



## Social Services

# Diocese of Rockford

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Every New Year presents a time to reflect on the past and resolve to improve. We figure out how to implement the prior year's dreams of the future. Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Rockford faces many of the same challenges as last year, although some priorities have been re-arranged. I saw a recent quote to the effect that although there is much to do, "the person who says it cannot be done, should get out of the way of the person doing it."

- Our knowledge of the dangers lurking within the details of the Affordable Health Care Act warned us that we would have to battle the public financing of abortion, birth control, and euthanasia. We did not expect to also battle for the preservation of our Constitutional rights. These are rights that are recognized – not granted – by the government. We must do all we can to preserve them throughout this year. Some issues cannot be compromised.

We will be there.

- Victims of religious and political persecution are being forced to find new homes and new cultures in which to live, work, and succeed. Every internal war drives more people from their homes and families, and they come to us for protection and a new life.

We will be there.

- The economy has continued to founder and if we experience the second dip in a double-dip recession our services will remain in high demand:
  - The aging population and their families and providers will have fewer resources and will need our continued advocacy;
  - The hungry will need to be fed;
  - Children will still need special services, some warm clothing and Christmas toys;
  - Adults and children will need counseling as they deal with the harsh realities of maintaining families and hope during unemployment and underemployment;
  - Newborns will need loving homes.

We will be there.

In November and December friends, families and businesses shared their time, funds and goods to help make the Christmas season warm for the many that were cold or lonely. Advent's message of hope burns brightly within Catholic Charities as this New Year begins; take a look at that lighthouse on our pages and see that it never extinguishes.

Happy New Year. May our Year of Faith be successful on every level.