Who We Are

Founded in 2002 as a volunteer program of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Metuchen, the Catholic Charities Solidarity Team (CCST) works to reduce injustice and suffering facing the poor overseas and at home in the Metuchen Diocese. We apply Catholic Social Teaching and selected justice and development activities from Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Justice for Immigrants.

CCST work features six major areas of activity:

- Guatemala Community Project Partnership
- Project Haiyan Long-Term Response
- Kenya Water Project
- Prayer and Spirituality
- Diocesan Formation'
- Local programming of CRS, CCHD and JFI

Our development projects cover disaster mitigation, health, agriculture, economic development, education and community-building.

Also operating under the auspices of the Catholic Charities Solidarity Team are local diocesan activities on behalf of the national Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the Justice for Immigrants Campaign (CCST Migration). We coordinate the well-known CRS Rice Bowl program each Lent, and a grant program that accompanies it.

The Catholic Charities Solidarity Team functions as a working group and meets monthly. New members are always welcome to join us in our work.

For further information, please visit:

www.ccsolidarity.org
Msgr. Joseph Kerrigan has been pastor of the Sacred Heart Church since 2005, and is now the pastor for the newly formed Holy Family Parish, New Brunswick. Since 2002, he has been the diocesan director of CRS and CCHD in Metuchen.

He has led previous CCST partnership efforts in Guatemala and India. Msgr. Kerrigan worked with the International Children’s Heart Foundation in Bosnia and Croatia, and co-authored Healing the Heart of Croatia. He has served on Catholic Charities boards in Metuchen and Memphis.

Corbeth P. Reyes, also known as Chinky, is married to Rey Reyes with a lovely daughter named Correne and two pet dogs, Bean and Molly. Chinky is a full time registered nurse at the Oncology Unit of St. Francis Medical Center.

She has been involved with various ministries at Queenship of Mary Parish, Plainsboro, including the Guatemala Community Projects. While her family is from Burauen Leyte, Chinky was born in Tacloban City. She is very honored to be a part of this delegation, and cannot thank our diocese enough for helping the Filipinos who are devastated from typhoon Haiyan. She asks for your prayers for the success of this mission and safety of the community, Fr. Gerry would like to bring hope and help to those suffering due to the destruction of Haiyan.

Ernest C. Revoir worked for over 20 years in the hospital industry at the St. Barnabas Health System in Ocean County, NJ in the areas of design and construction, strategic planning, facilities management and hospital operations. He began his current position with Catholic Charities- Diocese of Metuchen in June 1997 as the Service Area Director for Health Services. Currently, Revoir is the Service Area for Social Justice for both Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Metuchen. He plans, directs, and implements activities that promote Catholic Social teaching.

Fr. Gerardo Padron has been pastoral associate for the St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen, since July 2011, and has been a priest for 20 years. He attended his education at St. Francis de Sales Seminary and at St. Alphonsus Regional Seminary.

As a member of the Catholic Charities Solidary team as well as the Filipino community, Fr. Gerry would like to bring hope and help to those suffering due to the destruction of Haiyan.

Tony Tamayo is a Senior Project Manager, PMP, at iconectiv/Ericsson, Piscataway, NJ – a world leader in providing Software Solutions in Global Telecommunications Industry. He holds a degree in Engineering and post graduate studies in Software Engineering and Network Administration from New York University. In 2009, he along with other founding trustees, founded and incorporated the Catholic Family Ministries Circle, Inc. (CFMC) – a non-profit organization serving families in various parishes in the Diocese. Tony with his wife Evelyn joined CCST in their desire to assist in the effort of alleviating the plight of the Typhoon Haiyan victims.

Evelyn Tamayo has worked as a Medical Representative for the pharmaceutical giant, Bristol Myers, in Makati, Philippines and also at the JFK Hartwyck Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Edison, NJ. She holds a BS degree in Pharmacy from the Pontifical University of Sto. Tomas in Manila, Philippines. She currently holds the position of Secretary for the Catholic Family Ministries Circle, Inc. (CFMC). She currently resides in Edison, NJ with her husband Tony, where they raised 3 wonderful kids Neil, Mark and Jhoanna – all grownups pursuing their own professional careers. She can be contacted at evelynptamayo22@gmail.com

Also on Haiyan Task Force: Don Tibay and Tony Sitoy

The Diocese of Metuchen responded generously to the Nov. 2013 Typhoon Haiyan which took an estimated 6,000 lives in the Philippines. Approximately $600,000 was raised within the diocese.

Buoyed by the response and continuing need, CCST is embarking on a long-term response. A four-person team will travel to the Tacloban region in September 2014. The group will assess needs, meet church partners from CRS and the affected dioceses, and begin to plan village-level projects that aim at sustainability and resilience.

In New Jersey, the CCST Haiyan Task Force engages the diocese and interfaith groups for support. Our goal is to commit to long-term relationships with those who have been affected by the typhoon and create projects that will address needs.

If you would like to contribute to the Typhoon Haiyan long-term recovery phase, please send a check to CCST, and mail it to the Holy Family Parish Center, 56 Throop Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For more information, contact Msgr. Kerrigan at 732-545-1681 or jkerrigan@ccsolidarity.org.