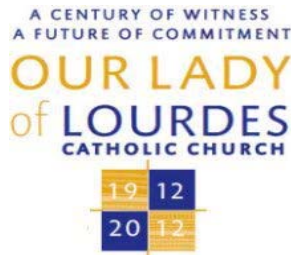


Our Lady of Lourdes
Life Issues Committee

Life Notes

October 2012



October
is
**RESPECT
LIFE
MONTH**



As Catholics, we believe in respecting human life from conception until natural death—and at every point in between. In October, our bishops challenge us not only to speak up for the weak and vulnerable but also to demonstrate our commitment by serving those among us who are most at risk. At Lourdes, our Life Issues team tries to do that year-round. We work on issues from helping with crisis pregnancies to ending the death penalty. But our major project has been our Street GRACE partnership with a center for homeless teens in downtown Atlanta called StandUp for Kids.

“PARISHIONERS HELP TEENS, RUNAWAYS AVOID EXPLOITATION”

That was the title of one of the Catholic News Service articles highlighting our work at StandUp for Kids that appeared this summer in the *Georgia Bulletin*. CNS noted that Lourdes prepares meals for the center, and our members serve as counselors and instructors to at-risk teens. Over the past year, many parishioners have generously joined in these efforts, but we could really use more financial help and volunteers.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

The **2nd Monday** of each month, we need volunteers to provide food, cook and/or serve at StandUp for Kids. **Cooks** willing to prepare simple meals (recipes provided) are especially needed. We also need volunteers to prepare **Food/Survival Packs** for kids on the streets and visitors leaving the center. A list of ingredients is provided.

In addition, the center needs **Center and Street Outreach Volunteers**. Center volunteers work as mentors and counselors to the kids 4.5 hours once a week. Street outreach volunteers walk around downtown looking for new kids and meeting with kids who are too old to come to the center but still need assistance. Both center and outreach volunteers work from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday OR Wednesday.

Also needed are **GED Volunteers** to tutor kids one-to-one as they work through GED practice tests (6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday OR Wednesday) and **Life Skill Teachers** to help small groups learn skills like applying for jobs and managing money (45-minute sessions Monday OR Wednesday). Finally, **Clothes Closet Volunteers** are needed to help inventory and organize donated clothing (a few daytime hours each week).

Center and outreach volunteers must attend two training sessions on Sunday afternoons. GED volunteers need only one session. All the rest get plenty of OJT!

If you can help with the meals that Lourdes provides, please contact Susan Taquechel at taquechels@bellsouth.net or 404-321-6752. If you can assist with other ongoing needs at the center, contact Carole Lacour at Lared111@aol.com or 404-629-0878.