



Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Fall River

October 4, 2021
Volume 1, Issue 3

Volunteer Times**

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Our Legal Department provides services to low-income people of all faiths. The services provided range from free to minimal costs depending on the person's income level. The team of 4 attorneys, 5 paralegals, and 2 AmeriCorps members provide assistance through the Immigration Legal Education and Advocacy Project (ILEAP), which assists individuals with:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Deportation defense | Emergency Medical Extensions of Status |
| Citizenship | Family-based Green Cards |
| TPS | DACA |
| Employment Authorization | Asylum |

They also assist immigrants who may be victims of domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, workplace exploitation, and other crimes through the Immigrant Victims Representation Project (IVRP).

The services are provided throughout our Diocese with offices located in Fall River, New Bedford and Cape Cod. The lawyers and paralegals speak a variety of languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Khmer, and Guatemalan K'iche'.



Recently, the legal department has been holding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) clinics to assist the Haitian community.



TPS is a temporary legal immigration status given to individuals from certain countries so affected by war or natural disasters, that it is dangerous for people to return. They must have virtually no criminal history to qualify, and, if they do qualify, they are given the ability to work in the US to support themselves and their families for 18 months.

On September 26th, John Paul II High School in Hyannis opened their doors to the community, allowing lawyers, interpreters, church leaders, and volunteers to come together to help the Haitian community prepare the forms necessary to apply for this temporary status.

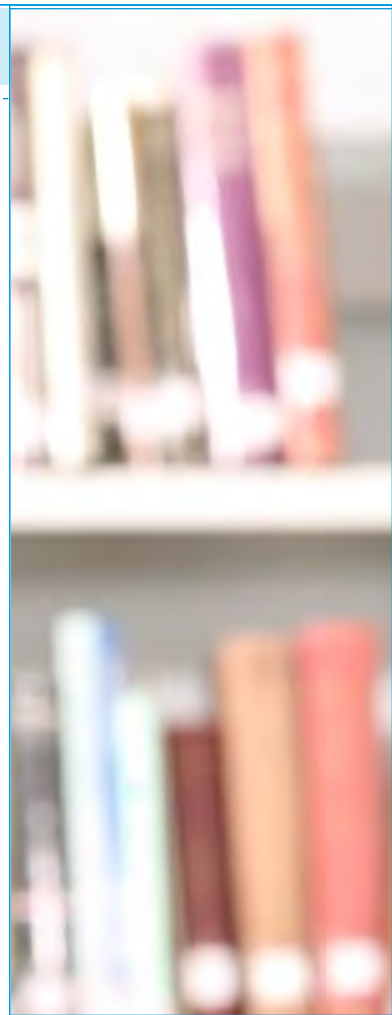


Like all we do and offer at CSS, it is **YOU** the volunteers that make events like this possible. For all you do and for the many volunteers who came out to help—THANK YOU!



Our agency and its sites are always seeking volunteers to serve their clients and to assist with services we provide. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity that allows you to make a difference, contact Rose Mary at 508-674-4681.

If you or someone you know is in need of legal services, call the intake line at 508-674-4681.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Give Back" - Friday Highlights2
 Volunteer Opportunities2
 A Special Thank You3
 Fun Facts3
 Crossword Puzzle4
 Contest:4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Volunteers:** We would love to send everyone a copy of the newsletter—be sure to keep you information up-to-date.
Email rsaraiva@cssdioc.org or call 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111.
- **Happy Birthday** to all our volunteers who celebrated a birthday in September and will be celebrating in October. In future editions, we would love to honor and recognize YOU! Email your name and birthday to rsaraiva@cssdioc.org or call 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111.



Volunesia

(noun)

that moment when you forget you're volunteering to help change lives, because it's changing yours...



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES...

Bilingual speakers to translate and interpret for clients - Spanish, Portuguese & Haitian Creole.

Food Pantry Volunteers.

Volunteers to sort and organize donations at various sites.

Volunteers to serve our shelter guests.

Food preparers, cooks, servers, greeters, clean-up crew, for the Soup Kitchen and individuals to help with laundry in our shelters.

There are many more opportunities throughout our agency and its sites.

For more information, contact Rose Mary Saraiva, Volunteer Coordinator at 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111 or via email at rsaraiva@cssdioc.org



"GIVE BACK" - FRIDAYS

We have hosted "Give Back" - Fridays in four out of five deaneries to date. Our first took place in North Attleboro, followed by Taunton, New Bedford and Fall River.



It has been a fun and exciting event for not only the staff and volunteers, but also for the children and families that participate.

It was truly amazing to see the faces of the children light up when they spotted the toys. For one of our little guests, finding a "sparkly" hat was the highlight of her day. Little Ryleigh refused to take it off once she found it. She, her mom and her baby sibling were just a few of the families that have visited the events.



Watching the children made everyone's day. A little boy was so excited with his new Paw Patrol toy, that he went off to play with it oblivious to the world around him. Another young man was so thrilled with his new remote control car and could not get it out of the package fast enough. One little girl found a grassy spot and sat down to start coloring. It was so rewarding to see and experience.



It was also very gratifying when parents told us how much this makes a difference for them. A fact that is most poignant when we hear them say Christmas will be a lot brighter because of this event. All this has been possible by the generosity of so many individuals, church groups, the community and the dedicated volunteers.



In addition to the clothing, coats and toys, each week a lucky child wins one of three bicycles. As you can see on the left, the staff had fun modeling some of the bicycles to be raffled off.



Truth be told, I honestly don't know who was more excited the children and families present or the staff and volunteers - I would venture to say—it was about even.



To date, we have served over 470 children, with one more "Give Back" - Friday yet to go. A program that started as a simple idea, has made such a big impact—bringing together staff, volunteers, church communities, and the community at large across our great Diocese of Fall River. This truly has been a "labor of love."



"Let all that you do be done in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14

For more information about volunteering or how you can help, contact Rose Mary Saraiva at 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111 or via email at rsaraiva@cssdioc.org.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

Thank you to the pastors and parishes who said yes to hosting these events.

Fr. Rodney Thibault, the staff, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society from Transfiguration of the Lord Parish in North Attleboro.

Fr. Freddie Babiczuk and the staff at St. Anthony Parish in Taunton.

Fr. Michael Racine and the staff at St. Lawrence Martyr Parish and the Food Pantry in New Bedford.

Fr. Tom Washburn, the staff and volunteers at Good a Shepherd Parish

and Pope Francis Outreach in Fall River.

Our next "Give Back" - Friday will take place in Hyannis on October 8th at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

Thank you Fr. Michael Fitzpatrick and the staff at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

And a special thank you to all the VOLUNTEERS and STAFF that made these "Give Back" - Fridays possible.

"Kindness begins with the understanding that we all struggle." — Charles Glassman.

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." —Mother Teresa

FUN FACTS

Did you know that...

1. Volunteers know there's a silver lining; they see it every day.
2. "There are three kinds of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who say, 'what happened?'" ~ Casey Stengel
3. Smart cookies don't crumble, they become volunteers.
4. When you become a volunteer, you think about how it makes you feel, until you actually help someone and see how it makes *them* feel!
5. Life can give you lemons, and volunteers use them with vinegar to clean stuff!
6. Volunteers are love in motion.
7. If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito." African proverb

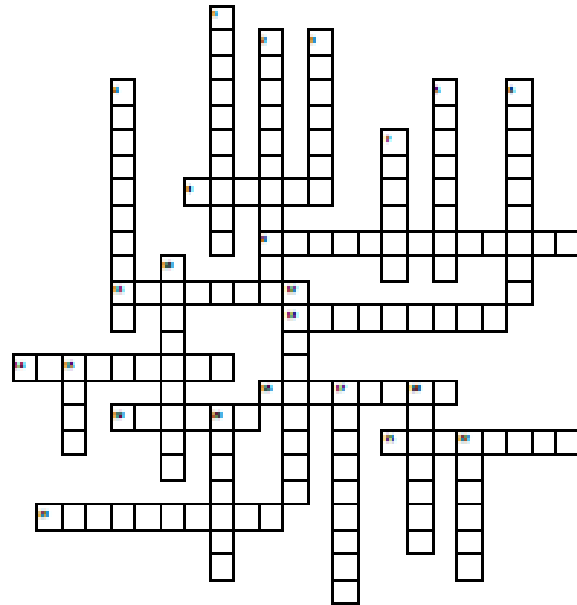


Volunteering

"Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals."

DAVE GYNN

facebook.com/TheArkaMv



Answer Key:

Down:

- showing you care
- providing meals (2 words)
- male sibling
- what we do when we are helped (2 words)
- response - your welcome (2 words)
- someone who gives their time
- showing concern
- where we live
- being thankful
- this is all you need
- items given freely
- out of the cold
- sharing another's feelings
- a welcomed visitor

Across:

- female sibling
- lending a hand (2 words)
- what we wear
- gratifying
- speaking more than one language
- being friendly
- grins
- person next door
- provides edible items (2 words)

Volunteering

Down:

- showing you care
- providing meals (2 words)
- male sibling
- what we do when we are helped (2 words)
- response - your welcome (2 words)
- someone who gives their time
- showing concern
- where we live
- being thankful
- this is all you need
- items given freely
- out of the cold
- sharing another's feelings
- a welcomed visitor

Across:

- female sibling
- lending a hand (2 words)
- what we wear
- gratifying
- speaking more than one language
- being friendly
- grins
- person next door
- provides edible items (2 words)

CONTEST

Name **YOUR Newsletter

Don't forget to submit your suggestion for a new name for our newsletter.

Deadline for submissions are November 1, 2021.

Your entries will be published in the November Newsletter for voting.

The **winner will receive a \$100 gift card.** Winners will be announced in our December newsletter.

Email rsaraiva@cssdioc.org or call 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111 with your entry.

