



January 2015 Newsletter

Catholic Parish Outreach

This month's newsletter was written by Rick Miller-Haraway,
Director of Catholic Charities Raleigh Regional Office.

Dear CPO Volunteers and Friends,

Each year as we celebrate Christmas, I am struck by the contrasts we see all around us. The stock market is at all time highs and the economy is in recovery, and yet we have more poverty in our country than we have had in decades. On Dec. 25 we celebrate the reality of Emmanuel—"God is with us." And yet the popular Christmas carol "What Child Is This" asks us the question that is still pertinent today: "Why lies He in such mean estate?" Just as there was no room inside for Jesus' birth, we have thousands of people homeless right here in Wake County. I learned this past week that North Carolina is the 5th hungriest state in the nation. We certainly experience that reality at Catholic Parish Outreach everyday. Most people do not see or experience the crushing poverty that affects 1 in 4 of the children who live in our community.

This has been an exceptional year for Catholic Charities as we respond to God's call to make God's presence real in today's world. The opening of the Oak City Outreach Center in downtown Raleigh, where we are coordinating the feeding of about 400 homeless individuals every weekend in partnership with over 50 different faith communities and organizations, is a wonderful extension of the great work we do at CPO. At Oak City and at CPO, I witness the miracle of God being with us in the care and compassion of you, our volunteers and supporters. At both places I am inspired by the hope engendered in the people we serve by the simple acts of listening and offering a few kind words of comfort. So as we ask ourselves the meaning of Christmas, we must do so with the faces of the countless people we serve in our minds, for I do not believe that we can discover the true meaning of Christmas without holding the poor in our hearts and minds. Merry Christmas to you and all whom you love.

Rick Miller-Haraway
Director of the Raleigh Regional Office
Catholic Charities

Clothing Volunteers Needed



As you will see on the schedule, we are in great need of Clothing area volunteers many days throughout the month. We need a minimum of 3

volunteers each day to give out the children's clothing. If you are interested in helping, or can add an additional day, please call our Volunteer Coordinators Bea & Marty at 919-847-1466.

Inclement Weather Policy



On days that the weather is snowy or icy, our volunteer coordinators and Terry will talk around 7am and make a decision as to whether or not CPO will open for the day.

If we are closed, scheduled volunteers for that day will be called. Terry's work voice mail greeting (919-873-0245 x230) will be changed to indicate that CPO is closed and an e-mail will be sent out. **Very Important:** if CPO is open during questionable weather— please use your own discretion when deciding whether or not to come in. As always, feel free to call the Traubes (919-847-1466) or Terry (cell 919-522-9892).

Donation Highlights

- St. Eugene food drive: 2,538 lbs of groceries & \$965
- St. Luke food drive: 1,630 lbs of groceries & \$6,915
- St. Raphael School food drive: 2,209 lbs of groceries
- Cardinal Gibbons HS food drive: 5,632 lbs of groceries
- Green Hope HS food drive: 498 lbs of groceries
- St. Francis Prayer Shaw Ministry: 78 handmade baby items
- Dentists Rich, Smith, & Tart food drive: 115 lbs of groceries & \$125
- Allscripts diaper drive: 1,200 diapers & 3,000 baby wipes
- Millbrook Exchange 55+ Club: 306 lbs of groceries & 17 turkeys

Stats for November 2014

	Nov 2013	Nov 2014	YTD
Families/Referrals	3,442	3,060	31,984
People served	12,434	11,070	115,451
Total clothing	1,232	1,101	11,070
Total diapers	731	654	6,849
Total volunteer hours	5,106	3,884	46,194
# of new volunteers (includes groups & youth)	58	53	702

Note: On average a family visits CPO 2.9 times a year

