

ISSUE 6 | Fall 2017

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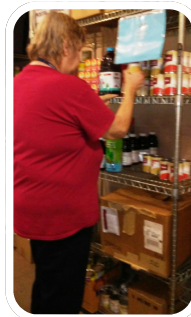
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FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties' mission statement is rooted in the scriptural values of mercy and justice, placing special emphasis on the poor and vulnerable. There is no greater example of mercy and serving the poor and vulnerable than to feed those that are hungry. Food insecurity – meaning that families or individuals do not reliably know when, or from where, their next meal will come – has increased in New York State by 55% since 2006. In Delaware County there are an estimated 2,172 households that are food insecure. In Otsego County there are an estimated 2,844 households that are food insecure and in Schoharie County there are an estimated 1,402 households that are food insecure (*Kirsten Gillibrand Report*). In the three counties Catholic Charities serves that means there are a total of 6,418 households that worry when and where they will get their next meal from. In fact, 24 out of the 32 school districts, or 75%, located in the three counties we serve have 50% or more of the children enrolled receiving free or reduced lunches. Food insecurity is clearly an issue in Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties. So, how is Catholic Charities addressing this most basic need? How are we feeding the hungry?

Catholic Charities maintains several programs and services in the three counties we serve that address food insecurity. In Schoharie County, we maintain a food pantry in our Cobleskill office that provides a four-day supply of food for families and individuals who are experiencing food insecurity. Our food pantry does not just provide food, but also personal care items, such as deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. that cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits, as well as diapers. We provide fresh vegetables in the summer, as we have a garden behind our Cobleskill office. In 2016 the food pantry in Schoharie County served 1,342 individuals. In Schoharie County we provide Thanksgiving baskets, including a turkey, all the trimmings and dessert to families of 4 or more who otherwise would not have a family Thanksgiving meal. In 2016 we served 117 families with a Thanksgiving basket.



In Otsego County we provide the Summer Food Service Program. The Program is funded through the NYS Education Department and was created for those families whose children receive free or reduced meals during the school year, who during the summer weeks do not receive those free meals, creating added financial stress. This program is held in Neahwa Park in the City of Oneonta. Free lunches are distributed from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Monday through Friday during July and August. Children can receive free lunches, but beginning last year, thanks to a grant from the United Way of Delaware and Otsego Counties adults can also receive a free lunch. This year Catholic Charities provided 12 children who attended summer school with a free lunch during each day of summer school with a grant from the Oneonta Rotary. In 2017 we served approximately 1,800 meals. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a sister program of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The goal of the program sponsored by Catholic Charities is to ensure that children in child care, particularly low-income children, receive nutritious meals and snacks. In 2016, Catholic Charities CACFP sponsored 22 child care providers for 82,378 meals and snacks that were served to children in child care homes.



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FEEDING THE HUNGRY, *CONTINUED*

In Otsego County Catholic Charities provides the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program. The main focus of the program is to provide outreach to the lower income community and food insecure families and individuals and connect them to food and nutrition resources in their area within the county (food pantries, meal programs, etc.). The program also provides at home assistance for those who want to apply, re-apply, or recertify for SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps). In 2016 we served 134 individuals through the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program.

In Delaware County for the first time this year, with the support of Scoville-Meno Catholic Charities was able to offer a Holiday food program out of our office in Sidney. This service was also offered in our Oneonta office. Families who would have struggled to provide a holiday meal were given a basket of food depending on their family size. Also, with school out of session for over one week, many families would struggle just to feed their children during this vacation, as they normally would receive free or reduced meals at school. Catholic Charities was able to provide extra food for the vacation time for each family. Ninety families were given a Holiday basket in 2016.

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties is proud of the work we do to address food insecurity in our local communities. There are opportunities for you to help alleviate food insecurity including volunteering at the food pantry in Cobleskill or at the Summer Food Service Program in Oneonta. We welcome donations of non-perishable food items for our food pantry and we welcome monetary donations to help us support our efforts to feed the hungry.



DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

In January, the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) serving Chenango, Delaware, and Otsego Counties went through a transition from a three county service delivery area to a seven county service delivery area. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany merged the DRC's in three separate agencies to one Diocesan program under the leadership of Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties. The seven county area includes Chenango, Delaware, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties.

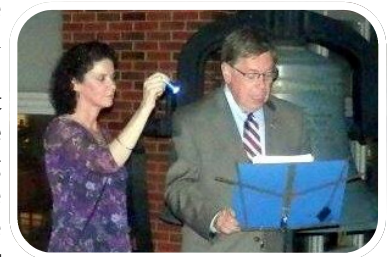
The Dispute Resolution Center provides alternative dispute resolution services for any kind of dispute including court related disputes such as custody/visitation and small claims and community related disputes including neighbor/neighbor, employer/employee, landlord/tenant, family disputes, special education, and student/student. Our alternative dispute resolution services include mediation, a process in which a trained, neutral third party assists participants in a dialogue of the disputed issues, lemon law arbitration and Section 8 housing fair hearings, a process where a trained neutral listens to the each party's side, examines the evidence and regulations and makes a determination, conciliation, a process where the neutral speaks to each party individually and presents offers toward an agreement and facilitation, where a discussion is facilitated to bring about understanding toward a common goal. We also offer restorative practices to build empathy and understanding and restore relationships from harm and misunderstanding, including Victim's Impact Panel presentations.



We are recruiting for volunteer mediators. Becoming a certified mediator is a lengthy process involving training and an apprenticeship. If you are interested, please feel free to contact the Program Director for more information by calling the Oneonta office or e-mailing chouck@charitiesccdo.org.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the September 2016 annual census that the National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted, the demand for victim services in New York continues to be the highest in the country. On the day the census was conducted 6,868 victims accessed services in New York State to include advocacy, emergency housing, court services, child care, and more. 1,460 hotline calls were answered on that day in New York. The census makes it clear that prevention, outreach, and victim services continue to be vital to people living with family violence in our state. Locally this October, the Domestic Violence Program of Schoharie will be conducting education and outreach to promote awareness. The Task Force will also be sponsoring the annual "Shine the Light" vigil, with speeches, songs, and time to pause and reflect on the enormous toll that domestic violence takes on families and communities each year. Watch our website and social media pages for more information, coming soon.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



2017 Color Run / Walk

The first annual color run/walk benefiting Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties was held on Saturday, July 15th at Keith Clark Park in Sidney. 42 participants completed the course. Catholic Charities would like to thank those who participated along with our sponsors and donors including: Huff Ice Cream, Sidney Federal Credit Union, Country Club Automotive Group, Chobani, Fidelis, Great American, Price Chopper, Sidney Fire Department, NBT Bank, Alpine Metal Roofing, Video Entertainment Plus, Universal Forest Products, Mirabito, Trackside Dining, USA Custom Pad, Bassett Health Care Network Tri Town Regional Hospital and UHS. A very special thank you to main sponsor Sidney United Way.



Summer Food Service Program

As we close out our fourth year of the Summer Food Service Program in Oneonta, we would like to thank all those who have helped us make it a great program! We have continued our partnership with the Oneonta First United Presbyterian Church, to offer the Program for the fourth year. The volunteers prepared and served approximately 1,800 lunches this summer.



Back to School Campaign

In August Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties gave out 100 backpacks full of school supplies to children attending the Sidney School District. This program allows children from low-income families to be prepared when school starts. Catholic Charities would like to thank our donors and sponsors for this project including: Fidelis, Salvation Army/Youth Bureau, Sidney Police Department, Sidney Dollar General, Sidney United Methodist Church, Sacred Heart Church, Trackside Diner, Great American, Sidney Federal Credit Union, ACCO, Video Entertainment Plus, Rainbow's End, Unadilla Center United Methodist Church and Sidney United Way.



2017 Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner was held on May 31st at the Holiday Inn in Oneonta. Thank you to all those who attended and helped us celebrate 100 Years of Caring Beyond Belief including Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, Bishop Emeritus Hubbard, Vince Colonna, CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, Aaron Macken for telling his story, and our Centennial Medallion Winners in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany. As part of the centennial celebrations, awards are being given to 100 people and community partners in the Albany Diocese who have made notable contributions to our mission over the years. Thank you to our winners, Donna Kankiewicz, Senator James L. Seward, Linda Wheeler, Susan Cimino-Cary, Grace Allidi, Jo-Ann Lamonica, Lloyd Baker, Rose Marie and Larry Joyce, and John Wilwerth, whose sister accepted the medallion on his behalf.



Conference on Domestic Violence

On July 14, 2017 the Schoharie County Domestic Violence Task Force sponsored a conference called "Domestic Violence and Other Issues Impacting Families Today." The morning keynote speakers were Lorien Castelle of the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and David DeCelle of The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Workshops were provided by Bonnie Allen, of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Norine Hodges of Schoharie County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, and Siri Young of the Schoharie County Aces Team. Over 120 participants from 9 counties attended the conference. Topics covered at the conference were domestic violence and children, building resiliency, internet safety, ACES, children healing from alcoholic families, and intimate partner violence and mental illness.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
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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
- Price Chopper / Hannaford

