

## Catholic Charities of Idaho receives grants totaling \$19,500 for area programs

BOISE — Catholic Charities of Idaho announced last week that it had recently received grants totaling \$19,500 to support programs for leadership development, parent skills and financial training.

The Northwest Area Foundation in the Idaho Community Foundation awarded \$12,000 for community engagement and leadership development of Latino citizens in Southern Idaho in an effort to reduce poverty among Latino families.

**The IDA program offers financial literacy classes. Learning these skills has often meant the difference between paying rent and becoming homeless.**

The grant will help sponsor participation in public forums in Jerome, Burley, Rupert and Twin Falls, where projects like the Community Festival Market was created and implemented.

The goal of the market is to inform Latino citizens about education, the electoral process, health and the creation of social capital. It also provides opportunities and education for self sufficiency, and a forum for outreach and discussions on poverty and economic improvement.

The Community Festival Market held at the Jerome County Fair Grounds featured 17 booths, including those representing Voc-Rehab, Idaho Department of Labor, Idaho Community Action Partnership and Moth-



**GRANT AWARDS ANNOUNCED** — Catholic Charities of Idaho recently announced it had received three grants totaling \$19,500 to fund area programs. (ICR photo file)

ers Against Meth.

CCI also received a \$5,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to fund the Powerful Families program.

Powerful Families is a parenting class that uses a parent empowerment model to help low-income families and caregivers to address

key challenges. As a result, it lowers the risk of children entering the state child welfare system. It is based on the premise that economic hardship and family instability are linked to familial stress which negatively impacts parenting ability and child well-being.

Parents attend the classes as children join recreational activities sponsored by the City of Nampa and the Nampa Recreational Center. Children's activities include swimming, art and outdoor sports, such as soccer and softball. Midway through each class, families eat a meal

together provided by Casey Family Programs. Meals provide an opportunity for networking and building social supports within the community.

Powerful Families has been implemented through a collaboration of Casey Family Programs, Mercy Medical Center and Catholic Charities of Idaho - Western Region.

U.S. Bancorp Foundation has awarded CCI a \$2,500 grant to expand its Individual Development Account (IDA) program.

The IDA program offers financial literacy classes, educating individuals on savings and checking accounts, debit and credit cards, and how to create and maintain a household budget. Learning these skills has often meant the difference between paying rent and becoming homeless. The program increases familial economic sufficiency and creates an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty with long-term solutions.

Enrolled clients also have the option to participate in a savings account where their deposit is matched two dollars for every dollar saved, up to \$6,000, toward the purchase of a home, small business start-up, or tuition for higher education.