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While completing studies for the Bachelor of Philosophy degree he earned in May from The Pontifical College of Josephinum in that city, Dillon volunteered at St. Lawrence Haven, a St. Vincent de Paul ministry. “It was a moving experience,” he said recently.

Meanwhile, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development was presenting an opportunity to the diocese for an advocacy-focused internship to be filled through Catholic Charities. “I reviewed Dillon’s academic training, his professional experience prior to the seminary, and the positive outcome of his practical experience with St. Lawrence Haven,” recalled Bishop David Choby.

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Armed with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History from Vanderbilt University, a law degree from Samford University, and experience as chief of staff for Tennessee State Senator Brian Kelsey, Dillon, raised in a Protestant household, entered the seminary in 2011. Seminarian training typically includes summer assignments providing exposure to parish work and to other Catholic-related experiences. Dillon was with Catholic Charities and Saint Mary of the Seven Sorrows Church (Nashville) from mid-May to mid-August.

His primary charge was education-related. “Specifically, I prepared a catechetical program for parishes explaining the Social Doctrine of the Church. My primary source was the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church,” a book prepared by the Pontifical Human Development was presenting an opportunity to the diocese for an advocacy-focused internship to be filled through Catholic Charities.

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Check back on page 4 for more on Dillon Barkaw's internship.===

Born on the 4th of July

In June, Doi Ling stepped off a plane in Nashville to begin a new life here, excited to share a July 4th birthday with her new homeland! Early life memories include armed conflict in northern Burma where she lived with her family. “I was always afraid,” she said. “We were always running from place to place.”

Despite life’s challenges, she completed high school in Burma and enrolled in a Hong Kong 2-year college, exploring politics, Basic English, and computer skills.

Doi then moved to Thailand and worked for the Kachin Women’s Association Thailand.

Through work, she attended several training courses for refugees conducted by organizations-in-exile and international humanitarian groups, connecting with organizations such as Human Rights Education Institute of Burma and the People in Need Foundation in Prague.

In time, she led women’s rights and gender-based violence training and directed Burma-related advocacy activities at regional and international levels, including the United Nations.

“I knew that I needed more education to most effectively help others,” Doi said. She was accepted at Hong Kong Baptist College. Resources were extremely tight, even with a scholarship, but she persevered and earned her Bachelor of Social Sciences degree in International Relations in May.

Women’s rights activism had put her safety at risk, though, so she appealed to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees for refugee status and resettlement in the U.S.

Now settling in, Doi hopes to locate work quickly and begin a Masters program in International Development. Her dedication to education, combined with her strong desire to help vulnerable populations, has already made her a formidable force.

To mentor refugees like Doi Ling, contact Aaron Toran at 615-248-5989.
Job Training Center Gets Notre Dame Boost

Executive Director Bill Sinclair, Family Assistance and Community Employment Director Megan Stack, and Marketing Director Mark Barry found themselves in a “back to school” mode in August, as they traveled to the University of Notre Dame for a 5-day “Social Enterprise Boot Camp”.

The Boot Camp was a first-of-its-kind collaboration by Catholic Charities USA and the Gigot Center for Entrepreneurship at Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business.

“It was a total immersion in the processes of starting a business,” explained Mark Barry. “We began early in the morning and worked until after sunset.”

“We were honored to be one of the six Catholic Charities agencies selected to participate. It was an amazing experience!” said Bill Sinclair.

“Each agency had a social enterprise idea they wanted to pursue. Our idea, the Job Training Center (JTC), was the only one in operation,” shared Megan Stack who oversees the JTC. Barry assists the effort.

“We quickly realized, by necessity at the time, we had launched the JTC in 2011 with a plan, but not the comprehensive plan we should have had. Our facilitator, a Gigot Center instructor, referred to this as ‘Ready, Fire, Aim’. Unknowingly, we skipped the ‘aim’ part.”

Despite this, the JTC ended its second year of operation in June with a $7,000 operating profit.

“A few of us at Catholic Charities viewed this as a reflection of our desire to become more sustainable, and the Gigot Center’s ‘business boot camp’ was right up our alley,” said Sinclair.

After Notre Dame, we went back and looked at all of the aspects of starting a business. We want to address all of the elements we may have missed the first time.”

The team came home convinced of the JTC’s long term potential for fiscal sustainability, making it a successful platform for providing opportunities for clients in poverty to begin working themselves out.

“We missed out on two years of experience. We believe that when we presented our program to a mock panel of potential program supporters, many of whom sit on donor panels, we received extremely positive feedback,” Stack noted. “It was particularly exciting to hear their encouraging thoughts on the JTC’s replicability.”

“We are grateful to CCUSA, the Gigot Center and the program mentors for the business lessons, concepts, and theories we were exposed to during the workshop,” concluded Sinclair.

For more on the Job Training Center or how it can become a viable business partner for you, contact Megan Stack (760-1016; mstack@cctenn.org) or Mark Barry (760-1028; mbarys@ctcenn.org).

Day of Service Brings Out the Best

Some 65 volunteers of all ages from throughout the area mobilized on Saturday, August 24, to make a difference in the lives of others as part of Catholic Charities’ Day of Service.

Many of the projects involved yard work in some form, although several also involved indoor work such as cleaning and organizing.

Most beneficiaries were clients of the agency’s Living at Home program for senior citizens offered through the Social Services department.

“The response was terrific, both from our service providers and from the perspective of our service recipients,” said Mark Barry, the agency’s Director of Marketing and Day of Service coordinator. “We were able to provide service to 11 different sites around the Nashville area,” he added. “The recipients were ecstatic about the projects our teams completed.”

ASAP Expands Coverage Area West

The Adoption Support and Preservation (ASAP) program of Catholic Charities of Tennessee expanded its service area to include 21 West Tennessee counties on July 1st, increasing its service coverage area to 60 of Tennessee’s 95 counties.

Catholic Charities has provided ASAP services in 39 Middle Tennessee counties since 2004.

“This is a tremendous honor and, at the same time, a tremendous responsibility we have been presented,” said Jan Clifton, ASAP Mid-Re-

Patricia Kyger Named Celebration of Mission to Service Honoree

To celebrate Patricia Kyger’s years of community service, she is the 2013 Spirit of Service Award recipient.

She will be honored at the October 23rd Celebration of Mission to Service at Hillwood Country Club from 6–7:30 p.m. The event benefits Catholic Charities and Saint Mary Villa Child Development Center.

“The Spirit of Service Award is presented to someone who has worked to enhance the well-being of Catholic Charities and Saint Mary Villa clients,” said event co-chair Diane Mulloy.

“The honoree reflects the agencies’ values of love, goodwill, kindness, learning and laughter and Patricia definitely meets those criteria,” added Ann Waddley, co-chair of the event.

A Nashville native and St. Henry parishioner, Patricia Kyger and her husband, Kent, are well known for their community work. She has board service with both event beneficiaries and has served on boards for several area Catholic schools, House of Mercy, St. Thomas Hospital Foundation, and the Catholic Foundation of Tennessee.

Mrs. Kyger was chair of the former Celebration of Charity and Service gala for many years and a 2007 Catholic Charities Volunteer of the Year.

For tickets to Celebration of Mission to Service go to Catholic Charities’ website (www.cctenn.org) or contact Laura Jumonville at 615-760-1014 or ljumonville@cctenn.org.
Covington Home was the theme for June’s Southeast Region Wilson-Fish Gathering in Nashville. The event was created and hosted by Catholic Charities’ Tennessee Office for Refugees. “This was a first-of-its-kind occasion for regional Wilson-Fish program staff and other refugee service providers and interested parties to meet,” explained Holly Johnson, State Refugee Coordinator. “It was wonderful to come together and share our diverse knowledge and experience in working with refugees.”

The gathering connected refugee-serving agencies and organizations from Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Louisiana with national and local experts in fields impacting refugee resettlement.

Program presenters included: Kelly Ganger, Deputy Director, Office of Admissions, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, U.S. Dept. of State; Carl Rubenstein, Coordinator, Wilson-Fish Alternative Program, Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; Dr. Akek Khoc, Ambassador to the United States, Republic of South Sudan; and Candy Hill, Executive Vice President, Social Policy and External Affairs, Catholic Charities USA.

Each of us deserves a safe, welcoming place to call home...

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean reaffirmed his and the city’s commitment to continue being a welcoming community for refugees resettled here. Catholic Charities of Tennessee Board President Paul Ney also spoke to the assembly.

Much of the gathering was spent in a series of nine workshops addressing topics important to refugee service providers. These included case management best practices, supporting skilled refugees in seeking employment, data collection, domestic violence, ESL, and interpreting the Affordable Care Act. Front-line staff, who work directly with refugee clients, attended workshops specific to their job role.

The Wilson-Fish Program, administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), is an alternative to traditional state-administered refugee resettlement programs, providing short-term cash and medical assistance and social services to eligible clients.

Tennessee is one of 13 Wilson-Fish programs operating in 12 states and San Diego County, CA.

“It was difficult to close at the end of the last session because as much as we felt renewed and inspired, we always know there is so much more to learn,” shared Johnson.

“In the end we deepened our appreciation for the refugee clients who teach us every day about strength, the resilience of the human spirit, and that each of us deserves a safe, welcoming place to call home.”

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“Very little of what makes Middle Tennessee special happens without people like you willingly sharing time and expertise to make a difference,” Bill Sinclair, Catholic Charities’ executive director, recently told the agency’s 2015 Volunteer of the Year honorees. “You represent so many ways in which supporters help our agency, clients, and community. Without you, we simply could not do what we do for those in need.”

Chris Donnelly, Administration Volunteer of the Year, and her husband, Bubba, are longstanding supporters of Diocesan causes, including Catholic Charities. Now in her 6th year on the Board, Chris has worked closely with the Program Oversight and Development. She was instrumental in making Celebrations of Mission to Service and May’s inaugural Pathways to Possibilities outstanding fundraising successes.

Roberta Steinmetz, Caring Choices Volunteer of the Year, has, for many years, made homemade baby blankets, donating them to the Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Services program. These blankets, a labor of love for Roberta and her friends who help, are a cherished component of material assistance provided to mothers bringing newborns home.

Roberta Burke, Development Volunteer of the Year, is a dependable, dedicated volunteer willing to tackle the tedious, detailed tasks with an uncanny thoroughness. Roberta loves Catholic Charities and has made her volunteer work here an active part of her life.

Connie Ransom, Family Assistance and Community Employment Volunteer of the Year, has long ties to Loaves and Fishes Community Meals for the Hungry through Holy Name Church. When we started the twice-a-month Second Harvest perishable food distributions in fall 2011, Connie volunteered... at both sites! She also delivers fresh food and elderly food boxes to area residents unable to get them on their own.

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Yvette Sebelist, Refugee & Immigration Services Volunteer of the Year, has long dedicated her time and legal expertise to aid clients, unable to afford outside counsel, on immigration matters. Each month, she conducts free Immigration Legal Clinics at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, helping 10 or more clients at a time. Yvette is always available to Immigration Services staff to discuss immigration issues.

State Senator Douglas Henry, Social Services Volunteer of the Year, is the most senior member of the Tennessee Senate. Since 1971, he led, taught, and partnered with Catholic Charities and other agencies to improve the resources available for families, thus enhancing the availability of skills creating and supporting child resilience and wellness. Families receiving services in CHAP, adoption, and other programs have benefited from his wisdom, leadership and compassion.

Shandy Husmann, Tennessee Office for Refugees Volunteer of the Year, has made a tremendous impact in her first year on the TOR committee by sharing his nonprofit consulting experience to help create processes for evaluating/selecting grant proposals, for tracking monthly expenditures in our largest grant, and for determining funded partner monitoring frequency. He also guided us through the allocation of resources for two new resettlement programs in Tennessee.

Brennan Frazier, I CARE Youth Award Honoree, a Harpeth Hall senior, is in her third year of supporting Cathedral of the Incarnation’s Religious Education program, her second as a catechist. She volunteers weekly at Faith Family Health Clinic and is a founding member of the Mother-Daughter Service Circle, a Christian-based after school volunteer program. Brennan spent three weeks working in a Ugandan orphanage and volunteers at St. Thomas Hospital West. She hopes to be a nurse someday.
Board Engagement Critical to Agency Progress

For some nonprofits, the board member job description is quite simple: attend meetings, support the major annual fundraiser, and tell your friends about the agency.

At Catholic Charities, the board goes far beyond the basics. “I marvel at the level of engagement our Board of Trustees has with the agency,” said executive director Bill Sinclair. “Our board is such a tremendous asset.”

“Catholic Charities invites board members from all professions, religions and backgrounds to meet their agency commitments by actively participating, providing oversight and insights, asking questions, and offering thoughtful suggestions and guidance on all programs to ensure success of the overall mission,” explained Trisha Montijo, chair of the board’s Program Oversight Committee.

“Our trustees bring different skills and interests to us,” continued Sinclair. “At the end of the day, though, their shared interests are what win out…and tremendously help us and our clients. They want the agency to be successful so we can fully meet our clients’ needs.”

“Catholic Charities’ purpose is easy to understand and, yet, so profound…To perform acts of love, goodwill and kindness,” said Paul Ney, board president.

It is through this attraction to acts of love, goodwill and kindness that people from all parts of the community — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — are pulled towards, or called to, Catholic Charities. This call makes them want a more involved experience with the agency.

To Chris Donnelly, the board’s Secretary, the reason for the board’s high level of engagement is fairly obvious. “The more you learn about Catholic Charities, the more you WANT to be involved with making Catholic Charities and its services successful.”

“It is the most engaged board I have been involved with,” added Ned Spitzer, board treasurer.

Greg Mays, chairman of the board’s new Outreach Committee, recently established to address relationships with parishes, volunteer opportunities and communication methods, agrees. “It is invigorating to see board members offering their professional skills/value to Catholic Charities.”

In addition to actively participating in the board’s eight meetings annually, board members also serve on one or more board committees, meaning more meetings and board-related assignments.

Board members are also found supporting various agency activities, such as the Pathways to Possibilities fundraiser held in May, perishable food distributions at Loveless and Fishes and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, and other service-oriented initiatives.

“I am proud, and honored, to say I am part of such an active Board,” concluded Donnelly.

Trisha Montijo agreed. “It is a blessing and profoundly rewarding to serve on the Catholic Charities of Tennessee board to help open doors and provide hope for those in need.”

(Continued from page 1)

“I marvel at the level of engagement our Board of Trustees has with the agency…”

“...we realized how blessed we really were.”

Seminarian Summer (continued from page 1)

Council for Justice and Peace.

Taking a three step approach — This is what the Church teaches. What are you doing in response to this teaching? Here are some local opportunities Catholic Charities may have for you.

– Dillon informed and challenged. He presented at a number of area parishes including the Church of St. Matthew, St. Henry, St. Patrick (Nashville), Holy Family, and St. Mary of the Seven Sorrows.

“One of the first things I asked Dillon to do when he first came on board in May was to meet one-on-one with the various department directors and with Bill Sinclair, our executive director, to gain a better understanding of the work of Catholic Charities,” recalled Fran Rajoite, the agency’s Advocacy and Social Justice director, who oversaw Dillon’s internship. This request served as excellent presentation preparation.

“After my first week, I was so impressed with both the scope of the work being performed there and the level of sophistication involved with the agency’s operation,” he said. “It is mind boggling what Catholic Charities is actually doing on a daily basis.”

“A lot of good is being done through Catholic Charities on behalf of the people of the diocese for the good of the community. They are definitely following Jesus’ command to love our neighbors no matter what!”

Dillon considers himself a long term fan of Catholic Charities as he completes his preparations for the priesthood and, if all goes according to plan, is ordained in 2017. “They are one of the best kept secrets of our diocese!”

Christmas Wishes: Remembering Those Oft Forgotten

Every November, Catholic Charities raises the Christmas Wishes tree, decorated with stars representing children and elderly identified as being in need of “Christmas cheer.”

“What does not always show up on the tree,” explained Megan Stack, Family Assistance and Community Employment director, “are adults we learn of experiencing homelessness or parents of ‘starred’ children.”

Thanks to folks like Jim Robert and Gary Stewart of Nashville’s Saint Mary Parish, these people are remembered, too.

“For many years, we hosted an annual Christmas party, a pot luck dinner with great people,” explained Robert. “Pee-vew years ago, we realized how blessed we really were. We added an element to our party to ensure that all of us, guests and hosts, remembered those not so fortunate.”

They contacted Catholic Charities and learned that some identified adults might not receive Christmas gifts. They decided to start building Christmas baskets. The first year, 21 baskets were made. Now, nearly 150 are built annually. In 12 years, more than 1,070 baskets with an estimated value of $38,600 have been donated.

The “baskets” have morphed into a variety of containers with contents donated by multiple supporters throughout the year. Gifts include personal care items, household goods, food, mugs, CDs, t-shirts, Christmas ornaments, and more.

In recent years, Dillard’s of Green Hills has donated cosmetic department containers that transition into women’s purses and men’s gym bags.

To learn more about the baskets or to donate items which would enhance these gifts, please call 615-760-1031 or email ChristmasWishes@cctenn.org.

Birthday Bounty Benefits Others

When St. Matthew School 4th grader Alanna Giannattasio turned 10 this summer, she had a special idea in mind for her birthday party guests. Instead of bringing her a gift, Alanna asked her friends to bring a gift to donate to Catholic Charities of Tennessee to benefit other children. Through Denise Cottrell, FOCUS (Finding Our Children Unconditional Love) adoption recruitment specialist with Catholic Charities’ Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Services, the gifts made their way to the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services Davidson County Resource Linkage, where children who have just become wards of the state (foster children) first go when assumed into state custody. Between 25 and 30 girls benefited from Alanna’s act of love, goodwill and kindness.

(Left to right) Chase Mills, Evelyn Hare, Alanna Giannattasio, Josie Claxton. Mills, Hare and Giannattasio are St. Matthew School 4th graders. Claxton is in the 4th grade at Fairview Elementary.