

Nonprofit Chamber of Services Nonprofit of the Week

This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say "thank you" for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.

For a young child like Christopher pictured below, home is where he finds love, safety and comfort. Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program strives to provide just this sort of nurturing environment at Catholic Charities Anthony Family Shelter. Grandma Martha who has volunteered for several years particularly enjoys working on crafts with her foster grandchildren.

The Foster Grandparent Program is but one of the many ways that Catholic Charities endeavors to make a child's stay at their Anthony Family Shelter a time of growth during a disruptive family experience. Last year the shelter was home to 392 people; more than half of these were children.

To honor and benefit the good work done at Anthony Family Shelter, Catholic Charities is hosting a fundraising event at the NEW Old Cowtown Visitors Center, ***It's A Full House*** on Thursday, April 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m. This is a night to pull out your blue jeans, slip on your boots and enjoy an evening of western fun. The evening will be complete with a prime rib dinner, western sounds and Texas Holdem and Casino games.

In 2005, more than 1,000 people had to be turned away due to a lack of space. Money raised from ***It's A Full House*** will help meet the needs of the families coming to Anthony Family Shelter this year. Your invitation to join in this evening of merriment and try your luck at the card table is attached to this email.

Established in Wichita in 1943, Catholic Charities meets vital community needs through direct services and advocacy, reaching out to families and individuals in crisis without regard to religious affiliation. The results ... more than 20,000 lives are touched with needed encouragement and support each year.

Connecting community resources and volunteers to families, women, children and seniors Catholic Charities focuses on community need, providing shelters and case management for abused women and homeless families, emergency help for food and utilities, adult day care, counseling, service programs for senior citizens, pregnancy counseling and adoption services, interpreter services, and immigration services and refugee resettlement.

Janet Valente-Pape is the Executive Director of Catholic Charities. She has been with the organization since 1992. Prior to her running the Catholic Charities in Wichita, she worked for the Kansas Department of Coorections for seven years. Earlier, she devoted many years to working at the Georgia State Department of Corrections. Janet was one of the fundamental leaders in the development of the Nonprofit Chamber of Service.

For more information on Catholic Charities, please contact Teresa Kunze, Director of Marketing & Communications at 316.264.8344, or email her at tkunze@wkscatholiccharities.org.