



Charlottesville Catholic Worker

houses of hospitality and a sustainable living center

P.O. Box 52 • Charlottesville VA • 22902
 434-409-0804 • cvillecw@gmail.com
www.cvillecatholicworker.blogspot.com

FIRST HOSPITALITY HOUSE OPENS!

Gone are the termite-damaged walls and floors, leaky pipes and old, drafty windows. After nearly a year of renovations by volunteers and skilled workers alike, 913 Nassau Street is now a cozy and welcoming cottage. From the beds to the pots and pans, the house was furnished entirely by generous donations from our extended community. Through our communal efforts and with God's grace, we have created the first of two Catholic worker houses of hospitality for homeless families!

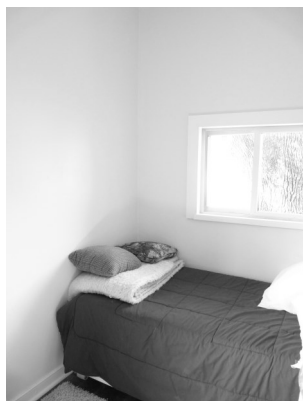
Our first guests were referred by the Church of the Incarnation Outreach Ministry and include Josefina, Yeimi, and Moises – a grandmother, her daughter, and grandson who had been living apart for many months in precarious situations. Their small income wasn't enough to provide for a home or apartment which they could share together. So eager to be reunited, they rallied family and friends to help put the finishing touches on the hospitality house. What a joy it was for them to finally be together again!

Yeimi and Moises will remain in the hospitality house for 18-24 months while they prepare for a long term living situation. Josefina has been called away to care for her own ailing mother but promises to keep the extended Catholic Worker community close in her thoughts and prayers.

According to Joan Chittister, "Hospitality means we take people into the space that is our lives and our mind and our hearts and our work and our efforts. Hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves."

Continued on page 3

Renovated bedroom, kitchen/dining and bathroom of the first hospitality house.



DECEMBER 2010

Who we are:

Yeimi
and Moises



Laura, Ella, Steve,
Anna and Emily Brown

What we do:

The Charlottesville Catholic Worker provides housing and community support to homeless families.

We sponsor times of prayer, reflection and learning, and live simply and sustainably.

We promote peace and justice in our local community and beyond.

Our vision:

The Charlottesville Catholic Worker seeks to inspire and support the transformation of individual lifestyles and social structures toward justice—right relationships with the Divine, among people, and with the natural world.

ABOUT THE CATHOLIC WORKER MOVEMENT:

The aim of the Catholic Worker movement is to live in accordance with the justice and charity of Jesus Christ. Our sources are the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures as handed down in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, with our inspiration coming from the lives of the saints, 'men and women outstanding in holiness, living witnesses to [God's] unchanging love.'

This aim requires us to begin living in a different way. We recall the words of our founders, Dorothy Day who said, "God meant things to be much easier than we have made them," and Peter Maurin who wanted to build a society "where it is easier for people to be good."

~Reprinted from the Catholic Worker newspaper, May 2002

"On Pilgrimage" by Dorothy Day:

Whenever I groan within myself and think how hard it is to keep writing about love in these times of tension and strife which may at any moment become for us all a time of terror, I think to myself, "What else is the world interested in? What else do we all want, each one of us, except to love and be loved, in our families, in our work, in all our relationships.

God is Love. Love casts out fear.

Even the most ardent revolutionist, seeking to change the world, to overturn the tables of the money changers, is trying to make a world where it is easier for people to love, to stand in that relationship with each other of love. We want with all our hearts to love, to be loved. And not just in the family but to look upon all as our mothers, sisters, brothers, children.



Full text found in the Dorothy Day Library on the Web at <http://www.catholicworker.org/>

NURTURING COMMUNITY



We believe that the transformation of individual lifestyles and social structures toward right relationships is best done in community.

We hope to join with a wide range of individuals, groups, and congregations for prayer, reflection, mutual support, and action toward justice and peace.

Consider inviting us to make a presentation on the Catholic Worker movement and the vision for the houses of hospitality and sustainable living center.

Or, contact us to schedule a group tour. Call Laura or Steve at 409-0804 or email us at cvillecw@gmail.com

Easy Essay by Peter Maurin "Share Your Wealth"

1. God wants us to be our brother's keeper.
2. To feed the hungry,
to clothe the naked,
to shelter the homeless,
to instruct the ignorant,
at a personal sacrifice,
is what God wants us to do.

3. What we give to the poor
for Christ's sake
is what we carry with us
when we die.
4. As Jean-Jacques Rousseau says:
"When man dies,
he carries in his clutches
only that which
he has given away."

HOSPITALITY, *continued from page 1*

Here at the Catholic Worker, it is not only the practical side of providing hospitality that occupies us—it is the transformational element as well. Taking people into the spaces of our minds and hearts means that their struggles and concerns become ours. As we get to know Yeimi and Moises more deeply, we are even more affected by the lack of affordable housing in our community, the injustice of full-time work which doesn't pay a living wage, and the desperate need for compassionate immigration reform. Our practice of hospitality does indeed shape our lives and work and efforts – motivating us to not only continue to provide safe housing for families in need, but to deepen our work for justice.

During this season of Advent, we pray that each of us would find more room within to open our lives to others and in doing so, be transformed. *May the Spirit of God enliven us, grant us the grace to provide warm hospitality, and help us to welcome deeply those whose lives intersect with ours.*

MAKE A YEAR-END GIFT OR SPONSOR THE CATHOLIC WORKER

We rely on the generosity of sponsors to pay the mortgage, reduce debt, and make needed improvements to the homes and gardens.

Help us to meet our goal for 2011:
10 new individual sponsorships (\$10—\$100 per month)
3 group sponsorships (\$20—\$200 per month)
1 congregation sponsorship (\$200—\$2,000 per year).

Thank you for your support!



Community house at 911 Nassau St.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS TO THE CATHOLIC WORKER
Through the Church of the Incarnation OR through Virginia Organizing.



Online: www.incarnationparish.org.
Click on "About/Donate" and designate
your gift to the Catholic Worker.

Make checks payable to Church of the
Incarnation with "Catholic Worker" in
the memo line.

Set up a regular sponsorship online,
or contact Steve Brown, parish
Bookkeeper, at (434) 973-4381 x101.



Online: www.virginia-organizing.org
Click on "Donate" and designate your gift to the
Catholic Worker.

Make checks payable to Virginia Organizing with
"Catholic Worker" in the memo line.

Set up a regular sponsorship online or contact
Sally Bastian, Grassroots Fundraising
Coordinator, at (434) 984-4655



* Virginia Organizing is officially registered with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond VA 23209. You can write to this department for all relevant financial statements and procedures regarding the solicitation of contributions. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

VOLUNTEERS—THANK YOU!!

In the past year, over **150 volunteers** have cared for the land and gardens at the Catholic Worker. Volunteers have built raised beds and garden paths, weeded and removed debris, raked, mulched, and planted. We are deeply grateful.



WISH LIST

- Prayers
- Canning jars
- Garden tools
- Snow shovel
- LOWE'S gift certificates for building materials

* Thank you to the UVa APO Service Fraternity, Tandem Friends Upper School, United Way Day of Caring, C'ville Homeschool Service Club, Notre Dame Club of Charlottesville, Youth and parents from the Charlottesville Catholic School, St. Thomas Aquinas and the Church of the Incarnation, UVA Health Services teams, UVA Campus Police, Little Flower Catholic Worker Community.

We appreciate the generosity of many individuals who have shared their time and helped to transform the homes on Nassau Street into the Charlottesville Catholic Worker!

Coming in 2011!

*Ecumenical peace studies group
for students, activists, and
individuals seeking Christian
lifestyles which are 'in the world'
but not 'of the world'.*

*Join us for prayer, study, and
discussion on creative
peacemaking, simple living,
and right relationships.*

Charlottesville Catholic Worker
PO Box 52
Charlottesville, VA 22902