



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRONICLE

A Publication For Friends of Commonwealth Catholic Charities

Spring 2002

## Pregnancy Counseling

Dear Friends,

The events of September 11th have shocked and saddened us all, as individuals and as a nation. We have sustained a brutal attack on our nation. Evil has visited our shores. As I reflect on the events of these past months, I believe that we all received a wake-up call: value life, for it is a precious gift from God.

Each and every day, CCC works to defend this precious gift. The signature service of CCC when it first opened its doors 79 years ago was pregnancy counseling. CCC began its' work in the community with a simple premise: we are here to preserve life. As a pregnancy counselor, Christine Eason, has the opportunity each day to effect the course to life, to witness to the strength of the human spirit. Most of her clients come to CCC seeking answers to life-changing questions. "Should I maintain my pregnancy?" "Am I capable of making an adoptive plan?" "Can I be the type of parent my baby deserves?"

"As a pregnancy counselor, I take great pride in assuring these clients that CCC is here to support them, regardless of their decision and the plan they choose for their baby," she said.

Last year Christine counseled 33 female clients and 6 male clients. 22 planned for the adoption of their baby, 13 planned to parent the child, 4 discontinued counseling.

"This process entails much counseling to help prepare the birth family for the grieving process, the selection of an adoptive family by the birth family, arranging a meeting between the two families, placement of the infant and post placement counseling for all involved," she explained.

In addition, 244 clients called CCC's Pregnancy Counseling Hotline for assistance to support their decision to parent their child. CCC helps these parents maintain a healthy environment for their newborns, to give them the best start possible. CCC provides diapers, baby clothes, and referral to services available within CCC and other community agencies.

Not all clients are first-time parents. Christine relates the story of "Sally", 30 years old, and pregnant with her fourth child. When she contacted CCC, she was in her tenth week of a twelve-week substance abuse counseling program. Her other three children lived with her sister and mother due to Sally's inability to maintain a job and obtain permanent housing for the family. With CCC's help, Sally made an adoptive plan for her baby. But once the baby was born, she decided to parent her child. CCC provided baby clothes, and baby furniture, donated to CCC by generous families in our community. CCC provided counseling to help Sally stay sober and manage the stress of parenting four children. With CCC's help, Sally has found housing, continues to attend sobriety meetings, works full-time, and nurtures her baby and older children. "Sally is a survivor!" explains Christine.



©Photo by Jim Carpenter  
Gitchell's Studio, Charlottesville, Va.

Through all these years, CCC has been faithful in its' original mission, assisting women and their unborn children who often have no where else to turn. Yet, we are constantly challenged to obtain the funds necessary to provide these services to all. Over the past few years, we have submitted numerous proposals to foundations. Some have generously provided funding. Unfortunately, our request more often went unheeded. Very few choose to fund pregnancy counseling. While each year, the diocese of Richmond provides some funding by way of the annual Right to Life collection taken up in all the parishes, that collection provides a small portion of the funds needed.

It is evident that most of the funding must come from generous individuals or groups who understand that we are called to defend the life of the unborn, who see the merit of this work, who choose to support life.

A year ago, we established the Mother Elizabeth Seton Fund to help meet the yearly deficit of approximately \$60,000. The income of the endowment will provide the revenue needed to fund pregnancy counseling services each year. To do that, the endowment must grow from the current level (\$100,000) to approximately \$750,000.

Today, I urge you to take a positive step to combat the evil that seems poised to engulf our world. It's simply this: Choose life! Make a substantial gift to the Mother Seton Fund. Help assure that CCC will always be there when we are needed most.

I thank you for your support and friendship.

Rev. David J. Bergner, SDS, DSW, ACSW

## The Retail Merchants Association of Richmond

CCC was awarded \$6,000 by the Retail Merchants Association of Richmond to help offset agency cost for 9/11 services offered to clients and group counseling offered to victims of the Sept. 11th attack. Rev. David Bergner and Mr. Ben Scafidi, Development Director, accepted the award on behalf of the agency. Thank you!



From left to right: Bill Baxter, Executive Director RMA of Richmond; Rev. David Bergner and Bobby Ukrop, Chairman of the Board, Retail Merchants Association of Richmond.

## Knights of Columbus to Mark Day of the Unborn Child on March 25th

CCC salutes the members of the Knights of Columbus in Virginia and throughout the US as they celebrate the Day of the Unborn Child on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation. The Knights and their families have a proud history of providing public witness to the sanctity of all life—but especially the unborn. This year, for the first time, local K of C chapters will hold pro-life masses, lectures, or events such as a baby clothing drive to further demonstrate their support for all unborn children. “We at CCC support this effort by the Knights to remind all our neighbors that the unborn child is a precious gift from God. Our pregnancy counseling program supports families facing the challenges of a difficult pregnancy. Each and every life is to be cherished,” noted Rev. David Bergner, Executive Director. If you or your organization would like to help please contact Christine Eason at (804) 285-5900, ext. 3307.

## HUD Grants Housing Counseling Funds

CCC has received another HUD grant of \$25,000 through a program administered by Catholic Charities USA. “This grant does so much good for our community. It allows CCC to counsel clients in danger of becoming homeless. It also gives many people a chance to realize a very American dream—homeownership.” explained Rev. David Bergner, Executive Director. For information on this program, contact JoAnn Schutze at (804) 285-5900, ext. 3358.

## Fuel and Hunger Fund Donation

CCC wishes to acknowledge the donation of \$1500 from the diocese’s Fuel and Hunger Fund, made possible by the Bishop’s Appeal. Last year, 3,338 individuals and families received food from the CCC HELP program. In addition, \$123,521 was disbursed to 557 families and individuals to assist with rent/mortgage and utilities. Thank you!

## Kudos

A special thanks to Mr. Michael Rigsby for seven years of service as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Michael Zajur, member of CCC’s Board of Directors, has been appointed the Chair of the Richmond Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which he helped found.

Mr. William Mulvihill, a new member of the Board of Trustees, was one of six individuals, from the Diocese invested in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, during a ceremony in Washington, DC.

Senior Home Care Provider Mable Winn has been nominated as Poet of the Year by the International Society of Poetry. She was one of 1,500 participants and received the Trophy of Merit Award.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 31, 2002  
April 17, 2002  
April  
May  
May 12, 2002  
May 13, 2002  
June 16, 2002

Easter  
Richmond Volunteer Luncheon  
National Child Abuse Prevention Month  
National Foster Care Month  
Mother’s Day  
12th Annual Golf Tournament, Salisbury Country Club  
Father’s Day

## *Community Service Award Dinner*

The Dinner was held on Thursday, February 21st at the Sheraton Richmond West. Mr. Floyd Henderson of Richmond Radio served as Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Bobby Ross, retired coach of the Detroit Lions, was guest speaker. Ms. Eddie Mary Cargill, U. S. Army (Ret.), received the Samuel H. Dibert Award in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to CCC and to the community. Owens&Minor received the Ukrop's Award and Mr. Henry Berling, Executive Vice-President of

Partnership Development, accepted the award on behalf of the company. CCC had its largest attendance ever—approximately 235 supporters. Heartfelt thanks to Benefactors, Sponsors, Patrons and Friends, those who purchased program ads, those who attended—and the Awards Dinner Planning & Selection Committee.

### *Remembrances*

CCC gratefully acknowledges  
the following gifts which were received  
September 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001.  
Gifts such as these help support  
the programs of Commonwealth Catholic Charities.

#### *In Honor of*

Our Family  
Rev. William Byron  
Our Lord & Savior  
Bishop Walter Sullivan  
Annette Lynn Ardler  
Teresa-Our Daughter's  
Birthmother

#### *Donor(s)*

Donald Kirwin  
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Ronald Lyons  
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David Robinson  
Douglas Huffman

#### *In Memory of*

Mildred Antolik  
Joseph F. Grazer  
Deceased NY Fire Fighters  
Louis & Lizzie Conte  
Sept. 11th Victims & Families  
Helen Rumble  
George Dunham  
John M. Duszak  
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Mr. & Mrs. James L. King  
Bessie Ramsey  
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Theresa Pantera  
Joseph Wombwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Stephens



From left to right: Eddie Mary Cargill, Sam Dibert, Hugh Dibert, Rick Derrico, Chairman of the Board.



From left to right: Bobby Ukrop, Henry Berling.

### **Congratulations to Our New Officers**

#### *Board of Directors*

**Rick Derrico, Chairman**  
**Jeff Burke, Vice Chairman**  
**Tom D'Amato, Treasurer**  
**Greer Jackson, Secretary**  
**Jim Dill, Roanoke Advisory Committee**  
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#### *Board of Trustees*

**Louise Hartz, Chairperson**  
**Michael Glotz, Vice Chairman**  
**Louis Marroni, Treasurer**  
**Rev. David Bergner, Secretary**

*Welcome to our newest members of the  
Board of Trustees:*

**Jim McCabe**  
**William Mulvihill**  
**Jim Pollock**



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1512 Willow Lawn Drive  
P.O. Box 6565  
Richmond, VA 23230-0565  
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**Honor Mom on  
Mother's Day, May 12th**

Celebrate Mother's Day 2002 by giving a gift in your mother's honor, or memory, to CCC's *Mother Elizabeth Seton Fund*. Gifts to the fund support CCC pregnancy counseling and adoption programs. Your mother, (or the person you designate) will receive a lovely card announcing your gift. As in past years, the names of all honored will be listed in the Remembrances section of an upcoming issue of *The Chronicle*. Call the Development Office for more details. (804) 285-5900.

*Please order by April 29 to ensure recipient receives card in time for Mother's Day.*

**Honor Dad on  
Father's Day, June 16th**

Celebrate Father's Day 2002 by giving a gift in your father's honor, or memory. Your father (or the person you designate) will receive a lovely card announcing your gift. As in past years, the names of all honored will be listed in the Remembrances section of an upcoming issue of *The Chronicle*. Call the Development Office for more details. (804) 285-5900.

*Please order by June 5 to ensure recipient receives card in time for Father's Day.*

Please note my new address

Please send a copy of *The Chronicle* to this friend or colleague

Please delete my name from the mailing list

Please note that I am receiving multiple copies (enclose mailing labels)

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*(To update our records, please clip and return to CCC)*

**Grab your clubs...invite a friend or two!  
12th Annual Golf Tournament  
May 13th 11:00 a.m., Salisbury Country Club  
Reservations, Joe Harris, 285-5900**

