Volunteers honored for their service

“Volunteers are such an integral part of our ability to serve,” said Bill Sinclair, Catholic Charities’ executive director, on September 11 when the agency honored its 2012 Volunteers of the Year. “These eight honorees represent the many ways in which volunteers make a difference to our agency, our clients and the community. Without them, we could not meet the needs of the more than 69,000 people we serve each year.”

Tom High, Loaves and Fishes Volunteer of the Year, has been a Saturday fixture at Loaves and Fishes for more than five years. He normally arrives during servings and stays until clean-up is complete. On several occasions, Tom has volunteered in a staff role and, for the last four years, has helped with our Christmas Day servings.

Maria Fernanda Lopez, Hispanic Family Services Volunteer of the Year, first came to our program as a young immigrant from Guatemala. Trained in education at Aquinas College, she has been a tireless volunteer with Plaza Comunitaria helping the Spanish speaking community in the program, as well as with their GED lessons in Spanish.

Supporters, friends, and staff of Catholic Charities of Tennessee gathered on September 11 to honor seven volunteers and one area teen for their many contributions of time and talent to those in need. The volunteer honorees are pictured with Catholic Charities’ executive director Bill Sinclair. Left to right are Rebecca Rollins, Refuge Services volunteer; Tom High, Loaves and Fishes volunteer; Jim Tohill, Social Services volunteer; Bill Sinclair, Maria Fernanda Lopez, Hispanic Family Services volunteer; Ellen Zulfiqar, Adoption and Pregnancy Counseling volunteer; Mary Roland, Administrative Services volunteer; and Kara Anton, winner of the “I Care Award” for youth. Paul Ney, Tennessee Office for Refugees volunteer, was unable to attend.

Paul Ney, Tennessee Office for Refugees Volunteer of the Year, was recognized for his leadership and administrative support of TOR. A (Volunteers continued on page 4)

Father Philip Breen and Ed & Sally Stack will receive Spirit of Service Award honors on October 24

Father Philip M. Breen, pastor of St. Ann Church, and Ed and Sally Stack, longtime community volunteers, will be honored with the Spirit of Service Award at the 2012 Celebration of Mission to Service on Wednesday, October 24. The Spirit of Service Award is presented to individuals who have had a positive impact on the well-being of the clients served by Catholic Charities of Tennessee and Saint Mary Villa.

The Celebration reception, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hillwood Country Club, is a benefit event for Catholic Charities and Saint Mary Villa.

“The Father Breen and Ed and Sally Stack certainly reflect the agencies’ values of love, goodwill, kindness and learning,” said Deborah Varallo, event co-chair and president of Varallo Public Relations. “They have provided leadership, inspiration and support for programs in the diocese and community that have made a difference in the lives of many people.”

Father Breen, a Nashville native, was ordained in 1965. During his priesthood, he has served in all three Tennessee dioceses and been a longtime champion of Catholic schools. He has been pastor of St. Ann Church in Nashville since 1989. Under his guidance, St. Ann School received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Father Breen has served on the Board of Trustees of (Spirit of Service continued on page 2)
Catholic Charities of Tennessee celebrated the 50th anniversary of its establishment on July 17 with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, followed by reception for its staff, volunteers, Board members and supporters. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean spoke briefly, commending Catholic Charities for serving people in need of many religious, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds throughout the community.

During the reception, Senator Douglas Henry presented a proclamation from the General Assembly recognizing the agency’s service to the people of the Tennessee. A congratulatory letter from Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, was read conveying good wishes from Pope Benedict XVI.

Pictured prior to the Mass of Thanksgiving are (left to right) Mary Rolando, Vanderbilt Medical Center and immediate past president of the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees; Nashville Mayor Karl Dean; the Most Reverend David Choby, Bishop of Nashville; and Bill Sinclair, executive director of Catholic Charities.

A special processional banner displaying the agency’s values, as presented in original art by Caring Choices’ staffer Scott Gubala, was carried by Refugee Services’ Ken Frasure to begin the Mass.

Longtime supporter Ann Paffen (left), St. Stephen pastor Father Pat Kibby (center), and Board member Nancy Anness (right), Saint Thomas Health Services, were among the more than 250 people who attended the 50th anniversary celebration.

Deesree Williams (left), a counselor in the Clarksville office of the Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling program of Catholic Charities, met with Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan to accept a proclamation honoring the agency for its contributions to the people of Clarksville and Montgomery County on the occasion of the agency’s 50th anniversary. Catholic Charities established an office in Clarksville in 1999. The Metro Nashville Council also recognized the agency’s anniversary with a resolution.

Ed and Sally Stack have called Nashville home for 30 years, raising their four children here. Ed, managing director for Reliant Health, LLC, was associated with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) for 12 years during a period of rapid expansion and revenue growth. Sally practiced nursing for many years, specializing in geriatric and home health care. Since their arrival in Nashville, they have both served with numerous community and civic organizations. Many of their volunteer Board commitments and activities have focused on Catholic education and ministries in the Diocese of Nashville, including Catholic Charities, Saint Mary Villa, Father Ryan High School, Mary Queen of Angels, and Cathedral of the Incarnation.

Event co-chair Kevin Doherty, partner with Burr & Forman, LLP, expressed appreciation to the Celebration’s patron chairs Lee and Diane Carter and to committee members Frank Caruso, Chris Donnelly, Sandy and Randy Laszewski, Paul and Susan Ney, Eleanor Parkes, Ann Waddey and Lauren Wagner.

Tickets to the Celebration of Mission to Service are $500 per person or $1,000 per couple. Tickets may be purchased through the Catholic Charities website (www.cctenn.org) or by contacting Laura Jumonville at 615-760-1014 or ljumonville@cctenn.org.

A celebration of 50 years

**Spirit of Service Award (continued from page 1)**

and Catholic Charities. He is chairman of the Presbytery Council for the Diocese, the Dean of the Central Deanery of Priests, and Chaplain for the Ladies of Charity and the St. Ann Knights of Columbus Council.

Ed and Sally Stack have called Nashville home for 30 years, raising their four children here. Ed, managing director for Reliant Health, LLC, was associated with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) for 12 years during a period of rapid expansion and revenue growth. Sally practiced nursing for many years, specializing in geriatric and home health care. Since their arrival in Nashville, they have both served with numerous community and civic organizations. Many of their volunteer Board commitments and activities have focused on Catholic education and ministries in the Diocese of Nashville, including Catholic Charities, Saint Mary Villa, Father Ryan High School, Mary Queen of Angels, and Cathedral of the Incarnation.

Event co-chair Kevin Doherty, partner with Burr & Forman, LLP, expressed appreciation to the Celebration’s patron chairs Lee and Diane Carter and to committee members Frank Caruso, Chris Donnelly, Sandy and Randy Laszewski, Paul and Susan Ney, Eleanor Parkes, Ann Waddey and Lauren Wagner.

Tickets to the Celebration of Mission to Service are $500 per person or $1,000 per couple. Tickets may be purchased through the Catholic Charities website (www.cctenn.org) or by contacting Laura Jumonville at 615-760-1014 or ljumonville@cctenn.org.
Hague Accreditation achieved

Series of adoption information sessions announced

Catholic Charities of Tennessee was notified in June that it had achieved Hague Accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA) as authorized by the U.S. Department of State.

“Our program is one of only a small handful of agencies in the State of Tennessee to be Hague Accredited,” explained Donna Thomas, director of Catholic Charities’ Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling program. “This means that we are one of the few Hague Accredited home study resources in the region for prospective adoptive parents seeking an international adoption.”

“This is a very significant accomplishment for our adoption program and, for that matter, for our agency,” said Bill Sinclair, Catholic Charities executive director.

Hague Accreditation attests that Catholic Charities of Tennessee is in substantial compliance with Hague Convention Accreditation Standards. The agency’s initial Hague accreditation is valid through May 2016.

“The benefit for all clients seeking to build their family through adoption is the assurance they have in knowing that the services they receive from Catholic Charities of Tennessee are truly best practices, as evidenced by the accreditation,” Thomas added. “Our program’s goal is simply to serve as a premier resource for the adoption community in Tennessee, whether the area of interest is domestic or international adoptions, through a variety of services, including education,” she concluded.

Adoption information sessions

A series of adoption “continuing education” sessions have been scheduled for presentation through July 2013. The sessions will address topics such as Parenting After Infertility, Birth Parent Relationships, Parenting an Older Child, and seeing adoption From an Adoptee’s Perspective. All programs will be conducted at Catholic Charities’ Saint Mary Villa offices, 30 White Bridge Road in Nashville.

For more information on specific topics, dates and times, go to http://www.cctenn.org/our-organization/events on the Catholic Charities of Tennessee website.

What is the Hague Convention?

- An international treaty created to ensure that intercountry adoptions are in the best interests of children and to prevent abduction, exploitation, sale, or trafficking of children.
- Signed by the U.S. in 1994, required the development of regulations and a monitoring process for adoption service providers that worked with agencies in countries that signed onto the Convention.
- The Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) was passed by Congress in October 2000, to implement the country’s support of the Hague Convention.
- The IAA names the U.S. Department of State as the country’s central authority and federal agency responsible for implementing the Convention.
- The IAA requires agencies and persons providing adoption services in cases involving Convention countries to be accredited or approved.

1,000 Christmas wishes need your help to come true

More than 1,000 Christmas wishes of children, seniors and families will go on display starting November 7 on the Catholic Charities Christmas Wishes tree.

The wishes — for food, clothing, and other basic needs, along with toys — are received through referrals from Catholic Charities staff and other area agencies. Families in severe need also receive food baskets, household staples and personal care supplies.

“If not for the generosity of churches, community organizations, businesses, and individuals, Catholic Charities simply could not bring Christmas to so many people in need in this community,” said Megan Stack, the Family Assistance and Community Employment (FACE) director.

You are invited to share Christmas joy and blessings by participating in this year’s Christmas Wishes program. Contact Megan Stack (615-760-1051 or mstack@cctenn.org) for information on how to adopt a Christmas Wishes recipient.

Wishes will be available starting November 7. All gifts must be returned by December 14 to the Catholic Charities office at Saint Mary Villa, 30 White Bridge Road, Nashville (37205).

Thank you, Gracias, Khop Khun Mak

Whether expressed in English, Spanish or Thai, Catholic Charities and its clients are very thankful for the many ways that churches, businesses, schools, organizations and individuals support its many programs.

- Refugee Services thanks Center for Student Missions, Let’s Get Moving, Mary Queen of Angels, Church of St. Matthew, St. Matthew School, Sleep Inn, Community Resource Center, Bob Baulsir with MTA for assistance with bus training for refugees, and all of its wonderful household goods donors.
- Adoption and Pregnancy Counseling is grateful to the National Diaper Bank Network.
- Thank you from Loaves and Fishes to Center for Student Missions and M-Fuge and Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteers, Pope John Paul II High School varsity Hockey Team and Coach Nieman, Kenny Mullins for fresh vegetable delivery each Saturday, Darrell Clem for a storage trailer, and St. Ann Church and Holy Rosary Church for emergency freezer storage space.
- The Job Training Center thanks Darrell Clem for the transportation necessary to move its 6,000 square feet warehouse facility!
- North Nashville Outreach is very thankful for the contributions of St. Henry Church and the Father Ryan Football team in support of the “Dress a Child” project.
- Catholic Charities’ Hague Accreditation was one of the topics discussed when Tuwanda Coleman (left), host of the NewsChannel 5+ show The Plus Side of Nashville, interviewed Julie Bolles (center), Catholic Charities international adoption counselor, and Donna Thomas, director of the Catholic Charities Adoption & Pregnancy Counseling program. The interview aired on NewsChannel 5+ during September.

Kid’s Corner

Mom is sick and I feel terrible

When a parent, grandparent or brother is very sick, you can feel terrible, too. You can feel confused, scared, embarrassed, guilty, ignored and powerless. You can feel this way whether the sickness is caused by an accident or a serious illness such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease or drug abuse. When one person in a family is very sick, everyone is affected.

How can you feel better? Share your feelings. Talk with a trusted adult and ask questions. Write about your feelings. Remember what you did to feel better when you were upset, worried or confused in the past.

You didn’t cause the sickness; you can’t control or cure it. However, you can learn ways to understand your feelings and cope with them. Then you can love and help the person who is sick so she feels better, too.
Muna Muday attends national student leadership summit

Refugee Youth Program prepares young woman for future

In mid-July, Muna Muday, 18, boarded a plane for the first time in eight years. The cramped seating, flight attendants’ blouses, and airline snack mix seemed familiar, but Muna was very different from the girl who had last boarded a plane in 2004. Then she was a shy, non-English speaking Somali Bantu refugee seeking a new life in the United States.

Now, she was a Bank of America Student Leader representing Nashville at a Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

Because of her unique experiences in the Catholic Charities Refugee Youth Program, Muna transformed herself into a poised young woman, anxious to accomplish goals once never thought possible.

While attending the Refugee Youth Program’s afterschool and summer programs, Muna not only received homework assistance and English language instruction, but also the opportunity to participate in special projects with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, attend Predators games, and engage in service learning by volunteering with an elementary youth program. These activities were the perfect precursors to her intern experience this summer leading at-risk youth through tests and group-building activities. Her successful navigation of these challenges showed she can thrive in a leadership position and on a college campus.

In Washington, Muna was challenged by expected world leaders to dream of a future she could make happen. Embracing the challenge, Muna said, “I feel that even though English isn’t my first language and I am shy to talk in front of all those people, I have to do it. Your voice is what needs to be discovered and that is what I am finding in myself.”

Muna recently began her senior year at Stratford High School with greater expectations for herself.

“I am a leader now. When I see people doing something wrong, I have to do something about it. I need to be supportive of my fellow students,” she explained. Despite her youth, she wants to start an after-school program for Somali kids in the housing project where she used to live.

Muna is ready to help others in her community fly to new places — as she has done.

Volunteers honored (continued from page 1)

Catholic Charities and Metro Nashville Social Services will partner to offer an Interfaith Poverty Workshop at St. Edward Church in Nashville on Wednesday, October 10.

“Anyone who is interested in learning more about how poverty affects people in our community is invited. People of every faith affiliation are welcome to attend this free workshop,” said Fran Rajotte, advocacy coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Key findings of the 2011 Community Needs Evaluation will be presented, along with examples of what faith-based organizations are doing to help Davidson County residents in the areas of: Child Care, Economic Opportunity, Food, Health, Home & Community Based Services-Adults/Seniors, Housing, Neighborhood Development and Workforce Development.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.; the program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited; advance registration is requested. RSVP to Dinah.Gregory@yahoo.com.

For Information:
615-352-3087 or www.cctenn.org
Contributions can be made online at www.cctenn.org

Interfaith Poverty Workshop scheduled for October 10

Muna Muday (far left) and several other Bank of America Student Leaders from Tennessee met with Senator Bob Corker during the Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

Interfaith Poverty Workshop scheduled for October 10

Catholic Charities and Metro Nashville Social Services will partner to offer an Interfaith Poverty Workshop at St. Edward Church in Nashville on Wednesday, October 10.

"Anyone who is interested in learning more about how poverty affects people in our community is invited. People of every faith affiliation are welcome to attend this free workshop," said Fran Rajotte, advocacy coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Key findings of the 2011 Community Needs Evaluation will be presented, along with examples of what faith-based organizations are doing to help Davidson County residents in the areas of: Child Care, Economic Opportunity, Food, Health, Home & Community Based Services-Adults/Seniors, Housing, Neighborhood Development and Workforce Development.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.; the program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited; advanced registration is requested. RSVP to Dinah.Gregory@yahoo.com.

For Information:
615-352-3087 or www.cctenn.org
Contributions can be made online at www.cctenn.org

Volunteers honored (continued from page 1)

Muna Muday attends national student leadership summit

Refugee Youth Program prepares young woman for future

In mid-July, Muna Muday, 18, boarded a plane for the first time in eight years. The cramped seating, flight attendants’ blouses, and airline snack mix seemed familiar, but Muna was very different from the girl who had last boarded a plane in 2004. Then she was a shy, non-English speaking Somali Bantu refugee seeking a new life in the United States.

Now, she was a Bank of America Student Leader representing Nashville at a Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

Because of her unique experiences in the Catholic Charities Refugee Youth Program, Muna transformed herself into a poised young woman, anxious to accomplish goals once never thought possible.

While attending the Refugee Youth Program’s afterschool and summer programs, Muna not only received homework assistance and English language instruction, but also the opportunity to participate in special projects with the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, attend Predators games, and engage in service learning by volunteering with an elementary youth program. These activities were the perfect precursors to her intern experience this summer leading at-risk youth through tests and group-building activities. Her successful navigation of these challenges showed she can thrive in a leadership position and on a college campus.

In Washington, Muna was challenged by expected world leaders to dream of a future she could make happen. Embracing the challenge, Muna said, “I feel that even though English isn’t my first language and I am shy to talk in front of all those people, I have to do it. Your voice is what needs to be discovered and that is what I am finding in myself.”

Muna recently began her senior year at Stratford High School with greater expectations for herself.

“I am a leader now. When I see people doing something wrong, I have to do something about it. I need to be supportive of my fellow students,” she explained. Despite her youth, she wants to start an after-school program for Somali kids in the housing project where she used to live.

Muna is ready to help others in her community fly to new places — as she has done.

Volunteers honored (continued from page 1)

Catholic Charities and Metro Nashville Social Services will partner to offer an Interfaith Poverty Workshop at St. Edward Church in Nashville on Wednesday, October 10.

“Anyone who is interested in learning more about how poverty affects people in our community is invited. People of every faith affiliation are welcome to attend this free workshop,” said Fran Rajotte, advocacy coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Key findings of the 2011 Community Needs Evaluation will be presented, along with examples of what faith-based organizations are doing to help Davidson County residents in the areas of: Child Care, Economic Opportunity, Food, Health, Home & Community Based Services-Adults/Seniors, Housing, Neighborhood Development and Workforce Development.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.; the program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited; advanced registration is requested. RSVP to Dinah.Gregory@yahoo.com.

For Information:
615-352-3087 or www.cctenn.org
Contributions can be made online at www.cctenn.org

Volunteers honored (continued from page 1)

Catholic Charities and Metro Nashville Social Services will partner to offer an Interfaith Poverty Workshop at St. Edward Church in Nashville on Wednesday, October 10.

“Anyone who is interested in learning more about how poverty affects people in our community is invited. People of every faith affiliation are welcome to attend this free workshop,” said Fran Rajotte, advocacy coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Key findings of the 2011 Community Needs Evaluation will be presented, along with examples of what faith-based organizations are doing to help Davidson County residents in the areas of: Child Care, Economic Opportunity, Food, Health, Home & Community Based Services-Adults/Seniors, Housing, Neighborhood Development and Workforce Development.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.; the program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited; advanced registration is requested. RSVP to Dinah.Gregory@yahoo.com.

For Information:
615-352-3087 or www.cctenn.org
Contributions can be made online at www.cctenn.org

Volunteers honored (continued from page 1)