

Search Our Site

Go

Sponsored by
Catholic Knights

Catholic Herald



Click to
Subscribe



Give a gift that brings lasting change

Give Now!

FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC

About Us Links Classifieds Events Sports

Home

Herald of Hope

Nation/World

Past Issues

Photo of the Week

Submit Information



CARITAS
For Children

"Sponsorship brings...
hope to a child with no hope."



CARITAS For Children Child Sponsorship Program -- www.CARITAS.us



Feerick

FUNERAL HOME

Family owned and operated since 1896

414-962-8383

www.feerickfuneralhome.com

Join us for our Patio Pops concert series!

- July 11: Paul Cebar & The Milwaukeeans
 - July 25: Bellissimi Quartet
 - Aug. 8: The Happy Accidents
 - Aug. 23: Beckie Menzie & Tom Michael Cabaret
- Free concerts begin at 7:30pm on our outdoor patio.



St Ann CENTER

for Intergenerational Care

\$325,000. Charity Raffle

Rosalie Manor

COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES

On the web at
www.rosaliemanor.org

Please support our advertisers — To learn more about advertising, [contact us](#).

Local News

July 12, 2007

MU clinic provides legal counsel to poor

Students, volunteers make legal process less daunting

By [Cheri Perkins Mantz](#)
Catholic Herald Staff

MILWAUKEE — Anyone who has ever been in need of legal advice or counsel knows that it's not cheap. But according to Marquette University Law School, just because you can't afford quality legal advice doesn't mean you shouldn't get it.



In keeping with their Jesuit tradition of community outreach, Marquette University Law School is using a \$10,000 donation to help others with free legal counsel, advice and immigration issues.

Lacie Shook, left, and Elizabeth Miles, volunteers with the Milwaukee Volunteer Legal Clinic, held Tuesdays at the House of Peace, assist Eddie Collins with a legal issue June 19. Students from Marquette University Law School volunteer their time at the Capuchin-run House of Peace. (Catholic Herald photo by Sam Lucero)

The law school is receiving the funds from the Sixteen Inch Society, a group of people living in Milwaukee with Chicago ties who play a charity 16-inch softball game every year. Since its founding in 2002, the group has given money to Pius XI High School, the House of Peace and St. Josaphat School. People donate money to play on the team and if they donate more than \$100, they get to nominate a charity to receive the money. Members of the Sixteen Inch Society vote for a nominated organization to receive the funds.

This year's recipient of the \$10,000 donation, Marquette's Law School, plans to use the funds in several different ways, according to Dan Idzikowski, assistant dean for public services at the law school.

"The law school," said Idzikowski, "having always focused on educating lawyers to be concerned about their obligation and public service, has increasingly devoted institutional resources to provide opportunities for students and faculty and alumni to carry that mission component out in a more direct manner."

According to Idzikowski, Marquette's Law School will use the money to support existing outreach programs, and to help implement a new one.

A portion of the donation will help fund building renovations at the House of Peace, a Milwaukee-area homeless shelter and food pantry, where Marquette runs its Volunteer Legal Clinic. The clinic, founded in 2002 and open every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m., "matches volunteer attorneys from the community with volunteer law students to provide brief legal consultation with clients for no charge," according to Idzikowski. He said that in the past five years, law clinic volunteers have seen more than 3,000 people.

Currently, the Volunteer Legal Clinic is operating in a tiny space in the House of Peace. Capuchin Br. Mark Carrico, executive director for the House of Peace, said the newly renovated space will help clinic clients.

"Confidentiality is always a problem," he said. "With the renovation, they'll have private offices, behind closed doors. We'll be handicapped accessible. The attorneys have been good about meeting with (the handicapped) downstairs, but now they can meet like everyone else. It'll be a more professional environment and that instills confidence."

Br. Mark said the service the law school provides to guests of the House of Peace is wonderful.

"It really is special what they do here," he said. "Many people find the legal world daunting, that it's going to be expensive. If they can't hire a lawyer, what do they do? Marquette does a great service to the community."

Sometimes the legal advice given at the clinic is basic, but makes a difference to the guests.

"One man came in and he hadn't seen his kids in seven months because he was behind on child support and thought he'd be arrested if he saw his kids," said Br. Mark. "They said, 'No, you won't.' He walked out and was so happy to go see his kids. It was that simple."

A portion of the \$10,000 donation will go to Catholic Charities' Immigration



Project.

“We are in the process of developing an increased program on asylum and immigration work here at the law school,” said Idzikowski. “We’re continuing a dialogue with Catholic Charities to see how we can continue to help them with many individuals that need assistance. Since Catholic Charities began immigration services we’ve had student involvement there. We just want to grow that and help provide some direct services as well.

“We’d like to develop a complimentary program at the law school,” he continued. “Probably focused in asylum law that will also be able to serve some of the types of clients Catholic Charities sees now and provide another source or referral for individuals. The funds would go to help to staff that and assist with that.”

Anne Jaspers is a third-year law student who has worked with Catholic Charities’ Immigration Project since January.

“It should not be a luxury or an enormous financial burden for our clients to talk with someone about their immigration status,” said Jaspers. “I feel very privileged to be working for an organization like Catholic Charities that has that priority and consistently provides high quality, affordable legal services to each of its clients.”

Though she is still a student at Marquette’s law school, Jaspers said she feels the community outreach through the law school will continue to help her after she passes the bar.

“Community outreach is incredibly important because it allows law students to see the community in different ways and realize just how needed their skills are in the community,” she said. “Then, students enter the legal profession as more involved community members and as attorneys dedicated to pro bono work.”

The clients at Catholic Charities’ Immigration Project show their gratitude in many ways, said Jaspers.

“Even if clients receive bad news about their situation, they still say ‘thank you,’” she said. “There have been some amazing cases that I have been a part of in which the client was so thankful and we were so excited ... that there weren’t words to express our emotions.”

The program being implemented, thanks to the donation, is the Web site, www.legalhelpmilwaukee.org. The site is sponsored by the law school and provides information on a wide range of legal services, in an easy-to-understand way, to social service agencies, churches and directly to the public.

[Back to the top](#)

[Home](#) | [Herald of Hope](#) | [National/World](#) | [Past Issues](#) | [Photo of the Week](#) | [Submit Information](#)
[About Us](#) | [Links](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Events](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Sports](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)
[Parenting](#) | [Mature Lifestyles](#) | [Catholic Weddings](#) | [Vocations](#) | [Wisconsin Pastoral Handbook](#)

Copyright © 2007 by Catholic Press Apostolate, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.