

# THE GOOD NEWS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

A PROGRESS REPORT FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



## Diocesan Catholic Charities 2019 Annual Report

As we write this report, in light of the COVID-19 and economic disruption of 2020, it is almost impossible to return in memory to the year 2019. The purpose of this annual report is to remind readers of the significant service work that Catholic Charities provided in carrying out its mission in 2019, touching the lives of 250,000 persons in our twelve county Diocese.

Included within this annual report in addition to our 2019 financial report is our service matrix which describes in detail the various services provided by our nine Catholic Charities agencies, Camp Stella Maris and Providence Housing. As you can see from this information in 2019, Catholic Charities continued to reach out to the poorest and most vulnerable in our twelve county Diocese. Not surprisingly, in a year of economic prosperity, we found an ever-increasing demand for emergency assistance to which we were able to respond.

Yet within our own organization there were a number of changes which happily did not affect our service delivery ability.

In September 2019 the Diocese of Rochester filed for bankruptcy in light of the Child Victims Act and a large number of lawsuits were brought against the Diocese. It needs to be emphasized that the Catholic Charities Corporation did not file for bankruptcy and that our services continued uninterrupted. We were most pleased that

we continued to receive Catholic Ministries Appeal funding from the Diocese.

For the first time in seven years 2019 brought some transitions in our leadership team. Tony Barbaro, Associate Diocesan Director and Chief Fiscal Officer, retired effective June 30, 2019 after 34 years of dedicated service. In his tenure Tony was primarily responsible for the creation of our four Southern Tier agencies and will be greatly missed.

Last year also saw transitions in two agency leadership positions. Laura Opelt, who had served in outstanding fashion for 21 years as the Catholic Charities Executive Director in Steuben County, left her position to assume Tony's position as Associate Diocesan Director. The Board of Catholic Charities of Steuben and I, after a search process, appointed Tabitha Brewster who had been serving for 6 years as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Livingston County to the position of Executive Director for Catholic Charities of Steuben, while she has retained her position as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Livingston County.

In September 2019 Dr. Ellen Wayne announced her resignation from her position as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the

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## 2019 Financial Report

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Grants and contracts.....	\$ 37,442,525	-	\$ 37,442,525
Program service fees .....	25,269,119	-	25,269,119
Contributions.....	6,920,906	2,494,473	9,415,379
Food in-kind assistance .....	9,481,222	-	9,481,222
Investment income appropriated for operations .....	222,947	-	222,947
Adjustment of prior year revenue.....	546,494	-	546,464
Other .....	906,811	-	906,811
Net assets released from restrictions .....	2,208,825	(2,208,825)	-
<b>Total operating support and revenue .....</b>	<b>82,998,819</b>	<b>285,648</b>	<b>83,284,467</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES:

Program services .....	73,340,315	-	73,340,315
Support services.....	7,920,982	-	7,920,982
Fundraising.....	1,879,643	-	1,879,643
<b>Total operating expenses.....</b>	<b>83,140,940</b>	<b>285,648</b>	<b>83,140,940</b>

### EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER OPERATING EXPENSES.....

(142,121) - 143,527

### OTHER ITEMS:

Net (depreciation) appreciation of investments.....	1,032,456	883,721	1,916,177
Investment income appropriated for operations .....	-	(222,947)	(222,947)
Gain on disposal of property and equipment.....	(17,330)	-	(17,330)
Net assets released from restrictions for acquisition of property and equipment.....	149,969	(149,969)	-
Effect of change in insurance liability .....	65,667	-	65,667

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS .....** 1,088,641 796,453 1,885,094

**NET ASSETS - beginning of year .....** 13,292,651 6,385,487 19,678,138

**NET ASSETS - end of year .....** \$ 14,381,292 \$ 7,181,940 \$21,563,232

## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

### Catholic Charities Community Services



**Catholic Charities Community Services** is known for its Teamwork when helping families through crises ... In 2019, a long-time client, a young mother with two children, was suddenly diagnosed with cancer in addition to multiple other chronic health conditions, including HIV. She found the support she needed through the whole team at **CCCS**. That support came from a variety of departments and programs. The youngest child received support through his Children's Health Homes care manager. Mom also had an Adult Health Home care manager

who coordinated services to ensure she had access to medical care and other services. A housing specialist helped Mom secure stable housing and a peer specialist provided her with emotional support. Even donors helped the family. Just before Christmas, Mom received a terminal cancer diagnosis and thought that her biggest wish – giving her children one very special Christmas – would never come true. Through the generosity of donors and the coordination of development staff members, the family experienced the Christmas of their dreams filled with gifts, food, decorations and a very big tree! Later, when mom entered hospice care, donors provided a phone for the youngest child to remain in contact with her. A charitable donation to **CCCS** made it possible for the family to make final arrangements for Mom. The staff continues to help the children through their grief and support their transition to a new home where they will be cared for and ready for their best possible future.

**CCCS** is grateful to have such an incredibly compassionate and dedicated staff and is proud of all of them every day. In 2019, two staff members were recognized by state-wide organizations for their work. Joan Nowak received the *Joyce Binder Award for Excellence in Nursing* presented by the NYS I/DD Nurses Association, and Gloria Anderson received the *Direct Support Professional of the Year Award* presented by NYS Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation.

### Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties



Derrick had a difficult childhood on the streets of NYC. Hugs, kisses and “I love you” were not affirmations he received. *“The only loving I was getting was from the people living in the street, drug dealers and gang bangers. So, I’m getting misled and stirred up like a washing machine. I was getting thrown all over and I was just soaking in all the bad stuff.”*

At the age of 12, Derrick was sent to live with his father in Elmira - a father that Derrick barely knew due to his years of drug addiction and incarceration. The move did not help. By the age of 15 Derrick was living in a group home and while he worked, his father would take most of his paycheck. This only fueled Derrick's anger and resentment. *“All that started making me mad at the world. My momma didn't love me, my dad didn't love me... That's how I started thinking.”*

At the age of 18, Derrick became a father for the first time. It wasn't until Derrick's second daughter was taken from her mother that he was forced to become a father. *“I said to myself, ‘Ain't nothing wrong with me, she should be with her dad.’ I realized she needs my love and affection. I'm not built to be sitting in jail... Not when I've got kids and I care about my kids. That's what really turned my whole life around.”*

Derrick took custody of his daughter and turned to **Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler's** Second Place East Homeless Shelter for help. In addition to emergency shelter, Catholic Charities enrolled him in Gateways Community Living Program, providing him long-term housing assistance and case management services (intended for homeless and/or those diagnosed with mental illness, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS related diseases.) Within four weeks, Derrick had his own apartment. In his words, *“That was the happiest day of my life.”*

Over time, Derrick has learned how to balance discipline and affection as a parent. He has plans to go back to school to obtain a degree in the hopes of being a manager one day.

Derrick continues to raise his daughter and consistently spends time with his two other children. He concluded his interview by stating, *“God is good, and I am definitely a firm believer that everything happens for a reason. And this is why you can't give up. You have got to stay motivated and patient, because it comes when you really need it. I appreciate everything. This is definitely my new life and it started with **Catholic Charities.**”*

### Catholic Charities of Steuben County

**Catholic Charities of Steuben's** Substance Free Living's Residential Services works to reduce the prevalence of substance abuse and its consequences in the community. Through this area of programmatic focus, **Catholic Charities of Steuben** offers a Residential Reintegration

Program that helps people maintain a substance free lifestyle through housing, support, and education in both a congregate setting (community residence) and a scattered bed (supportive living) setting. The letter, below, is a testimony from one of our former residents.

*About a year & a half ago my life had completely hit rock bottom. I had been a drug addict for many years but things had finally totally fell apart. I was on probation, homeless, and still using everyday. Probation eventually forced me into rehab for 33 days. Without the Wider House I wouldn't have had any where to go after rehab so I'd once again be homeless. Which means I'd be back using & selling drugs to survive. The program gave me a safe place to work on fixing myself and taught me the tools I needed to stay sober. It's been over a year and a half now that I've been in the program and I'm proud to say I'm still sober. This program has saved my life in more than one way. Thank you Wider House/Supportive Living!!*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Chris N.*

## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

### Catholic Charities of Livingston County

Transitional Jail Counseling is offered by a team of caseworkers through **Catholic Charities of Livingston County**. The services are offered to inmates who are transitioning from the Livingston County Jail back into the community. Staff prepare inmates for re-integration into their communities by connecting them with a host of services including: housing options, employment opportunities, SSI/SSD applications, mental health and doctor appointments, addiction treatment and local 12-Step programs, bed-to-bed rehab transfers, transportation upon release day, warm clothing, shoes, or other needed essentials, and emergency assistance at the department of social services, just to name a few.

As many know, the incarcerated population consists of many different groups of people and different levels of crime. Although some inmates choose to not make any changes, once released, many others do want to improve their lives. **Catholic Charities** is very grateful to be able to work with such a unique population and staff are proud of those who have completed their classes and experienced positive changes as a result. Recently, one inmate really stood out. When he first started participating in facilitated groups, he did not engage in conversation. As classes continued, he wanted to participate and share based on his experiences, both positive and negative. Towards the end of his stay, he started to pull other classmates out of their shells, which influenced even greater conversation. We are happy to report that he successfully completed all his courses prior to the end of his sentence and then connected with **Catholic Charities of Livingston** for additional community supports upon his discharge. **CCLC** was able to provide him with a security deposit for his new apartment as well as with personal care products. He has gained employment with a successful company and continues to seek our assistance as needed.

### Catholic Family Center

Since 1917, **Catholic Family Center's** mission has been to partner with – and advocate for – the most vulnerable in the community, especially those facing poverty – to help them achieve their full human potential.

In 2016, **Bridges to Success** and **Family Independence Initiative** were selected as the first two public offerings from the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI), a community-wide effort to help people achieve financial security and prosperity. These programs are based on the idea of people having a trusted partner who supports them as they work towards achieving goals they set. During the two-year pilot program, participants and mentors created some powerful results together. For example:

**Bridges to Success** (BTOS) is one of the **adult mentoring initiatives** launched by CFC, and was implemented in partnership with two other community agencies **Action for a Better Community** and **Community Place of Greater Rochester**. BTOS uses a



professional mentoring/navigation model to help people with low income achieve economic mobility. In just two short years, Bridges to Success has demonstrated some strong results:

- Number of participants employed increased 95%
- Participants' average earned monthly household income increased by 107.5%
- Participants have shown positive movement across all pillars of the Bridge to Self-Sufficiency (Housing, Family, Health, Networks, Finances, Employment)
- 80% of participants advanced from "Crisis" or "At Risk" to Stable within at least one pillar

One of the Bridges to Success participants agreed to share her story:

#### **My Early Years Were Hard Ones – Francy's Story**

Growing up in poverty without support at home is an ordeal that Francy Gonzalez never wants her three children to experience like she did.

"Poverty is not where it's at," Francy, age 27, said bluntly. Her early years were hard ones. Diagnosed with an eating disorder at age 10, she was treated for years at Golisano Children's Hospital, the only place where she found supportive adults. Still today, one of Francy's ongoing challenges is to continue to take care of her health.

As a high school student, Francy tried to avoid the chaos at home by "smoking and chilling" with her friends. She dropped out because "I didn't feel like I was getting anything out of school that would help me survive" in the world.

#### **Sign me up!**

Francy has received government assistance over the years and worked seasonal jobs. A big turning point came in 2017, when she attended an event at Head Start where her daughter was enrolled. She met Bridges to Success mentor Hillary Bartoszek, who was recruiting participants. When Francy learned what the program entailed, "I said, 'Sign me up!'" she recalled.

Francy credits Hillary with helping her to set goals, including passing the GED and enrolling in a Healthy Moms program after she became pregnant with her third child.

She thinks of Hillary as "a friend who is aware of everything." By everything, Francy means all kinds of resources in the community, even where Francy could get clothing for her children.

When Francy needed to move to a new apartment, Hillary guided her to a program that paid the security deposit and first month's rent. The mentors "have the time to sit down and help you work toward whatever goals you want," Francy said.

#### **I will continue to strive towards my goals**

Francy's goals included taking steps to learn how to launch her own business of healthy hair care products. She plans to apply for the cosmetology program at the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center.

Hillary has high praise for Francy. "Francy is a person who will do absolutely anything she can to better herself, better her situation, and to provide for her family."

Francy's children, ages 6, 5 and 2 years, remain her top motivator to get out of poverty. "I definitely don't want my kids going through whatever struggles I went through." She is continuing to receive support to improve her health through Healing Connections.

Francy so believes in the Bridges program that she urged her 19-year-old sister to apply. She's now participating. "She likes to strive as much as I do," Francy said proudly.

### Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes

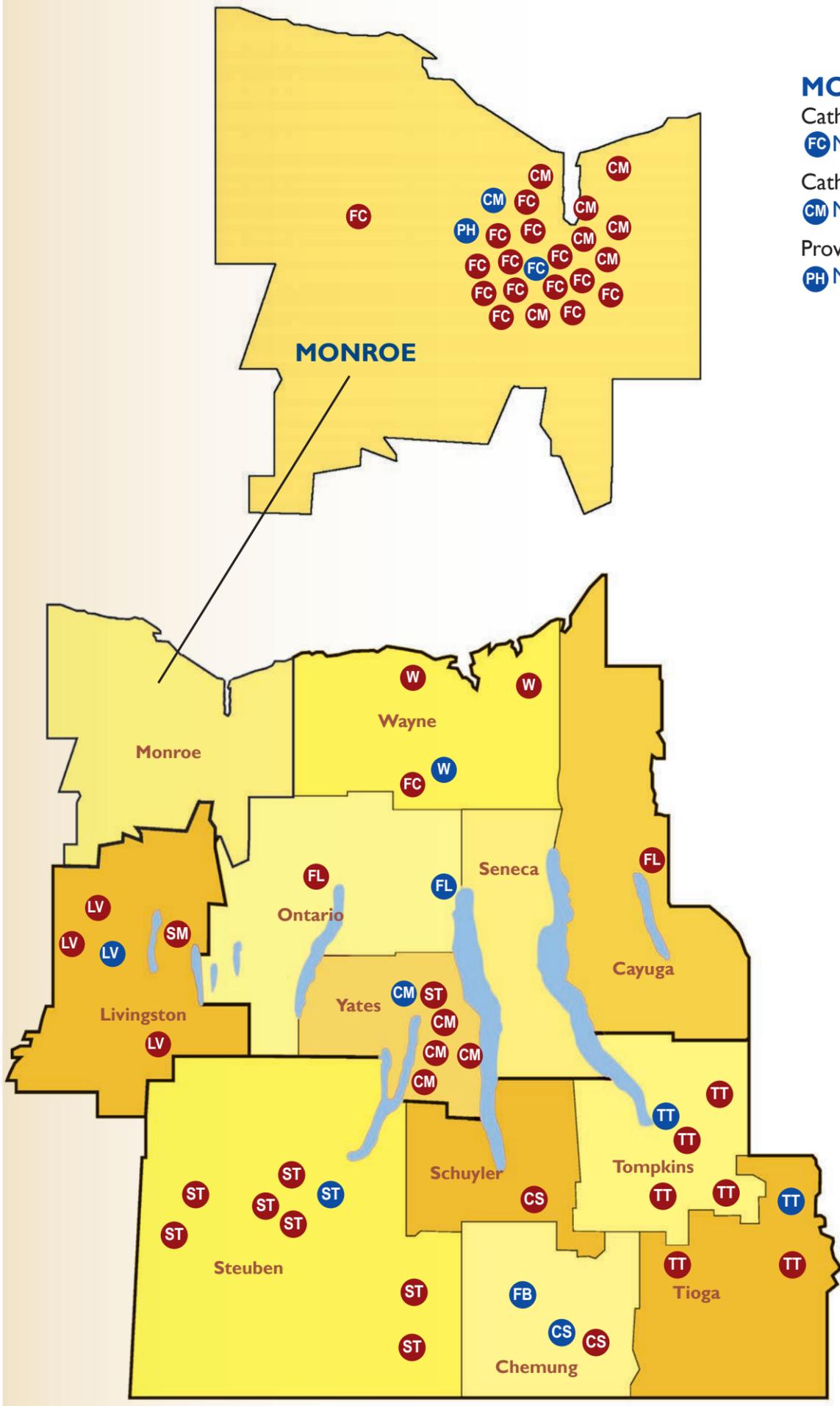
Dennis, a gentleman in his mid-50s, had previously been taking care of his ailing father, who has now since died. Dennis became depressed and wasn't able to work. He subsequently lost his apartment and went into deep depression. Unfortunately, he tried to commit suicide. It was his local pastor who referred Dennis to **Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes** as he had no place to stay, no money, and no food. **Catholic Charities** connected him to its local food pantry and with Ontario County DSS, where he was able to secure housing, and a caseworker. The caseworker was able to get Dennis signed up to receive food stamps. With housing and food resources in place, Dennis' next need was a source of income. The Emergency Assistance Case Worker helped Dennis successfully apply for SSI. Dennis remarked, "I come into Catholic Charities to see Joan and Alan because they give me hope. I no longer feel suicidal. They made life much easier for me. I am extremely optimistic."

# Catholic Charities

## of the Diocese of Rochester, Inc.



We help our neighbors develop skills for life. We empower them to lead healthy, productive independent lives. We provide a place where people can grow in personal dignity.



### MONROE COUNTY

- Catholic Family Center (FC)
  - # Main Office # Program Sites
- Catholic Charities Community Services (CM)
  - # Main Office # Program Sites
- Providence Housing - Main Office (PH)
  - # Main Office

### AREAWIDE

- Catholic Family Center (FC)
  - # Main Office # Program Sites

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- Catholic Charities Community Services (CM)
  - # Main Office # Program Sites

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- Catholic Charities of Livingston County (LV)
  - # Main Office # Program Site

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- Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes (FL)
  - # Main Office # Program Site

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- Catholic Charities of the Steuben County (ST)
  - # Main Office # Program Site

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- Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga (TT)
  - # Main Office # Program Site

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- Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler (CS)
  - # Main Office # Program Site

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- Food Bank of the Southern Tier (FB)
  - # Main Office

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- Catholic Charities of Wayne County (W)
  - # Main Office # Program Site

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- Camp Stella Maris (SM)
  - # Program Site

# Main Office # Program Site

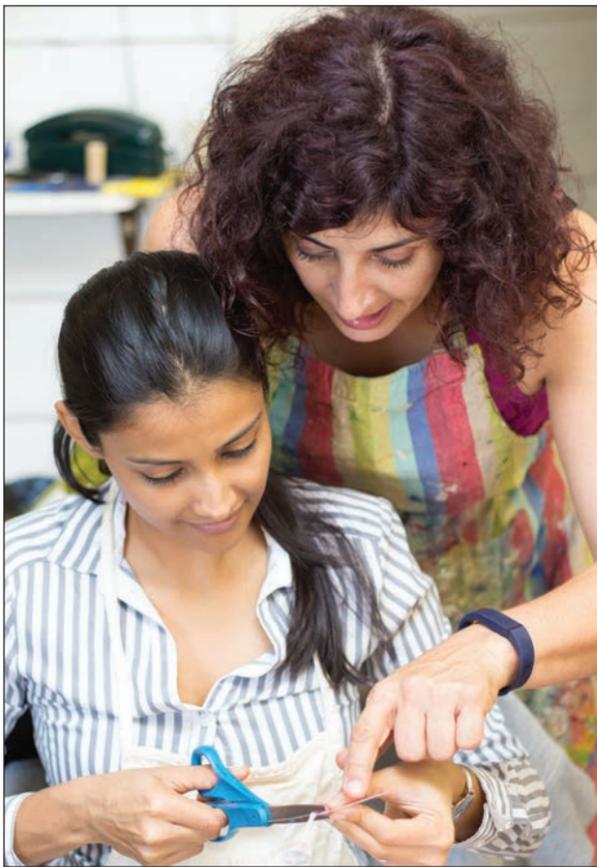
Not included here are the 27 properties managed by Providence Housing and the 164 food pantries and soup kitchens supported by the Food Bank.

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, INC.

Agency	Emergency Services	Family Functioning/ Financial Self Sufficiency	Special Needs	Housing Services	Nutrition Security
<b>Catholic Family Center</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6,856 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eldersource - 673 individuals</li> <li>• Aging &amp; Adult Services - 1,917 individuals</li> <li>• Kinship Navigator - 2,191 individuals</li> <li>• Children Youth &amp; Family - 1,497 individuals</li> <li>• Refugee and Immigration - 4,031 individuals</li> <li>• Workforce Development - 399 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health Clinic - 2,461 individuals</li> <li>• Restart Drug Program (Outpatient &amp; Residential) - 4,369 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelters &amp; Supportive Housing - 3,079 individuals</li> </ul> 	
<b>Catholic Charities Community Services</b> (Serving 12 Counties)	<p>Over 50,000 persons in our Twelve County Diocese Received Emergency Assistance in 2019</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmental Disabilities - 762 individuals</li> <li>• Care Coordination - 805 individuals</li> <li>• Supportive Services - 271 individuals</li> <li>• Clinical - 210 individuals</li> </ul>	<p>Catholic Charities helped 15,000 families with clothing assistance in 2019</p>	
<b>Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing - 4,494 individuals</li> <li>• Diapers &amp; Formula - 452 families</li> <li>• Samaritan Center Outreach - 884 services delivered</li> <li>• Homeless Shelter - 556 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of Crime - 273 individuals</li> <li>• Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) - 177 individuals</li> <li>• Tax Returns - 347 families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster Care - 19 children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless Prevention - 581 individuals</li> <li>• Housing Case Management - 395 individuals</li> <li>• Successful Mortgage Foreclosure Preventions - 74 individuals</li> <li>• First Time Homebuyers - 10 families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Kitchen - 23,495 meals served</li> <li>• Food Pantry - 6,765 individuals</li> </ul>
<b>Catholic Charities of Livingston County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help Works Emergency Assistance - 1,726 families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith in Action Volunteer Transportation Services - 139 individuals</li> <li>• Employment Case Management - 241 individuals</li> <li>• Individual &amp; Family Therapy - 116 individuals</li> <li>• Parenting Classes and Case Management - 23 families</li> <li>• Hope Youth Mentoring - 78 Children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home and Community Based Services - 24 individuals</li> <li>• Transitional Jail Counseling - 393 individuals</li> <li>• Children's Health Home Case Management - 35 children</li> <li>• SSI-SSD Case Management - 26 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Housing - 58 families served</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Pantry - 2,700 individuals</li> </ul> <p>Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Rochester touched the lives of 250,000 individuals in our twelve county diocese in 2019</p>
<b>Catholic Charities of Steuben County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turning Point Transportation - 25,513 bus tokens distributed to 8,237 individuals</li> <li>• Accessed Health Care - 1,383 individuals</li> <li>• Assistance with Prescriptions - 52 individuals</li> <li>• Referral to Community Resources - 9,343 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substance Abuse Prevention - 4,878 individuals</li> <li>• Healthy Families - 246 families</li> <li>• Family Preservation SHAPE - 177 families</li> <li>• Bath Community Child Day Care - 127 children</li> <li>• Laker Kids After School Care - 41 children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weider House Community Residence - 69 individuals</li> <li>• Supportive Living - 33 individuals</li> <li>• Therapeutic Foster Care - 41 children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rental Assistance - 160 Families (616 individuals)</li> <li>• Utility Assistance - 234 families (355 individuals)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNAP Benefits (NOEP) - 607 individuals</li> <li>• Food Assistance (Pantries) - 23,561 families</li> </ul>
<b>Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes</b> (Serving 4 Counties)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utility Assistance - 645 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Case Management - 71 individuals</li> <li>• Supervised Visitation - 515 individuals</li> <li>• Post Adoption and Post Guardian Services - 70 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug Court Case Coordination - 402 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Management Support to Homeless - 1,462 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geneva Community Lunch Program - 13,211 meals served.</li> </ul>
<b>Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tioga Emergency Financial Assistance - 3,380 individuals</li> <li>• Tompkins Emergency Financial Assistance - 4,180 individuals</li> <li>• Two Free Clothing Closets - 2,963 households</li> <li>• Personal Care Products - 14,136</li> <li>• Utility Assistance - 51 individuals</li> <li>• Transportation Assistance - 113 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigration Services Direct Services - 181 individuals</li> <li>• Free Legal Services - 63 individuals</li> <li>• Naturalization - 63 individuals</li> <li>• Immigration Applications - 41 individuals</li> <li>• Employment Placement - 63 individuals</li> <li>• Youth Engagement Services (Tioga) - 36 children</li> <li>• Youth Empowerment Service - 34 families</li> <li>• Fatherhood - 22 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Disabilities Employment - 10 individuals</li> <li>• Home and Community Based Services - 10 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rental Assistance - 112 individuals</li> <li>• Transitional Housing (A Place to Stay) - 10 single homeless women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Pantries - 1,246 individuals</li> <li>• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Prescreens 487 individuals - Applications 206 individuals</li> </ul>
<b>Catholic Charities of Wayne County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolcott Clothing Center - 3,450 families</li> <li>• Utility Shutoff Assistance - 215 families</li> <li>• Emergency Prescription Assistance - 65 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Bound - 185 children</li> <li>• Counseling - 210 families</li> <li>• Healthy Relationship Education - 1,350 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood Counseling &amp; Intervention - 165 individuals</li> <li>• Persons in Need of Supervision - 110 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La Casa - 17 individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Food Pantry - 2,100 individuals</li> <li>• Newark Food Closet - 2,700 individuals</li> </ul>
<b>Food Bank of the Southern Tier</b> (Serving 6 Counties)	 <p>Food assistance in 2019 was at an all time high</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13.2 million pounds of food, enough for more than 10.8 million meals, were distributed through 157 participating agencies. Of food distributed to 21,702 each week, 41% were children and 19% seniors</li> <li>• 3.4 million pounds of food were distributed through the Mobile Food Pantry</li> <li>• Through the Healthy Harvest Program, 2.7 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables were distributed.</li> <li>• More than 3,500 children in all 41 school districts in the Southern Tier participated in the Backpack Program</li> </ul>				
<b>Camp Stella Maris</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Programs: Resident Campers - 1,980; Day Campers - 343; Overnight Experience Campers - 3; 4-Day Stay Campers - 157; Leadership In Training - 72; Counsellors in Training - 54; School Age Program - 63</li> </ul>				
<b>Providence Housing Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,683 individuals</li> <li>• 995 units in 27 projects</li> </ul>				

### Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties

Since 2018, **Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga** has been assisting “Salma,” a single mother of three who has faced many barriers to employment. Between attending English classes and taking care of her home and children, Salma had very little time available to work and her reliance on public transportation limited her options even further. Despite these challenges, **Catholic Charities** was able to find Salma a laundry attendant position at a hotel in downtown Ithaca, which allowed her to walk to work. At the hotel, she took on more hours and more responsibilities and did well, but her real desire was to pursue her goal of working with children as she had done for many years in her home country. When Salma found out that the child daycare where one of her children attended was hiring, she immediately decided to apply. After a rigorous interview and background check process, Salma was hired for a full-time position as a teaching assistant! Her new schedule afforded her more stability and more time to spend with her children before and after school. Her new position also came with a pay increase of almost \$4 an hour. Since she started working at the daycare almost six months ago, she has flourished. Thanks to the help and support of **Catholic Charities’**, not only is she better able to provide for her family’s needs, she is now even writing lesson plans of her own.



### Catholic Charities of Wayne County

For over a decade now, the **Catholic Charities of Wayne County** College Bound Program has assisted students in grades 7 through 12 that are deemed at risk, which may include low economic status, adverse family situations, and high-risk behaviors. Participants typically lack family support; some are pregnant/parenting teens, some may reside in foster/kinship care, and others may be victims of domestic violence, and/or homelessness. All students are referred by school Guidance Counselors in hopes that the College Bound program will pro-



vide the assistance and encouragement needed for students who otherwise would not attend college. Most recently, College Bound has been spotlighted at quarterly meetings of the Wayne County Partnership for Strengthening Families, a collaborative that brings together over 40 regional school districts, agencies, non-profit, human-service, and other similar organizations. The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council includes workforce development and upstate revitalization in its plans, and College Bound works with the Council and local colleges, businesses, and area career-oriented organizations to provide broad exposure to college and career opportunities for participants. The 2019-2020 school year was shortened and unique due to the pandemic. While some activities were curtailed in March, College Bound has been able to continue helping students to prepare for college. Staff mailed out packets to all seniors to show support and encourage them to finish the year off strong. Staff have reached out to all school districts to be helpful in any way possible. Checking in with students has reassured them that staff is available even during this difficult time.

### Food Bank of the Southern Tier

In order to build and sustain hunger free communities, people with lived experience must be part of the discussions driving change. **The Food Bank of the Southern Tier’s** Speakers Bureau builds leadership and public speaking skills of people living in poverty so they can raise their voices in the work to end hunger. Graduates, like Charles Thomas, are equipped to share their stories to illustrate the complexities of poverty and food insecurity in the United States.

Charles came to Bath in 2000 a broken man. After 30 years of drug abuse, trouble keeping jobs, and run-ins with the law, he had no choice but to make a change. He was at a Veterans Affairs facility in Pennsylvania when

a fellow veteran sang praises about the Bath VA Medical Center and the surrounding community. So, Charles got on a bus and came to the community and he’s lived here ever since.

*“I came to Bath with nothing. I was homeless. I was an addict. I said, ‘I want to do whatever it takes to get well.’”*

And he did.

When Charles was drafted into the US Army in 1971, the 19-year-old thought he was headed to Vietnam. Instead he was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany. He was a member of the Military Police during the 1972 Olympics in Munich, where a Palestinian terrorist group killed 11 Israeli Olympians. *“A lot of things happened in Munich that I still have problems with,”* he says. *“Drug use would cover it, but it doesn’t work because the problem is still there. You have to go back to the first hurt and deal with it.”*

Charles credits the VA with helping him turn his life around. While he takes responsibility for his choices, he says the diagnosis made sense of many of his self-destructive actions.

Charles now volunteers at the VA Hospital, provides hope at addiction counseling groups and serves on his church board. In 2019 he completed the **Food Bank’s Speakers Bureau Program** and is becoming an advocate for others facing hunger and food insecurity.

*“It’s by grace and mercy that I’m still here after the way I lived. And that means I have a purpose,”* Charles declares. *“There are some flowers that bloom early and some flowers that bloom late. I’m a late-blooming flower. I don’t want to leave anything materialistic behind — just a good name.”*



## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

### Providence Housing Development Corporation



**Providence Housing Development Corporation** was established in 1994 with a mission of establishing and managing safe, affordable housing for low-income individuals and families, senior citizens and persons with special needs. After 25 years plus of existence, **Providence** has been responsible for the creation of 20 different projects at a total cost of over \$150,000,000 and currently manages 27 projects with 995 units housing 1,683 individuals.

Over the last several years Providence has focused on developing projects throughout the twelve county Diocese, not just Monroe County. One such project is the LaFrance Apartments located in Elmira, a project developed in collaboration with **Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties**.

Approved in 2019 this project is a multi-family supportive housing project involving the new construction of a single three-story building with 37 one-bedroom apartments and approximately 600 square feet of office space to accommodate on site supportive services for residents.

Twenty units are set aside for the Empire State



Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) recipients who are homeless and have a serious mental illness (five apartments), have a substance abuse disorder (five apartments) or are returning to the community from jail (ten apartments). The building also features laundry facilities, a community room (with a TV and computer workstations), tenant storage, security cameras, secure key access and central air conditioning.

Total development cost for the project is \$8,546,690. Funding comes primarily from low income housing tax credits but there are also grants from SHOP, **Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties** and NYSERDA.

At the end of 2019 **Providence** also was involved in rehabilitating a trailer park community in Lyons, looking at a possible project at a school in Wolcott, a potential project in a church in Bath as well as several other potential developments in Monroe County.

### Camp Stella Maris

The mission of **Camp Stella Maris** is to create a fun Christ-centered, safe caring environment and experience, fostering continued spiritual, physical and emotional growth for a diverse group of campers of all ages. In 2019 **Camp Stella Maris** continued work on its Master Facilities Plan by completing a new Health Center. This new facility helped **CSM** better serve over 2,500 campers during the summer and serves as an activity space for community groups in the offseason. Planning is now underway for a new Outdoor Chapel to be built in the glen by St. Jude's Chapel. The design calls for tiered seating carved into the hillside, paved pathways, and an outdoor altar. A completion date of June 2021 is planned.



## LETTER CONTINUED FROM COVER

*Finger Lakes after 12 years of outstanding service. In recognition of her accomplishments, she was appointed Commissioner of Social Services of Wayne County. Again, after a search process and consultation with both Boards, Deacon Peter Dohr, who had been serving for 6 years as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Wayne County, was appointed as the new Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, while he has retained his position as Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Wayne County.*

*This new development in Catholic Charities with single individuals holding dual positions has opened up exciting new possibilities for exploration of ways in which we can achieve cost cutting efficiencies and program synergies between the agencies involved while enabling them to retain their important local identity.*

*Also, we learned in October that Chuck Nocera, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler, tendered his resignation and the Board commenced a search process. (Nancy Koons was appointed Executive Director effective May 18, 2020).*

*The final major transition in 2019 was the transfer of responsibility for administration of the Life Issues Office to the Department of Pastoral Services.*

*I want to recognize also the outstanding job which Kathy Johnson did during 2019 after assuming the position of Chief Financial Officer of Catholic Charities effective January 1, 2019, as well as the continuing outstanding work of Human Resources Diocesan Director, Barb Poling, Corporate Compliance Diocesan Director, Robert Trusiak, and Tom Veeder, Director of Diocesan IT Department with whom we contract.*

*In closing, I especially want to recognize the strong leadership and support provided by Bishop Salvatore R. Matano and the Diocesan Board of Directors chaired by Tony Adams, without whom the continuing success of Catholic Charities would not be possible.*

Jack Balinsky

Diocesan Director

# Why Planned Giving?

## Have you considered a bequest or memorial gift to Catholic Charities?

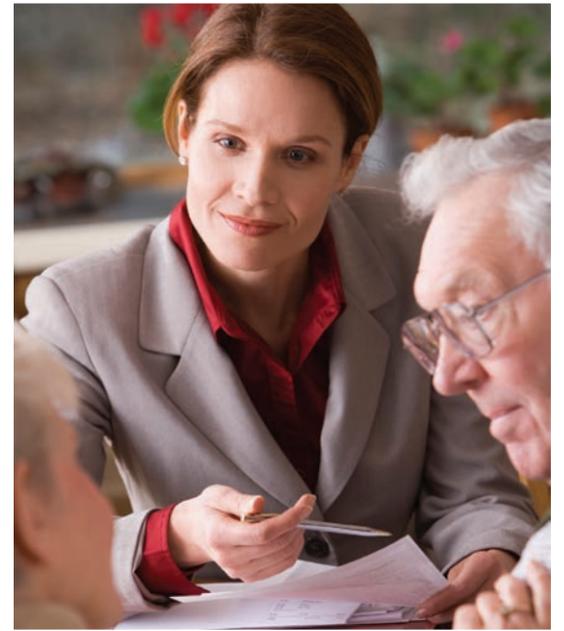
Supporters of **Catholic Charities** who believe in the agency's mission and efforts to help those in need can leave a lasting legacy by including a bequest to **Catholic Charities** in their will.

Gifts to agencies of **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester** provide social benefits from the Rochester area, throughout the Finger Lakes, and into the Southern Tier. Each year, the work of these agencies touches the lives of 250,000 neighbors in need. We provide food, clothing, shelter, and a wide

range of additional life-enhancing services to people of all faiths whose lives have been interrupted by poverty or illness.

As an approved charity under IRS section 501(c)(3), **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester** is an eligible recipient of charitable gifts and trusts.

A planned gift to any organization of the **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester** will go a long way toward helping individuals and families in need, and, in turn, will help strengthen our communities.



### What is a bequest?

A charitable bequest is a gift option that can be used by almost everyone and allows donors an opportunity to enjoy their legacies today at no immediate cost. Bequests are easy to arrange in consultation with an attorney preparing your will.

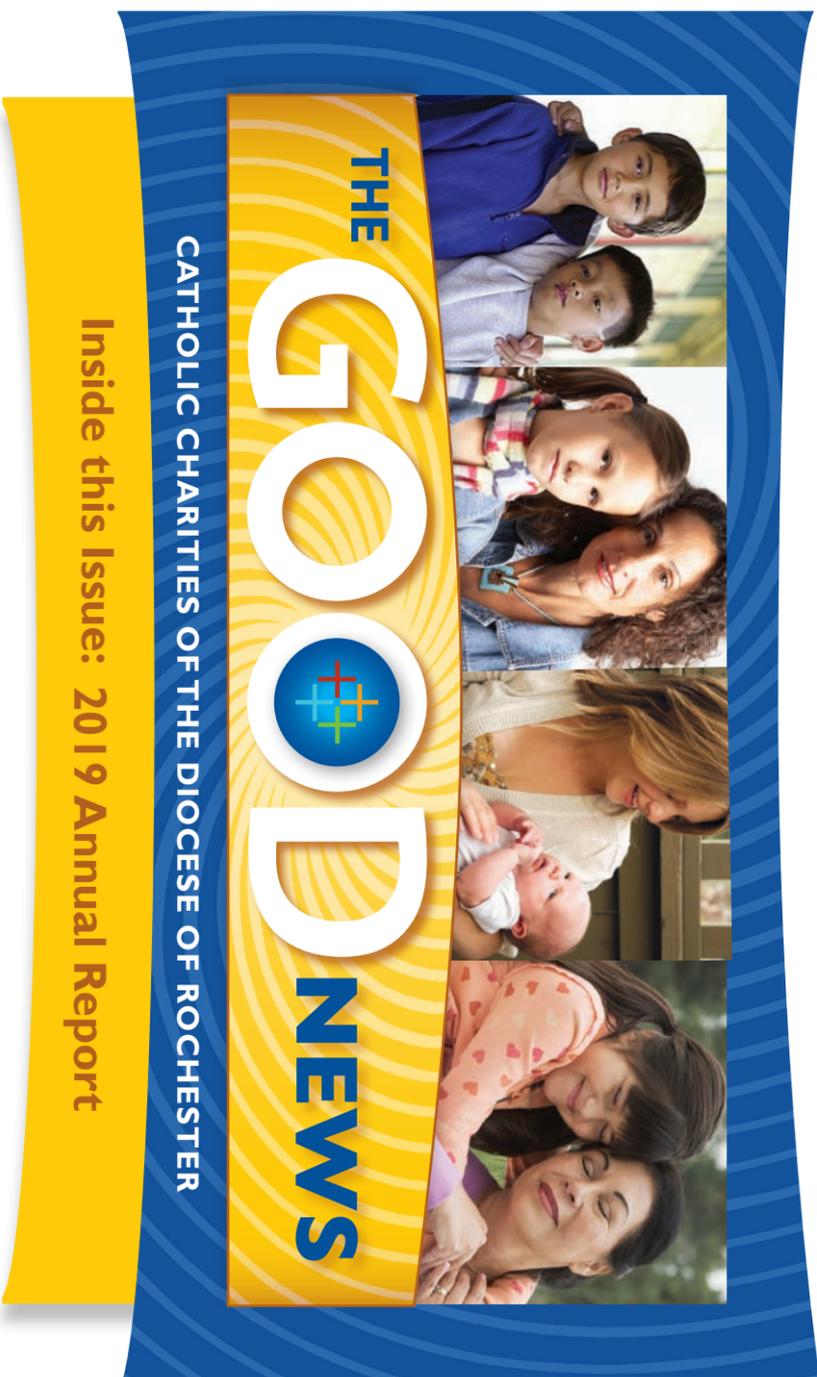
**The wording of a bequest in your will can be as simple as the following:**

*I hereby bequeath the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ / or \_\_\_\_\_% of my estate to Catholic Charities (you can designate to Diocesan Catholic Charities, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624, or any of its agencies).*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLANNED GIVING

Please check our web site at  
[www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-charities](http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-charities)  
 call us at **585-328-3210**  
 or e-mail [CatholicCharitiesInfo@dor.org](mailto:CatholicCharitiesInfo@dor.org)

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 1150 Buffalo Rd. • Rochester, NY 14624