

ISSUE 5 | Fall 2016

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence DVAM originally began as a "Day of Unity", which was an effort to unite those that were working to end domestic violence against women and children. That day of unity grew into a week-long, and then month-long effort to incorporate activities on local, statewide, and national levels. The intended purpose of the activities are to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrate those who have survived, and connect those who work to end violence.

It is estimated that 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. However, domestic abuse also affects men, with 1 in 7 men reporting that they have been abused. Some estimate that 33% of all police calls are domestic violence related. With 74% of Americans personally knowing someone who has been victimized by family violence, domestic violence is everyone's business.

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties has a domestic violence program that serves Schoharie County. Domestic abuse does not discriminate, and neither does Catholic Charities. Our program provides appropriate services for all victimized by domestic violence, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, sex, marital status, or disability.

The Schoharie County Domestic Violence Program offers a 24-hour crisis hotline, crisis counseling, advocacy within court systems, support and accompaniment to criminal justice appointments, referrals and information, transportation, a support group, emergency financial assistance, and a shelter for those individuals and/or families who have nowhere else to go to be free from the violence in their home. In 2015, 29 adults and 39 children received services in our agency's shelter and 87 families with 99 children were served through our non-residential services.

In Schoharie County this October the Catholic Charities' domestic violence program will be holding several events to promote awareness of the issue of domestic violence. We will be promoting the "Hands are not for Hurting" campaign as part of the capital region's awareness program. Paper purple hands will be made available to the public and the idea is to write on the hands what hands "are" for.

The hands are collected and then put on display. The Catholic Charities' Domestic Violence Program in conjunction with the Schoharie County Domestic Violence Task Force will be also hosting an awareness event called "Shine the Light". This event will be held on October 18 at 6:00 pm. The event will feature a candlelight vigil, song, poetry reading, the reading of the state proclamation on domestic violence, and speeches. Refreshments will be served. Our "Clothesline Project" with T-shirt art depicting survivor experiences will be displayed in the county during the month of October as well, and the wear purple day to raise awareness for domestic violence will be October 20th. Please take some time in the month of October to help create awareness around the topic of domestic violence - Attend one of our agency events, wear purple on October 20th, donate items to, or volunteer at your local domestic violence shelter. You can help make a difference.



Wear Purple Day 2015

INTRODUCING OUR NEW OFFICE LOCATION – SIDNEY

Catholic Charities is thrilled to announce the opening of a new Catholic Charities office in Delaware County. Our new office is in Sidney, in the Sidney Civic Center. The Sidney office will be offering our Caring Connections Program which provides emergency assistance to individuals and families who are struggling to meet their basic needs, including housing, utilities, transportation to essential appointments, and medical costs. Catholic Charities will also offer alternative dispute resolution services including mediation, conciliation and/or facilitation for the peaceful resolution of any dispute, including custody/visitation, neighbor/neighbor, small claims, employee/employer, etc.

Also, offered for the first time through our Sidney office in August of 2016, was a back to school campaign, which assisted students in the Sidney School District to obtain the required school supplies so they could be prepared to begin their school year. Backpacks filled with pencils, crayons, markers, notebooks, binders, pens, etc. were distributed to approximately 100 students. A special thank you to area businesses, Sidney churches, and community members who made this project a success.

Catholic Charities would also like to acknowledge the support of the Sidney United Way. The Catholic Charities office in Sidney would not be possible without the strong support of the Sidney United Way who assisted our agency in obtaining space in the Civic Center and who provided funding for the move into our new office, as well as funding to support the back to school campaign.



Catholic Charities Sidney office:

Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays – 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Address: Sidney Civic Center, 21 Liberty Street, Sidney

Phone: 607-604-4071

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOU!

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties is looking for volunteers. We have several volunteer opportunities available with many of our programs. Volunteerism has been proven to help people reduce stress, find friends, and learn new skills. The following volunteer positions are available:

- Volunteers for our domestic violence program in Schoharie County.
- Volunteers for the thrift shop in Cobleskill.
- Volunteers for the Caring Connections Program in the Oneonta office, assisting individuals who are struggling to meet their basic needs including housing, utilities, essential transportation and medical costs.
- Volunteers needed to act as receptionist one day per week in the Oneonta Office.

Please consider how you can help Catholic Charities achieve its mission of serving the poor and vulnerable in our local communities. If you are interested in any of the above volunteer opportunities please contact Toni Joslin in our Cobleskill office at (518) 234-3581 or Tracey Martindale in our Oneonta office at (607) 432-0061.

DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties is always busy meeting our mission of serving the poor and vulnerable. We have sixteen programs throughout the three county region we serve, but we also offer behind the scenes services that are essential to assisting those in need in our local communities. These efforts include:

- The use of a free public phone for those individuals and families who don't own their own phone and need to make appointments, follow-up on employment, etc. Also, at any of our Catholic Charities offices staff will assist with faxing and/or copying for follow-up with services applied for, employment, or education.
- Catholic Charities is part of the Delaware and Otsego County CASH Coalition, which offers free income tax preparation for low-income individuals and families referred to as the VITA Program. Catholic Charities receives all the phone calls from people who are interested in receiving this service. Our Receptionists screen potential clients and set up the appointments for individuals to receive this service.
- Catholic Charities completes applications with eligible individuals and families for the Project Share Program. Project Share is a program managed by NYSEG that is designed to help income-eligible customers who have active disconnect notices with up to \$350 in assistance towards an electric or heating bill. Catholic Charities is the only provider of this service in Otsego and Schoharie Counties and is one of two providers in Delaware County.
- Catholic Charities offers personal care items, such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry soap, etc. as part of our food pantry in Cobleskill, understanding that personal care items cannot be purchased with food stamps and therefore low-income individuals struggle with obtaining these items.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



In May, Catholic Charities hosted a Basic Mediation Training sponsored by a grant from the New York State Agricultural Mediation Program. Sixteen new volunteer mediator candidates took the 30 hour class over four days. Four Dispute Resolution Centers were able to send volunteers including all three of the Dispute Resolution Centers that are part of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, who were able to train a total of 11 new mediator candidates. This was the first training held by the DRC of Chenango, Delaware and Otsego Counties since 2010. After completing the training, volunteers must observe actual mediations and complete an extensive apprenticeship then be formally observed to become certified with our program. Our program's Volunteers mediate 74% of our cases, so having a large volunteer list is important. Thank you Volunteer Mediators!



We have continued our partnership with the First United Presbyterian (Red Door) Church to offer the Summer Food Service Program for the third year. We appreciate all that they do for this program, including coordination of the volunteers who make and serve the lunches during the eight weeks of the program. This year our agency received funding from the United Way to offer meals to the adults accompanying children to the free lunch program in Neahwa Park in Oneonta, NY. Because of the additional funding, the adults and children were able to eat lunch together as a family. Another change to our program this year was reusable lunch bags provided by Fidelis Care. The lunch bags reduced the amount of waste produced each day. We continued to have the presence of other programs for the children including the Oneonta Teachers two days per week offering a bookmobile, Fidelis Care making smoothies on Fridays, Opportunities for Otsego came with some activities for children and Peg from the First United Presbyterian Church made crafts with the children each week. Additionally, we are supported by local businesses and the City of Oneonta.



The Night At The Museum was held on June 23rd at the New York State Museum in Albany. This event is the annual fundraiser for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany and helps support the local agencies, including Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties' Emergency Assistance Programs. As a former recipient of emergency assistance, Lydia spoke at the Night At The Museum to the crowd of about 400 individuals. She movingly discussed how Catholic Charities was able to assist her and her family and how much of a difference Catholic Charities had made in her life.



Food Pantry Garden

This summer our food pantry in Cobleskill had fresh vegetables available. The gardens were made possible through a 5-2-1-0 grant.



Keeping Our Community Warm... One Brick at a Time

This heating assistance fundraiser will run from October 15th - April 1st. Bricks can be purchased for \$50 each and will displayed in our front Main Street windows in both our Cobleskill and Oneonta office. Please help keep someone warm this winter.

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Cobleskill, NY
Permit No. 6

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.charitiesccdos.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
- \$10 Gas Cards
- Non-Perishable Food Pantry Items
- Baby Wipes
- Personal Care Items
- Bath Towels/Wash Clothes

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
- PriceChopper / Hannaford