

THE GOOD NEWS

WINTER 2017

A QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



A Christmas Message From Bishop Matano

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Each year with the celebration of Christmas, we focus on images of that first Christmas, a cave where the Savior of humanity was born. Certainly, we recognize that the Incarnation radically altered history. But in acknowledging the great transformation born at Bethlehem, we must realize the simplicity that surrounded Our Savior's birth. Our society has become so complex that simplicity, which indeed can be a virtue, is now a lost virtue.

We only recently have ended a very difficult political campaign season, which many political analysts described as unparalleled in our nation's history. The huge sums of money that were spent on these campaigns must necessarily cause us to ask if streamlining or even restructuring the campaign process ought to be examined. When the amounts of money spent were publicized, I thought of how the poor served through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester and the outreach programs of our parishes would have been aided by a mere fraction of these campaign costs. I thought of our struggling Catholic schools and the students who cannot attend because of tuition costs. The cost of one commercial, which often were not very positive or uplifting, would have benefited so many of these students. I regretted the numbers of God's poor whose lives would have received a spark of hope, but did not, from the cost of one campaign event. I thought of so many of you who work so hard just to make ends meet – truly, I prayed, "God, please bless America." What a stark difference between Bethlehem and the campaign trail! And a lack of simplicity can be found in so many areas of life.

During our Advent preparations for Christmas, we can forget the greatest celebrations are with family and friends, visiting and sharing time together without texting or e-mailing, but speaking person to person; becoming one with Our Lord in the reception of Holy Communion; finding forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, confession.



Advent is the time to leave the noise of the world to allow silence to envelop our minds and hearts so that we can speak to God. Union with the Lord, or the sad lack of unity with God, affects every aspect of our lives. It is necessary to enter into the silence born of simplicity to understand truly who we are as human beings created by God. In the simplicity of that cave at Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary understood their spousal relationship, their vocation as parents and the faith essential to every life. In the silence of that night, the Holy Family heard the voice of God in the presence of His Son.

My brothers and sisters, during this Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us not allow the "hustle and bustle" of a season become so commercial to rob us of the silence and simplicity needed not only to hear the voice of the Savior, but to unite our hearts to His. "God does not manifest Himself in the power of this world, but in the humility of His love, that love which asks our liberty to be heard to transform us and make us capable of coming to Him Who is Love" (Benedict XVI, homily on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, January 6, 2011).

May the joy and peace of this holy Advent and Christmas season bless your lives, especially the lives of the poor and suffering, refugees and those seeking a new life in our country, the homeless and the outcasts, those whose only home is the cave at Bethlehem. May we be their Magi and bring them the gifts of care, compassion and Christian charity. Invoking the intercession of our Mother, Mary, whose fiat allowed the Word to become flesh, and St. John Fisher, patron of our diocese, I remain Devotedly yours in Christ

+ Salvatore R. Matano
The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester

Father Trott Award Presented to Diocesan Director

As pastor of St. Joseph parish in Livonia in the early 1990's, Father Bill Trott was instrumental in working for the establishment in 1995 of Catholic Charities of Livingston County. He was a saintly pastor, known especially for his care for vulnerable individuals. He literally would give the coat off his back, or provide shelter in his rectory for homeless persons. After his sudden, and unexpected death in 1996, the Board of Catholic Charities of Livingston County established the Father Bill Trott Award in 1997.

Since then the award has been given annually to an individual or individuals who have made a significant contribution to Catholic Charities of Livingston County and exhibited the compassion and concern for vulnerable persons so central to Father Trott's life. This year, at the second annual Red Carpet Christmas Gala, held at the Valley Oak Event Center in Geneseo, Catholic Charities presented the 2016 Father Trott Award to Diocesan Director Jack Balinsky. In a letter informing Jack that he was given this award, Board President Jeff Fasoldt wrote: "Anyone that knows you, Jack, sees you as a selfless person and a great reformer. You have been witnessed as someone who works hard for the destitute, the needy, and the poor. You really have been a beacon of light for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester and all of its branches. You have worked tirelessly for several decades and proved that social change can happen for the betterment of society."

In his acceptance remarks, Jack thanked the entire family of Catholic Charities of Livingston County for being an inspiration to his life and truly carrying out the Gospel mandate to love and serve our neighbor.



At the Red Carpet Christmas Gala in Geneseo, Catholic Charities Diocesan Director Jack Balinsky was presented the Father Bill Trott Award by former Catholic Charities Livingston County Board Chairperson Mary Anne Palermo who nominated him for the award.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP: GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylar Counties



Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylar Counties continued to share the gift of hope this holiday season with several events meant to brighten the lives of those we serve. On November 18th, staff hosted its Annual Thanksgiving Party for approximately 50 clients. This wonderful event was filled with delicious food, fun and camaraderie. It truly was a time for staff and clients to share in the joy of the season. In addition, on November 19th, the Samaritan Center hosted the Annual Turkey Giveaway. 170 turkeys were given to families in need in the hopes of a blessed Thanksgiving meal. Catholic Charities hosted a free Thanksgiving Dinner to the community at the Elmira Community Kitchen as well as an Outerwear Giveaway in early December.

Catholic Charities would like to give a special thank you to Christ the Redeemer's "Fill the Pews with Coats" drive for collecting 167 coats. Light's Bakery in Elmira for offering a free Thanksgiving dinner to our Second Place East Homeless Shelter and to Keller Williams for donating turkeys for our giveaway. All helped spread the joy of the holidays.



Catholic Charities of Livingston County

My name is Bernadine. My priorities are God, Catholic Charities, and Changes and Changes. I believe that by telling you my story, I can explain how **Catholic Charities of Livingston County** helped me clear my slate and find the freedom to become a new person.

In 2015, I was an active addict who was in immediate danger from a man. Changes and Changes gave me shelter. I was fearful, but I knew I had to leave my old life. I needed to find resources and was sent to Catholic Charities of Livingston County. My immediate needs were clothing and food. CCLC connected me with the Food Pantry and the Clothing Closet. Then I needed a job. I had no phone, no computer, and no transportation. Volunteers at CCLC helped me use the public computer. They arranged for a phone. I could not get to a drug counselor or a therapist. I met with staff from the Faith in Action at CCLC. Volunteer drivers began taking me to my medical appointments. On the drives, they would listen to me, encourage me, and give me practical advice. I still talk to some of them when I need a friend. After a while, I would offer to bring them a cup of coffee. They always thanked me, but explained that they wanted to give. So I learned. I want to give too.

It was time to move to an independent apartment, but I owed RGE \$700. Help*Works at CCLC negotiated with RGE. They paid part, the shelter paid some, and RGE agreed to give me a fresh start. My apartment is decorated with donations that come into CCLC. I like to hang inspirational pictures that help me spiritually. The furniture program delivered a good mattress that helps me sleep. The staff found me personal items, including some Fixodent. You can't go for a job interview when your teeth are flapping. After a while, I found a job, and bought an old car. The

gag card program at CCLC got me moving until I had some paychecks. And now I could pick up clothes and food for women who could not get to CCLC.

One day when I did not have gas money, I took Trailways to Rochester for an appointment. There was an old lady in a wheelchair trying to get to her family down South. She didn't have any more money for bus fare. I knew I had to take her home with me.

I wheeled her to my apartment and carried her upstairs. I could see she needed Depends. I called CCLC, and they called the Genesee Parish Outreach.

A lady from the clinic brought them right to my apartment. Pretty soon we got the lady to the shelter. I heard she got back down South. I hope she's doing good.

I'd like to be more involved in CCLC because they'll help you get where you want to go.

Today I have been in a stable apartment for a year and a half. I walk down to the CCLC garden and pick vegetables to take to my friends. When I go to their apartments, I'm the town crier for Catholic Charities. I don't have money as yet to give. But every time I walk by the office, I pick up any papers. I make sure their sign isn't blown over. I found a flower that I planted in front of their door. It's my gift, something that grows, shows life. I water it every week.

I need to stand up for my new life and I want to help other people stand up. I'd like to be more involved in CCLC because they'll help you get where you want to go.

Catholic Family Center

The Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded **Catholic Family Center** \$1.3 million over four years to integrate primary care into the agency's behavioral health services. This funding will allow CFC to locate primary care clinicians at behavioral health clinics and reduce the need for acute and emergency care for manageable chronic conditions.

More than 60% of CFC's behavioral health clients lack a current relationship with a primary care provider. Individuals with severe behavioral health disorders often also suffer from potentially manageable chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, hepatitis, nicotine dependence, and other conditions. Lacking a regular source of primary care, their physical conditions go untreated until they become severe enough to require emergency treatment or hospitalization. This program will provide CFC clients with integrated care in a location appropriate to their needs and reduce the need for treatment in an acute care setting.

The purpose of doing this is to create a stable, co-located network of services that will improve health outcomes for individuals with severe mental illness who may also have co-occurring substance abuse disorders. The ultimate goal is to reduce the need for acute and emergency care for manageable chronic conditions in a seamless, supportive environment.

The funding from SAMHSA will allow CFC to locate primary care clinicians at the Mental Health Clinic at 1645 St. Paul Street, and at Restart Substance Abuse Services, currently at 55 Troup Street and relocating to 79 North Clinton in early 2017. In addition to a physical health assessment and care plan, participating clients will receive comprehensive care management and the opportunity to participate in programming to encourage healthy lifestyle behaviors such as smoking cessation, physical activity, and nutrition classes. The project will partner with Jordan Health, several clinics operated by the Rochester Regional Health Care System, and Trillium Health for clients with more comprehensive needs. These partnerships enhance the design of an integrated, person-centered care plan that best helps each client address their unique situation.

This is but one example of how the agency's programs have become more collaborative and focused on an integrated model of care that is being promoted across the region. Catholic Family Center is proud to deliver services in today's whole-person care model.

Did you know CFC is celebrating its Centennial anniversary during 2017. Learn more at www.cfcrochester.org. Catholic Family Center (CFC) is Greater Rochester's largest provider of comprehensive family services. Each year the agency assists tens of thousands of our neighbors, relatives and friends as they work to remain or become healthy, productive, participating members of the community. CFC serves all people—regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, age, ability or gender. Programs work together to address the many issues of human need across all stages of life. Services include family strengthening programs, refugee resettlement, emergency housing and shelters, aging and adult, adoption and foster care, substance abuse treatment, behavioral health services and advocacy.

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes



Navigating the human services system can be a complex, and sometimes difficult process. This is especially true for individuals and families who are often overwhelmed by their circumstances. In Canandaigua, **Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes** and its community partners at the Thompson Cooperative have come together to ease some of the confusion and difficulties that can confront persons in need. The group has created a "Resource Room", a central area designed to welcome individuals to the Co-Op, provide direction and support to customers as they navigate available services, and create the opportunity to have both immediate and long-term needs addressed. The resource room is a project of Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, the Canandaigua Churches in Action, Care-Net, St. Vincent DePaul Society and the many community resources that are housed in the complex located at 120 North Main Street in Canandaigua.

Originally the agencies planned for volunteers to fully support the program, but as the idea evolved, it was determined that staffing the room would allow clients more immediate access to services. Currently staff from Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, Excellus/Blue Cross and crisis/reentry staff from the Ontario County Jail maintain office hours in the room.

In addition to assessing immediate needs and linking individuals with community services, the resource room provides computers, access to telephones, and fax machines. This allows customers the ability to conduct employment or housing searches, make follow-up phone calls and more. Access to these resources is a critical step in helping individuals and families move beyond their presenting crisis. It is anticipated that as use of the resource room grows, more community partners will provide office hours, further increasing the impact of the project.

Catholic Charities Community Services



Catholic Charities Community Services celebrates the success of our clients who, with the necessary supports, live healthy and independent lives with dignity as people of God. The agency provides superior case management services, housing, transportation, employment skills development and more to over 3,000 individuals with developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries and chronic health concerns including HIV/AIDS.

Catholic Charities staff are continually humbled by the overwhelming generosity of others like Woodcliff Hotel and Spa Regional Manager Fred Grabowski and his staff. For the sixth year in a row, Woodcliff donated 200 Thanksgiving Day turkeys for our families to assure that the bounty at their table matches those across the community in homes where economics are not a barrier to holiday celebrations.

Hundreds of businesses, organizations, church groups and individuals shared the gift of giving this Christmas by providing holiday gifts to over 800 men, women and chil-

dren. These "holiday angels" provided warm coats, gloves and socks to guard against the cold and bring the warmth of a smile to many. Children found a toy or two under the tree.

Thanks to a grant from the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, 2017 will help more families who struggle with the long term effects of HIV/AIDS find a stable home and begin to explore career and educational opportunities. There is no doubt that through community collaborations, each of our families will be able to start the New Year better prepared to lead their life of independence and inclusion despite their limited abilities. We know that our band of "angels" will be there to help in the transition to stable and affordable housing with gifts of furniture and household items and simple encouragement.

Please visit our web site at ccsrochester.org and review the names of our donors. Listed among our supporters are your neighbors, your friends, your family or the company where you work. Their names in print serve as proof that the kindness of others in our community has no bounds.

Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties

Poverty often leads to hunger and poor nutrition, which lead to many other challenges, from poor school performance to health problems. **Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga** works to promote better nutrition through the food pantry located in the Nichols office and the monthly mobile food pantry organized in Tioga County. Last year, over 40,000 pounds of free food were distributed to 619 households through these efforts. For Thanksgiving this year, collaboration with the local Salvation Army, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, the local branch of the Nucor company, and many individual donors produced baskets brimming with turkeys, fresh produce and the trimmings for over 60 Thanksgiving dinners. Beyond this direct distribution of food, our agency also assists people in signing up for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly called "food stamps." Through outreach at food pantries, a local community center and an area homeless shelter, information about SNAP benefits is given to hundreds of people a year in both Tompkins and Tioga counties. Elders, veterans, and low wage workers are not always aware that they are eligible for this assistance. Catholic Charities is happy to be able to guide them in applying for this program to help them stretch their limited budgets.

Our Tompkins office is working hard on preparations for the launch of a refugee resettlement program. The agency was approved in the fall of 2016 by the U.S. State Department as a reception and placement site for refugees, and hopes to welcome the first refugee family in early 2017. The program will be an expansion of CCTT's longstanding Immigrant Services Program which provides legal immigration services, job search guidance and emergency financial support to immigrants from around the world. The refugee program in Tompkins County plans to receive 10 to 12 families over the course of 2017; they will come from war-torn and oppressive countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bhutan, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Community support for this program has been generous and full of compassion.

Catholic Charities of Steuben County

The Turning Point service priority for **Catholic Charities of Steuben County** stabilizes families in economic crisis and supports them as they strive for self-sufficiency. Turning Point programs help people use a financial crisis as a chance to turn a corner in their lives. Many food pantries serve as an access point for Turning Point programs to offer assistance that targets the underlying causes of food shortage. From there, Turning Point's Basic Needs Services can also help prevent utility shutoff, homelessness, and medicine shortage. Turning Point's Nutrition, Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) and other Support Services combine to offer advisement on accessing supports and benefits that improve short-term economic stability. Finally, Turning Point's Development Services provide advisement on defining a plan for long-term economic stability, including use of the "My Plan" tool and referrals to other programs. Turning Point is committed to meeting those in need where they live by offering several access points across Steuben County, including locations in Bath, Canisteo, Hornell, and Corning. It is this commitment that led to the launch of an innovative pilot mobile model in the Corn-



ing area. Data highlighted in June 2016 from the most recent U.S. Census' American Communities Survey showed that the highest concentration of the extremely poor in Steuben County live in Bradford, Cameron, Tuscarora, Pulteney, and, surprisingly, the City of Corning, where the county's major employer undergirds a stable, affluent economy, and apparently, where the extremely poor coexist. In fact, as it turns out, the towns of Bradford, Jasper, Truport, Tuscarora, Woodhull, and the City of Corning all have one-third of their residents or more living at or below the poverty level. Armed with this newly highlighted data, Turning Point Corning staff conducted community outreach during the summer of 2016, collecting empirical data that underscored transportation challenges preventing people in the eastern part of Steuben County—one of the highest populations living in poverty—from connecting with needed services. Coupled together, these data sources drove the decision to pilot a mobile model in the Corning area, taking Turning Point services out into the community to meet the people in need where they live. As Turning Point Director Lynda Lowin put it, "The people we serve have transportation issues; we don't." Turning Point witnessed the increased need throughout Steuben County during the recent Thanksgiving holiday drive, which fed more than 2,000 of our Steuben County neighbors. Turning Point Bath provided Thanksgiving meal items to 472 Bath-area families, representing 1,200 individuals. Turning Point Hornell served 162 families comprising 388 people from the Hornell area. Steuben County Rural Ministry's Turning Point program in Canisteo served Thanksgiving meal items to 148 families representing 461 neighbors, including 137 children, 46 seniors, and 278 adults. As Christmas and winter approach, all these Turning Point locations and the new mobile program will provide Christmas holiday meals and other needed support.



Catholic Charities of Wayne County



Catholic Charities of Wayne County is blessed to receive donated clothing from all over our region and distribute these clothing articles free of charge to the needy in Wayne County, relying principally on the efforts of dedicated volunteers under the direction of Program Coordinator Jill Lee. Located at 12019 East Main Street in Wolcott, the Center is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm and on Wednesday evenings from 5

to 7 pm. Financial support comes from from churches and other community organizations, including our own Diocese of Rochester.

Every year the center distributes approximately 32,000 items of free clothing to an estimated 3,300 households, and welcomes all visitors to the Clothing Center with compassion, dignity, and respect. The number of people who use the Center continues to increase every year, and the greatest challenge continues to be supply vs. demand. For example, the center has a wonderful supply of infant clothes, yet receive very little underwear and boots (especially for men.) The Center uses cash donations and support from foundations to assist with these shortfalls so that we can continue to meet demand, especially at harvest time for local farmworkers.

As Catholic Charities provides clothing for our friends and neighbors, the agency also strives to offer small joys to those in need. Often patrons come in the door with long faces from the burdens of their lives. If staff and volunteers can lift them up a little while they are at the Center and send them on their way better than when they came in, the agency's mission has been fulfilled. It truly is a blessing for all of us who work with the Clothing Center to be part of God's mission in lifting each other up! This is a team effort, and focusing on the needs of others together allows Catholic Charities to truly make a difference in our community!



Food Bank of the Southern Tier

Being hungry hurts all year round, but it's especially difficult during the holidays. When most families are enjoying holiday traditions and family dinners, 72,600 people in the Southern Tier are wondering if they'll have enough food to eat at all, let alone enough to make a holiday meal. Thousands of people turn to member agencies of the **Food Bank of the Southern Tier** to help them through the holidays. Many of those agencies get turkeys for their clients through the Food Bank's annual Virtual Turkey Drive, an online fundraiser to raise funds to purchase turkeys and additional food for pantries to distribute for the holidays. Since its inception seven years ago, Tioga Downs Casino has sponsored the drive by matching each donation and doubling the power of the campaign. The result? Turkey Drive goes much farther than just one meal which makes the holidays a little brighter for families in our community. Kristine Morseman, Food Pantry Coordinator at Schuyler Outreach, has seen firsthand how appreciative families are for food during the holidays. "I was calling people and telling them they wouldn't have to buy food for their holiday meal, and they said they weren't planning on going grocery shopping anyway. There wasn't going to be a holiday meal," said Kristine. "It was very humbling to hear that without Turkey Drive, they wouldn't be eating at all." Kristine has heard from families that they use the leftovers from their large meal to stretch across several meals, which is especially helpful when children are home from school for the holiday and not receiving breakfast and lunch. "Our food pantry covers all of Tioga County, and we work with other pantries to make sure that everybody gets help," said Laurie Ellis, Community Services Director at Tioga Outreach. "We help almost 100 people with turkeys." Knowing that they can source food provided by the Turkey Drive funds also allow pantries to focus on gifts, as well as other necessary items that struggling families need. "Last year, because of Turkey Drive, we were able to provide all of the meals for our families and let local donors focus on other items instead," said Kristine. "With the Food Bank's buying power and Tioga Downs' support, our donors could focus on gifts and necessities that our grants and clients' SNAP benefits can't buy, like laundry detergent and toilet paper." The holidays are an especially important time to support our neighbors who are struggling, and for people facing hunger, a gift of one turkey can mean so much more.

Providence Housing Development Corporation

In early December, **Providence Housing Development Corporation** was informed that it had been awarded \$266,467 from the Federal Home Loan Bank for capital improvements to the Elizabeth Blackwell Apartments (formerly the YMCA) in Geneva. This 20 unit facility has housed low income persons, senior citizens and persons with disabilities since it was opened in 2000. The funding will be used to address a number of structural issues which have arisen over the years, especially relating to the foundation and roof

The Elizabeth Blackwell Apartments are one of 25 facilities for low income, elderly and individuals with special needs managed by Providence.



Zumiez Foundation

Each year Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester receives a donation of coats, gloves, hats, socks, hooded sweatshirts and blankets from the **Zumiez Foundation**. The Foundation gives warm clothes to people who need them, especially during tough times by finding organizations in local Zumiez communities and partnering with them to give away the clothing they purchase. This year we were pleasantly surprised when the donation arrived to find the boxes contained: 192 Men's Coats, 120 Women's Coats, 142 Children's Coats, 72 Men's Hooded Sweatshirts, 48 Women's Hooded Sweatshirts, 1 Box of Assorted T-Shirts, 20 Packages of Hats (each package contains 12 hats), 216 Pairs of Gloves, 80 Pairs of Socks (each package contains 12 pairs), 16 Boxes of Blanket.

Ruth Barone, Executive Assistant to Jack Balinsky, along with Ruth Marchetti and two marvelous volunteers from CFC (Lisa Reeves and Stephen Wallace), were able to complete the sorting in a little over 4 hours. After the sorting was all done, it was an amazing sight to see all the labeled boxes lined up and ready for pickup.

Camp Stella Maris

As 2016 comes to a close, so does the 90th season of **Camp Stella Maris**. A near record number of campers experienced the joy that a week of Camp brings. During this Christmas season, Camp leadership remembers those who have offered their gifts of talent and treasure throughout this special year. Over 150 of our area's brightest young adults worked as counselors this summer. Their commitment to spiritual growth, safety, and role modeling continues to have a lasting effect on the children they serve. The Charles M. Bayer Campership Program, which partners with Diocesan and Social Service organizations as well as individual families, provided needs based Camp scholarships for over 300 children in 2016. Funded by individual donations and special fundraising events, this program has provided financial assistance to between 10 and 15 percent of resident Camp enrollment since 1977. From all of us at CSM, we wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

CATHOLIC COURIER
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Christmas Appeal



Assisting people in Short-term financial crisis.

Catholic Charities urges support of the Catholic Courier Christmas Appeal through which much needed funds are made available for emergency assistance at Catholic Charities agencies.

**Send your contribution to:
Christmas Appeal
P.O. Box 24379
Rochester, NY 14624-0379**



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*Inside this Issue: A Christmas Message from Bishop Matano
Father Trott Award presented to Diocesan Director • Regional Roundup*