



*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Catholic Charities Program Receives Theisen's More for Your Community Grant**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – In its third year of helping Iowans, on November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Theisen's More for Your Community Grant program announced \$156,225 in awards to 94 agencies serving children and their families.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque was one of the recipient agencies, receiving \$2,000 for their Jail and Prison Ministry Program. The funds will be used to provide direct aid to individuals participating in the program who are in need of emergency financial assistance.

Through a vast network of volunteer mentors and support groups, Catholic Charities' Jail and Prison Ministry program strives to prepare and support ex-offenders as they work towards positive reentry into family and community life. Mentors meet with offenders in prison and jail as well after their release to provide the needed support to resist relapse into old habits and lifestyles. The program helps ex-offenders establish positive relationships, experience healthy social activities, and connect with community resources that can aid in finding work, affordable housing, and meeting basic needs.

Upon receiving notice of the grant award, program coordinator Deacon Bill Hickson commented "We find that the time immediately following release from prison or jail is critical for ex-offenders to get reunited with their families and to re-establish their housing and employment. These funds will help with deposits and start-up costs that are so vital in restoring their lives and relationships in safe and stable neighborhoods. Catholic Charities is honored to be a recipient of the 2011 Theisen's More for Your Community Grant."

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque was founded in 1931 as a non-profit, social service organization. The organization serves 30 counties in Northeast Iowa and is

part of a national social services network through Catholic Charities USA, working to reduce poverty, strengthen families, and empower communities, responding to persons in need of all faiths. For more information or ways to get involved visit [www.charitiesdbq.com](http://www.charitiesdbq.com) or call 800.772.2758.

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