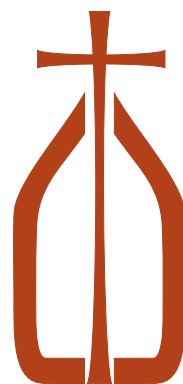


Together...
Making a Difference



Catholic
Charities
North Dakota



Annual
Report
2011



**Catholic
Charities
North Dakota**

Together . . .

Board of Directors

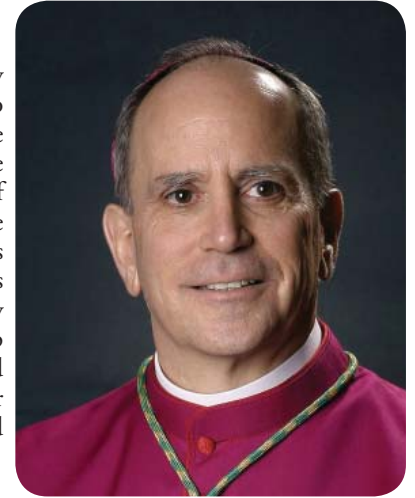
Bishop Samuel J. Aquila, President
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 Brian Herding, Vice-Chairman-Grafton
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 Agnes Harrington-Fargo
 Christopher Johnson-Fargo
 Aaron Krauter-West Fargo
 Jim Laske-Fargo
 Jim Lyons-Lisbon
 Fr. Bernie Pfau-New Rockford
 Deacon Doyle Schulz-Bismarck
 Tom Vanorny-Oakes

Management Team

Executive Director
 Larry J. Bernhardt
 Director of Administrative Services
 Dale Degenstein
 Director of Development and
 Community Relations
 Colleen Hardy
 Director of Finance
 Lori Grommesh
 Director of Adults Adopting Special Kids
 Leanne Johnson
 Director of Counseling
 Janelle Miedema
 Director of Guardianship
 Donna Byzewski
 Director of Pregnancy, Parenting
 and Adoption Services
 Sharon Maier
 COA Coordinator
 Sue Dokken

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The effectiveness of assistance provided by Catholic Charities North Dakota is difficult to measure. We can add up the number of people we have served, the number of interactions we have had. But numbers do not tell the heartfelt stories of the children who have found “forever homes”, the adults who are now able to work through difficulties after receiving counseling, the vulnerable adults who feel more confident and live more comfortably because of the guardians who are there to help them, the mothers and fathers who understand more clearly the responsibility of parenting, or those who experience the joy of knowing their child is in an adoptive, loving and stable family.



This life-changing work goes on quietly every day. Through the generosity of donors and volunteers, and the committed work of employees and board members, Catholic Charities North Dakota provides help, creates hope and transforms lives according to the teachings of our Catholic faith. I am abundantly grateful to all who make this work and service possible. Together, we truly do make a difference.

As we continue our work into another year, it is good to reflect upon the words of one who served others with every ounce of her strength, Blessed Mother Teresa. Through a simple description, she teaches us how to best interact with those in need; how to connect with them so that they know, beyond a doubt, that they are loved as children of God. *“Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don’t only give your care, but give your heart as well.”*

I close with her words, and with my blessing as your bishop, that your hearts will hunger for an ever deeper relationship with Jesus Christ who gives us the strength and resources to selflessly serve others as Blessed Mother Teresa did.

“Like Jesus we belong to the world living not for ourselves but for others. The joy of the Lord is our strength.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Samuel J. Aquila
 Bishop of Fargo

**Learn about us online at
www.catholiccharitiesnd.org**

Office Locations
 1-800-235-4457

• 919 7th St. S, Ste 607
Bismarck 58504
 (701) 255-1793

• 5201 Bishops Blvd, Ste B
Fargo 58104-7605
 (701) 235-4457

• 311 4th St. S, Ste 105
Grand Forks 58201
 (701) 775-4196

• 216 S Broadway
Minot 58701
 (701) 852-2854

Making a Difference



Dear Friends,

I can't help but think of the **Starfish Story**, paraphrased from "The Star Thrower" by Loren Eiseley, 1907 – 1977. I know some of you may have heard it before, but it is well worth repeating.

The Starfish Story

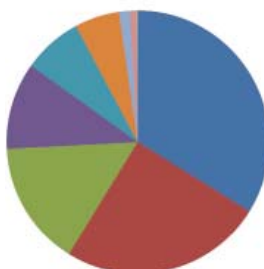
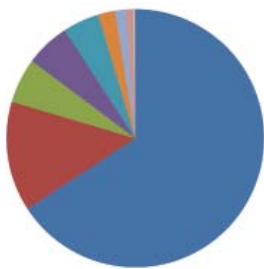
While walking along a beach, an elderly gentleman saw someone in the distance leaning down, picking something up and throwing it into the ocean. As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, picking up starfish one by one and tossing each one gently back into the water. He came closer still and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean." The old man smiled, and said, "I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die." Upon hearing this, the elderly observer commented, "But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Then he bent down, picked up another starfish, threw it into the back into the ocean past the breaking waves and said, "I made a difference for that one."

This story says a lot and captures the true sense of what we do at Catholic Charities every day. We thank the Bishops of the Fargo Diocese and the Bismarck Diocese, the Catholic Charities Board of Directors, the staff of Catholic Charities North Dakota, and the people across the state who care about the work we do and support us in that effort . . . "Together, we truly do make a difference!!"

Larry Bernhardt
Executive Director

Financial Data for Fiscal Year 2011 *



* Pre-audited Report

Sources of Income

ND Dept. of Human Services	65.8%	\$ 1,675,938
Program Fees	13.7%	\$ 349,561
Diocese of Fargo	5.6%	\$ 143,420
Unrealized Gain on Investments	5.6%	\$ 141,923
Contributions/Fundraisers	4.6%	\$ 117,226
United Way/CFC	2.1%	\$ 53,939
Grants-Federal/Private	1.3%	\$ 34,250
Disaster Response	0.9%	\$ 23,321
Other	0.2%	\$ 4,336
Interest Income	0.1%	\$ 2,383
Total Revenue	100.0%	\$ 2,546,297

Expenses

Guardianship	33.9%	\$ 877,013
Special Needs Adoption-AASK	25.0%	\$ 647,172
Administration	15.2%	\$ 393,467
Adoption	10.7%	\$ 277,906
Counseling	7.3%	\$ 189,705
Development	5.5%	\$ 142,178
Grant Expenditures	1.3%	\$ 34,250
Pregnancy Services	0.9%	\$ 23,292
Adoption Search	0.1%	\$ 2,020
Total Expenses	100.0%	\$ 2,587,003
Depreciation		\$ 11,178
Net Expenses		\$ 2,598,181

Counseling Services

Making a difference

292
clients counseled

1543
counseling sessions

241
new clients

A Renewed Love

The impact of counseling is reflected in the story of Joe and Amy. They had been married 8 years and Joe felt as though he could not go on in the marriage. He believed that he was always accommodating and “giving in” for the sake of peace in the marriage.

Joe had been married before and had a young son who spent every other week with their family. They also had two small children of their own. Amy was shocked that Joe was so unhappy as he had never said anything until things had reached the point of him not wanting to go on with the marriage.

Amy admitted that she was struggling with possible depression which at times came out in everyday life as irritability. She realized she was taking out her irritability on Joe as he was her “safe person.”

The first counseling sessions focused on reviewing the couple’s strengths and what things looked like when they were getting along much better. In addition, communication styles were reviewed and Joe was encouraged to speak assertively but respectfully if he did not agree with something Amy said. Usually Joe backed down if he sensed Amy was getting angry.

Amy’s style was to become angry and verbally attack Joe which shut down any communication and left many issues unresolved. The couple learned new communication skills in counseling sessions and practiced these skills while working on some of their tougher issues, such as finances and family relationships.

Joe and Amy concluded their sessions agreeing that things were much better; they were much happier with their marriage and they felt “in love” again.



Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption Services

Making a difference

43
birth parents counseled

19
children placed into adoptive homes

1460
hours of service to adoption and pregnancy clients

45
Search inquiries

A New World



We can’t even imagine our lives without Jordan. After years of being childless, it still took a while to consider adoption. We had many preconceived notions about how we would feel about an adopted child and what the process entailed, and the majority of those preconceived notions turned out to be wrong.

We began the adoption process in the fall of 2009, and when we reached out to Catholic Charities, they reached back. Our social workers made us feel right at home, and we’ve never had regrets. They’ve helped us feel comfortable with the process and really helped us understand what adoption is about.

In the spring of 2011, we received a phone call that a birth mom liked our profile and was interested in meeting us. I was so nervous about what to say, how to present myself, and had so many sudden insecurities like “what makes me more qualified”, or “why in the world would she want us”. The meeting coordinated by our social workers calmed all anxieties, and the roller coaster of becoming parents began.

We were excited, scared, nervous, over the moon, exhausted, bursting with joy, and I never knew that I would feel love for this person who had selected us to parent her child. We have so much respect for her unselfishness and putting the needs and best interests of the child above her own.

Jordan was born about two weeks after our initial meeting, and while we were overjoyed with the arrival of our new baby, we never even considered we would also hurt for the birth mom. Our time together in the hospital was not only a bonding time with our baby but also with her and her family. Since we came home a couple months ago, we have graduated to direct contact with her, and have also received gifts in the mail from the birth grandparents. We really feel like we gained another family.

As far as having fear of adopting a child, I can’t even imagine a more perfect child to have. I wouldn’t trade anything for Jordan; she is truly my world. Being a mother is better than anything I’ve experienced before, and much better than I ever thought it would be. The growth we see each day in our child brings pure joy to our hearts. We truly believe that this baby was meant for us, we were meant to expand our family in this way, and God has truly provided, and always will. We are whole.

An Adoptive Mother

Adults Adopting Special Kids

Making a difference

151
children placed for adoption

34
sibling groups placed,
involving 90 children

123
adoptions finalized

72
adoption assessments
completed



When AASK started working with Jack, a 14 year old boy with significant mental health issues, he was living in a residential therapeutic setting. The AASK Worker attended therapy sessions with Jack and created a wonderful professional relationship with him, answering his questions and having discussions with him while doing his favorite past time, playing video games. She consistently advocated on Jack's behalf to his Child and Family Team, stating that there was a "forever family" out there for Jack who would be ready to be his forever family.

In January 2010 recruitment for a forever family for Jack began; he was featured in the Waiting Kids fliers, Heart Times newsletter, area church bulletins, diocesan newspapers, PATH press and national internet sites. In July 2010, he was legally freed for adoption.

During this time, the Adams family saw Jack's picture and felt a strong connection to him but needed to wait for God's plan to work out, so they would be in a position to adopt a child. In January 2011 the Adams family came forward to express their interest in Jack. Visits between Jack and the Adams family began and they were officially matched in February 2011.

In the fall of 2010, Jack's younger biological sister, Sophia, came into foster care. AASK started working with Sophia to prepare her for an adoptive family. Jack and Sophia began having sibling visits while living in different foster homes.

After Jack moved in with the Adams, the sibling connection between Jack and Sophia continued, with regular visits and phone calls.

In April 2011, when Sophia was legally freed for adoption, the Adams family indicated their interest in adopting her as well, and began having transitional visits with her. Five months after Jack moved in with the Adams family, Sophia moved permanently into her adoptive home with her brother, Jack. The Adams family will celebrate the adoption finalization of Jack in September 2011 and will celebrate the finalization of Sophia as a permanent member into their family in February 2012.

Reunited Siblings



A Pet for Sarah



In Guardianship, we often try to build and strengthen relationships with people, and sometimes even pets.

About a year ago, Guardianship Services received a new case involving a young lady, Sarah, an 18 year old with developmental disabilities. She was in the process of moving out of her mother's home to live on her own for the first time. This was a huge transition as it meant leaving her Mom, as well as her two pet cats, Snickers and Doodles, that she had grown up with.

Sarah's Guardian first helped Sarah find an apartment to meet her needs. With the help of her Guardian, as well as her staff, Sarah adjusted well to managing her own place. She handled the cooking, cleaning and everything in between. Sarah's next goal was to have her very own pet, a cat like

she had growing up and deeply missed right now. Sarah's Guardian and staff again assisted Sarah with this by helping her to apply and become a volunteer at the local Humane Society. Sarah enjoyed this very much and volunteering helped her connect with people and gain skills for caring for her own pet.

Three months later, a beautiful young calico cat named Fern was welcomed to Sarah's new home. Sarah's goals of independent living and having her own pet have been met and both Sarah and Fern couldn't be happier.

Guardianship

Making a difference

428
wards served

7,623
visits to wards

14,236
contacts on behalf of wards
with case managers, social
workers, family members,
and physicians

1807
meetings attended

723
emergency calls handled
through 24/7 on-call system

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Catholic Charities North Dakota is very grateful to all donors (monetary and in kind), supportive parishes, participants in special events, volunteers and grantors, for their continued support of our work.

2011
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BECOME A PARTNER OF
CATHOLIC CHARITIES NORTH DAKOTA

CURRENT GIFTS

Cash (Currency, Check, Credit Card)
Appreciated Investments
(Stocks/Bonds)
Real Estate

ESTATE PLANNING

Leave a Legacy
Annuities
IRAS
Life Insurance
Wills
Retained Life Estate
Charitable Remainder Trust
Charitable Lead Trust

