

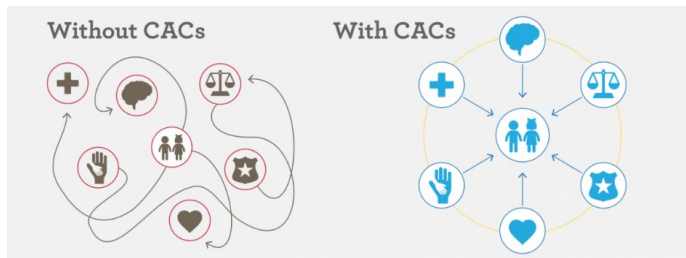
CHILD AT RISK RESPONSE TEAM CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

A Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a safe, child-friendly location used in situations where there is concern that a child has been abused. There is a network of 881 such centers in the US, and in Schoharie County, the center is called the Child At Risk Response Team (CARRT) Center and is located in the Village of Schoharie.

According to the New York Children's Alliance,

- 1 in 10 children will be a victim of sexual abuse by their 18th birthday
- 90% of child sexual abuse victims know their abusers
- 20% of children are abused before the age of 8
- Only 4-8% of child sexual abuse reports are fabricated

All Child Advocacy Centers in New York State work as a Multi-Disciplinary Team model which involves law enforcement, mental health services, child protective services, advocates, medical and prosecution personnel. With this model, the child will only have to tell his/her story one time to a trained interviewer, thus minimizing re-traumatization of the child. This model also fosters increased collaboration and communication among team members working to pursue justice for the children. This model is clearly demonstrated in the picture below.



In Schoharie County, the team was formed in October of 2000 and opened the doors of the CARRT Center in May of 2006. Since that time, the Center has relocated to a larger facility, attained accreditation by the National Children's Alliance, and become a strong and effective team working in response to child abuse in Schoharie County. Catholic Charities employs the CARRT Center coordinator who oversees all the work of the CARRT Center. In 2018, there were 89 children interviewed at the CARRT Center.

In addition to the interview at the CARRT Center, each child is offered specialized evidenced based, trauma-focused mental health services, a medical exam and the ongoing supports of a victims advocate. These services are provided at no cost to the family and are encouraged as a positive step toward healing.

Members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team also work with schools in the County in educating personnel about response to allegations of child abuse and participate in community events and activities promoting child safety and abuse prevention education.

The telephone number to report abuse or maltreatment is (800)342-3720.

If the child is in immediate danger, call 911

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NEW SERVICES

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The New York State Office of Victim Services awarded Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties 5-year grant funding to provide attorney services to victims/survivors of domestic violence in Schoharie County.

Many survivors of domestic violence are just above the financial threshold to be eligible for a court appointed attorney for Family Court issues involving orders of protection, custody and visitation and child support. When survivors of domestic violence need representation in Supreme Court for a divorce many are not able to afford an attorney and they are not eligible for a court appointed attorney. Some survivors will use their abuser's attorney, which puts them at an obvious disadvantage, and they end up agreeing to things that are not in their best interest. In addition, there are many issues relating to housing and employment that survivors of domestic violence may need legal assistance with, but there is no court appointed assistance in obtaining an attorney for these issues. By partnering with Legal Aid of Northeast New York Catholic Charities is providing attorney services to fill these gaps in services, as well as others related to a person's status as a victim of domestic violence. Catholic Charities is able to provide a full-time attorney, with office hours in Schoharie County, who will provide services solely to Schoharie County survivors of domestic violence. In the first 6 months of the grant funding Catholic Charities has provided 23 survivors of domestic violence with attorney services through Legal Aid attorneys, who may not have had legal representation otherwise.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM FOR MEN

In April of 2019 Catholic Charities began a Domestic Violence Program for Men. The program is based on The New York Model for Batterer Intervention. Men who have been referred from courts, probation, social services, child protective services or district attorney offices complete the program in 26 or 52 week segments. The program is an accountability model, and provides courts with another form of sanction, and is not used as an alternative to incarceration. The program is separate and distinct from the Schoharie County Domestic Violence Program, using different staff to complete intake and communication with the court system, as well as facilitators not also employed by the victim services program. Men can be referred by other agencies outside the court system or be self-referred as long as they are willing to adhere to the same policies and procedures that govern the group. To date 12 men have entered the program and are attending regularly as court ordered.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

In 2019, Catholic Charities received funding from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to provide Rapid Rehousing services in Schoharie County. Rapid Rehousing services provide those individuals who are chronically homeless with rental assistance for up to a 24 month period. Also, provided is a Case Manager who will work with the individual to provide them with supportive services to address the issues they are experiencing that led to their homelessness. The Case Manager will work with the individual to obtain employment, mental health services, substance abuse services, financial education and budgeting, as well as any other services needed that are preventing the individual from being able to maintain housing. The Case Manager will continue to work with the individual as long as is needed for up to a 24 month period.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Summer Food Service Program

This summer marked our sixth year of the Summer Food Service Program in Oneonta. We would like to thank all those who have helped us make this a great program! We have continued our partnership with the Oneonta First United Presbyterian Church to offer the Program for this sixth year. The volunteers prepared and served 2,064 lunches this summer.



Back to School Campaign

In August Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties gave out 120 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, Sacred Heart Church, and ACCO.



Volunteer Appreciation

On April 25th Catholic Charities held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. In 2018 151 volunteers donated 4,732 hours. Nineteen volunteers were honored for their years of service to Catholic Charities, ranging from 5 years to 20 years.



8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Catholic Charities hosted the 8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner on April 11th. Thank you to the Quality Inn who provides the space, food and wait staff at no charge. Thank you to our major sponsors: Country Club Auto Group, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Robinson, Jo-Ann LaMonica, Fidelis Care, Harlem & Jervis Attorneys at Law, Jack McDonald - Ameriprise, Lester R. Grummons Funeral Home, Community Bank, Pickett Building Materials/Oneonta Block Company and Bella Michael's.



Our Domestic Violence Program staff received bags from the SUNY's Got Your Back campaign with SUNY's Delasy Joya-Reyes.



Kayla Johnson and Kayla Quigley from the Delaware County Mentoring program tabled at the Fair on the Square in Delhi on July 12th. They provided information about the mentoring program to recruit new volunteer mentors into the program. Currently the mentoring program is serving over 40 at risk youth and has 14 matches.



Natalie, our summer youth worker, and Owen Glueckert helped Catholic Charities raise funds for our Summer Food Service Program through our Fill a Plate fundraiser.

COMING EVENTS!

School Break Food Box Project

Catholic Charities will once again be providing school break food boxes for families in the Oneonta School District over the December break. In addition, we will also supply food baskets for the families during the February week-long break.



Families whose children receive free or reduced lunches while at school have an added financial burden when their children are not in school receiving free meals.

Catholic Charities will provide food to assist in feeding food insecure families during the two school week long breaks.

One Brick at a Time Campaign



Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties will once again hold its "Keeping our Community Warm One Brick at a Time" fundraiser. We will be selling paper bricks for \$25 each to make a paper fireplace in our Oneonta office Main Street window. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to provide heating assistance for those in need.

In 2018, Catholic Charities provided 125 households with \$37,478 in utility assistance, including heating assistance.