

# Summer heat strains Charities' North Nashville Outreach

TERESA LAURENCE

On the first business day of the month, the waiting area at Catholic Charities' North Nashville Outreach office is teeming with people seeking every kind of emergency assistance they offer.

"The first of the month is always standing room only, when people know we have funds," said Sister Sally Lessnau, D.C., a Catholic Charities caseworker.

Requests for assistance are always up during the summer, especially this year as people are trying to pay off high utility bills accrued during last month's extreme heat wave.

"All the summer months have been hard," Sister Sally said. "We haven't been able to meet the need."

Because of the agency's limited budget, the North Nashville Outreach caseworkers can only offer \$100 of assistance with rent and utility bills per family per year. During July and August they helped 400 families, "but we have to say no to a lot of people," said Sister Naomi Libiak, D.C., another Catholic Charities caseworker at the outreach office.

To help their clients beat the extreme heat, the caseworkers purchased fans to hand out, and welcomed the homeless of the neighborhood to sit inside their small waiting area and cool off.

The summer months also bring in more families asking for the emer-



Photo by Theresa Laurence

**Sister Sally Lessnau, D.C., a caseworker at Catholic Charities' North Nashville Outreach office, consults with client Kelvika Jackson about her electric bill. Jackson was asking for assistance to cover the cost of turning on the electricity in her new apartment. The outreach office, especially strapped for cash during the summer, can only offer up to \$100 per household annually to help with rent and utility costs. It also offers emergency food boxes, clothing and bus passes, all of which are in limited supply.**

gency food boxes, most in demand when the children are home from school and not receiving their subsidized free lunches. Over the last few months, the food pantry has been particularly depleted. "We've never been so bad off for food," said Sister Sally,

who has worked at the North Nashville Outreach office since 2004.

From July to August, the agency assisted 280 families with the food boxes, which they can only give out to the same family once every three months. The food generally lasts less than a week.

Looking at the nearly bare pantry shelves in late August, Sister Sally lamented that "we have practically nothing to give them."

While she and her fellow caseworkers can't offer the food boxes as often as they would like, they are able to hand out daily brown bag lunches to anyone, "no questions asked," said Sister Sally. "It brings joy to my heart."

In addition to food and bill assistance, the North Nashville Outreach office offers bus passes, a toy chest, hygiene products and a clothing closet, from which clients may take five items a month for each family member. Caseworkers also help people obtain the proper identification needed to get on the right track with a job or housing.

The North Nashville Outreach office, which receives funding through diocesan and national Catholic campaigns, the United Way, government grants and private donations, operates on a tight budget, and money and food are often in short supply towards the end of the month. To help alleviate some of this problem, the caseworkers are trying to schedule at least one diocesan school to hold a food drive each month.

Donations of food, clothing, and money are always welcome at Catholic Charities' North Nashville Outreach office, located at 2209 Buchanan St. For more information, call Sister Sally or Sister Naomi at (615) 242-1554. ☩

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, located near Owensboro, Ky., seek qualified candidates for the following positions:**

### STAFF ADMINISTRATOR/HR

Position responsible for overall management of human resources, services, and operations at the Motherhouse. Candidates will have a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, or in Business Administration or related field with either an Associate's degree or Certification in HR; interpersonal skills; and three-five years' successful management or HR experience.

### DIRECTOR OF MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF MISSION ADVANCEMENT

Experienced supervisor/administrator with proven skills in marketing, public relations, and communications, who will manage 6-8 professionals in the mission advancement ministry, including development, partnerships, mission effectiveness, and others in communications. Requires a vision for a non-profit and Catholic religious congregation of women, a Master's degree in marketing or communications, and at least 5 years' experience in either marketing or public relations and in management.

### DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Must have proven development skills and planned giving experience, preferably in another non-profit organization. Responsible for leading and managing all programs/services related to philanthropic activity to further the mission of the Ursuline Sisters. Qualifications include commitment to the mission of the Catholic Church, ability to work in a team setting, successful experience in planned giving, minimum of a Bachelor's degree, and at least 3 years' experience as a director with responsibilities for planned giving.

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We offer competitive wages and benefits. Interested in joining a team dedicated to serving the mission of the Ursuline Sisters? Mail, e-mail, or fax résumé to

**Pat Williams**  
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Website: [www.ursulinesmsj.org](http://www.ursulinesmsj.org)

## POSITION AVAILABLE

### HEAD OF SCHOOL

**Pope John Paul II High School, Hendersonville, TN**

Founded in 2002 by the Diocese of Nashville to meet the educational needs of the expanding Catholic population north of the city, JPPII today serves 685 talented, college-bound students in grades 9 – 12. The school's mission is "to motivate students to lead exemplary lives which reflect Catholic values; to expand students' knowledge and scholarship by creating a learning environment that promotes academic excellence and an appreciation of the beauty of God's creation; and to create a diverse learning community dedicated to the mutual support of students, parents, faculty and staff, and a commitment of service to others."

The school is located on 65 acres with abundant playing fields and a 166,000 square foot spectacular school building, which includes spacious classrooms, modern laboratories, a state-of-the-art library, professional theatre, gymnasium, and football stadium.

The school's 58 faculty members (60% with advanced degrees) oversee an extensive curriculum that provides a rigorous college preparatory program with numerous electives and 18 Advanced Placement subjects. At JPPII the arts, both visual and performing, are flourishing, and there are abundant clubs, activities, and Christian service internship opportunities to round out a student's education. Athletics have a major prominence at JPPII with more than 30 interscholastic teams, as well as PE and intramurals.

JPPII is governed by a Board of Trustees which is appointed by and operates with full support of the Bishop of the Diocese and a loyal parent body assists the school in numerous ways. The school is financially sound with a balanced operating budget of \$7 million. JPPII is a member of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools (TAIS) and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The ideal candidate will be a distinguished educational leader who is a thoughtful, practicing Catholic. In particular, the school seeks a candidate with a high-level of energy and drive to sustain the positive momentum, strong base of support and standard of excellence for which the school is known. Candidates should send a letter of interest, current résumé, statement of educational philosophy, and names of five professional references to:

**Gregory Floyd & Associates, Inc.**  
58 Portland Road, P.O. Box 399, Kennebunk, ME 04043-0399  
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**Application deadline is: October 30, 2007**