Mission-focused, results-driven

Affiliate Partner Highlights

Camp Stella Maris

Although known primarily for its summer camp program, Camp Stella Maris makes excellent year-round use of its facilities by also offering a wide range of learning and experiential activities for individuals and organizations.

In 2012, the Resident Camp attracted 2,627 campers, a new record. The Day Camp hosted 344 campers and the CamperShip Program grew by 30 percent over 2011, with 421 campers. More families with a parent out of work needed some financial help to send their children to camp. CSMS’s Adventure-Based Learning Experience for groups hosted more than 2,000 individuals and general facility rentals adding nearly 3,000 more.

Just one example

For not for profits, collaboration is essential. CSMS’s Adventure-Based Learning Experience was provided by everyone that week.

What do 250,000 New York residents have in common?

All of their lives were beneficially touched by CCDR in 2012.

With the general need growing, we anticipate more and even greater accomplishments in 2013.

Just one example

Providence Housing Development Corporation is converting the former Holy Rosary church, school, convent, and rectory into a mixed-use community, featuring both houses and apartments, for the mainly East Asian immigrants who populate the surrounding neighborhood on Rochester’s west side.

All units are furnished with energy-efficient appliances. Some have washer/dryer hookups and all have access to the laundry facilities, lounges, a community room, and a well-lighted parking lot. All buildings are 100% smoke-free. Residents pay for heat and electricity in the single-family homes and for electricity in main-building apartments.

The result: plenty of housing at affordable rates for needy people and general brightening of a changing neighborhood.

Catholic Charities agencies will be available online after August 15, 2013. http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-charities/

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Diverging Roads

Two thousand twelve may go down in history as the Year of the Disconnect between Wall Street and Main Street—and one of the busiest years in history for CCDR. Wall Street showed visible healing from the meltdown of 2008. Stock prices trended upwards, reaching record highs in early 2013. Many corporations returned to profitability and some even began accumulating cash. But while Wall Street celebrated, Main Street continued to suffer from economic uncertainty.

Throughout the diocese, the need for CCDR’s abilities to solve both physical and psychological wounds continued to grow dramatically, especially in light of diminishing government funding of social programs.

- At Catholic Family Center in Rochester, and in Steuben, Tompkins and Tioga counties, food-pantry demand increased as much as 83 percent from 2011.
- Demand for emergency-assistance services, including immediate financial assistance, climbed to record highs throughout the diocese.
- Finger Lakes provided HEAP emergency-heating assistance to more than 2,500 households in Ontario, Cayuga, Yates, and Seneca counties, even though the program duration was shortened from previous years.
- Wayne County’s Walcott Community Clothing Center distributed more than 28,000 clothing items to needy families at no charge. (The entire population of Wayne County is just over 93,000.)
- At Catholic Charities Community Services, demand for Medicaid care management of the chronically ill and the rise of HIV diagnoses among 13- to 24-year-olds combined to strain available resources.
- At the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, the number of children in the Backpack Program was up 30 percent and the agency distributed more than five percent more food than in 2011.
- Providence Housing transformed the former Holy Rosary parish in Rochester into affordable apartments to help acclimate the largely immigrant and largely poor population in the area.
- At and Camp Stella Maris, recreation included a number of impoverished children who lacked even the essentials—sleeping bags, clothing, and towels—all of which were provided by the camp community.
- As you will read in this report, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester continued to make significant differences in the lives of people who are suffering, often through no fault of their own.
- Each regional agency succeeded in its own way, applying local resources to local problems while working with neighboring social-service organizations to operate with greater efficiency and least redundancy. While Catholic Family Center focuses its efforts on the urban and suburban needs of Rochester and Monroe County, agencies in Wayne, Chemung/Schoharie, Steuben, Tompkins/Tioga, and Livingston counties, and the four-county Finger Lakes area, specialize in the needs of smaller cities and rural communities.
- Our specialty agencies continued to provide quality service to their constituencies. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier made enormous strides in its efforts to eradicate hunger. Catholic Charities Community Services responded to changing needs and funding patterns in its work to serve developmentally challenged persons, persons suffering chronic illness, and those suffering traumatic brain injury.

Two affiliated agencies continued as integral partners in carrying out the mission of the diocese to serve those in need. Camp Stella Maris had a banner year. The main focus of the Providence Housing Development Corporation was the Holy Rosary property. Collectively, there was an outpouring of support for those most in need.

About this issue

“Run-of-the-mill” is not how we operate at CCDR. We’re all about efficiency and effectiveness, and — dare we say it— out-of-the-box thinking.

So instead of a run-of-the-mill 2012 annual report, we offer this special edition of The Good News, highlighting our agencies’ most important contributions to community health and well-being last year.

Plenty of stories here, but if you’re looking for financial information, it will be on our web site, http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-charities/, after August 15, 2013.

God bless you for your support.
Mission-focused, results-driven
Energized by the magnitude of the need, Catholic Charities agencies serve thousands of individuals and families who might otherwise remain hungry, untreated, or ignored.

Regional Agency Highlights

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties
For residents of Chemung and Schuyler counties, the need for emergency services was particularly acute. The agency helped more than 8,200 individuals in more than 200 households with the basic necessities of food, clothing, shelter (in the form of HAP and supplemental utilities) and prescription medications. The office saw increased activity in foreclosures--providing services to 50 clients with face-to-face counseling and 64 homewoners with counselling and loan mitigation.

Just one example

But there was also good news. Through the agency’s First Time Homebuyers program, which provides pre- and post-purchase education and counseling assistance, Matt and Ann Moyar bought a pleasant home in which to raise their daughter.

“Even after you buy the house, the support (from CCCC) ends up being like a family,” said Matt Moyar. “You don’t feel like you’re alone and they made the process very easy.”

Catholic Charities of Livingston County
CCCLC provided services to approximately 7,000 individuals, with nearly one out of every 10 county residents facing food insecurity through Emergency Services. Loss of employment created the most critical needs, and the agency saw more new applicants requesting more services than ever before.

In 2012, the agency was pleased to receive two new contracts from Livingston County — the Teenage Services Act (TASA) contract to provide medical, educational and other services to teenage parents in the county, and the county’s Employment Casework contract.

Just one example

For the following year her son’s birth, “I was trapped in a rural apartment by a violent, controlling boyfriend. There were no breaks for the young mother, no transportation to population centers, and no support system — until caseworker Linda Salazar came into my life.”

“Even after you buy the house, the support (from CCCC) ends up being like a family,” said Matt Moyar. “You don’t feel like you’re alone and they made the process very easy.”

Catholic Charities of Wayne County
Rural Wayne County suffers from high rates of unemployment and underemployment, so the demand for financial assistance — especially in the form of necessities like food and clothing — was particularly acute in 2012. The agency provided more than 25,000 food items to 1,400 adults and 950 children through the Food Pantry and the Food Sense program in addition to the clothing mentioned above. The agency also provided more than 2,500 days of transitional housing to households (average stay of 53 days) through its La Casa residency program.

Catholic Charities of Steuben County
Like its regional counterparts, the Steuben County agency saw dramatically increased demand for anti-poverty assistance in 2012. More than 22,000 individuals in nearly 9,000 households received assistance. Food pantry demand was up 18 percent over 2011. Food stamp applications increased nearly 25 percent between 2008 and 2012.

In addition to its customary slate of Turn Point solutions, the agency also localized a national program, Bridges out of Poverty. Headed by justice and peace director Lynda Lowin, the Steuben County Bridges out of Poverty (SCBOP) program essentially translates justice and peace goals into community action, creating conditions that empower people to move out of poverty.

Bridges out of Poverty offers presentations, workshops, and a wide range of other tools designed to help impoverished individuals and families help themselves. So far, the Steuben County office boasts two certified trainers, with another employee becoming certified in the fall. Three facilitators of the Getting Ahead program; and three co-facilitators in training. In 2012, the first Getting Ahead class graduated.

Just one example

A history of bad choices, loss of his driver’s license, and heavy fines finally drove Noel and Kayla to the first “Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World” workshop offered through the Steuben County Bridge out of Poverty program last September.

Over the next three months, the couple learned the “hidden rules” of each economic class— and found themselves within them to create a plan for the future. Noel emphasizes the importance of the workshop’s strategy of examining life in poverty and envisioning where they want to be in the future. Noel and Kayla took on important first steps—moving from a borrowed camper to a mobile home—but only after Noel had taught himself plumming skills to make the home habitable.

Now, bolstered by the program’s teachings, support from their church, monthly networking opportunities, and the mentorship of an “ally” in the community, Noel and Kayla work multiple jobs. Noel is driving and maintaining self-employment; and Kayla advanced from a temporary position to a full-time job with benefits. They credit Steuben County Bridges out of Poverty with helping them build a bridge toward an economically self-sufficient life.

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes
The Finger Lakes agency’s programs were able to touch more than 17,000 residents of Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca, and Yates counties. More than 13,000 meals were served through the increasingly necessary Geneva Community Lunch program.

In an efficient collaboration with the United Way of Ontario and Cayuga counties, the agency’s Emergency Assistance and HEAP programs touched nearly 3,000 people, while Supervised Visitation and Case Management programs provided direct assistance to more than 200 individuals.

Specialty Agency Highlights

Catholic Charities Community Services
Last year saw a rare changing of the guard for the agency, which thanked retiring Executive Director Paul Pickering for his three decades of exemplary service and welcomed veteran not-for-profit executive Lori Van Auken as the new CEO.

In an efficient collaboration with the United Way of Ontario and Cayuga counties, the agency’s Emergency Assistance and HEAP programs touched nearly 3,000 people, while Supervised Visitation and Case Management programs provided direct assistance to more than 200 individuals.

Just one example

Due to a history of violence, pain, and a sketchy living situation, “C” had lost not only custody of but also visitation rights with his young daughter.

But after participating in a multi-programmed project with a CPS case manager, C successfully achieved the stability and developed the parenting skills that allowed him to stay with his children into 2013 and reach an important personal goal — playing a much more important role in his daughter’s life.

Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Often mistaken for a food pantry, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier is actually a not-for-profit, wholesale dealer, ensuring that its “retailers” — the food pantries in six southern-tier counties — are sufficiently stocked to support needy families.

In 2012, FBST distributed nearly eight million pounds of food to 163 member agencies, some of which are affiliated with Catholic Charities and others not. Total food distributed was up five percent over 2011; requests were up more than three percent; and the Back Pack program served more than 10 percent more children in 2011.

In addition to food, FBST continued providing assistance and technical support to hunger-relief agencies. Those services included door-to-door deliveries, nutrition education workshops and outreach materials; food safety and sanitation training access to operational support and capital equipment grants; volunteer recruitment; fundraising and networking opportunities with other social service agencies.

Just one example

Without a team of dedicated (some might say “obsessed”) volunteers, the agency would be much less efficient. One of those volunteers, Heather Halkowsky, rolls into work in her wheelchair three days a week. But the production room’s work surfaces didn’t match up with her seated height.

So Production Room Manager Earl Leonard had a special worktable built to keep Heather productive, happy, and ergonomically healthy.