

# Idaho Catholic Appeal helps CCI fulfill mission

Marie Hoff, Catholic Charities of Idaho executive director, has a doctorate in social welfare and over 30 years of experience in the social service field. She is enthused about her job and is very happy that the Diocese of Boise has established this support ministry, which exists in almost every diocese in the country.

Hoff helped give birth to Catholic Charities of Idaho, which began services in Idaho in the summer of 2001. Since then, the agency has worked to establish services that benefit people across the state.

Some of the services Catholic Charities of Idaho is providing includes counseling for children, youth, adults, married couples, and others who could not otherwise afford assistance, classes to help parents cope with the challenge of parenting in these difficult times and after school programs in Catholic and public schools to help youth succeed academically and socially.

Catholic Charities of Idaho

has an outreach program for the frail elderly and homebound and assists immigrants to become citizens or legal residents or be reunited with their families.

Ministering to those af-

ected by abortion through Project Rachel and joining in cooperative efforts with other organizations to respond to social problems like domestic violence and suicide are also part of Catholic Charities work.



Marie Hoff, Catholic Charities of Idaho executive director



Two other important Catholic Charities efforts are working with Idaho parishes to provide social ministry to people in crisis and helping parishes get involved in social justice advocacy with the legislature. "The mission of Catholic

Charities of Idaho is to be the hands and the voice of the Catholic Church reaching out with healing and response to people's social and personal needs," said Hoff. "We are also a voice for the church in building the Kingdom of God by creating a socially just society. The Idaho Catholic Appeal helps make the fulfillment of that mission possible."

The Idaho Catholic Appeal will kick off in the Diocese of Boise, Feb. 20.