

Archdiocese of Anchorage & Catholic Social Services  
Networking Lunch / February 2, 2010  
Notes

**Parishes represented:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Andrew's, St. Michael's, Our Lady of the Lake, Holy Family Cathedral, St. Patrick's, St. Benedict's, Archdiocese Chancery office, St. Christopher's, St. Bernard's, Holy Cross, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Alaska Council of Catholic Bishop's (ACCB), and Catholic Social Services.

**Welcome & Opening Prayer** – Fr. Moore

**Parish Outreach Inventory**

**St. Michael's** - Transportation provided (church & doctor appointments), new mother dinner program for the first 6 weeks after birth, deliver communion to the sick, prison outreach, work with people to solve problems and find resources. St. Mike's provides approximately 250 food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas and supports the Palmer Food Bank by providing the building, volunteers, food items and financial support. Holiday Needs – A shelter for young men (they are currently sleeping in the basement of the church). St. Michael's would like to expand their outreach efforts and suggests a central point for coordination of church efforts in their area.

**St. Bernard's** – Funds available to help those in need (25% of church budget goes to outreach). Funds are used for fuel, rent & utilities, etc. St. Bernard's operates a food pantry and works closely with the Sunshine Clinic in Talkeetna. They provided 144 baskets for Christmas. They provide services within a specific geographic area including parishioners and non-parishioners.

**Our Lady of the Lake (St. Vincent de Paul Society)** - Funds available to help those in need and is used for fuel, food, rent & utilities, etc. They often help fire victims and really make an effort to help people find work in the construction industry. Our Lady hosts a health fair, visits the sick and they deliver communion. Our Lady provides services to those in need within a specific geographic area. Needs – Community food pantry and grant resources to pay for it as the biggest need they see is for food and this need is increasing.

**Holy Family Cathedral (St. Vincent de Paul Society)** - Funds available to help those in need and is used for fuel, food, airline tickets home, rent & utilities (\$300 maximum), etc. They help approximately 20 to 40 people a month and raise approximately \$20,000 a year from HFC parishioners. They work with St. Patrick's & St. Anthony's to help meet the family's needs. HFC provides clothing vouchers to Bishop's Attic.

**St. Benedict's** – Operates a food pantry that offers a 3-day supply of food to those in need living within the parish boundaries. Clients are able to visit once in 60 days. They had great success with the Fred Meyer Foundation and recently received a \$10,000 grant for refrigeration and shelving. Needs – St. Benedict's is on the bus line and would like to be able to provide bus tokens.

**St. Christopher's** – St. Christopher's provides holiday gift baskets and help with funeral arrangements they see community needs for food, rent, utilities, health care and fuel.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** - SEAS supports many CSS programs (7 refugee families at Christmas, Brother Francis Shelter, Clare House, and St. Francis House) and other programs throughout the community (Mary Magdalene House, Kids Kitchen and Covenant House). Fund available to help those in need and are used for car repair, dental work, rent & utilities (\$250 maximum). They have an application process and help approximately 20 people a year. SEAS provides a dinner delivery & visiting program for parishioners just out of the hospital. The majority of their funding comes from a Thanksgiving Day collection in the parish. They do not have a food pantry but have a Thanksgiving food drive for children in need.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** – One time rent & utility assistance for parish members only. Our Lady operates a community pantry on Friday with the help of generous food donations from Carr's Aurora Village. Our Lady doesn't have specific geographic boundaries for their food distribution – they help about 20 families a week. Our Lady supports the CSS food pantry – St. Francis House. They supply food boxes at Thanksgiving and Christmas for parishioners.

**St. Andrew's** - St. Andrew's works closely with LOVE, Inc. in Eagle River. LOVE, Inc. is the clearing house for caller's needs. They support the community food pantry in Eagle River and several CSS programs (Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services, Clare House & Brother Francis Shelter).

**St. Patrick's (Deacon's Fund)** – Funds available to help those in need and is used for fuel, food, airline tickets home, rent & utilities (\$100 maximum), etc. They currently provide a few bus passes but before the Muni cut the 2 for 1 People Mover program they provided nearly 30 a day. St. Pat's provides clothing vouchers to Bishop's Attic. All clients passing through St. Patrick's are encouraged to sign up for the state heating assistance program (LIHEAP). St. Pat's supports CSS in a number of ways including the Thanksgiving Blessing project.

**Holy Cross** – A small fund is available to help with emergencies such as airline tickets and food. They start with parishioners in need and take a few calls from the larger community.

**CSS – CSS talked briefly about the community services they offer and explained the new 211 system in detail.** A partnership, known as the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing program, was formed between CSS, several other social service providers, the Municipality and the Alaska 211 social service hotline to create a centralized intake and screening portal. The individual agency emergency assistance funds were pooled to create a larger pool and participants are required to participate in case management services.

### **Potential Collaborations**

- Resource page on the CSS website for parish use.
- Web-based database to track clients throughout the Catholic Church network.
- Centralized bus pass distribution.
- Mentor families from parishes for "211" and formerly homeless Beyond Shelter Services families.
- Need to identify resources outside Anchorage; increase faith based coordination and partnerships

- Possible food pantry in the Valley
- Legislative voice on social justice issues in coordination with the ACCB