



February 2012 Newsletter

Catholic Parish Outreach

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

Volunteers and Friends,

Happy New Year. I hope that you had a Merry Christmas and a good start to the new year. As we enter a new year we often look back at the challenges and blessings of the past year and look forward to what the New Year will bring. This past year at CPO was filled with the challenges of not only a decrease of \$90,000 in federal funding, but also record numbers of people seeking our assistance. After a year of a relatively small increase in numbers, beginning in July of 2011, we have seen an average increase of 25+% in people needing our help to meet their family's basic food needs. In November we served 10,893 people and went over 10,000 again in December. Such challenges might lead us to despair, but CPO has been richly blessed by incredible volunteers and wonderfully generous donors. In the last week of December alone, we received \$66,000 in donations from the parishes and individual donors, many of them unsolicited. We have received generous grants from IBM, Siemens, Walmart, and the Beehive Collective to name a few. Also, Bishop Burbidge gave a Christmas gift of \$4,600 to CPO and our Hispanic Family Center. As a result of such generosity we have almost made up for the loss of federal funding and are now able to increase our food packages up to the levels that we have historically provided.

The responsorial psalm for January 29th pleads with us to "harden not your hearts, if today you hear God's voice." The response of our Bishop, pastors, parishes, volunteers and donors to the challenges we face, to feed all those in need in our community, is a living testimony to the fact that so many have listened to God's voice and opened their hearts to the poor and newly poor in our midst. Such witness shows that the message of Christmas that "God is with Us" (O come O come Emmanuel) is still very much true today.

We do not yet know the challenges that will come with the new year. It is likely that we will continue to see an increase in the need for food assistance. We pray for the recovery of our economy and jobs for all who need them. As unemployment benefits run out, we likely will be greatly impacted. If cuts to the federal budget reduce food stamp benefits, people will become even more dependent on our help. But such challenges are not to be feared, as we have continually been blessed by the incredible generosity of our parishes, donors and volunteers. I give much thanks for you and all who listen to and respond to God's call to serve the poor. Such responses give us great hope for the New Year. I pray that you will be richly blessed in the New Year.

Happy New Year.

Super Bowl Party to Benefit CPO Sunday Feb. 5



JD's Tavern in Apex is holding a Super Bowl party to benefit CPO from 5pm until....The \$20 ticket price covers a delicious buffet dinner, drink specials, and a great place to watch the big game. To make a reservation and purchase tickets, please call Debbie Mallon at 919-830-1461. Reserve your table early because space is limited.

JD's Tavern
800 W. Williams St. Suite 100
Apex, NC 27502

CPO 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 (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 (919-522-9892).

Stats for December 2011 and Year End

	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	2010 YE	2011 YE
Families/Referrals	2413	2775	25,937	29,122
People served	8851	10,253	93,565	104,162
Total clothing	1018	1262	10,600	10,930
Total diapers	461	630	5,010	5,955
Total volunteer hours	2801	3500	33,496	36,901
# of new volunteers (includes groups & kids)	33	58	459	520

Notes: On average a family visits CPO 2.7 times a year



Note: the 35th anniversary Feb. 10 dinner invitation is included with this newsletter



You and your family are cordially invited to attend the



*Catholic Parish Outreach
35th Anniversary Celebration
Dinner*



*Friday evening, February 10, 2012
6:00 p.m.*

Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

*Raphael Hall
5801 Falls of Neuse Road
Raleigh, NC*

Guest of Honor: Bishop Michael Burbidge

*Guest Speaker: Earline Middleton
VP of Agency Services & Programs
Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC*

*A buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.
Several sponsors have made this dinner possible*



*RSVP to Marge Wood by Friday February 3, 2012
E-mail: mwood68707@aol.com
Phone: (919) 847-5767*

Directions to Saint Raphael:

From I-440, exit at Wake Forest Blvd North. (Wake Forest Road becomes Falls of Neuse Road.) After crossing Millbrook Road, the church will be on the left (about 1/4 mile).

