Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator Jann Armantrout is convinced that there’s growing concern in New York State about actions that threaten the lives of unborn children.

“We’re living in a generation of ultrasound services,” she said, “which indicates a growing awareness that life begins at conception.”

That, plus the New York Legislature’s refusal to pass a bill last spring that would have expanded abortion in the state, indicate to Armantrout that “people are now wondering how well we’re ministering to women and what we can do to help them carry pregnancy to term.”

The Life Issues office is doing more than its part, supporting pregnancy-care centers throughout Monroe County as well as in Elmira, Newark, Ithaca, Sodus, and Elmira with ultrasound machines funded by the Knights of Columbus. All centers are staffed by at least one paid staff member and many committed volunteers.

“We want to expand services to support them physically, emotionally, and spiritually as much less prone to abortion,” Armantrout said. To help stem the pregnancy problem, there’s also a growing need for education.

“We’d like to expand services that will increase women’s sense of self-worth and teach parenting and family-life skills,” she said. “Underlying most difficulties with problem pregnancy is poor understanding of the meaning and purpose of sexual expression. We’d like to do more to help young people understand the value and the wisdom of expressing sexuality within marriage.”

In 2009, with the nationwide economy in meltdown and unemployment rising, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier found itself starved for space. Demand for healthy food was growing in the agency’s six-county service area, where one in every seven people lives below the poverty line. The Food Bank was doing its best, distributing more than four million pounds of food a year and developing creative programs to feed and educate the hungry. But its walls were bulging and there was much more to do.

As is so often the case when good people pray for good things, good things started happening. First came the opportunity to purchase a building that would more than quadruple available floor space and provide the agency’s first freezer and a much larger cooler. The building belonged to one of the Food Bank’s most generous donors, John Potter, owner of Seneca Beverage Corp., who granted the Food Bank the right of first refusal on the property.

The Food Bank’s board did its due diligence and determined that the building would definitely provide the needed capacity. But it had to be purchased and modified, and that would require money.

Thus, the “Strengthening the Root of Local Hunger Relief” capital campaign was born, with a goal of $1.75 million.

More prayers, more answers

The campaign got off to a strong start. A $500,000 gift from the Corning Foundation sparked its first phase. Despite the economic woes of the time, other kind and caring donors, including Seneca Beverage, the Wegman Family Foundation, and 150 individuals (including every Food Bank employee), corporations and foundations, contributed more than $4 million to meet the first-phase goal.

In February, 2011, the Food Bank moved into its new operations center and the bounty for needy families began to grow.

While the campaign’s next phase generated contributions to fuel the expansion, the Food Bank continued to innovate, expanding the scope of the Mobile Food Pantry program, nearly doubling the number of children and school districts benefiting from the Backpack program, and tripling the reach of its Hunger Education program.

Even more important, the agency has now been able to expand its annual food distribution to needy families from seven million to nine million pounds a year.

And there’s more. According to Food Bank president and CEO Natasha Thompson, the new facility has already enhanced the agency’s response to emergency situations.

“The campaign also gave me the opportunity to sit with donors, often for the first time, and to share our vision. Everyone was on board with this project and campaign. Once they heard about how much we can do with the appropriate resources, it didn’t take much convincing.”

Life Issues office expands services for pregnant women

“Women who see ultrasound scans of their (unborn) children in the presence of those who support life and who realize that there are services to support them physically, emotionally, and spiritually are much less prone to abortion,” Armantrout said, citing an instance last Labor Day when a woman decided not to abort.

“The office has also established a toll-free telephone number (855-755-5935) that women can call for quick access to counseling and to make an appointment at a local pregnancy center. Since mid-September, the number has led to help for 25 women who otherwise may have made another choice.

“We also step in to help in crisis situations,” Armantrout said, citing the instance last Labor Day when infant formula was in short supply.

“The WFC (Women, Infants, Children) Program makes funds available for formula, but sometimes those funds run out or are misused,” she said. “Baby formula is sometimes used to ‘cut’ illegal hard drugs rather than to nourish infants.”

The office also helps ease the crisis by drop-shipping formula to all the pregnancy-care centers, an initiative funded by the Pledge for Life program.

But current services are only the beginning, according to Armantrout.

“Women who see ultrasounds ‘know how to help them carry pregnancy to term,’” she said. “The presence of those who support life and who realize that there’s growing concern in New York State about actions that threaten the lives of unborn children. We’re living in a generation of ultrasound services.”
Regional Roundup

Good news from around the diocese

Catholic Charities Community Services

Catholic Charities Community Services hosts its third annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner on March 7, at Irondequoit Country Club in Rochester. At this free event, clients share heartfelt stories about the positive impact the agency has had on their lives. Joanne White-Ginder, mother of the late Ryan White, will be the special speaker. Ryan White, who died at age 18 in 1990, was infected with HIV at 13 by a contaminated blood treatment for hemophilia. Through lobbying and public appearances during his short life, he helped change the public perception of HIV and AIDS. His mother, now a spokesperson and educator for AIDS-related issues, will discuss the past, present, and future of HIV/AIDS.

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes

The new coordinator of Catholic Charities of the Genesee Community, Linda Program, needs no introduc-

Catholic Charities of Steuben County

Steuben Council on Addictions (Steuben Preven-
tion) received a $150,000 grant from the Commu-
nity (DCF) grant funds to involve and engage their local community in preventing substance use

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties

In Schuyler and Yates counties, the RSVP program at Schuyler County Department for Elderly Affairs with essential services for the elderly to reading, reviewing, participating in the Rossiter for the Aging, and for the departments of Social Ser-

Providence Housing

Between November and February, more comfort-
able, affordable housing became available in Rochester; throughout the program, many thousands of

Catholic Charities of Way County

You might say the activity at the Wolcott Cloth-

Catholic Charities of Livingston County

Moving from dependency on public funds to em-

Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties

The Southern Tier might be a great place to live but sometimes it gets pretty cold for some.

Camp Stella Maris

A former Xerox execu-

tive who fell in love with Catholic Family Center

Marlene Bessette takes charge at Catholic Family Center

As mayor Stu was instrumental in developing the

A Letter from Bishop Matano

While spending long days settling in to his new duties in January, new Rochester Bishop Salvatore Matano graciously accepted our request to reflect on the role of Catholic Charities in the diocese.

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Since my arrival in the Diocese of Rochester I have had the opportu-
nity to meet many wonderful people in our parishes, schools and ap-

to no options for improvement.

New Bishop Celebrates Holy Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

On Sunday January 19, 2014 I celebrated Holy Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on the occasion of the World Day for Refugees and Migrants in commemoration of the Greatest Commandment to love your neighbor. This year’s celebration was part of a truly moving and inspiring celebration to wit-

The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano

The following letter is the result. We sincerely thank him for his generosity of time and spirit.

The following afternoon, January 17, 2014, I met with our State legisla-
ture. I was so impressed with the work of the Legislative Lansing, who are ini-

A former Xerox executive who fell in love with Catholic Family Center

For many of us, Camp Stella Maris conjures up youthful memories of great fun on hot summer
days. But in the past, the camp has faced years of trying and has taken steps to provide affordable housing specifically for homeless individuals.

Marlene Bessette has been named the new vice-presi-
dent and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester.

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Regional Roundup

Good news from around the diocese

Catholic Charities Community Services

Catholic Charities Community Services hosts its third annual "Breaking the Chains of Hunger," March 7, at Irondequoit Country Club in Rochester. At this free event, clients share heartwarming stories about the positive impact the agency has had on their lives. Joanna White-Ginder, mother of the late Ryan White, will be the special guest speaker. Ryan White, who died at age 18 in 1990, was infected with HIV at 13 by a contaminated blood treatment for hemophilia. Through lobbying and public appearances during his short life, he helped change the public perception of HIV and AIDS. His mother, now a spokesperson and educator for AIDS-related issues, will discuss the past, present, and future of HIV/AIDS.

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes

The new coordinator of Catholic Charities of the Geneva Community Living Program needs no introduction locally. He's former Geneva mayor Sue Eisten, who also brings to the role experiences gained from a lengthy career with international agencies, as well as distinguished service in the U.S. Army. As mayor Sue was instrumental in developing the Office of Neighborhood Initiatives which has 39 volunteers who fall in love with

Catholic Charities of Livingston County

Moving from dependency on public funds to employment independence has become easier in the county with support of Catholic Charities. The agency's job training programs have seen a dramatic increase in clients. In its first year, the program has provided 1,250 work-ready individuals, 85% of whom lived near poverty, 50% of whom had earned some kind of meaningful work. Funded by a grant from the Department of Social Services, Livingston County Catholic Charities works with the county Office of Workforce Development to provide the job skills necessary to succeed in today's workplace. Job training involves not only training programs, but volunteer work at thrift stores, animal shelters, and other places where the skills required to find and keep jobs are learned under the watchful eye of employment experts. The program is designed to be a valuable step toward employment, including language difficulties for immig- grant individuals and families.

Catholic Charities of Chumung/Schuyler Counties

In Schuyler and Yates counties, the RSVP program offers diverse opportunities for those 55 and older. More than 250 volunteers provide transportation services for the Office of Transportation Services division serving Monroe County. Mrs. Bessette has placed her many talents at the service of Catholic Charities. Some of her skills are particularly valuable in the agency's Healthy Families Steuben was honored by the Steuben Rural Health Network with the 2013 Distinguished Award in Human Services. According to Keili Flemsen, Steuben Rural Health Network Director, "Healthy Families! hard work and dedication to the families of Steuben County has not gone unnoti- ced. Each and every day you impact the life of a child, a mother, a family. You have persevered through trying times and still succeeded all expectations. Thank you for making a difference in our community. Thank you for your passion, commitment and willingness to serve without falter."

Catholic Charities of Wayne County

You might say the activity at the Wolcott Cloth- ing Center has been extra’s. In just a few weeks in December: generous neighbors donated 100 winter coats in response to a campaign assisted by WGRB "Out of the Cold". $100,000 was raised from a diocesan-wide second collection. "We thank you for your passion, commitment and willingness to serve without falter."

Providence Housing

Between November and February, more comfort- able, affordable housing became available in Rochester; through the presence of Realtors, community suppor- ting and support organizations. The former campus of Holy Rosary on Lexington Ave. was transformed from a single house of worship into an entity, welcoming families in the school system and convenient com- munities to self-affordable apartments; and the church redeveloped into St. Mary’s Peace refugee center. In addition, 25 single-family homes, each averaging 1500 square feet, were built in the neighborhood. In Schuyler County, the New Son House Apartments—a former home for the famous blues singer—were opened in February on what was used to be a truss-文化创意区。秦少游的田园诗家园成为该地区的文化新亮点，为当地居民提供更安全的住房。”

Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties

For many of us, Camp Stella Maris conjures up youthful memories of great fun on hot summer days. But in the past 12 years, the camp has taken on a new sense of importance to a wide range of families. The 40 cabins, each named for a member of the camp community, provide a safe environment for the children who come to the camp. The camp also partners with agencies and creates special programs for children facing special challenges, including children in foster care and for children who have been victims of abuse.

Stage Maris Stella

A former Xerox execu- tive who fell in love with Catholic Charities after a charitable assign- ment for the agency’s largest agency’s presi- dent and CEO. When Bessette began working with CFC in 2012 on an internal audit, she said, “I was excited by the possibilities of an agency that could help so many people and a place where they could feel loved by other people.”

Bessette is one of the leaders of the CFC, which annually raises millions of dollars through its various fundraising campaigns. She said one of her top priorities is to help the agency’s clients to learn to live on their own. “We have a saying here that ‘you can’t keep a child out of a job,’” Bessette said. “We try to get them into a job, and if they don’t want to work, we try to get them into a job that has a meaningful purpose.”

Catholic Charities of Rochester

Marlene Bessette, who has been with Catholic Charities for 25 years, was appointed as the new president and CEO of the agency on June 30, 2014. Bessette said she had two main priorities: to continue the agency’s mission of providing direct services to those in need, and to continue to grow the agency’s programs and services.

Bessette, who replaces outgoing president and CEO Paul Dolan, said she was excited about the opportunity to work with the agency’s board of directors and to continue to build on the agency’s strong foundations.

“I am excited about the opportunity to work with the board and to continue to build on the agency’s strong foundations,” Bessette said. “I am also excited about the opportunity to help our clients to live more independently, and to continue to grow the agency’s programs and services.”

Bessette said that the agency’s mission is to provide direct services to those in need, and to continue to grow the agency’s programs and services. She said the agency’s goal is to continue to grow the agency’s programs and services, and to continue to provide direct services to those in need.

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Winter 2014

Bountiful capital campaign expands Food Bank’s ability to serve

In 2009, with the nationwide economy in meltdown and unemployment rising, the Food Bank of the Southern Tier found itself starved for space. Demand for healthy food was growing in the agency’s six-county service area, where one in every seven people lives below the poverty line. The Food Bank was doing its best, distributing more than four million pounds of food a year and developing creative programs to feed and educate the hungry. But its walls were bulging and there was much more to do.

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The campaign got off to a strong start. A $500,000 gift from the Corning Foundation sparked its first phase. Despite the economic woes of the time, other kind and caring donors, including Seneca Beverage, the Wegman Family Foundation, and 150 individuals (including every Food Bank employee), corporations and foundations, contributed more than $4 million to meet the first-phase goal.

In February 2011, the Food Bank moved into its new operations center and the bounty for needy families began to grow. While the campaign’s next phase generated contributions to fuel the expansion, the Food Bank continued to innovate, expanding the scope of the Mobile Food Pantry program, nearly doubling the number of children and school districts benefiting from the Backpack program, and tripling the reach of its Hunger Education program.

Even more important, the agency has now been able to expand its annual food distribution to needy families from seven million to nine million pounds a year.

And there’s more. According to Food Bank president and CEO Natasha Thompson, the new facility has already enhanced the agency’s response to emergency situations. “When food pantries rose in Broome and Tioga counties in 2011, we were able to provide 450,000 pounds of food, cleaning materials, and other urgently needed items with an efficiency that either wouldn’t have been possible in our old building or that would have interrupted day-to-day operations,” Thompson said.

“Outside the lines

The campaign also gave me the opportunity to sit with donors, often for the first time, and to share our vision. Everyone was on board with this project and campaign. Once they heard about how much we can do given the appropriate resources, it didn’t take much convincing.”