



CARING BEYOND BELIEF

ISSUE 5 | Spring 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*PRESIDENT*  
**PHILLIP HILL**

*VICE PRESIDENT*  
**VALERIE LAPE HANDY**

*TREASURER*  
**KARL BROWN**

*SECRETARY*  
**RACHEL SURMAN RYS**

**PATRICIA BLISS**

**TIMOTHY CAPELLA**

**SUSAN CIMINO-CARY**

**SUZANNE JANITZ**

**BETSY JAY**

**ALICE KANE**

**JO-ANN LAMONICA**

**TERESA O'LEARY**

**DONNA PACATTE**

**TOM SCHERMERHORN**

**MARY ANN STURM**

**KAREN SULLIVAN**

**GARY SURMAN**

**LINDA WHEELER**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**LYNN GLUECKERT**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES MARKS 100 YEARS

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany is the social service arm of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, providing services with dignity and compassion that respond to people in crisis, provide for basic needs, and support and protect the vulnerable. 2017 marks Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany's 100<sup>th</sup> year of serving the Albany Diocese as an active witness on behalf of the Scriptural values of mercy and justice. Catholic Charities, recognizing human need at all stages of life, responds to all persons regardless of race, creed or lifestyle, with special emphasis on the economically poor and the vulnerable. Catholic Charities exists to offer help and hope to all people in need in our communities.

During its early beginnings through the 1950's, Catholic Charities primarily served Catholic families in the urban areas of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. At that time, clergy, religious women, and volunteers worked with orphaned children, foster and adoptive families, and the sick and dying in hospitals. The Cadre Report of the National Conference of Catholic Charities in 1972 was a primary catalyst that influenced Catholic Charities' mission and expanded its role to reach out to the needy in other areas of society. Catholic Charities broadened its focus to include the pursuit of social justice and began activities including advocacy and public policy development on behalf of the poor and vulnerable, as well as outreach services to all members of the community, no matter their religious affiliation.

During the 1970s, Catholic Charities launched a large scale initiative to expand its social services beyond the Capital Region and to serve all 14 counties in the Diocese of Albany. Individual Catholic Charities agencies were established in rural counties of the Diocese, including our local agency, in 1976. Originally Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties was founded as Otsego Urban Rural Self Development Associates, Inc. or OURS Associates and was charged with providing services to the poor and vulnerable in Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties. In 1978 Catholic Charities of Schoharie County was founded. In the early 1990s OURS Associates became Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties. In 2014 Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties and Catholic Charities of Schoharie County merged to become one three county agency. Services have varied throughout the over 40 years since the local presence of Catholic Charities began, however, the mission has remained the same including responding to all persons regardless of race, creed, or lifestyle, empowering persons in need, advocating for a just society, and providing services to the poor and vulnerable.

Today, nearly 900 Catholic Charities employees and over 1,100 volunteers serve more than 81,000 people in the Diocese annually. Locally, we employ 34 employees and serve approximately 6,000 individuals per year. We provide an array of services and programs that meet the unmet needs found in our local communities including emergency assistance to meet basic needs through our Caring Connections Program, a Dispute Resolution Program providing the peaceful resolution of any dispute, A Domestic Violence Program providing residential and non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, Child Care Support Services, Court-related programs including Alternatives to Incarceration, an Adult Treatment Court Case Management Program, and Victim Impact Panels, a Summer Food Service Program, counseling services for adults, children and families, a food pantry, a thrift shop, and a Family Support Services Program serving families who have a child with a mental health challenge.



176 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820  
489 West Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
21 Liberty Street, Sidney, NY 13838

607-432-0061  
518-234-3581  
607-604-4071

www.CharitiesCCDOS.org  
facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDOS  
@CharitiesDOS



Catholic Charities is proud to say that we are able to help the surrounding communities in multiple areas of focus. We offer a variety of programs and services that meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

**As an agency we appreciate the commitment and support of our volunteers.**

- 15 volunteers donated 847 hours to the Caring Connections Program.
  - 2 volunteers donated 150 hours to the Food Pantry.
- 38 volunteer mediators donated 499 hours to the Dispute Resolution Center.
  - 23 volunteers donated 1,951 hours to the Thrift Shop.
  - 5 volunteers donated 302 hours to the Domestic Violence Program.
- 31 volunteers helped prepare and serve lunches to children in the Summer Food Service Program for approximately 670 hours.



**In 2016 Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie was able to serve approximately 6,000 individuals, including 2,049 children and 178 seniors, in various programs that we offer:**

- 269 individuals participated in the Alternatives to Incarceration Program (ATI).
- 87 children were served through the Child At Risk Response Team.
- 187 individuals attended a Victims Impact Panel (VIP) presentation.
- 286 individuals were served through the Domestic Violence Program.
- 48 individuals served through the Otsego County Adult Treatment Court Case Management Program.
- 1,342 individuals received an emergency supply of food from our Food Pantry in Cobleskill.
- 50 Legally Exempt Child Care Providers enrolled.
- 11,197 completed transactions in our Thrift Shop in Cobleskill.
- 113 mediations, conciliations and facilitations conducted by the Dispute Resolution Center in areas such as custody/visitation, divorce, special education, small claims, and agricultural mediation. The Dispute Resolution Center served 1,108 individuals.
- 123 individuals were provided with counseling and mental health services through the Clinical Support Services.
- 2,106 adults, children and seniors were helped through our Caring Connections Program.
  - \$58,063 in financial assistance was given to families and/or individuals seeking assistance with basic needs..
  - Caring Connections assisted: 799 individuals with their transportation needs; 358 individuals with their utility needs; 276 individuals with their housing needs; 317 with food; 792 with other basic needs.
- 81 individuals served through the Family Support Services Program.
- 2,493 lunches were served to children and adults through the Summer Food Service Program.
- 24 day care providers participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, receiving \$119,043.86 in reimbursement for 82,378 nutritious meals served to children in care.
- 134 individuals were served through the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program.

# NEW PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

## **Introducing our newest programs The Nutrition Outreach Education Program (NOEP) and The Delaware County Mentoring Program**

The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) started as a program of Catholic Charities in August of 2016. The main focus of the program is to provide outreach to lower income individuals and/or families who may be food insecure and connect them to food and nutrition resources 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) and networks with other services and programs within the county in order to be able to refer clients for other needs and assistance. Catholic Charities employs one full-time NOEP Coordinator, Ron Rovetto, who provides all NOEP services for Otsego County. Ron works out of our Oneonta office, located at 176 Main Street in Oneonta and can be reached at 607-386-3562.

The Delaware County Mentoring Program started in January of 2017. This program serves at-risk youth ages 7 years and up who attend a school district within Delaware County. Referrals for youth in need of a mentor come from local school districts, the Delaware County Department of Social Services, and the juvenile justice system. Youth will be matched with a caring adult mentor who will spend a minimum of two hours per week with the child. Mentors will provide support, guidance and encouragement to youth through participation in one-on-one mentoring outings as well as group events. The mentoring relationship encourages self-worth, skill building, confidence, and a caring adult who will not disappoint or abandon the child.

Catholic Charities is actively recruiting adults who would like to volunteer as mentors. Volunteer mentors will be thoroughly screened and must be able to commit to serving as a mentor for at least a one year period, and must have available transportation. Matches will be made on the basis of the child's needs, and on the preference of the parent/guardian and the volunteer mentor. If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor for the Delaware County Mentoring Program or if you would like to refer a youth to participate in the program, please contact the Delaware County Program Coordinator, Diana Halstead, at [dhalstead@charitiesccdo.org](mailto:dhalstead@charitiesccdo.org) or at 607-353-2198, or at the Sidney office at 607-604-4071.

---

### **Catholic Charities Annual Dinner**

Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-8:30 pm  
The Holiday Inn, Oneonta

Please join us as we are  
**Celebrating 100 years of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany**

**Special guests:  
Bishop Scharfenberger and Bishop Emeritus Hubbard**

Tickets: \$40.00 per person

Tickets can be purchased at Catholic Charities offices:  
176 Main Street, Oneonta, NY | 489 West Main Street, Cobleskill, NY  
or by calling 607-432-0061 ext. 104



#### **Summer Food Service Program**

Catholic Charities will once again sponsor the Summer Food Service Program in Oneonta's Neahwa Park this July and August. This free lunch program is open to all children through age 18 years and the adults who accompany them.



Catholic Charities once again gave away free winter items such as hats, gloves, scarves and coats.



#### **Holiday Baskets**

Catholic Charities' staff and Volunteers prepared 90 holiday food baskets for families living in Sidney and Oneonta thanks to the generous donation by Scoville-Meno in Sidney and Oneonta.

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](http://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