



Catholic Charities Statement on its Role in local Community Organizing

Approved by Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Chairman

Catholic Charities Board of Directors

September 21, 2009

More than 2 years ago, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City met with a local representative of the Industrial Area Foundation (IAF) to learn about its community organizing work in other areas of the country. IAF has a good reputation for helping churches bring together their members to listen and learn from each other, so that together they can work for the good of all people.

After study and reflection Catholic Charities' Board of Directors endorsed the effort. Catholic Charities could find nothing that conflicted with or compromised our moral and social principles, and became a supporting member of the local organization formed in Oklahoma City, known as the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee (OSC). The IAF trainer helped the OSC develop the capacity for community organizing, using church volunteers. When it became apparent that this effort was one which would cause friction in our parishes, our Board of Directors met with Archbishop Beltran last April, and decided to withdraw our support from the OSC.

This action was taken because Archbishop Beltran and our Board of Directors believed this friction would negatively impact our services to the poor in our archdiocese. No money received from the Annual Catholic Charities Appeal will be used to support either the OSC or the IAF. All funds from the Catholic Charities' appeal are used to provide services to people in Oklahoma. Our governance and legal incorporation prohibit Catholic Charities from political endorsements and participation in partisan politics, and we have remained faithful to that obligation and always will do so.

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