

ISSUE 9 | Spring 2019

MENTORING THE FUTURE

The Catholic Charities Mentoring Program has come a long way! Beginning in January 2017, the program was designed to match committed and caring adults with at-risk youth in Delaware County with the goal of providing support, guidance and encouragement to struggling youth through one-on-one experiences with their mentors. The program was so successful that a second program was introduced in June 2018. This program was designed to engage the local college campuses for student mentors and broaden the scope of services to Otsego and Schoharie counties.

Today, both programs are going strong, with a total of 27 volunteer mentors supporting 44 children between the ages of 7-17. Our mentors are committed to spending 6 hours a month with their kids, though many have enjoyed spending more time! Along with one-on-one mentor time, Catholic Charities has offered many group events where youth can engage with other peers involved with our program. These events have included: skating, Animal Adventure Park, baseball games, crafts, cooking lessons, and much more! Our most recent event was hosted in February at SUNY Delhi's pool. Mentors and kids had a great time together playing in the pool and enjoyed pizza afterwards. This month we are planning a skating party at Interskate 88!

Volunteers in this program provide these kids with positive exposure to community events, outdoor recreation and educational opportunities that they may not have had otherwise. By providing these kids with a positive role model and constructive outlets, they are better equipped to handle the many challenges of life.

Studies have shown that young people with mentors have:

- Increased high school graduation rates
- Higher college enrollment rates
- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improved behavior at school and at home
- Stronger relationship with parents, teachers and peers
- Improved interpersonal skills
- A healthier lifestyle
- A decreased likelihood of getting involved with drugs and alcohol

A mentor's role is to be a guide, a good listener, a coach, and a responsive friend - someone who cares!

If you are interested or know someone who is interested in becoming a volunteer mentor and changing the life of an at-risk youth, please contact Christina Sonnenberg at csonnenberg@charitiesccdo.org or Kayla Johnson at kjohnson@charitiesccdo.org.



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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.

- 11 volunteers donated 589 hours to the Caring Connections Program.
 - 1 volunteer donated 117 hours to the Food Pantry.
- 33 volunteer mediators donated 341 hours to the Dispute Resolution Center.
 - 24 volunteers donated 1,437 hours to the Thrift Shop.
 - 5 volunteers donated 270 hours to the Domestic Violence Program.
- 30 volunteers donated 858 hours preparing and serving lunches to children in the Summer Food Service Program.
 - 32 volunteer mentors donated 580 hours to the Mentoring Program.
 - 15 Board Members donated approximately 540 hours.



In 2018 Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties was able to serve approximately 6,500 individuals in various programs that we offer:

- 212 individuals participated in the Alternatives to Incarceration Program (ATI).
- 85 children were served through the Child At Risk Response Team.
- 184 individuals attended a Victims Impact Panel (VIP) presentation.
- 319 individuals were served through the Domestic Violence Program.
- 39 individuals served through the Otsego County Adult Treatment Court Case Management Program.
- 647 individuals received an emergency supply of food from our Food Pantry in Cobleskill.
- 23 Legally Exempt Child Care Providers enrolled.
- 9,456 completed transactions in our Thrift Shop in Cobleskill.
- 252 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 980 individuals.
- 129 individuals were provided with counseling and mental health services through the Clinical Support Services.
- 1,994 adults, children and seniors were helped through our Caring Connections Program.
 - \$91,504 in financial assistance was given to families and/or individuals seeking assistance with basic needs.
 - Caring Connections assisted 734 individuals with their transportation needs; 425 individuals with their utility needs; 271 individuals with their housing needs; 267 with food and 765 with other basic needs.
- 106 individuals served through the Family Support Services Program.
- 2,064 lunches were served to children and adults through the Summer Food Service Program.
- 19 day care providers participated in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, receiving \$97,724 in reimbursement for 67,561 nutritious meals served to children in care.
- 324 individuals were served through the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program.
- 103 school holiday food bags were provided to families in the Oneonta School District, serving 255 individuals.
- 112 backpacks were given out to students in the Sidney School District through the Backpack Program.
- 44 at-risk youth served through the Mentoring Program.



Catholic Charities partnered with the Oneonta School District to supply 103 bags full of food for 255 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.



Mountainview Preserve and Kennels' Frank and Barbara Cavaleri along with Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties sponsored the 7th Annual Tower Shoot on October 6th. This year's event included a donated motorcycle raffle. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities' Caring Connections program for Veterans.



The Mentoring Program hosted a pool party at the pool on the SUNY Delhi campus. Mentors and Mentees had lots of fun playing in the pool together and enjoyed pizza afterwards. A special thank you to SUNY Delhi, pool staff, and the O'Connor Center for Community Engagement for making such a great event possible!



Thomas Pullyblank, our Director of Programming, held a Communications Training with the leaders on Center at Job Corps in Oneonta. They spent several hours learning the importance of verbal and nonverbal communication, practiced de-escalation techniques and went through scenarios to practice the new skills.



Catholic Charities Oneonta office once again held the Keeping Our Community Warm One Brick at a Time fundraiser. \$2,190 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.



Coworkers at SAS of Cobleskill donated a generous supply of toys for children living in the domestic violence shelter.

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 112 backpacks were given out.



The Summer Food Service Program will once again be offered by Catholic Charities. The Summer Food Service Program offers a free lunch Monday through Friday to children through age 18, and the adults that accompany them.



Catholic Charities will hold its third annual color run on Saturday, June 15th, in Sidney, NY. This is a fun family event so please mark your calendars to come out and support Catholic Charities.

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OF DELAWARE, OTSEGO, AND SCHOHARIE COUNTIES
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What will be your legacy?

"Including Catholic Charities in my will is so easy and just makes sense to me. I give every year and I want to make sure they still have what they need to help people after I'm gone – so women can rebuild their lives free from domestic violence, so more children can experience nurturing relationships with mentors, and more families can receive good nutrition from our food pantries."

– Mary P., Cobleskill

The **1917 Legacy Society** of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany celebrates and thanks those individuals who have chosen to make a charitable gift to Catholic Charities in a lasting way. We gratefully recognize those who have or wish to make a planned, future gift to ensure the continuation of our mission.

Planned giving is a way for you to provide donations to Catholic Charities in a manner that is tax preferred to you and your estate. What sets planned giving apart from a regular charitable contribution is that the actual contribution occurs sometime in the future, creating a lasting legacy. We can help you decide how and when that contribution will be made.

- **3 Simple Ways to Make a Difference**
- **Remember us in your will.**
- **Make a gift that pays you back.**
- **Give a portion of your retirement plan assets.**

If you have remembered Catholic Charities in your will and trusts, you are invited to contact us so we may recognize you and thank you for your generosity.

To learn more about Catholic Charities planned giving opportunities, please contact Kate Qualters, Director of Development, at (518) 453-6650 or kate.qualters@ccrcda.org.

