

2008 state tax credits available for donors to Catholic Charities' Crisis Alleviation Program.

November 14, 2008 --- (Wilmington, DE) ---Donations to Catholic Charities' Crisis Alleviation program that provides emergency funds to assist families in need, qualify for tax credits under the Delaware State Housing Authority's Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program.

Individuals and business that expect to pay Delaware state income taxes can use the Neighborhood Assistance Program to provide valuable assistance to low- and moderate-income individuals and families in our community, while reducing their tax liability.

In exchange for a qualified contribution, the donor receives state tax credits equal to 50% of their contribution. For example, a contribution of \$5,000 qualifies for \$2,500 in tax credits. Delaware State Housing Authority's staff members review applications and award the credits on a first-come, first-served basis. Each year a maximum of \$500,000 in tax credits is available. As of this writing, tax credits remain available for the 2008 tax year.

Catholic Charities' Crisis Alleviation program helps to ease the burden of poverty by providing emergency funding for basic living expenses; supplying budget guidance, information and referral services; and providing case coordination and advocacy on behalf of families and individuals in need.

Richelle Vible, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, is pleased to have Crisis Alleviation included in the Neighborhood Assistance Program. "NAA is truly win-win for our donors and for those we serve. Donors benefit from a reduced tax liability as well as the confidence that their donations will be directed to their neighbors in need. And the vulnerable in our communities will benefit from increased funding to those community activities that help them meet the challenges created by the downturns in today's economy."

The NAA tax credit is available to any individual or business paying income tax in Delaware, as long as the contribution is made to an approved NAA non-profit organization, and the contributor meets the minimum contribution amounts. For businesses, the amount is \$10,000, for individuals the minimum is \$5,000. The maximum contribution cannot exceed \$200,000 per tax year.

Individuals and businesses interested in contributing to the Crisis Alleviation program and receiving the tax credit should contact Paula Savini at Catholic Charities, 302-655-9624. The Delaware State Housing Authority's Public Information Office can be reached at 302-739-4263 for further information.

Catholic Charities directs and coordinates the charitable and social service programs of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, offering a wide range of services to strengthen families, care for children, assist the disadvantaged, and build human relationships throughout Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The Catholic Diocese of Wilmington was established in 1868 and comprises 58 parishes, 18 missions, and 35 schools serving the State of Delaware and the nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore. More information about the Diocese of Wilmington and the work of Catholic Charities is available on the Web at www.cdow.org.

###