Catholic Charities of Wayne County
Catholic Charities Life Issues Office

We are called to visit the sick as one of the corporal works of mercy. Their spirits of accompanying them until their natural death, as Pope Francis encourages us to do.

“Palliative care is an expression of the human nature of taking care of one another, especially of those who suffer. We learn that the human person is always precious, even if marked by age and illness. The human person is, in fact, in a certain way, a 000% in and of itself, and for others, and is loved by God for this reason, when life becomes very fragile and the end of earthly existence approaches, we feel the inadequacy to assist and accompany the person in the best way.” – Pope Francis, Address to the Pontifical Academy for Life, March 5, 2013

Compassion is coming alongside another to be present to them in their difficult situation. This is what means to visit the sick, to truly caring of them. We are called to journey with people in their life, their last days in comfort, companionship, and experiencing the Presence of God.

Suffer the word Compassion is now being misconstrued to mean the ‘kindness’ and ‘caring’ to help the sick end their life. Hopefully, the sick will live out their days in comfort and peace.

The disciples on the road to Emmaus were sick at heart as they left Jerusalem when Jesus was crucified. It was after fleeing, after giving up on their commitment, that the two disci- ples sensed themselves accompanied by Our Lord. He came to them as the lowest parts of their journey and they came to know God’s presence in the midst of their suffering. This is what we are called to do for one another. We do not aban- don another because of their pain and suffering but rather we show compassion. We are called to BE WITH them.

Compassion is the means taking time to be there to support the giving of promises. It means being there to encourage people to be as independent as possible, helping them to participate in meaningful activities, and respecting their dignity.

Palliative care provides comfort and pain relief to patients and is not just for the dying. Hospice care is an aspect of palliative care that provides many services to help those who are dying live out their days in dignity, comfort, and peace. Such compassion is never given up saying there is noth- ing we can do — we are present with the people in their suffering — we are not out of it because we know their God is there — we and they trust God’s plan and each plan is different — let us be people who accompany others in their times of need.

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• Shelter the homeless
• Pray for the living and the dead
• Bear wrongs patiently
• Counsel the doubtful
• Bear necessities patiently
• Comfort the sorrowful
• Forbear critically ill ones
• Pray for the living and the dead
• Visit the sick

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Comfort the Sorrowful

Catholic Charities of Wayne County

“Compassionate end of life care means taking time to be with others in their hour of need. It means being there to support the giving of promises. It means being there to encourage people to be as independent as possible, helping them to participate in meaningful activities, and respecting their dignity.” – Pope Francis, Address to the Pontifical Academy for Life, March 5, 2013

Catholic Charities of Wayne County is very pleased to be participating in the formation of a new and wonderful asset in Wayne County. Three of our Board members are involved with a number of other community leaders in the establishment of a new comfort care home in Newark to be named Laurel House. Laurel House will be a model property where residents spend their final days at no cost to themselves or others, in a highly supportive, warm, and compassionate environment, surrounded by loved ones, kind-hearted staff, and volunteers who understand their needs.

Our group desire is to assist the terminally ill by providing housing, support, love and help to those who need physical care, emotional sup- port and spiritual presence as they approach the end of their lives, and to assist the family and loved ones of the terminally ill with this care and support process.

Seeded comfort care homes are relatively rare, and not found in many other parts of the country. Other local homes like the Peace of Peace in Ontario and the House of John in Clifton Springs serve as good models for how to begin and maintain one of these caring properties.

The Laurel House leadership has applied to the RRF for $50,000 to launch the organization and is finalizing plans for a location. We hope to begin the construction process in the near future.

Relief of life issues can often be very difficult, but we must do our best to help families to cope with these layers of challenges associated with the death of someone loved. Our interest in achieving this may be one of the reasons why this new asset in Wayne County will go towards helping with these layers of challenges providing services to our residents and their families.

The Rockwell Family Foundation has applied to the RMRF for a charitable grant to assist with this project. This initiative is an example of how Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester can respond to this call not only in this Year of Mercy but also in a regular ongoing basis.

Comfort the Sorrowful

Many years ago, when one of our licensed social workers was a MSW student intern, she visited the Monroe County Jail in downtown Roches- ter. At the time, the Livingston County Jail in Dansville, NY, was a very similar environment. It was an eye-opening experience for such a new student of Social Work. During the early years as Catholic Charities of Livingston County, she worked for some time under the direction of Sr. Nancy O’Brien. Today she still remembers the plaque she had hanging in her office door that read, “The Works of Mercy,” which of course includes the Visit to the Imprisoned. This is a text from the corporal works of mercy that we have continued to take into consideration for a new approach to our new Social Work Program. It was an eye-opening experience for such a new student of Social Work. During the early years as Catholic Charities of Livingston County, she worked for some time under the direction of Sr. Nancy O’Brien. Today she still remembers the plaque she had hanging in her office door that read, “The Works of Mercy,” which of course includes the Visit to the Imprisoned. This is a text from the corporal works of mercy that we have continued to take into consideration for a new approach to our new Social Work Program. It was an eye-opening experience for such a new student of Social Work.
**Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schoharie Counties**

At Catholic Charities, we are a family with a wide range of services that can come from a single act of kindness. Our works and services help thousands of families harden against the abuse, the despair, the anger. We provide hope, inspiration, love, compassion, and support for our clients. What we offer is the return of the love and kindness that can come from a single act of kindness. We provide hope, inspiration, love, compassion, and support for our clients.

In the Jailhouse of Mercy, it is important to reflect on the physical and spiritual experiences of many of the families we serve. This is the season of Thanksgiving. Let us be grateful for the gifts we receive from our heavenly father.

For a sense of the scope of the services referred to by Judge Koehler, in 2015 CFC received 2,540 clients for Pre/Postcare Services program. One hundred and nineteen women received residential substance abuse treatment at Liberty Manor, and 1,446 individuals received treatment in our Restart Outpatient clinic. The Prison Health Care Center served 2,520 adults and 263 children, an increase of 500 clients over 2014 which was likely driven by the walk-in hours in which the judge relays. The Kitty Snake program served 3,247 families from across New York State in 2015, and 24 children were adopted last year by their “foster family” with the help of CFC.

**Catholic Charities Family Center Provides Valuable Services in Family Court by Judge Joan Koehler**

As a Monroe County Family Court Judge for many years, I have seen the wonderful work Catholic Charities does to strengthen families in our community. With little funds, Catholic Charities Family Services provides preventive services to parents who have neglected or are at risk for neglecting their children. These cost-effective professionals work on the day the family is facing mandated family services with limited means. Chemical dependency services are provided through various programs, which include vocational training and life skills programs. Catholic Charities Family Services to the elderly in our community. In the 2011-2012 period, 750 seniors were referred to our services.

Catholic Charities Family Services offers a variety of programs. We are proud of the service that our case managers do on a daily basis. And we are grateful for the work that we do.

For families like Susan and her children, it is critical that safe shelter is available. For families like Susan and her four children, it is critical that safe shelter is available.

The walk-in mental health clinic is very popular with parents and children involved in Family Court. The walk-in mental health clinic is very popular with parents and children involved in Family Court.

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**Food Bank of the Southern Tier**

**Shelter the Homeless**

Providing Housing Development Corporation

In addition to managing safe, affordable housing opportunities for 1,000 persons in 22 different programs throughout the region, Providence Housing has recently taken the initiative to develop three new housing opportunity programs. In early January, Providence received a $50,000 grant from the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance which will enable Catholic Charities’ Family Center to take on the role of “community manager” for three new programs.

Two of the housing initiatives have been approved by the local Continuum of Care and are awaiting final approval from the U.S. Department of Housing (HUD) for fiscal year 2016.

The Housing First Program will house at least 75 chronically homeless individuals and families in a permanent supportive housing program. This will provide housing for homeless individuals and families who have been chronically homeless for at least one year, have a documented history of three or more episodes of homelessness, have been systematically housed, and who participate in programs designed to end homelessness.

Housing First will provide comprehensive services and support to the residents, which will focus on helping them secure and maintain employment, become self-sufficient, engage in community activities, and attend to their health care needs.

The Rapid Rehousing Program will enable Providence to provide up to 34 months of financial assistance and/or support services to homeless individuals and families to quickly achieve permanent housing.

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Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/ Shriver Counties

At Catholic Charities, we are familiar with the wave of change that can come from a single act of kindness. Our works begin when we remove the obstacles to the way people get the help they need. But it's not just one person's act of kindness that moves our work forward. It is the ripple effect that provides hope and inspiration.

I have worked at Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/Shriver for over seven years and while I do no work directly with clients, my role is to make sure the programs run smoothly, along with the team of exceptionally bright and compassionate individuals that make up the Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/Shriver staff.

Our work is a testament to the power of kindness and the ripple of change that occurs when we choose to help others. It is the kind of work that we do every day, and it's what makes our mission possible.

Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/Shriver primarily supported the "Point-In-Time" study. "A Point-In-Time" study (PIT) is a coordinated effort within a specific region to count the number of homeless persons during a specific one-to-two day period in time. This year, staff conducted surveys at right (99%-74%) in an attempt to identify those unhoused in places not meant for human habitation, i.e. under bridges, abandoned buildings, church, etc. While the final tallies are not available for the PIT, 21 individuals were identified as sleeping outside on a chilly January night. In addition, on the same night, Catholic Charities Social Case Manager Beth Shriver Homel63e had to her home for assistance. Thirty-one individuals, including 11 children, were accommodated in the home. For many Catholic Charities, conducting the PIT survey is a right step at ensuring that the right resources are available for the unhoused population.

What a testament to the work that our case managers do and the importance of their work. They have helped thousands of individuals and families in need. Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/Shriver is one of the main sources of support for the homeless community in our area. With the help of Catholic Charities, many individuals and families have found hope and support in their time of need.

Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/Shriver, in partnership with the Food Bank of the Rockies, is proud to announce the launch of the Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/Shriver Mobile Pantry Program. Through this partnership, Catholic Charities and the Food Bank will work together to address the issue of food insecurity in our communities. The Mobile Pantry Program will provide an additional layer of support for those in need, helping to ensure that everyone has access to healthy, nutritious food.

Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/Shriver partners with the Food Bank of the Rockies to provide nutritional support to those in need, with a focus on providing meals for children and families. The Mobile Pantry Program will allow us to reach more individuals and families who may not have access to traditional food banks. We are grateful to the Food Bank of the Rockies for their partnership and commitment to serving our community.

Catholic Charities of Cheyenne/Shriver is committed to serving those in need and working towards a future where everyone has access to nutritious food. We are excited to launch the Mobile Pantry Program and thank our partners at the Food Bank of the Rockies for their support.

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Comfort the Sorrowful

Bury the Dead

Catholic Charities of Wayne County

When a member of our family dies, we gather together in grief and rememberance to bury our deceased loved one. What happens when there is no family to gather in grief and rememberance at the graveside?

This is the question that led Sister Beth LeValley, SSJ, to organize memorial services and meals of the faithful community over the summer of the Greater Rochester Community of Churches (GRCC) to gather at the gravesides of people who die without family or friends for the burial service arranged by the Parish Administrator, who is often the only person available to say the prayer of the Curia for the dead. Sister Beth has developed a list of ministers who have volunteered to lead a very simple prayer service and the singing of “Amazing Grace” at the gravesite, surrounded by a handful of volunteers. Since starting this ministry in May 2015, Sister Beth has organized 117 graveside services, clearly showcasing the corporal work of mercy by burying the dead.

The ecumenical faith community in Rochester is helping to bury the dead through two other initiatives in recent years. First, as advocates for the poor who need financial assistance to bury their loved ones, on March 1, 2006 Monroe County announced a reduction in funding for indigent burials from an average of $1,850 to $1,250. Sister Grace Miller, RSM, founder of the House of Mercy, organized an advocacy effort, now known as Coalition for a Dignified Burial to fight for a restoration of funds. The County did restore the funding, now $4,000, under the leadership of Marlyn Mick, Director of Advocacy and Parish Social Ministry at Catholic Family Center. The coalition has organized 117 graveside services, clearly showing the corporal work of mercy by burying the dead.

The other initiative is the formation of a new and wonderful asset in Wayne County. Three of our Catholic Charities have been working with a number of other community leaders in the establishment of a new and wonderful asset in Wayne County. LaVerne L. On December 13, 2015 Bishop Salvatore R. Matano opened the Holy Door of Mercy at the Cathedral, formally initiating the Year of Mercy called for by Pope Francis for the time period December 8, 2015 through November 20, 2016. In this Year of Mercy, we are called to prayer, pilgrimage and performing the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy.

This newsletter is devoted to a discussion of immeasurable ways in which Catholic Charities responds to the call to carry out the works of Mercy. Described in previous newsletters are many other ways which Catholic Charities responds to this call not only in this Year of Mercy but also a yearly ongoing basis.

Comfort the Sorrowful

Catholic Charities of Wayne County

Many years ago, when one of our licensed social workers was�NSM student, she visited the Monroe County Jail in downtown Roches
ter. At the time, the Livingston County jail did not have the capacity to house female inmates for long-term stays in jail. She went to Mon
e County. It was an eye-opening experience for a new student of Social Work. During her early years as Catholic Charities of Livingston County, she worked for some time under the direction of St. Nancy O’Brien. Today she still remembers the plaque she had hanging in her office saying the Corporal Works of Mercy. Of course includes the Instruction To Visit the Imprisoned. A few years after she visited Monroe County Jail, this time, she took a client who had been arrested in Livingston County and was being housed Continued on page 2

Visit the Sick

Catholic Charities of Livingston County

Year of Mercy: Catholic Charities carries out Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

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