

ISSUE 7 | Spring 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
PHILLIP HILL

VICE PRESIDENT
KAREN SULLIVAN

TREASURER
KARL BROWN

SECRETARY
RACHEL SURMAN RYS

PATRICIA BLISS

SUSAN CIMINO-CARY

MICHELLE IANELLI-RUBIN

SUZANNE JANITZ

BETSY JAY

ALICE KANE

COLLEEN KIRK

JO-ANN LAMONICA

VALERIE LAPE HANDY

TERESA O'LEARY

DONNA PACATTE

BRITTANY SARGENT

TOM SCHERMERHORN

MARY ANN STURM

GARY SURMAN

LINDA WHEELER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LYNN GLUECKERT

CARING CONNECTIONS

In 2018 The Caring Connections Program will be celebrating 6 years of serving individuals and families to meet their basic needs. The Program began as an idea of churches in the Oneonta area who had seen a tremendous increase in individuals and families needing assistance with basic needs such as housing, utilities, transportation, food, etc. Area churches began meeting in 2011 and created the idea of having a clearinghouse or one-stop shop for anyone looking for help meeting their basic needs. The clearinghouse would be one location where individuals and families could go to have their story heard, to become educated about area resources and programs that they might be eligible for, and if needed to act as the safety net to provide the financial assistance needed to meet their basic needs. In late 2011 Catholic Charities heard of this group of churches and their meetings and decided to begin attending. By February of 2012 Catholic Charities agreed to become the clearinghouse and the Caring Connections program was created. Today the Caring Connections Program has two full time equivalent staff members and 12 trained volunteers. The program serves Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties and assists approximately 2,100 individuals per year with approximately \$65,000 in financial assistance.

The Caring Connections Program's main component is to address financial stability by first dealing with financial crisis. Just as a child who goes to school hungry cannot learn, an individual or family who does not have their basic needs met cannot focus on financial stability until the basic need has been secured. Therefore, the first step in assisting individuals and families towards financial stability is to address their immediate needs. A Caring Connections staff or volunteer meets with the person requesting assistance and will first determine if there is a current program or service available that can meet the basic need. If so, the individual or family will be educated about the program and a referral is completed. Other information is gathered during this meeting regarding the person's needs and many times several referrals are given to the individual or family to deal with impending financial crisis or the current crisis. If there are not available programs or services to meet the basic needs then Caring Connections acts as the safety net and provides financial assistance and/or material goods to meet the need.

Staff and volunteers look at ways the family or individual could possibly become more financially stable by discussing with them services they appear to be eligible for, but are not accessing, such as SNAP, HEAP, free meals, etc. By reducing their expenses, such as getting family SNAP benefits to help pay for their food, they may then have enough money each month to pay their electric bill or their rent. Education and referrals regarding these available services are given.

Catholic Charities is proud to provide the Caring Connections Program to our local communities. This program allows our agency to achieve our mission of serving the poor and vulnerable in our local communities. The support from local churches, those who volunteer in the program, the United Way of Delaware and Otsego Counties, the Blanding Foundation, and area businesses and individuals are what makes the Caring Connections Program possible.



"I wanted to thank Catholic Charities for helping us when we were homeless. If it wasn't for them we would have been out in the snow and cold."



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.

- 12 volunteers donated 689 hours to the Caring Connections Program.
 - 1 volunteers donated 177 hours to the Food Pantry.
- 43 volunteer mediators donated 499 hours to the Dispute Resolution Center.
 - 31 volunteers donated 1,520 hours to the Thrift Shop.
 - 4 volunteers donated 143 hours to the Domestic Violence Program.
- 30 volunteers helped prepare and serve lunches to children in the Summer Food Service Program for approximately 760 hours.



In 2017 Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie was able to serve approximately 6,153 individuals, including 2,098 children and 200 seniors, in various programs that we offer:

- 216 individuals participated in the Alternatives to Incarceration Program (ATI).
- 99 children were served through the Child At Risk Response Team.
- 168 individuals attended a Victims Impact Panel (VIP) presentation.
- 323 individuals were served through the Domestic Violence Program.
- 43 individuals served through the Otsego County Adult Treatment Court Case Management Program.
- 1,138 individuals received an emergency supply of food from our Food Pantry in Cobleskill.
- 31 Legally Exempt Child Care Providers enrolled.
- 11,241 completed transactions in our Thrift Shop in Cobleskill.
- 213 mediations, conciliations and facilitations were 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 650 individuals.
- 137 individuals were provided with counseling and mental health services through the Clinical Support Services.
- 2,055 adults, children and seniors were helped through our Caring Connections Program.
 - \$64,613 in financial assistance was given to families and/or individuals seeking assistance with basic needs.
 - Caring Connections assisted 660 individuals with their transportation needs; 246 individuals with their utility needs; 298 individuals with their housing needs; 190 with food and 661 with other basic needs.
- 103 individuals served through the Family Support Services Program.
- 1,837 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 \$115,036 in reimbursement for 79,856 nutritious meals served to children in care.
- 435 individuals were served through the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program.
- 96 School holiday food bags were provided to families in the Oneonta School District, serving 341 individuals.



Catholic Charities partnered with the Oneonta School District to supply 96 bags full of food for 341 individuals for the holiday school break. These bags were given to families whose children receive free or reduced lunches at school and during the holiday break would not be receiving these free meals.



Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Program of Schoharie County was awarded a Mary Kay Foundation grant in the amount of \$20,000. This grant was used to purchase a new van for use with victims of domestic violence to assist them with transportation needs, such as medical appointments, appointments to services providers to obtain assistance and housing searches.



Elyse Buell, a Jamberry Independent Consultant, donated 12 gift bags packed with Jamberry products such as mani and pedi kits, creams and lotions. They also included journals, adult coloring books and colored pencils. Elyse found our agency through our online Wishlist at www.DomesticShelters.org.



The **Using Circle Components to Facilitate Multi-Party Mediations** training was held in Oneonta on February 17. The training focused on the use of a talking piece to allow each party to express themselves without interruption and the use of a center-piece as a focal point and to promote listening. Kim Reisch, from the Center for Dispute Settlement planned and implemented the Advanced Regional Training for 26 volunteers and staff of the Catholic Charities Dispute Resolution Center using a grant received by the Center from the Unified Court System.



Catholic Charities Oneonta office once again held the Keeping Our Community Warm One Brick at a Time fundraiser. \$3,100 was raised for heating assistance. Catholic Charities would like to thank our major sponsors including New York Central Mutual, Ed Leone, Fidelis and Country Club Auto Group who sold paper bricks at their dealership in Oneonta.



The employees of Fenimore Asset Management Inc. in Cobleskill generously donated personal care items, laundry soap, blankets, toys, diapers and wipes, food, gas cards and \$500, all to be used in our Domestic Violence Program and the Food Pantry.



A group activity including all children enrolled in the Delaware County Mentoring Program and all approved mentors was held on February 24th. Activities included decorating cookies, games and bowling.



Ms. Quandt's After School Helping Club, of the Schoharie Elementary School, put together bags filled with snacks, personal care items, puzzles, coloring books and journals for families in our domestic violence shelter.



Each year in September, Fenimore Asset Management in Cobleskill holds the FAM Fund Run/Walk. All proceeds from this event are give to one of five charities that serve Schoharie County. This past September Catholic Charities was the recipient agency of the FAM Fund Run/Walk. Thank you to Fenimore Asset Management.

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

COMING EVENTS!



Once again this August, Catholic Charities will offer backpacks full of school supplies to any child who is enrolled in the Sidney School District. Last year over 100 backpacks were given out.



The Summer Food Service Program will once again be offered by Catholic Charities. This year we will have two sites available in Otsego County. The first will be at Neahwa Park in the City of Oneonta and the second, for the first time this year, will be offered at Laurens Central School. The Summer Food Service Program offers a free lunch Monday through Friday to children through age 18.



Catholic Charities will hold its second annual color run on Saturday, July 21st at Keith Clark Park. This is a fun family event so please mark your calendars to come out and support Catholic Charities.

