

ADDRESSING HUNGER IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties' mission states that we recognize human need at all stages of life, respond to all persons regardless of race, creed, or lifestyle, with special emphasis on the economically poor and vulnerable. We serve and empower those in need, advocate for a just society, and call forth and collaborate with women and men of good will. Programs that address food insecurity and hunger are core to our mission.

Catholic Charities offers three programs that address hunger and food insecurity. These programs include: the Child and Adult Care Food Program, a food pantry in Cobleskill, and the Summer Food Service Program which is offered in the City of Oneonta. All of these programs provide not only relief from food insecurity and hunger, but also education and referrals to other existing programs and nutrition information.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program reimburses home-based day care providers for healthy meals and snacks served to the children enrolled in their care. According to the Food Research and Action Center 20.2% of the population in Delaware County, 19.3% of the population in Otsego County, and 14% of the population in Schoharie County is eligible for SNAP benefits (food stamps).

Catholic Charities acts as the sponsoring organization for the Child and Adult Care Food Program. In this role our agency verifies that the menus and attendance records submitted by providers are accurate and meet the required standards. From July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 twenty-four day care providers served 68,915 nutritional meals and/or snacks to the children enrolled in their day care programs. For children who are from low-income families, the meals and snacks they receive in day care are often the only nutritious meals and/or snacks they receive and may be the only meal they receive for the day.

Our agency's food pantry, located in Cobleskill, provides a four-day supply of food for anyone who is experiencing a food emergency. From July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 our agency's food pantry provided 615 individuals and families experiencing hunger and food insecurity with emergency food. Our pantry is the only client choice pantry in Schoharie County, which means that clients are able to "shop" from a list of food items they are eligible to receive, just as anyone who goes to the grocery store is able to do. Individuals who are facing food insecurity in the counties we serve range from approximately 12% to 14% of the population. ¹

Two years ago Catholic Charities began sponsoring the Summer Food Service Program, serving a free nutritious lunch in Oneonta for children through 18 years of age. The program was designed to help struggling parents during the summer months when children who normally receive free or reduced meals at school, would not be receiving those meals, which places an added burden on low-income families. Of the children living in Delaware County, 51.8% receive free or reduced lunches at school as well as 42.1% of children in Otsego County and 41.2% of children in Schoharie County. ²



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With the help of approximately 40 volunteers who prepare and serve the food for eight weeks, the Summer Food Service Program served 1,765 meals in the summer of 2015.

Hunger is obviously an issue in Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties. Catholic Charities will continue to look for ways to expand our programs that address hunger and food insecurity in order to meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our local communities.

¹ *Council on Children and Families*

² *Community Needs Assessment from Opportunities for Otsego, Delaware Opportunities and Kids Well Being Indicators Clearinghouse*
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES EXPANDING FOOD PANTRY SERVICES

Our food pantry located in Cobleskill received funding from Catholic Charities USA to expand services provided to low-income individuals through the food pantry. The expansion includes the availability of personal care items, transportation vouchers and reusable grocery bags. Personal care items are often needed by food pantry clients as they cannot be purchased with food stamps and can be costly. Transportation, very often, is a barrier for low-income families in accessing services. Our agency will provide transportation vouchers in the form of bus tokens or gas cards for our pantry clients who may need assistance with the cost of traveling to and from the food pantry. Our food pantry in Cobleskill is open Monday - Wednesday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.



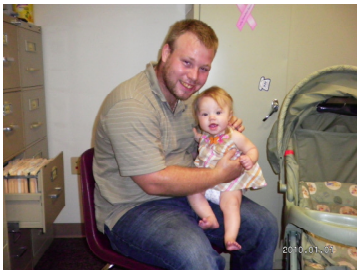
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES - OUR NEWEST PROGRAM

Through a contract with the Schoharie County Office of Community Services, Catholic Charities began offering the Family Support Services Program in April 2015. This program serves families who have children with mental health challenges in Schoharie County. The Family Support Services program offers the following:

- Family empowerment and advocacy
- Respite services
- Transportation assistance
- Family and peer support
- Skill building and education opportunities
- Financial assistance to meet basic needs
- One on one counseling sessions
- Information and referral

Services are tailored to the individual family's needs and our staff work with the whole family unit not just the individual child.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



*"My wife and I were pleased that Catholic Charities could help us out. We could not have done it by ourselves. If it wasn't for Catholic Charities we would not have been able to go to work or our appointments."
~ Joseph*

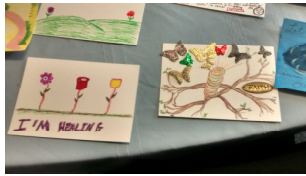


*"I am so pleased and grateful for Catholic Charities' help. They are great people with big hearts and I couldn't be happier.
~ Kim*



*"I am a single mother of three children. I have been this way for the last year, trying to do it all on my own with no help. My electric has been shut off now for over a week and I owe a lot. The ladies in the office were so nice to me and they figured out a way to pay my bill so my power can be turned back on and my kids and I can go back to our home."
~ Alene*

HEADLINING HAPPENINGS



Domestic Violence Awareness Month is the month of October

Based on the findings of the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 32.9% of women (approximately 39.3 million individuals) and 28.1% of men (approximately 32.5 million individuals) experienced at least one episode of physical violence in an intimate partnership throughout their life. In 2014 Catholic Charities served 188 victims of domestic violence, offering a vast array of services.

Throughout the month of October, Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Program held several events to increase awareness regarding domestic violence. The events included an art show in collaboration with HeartSprings Press, which featured artwork created by victims of domestic violence as well as professional artists. A bake sale was held at the Cobleskill Walmart, radio interviews were conducted with our domestic violence staff, a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training was offered in conjunction with the SUNY Cobleskill University Police Department and the Cobleskill Police Department, and the wear purple day was held on October 21st.



Six times per year Catholic Charities offers a Victim Impact Panel to increase awareness of the effects of impaired driving. During the two-hour presentation actual victims of impaired driving accidents speak about how the accident has affected their lives. When surveyed 94% of individuals who attend the panel state they will not drive impaired again.



Catholic Charities will once again assist families of 4 or more this year with a Thanksgiving meal by offering a food basket including a turkey and all the trimmings. To sign up for a basket come into our Cobleskill office between 10/21 and 11/18, from 9am-4pm. Last year Catholic Charities served 143 households with a Thanksgiving basket.



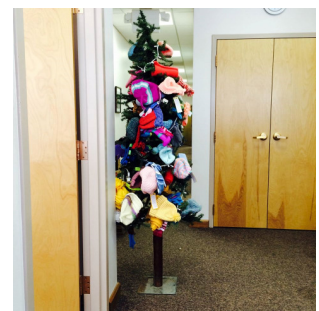
This past summer Catholic Charities partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension through our Summer Food Service Program. Two days per week Cornell Cooperative Extension visited the program and offered families nutrition information and activities.



Local farms and individuals donated fresh vegetables to our food pantry in Cobleskill to benefit our clients.



Catholic Charities will once again conduct our annual fundraising campaign entitled "Keeping Our Community Warm, One Brick At A Time." We are selling bricks for \$50.00 each to create a fireplace, which will be displayed in our front windows in our Oneonta and Cobleskill offices. In 2014 Catholic Charities assisted 223 households with just over \$20,000 in financial assistance related to heating emergencies.



Catholic Charities will once again this year collect winter items, including hats, mittens and scarves to give out to individuals who do not have access to such items.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF DELAWARE, OTSEGO, AND SCHOHARIE COUNTIES
176 MAIN STREET
ONEONTA, NEW YORK 13820

OUR WISH LIST

Catholic Charities dedicates itself to providing assistance to the poor and vulnerable in Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties. Our success is due, largely, to the gifts and donations that we receive from our neighbors. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can find information on our website at www.charitiesccd.org. We can also use several material items to help, as well. Any donation is appreciated, and can include the following:

- Diapers (any size)
- Local Bus Tokens/Passes
- \$15 Gas Cards
- Non-Perishable Food Pantry Items
- Baby Wipes
- Personal Care Items
- Bath Towels/Wash Clothes
- Twin/Full Size Sheets

Also, gift cards are great for people in need of some items that we may not be able to store in our offices. \$10 gift cards to the following places can make a world of difference:

- Walmart
- Family Dollar / Dollar Store
- KMart