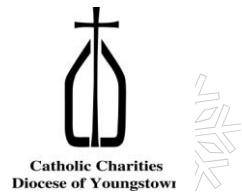


Keep the Kids Warm



Some Facts about Keep the Kids Warm

- *Keep the Kids Warm raised over \$60,000 in 2008*
- *100% of the funds collected through Keep the Kids Warm are returned to the county in which they were collected.*
- *Catholic Charities provided utility assistance to 8,208 people last year.*

Keep the Kids Warm provides special assistance

If you have made a gift to the 2009 Bishop's Appeal for Catholic Charities and Church, thank you! You have helped us to make a difference in your community and others across the Diocese of Youngstown.

Although Catholic Charities receives 66% of the funds raised through the Bishop's Appeal, the goal of this diocesan campaign has remained unchanged for the past several years. Therefore, there is no "new" money to help make up for the loss of community

and government funding that our agencies have been experiencing in the years leading up to and including the current recession.

Special efforts like First Step for Change and Keep the Kids Warm raise money to help meet the increased demand for family support and emergency assistance. 100% of the funds collected through Keep the Kids Warm help the Catholic Charities agencies provide direct utility assistance to families.

Dollars Making a Difference for Families

Vicky and Bob came to Catholic Charities as a last resort. Bob's hours at work had been cut significantly, and Vicky was a stay-at-home mom raising the couple's two young children. The family had been scraping by for the past six months, picking and choosing which bills were most important, and which they could afford to pay.

When they received a notice that their electricity would be shut off at the end of the week, Vicky and Bob did not know what to do.

A friend told Vicky about Catholic Charities, and she made an appointment to meet with a case worker.

Vicky and Bob's income made them eligible for assistance to cover a portion of their bill. The Catholic Charities caseworker also called the electric company to negotiate a payment plan so that the couple could pay back what was owed.

Funding from Keep the Kids Warm makes stories like this possible.



Catholic Charities helped Vicky and Bob's family stay warm this winter.

**Special Collections for
Keep the Kids Warm
will be held at parishes
throughout the Diocese of
Youngstown between
December 26-27, 2009
and
January 9-10, 2010**

**Contributions for
Keep the Kids Warm
may also be mailed to**

**Catholic Charities
Keep the Kids Warm
P. O. Box 614
Youngstown, Ohio 44501**

**Please make your check
payable to
Catholic Charities**

Utility Assistance: A Growing Need

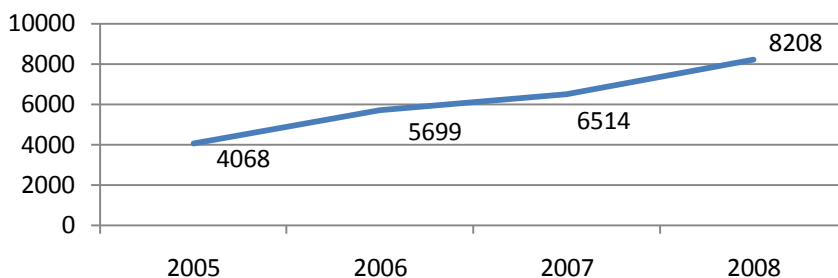
Over the past several years, Catholic Charities has seen an increase in the need for utility assistance. Rising energy costs coupled with the current economic crisis have made it increasingly difficult for families' incomes to keep up with inflation.

Working with other social service organizations—both Catholic and non-Catholic alike—Catholic Charities has been able to pool resources to help qualifying clients. However, the demand is greater than the available resources.

Catholic Charities is typically able to pay a portion of the utility bills presented to us, some of which are thousands of dollars in arrears.

When we can, Catholic Charities advocates with utility companies either to negotiate the amount owed, or to establish a payment schedule so that our clients can pay back what is owed.

The chart below illustrates the increase in the number of utility assistance clients receiving direct assistance, advocacy, or both from 2005-2008:



We Need You to Keep the Kids Warm

In order for the 2009 Keep the Kids Warm campaign to parallel last year's success, we need you—the caring parishioners and friends of Catholic Charities—to participate. Whether you can give \$5 or \$500 every gift has an impact greater than you can imagine. If you supported Keep the Kids Warm last year: THANK YOU!

We are hopeful that our diocesan parishes will consider a second collection for Keep the Kids Warm between the Feast of the Holy Family (December 26-27, 2009) and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 9-10, 2010). In 2008, over 1/3 of the parishes in the Diocese of Youngstown supported Keep the Kids Warm. We received other donations from generous people in the community concerned about the needs of others during these difficult economic times. If your parish chooses not to participate, you can still mail a gift to our post office box provided above.

One way to show your gratitude for all of the gifts that God has blessed you with is by helping those who are less fortunate. Thank you for your compassion toward those who are hurting right now, and for supporting the work of Catholic Charities in your diocese.

If you have any questions about Keep the Kids Warm or any information in this publication, please call Catholic Charities at 330-744-8451, ext. 328.



*“Come. You have my Father’s blessing!
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from
the creation of the world. For I was hungry
and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you
gave me drink. I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I
was ill and you comforted me, in prison and
you came to visit me.”*

Matthew 25:34-36