

CCI wins housing grant, now needs your help

BOISE — Catholic Charities of Idaho has recently received news of an award of matching funds as a means of expanding its housing assistance program, the temporary relocation of a state office to its Boise outreach center and a grant to protect immigrant victims of domestic violence.

On Jan. 28, CCI received approval from the Home Partnership Foundation for matching funds up to \$5,000 for donations for rental assistance. For every dollar CCI raises, the Home Foundation will contribute an additional 50 cents.

There is a limited time, however, and to receive the full amount, CCI must raise \$10,000 in housing aid by March 31.

Individuals interested in helping should direct donations to Catholic Charities of Idaho, 1501 South Federal Way, Suite 450, Boise, Idaho 83705 or visit www.ccidaho.org. For questions, call Julie Marcum-Hart at 350-7484 or jmarcum-hart@ccidaho.org.

The promise of funds couldn't have come at a better time.

In December, the Idaho Office of Refugees temporarily added a new site for emergency housing assistance at the Catholic Charities of Idaho (CCI) Boise Family Strengthening Center. The goal was to streamline emergency housing services for refugee

population.

IOR reported seeing an increase in housing referrals and sought out CCI as a partner agency. IOR receives referrals from community agencies to help refugee families find affordable, sustainable housing.

An IOR case worker assists families with filling out housing applications, setting appointments to view housing

agencies. CCI provides services to refugee families in all stages of resettlement and serves a large refugee population. The temporary IOR office will remain at the CCI Boise Family Strengthening Center until the end of February. The CCI Boise Family Strengthening Center is located at 4202 West Emerald St.


The STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence

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opportunities and requests additional financial assistance from supporting community partners. This process must also consider housing located near bus routes and available employment sources, because many refugee families are without personal transportation.

Families in the U.S. more than one year are no longer receiving support from resettlement agen-

Against Women Program awarded \$43,787 to help fund CCI's Domestic Violence Immigration Program, the agency said Jan. 15. DVIP provides legal and other services to immigrant domestic violence survivors by partnering with law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, medical and mental health professionals to provide a multidisciplinary approach to a complex social



This program and others like it are funded in part through the generosity of donors to the Idaho Catholic Appeal.

problem.

Victims immigrating to the U.S. to escape violence are less likely to report the violence for fear of deportation and separation from children. Abusers often use this information to keep victims silent while they repeat violent behaviors including rape, starvation, assault while pregnant and severe emotional abuse.

CCI provides legal services, counseling, case management and referrals for individuals seeking safety from violence. It coordinates community efforts to increase the safety of immigrant domestic violence survivors, to hold offenders accountable and to create greater public safety. Free or low-cost legal immigration services and representation provide the opportunity to live free of violence. The community outreach and coordination provided by CCI facilitates relationships within the legal community among law enforcement and prosecutors to create a more effective approach to ending violence against women.

Catholic Charities remains the state's only charitable legal services organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals.

Bishop's Lenten blessing

BOISE — Following is Bishop Michael P. Driscoll's blessing for Lent:

"During the season of Lent, we come together in a spirit of penance, conversion, and renewal. We acknowledge our faults and struggles to be the people God calls us to be. At the same time, we ask for healing and guidance to live our vocation as children of God. Lent gives us a wonderful opportunity to look at who we are and where we are headed. More than anything, it gives us an opportunity to remember God's immeasurable love and mercy for us. Regardless of what we may have done, regardless of that secret part of our lives that no one knows about, God loves us enough to bring us to life with Christ. Through the sacrifice of the cross, we are reconciled with the Father and with one another and become no less than God's 'new creation.'

"May God bless us on our Lenten journey of penance, conversion and renewal. In the shadow of the cross, let us be people who build God's kingdom into a reality of love, of justice and of peace — always mindful of God's immeasurable love and mercy in our lives."

Diocese found 'in compliance' with charter

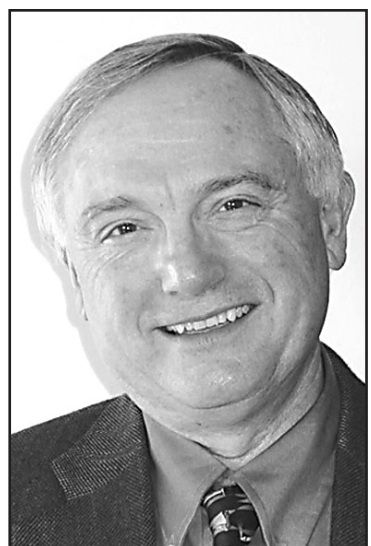
BOISE — The Diocese of Boise was found to be in compliance with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, said Bob Fontaine, director of the diocesan departments of Human Resources and of Child, Youth and Adult Protection.

In an article in the February/March/April edition of the *Communicator*, publication of the diocesan Department of Parish Life and Faith Formation, Fontaine said that Bishop Michael P. Driscoll had received a letter of compliance from The Gavin Group, which audits dioceses throughout the U.S.

A member of The Gavin Group visited Boise in November for the diocese's sixth audit since the adoption of the charter in June 2002. Each time, it has been deemed "in compliance."

The diocese submitted data related to background checks and the training of clergy, employees, volunteers, parents and youths. The data was the basis for determining that the diocese was in compliance.

The diocese has had full on-




Bob Fontaine

site audits in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2009. A data collection audit was performed in 2008. The next scheduled on-site audit is slated for 2012 with data collection audits and internal auditing set for 2010 and 2011.

The diocese has 66 active trainers providing instruction to volunteers and employees; in many cases these same trainers instruct youths. It is estimated that another 50-60 trainers work in parish religious education programs

and in Catholic schools providing safe environment instruction to elementary and secondary students.

"Trainers throughout the diocese provide workshops and instruction to adults and youths, in addition to their many other parish and school responsibilities," Fontaine said. "We are indebted to their service in making it possible for diocesan compliance and most important in helping to assure the safety of our youths."



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Facilitators: Spirituality Ministry Team

A Gift of Forgiveness — A Gift to Yourself
March 12 - 14, 2010
Presenter: Barbara Jean Glodowski, OSB

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Presenter: Teresa Jackson, OSB

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