

Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services Annual Report 2011

The agency provided a wide range of social services throughout the Diocese of Erie during the 2010 fiscal year. The vast majority of the services were received by individuals and families that would not have been able to purchase them on their own if it weren't for the agency's sliding fee scale and free programs.

The Adoption program continues to provide services throughout the majority of counties within the Erie Diocese. Our largest referral source is the Erie County Office of Children and Youth Services, but we also work closely with many of the child welfare agencies throughout the Diocese. While the number of completed adoptions has gone down in past years much of our work centers on completing child profiles, home studies of prospective parents and child prep work for children who are eligible to be adopted. Our Adoption workers are actively involved with the Statewide Adoption and Kinship Network (SWAN).

Our agency continues to provide Refugee Resettlement services in the Erie area. Last year we resettled over 200 individuals. This number is significantly higher than the previous year. Our agency has begun to offer the Match Grant program, which is aimed at diverting refugees from public assistance and helping them to gain employment as quickly as possible. We continue to partner with the Multicultural Community Resource Center (MCRC) and the International Institute of Erie (IIE) to provide Refugee Support Services. This year marked the second in which we were fortunate to be involved with the AmeriCorps VISTA program. We also received a grant this year from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to encourage parishes to become more involved in the refugee resettlement effort.

The counseling programs throughout the Diocese continue to provide a majority of their services to clients who have no insurance or minimal coverage on their health plans. We opened a new office in Clarion, PA in an effort to expand services into that part of the Diocese and we moved our Clearfield office into the main part of town in an effort to be more accessible to the people in that area. Our Drug & Alcohol program continues to thrive and our workers are looking to expand into the area of gambling addiction.

Regarding our efforts at improving quality services to our clients, 96% of those responding to our follow-up surveys indicated that they were satisfied with the services they had received and 92% indicated that they felt they had a better understanding of the problem that caused them to contact our agency.

Chief Officers and Personnel

Joseph J. Haas, Executive Director
David DiLoreto, Accountant
Attorney Veronica Smith, Board President
Joseph Valley, Board Treasurer
Leah Dieteman, Board Secretary