

MISSION STATEMENT

The Christ the King Social Justice Committee exists to promote, nourish and sustain the ministry of Social Justice through the parish community by serving as a catalyst for and being an active participant in addressing social injustices within and outside the parish community.

Just Us Parishioners

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Social Justice Committee

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2008 Catholic Charities of the East Bay

THE CARE PROGRAM SERVING EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH OF ALAMEDA COUNTY



Introduction

CARE is a scattered site transitional housing and support services program for emancipated foster youth in Alameda ages 18-24. CARE youth typically have experienced multiple placements, and are vulnerable to substance abuse issues, domestic violence, low self-esteem issues and early pregnancy.

Mission and Program Description Mission:

Former foster youth have and maintain safe and affordable housing, participants have a plan to generate and manage a livable income and graduates of this program benefit from on-going adult support, advocacy and mentorship, indicative of access to compassionate community support.

The ability of any young person to succeed in adulthood is tied to seven crucial and connected areas:

- Formation of his or her personal and cultural identity
- Ties to a community and to supportive friends
- Access to physical and mental health services
- Mastery of daily life skills
- Access to education (vocational or academic)
- Readiness for employment and job-search skills
- Access to safe housing

Program Description:

The Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) assists foster youth emancipating out of County Foster Care specifically in the area of transitional housing. As part of the program, the participant will also receive a host of other transition to independence related services.

For more information, contact:

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Bread for the World Sunday

Our parish has been a member of Bread for the World (BFTW) for several years. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live.

Bread for the World members write personal letters and emails to and meet with our representatives in Congress. Working through churches, campuses and other organizations, BFTW engages people in advocacy. The organization works in a bipartisan way and enjoys the support of many different

church bodies. They also collaborate with other organizations to build the political commitment needed to overcome hunger and poverty.

Bread for the World Sunday on October 19 is an opportunity for churches to renew their commitment to overcoming hunger and poverty in God's world. We will be asked to sign letters thanking Senators Feinstein and Boxer for cosponsoring the Global Poverty Act, S. 2433, that would require the president to develop and implement a coordinated strategy of U.S. aid, debt relief, and trade policies to help meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of cutting by half the number of people who live on less than \$1 a day by 2015.

This year's observance of Bread for the World Sunday takes place at a time when soaring prices for food and fuel have created an urgent hunger crisis – both in our own country and overseas. An additional 100 million people have fallen into poverty and are at risk of hunger and starvation. In our own area, the Monument Crisis Center ran out of food during the week of September 22-26 and had to close its food pantry until it received more supplies.

(adapted from Bread for the World,
<http://www.bread.org/>)



VOTING – A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

Election Day November 4;
Last Day to Register October 20; Register if address,
name, or party changes.
www.faithfulcitizenship.org; www.SmartVoter.org

We determine the laws, leaders, and structure of society. So we, people of faith, have a moral responsibility to vote, and a responsibility to form our conscience before voting.

Conscience is not a little voice and not how we feel. Conscience is a judgment about what is the right thing to do before God in voting on November 4. Prudence, wisdom from the Spirit, is also important. It is not the Church's intention to tell us how to vote. However, last November the bishops approved a document, "Faithful Citizenship," a voters' guide issued for national elections. This guide is notable for its moral clarity and for understanding the demands of a political system where compromise is essential.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference gives key themes to guide us. These themes include the right to life, to religious freedom, and to access food, shelter, education, employment, and health care. With these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, and to the larger society. "The Economy must serve People, not the other way around." The bishops tell us that while the common good embraces all, those who are in greatest need deserve preferential concern; a moral test is how we treat the weakest among us.

The difficulty of applying moral absolutes to civic life is addressed by "Faithful Citizenship." John Paul II writes about this principle in *Evangelium Vitae*. For example, he states that when a government official cannot succeed in completely overturning a pro-abortion law, he or she may work to improve protection for unborn human life; this at least limits the harm done by such a law. This is meant to protect the political process from the paralyzing effects of extremists. A current example of this is that both Senators Barack Obama and John McCain support expanded stem-cell research. Following the extremist view would require that Catholics to refrain from voting for the candidate of either major party.

Our church leaders challenge us to consider the Common Good--the sum total of Catholic conditions which allows people to reach their fulfillment--and to ask ourselves some questions when trying to decide how to vote, "Is it good for me? Is it good for the whole world?"

By Gwen Watson

Sources of Information: 9/22 Workshop by Father Dan Danielson and 9/19 issue of NCR