



Panama City Regional Office
3128 East 11th Street
Panama City, FL 32401

Tel: 850-763-0475

Fax: 850-763-2969

Visit Us On The Web:

www.CatholicCharitiesNWFL.org

Panama City FL 32401
Permit No. 391

November—Adoption Awareness Month

November... At Catholic Charities, this month is a time to gather and give thanks for the gifts we are given every day. Specifically, though, we take time to give thanks for the blessings of adoption. We celebrate adoption this month all across the diocese. Through trainings, special events, and daily prayer.

Catholic Charities has been an adoption agency for more than seventy years. Many families have grown and even more lives have been touched by the blessings of adoption over the years. During November we take the time to specially remember those who are daily blessed by adoption as well as those who make adoption possible.

As part of this month's celebrations, Catholic Charities is holding trainings this

process and benefits of adoption. The Pensacola Catholic Charities is also hosting an Adoption Day Festival to be held in Seville Square in downtown Pensacola on November 15. This event is free to the public and will allow adoptive families (current and prospective) the

Choose Life License Plates

Did you know you can help promote life and adoption through something you have to do every year anyway?!?!?



For more info, check out :

www.choose-life.org



Each \$25 donation gets you a chance to win a **Brand New Nissan Rogue!**
Ticket Sales are limited to 2,000!!!

to win a **BRAND NEW Nissan Rogue from Lloyd Nissan.** Every donation of \$25 or more through November 14, 2008 enters you in the drawing for this hot new cross over SUV. Contact the Panama City Catholic Charities Regional Office or a Catholic Charities Regional Board Member for more information or give your tax deductible donation!

2nd Annual Fall Gala and Auction	1
Relax, Release, Renew...	2
Children's Christmas Hope Project	3
How You Can Help	3
Adoption Awareness Month	4



The Quarterly

Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida, Panama City Region

Catholic Charities 2nd Annual Fall Gala and Auction

It's that time of year again... the 2nd Annual Catholic Charities Fall Gala and Auction is just around the corner! Last year's inaugural Fall Gala for Catholic Charities Panama City was a huge success thanks to generous sponsors, volunteers, board members, and staff who gave of their time, money and talent. The event drew nearly 200 attendees and netted nearly \$27,000 for community programs and operations of the Panama City Catholic Charities Office.

The 2nd Annual Catholic Charities Fall Gala and Auction will take place at the Panama City Marina Civic Center on **Friday, November 14, 2008**. Uncle Ernie's Restaurant is catering the event while live musical performances from Stephanie Pettis and her Rio Band keep the party going all evening long!

This year's Fall Gala will see the return of great items for both live and silent auctions, including a 4 Day Cruise for Two, a Hot Air Balloon Ride, an

Autographed Willie Nelson Guitar, a week long get away to the mountains of North Carolina, original art work and much, much, more. The Silent Auctions will be continuous through the evening while the live auction items will be presented at various points through out the Gala. Check our website, www.CatholicCharitiesNWFL.org/Panama-City starting the first week of November for listings of auction items available at the Fall Gala.

Catholic Charities would like to extend a special "Thank You" to our Diamond Event Sponsors: **Coastal OB-GYN, Eastern Shipbuilding, Lloyd Nissan, and Uncle Ernie's Bay Front Grill.**

For more information about the Gala or to purchase Event or Raffle tickets, please contact the Panama City Regional Office of Catholic Charities at 850-763-0475. *Event tickets may be purchased at the door; dress is Cocktail Attire.*

St. John Catholic School Celebrates 50 Years of Christian Values



September 15, 2008, the students and alumni of St. John Catholic School celebrated the school's Fiftieth Birthday with a lively party, a ground breaking for the

dear by giving to the less fortunate of the community. At the party, students collected "birthday gifts" of toys, diapers and other baby items, as well as food and donated the gifts to Catholic Charities to be distributed to those in need.

Thanks to the generosity of the students (past and present) of St. John Catholic School, gifts totaling

Mission Statement

Catholic Charities carries out the social mission of the Catholic Church in North-west Florida by serving and advocating for vulnerable families and individuals of any race, religion or national origin.

~ FYI ~

The United Way Pledge Campaign, 2009 has begun.

To designate your contributions to Catholic Charities, check the "Focused Care" box in the Optional Section, and fill in our agency's number **#62 Catholic Charities**

Cheryl Bowie, founder (in 2007) and president of the non-profit ministry Relax, Release, Renew, Inc contacted Panama City Catholic Charities in late August with a generous invitation to the women residing in the St. Barnabas Transitional Shelter. The organization, made up of a group of multi-talented ladies living in various parts of the country, was convening on Panama City Beach October 3-5 for their Third Annual Retreat. In addition to the goals of the organization, and specific to this retreat- to find "solitude and revitalization, cool ocean breezes" and holding beach-front devotionals away from their (often) hectic lives- the members also wanted to make a contribution to the "host community" and they chose the St. Barnabas House (SBH) as the recipient of their good will.

A collection of toiletries, clothing and linens were presented for the residents of SBH. Deb Walton, Shelter Program Coordinator, along with the in-house manager, Diane Langan, were on hand Saturday night (Oct. 4) at the Majestic Beach Resort to accept these gifts.

The Relax, Release, Renew Retreat (RRR) involved much more than just R&R. In addition to the generous donation of tangible goods, the group offered a valuable opportunity to experience the fullness of the retreat to shelter residents. Diane, Tracy, and her eight month old daughter, Rema, residents of St. Barnabas House, were extended an invitation to participate in the weekend's activities that included guest speakers and workshops.

Here to serve... The Catholic Charities Staff

M. Diane Williams—Regional Director

Brandi Boyer—Pregnancy & Adoption Counselor

Deb Walton—Emergency Assistance & Shelter Program Coordinator

Donna Perdue—Administrative Assistant

Robin Tabotabo—Administrative Assistant



Shelter Residents, Program Staff and the Founder of Relax, Release, Renew, Inc. Ministry. At the RRR Third Annual Retreat October 4, 2008 held at the Majestic Beach Resort on Panama City Beach. Left to right: Diane Langan, Rema, Tracy, Cheryl Bowie, Deb Walton

The focus of the weekend's retreat was on gaining the tools that help enrich one's "spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional well being". When reflecting on the weekend, Tracy shared her experience by saying- "I immediately felt an inward peace, trust and a spiritual renewal when I entered the company of these women...it was very moving".

Catholic Charities would like to offer our sincerest thanks to all the wonderful ladies in RRR who allowed our agency and clients to be an integral part of their Third Annual Retreat!

If you would like more information about the St. Barnabas House Transitional Shelter for Families please contact Deborah Walton at the Panama City Regional Office of Catholic Charities, (850)763-0475 or email waltond@cc.ptdiocese.org

Andie Casarez—Thrift Store Supervisor

Forrest Yanke—Program Manager (HDRC)

Tasha Chambers—Case Manager (HDRC)

Jack McCord—Case Worker (HDRC)

Henry Lord—Receptionist (HDRC)

Remember...
If unable to attend our 2nd Annual Fall Gala and Auction on November 14, donations toward this fund-raiser are still gratefully accepted.

A great **BIG** Thank you to St. Dominic's Parish! You donated more than \$1,700.00 in baby clothes, food, and household items. Our moms and babies will surely be grateful for such support!

Furniture Donations Needed!
Please donate your gently used furniture to the Catholic Charities Thrift Store. Call Andie 769-5379 to arrange an appointment for pick-up.

Volunteer with us

If you have a talent you would like to share with our community, please contact Donna or Brandi at the Panama City Regional Office of Catholic Charities (850)763-0475 or email us at cath-charpc@cc.ptdiocese.org

Get Your Raffle Tickets!

A \$25 donation could win you a Brand New Nissan Rogue from Lloyd Nissan! Ticket sales will be limited to 2000 total.

Call Diane at (850)763-0475 or (850) 624-0608 for more details!

Catholic Charities Children's Christmas Hope Project

Every year, Catholic Charities works with our community to make Christmas Day a day that is full of joy and hope for families in our surrounding areas. The ability to give children a story book Christmas is frequently taken for granted by most families until some event happens that causes them to be unable to.

Our program focuses on families that have experienced some sort of emergency event that has left them unable to provide Christmas presents for their children. These families are assisted with age appropriate presents to give to their children in an effort to give hope to those families needing it most.

Catholic Charities, and its benefactors, has been helping provide Christmas hope to families for many years. Last year alone,

businesses, organizations, and private individuals.

This year, we are expecting the need to be even greater. With the price of living steadily climbing and jobs becoming scarce, many parents have found themselves in economic crisis. They are barely meeting the basic needs of their families and have very little hope as to giving their children Christmas gifts. With your help, the joy and hope of this season will fill the homes of many children. Donations of new unwrapped gifts for boys and girls ages 18 months to 18 years are now being accepted at the Panama City Regional Office of Catholic Charities.

The application process for families needing assistance begins November 17th and will continue through November 19th, with gifts being distributed December 22nd and 23rd. If you would like to

Volunteers have a longer life span?

It's true! So, grab a loved one, pick a day, and help improve your community and your health!

Call **Andie** at the Thrift Store (769-5379) or **Donna** at the Regional Office (763-0475) for more information.

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world...

-Ann Frank