

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Samuel P. Orlando
Director

INTRODUCTION

What is a community? One definition suggests it is a group of individuals organized into a unit, or manifesting some unifying trait or common interest; or loosely defined, the locality or area population for which a service is provided. Thus, when the Grand Knight thinks of his community, he cannot only think about his council, church, and surrounding geographical area but he must include humanitarian and charitable concerns as well.

Community Activity Programs should strive to focus attention and awareness on local issues and events that affect the lives of individuals living in our neighborhoods, communities and cities.

Just as each council is unique, so is each community. As such, we need to be aware that our communities continue to change and their needs and circumstances are always increasing. Understandably, councils cannot address every concern of every community or be actively involved in all programs endorsed by the Maryland State Council. However, it is important that we identify needs, establish priorities, and attempt to implement measures that make our communities a better place to live.

Each council should concentrate on developing a plan that will work in your community, with your members, and with your resources. Determine what needs to be done to meet existing needs while exploring new initiatives recognizing the necessity for growth and improvement.

In today's world, Government agencies, community organizations, and service groups can be valuable sources of information and assistance in fulfilling your objectives. Share your ideas with other volunteer groups and work together for a common goal. Your pastor and other area churches are also excellent sources for identifying needs within your community.

It is strongly recommended that the Grand Knight appoint a Communities Activities Chairman. The fraternal year begins almost immediately with two major activities: the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society pledge and the Tootsie Roll campaign. The goal of the Communities Activities Team, working in conjunction with your Activities Chairman, is for each council to successfully become an influential force within your community.

We encourage you to actively participate in the programs recommended by the Maryland State Council. However, we also urge you to explore other endeavors that are both easy to facilitate within your council and that favorably impact those in need. The members of the Community Activities Team are eager to see each council sponsor innovative programs during this fraternal year. We are here to assist you. Please feel free to call upon us at any time.

I firmly believe that successful community service programs are the direct result of the dedication demonstrated by energetic, caring, Catholic men known as the Knights of Columbus. These men recognize a moral or social injustice and through teamwork and love, find unique and innovative ways to correct problems and offer a better quality of life to all they touch.

Best wishes for a most successful fraternal year.

Fraternally,

Sam Orlando

Samuel P. Orlando
Community Activities Director

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES TEAM

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CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

June 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend the GK Seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Place Tootsie Roll Order <input type="checkbox"/> Make Leukemia Pledge <input type="checkbox"/> Appoint a Mentally Handicapped Chairman (Tootsie Rolls) <input type="checkbox"/> Appoint an Apostleship of the Sea Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting
July 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Independence Day – Flag Promotion <input type="checkbox"/> Leukemia Pledges Due <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting
August 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Leukemia Pledges Due <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Community Activity Program (1 st quarter) <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct an event for Senior Citizen Day <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct an Apostleship of the Sea activity <input type="checkbox"/> Attend State Council Program Seminar <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting
September 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Labor Day – Flag promotion <input type="checkbox"/> Patriotic Day/Anniversary of 9/11 – Flag Promotion <input type="checkbox"/> “Light the Night” Leukemia Walk-A-Thon <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Verify your Leukemia Pledges have been sent to State Council
October 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> RESPECT LIFE MONTH <input type="checkbox"/> Columbus Day – Flag Promotion <input type="checkbox"/> Mentally Handicapped Program (Tootsie Rolls) Kick-off <input type="checkbox"/> Community Activity report for 1 st Quarter due by the 15th <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting
November 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran’s Day – Flag Promotion <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Community Activity Program (2 nd quarter) <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct an Apostleship of the Sea activity <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Senior Citizens Essay Contest
December 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Tootsie Roll Money Due <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Pro-Life March <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting
January 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Council attendance at Pro-Life March in Washington <input type="checkbox"/> Community Activity report for 2nd Quarter due by the 15th <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting
February 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Nominations Due for Catholic Teacher, Citizen, Policeman, Fireman & EMT of the Year <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Essay Contest Due <input type="checkbox"/> Lobby Night in Annapolis <input type="checkbox"/> President’s Day – Flag Promotion <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct a Community Activity Program (3 rd quarter) <input type="checkbox"/> Promote the Founder’s Day Mass, Reception & Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Promote Pro-Life Rally next month

March 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Rally in Annapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Founder's Day Mass, Reception & Awards Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct an Apostleship of the Sea activity <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights Meeting
April 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Report due by the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Report due by the 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Community Activity report for 3rd Quarter due by 1st <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights meeting
May 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Living American Flag at Fort McHenry <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Day – Flag Promotion <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights meeting
June 2009	<input type="checkbox"/> Flag Day – Pause for the Pledge <input type="checkbox"/> Flag Promotion Report Due <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Chapter of Grand Knights meeting

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA/STELLA MARIS (AOS)

The great Pope John Paul II called the world's seafarers, "the invisible strangers among us." This is where we, as Knights of Columbus, can make a visible effort to assist the Catholic seafarers who visit the Port of Baltimore every day. Every year, over 2,500 ships enter the Port of the Baltimore and thousands of Catholic men and women who comprise the crews of these ships need a unified and fraternal effort to keep them connected to their Catholic faith. Many of the crews would have no way to attend Mass or receive communion were it not for this ministry.

It is recommended that each Grand Knight appoint a chairman of this new and important community activity. The Grand Knight/Chairman of each council should promote charitable activities that can lift up the lives of the seafarer. The individual councils can do this in a number of ways. One way would be to collect gently used clothing to include shirts, pants, baseball caps, winter gloves, winter sweaters, jackets, etc. Also needed are games and puzzles, family-based DVD movies and books or DVD's in other languages. Secular books and magazines, religious articles, bibles, rosaries and other religious articles can also be collected for distribution to the seafarer. During the Christmas Holiday, the ladies auxiliary of each council can assist by creating shoeboxes wrapped in holiday paper and filled with Bic razors, shaving gear, toothpaste, and other hygiene needs.

Today, councils participate once a month at Our Daily Bread, Franciscan Center, St. Martins Food Pantry, S.O.M.E, and other such support centers for the needy and homeless. Likewise, councils should also urge their membership to participate a few hours a month as Maritime Ministers (Ship's Visitors) with AOS. Brother Knights will be trained to actively interact with the seafarer on board the vessel, offer them transportation using any one of the four AOS vans so the crews can shop, attend church services, etc. Here, too, is where a Knight can be a friend, brother and extended family to the seafarer while they are visiting the Port of Baltimore. As a ship's visitor, council members will also receive homeland security training and clearance. Language is not a barrier.

Brother Knights can also invest a few hours a month as an AOS Host by being on hand at the AOS center to greet the seafarers that visit there to relax, use the computers to email their families, or to call home.

The AOS program for our International Catholic seafarers offers each council an opportunity to extend God's love, mercy and Jesus' message of hope to the seafarer.

All donations can be delivered to the Apostleship of the Sea/Stella Maris at 6 Dunmanway, Dundalk, Maryland 21222. The contact number to call is 443-845-7227. Monetary donations in any amount should be mailed to the Maryland State Council with a remark entering Apostleship of the Sea/Stella Maris. So that we can measure our participation in this needy endeavor, please notify the Chairman, Joseph P. Buccheri, of monetary contributions or any donations.

CATHOLIC TEACHER/CITIZEN OF THE YEAR POLICE OFFICER, FIREFIGHTER AND EMT OF THE YEAR

These five separate programs allow the State Council to honor individuals that have made significant contributions to Catholic education and to the community at large. Nearly every local council will have one or more members or close associates who serve in one of these professions. They all are deserving of our support and recognition, but each year some stand out above the rest.

The Grand Knight should appoint one or more chairmen for these programs. Appoint a nomination committee and a panel of independent judges; then select a council honoree in each category. Make the presentation at an awards ceremony at a council meeting or social gathering or at any other appropriate venue such as the honoree's school or work location. Invite the recipient's family and friends to the presentation. In addition to a certificate, present a plaque or another appropriate award. Be sure to inform your local news media. Finally, submit the resumes of the council honorees to the State Council chairman on a timely basis.

The State Council Awards in each category will be presented at the annual Founder's Day Mass and Reception to individuals selected from entries received from local councils. These individuals will be invited to the dinner by the State Council.

The **Citizen of the Year Award** is based on outstanding religious or civic contributions at the local, state or national level. You can find candidates by using many sources within your local community. Look for someone providing exemplary service to youth, to the homeless, to their church, or to pro-life causes. There are no restrictions of the type of service; the key is simply *service*. To qualify for the Citizen of the Year Award, the nominee must be a resident of the State of Maryland.

The **Catholic Teacher of the Year Award** is given to a Catholic teacher who has demonstrated exceptional ability and service to the education of our youth. Contact your local school principal or the head of your parish CCD for possible candidates.

The **Police Officer, Firefighter** and **EMT of the Year Awards** go to outstanding individuals in each of these professions. Knights of Columbus councils throughout the jurisdiction have been recognizing public safety personnel for their outstanding service and dedication for many years. It makes no difference whether these individuals are paid employees or volunteers; in many instances, these men and women risk their own lives to protect the citizens and the property of those they serve. Isn't it time to give something back to these brave and courageous public servants? Invite your local police and fire hierarchy to nominate members of their organization who have demonstrated exceptional service to the community. Establish a working relationship with local public safety departments and make them aware of your support and your gratitude for the services they render. Present a certificate of merit/appreciation at a council meeting, a council social event or at the honoree's work location. Invite his/her family, friends and co-workers to the presentation.

FLAG/PATRIOTIC ACTIVITIES

The programs under this category of Community Activities have been few over the past several years. They have been based on the Living Flag and Flag Day events only. We would like to think that with the events of September 11th, the fight for freedom of our armed forces, and the acts of terrorism towards our country it is important to realize what the fourth principle of our Order, that of patriotism, means to every Knight of Columbus. Patriotism, by definition, means the love of our country and the love of our flag.

Therefore, the Community Activities Director and the State Flag Chairman ask every Grand Knight of every council to promote activities that honor our country and our flag. This would be accomplished by the following:

- The Grand Knight should appoint a flag chairman and conduct patriotic activities in conjunction with the Nation's national holidays (see below). The State Flag Chairman will provide assistance to guide you in the right direction as far as contacts, proper flag procedures, application forms, etc. in order for you to have a successful activity
- It is proposed that every council should plan some type of patriotic ceremony for one or more of our country's national holidays (President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, September 11th-Patriotic Day, Veteran's Day, etc.). They should report their choice(s) to the State Flag Chairman so he can provide any follow-up as deemed necessary.
- Councils will be asked to report the results of these activities to the State Council Flag Chairman. *The council during the year who has conducted the best patriotic program during the year will receive an award and will be awarded a flag of the United States for presentation to an organization of their choice.*

By way of illustration, the following is offered as activities that each council should consider to be used throughout the year to promote our country and our flag:

The Living Flag Program: This program is for children who gather at Fort McHenry to form a flag to honor the Star Spangled Banner. Volunteers are needed to properly organize the participants. There are approximately 1,000 school children who participate. This will require one day of your time to distribute the different color boards and to serve as traffic control. This event usually occurs around the 20th of May.

Flag Folding Program: This program represents the same religious principles on which our great country was founded. It can be used as a conclusion to any patriotic program. It consists of reciting the thirteen symbols for the folds of the flag while it is being folded. These thirteen symbols remind us of all the tributes to our country. Once the flag is folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our Nation's motto, "In God We Trust." A Flag Day celebration would be a good time to use this activity. This could also be used at the conclusion of a council meeting during the month of June or to open a meeting. Invite your Fourth Degree color guard and any veterans group to join you in this program.

Flag Day Celebration: This is a great opportunity for you council to organize a community celebration. Be sure to include the "Pause for the Pledge" in this activity. If your council has a permanent flag pole, a flag raising ceremony with the singing of the National anthem could be used at the beginning of your celebration. A picnic could be planned with other activities specified by the council. The flag folding program can be used as a conclusion to your day.

Holiday Flag Program: This program will spread the meaning of the flag throughout the community by getting businesses and other groups in the community involved. For a small initial fee, the council provides a flag of the United States at a particular location on the six major patriotic holidays. If the location is in need of mounting brackets or additional hardware for the display, this will also be provided on an as-needed basis. On each of the holidays, a member of the Knights of Columbus will put up and take down the flag. The flag will be stored at the council home and will be the property of the Knights of Columbus council. If any particular group wishes to continue with this program, a small annual fee will be assessed. These fees will be used for the purchase of the flags and any brackets, etc. needed for the display of the flag. This program is intended to raise the community's awareness of the importance of the flag in our lives and to support the activities of the Knights of Columbus.

Flag Essay Contest: The purpose of this contest is to develop an appreciation of the United States Flag and what it means in our lives. This contest is for elementary school aged students at any school designated by the council. The essay will consist of no more than 500 words and must be an original interpretation of what the American flag means to that person. The council will make the deadline for the contest and will devise an entry for each of the participants. At the conclusion of the contest, the council will choose three winners; 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The winners will receive a certificate and a monetary prize designated by the council. If there are several councils that wish to participate in a particular district, the winner of each council in that district will be judged and a district winner will be announced. *This winner will be presented an award by the State Council and the winning essay will be read at our Annual Founders Day Mass.*

Flag Drawing Contest: The purpose of this contest is to depict the American flag in a setting that promotes honor, freedom, love and respect of our National symbol. This contest will be open to school aged children. The age and grades of the children will be at the discretion of the council. This can be done at several grade levels not to exclude the youngest to high school levels. The drawings must be free-hand with the use of any media that they wish. The size of the entry must be 11x14. The council will provide an entry form for each participant. If there are several different grade levels that apply, they will be separated into group levels. There will be three winners in each group and certificates and monetary prizes will be awarded by the council. If there are several councils that wish to participate, then this contest will be based on the same format as the Essay Contest. *It has been proposed that if there is significant participation and this becomes a successful contest the winning drawings will be displayed at the Annual State Convention.*

Flag Bridge Program: The purpose of this program is to have an American flag displayed on every bridge. This program will be in conjunction with the Adopt-A-Road program. The program authorizes groups to pick up litter and improve the appearance of our community's roadways. The council must contact the Adopt-A-Road program before starting this program. If you wish to be part of this program, contact the State Flag Chairman for additional information. A contact person and Web site will be given to you.

Dignified Disposal of the American Flag: This program, adopted by the Calvert Province of the Fourth Degree, can be done at your council level. This program was first devised by the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America. In 2000, Archbishop Keough Assembly was granted permission to hold a disposal ceremony. The ceremony consists of the collection of unusable flags with inspection of the flags, prayer and dignified disposal by burning in a solemn ceremony. If your council is interested in this program, it is a good idea to get you Fourth Degree assembly involved with you. A copy of the entire ceremony will be provided to you at your request.

There are additional ways to keep your council involved in patriotic activities. Fort McHenry National Monument and Shrine has many of its own programs that you can witness and be a part of. Throughout the year there are many programs that give you a great background on the flag and a celebration of our freedom. Two of the activities that have great significance are the Twilight Tattoo ceremonies given by the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force. These ceremonies are a blend of historical tradition, pageantry and music. The drill teams of both services are inspiring which make them memorable ceremonies for all that see them. Promote these ceremonies with you councils. Do your part to become more aware of the meaning of patriotism in your lives. It is our country, let's always love it and ever defend it.

LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA

Leukemia is a type of cancer. Cancer is a group of many related diseases. All cancers begin in cells which make up blood and other tissues. Normally cells grow and divide to form new cells as the body needs them. When cells grow old, they die and new cells take their place.

Sometimes this orderly process goes wrong. New cells form when the body does not need them, and old cells do not die when they should. Leukemia is cancer that begins in blood cells.

The Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus is pleased to continue a long and successful relationship with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Maryland. This is the nineteenth consecutive year the Knights of Columbus has supported this most deserving organization.

The Grand Knight, as CEO of your council, can make a difference by making a pledge from your council to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Ask council members to make individual contributions. Honor the council's pledge on a timely basis or within 90 days of the new fraternal year. Solicit volunteers for the "Light the Night" annual Walk-a-Thon.

Make the Council's pledge of a forthcoming donation known to the State Council at the Grand Knights' College in June or no later than early July. Councils are requested to bring their pledges to the Leukemia Society each year to Grand Knight's College.

Leukemia and other blood-related diseases are the primary killers of children from ages 1 to 14. An estimated 4,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. Your council's contribution is very instrumental in funding research and patient services. Due to tremendous advances in research, the survival rate is now above 80% for some forms of leukemia and the Society is on the verge of additional advances that provide relief to many.

The Society sponsors "Light the Night" walks in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Harford, Frederick and Calvert Counties. The Knights of Columbus assist at these walks and has become one of the major contributors to the Society. Our volunteers fill balloons with helium, distribute tee shirts, assist with registration, supply refreshments to the participants and act as guides along the routes.

With your help and the help of your council, the Knight of Columbus in Maryland can achieve an increase over the last fraternal year. All donations made in the name of the Knights of Columbus for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society should be made payable to the Maryland State Council (noted as Leukemia Pledge) and forwarded to the Maryland State Leukemia and Lymphoma Chairman.

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PROGRAM (TOOTSIE ROLLS)

The Mentally Handicapped Program has become one of the most prestigious and important programs conducted by the Knights of Columbus in the State of Maryland. During the past fraternal year, councils in the Maryland jurisdiction collected in excess of \$300,000. All of the profits from this program were donated to organizations who help the citizens of Maryland with mental retardation.

The Grand Knight is responsible for ordering Tootsie Rolls, aprons, and posters while at the Grand Knight's Seminar. Appoint a capable and enthusiastic council chairman. Obtain maximum council participation and coverage of the council's working area. At a minimum, utilize the entire month of October for collections. Recognize the efforts of your volunteers by offering congratulations and presenting certificates of appreciation to all participants, including businesses where collections took place. Forward a check for the **TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED** to the **MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PROGRAM CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31**. Make presentations to the recipients as soon as possible and request they contact the Maryland State Council Office within 90 days. Maintain detailed records and results of the program for the next chairman.

Every council should participate in this most worthwhile project. Always attempt to exceed last year's collections. However, you should recognize and honor your council's working area. Before attempting to collect in another council's area, discuss your plans with the Grand Knight involved and/or your District Deputy. Schedule your program early to assure maximum participation and to avoid problems obtaining collection sites. Advertise in local community publications that the Knights of Columbus will be conducting a drive to raise money for the mentally handicapped. Inviting recipients to get involved provides additional manpower, publicity, awareness and support.

God's Special Children Thank You!

PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

The Knights of Columbus is a pro-life organization. As such, we strongly oppose abortion, and will defend the right to life in cases of euthanasia, assisted suicide, and other related issues. Our ultimate goal is for the passage of laws that protect human life. The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) has always made the passage of pro-life laws their top priority. The MCC also leads the fight for the defeat of laws that are in opposition to life. The MCC is comprised of the Archbishops and Bishops of Maryland, and the staff they appoint. When we coordinate our pro-life efforts with the MCC, we are truly "In Solidarity with Our Bishops".

All Knights are encouraged to participate in one or both pro-life marches. The first one is on January 22, the National March, at the Mall in DC. March with the State Officers (look for our big blue banner). The other march is in Annapolis, in the evening, in early March. Our Maryland bishops participate in both of these events. These are great opportunities to support our bishops and proudly stand up for the preborn.

The following is some of what has been accomplished in the past:

The MCC campaigns and the Marches for Life are the major statewide efforts the Maryland Knights of Columbus support. In addition, councils perform numerous other pro-life activities. A list of these (that councils have recently participated in) is on the State Knights of Columbus website, along with the Pro-Life activities form.

In early 2008, the Knights of Maryland worked with the MCC on a letter writing campaign to our legislators concerning pro-life legislation. Nearly 40,000 letters were written. This was with only 40% of all parishes participating. The MCC wants to conduct another campaign for 2009. If we, as Knights, can work with the MCC to ensure participation in all parishes, we could have over 100,000 letters written – this would be astounding!

If your council doesn't have a pro-life chairman, we strongly urge you to please appoint one. This chairman serves as a liaison between the State pro-life chairmen and your council. Plus, he can come up with ideas for other pro-life activities and can implement these. He is usually the key to the success for your council's pro-life activities.

SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

The purpose of this program is to provide and promote activities that assist and benefit our senior citizens. It is an opportunity to show respect and, in some way, pay homage to their life-long contributions to society.

This program affords each council the opportunity for recognition in the community. We, therefore, ask that every Grand Knight appoint a Senior Citizen Activity Chairman in your council. While you may already be doing something for our seniors, we encourage you to continue and possibly enhance your program. For those of you that have not yet engaged in this program, please join our ranks.

Promote activities that honor the senior citizens of your community and recognize all of the volunteer hours they work to make our communities a better place to live and work. Remember, every activity is eligible for an award presented at the State Convention. Also, there are two

additional categories for awards: one for the best one-time event for the fraternal year and the other for the best ongoing activity.

Every Council should plan at least one activity per quarter to honor Senior Citizens. To get you started, here are a few example activities:

- Nursing home visits
- Conduct a "Senior" Prom Dance
- Conduct a low-cost or no-cost afternoon tea.
- Conduct bridge, pinochle, or chess contests, for seniors only
- Sponsor flu shot injections
- Conduct a pilgrimage to Mount St. Mary's Grotto
- Have a Senior Talent Show
- Celebrate Senior Citizen Day (in August)
- Senior First Friday Mass with brunch/coffee/cake afterwards

In addition to the Council sponsored programs, the State Council sponsors an essay contest for all senior citizens based upon a specific theme that will change from year to year. This coming year we plan to encourage seniors to write an "I Remember When" essay which will reflect on their life experiences during different phases of our history. For example, an incident in a war, what was happening at home during a war, growing up in the 1940's, etc. More information will be provided to the Grand Knights in late winter and the essays will be due in February.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Knights of Columbus have been closely tied to the Special Olympics program, supporting it nationally and locally, since its inception. Brother Knights and ladies have volunteered to help the athletes during competition and to act as huggers for the athletes after competition. To bind us even further into the program, Knights' families have provided athletes for the program.

The Grand Knight should publicize when the Special Olympics will be held and the need for Knights and their families' assistance. Please encourage your council members to participate in any way they can to keep the Special Olympics program a continuing success. Information will be provided to the councils about when the Olympics will be held and how we can assist.

WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM

In 2007, the Maryland jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus joined forces with other State Councils and the Wheelchair Foundation to purchase and distribute wheelchairs throughout the world. For every \$75 the Foundation receives, it provides matching funds to purchase a wheelchair for \$150. The chairs are shipped, 280 at a time in massive containers, directly to the destination nation; at last count; chairs have been distributed in 143 countries at no cost to the recipients.

Additionally, we have begun a program to buy and distribute wheelchairs to our veterans in hospitals and rehab centers. Your donation of \$150 will buy a wheelchair and provide a special thank you to our veterans in need.

To learn more about the Wheelchair Foundation, go to www.wheelchairfoundation.org. There you can view the video of the California and Mexico Knights participating in the Mexican wheelchair distribution by clicking on “Videos.” To order a DVD from the Supreme Council, contact the Columbia Magazine.

To find out how your council can join the Wheelchair Foundation’s efforts to help people in need of wheelchairs, please contact the State Chairman.

SUGGESTED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Below are examples of some successful Community activities and the councils where the activities were conducted. Grand Knights should contact the councils directly for more information on these activities. Many more worthwhile activities are listed in the Annual Book of Reports.

Archbishop John Carroll Council #11715

This council was one of several councils who conducted a litter pick-up along a road or highway on a quarterly basis.

Mason-Dixon Council #10100

This council conducted a special Mass on Memorial Day followed by a procession to the cemetery where council members and parishioners placed new flags on the graves of all known veterans.

Montgomery Council #2323

This council hosted its annual Spaghetti Dinner with proceeds to benefit the St. Francis of Assisi Haiti Medical Mission. \$1600 was raised to support the Haiti Mission. Doctors, dentists and numerous other volunteers make the trip annually to provide care for those less fortunate.

Fr. Horace B. McKenna #11024

This council's Pro-Life event was accomplished through a successful Carnival for Life. This event raised money and brought in a large number of baby items that were donated to a pregnancy center. Additionally, the Baby Bottle drive, which is part of their Pro-Life efforts, netted over \$4000 this year. The donations were distributed to the Rockville Pregnancy Center and the Gabriel Project.

Notre Dame Council #2901

On a monthly basis, this council conducts a bingo at a local nursing home. In the spring, they sponsor a BBQ at the same nursing home wherein they provide and prepare the food. At Christmas, they provide a musical singing show in place of the bingo.

St. Matthews International Council #11787

This Council collaborates with the Catholic Women Organization (CWO) in a health fair preventive program which offers free screening for diabetes, cholesterol, prostate, blood pressure, and eye examination to the community.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council #7612

This council organized a very unique community project. Specifically, they erected a wrought-iron fence around a small, private cemetery in their neighborhood. The cemetery is almost 200 years old. The oldest stone belongs to a man named Richard Wight who died in 1809 and was born in England in 1735.

Sacred Heart Council #2577

This Council supported two functions at the senior center. One of the functions was a Thanksgiving Dinner for families whose spouse was deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Knights of Fatima Council #10137

This council held an Appreciation Cookout for Police, Fire Department and Public Service Personnel in their community.

Resurrection of Our Lord Council #14099

This Council participates in Habitat for Humanity four times a year in Baltimore City. A regular cadre of Knights, along with friends and prospective members provide construction framing, drywall, painting, and whatever else is needed.

Father O’Neill Council #4011

This council continued it's very successful bicycle program, which entailed collecting unwanted bikes, making any repairs necessary and cleaning them up for distribution to inner city parishes. To date, over five hundred bikes have been refurbished and are enjoying a new life with many proud owners who otherwise could not afford them.

Father Leo T. Abendschoen Council #11615

This council held a Crab Feast & Bull Roast that raised \$2,100 which was donated to their parish for the refurbishment of the hal’sl kitchen.

Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore Council #205

This Council conducted a HEARTSAVER CPR class at their Council home in conjunction with The American Red Cross that offered instruction to both the council and to the public.

South County Council #8251

This council conducted their second annual Super Chili Bowl which raised \$2,200 dollars. The funds were used to enable volunteers to build ramps, repair plumbing and roofs, and upgrade flooring in the homes of seniors in their local area.

Cardinal Gibbons Council #2521

This council conducted a Wheelchair activity which raised \$1,950.00 for the purchase of wheelchairs.

Other Suggested Community Activities

Transport elderly to and from appointments
Roadside clean-up
Conduct voter registration drives
Visit nursing homes
Volunteer at the local fire and police depts.
Participate in “Make a Difference Day”
Make deliveries for “Meals on Wheels”
Distribute pro-life literature at your church
Volunteer at a soup kitchen
Be visible at community gatherings
Celebrate National Volunteer Week (April)
Take a stand against pornography
Sponsor lectures on safety issues
Adopt a needy family
Organize a Columbus Day Event
Fight drug and alcohol abuse

Sponsor a community health fair
Support Cancer Society “Relay for Life”
Recycle paper, bottles and aluminum
Provide tutors to overcome illiteracy
Recite the rosary to end abortion
Assist citizens with disabilities
Attend the March for Life
Volunteer at a Veteran’s Hospital
Support your local M.A.D.D. group
Hold a Christmas party for retired clergy
Collect baby supplies for pregnancy centers
Conduct educational seminars
Clean-up parks, beaches, neighborhoods
Tutor students with learning disabilities
Sponsor a Flag Day Celebration
Volunteer at the Apostleship of the Sea

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AWARD CONTEST FORM

SEND TO STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Dan Ward
9713 Dixie Ridge Terrace
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Date received by State Program Director _____

From GRAND KNIGHT _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

COUNCIL NAME _____ NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

LOCATION _____
(CITY) (ZIP CODE)

THE INFORMATION THAT FOLLOWS DESCRIBES OUR COUNCIL'S PROJECT AND SERVES AS OUR ENTRY IN THE STATE COUNCIL'S SERVICE PROGRAM AWARDS CONTEST.

DATE PROJECT CONDUCTED _____

TITLE OR NATURE OF PROJECT _____

WHO BENEFITED MOST FROM THIS PROJECT? _____

CHAIRMAN _____
(NAME-ADDRESS-TELEPHONE NO.)

NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT _____

DESCRIBE PROJECT IN DETAIL. (PHOTOGRAPHS, NEWS CLIPPINGS, ETC. MAY BE INCLUDED WITH THIS REPORTING FORM. USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY)

SIGNED _____
(GRAND KNIGHT)

ATTEST _____
(DISTRICT DEPUTY) (DATE)

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN. COMPLETED ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR AS FOLLOWS:

- () BEST FIRST REPORT PERIOD ACTIVITY (APR THRU SEPT) DUE BY OCTOBER 15TH
- () BEST SECOND REPORT PERIOD ACTIVITY (OCT, NOV, DEC) DUE BY JANUARY 15TH
- () BEST THIRD REPORT PERIOD ACTIVITY (JAN, FEB, MAR) DUE BY APRIL 1ST

PLEASE INDICATE REPORT BEING SUBMITTED

SENIOR CITIZEN AWARD ENTRY FORM

To: Senior Citizen Program Chairman Bernie Classon
1304H Scottsdale Drive
Bel Air, MD 21015

From: Grand Knight _____

Council Name _____ Number _____

Best One-Time Activity _____ Best Continuous Program _____

Select either Best One-Time Activity or Best Continuous Program for the 2008-2009 fraternal year. Please include a narrative of the activity and photographs and/or newspaper articles that would be helpful. Submit only one entry per Council.

Awards will be presented at the State Convention in Ocean City in May. **Return this form no later than April 1, 2009 to the above address.**

PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES ANNUAL AWARD SUBMITTAL

Mail to: Joe Brewer, Pro-Life Co-Chair, 4309 Piney Park Rd., Perry Hall, MD 21128

COUNCIL NAME / NUMBER: _____

PRO-LIFE CHAIRCOUPLE: _____

GRAND KNIGHT: _____

Answer each question completely; use additional pages and attach photographs as necessary.

1) Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) Activities:

- a) How many sign-ups to receive Pro-Life legislative alerts from MCC? ____
(This can include members of your parishes as well as Knights)
- b) For letter-writing campaigns, indicate number of members of your council who assisted in the campaign: ____
as well as number of letters written by both Knights and parishioners: ____
- c) Describe how your council supported the MCC by participating in other activities encouraged by MCC (see enclosed list). Include date of each activity and number of participants.

- 2) a) January 22 March For Life, Washington, DC: How many participants from your council? ____
b) Maryland March For Life, Annapolis: How many participants from your council? ____
c) Also, list ways your council organized and encouraged participation in the Marches For Life

- 3) List and describe other Pro-Life activities planned, sponsored, and implemented by your council during the last 12 months which contributed to the education and participation of members, families, parishes, or the community in Pro-Life issues. Include the date of each activity, number of participants, and if applicable, amount of funds raised or donated to a Pro-Life organization.

This form must be received in the U.S. mail (do not email) or in person no later than **April 1, 2009.**