



The Mission

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington

Spring 2010

Single Mother Demonstrates Courage In Spite of Adversity

A mother of three recently visited the Western Regional Office (WRO) in Leesburg, asking for financial assistance with her gas bill. Throughout the interview process, she was quiet and reserved, but presented all the necessary documents to qualify for emergency financial assistance. When asked for family information, she shared that her husband had left her and the

children in December 2009. Her mother had moved in to help make ends meet, but an accident unexpectedly took her mother's life. Thereafter, her 12-year old son assumed the role as the man of the household.

First, he gladly gave his mother the money he received for Christmas to help out with the bills. Then, in mid-April, he began to work around the neigh-

borhood, cutting lawns for extra money. The mother continues to work as a part-time bus driver so that she can have the flexibility to be home with her other small children.

In spite of all of her adversity, this woman displayed admirable courage despite the many losses in her life. It is stories like these that remind us of how little it takes to help someone so deeply in need.

Hogar Legal Services Helps More Than 70 Immigrants Move Toward U.S. Citizenship

Hogar Immigrant Services legal team recently partnered with the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association (AILA) to host a Citizenship Day Workshop at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. The event was a resounding success, helping more than 70 individuals complete their applications to become U.S. citizens.

Dozens of volunteers from AILA, Hogar and the community were on hand to assist. As Hogar Director John Odenwelder noted, "Our partnership with AILA on



Hogar Citizenship coordinator Kristin Gasimov (second from left) with AILA site coordinator Miriam Reidmiller (second from right) and volunteers at the April 17 Naturalization Workshop.

this workshop is an excellent example of collaboration between local attorneys and a nonprofit with access to applicants. We were extremely pleased with the high turnout and are grateful to AILA for underwriting the workshop and for recruiting so many volunteers."

Hogar's next Citizenship Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, June 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Arlington County Department of Human Services (DHS), 3033 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300 in Arlington, VA. Call (703) 534-9805 for more information.