Catholic Charities USA reports that 85 Catholic Charities agencies across 41 states provided services to more than 127,500 refugee clients in 2012, the most recent year for which statistics are available. Seventy-five percent were adults, six percent were seniors and 19 percent were children. Their stories, deeply disturbing and poignant, illustrate the refugee experience in personal and profound ways.

“While in a child care room during one of our community education workshops,” says Jeralda Hattar, director of CCSEM Refugee Services, “children were asked to draw what they had witnessed. With a green dry-erase marker, one little boy drew what was clearly a military tank. A younger child’s drawing was not as clear but he described to me personally the things he saw while walking down the street with his father: dead bodies on the sides of the streets; the head of a dead priest sticking out of the ground while the rest of his body was buried underground; the destroyed barber shop his father used to go to whose owner was killed when a bomb exploded. Our caregivers started teaching the children to play and to draw positive things – flowers, sunshine,” she says. “It was the start of their adjusting to a safe, secure place.”

Admitted lawfully to the United States, refugees come from many areas of the world. Of the thousands who enter the United States annually – approximately 75,000 in each of the last two years – the largest number, about 45 percent, come from Bhutan (a small country between India and China) and Burma/Myanmar. Another 33 percent arrive from Iraq and other nations of the Middle East. Refugees from Somalia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Eritrea, Sudan and Ethiopia also figure in the top 10. Since 2009, an average of 3,000 refugees has entered Michigan annually. Last year, CCSEM welcomed 841 (more than 20 percent) and aided their resettlement in metro Detroit neighborhoods and other southeast Michigan communities.

Refugees are not migrants seeking better economic opportunities. Refugees flee the threat of imprisonment, death and persecution in their countries of origin because of their race, ethnicity, religion, political opinion gender, etc. They risk their personal safety – their lives – to gain for their children and for themselves, fundamental human rights.

CCSEM Refugee Services welcomes new refugees continued on page 3
Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Like many parishes sharing ministries or merging operations, and efforts by the Archdiocese of Detroit’s Central Services to become more efficient and effective, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) has made great progress to enhance its services to God’s people. The advancement of CCSEM’s mission to care for those of all ages in a variety of challenging circumstances is well underway.

Many operational and financial challenges have been overcome by CCSEM’s leadership and governance. CCSEM is now functioning as the mission-focused arm of the Detroit Archdiocese providing charitable works of mercy and is striving to provide services throughout all six counties of the Archdiocese. To accomplish this, CCSEM is moving forward to partner with pastors, parish staff, and parish volunteers. Support for hundreds of Christian service coordinators and parish nurses was recently transferred from archdiocesan Central Services to CCSEM to better connect with those on the front lines of these important ministries and to inform future programs and services.

As we seek a wider engagement in works of mercy, I am confident we are on a path to engage the whole of God’s people in southeast Michigan. “We” means all of us. At their ordination, bishops are asked, “Will you give care to the stranger?” Through CCSEM, we are doing so, and we are firmly committed to doing more for those who want to give and care for precious human life, for those at the edge of personal endurance, for those who are new to our country, and many others.

In this Year of Prayer for the New Pentecost in the Detroit Archdiocese, as we begin to more actively orient ourselves to a personal relationship with Christ, CCSEM is an important part of our call to evangelize. CCSEM provides energetic opportunities to give witness to Jesus through works of charity that introduce Christ to others. CCSEM services are patterned on the ministry of Jesus Christ and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. Those who serve as staff, volunteers, and donors enjoy a spiritual reciprocation with those being helped, for they receive the privilege of giving of themselves in the Lord’s name.

I encourage you, the faithful, to make your loved ones, friends, and neighbors aware of the assistance available through CCSEM, where services are provided in authentically Catholic environments and consistent with Catholic teachings and values. Pregnancy support services for women in difficult circumstances are available at CCSEM. Counseling and therapy for those enduring depression, anxiety, substance abuse, grief, and other challenges are a particular expertise of CCSEM. Adult caregivers and seniors looking for community volunteer opportunities should make CCSEM their first call. Our growing Hispanic community can receive tutoring, mentoring, and citizenship classes through CCSEM. Immigrants and refugees adjusting to life in their new country will receive the embrace of community through CCSEM, as the Church has provided for generations of those who escaped war, poverty, and oppression in their native lands.

Thank you for your commitment to accompany God’s people through the trials of life.

Asking God’s continued blessings upon all our efforts to serve those in need, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit
and provides a number of essential services to help them adjust to their new home and become self-sufficient. Services include: sponsor family assistance and counseling; cultural orientation; housing and transportation assistance; legal services; referral to employment programs; English as a Second Language classes and translation services; and social services support through CCSEM and other agencies. The majority of refugees resettling in southeast Michigan join family members who are already here.

Perilous Journeys

Sara and Ahmad were married in 2002 in Iraq. A pharmacist, Ahmad owned and operated his pharmacy in an area that was predominately Shi’a. This posed a problem because both Sara and Ahmad came from a Sunni background. As the current crisis in Iraq demonstrates, longstanding religious and political differences between the Shi’a and Sunni communities create a volatile living environment. In 2003, the couple was blessed with a son. In 2005, their lives took a tragic turn when Ahmad and his uncle were taken away by insurgents. Sara still is not sure if they are alive or dead. At one point, some civilians took advantage of the incident and obtained ransom money from Sara in exchange for what proved to be false information.

In 2007, Sara and her son and parents fled Iraq to Syria. Over the next five years, they had to flee Syria and return to Iraq because a war there had escalated and made their living conditions extremely dangerous. They all made a third move to Jordan as refugees where they received a two-day notice to come to America. Sara explains that they came with nothing but the clothes on their backs. She thanks God for blessing them with freedom in America and the assistance they receive through Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan.

How You Can Help

Hattar and her staff work tirelessly to ensure that refugees have access to and receive timely and comprehensive services, and often work in partnership with other nonprofits and Catholic parishes and organizations. St. Lawrence Catholic School in Utica recently donated carloads of household goods to the program, which has an ongoing need for them. Volunteers also are needed to assist and mentor refugee families as well as to work in the office. If you can donate or volunteer, please call Farrah Shammas at (586) 416-1114, ext. 4021.

“Refugees have to move if they are to save their lives or preserve their freedom. They have no protection from their own [country]...If other countries do not let them in, and do not help them once they are in, then they may be condemning them to death - or to an intolerable life in the shadows, without sustenance and without rights.”

~The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
**“PRACTICE EXCELLENCE”**

Catholic Charities’ Behavioral Health Services and Adult Day Health Services programs have earned a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), extending through May 2017. Both programs underwent an extensive review, including site inspections, staff interviews, client surveys, and an evaluation of business and clinical practices.

“This achievement is an indication of your organization’s dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served,” wrote Brian J. Boon, Ph.D., president/CEO of CARF-International, in the award letter. “Services, personnel and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of practice excellence.”

Among CCSEM’s many program strengths, CARF identified the following:

- The Leadership Team’s experience and diversity
- A high degree of satisfaction expressed by funding and referral sources for both programs
- Our Share the Warmth Winter Coat Drive
- Our emphasis on client input.
- Dedicated and enthusiastic staff responsive to clients’ needs
- Client Satisfaction – Clients expressed feeling “that they are treated with dignity and respect and are welcomed and comfortable walking through the doors.”

CCSEM Quality Improvement Director Chip Cieslinski, Behavioral Health Services Director Andrea Foley, and Senior and Volunteer Services Director Herschell Masten led their teams in ensuring that CCSEM met or exceeded CARF standards.

**CRISIS PREGNANCY COUNSELING**

When Catholic Charities restarted Project Hope last summer, services were limited and available only to Macomb County residents through our Clinton Township and Warren offices. Now, thanks to a new infusion of funding, Project Hope will soon be delivered at five CCSEM locations in Oakland County – Auburn Hills, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Southfield and Waterford – with additional service offerings being planned for Lapeer and Wayne counties. All will offer crisis pregnancy testing and counseling in addition to current services.

“In keeping with Catholic teaching,” says Charlotte Webster, program manager, Catholic Charities will provide information, counseling and support to pregnant women as they weigh life-affirming alternatives to abortion. If a woman chooses adoption, we are able to refer her to Catholic Charities’ Child Welfare program at the St. Francis Family Center in Southfield and other like-minded agencies. If a woman chooses to keep her baby, we can offer a number of supportive services and resources, from free diapers, baby food and formula to individual or family counseling, assistance applying for the MI Bridges Program, and life skills and parenting classes. Most sites also will have a Baby Clothes Closet,” Webster says, “where mothers will find free infant clothing, blankets and other necessities.”

Crisis pregnancy counseling is possible through a $50,000 grant provided by Real Alternatives, a nonprofit organization, funded by the state, which is establishing a network of existing community agencies to “provide meaningful alternative-to-abortion services and nonjudgmental support to women in crisis.” At CCSEM, the program also will include abstinence awareness, and nurturing and child safety classes.

*For more information, contact Project Hope at (586) 759-8700, extension 4106, or info@ccsem.org.*
GOLDEN OLDIE AWARD

In May, the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Detroit Rotary Club presented a Golden Oldie Award to Carrie Hervey, a volunteer in Catholic Charities’ Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs. Hervey was honored in recognition of her “outstanding dedication to community service and volunteer efforts.”

SERVICE WITH LOVE

The Troy Police Department is often asked to make safety checks on older adults whose family members may live out-of-state or work during the day. They now have a new resource for worried relatives – Catholic Charities’ Service With Love (SWL) program. SWL is a free program for older adults who are homebound, ill or frail, isolated, disabled or impaired. Volunteers, age 55 and older, make telephone calls to other seniors on a regular basis at designated times, to check on their physical and mental well-being and safety, and to offer friendly conversation. Troy Police will now inform callers about SWL. To learn more, or to volunteer, please contact Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Manager Patricia Finn at (248) 559-1147, ext. 3937.

HISPANIC OUTREACH SERVICES

SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Nineteen students received their G.E.D. diplomas at the Spring Commencement ceremony presented by Hispanic Outreach Services on June 18. There were also five Adult Basic Education program graduates who earned Middle School and Elementary School certificates and nine students from the Citizenship Class who became American citizens this year.

“It was our biggest class ever,” says Luz Gayon-Telleria, HOS program director. “So big, in fact, that the ceremony had to be moved to a larger space – the Pontiac Creative Arts Center,” just down the road from HOS.

Family members, friends, supporters and guests filled the auditorium for a program that included a stirring address from Class Representative Bladimir Garcia, a performance by Joyas de Mexico Folkloric Ballet, and a keynote address by Keenan M. Wade, director of the Michigan Workforce Development Agency, which helped to launch the G.E.D. Center where many of the graduates took and passed their exams.

“A goal without a plan is just a wish,” Wade said, urging the graduates to dream big but to also put in place strategies that would ensure they achieve their goals.
CELEBRATING NEW GRADUATES

Catholic Charities’ Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program had five participants graduate from high school in June. Another earned his GED. Like thousands of other graduates, they had earned the right to celebrate their achievement. Unlike them, SIL grads had no families to praise them or host a party or Open House for them.

SIL participants are on the opposite side of the foster care spectrum – not babies or toddlers but teens who (for many reasons) could not be placed in a traditional foster home, or who have “aged out” of the foster care system.

Catholic Charities recruits “host families” who provide a safe, supportive living environment, model essential life skills like budgeting, and assist with transportation to enable a teen to finish school, apply to and attend college or work, and to build the skills they need to be self-sufficient. The result – young adults who excel academically, who are focused, responsible, ambitious, and well-prepared for the next phase of their lives.

Child Welfare Program Manager Argie Lomas and her SIL team decided to host a celebration for the graduates with whom they have built relationships.

“Sometimes, they call us ‘Mom’,” says Carrie Joseph, SIL Case Manager. “Their lives, their hopes and dreams have become very important to us. We wanted to show them we cared. You can’t imagine how touched they were.”

The staff puts on a series of small fundraisers throughout the year, like the recent Bowling outing in Madison Heights, to raise what funds they can for graduation gifts – modest gifts that, nonetheless, bring smiles and tears. The celebration was held June 18. Karl’s Cabin in Plymouth donated dinner for the graduates. If you would like to make a gift to the SIL program, send your check to: CCSEM Development, Attn: SIL Program, 17500 W. Eight Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075 or write fostercare@ccsem.org.

Garage Sale

Please join us for a garage sale on August 1, 2, and 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds will help to support CCSEM programs serving foster children, including helping our Independent Living Program participants transition to college. Baked goods also will be for sale. Location: 273 Leroy, Ferndale, MI 48220. For more information, call (248) 552-0750 or email fostercare@ccsem.org.

BRAVA!

SIL participant D’Mya Smith, 18, one of this year’s high school graduates, has been accepted to Western Michigan University and awarded a John Seita Scholarship, which provides full tuition for full-time WMU students who have lived some or all of their teenage years in foster care.

Smith entered the SIL program in April of 2013. She had previously been out of foster care for some time and was in a guardianship with her brother’s relative (who was not related to Smith). That person no longer wished to keep guardianship for Smith and petitioned the court to remove her as guardian. Smith’s father has mental health issues and her mother’s parental rights were terminated.

“D’Mya is a wonderful young woman and a joy to have in our program,” says Kristie Hardin, Licensing/SIL Supervisor (pictured below, left, with Smith). “Her smile and bubbly personality can brighten your day. D’Mya is intelligent, funny and kind to all. Since entering the program, she has blossomed; she obtained her own bank account and state I.D. and is working on obtaining her driver’s license. She recently graduated from North Farmington High School and has been accepted to the University of Detroit Mercy, Ferris State University and Western Michigan University, which also awarded D’Mya the John Seita Scholarship. She’ll be attending Western Michigan this fall. D’Mya would like to become a psychiatrist and will be focusing her studies in the area of psychology.”

Smith resides currently in a dorm-style SIL home in Detroit.
PARISH/COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

200 BACKPACKS FOR 200 KIDS

Catholic Charities’ annual Back to School Drive is under way and will continue through August 22. Our goal is to present backpacks filled with school supplies to 200 Elementary and Middle School children that we serve through our Family Preservation, Foster Care, Hispanic Outreach Services, and Refugee Resettlement programs. If you’d like to make a donation, drop-off locations include the following CCSEM locations: Clinton Twp. (15945 Canal Road); Pontiac (76 Williams Street); and Southfield (17500 W. 8 Mile Road). In Detroit, donations may be dropped off at St. Charles Lwanga Catholic Church on Sundays: St. Cecilia site (10400 Stoepel) from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.; St. Leo site (4860 15th Street) from noon to 2 p.m.)

NEEDED MOST

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Thank You!

CHRISTIAN SERVICE & HEALTH CARE MINISTRY

The Christian Service and Health Care Ministry of the Archdiocese of Detroit, led by Associate Director Joyce Hyttinen, is transitioning to Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (see Message from the Archbishop, page 2).

“It’s a great move,” says Hyttinen. “I’m excited to be moving here. CCSEM brings a lot of programs and possibilities to parishes. It will be more of an intentional [outreach] and of mutual benefit to the parishes and CCSEM. I’ll be working with the parishes to continue to strengthen Christian services and the health care ministry in providing education resources, training and ongoing support.”

A new responsibility will be to develop a Disabilities ministry.

“We’ll be offering a conference to assist parishes in raising awareness and sensitivity,” Hyttinen says, “and also practical ways for more inclusion.”

That conference is scheduled to take place Saturday, November 1, at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Jan Benton, Executive Director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities. A panel also will speak on best practices.

Hyttinen grew up in Oak Park, Michigan, and attended Our Lady of LaSalette and Mercy High School. She is a graduate of Central Michigan University where she earned an undergraduate degree in Social Work and has a master’s degree from Siena Heights in Organizational Leadership. She began ministry in 1984 and served in two parishes in Christian Service. She started her most recent service with the Archdiocese of Detroit in 1996.

For more information on this ministry or the upcoming conference, contact Hyttinen at (313) 237-5905 or email her at hyttinen.joyce@aod.org.
WE RAISED A ROOF

Arguably the best part of this year’s Spring Gala at the Westin Book Cadillac Detroit was Fund the Mission. Catholic Charities asked Ms. Vonna McMikel to share her story, a long journey from foster care to adoption. She graciously agreed to do so, “if it would help recruit more foster parents.”

The Adoption and Foster Care program is housed in what we call the St. Francis Family Center, located on Eight Mile Road at the Southfield freeway. That building has needed a new roof. After hearing her story, Gala guests donated $22,500 towards a new roof. That put a big smile on McMikel’s face.

Five years ago, McMickel (pictured right) became a foster mom for three boys, who were then 6, 4 and 1. Today, after a long and difficult road – with courage, love and prayer – those three boys now share her last name. They are Trevel, Jeleel and Jacario McMikel (shown above right). The boys do well in school, have lots of friends and know the security and serenity of a loving home. But that was not always the case.

In 2009, a police officer found the boys alone in an abandoned house that was unfit to live in. There were holes in the floors, no electricity or water, and no food. The children were taken into protective custody and placed with McMickel, a relative. The birth mother regained custody, temporarily, but lost it again; she had a drug problem. Five months later, the boys were returned to McMickel who was then required by law to undergo training to become a licensed foster parent. She did. At the time, McMickel already had four grown children and 12 grandchildren, but she could not let the boys down.

“I had to pray and pray to God to be able to work out how I was going to be able to do it,” she says, “and He answered my prayers. It was a long fight,” she says. “But every time I look at them I know it was worth it. Catholic Charities helped me every step of the way.”

The program also featured remarks by Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, president of CCSEM, and CCSEM CEO Jason Shanks.

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Gabriela Mendez/ Paella Don Pepe catering
Gale & Gina Forbes
Glenda Lewis
GM NA Design Center
Grace Bankowski/Cole Street Salon
Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival
Harp’s Lingerie
Hilda Seiler
Hiller’s
Hollywood Super Markets

continued on page 11
Last year, CCSEM provided counseling services to 1,065 families in St. Clair County, helping to heal and strengthen family relationships and improve family functioning. Catholic Charities is working now to expand services to reach more families. In addition to Family Counseling, access to adoption services is now available, and Life Skills case management is being offered. Through Life Skills, in-home training and support is provided to families referred by the Department of Human Services who are working to improve their parenting skills in order to keep or become reunited with their children. The goals include increased independence, improved communication within the family, use of appropriate resources in the community and family stability. To help fund our efforts, Catholic Charities will present “Food, Fun, Friends!” on Thursday, August 14 at Alexander’s Premiere Banquet Facility (1195 Gratiot, Marysville) at 6 p.m.

Admission is FREE for this event, which will include: Celebrity Emcee Cliff Erickson, strolling appetizers, engaging raffles, our annual dessert contest, live music featuring Kaylee Keane & Yobany Pardo, a cash bar, and a look at the positive impact of Family Counseling in St. Clair County.

Dessert Contestants thus far include: Lynch’s Irish Tavern; Pastries & More; Alice Rieves; Chef Mike’s Catering; and Alexander’s. They’ll each submit a dessert entry for a popular vote by event guests, and also for judging by a distinguished panel of judges, including Mona Armstrong, Fr. Robert Slaton, Rev. Joe Horn, Rebecca Smith, Tom Walker and Mary Achatz.

Hard at work on this creative event are St. Clair County Advisory Board members Barb Britz, Fr. Joe Gagnon, Nigar Hussain, Dianne Neiman, Marge Kopp, Pat Mullins, and Tony Paladino along with volunteers Jo Crimmins and Karen Jezewski.

To reserve your seats or tables, please go to https://food-fun-friends.eventbrite.com, call Laurie Fagan at (810) 987-9100 or email Deb Patrick at patrickd@ccsem.org

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Celebrity Emcee, Cliff Erickson

SIMPLY GOOD COOKING!

Catholic Charities will host a private cooking class on October 29, 2014, at the popular Simply Good Kitchen in Birmingham from 7-10 p.m. This is a demonstration class with owners Chefs Shanny and Bill Apodaca, called “A Taste of Italy – Chicken Marsala,” and includes the prepared dinner and wine. Tickets are $125. Call (248) 537-3300, ext. 3304, to sign up or email patrickd@ccsem.org.
CCSEM
By the Numbers:

5
Number of CCSEM locations that will offer Crisis Pregnancy Counseling (Auburn Hills, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Southfield and Waterford)

19
Number of Hispanic Outreach Services participants who earned their G.E.D. this year

91
Number of parish nurses (71) and Christian Service Coordinators (20) now part of the CCSEM team

200
Number of backpacks distributed during 2013 Back to School Drive; number collecting in 2014

942
Number of page “Likes” on our Facebook page. Help us reach 1000 at www.facebook.com/CCSEM.

“Like” us on Facebook

THANK YOU...

...Lakewood Machine Products Co., Monroe, for your generous support of Catholic Charities’ 2nd Annual Celebrity Spelling Bee.

...C.J. Surma, Larry Siwicki, Janice Donahue and Antonia Freeman for your kind support of the Foster Care Bowling Fundraiser on June 21 at Madison Park Lanes.

...Karl’s Cabin, Plymouth, for your support of the Foster Care program’s celebration of SIL graduates

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Jax Kar Wash
Kona Ice
Linda & Larry Luchi
Mackinac Island Carriage Tours
Margot European Day Spa
Mark Ridley’s Comedy Castle
Mary & Dave Hines
Michael’s Lamp Shop
Mort Meisner
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Koss
Nascar Racing Experience
National Coney Island
Painting With a Twist, Farmington Hills
Panera Bread
Park West Gallery
Performance Network Theatre, Ann Arbor
Pete and Kathy Murnen
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Rich Fidler
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Skydeck Chicago
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Ted & Rita Golden
The Meeting House
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Trader Joe’s
Weinstein Jewelers of Novi
Westin Book Cadillac Detroit
Wolverine Packing Co.
Zap Zone Fun Center
Calendar

Now through August 22  Back to School Drive

**August 14**
Food, Fun, Friends!
A Benefit for Family Counseling in St. Clair County
Alexander’s Banquet Facility,
1195 Gratiot, Port Huron • 6 p.m.
Contact: patrickd@ccsem.org

**September**
September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. If you or someone you love needs help, call 1-855-88-CCSEM (22736)

**September 19**
Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Contact: finnp@ccsem.org

**October 29**
Simply Good Private Event Cooking Class
Simply Good Kitchen, Birmingham • 7-10 p.m. • $125
Contact: patrickd@ccsem.org

**November 1**
Conference on CCSEM Disability Ministry
Sacred Heart Major Seminary
Contact: hyttinen.joyce@aod.org

From the CCSEM photo album...

Clockwise from top left:
Karen L. Pond (l), director, School Improvement, for the Pontiac Academy of Excellence at CCSEM table for Parent Empowerment Day.
Vonna McMichel and sons Trevel, Jaleel and Jacario (see story, page 8)
Students at St. Lawrence Catholic School in Utica present donations to Refugee program
Youngster enjoys the playscape at Hispanic Outreach Services