

THE GOOD NEWS

SPRING 2015

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



Catholic Charities Services in 2014

Each year, services provided by Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Rochester touch the lives of nearly 250,000 individuals in our twelve county Diocese. Through our decentralized governance structure, the nine subsidiaries and two affiliated agencies of Catholic Charities (Camp Stella Maris and Providence Housing Development Corporation), in support of and in conjunction with parishes, Catholic Charities has physical presence in all corners of our Diocese. The chart inside this issue details the services provided by each of our agencies in five broad categories: Emergency Services, (Food, Clothing, Financial Assistance, Prescription Drugs), Individual and Family Support Services, Services to Special Needs Populations, Housing Services and Food Services

Good News From Around The Diocese



Catholic Charities of Steuben County

In May, Catholic Charities of Steuben will hold its 7th annual anti-poverty walk-a-thon, **Steps To End Poverty in Steuben (STEPS)**. The event is held on two separate dates in three separate locations to accommodate county-wide participation. This year, STEPS will be held Saturday, May 2 in Bath and Hornell and Saturday, May 16 in Corning. Walkers participate in the session that best accommodates their schedule.

The one-mile walk raises awareness about poverty in Steuben County and raises funds for CCS's Turning Point programs, which stabilize families in economic crisis and support them as they strive for self-sufficiency. Walkers hand out poverty fact cards as they recruit sponsors in the months and weeks leading up to the event. The day of the event, poverty fact signs are planted or carried along the walk route.

For more information or to get involved, please visit CatholicCharitiesSteuben.org, or contact Communications/Fundraising Director Paula Smith at 607-776-8085 x2218 or paulasmith@dor.org.

This event is sponsored this year by Corning Incorporated and Three Birds Restaurant.

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties

The Catholic Charities Chemung-Schuyler Structured Independent Living Adolescent Program (SILP), is back on track after a few years of uncertainty about its survival. Since its inception in 2001 the SILP is a 22 bed program certified by the NYS Office of Families and Children as a model of residential services for young adults aged 16-21 years of age who are at-risk of successfully transitioning from foster care to responsible independent living. The program provides intensive residential services where residents share an apartment with another youth. Goals are focused on self-sufficiency, skill development, socialization, problem-solving, education, and employment. What makes the program unique is that it is the only one in the state that provides a 24/7 supervised option.

In 2012, the program experienced a significant reduction in referrals, which created a fiscal crisis. The cause was a philosophical change which occurred throughout the Foster-Care System across the state since the program's 2001 inception. A treatment shift had occurred to a focus on family-centered, family-driven approach focused on family preservation and re-unification. The shift proved effective because throughout the middle part of the decade there had been more community-based prevention programs, fewer youth in foster care and far fewer out-of-home placements across the state with a number of agencies closing such 'facilities.'

Catholic Charities responded to the sharp reduction in referrals by restructuring its staffing pattern and moving other Catholic Charities program clients into vacant apartments. The new model allowed break-even to occur at eight beds. To-date, sixteen upstate County Departments of Social Services continue to use the SILP as their last resort when they are

challenged by youth whose parental rights have been terminated and the youth have been unsuccessful in all other foster care placement options, and because they recognize the Catholic Charities SILP as a premier performer.

Catholic Charities Community Services

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month and to celebrate, Community Services held its 4th annual Breakfast with Friends, fundraiser on March 6th. Over 200 guests celebrated the work of the organization and abilities of those who face significant health challenges and developmental disabilities in our community. Ginny Ryan from 13 WHAM News emceed the event. In addition to client speakers who shared their inspirational stories, the breakfast featured entertainment and remarks from Jazz Phenom Matt Savage, whose accomplishments are especially impressive given his Pervasive Developmental Disorder and sensitivity to loud sounds. The breakfast was sponsored by Rochester Colonial Manufacturing. The Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation doubled contributions made that morning. The Inaugural Heart and

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Agency	Emergency Services	Support Service	Special Needs	Housing Services	Food Services
<p>Catholic Family Center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,000 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging & Adult Services - 15,000 served • Children Youth & Family - 3,000 served • Healthy Sisters- 40 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Clinic - 2,000 served • Restart Drug & Alcohol Treatment - 2,844 served • Refugee, Immigration & Language Services - 2,000 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters & Supportive Housing - 1,700 served 	
<p>Catholic Charities Community Services (Serving 12 Counties)</p>	<p>Over 35,000 in our twelve county diocese received emergency assistance in 2014</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental Disabilities - 400 served • Care Doordination - 900 served • Supportive Services - 1,000 served 	 <p>Through a second collection authorized by Bishop Matano in March, Catholic Charities helped 500 families with heating assistance</p>	
<p>Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylar Counties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7,000 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach - Schuylar - 11,000 served • RSVP - Schuylar - 350 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Services (Chemung) - 661 served (Schuylar) - 24 served 		
<p>Catholic Charities of Livingston County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,854 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community of Caring 125 served • Faith in Action Transportation - 133 served • HOPE Youth Mentoring - 58 served • SSI/SSD Case Mgmt - 33 served • TASA - 46 served 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Housing - 77 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Pantry - 3,985 served
<p>Catholic Charities of Steuben County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning Point - 9,500 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Abuse Prevention - 6,968 served • Healthy Families - 220 families served • Therapeutic Foster Care - 33 children served • Family Preservation SHAPE - 186 families served • Bath Community Child Day Care - 145 children served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinship Community Residence - 61 men served • Kinship Supportive Living - 29 men served 		 <p>Through 162 Member Agencies, the Food Bank helps 150,000 different individuals each year</p>
<p>Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes (Serving 4 Counties)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Assistance (includes HEAP) - 3,000 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised Visitation - 77 families served • Case Management - 64 families served • SSI Advocacy - 32 served 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Lunch Program - 14,200 meals served
<p>Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tompkins County - 2,000 served • Tioga County - 650 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration Svcs -Tompkins - 1,325 served • Nutrition Outreach - Tompkins - 150 served • Nutrition Outreach - Tioga - 66 served • Family Empowerment Svcs - Tompkins - 135 served • Youth Mentoring / Education - Tioga - 34 served 	<p>Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Rochester touched the lived of nearly 250,000 individuals in our twelve county diocese in 2014</p>		
<p>Catholic Charities of Wayne County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 served 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood Counseling & Intervention - 125 served • College Bound - 200 served • Counseling - 210 served • Positive Attitude, Responsible Citizen - 750 served • Persons In Need of Supervision - 32 served • La Casa - 90 served 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Assistance - 3,000 served
<p>Food Bank of the Southern Tier (Serving 6 Counties)</p>	 <p>Food assistance in 2014 was at an all time high</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Distribution to 162 Member Agencies -483,549 children, 611,509 adults, 184,107 seniors (1,300,000 duplicate) • Mobile Food Pantry - 160,000 served • Back Pack Program - 2,000 students served • SNAP/Food Stamp Outreach - 300 households • Just Say Yes to Fruits & Vegetables - 1,660 class participants
<p>Camp Stella Maris</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Camp Participants - 2,666 served • ABLE Participants - 1,449 served • Off Season - 64 groups - 3,073 served 			
<p>Providence Housing Development</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,500 individuals served in 22 projects 	

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Soul Award was presented to founding Executive Director Paul T. Pickering by Bishop Emeritus Matthew Clark and the Community Champion Award was presented to René H. Reixach, Jr., Esq. of Woods Oviatt, Gillman, LLC, for his advocacy on behalf of Medicaid recipients. The awards were created and donated by local artist Mark McDermott.

Community Services was awarded a grant of \$211,000 from the Balancing Incentive Program through the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities, NYS. The grant is intended to reduce the fear of losing one's Social Security Disabilities benefits upon entering or returning to the workforce. Funds will be used to offer benefits advisement and counseling to 750 professionals, individuals and families across the Diocese of Rochester's service area. Catholic Charities Community Services is partnering with Cornell University and other community based organizations which serve those with developmental disabilities, including Tompkins-Tioga Catholic Charities.



Catholic Family Center

With all the publicity lately, it's hard not to be aware of the poverty problem in Rochester, especially the rate of childhood poverty. Regardless of which cities are used as a comparison group or which population is looked at – Rochester is in the top 5 in terms of the percent of people living in poverty. This ranking should outrage us...it means that over 66,000 people in the City of Rochester, 25,000 of them children, live under the poverty level.

This is why Catholic Family Center made a subtle yet profound shift in its mission as an outcome of its strategic planning process in 2014. Over time, the agency will move from being a provider of services to the poor and vulnerable to an agency that works with the poor to address the root causes of poverty while continuing to provide the same quality services. Staff at Catholic Family Center believe the agency is uniquely positioned to support clients on a journey out of crisis and into stability, growth and self-sufficiency.

To that end, agency leadership has engaged an eclectic working group of highly skilled advisors from throughout the community who have been meeting with leadership and key staff members to identify a proven, evidence-based, systematic methodology of change that will serve as the foundation for this effort. After studying various models, the decision was made to structure a demonstration project that targets a neighborhood with a "sticky population", i.e., residents who can be reasonably accessed, who are not, for the most part, transient, and who are representative of our client population. Collaboration with sister agency Providence Housing led us to an initial focus on Carlson Commons in the PLEX (Plymouth - Exchange) neighborhood.

An initial outreach event for the new project was a "Carnival Day" held on February 19th. Over 50 people attended the event and every family received books and toys and a \$5 gift certificate as prizes. Children and parents played carnival games together while listening to music, eating dinner, and being entertained by a live street magic performance. "I have not had

this much fun with my child in a while" said one of the mothers who attended. The next event will be a more extensive program during the April school break.

Food Bank of the Southern Tier



Introduced last year, the Healthy Harvest program allows the Food Bank to support local farmers while providing fresh, nutritious produce to our hungry neighbors. This program has also helped raise awareness about the Food Bank within the agriculture community and provide farmers with an opportunity to get involved in our work.

At the end of the 2014 season, the Healthy Harvest program yielded 296,540 pounds of locally grown produce including apples, corn, cucumbers, peppers, squash, string beans, and tomatoes for distribution to pantries and meal programs. Of that total, over 58,000 pounds were donated by our generous farmers.

The response from the Food Bank's network of partner agencies was overwhelming positive. "A huge thank you for the fresh produce! We had pantry tonight and everyone loved it!" said one food pantry coordinator. This year, the Food Bank plan to expand the Healthy Harvest program to work with additional local farmers and provide even more nutritious food to people in need. For more information about the Food Bank of Southern Tier, visit www.foodbankst.org or call 607-796-6061.

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes

In late 2014, Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes entered into a unique joint venture with Providence Housing Development Corporation to provide case management services to eight formerly homeless families in Clark Park in Geneva, managed by Providence. These apartments, originally created through the State Homeless Housing Assistance program, had been assumed by Providence when previous ownership had not proved effective. Participation in comprehensive case management, information and referral and counseling is required of all residents. This joint venture is the type of service which is recognized as most effective in moving individuals toward self-sufficiency. It is an example of the type of marriage of housing and services that has become a hallmark of Medicaid reform efforts in New York State.

Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties

Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga is excited about its new strategic plan. The process began in April of 2014 with the target of implementation on January 1, 2015. Through the leadership of consultant Roxi Bahar Hewertson and the hard work of all the Board Members, staff and community partners of both Tompkins and Tioga the agency has successfully developed new Mission, Vision, Values and Strategies statements. The process brought all the employees, board members and community partners together which provided the opportunity to

learn more about each other and develop new collaborations. The process has also helped in evaluation of current services and exploring how to improve those services as well as add new services.

Also, in August of 2013 Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties started a mentoring program in Tioga County through a grant from Catholic Charities USA to work with at risk youth ages 9-17. There are only two programs in New York State that provide services through this grant, with the other agency being Catholic Charities of Broome County. The grant requires matching 10 youth with 10 volunteer mentors with the commitment of volunteer and youth to work together for 2 years. The objective for this service is to provide the tools to the youth enrolled in the mentoring program to help decrease their at-risk behavior and improve their engagement in the greater community as well as staying out of the juvenile justice system. Since this service has been provided there has been improvement in attendance in school, community members commenting on how well certain youth act in public and willingness of participants to become involved in community activities.

Catholic Charities of Wayne County

In January, Board and staff came together for the 2nd annual brainstorming and strategizing session lovingly referred to as our CCWC Visioning Day. Energized by an excellent presentation by Jack Balinsky, Diocesan Director, on the history of Catholic Charities and its monumental impact in our region, our group put their hearts and minds together to envision how our agency can continue to thrive in the future.

Goals for 2015 (continuing) include:

1. Expanding our relationships with our County's five Roman Catholic parishes.
2. Running our internal operation as efficiently as possible.
3. Refining each of our existing programs.

Goals for 2015 (new) include:

1. Assisting families with end-of-life issues.
2. Being a positive part of the new Comfort Care home under development in Newark.
3. Successfully launching our new Scholarship Program for the College Bound Program.



Catholic Charities of Livingston County

On Saturday, January 24th from 5-7pm St. Matthew Church in Livonia hosted the 10th Annual Eat for Heat dinner for Catholic Charities of Livingston County. This spaghetti dinner fundraising event began in 2005, to assist our neighbors who are struggling to keep their heat on during the cold winter months. In 2014, our efforts helped 120 families stay warm, from single moms working two jobs to senior citizens with limited incomes. This year we served 200 dinners and between ticket sales and a silent auction we raised close to \$4,500.00!

The first two months of 2015 also were a time of expansion of the employment program. The current caseload is 210 employable clients. Of these, 67 clients are employed at least part time. Thirteen clients are involved in work experience activities throughout the County. English as a Second Language and High School equivalency clients are being offered through a Workforce Development tutor.

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Our Affiliates



Camp Stella Maris

Camp Stella Maris believes that every child should have the opportunity to grow, play, explore, and experience the magic of summer camp. Since 1977, the Camp Stella Maris Campership Fund has provided need-based scholarships for resident, day, and family camp programs. In 2014, they awarded over \$149,000 to 340 children and their families. On May 2, 2015, Camp Stella Maris will host its 2nd Annual Casino Night to benefit this cause. The event will take place at Monroe's Restaurant on Monroe Avenue in Pittsford, and will be hosted by Upstate Vegas Events. Camp friends and supporters will gather for exciting Vegas-style games such as Black Jack, Roulette, Texas Hold'm, Craps, and Three Card Poker. In addition, there will be silent auctions and raffles throughout the night. All proceeds will go to the

Camp Stella Maris Campership Fund. Those interested in attending, sponsoring, or donating to the event should contact Elizabeth Huberlie at elizabeth@campstellamaris.org.

Providence Housing Development Corporation

A significant moment in the evolution of Providence Housing Development Corporation came on March 10th when the Board appointed Mark Greisberger as Executive Director. A practicing attorney in his own law firm, Mark has made significant contributions to the work of the Catholic Charities and the Diocese for more than 40 years. He served on the Boards of Catholic Charities settlement houses and later the Diocesan Board of Catholic Charities. He spearheaded an effort 40 years ago in coordination with Rochester's settlement houses to develop affordable housing. Mark was instrumental in the creation of Providence Housing Development Corporation in 1994 and has served as a Board member and advisor since then, bringing a wealth of housing development management experience and institutional memory as he moves into this position and a new phase in his career. Over the last several months, as a volunteer, he has initiated several new project development possibilities. With the able leadership of Asset Manager Helen Bianchi, he will oversee property management, continue developing new projects, and manage the partnerships with Catholic Family and Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Life Support: Updates From Life Issues

Things are moving fast on passage of the individual bills that make up the 10 point Women's Equality Act. The State Assembly unanimously approved the human trafficking bill on Monday, March 16, which is the first time they have been willing to break up the WEA. In January, the State Senate unanimously approved all of the WEA points, except for the abortion provision, which they had done for the past two years as well. The political stand-off has finally been broken to allow these provisions to become law.

The Diocesan Public Policy Committee chose this issue for this year's parish Public Policy Weekend, which was held in most parishes in the diocese on February 8-9. Parishioners signed letters or petitions asking their Assembly member to help insure passage of all of the points of the Women's Equality Act, except for the one that would expand current abortion provisions in New York State. Results are still coming in, but already it's clear that participation was quite high! Thanks to all who participated.

Now you can contact your Assembly member to thank them for passing the Human Trafficking bill, and encourage them to pass the other WEA provisions that the Senate passed, including equal pay, strengthening laws against pregnancy, parent, housing, sex, and domestic violence discrimination, and sexual harassment provisions for all workplaces. You can find your Assembly member and contact them at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/>. You can also join the Catholic Action Network at <http://www.nyscatholic.org/>.

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Inside this Issue: up dates on Catholic Charities Services in 2014

