



# Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Inc.

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Gala to benefit works of Charity**

### *Proceeds Support Catholic Charities Programs and Services*

For the first time in its 54-year history, Catholic Charities Atlanta will host a Fundraising Gala. The event will take place on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta at 6:00pm.

The Archbishop Donoghue Awards will be presented to two recipients at the gala. The late Rawson Haverty Sr., will be honored for service to families and children, and Dr. Michael M.E. Johns, of Emory University for his service to individuals and communities. Both honorees will be recognized for their great acts of charity, compassion and contributions that have significantly impacted individuals, families and children living in Atlanta and North Georgia.

Catholic Charities Atlanta received honors for good stewardship at the end of 2007. A data integrity review by the United Way about Catholic Charities' information & referral service (I&R) resulted in the highest rating possible. This rating means that Catholic Charities demonstrated compliance with a majority of criteria in all categories of the review. United Way said: *"This rating is a testament to your organization's commitment to excellence, good stewardship, and reliable data collection and reporting."* Catholic Charities will be recognized at United Way's Measurement Roundtable in April 2008.

*"An agency of such high standing in the community deserves our engagement and effort."* stated Lee and Sheila Shaw, the Co-Chairs of this special Gala event. *"The success of this fundraising gala will ensure the agency can continue and expand its services to the needy. At the same time, we can recognize two individuals who have supported Catholic Charities' mission in an outstanding way"* adds Sheila Shaw.

For information about the Gala and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Barbara Dobson, Development Director for Catholic Charities Atlanta at 404.885.7474, or by email to [bdobson@archatl.com](mailto:bdobson@archatl.com).

### **About Catholic Charities**

Catholic Charities is the social service agency of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, who partners with the community to help people facing adversity to reach wholeness and self sufficiency regardless of their background or religion. Catholic Charities is among the state's well-known, professional providers of services to families in crisis, support for pregnant women, assistance and education to immigrants and refugees. Last year Catholic Charities placed 19 babies in loving adoptive homes and provided more than 300 low-income families with infant seats, cribs, high chairs and other baby supplies. More than 2000 persons received mental health counseling. More than 7000 families were served in 2007. The agency was a major provider in a statewide collaboration to serve thousands of Hurricane Katrina and Rita families who fled to Georgia, providing housing, counseling, and job placement services. For more information, visit [www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org) or call 404.881.6571.

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## Catholic Charities Award Winning Staff



Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Team received **Mayor Shirley Franklin's Phoenix Award in April 2006** for its relief efforts and services to Hurricane Katrina evacuees



Catholic Charities Immigration Services Program Director, **Attorney Sue Colussy** (photo: right) with part of her team of lawyers.

Mrs. Sue Colussy was awarded the **Liberty Bell Award in 2006** by the Atlanta Bar Association for outstanding service to the community; and most recently in **2007**, the **Emory School of Law Public Interest Committee (EPIC)** presented an **Inspiration Award** for: "Unsung Devotion to Those Most in Need" to Mrs. Susan H. Colussy.

And **on Dec. 14, 2007** Catholic Charities Immigration Services and Staff

received honors for their work with the **Georgia Asylum & Immigration Network (GAIN)** at Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan LLP in Atlanta, GA. GAIN is a project funded by major law firms in the Atlanta area to assist asylum seekers and juveniles with immigration cases.

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