

## **Dear Friends:**

Fiscal Year 2007 spanned a period that reflected sea change that exists around us. In the midst of myriad societal issues, we were able to put into action our slogan, *Providing Hope - Building Opportunity* in the lives of more than 100,000 people in Central Florida.

## **We helped people in a variety of ways:**

- Disaster assistance for the victims of the “Ground Hog Day” tornados in February 2007 and follow-up aid continues
- Through CCCF’s Emergency Family Assistance locations, we helped a growing number of families and individuals feeling the financial pinch of the slowing U.S. economy
- CCCF professional counselors and adoption specialists gave hope to individuals and couples
- Senior citizens found comfort and friendship in a community of care
- Sick and injured homeless men or women found physical and spiritual healing with the help of Pathways to Care’s medical personnel and social workers

2007 was an extremely busy year for CCCF... Catholic Charities has a vision of both what it can be and should be to help those in need in Central Florida. With our eye on the future, we are concentrating on perfecting our existing core mission areas “to create a more capable social service agency focused on meeting today’s community needs and positioned to meet the challenges of tomorrow.” Additionally, we’re taking on new initiatives in the areas of housing, health care, and programs for women and children, elderly services and the homeless. These new missions for Catholic Charities are the direct outcome of the plans developed in the SYNOD process of 2005-6 that we refined in 2006-7.

## **Our mandate is fairly straight forward as we prepare to:**

- Build and staff new Outreach Centers based on development of three prototype service center models (parish-based, housing-based and a stand-alone Community of Excellence model, providing all services and housing on a single campus). Daytona is the target for our first center with a Spring 09 opening.

- Provide Housing and Health Care – providing low-income, affordable housing and health care support services for elderly, the homeless, and women and families in transitional status. Our first efforts are St. Joseph’s Garden Court, an 80 unit low income elderly housing facility in east Orlando, and two free medical clinics (Osceola and Sumter Counties) – all opening in 2008.
- Offer expanded Homeless Services – rebuilding lives in our partnership with Pathways to Care, a 40-bed homeless medical respite center, while developing follow on transitional care services and programs...and housing opportunities.
- Create a Disaster Prep Center of Excellence in conjunction with the other Florida Catholic Charities and Catholic Charities USA, to provide preparedness plans and response services for our 90 parishes and the communities in which we live, primarily directed at the under served, across the nine counties of the Diocese.

Of course, we would not have been able to deliver these important programs without the dedicated hard work of our staff and corps of volunteers and CCCF’s partnership with the Heart of Florida United Way and other partner agencies. The vision to continue Catholic Charities national, state-wide and local recognition for service excellence in *Providing Hope and Building Opportunity* will continue with your help and prayers.

Yes, we have been busy...  
and we are ready for 2008...

Captain Arne J. Nelson, U. S. Navy (retired)  
President and CEO, Catholic Charities of Central Florida