

Where do the dollars go?

A series of articles on how our local communities benefit from donations to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Catholic Charities

Bishop's
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Faith • Hope • Charity

A mother, already struggling to support her six children and infant grandchild, learns she is pregnant and wonders how she will cope.

A family falls on tough times after a man loses his job and his family can't pay the rent on his wife's salary alone.

After spending three years as an interpreter for U.S. troops in his native Iraq, **a refugee** needs help finding a job and getting his family started in their new life in America.

An elderly woman can no longer be alone, and needs care during the day while her daughter works.

All of these people, and thousands more like them, are being helped by Catholic Charities, a faith-based non-profit social service provider supported in part by donations to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

Catholic Charities services are available to anyone in need in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties. The agency has offices in Reading, Allentown, Pottsville and Orwigsburg. Its mission: to provide compassionate human services with respect for the sanctity of all human life.

"When I found out I was pregnant, it was a real shock," said Diane, the mother of six, whose children range in age from 9 to 19. She also manages to hold down a job, nights, in telephone marketing.

Diane received pregnancy support services, such as counseling and education. She got help with baby supplies and clothing. And perhaps, most important to a woman who has

no close family nearby, she received emotional support and friendship during a very stressful time. "I have no idea what I would have done without Catholic Charities," she said.



Takako Templin, a volunteer who helps Catholic Charities distribute food at Kennedy House in Reading.

Donna, whose husband lost his job as the result of the recession, is a teacher with a master's degree, but her private-school salary was not enough to support her family, which includes two daughters.

"I'm really terrible at asking for help," she said, "but I didn't know what we were going to do. My pastor referred me to Catholic Charities." The family received rent assistance and some help with groceries.

"I'm so thankful for those who donate to the Bishop's Annual Appeal," Donna said. "I can't wait until we get back on our feet and I can become a donor myself."