finnegan's, and are working with the University of St. Thomas on service learning projects.

On the policy and research front, staff from OSJ have been engaged in a plethora of activities in an effort to learn, provide analysis, and engage the broader community in the work of ending poverty and providing opportunity. Currently we are working with the Capital Investment committees of the legislature to help position the affordable housing needs as recipients of Housing Infrastructure Bonds and other General Obligation Bonds when the session begins in February. In that same vein we are participating with Mayor Coleman's Overnight Shelter Taskforce to recommend a multi-pronged new initiative in collaboration with the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, the downtown business community, foundations and others that will result in the next chapter for the Dorothy Day Center and our work with people experiencing homelessness in the Capitol City.

Redesigning the services of the Dorothy

(Continued on page 2)

Day Center requires us to dig deeper into the needs of our clients, especially the growing number of elders who are served at DDC. (See Research Corner Article on page 5).

In addition, staff of the Office for Social Justice are working to provide recommendations to our private and public partners on strategies to provide stable lives for children and youth in the Metro region. In that regard, we are working on a Juvenile Justice Research project, recommendations on unaccompanied homeless youth to the Emerging Adult Taskforce, Hennepin County Child Protection Review Panel, Northside Homes Project, and are working with Hennepin County as they re-imagine a regional social service delivery model.

In an effort to be more involved in regional issues, Catholic Charities continues to monitor Thrive 2040, the regional planning effort of the Metropolitan Council, as well as the demographic forecasts for the region related to the age wave, income, and job growth. We have also joined the MoveMN coalition focused on transit and transportation infrastructure needs in the state. This issue has not traditionally been a part of the issue agenda of Catholic Charities.

However, transportation is a critical issue for the majority of our clients. Catholic Charities served 35,000 individuals in fiscal year 2013 alone. Access to affordable transit is the difference between a job or no job, quality child care or inadequate piecemeal arrangements, a health care appointment kept, and housing stability or homelessness. Too often our clients find themselves isolated and

at a distance from the services they require because there isn't an adequate "system" of transportation that moves people to the destinations that offer greater economic and social stability.

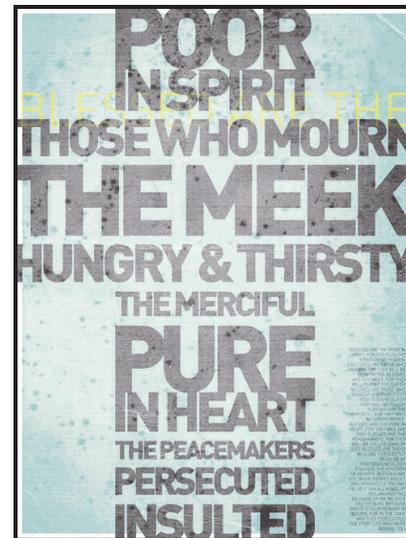
Staff of the Office have presented at the University of Minnesota's Policy Conference, the MN Homeless Coalition's annual conference, research taskforces meetings held at Wilder and the Housing Conference sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

In addition, we continue to work with Senator Franken on the impact of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit laws on homeless youth, the Justice for Immigrants campaign, and to monitor the MNsure Oversight Committee on the roll out of state health care reform.

As we work with clients and staff of Catholic Charities in support of their citizenship skills, we have conducted voter registration drives, voter education on the roles of Mayor and city council representatives, and collaborated on a Mayoral forum with the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness in Minneapolis. We organized a listening session for legislators with the youth of Hope Street, a program aimed at stabilizing the housing, educational, and employment goals of formerly homeless youth.

Lots of action, everywhere. Thank you for your support, inspiration and partnership in the work of social justice in the Twin Cities. The entire staff at OSJ look forward to continuing this journey.

Kathleen Tomlin
Vice President of
Social Justice Advocacy



The Church's love for the poor...is a part of her constant tradition. This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2444

How Bonds are Used to Create Affordable Housing

Most of us don't know that state capital investment bonding can be used to increase the supply of affordable housing in Minnesota, thereby providing more families and individuals the opportunity to live in safe, stable housing. During the last bonding session in 2012, you helped us advocate for \$40 million in bonding dollars for affordable housing, and the legislature passed a bill with \$37.5 million, which Governor Dayton signed. That money is currently being used all over the state to create and maintain affordable housing!

The 2014 legislative session (which will be from February to May) is another bonding session. Broadly speaking, bonding is a way that the state pays for certain projects. The state borrows money by issuing bonds, which are promises to repay the money borrowed at a specified time and interest rate. The terms "bonding" and "capital investment" are used interchangeably at the legislature, because all bonds must be used for capital investments, defined as acquiring or improving fixed assets, such as land or buildings.

Bonds must be used for building or improving things. That is, bonding dollars can be used to build or improve roads, bridges, buildings at state universities, city convention centers, among many other things, but bonding dollars cannot be used for services. In other words, the money for the bricks and mortar for a new science center at the

University of Minnesota can come from bonding dollars, but professor salaries or a study conducted at the new science center cannot.

Interestingly, a bill to authorize the issuance of bonds for capital investments needs a three-fifths vote in both the House and Senate. The only other time that more than a simple majority is required in the Minnesota Legislature is to override a governor's veto, which requires a two-thirds vote.

A special type of bonds called Housing Infrastructure (HI) bonds are issued to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, which then conducts a competitive process to distribute those funds to organizations with projects to build and rehabilitate affordable housing. HI bonds were used by Catholic Charities a few years ago to help build the housing portion of Higher Ground in Minneapolis, which provides permanent supportive housing for 85 single adults.

Please join us this year in advocating that the legislature pass a bonding bill with at least \$100 million dollars for housing. The need for affordable housing in our state continues to grow, as does recognition at the legislature and with the public that bonding is an excellent way to pay for this necessity. Join us for our Policy Briefings in February (dates and locations coming soon) to learn more!

Marie Ellis
Public Policy Manager



Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.

-Pope Francis

Advocates Gather in Third Congressional District to Call for a Roadmap to Citizenship

During the week of November 4, 15 ecumenical congregations in Representative Erik Paulsen's 3rd Congressional District, including Sowers parishes St. Joseph the Worker, St. Joseph, St. Mary of the Lake, Our Lady of Grace, and Pax Christi, took part in a week-long Pilgrimage for Citizenship. Over forty pilgrims embarked on a symbolic journey, walking 36 miles with Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice and ISAIAH.



Pilgrims stopped each night at various congregations for dinner, prayer services, story-sharing, and action. We shared many stories with 800 people that week, most of them constituents of Representative Paulsen.

My life has been the way of the Cross, of suffering. I need you to help me bear it and work for citizenship.

-Maria, Pilgrim

The Pilgrimage for Citizenship took place during a time when immigration reform is once again stalled in Congress. In order for reform to be heard in the House, we need members of the House majority, Republicans, to speak

publicly on behalf of citizenship. The pilgrims continually requested a meeting with Congressman Paulsen in the weeks leading up to, and evenings during, the pilgrimage, but despite hundreds of calls generated from constituents, Representative Paulsen's office did not schedule a meeting with us. During Mass in the parking lot of his office building, voters gathered to put handprints on a mural that read, "Representative Paulsen, our lives are in your hands."

A small group of pilgrims then brought over 125 letters from con-

stituents to his office, and requested a meeting, which his office refused. We remained peacefully and prayerfully in the office until it closed. Although we were not granted a meeting, we left more determined than ever. We are confident that the Pilgrimage sent a strong message to Representative Paulsen and others that our families need a roadmap to citizenship now.

On Nov. 13, Speaker Boehner made a statement suggesting that immigration reform will not happen until next year at the earliest. If reform is not passed early next year, it could be postponed until 2015, or, pending results of the mid-term elections, 2016.

Ana Ashby
Public Policy Organizer

TAKE ACTION!

Please contact your Member of Congress today and ask them to support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a roadmap to citizenship.

This is an urgent issue concerning the lives of our immigrant brothers and sisters, our families, and our communities.

Elders at the Dorothy Day Center

Among the approximately 6,300 people served at the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul (DDC) during 2012, one in four people were age 55 or older. Catholic Charities' data show that older clients are the age group most likely to come to the center only during the day, seeking services that prevent homelessness, rather than coming to the DDC at night seeking overnight shelter.

However, among all the client age groups examined, an elder who spends one night at the DDC is the client most likely to get "stuck" there, showing up for most of the rest of the nights that month. Since people age at an accelerated rate when they're experiencing homelessness, older clients face significantly more health and disability issues than their stably housed age peers. Women were a fourth of the older clients who came to the DDC for overnight shelter in 2012.

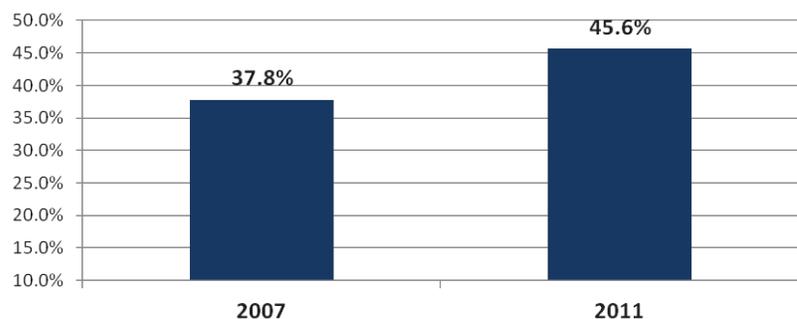
Older clients didn't used to represent such a larger percentage of the people we serve. And, because of population trends and current weaknesses in the housing market, economy and social safety net, we are concerned that their numbers will continue to grow over the next two decades.

Baby Boomers represent an oncoming age wave unlike anything our country has experienced to date. According to the Minnesota State Demographer's office, between 2011 and 2012, the elder (65+) population increased by 36%. By 2020, for the first time in MN history, there will be more people who are 65 or older than there are school-age children.

U.S. Census data for Ramsey County, for example, show lower income households (especially those headed by elders) continuing to sit in the shadow of the Great Recession in terms of poverty rates, rising median rental costs and a tight housing market. The table below shows the significant increase in the number of Ramsey County renters who are "cost burdened," having to pay 35% or more of their monthly gross income on their rent. To be considered "affordable," rent is supposed to require 30% or less of the household's monthly gross income.

Advocating for an increase in the affordable housing stock in the metro area has to be a top priority.

Percent of Ramsey County renters paying 35% or more of monthly household income on rent



Kate Searls-Sr. Research and Policy Analyst



Catholic social teaching isn't only about dropping your spare change into a bucket at Christmas. Jesus calls us to a radically different kind of discipleship—a life that is daily marked by care and concern for the poor and for one another.

—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Catholic Social Teaching Scripture Guide*, page 2

Parishes at Work

Parishes in Action for Justice

Parishes around the metro area have been busy educating, engaging, and equipping their communities for action for social justice! From immigration reform to workers' rights to youth homelessness, parishes are stepping up to make a difference.

Educating through CCHD Stories of Injustice

"I learned about what low-income workers and members of our community are facing and the injustices they are struggling with," shared Suzanne Maes-Toay at a November CCHD workshop at St. Vincent de Paul in Brooklyn Park. This educational event featured personal testimonies of struggles and successes in fighting for the rights of low-wage workers, particularly in the retail cleaning industry, by a local CCHD-funded group called CTUL (Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha). Educational events like these open participants' eyes to injustices in our community and share the important social justice impacts of our CCHD donations. As Ms. Maes-Toay shared, "I was excited to learn that the CCHD-funded groups are indeed creating meaningful change. They are giving a hand up, not a hand out."

Engaging Our Parish Youth around Youth Homelessness

In October, St. Timothy in Blaine engaged parish youth in the faith formation program, as well as parents, on the issue of youth homelessness through a panel focused particularly on how suburban homelessness may affect some of the parish youth's peers.

One of the youth raised an important question to the diverse group of panelists: "How can we assist

homeless youth when there is such stigma around identifying oneself as homeless?" Attendees agreed that one outcome of the evening should be to engage the youth, and adults, to watch for signs of youth experiencing homelessness, and to make sure they know who to contact if they think someone may need help. They were also given the opportunity to advocate for MN state bonding money for housing and engage others in this issue.

Studying Catholic Teaching

OSJ has supported many parishes this Fall in deeper education in Catholic social teaching, tools for leadership, and infusing this into the life of their communities. For example, St. Patrick's in Edina was not satisfied with merely learning a list of principles, so their Social Justice Commission spent the past few years entering into dialogue with each other, beginning with Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, "*Charity in Truth*."

This transformative process of studying CST equipped the Commission to engage their parish in a Fall Forum called, "How can I help create a more equitable economy?" Several notable guests gave presentations to over 200 attendees. The goal was not simply to discuss the important question of economic justice, but to "galvanize some action," said Bob Hobbins, chair of the Social Justice Commission.

At OSJ, we continue to be inspired by the faithful and passionate work of parishes to engage their communities on social justice. OSJ is a resource and a support to you and your social justice committees!

Marty Roers & Angela Butel
Community Engagement Team



Welcome to Angela!

OSJ is excited to introduce **Angela Butel** as our new Community Engagement and Leadership Specialist. Angela graduated from Macalester College, where she majored in Anthropology with a concentration in Human Rights and Humanitarianism. Prior to Catholic Charities, Angela worked with the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition of Minnesota, organizing congregations of different faiths across the state to unite around shared social justice concerns from affordable housing to human trafficking to payday lending.

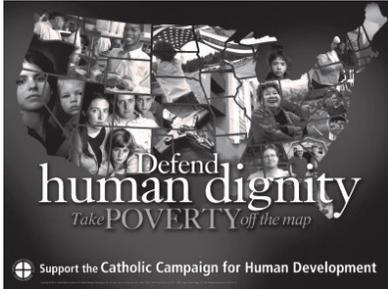
We are excited that Angela has joined our team to further our work for social justice and look forward to her supporting your work and coordinating CCHD as well.

Resources and Events

Great Social Justice Resources from the Office for Social Justice:

The Office for Social Justice offers a variety of great resources to educate, inspire, organize, and advocate in parishes for social justice. OSJ offers a variety of leadership and skill building workshops, including presentations on Catholic social teaching, research analysis and reflections on social issues, the two feet of justice, strategic planning and leadership development, and Advocacy 101 Trainings. We can support in parish educational, engagement, and advocacy action.

Check out more OSJ resources online at www.cctwincities.org/Advocacy



Our faith calls us to measure this economy, not by what it produces but also by how it touches human life and whether it protects or undermines the dignity of the human person.

-Economic Justice for All, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1986

The Giving Tree

Visit the Giving Tree - Mall of America - Macy's Court



Catholic Charities' Giving Tree program provides gifts for children, teens & adults in need. Stop by between Dec. 12 - Dec. 23 from 10:00 am-7:00 pm.

Ornaments on the trees list items requested by community members experiencing homelessness and low income community members.

Your gifts go directly to children, adults, and families in need in the Twin Cities.

You can also make a financial contribution in any amount.

Journey to Justice:

One of the highlights of the JustFaith Program is the Journey to Justice retreat day. It's a great opportunity to learn about the root causes of poverty and hear success stories of social change going on in our community directly from local Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) funded groups. Journey to Justice is a unique opportunity for participants to grow in their faith and set the groundwork for building solidarity with those living in poverty. Mark your calendar for this year's retreat on Jan 25th at St. John Neumann in Eagan.

Contact our office for more information or if you are interested in attending at 651-647-2588 or osj@cctwincities.org.



*Sow for yourselves
justice, reap the fruit of
faithful love;*

*Break up for yourselves
a new field, for it is
time to seek the Lord,
until the Lord comes
and rains down justice
upon you.*

Hosea, 10:12

Office for Social Justice
Catholic Charities
60 Plato Boulevard East
#230
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
Permit No. 6085

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Recycled paper and
printed with soy-based ink.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Human Trafficking 101

Monday, December 16, 2013

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Seton Center (Catholic Charities)

1276 University Avenue

St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4101

Social Justice Meet Up

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: To be announced

Journey to Justice

Saturday, January 25, 2014

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: St John Neumann - Eagan

(see page 7)

Legislative Briefings—February 2014

Watch for dates and locations coming soon

Visit our website for more detailed
information on all events.
www.cctwincities.org/advocacy

Catholic Campaign for Human Development Multi-Media Youth Art Contest

Submissions due by February 3, 2014

Contest Theme:

BUILD COMMUNITY!

PUT TWO FEET OF LOVE IN ACTION.

Participate in the contest in 5 easy steps:

1. Learn about Poverty in the U.S. and CCHD's response.
2. Learn about the Two Feet of Love in Action.
3. Create your multimedia work.
4. Use your work to teach others.
5. Submit your work to the contest.

To learn more, contact our office or visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/multimedia-youth-contest>.

“My dear young people, do not bury your talents.”

-POPE FRANCIS