

CATHOLIC CHARITIES - SUSTAINING OUR COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties has remained throughout the pandemic to assist those individuals with basic needs, as well as continuing to offer the over 20 programs and services to our local communities. Our agency has served over 2,160 individuals from March through August. Our services during this pandemic have included: providing services to victims of domestic violence, including safe housing in our domestic violence safe house, providing mental health counseling services through our counseling program, assisting individuals to apply for and receive SNAP benefits, helping individuals resolve disputes through our Dispute Resolution Center, assisting 482 individuals and families,



from March through August, to meet their basic needs including housing, essential transportation, and utilities through our Caring Connections Program, providing PPE supplies and technical assistance to registered and licensed day care providers so that they could remain open to serve essential workers, providing referrals to day care providers to essential workers who had to continue to work during the shutdown so their children could be cared for while they went to work, and continuing to provide our case management

programs for at-risk youth, those who are homeless, and families who have a child with a mental health challenge. We continue to provide services to those who are food insecure including our food pantry, which remained open in our Cobleskill office throughout the shutdown. Our agency held 2 mass food distributions in Sidney, serving 970 families. Our agency also offered the summer food service program in Oneonta, delivering to six sites, three times per week, since school ended in June. 6,834 meals were given out from June 22nd to August 21st.

Services may look a little different. Some are done by telehealth or over the phone, staff meeting in person with those who need assistance are social distancing and wearing masks, and our food pantry puts together a box of food for those in need, as well as our summer food service program which did not have a congregate meal site this year. But, Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties is still providing essential services to the poor and vulnerable who need it most during this time.



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A PLACE AT THE TABLE

This year due to the coronavirus Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties was not able to hold any of our in-person fundraisers since March. We had to cancel our annual pasta dinner, our color run in Sidney, and our planned paint and sip in the early summer. Our agency relies on fundraisers as well as other unrestricted donations to fill in the gaps that exist in our funding so that we can provide all of the essential services to those who are in need of them. Just some of the services that unrestricted funding, such as our fundraisers, allows us to provide include emergency assistance through our Caring Connections Program and to victims of domestic violence through our domestic violence program, mental health counseling to individuals who are low-income, our summer food program, and our back to school program in Sidney. Because of the importance of fundraisers to our agency, our board fundraising committee worked on a brand new idea, our first ever virtual fundraiser, called **A Place at the Table**.

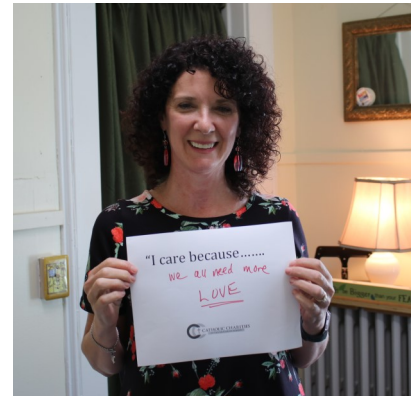
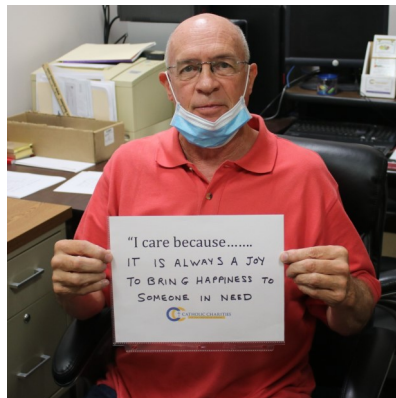
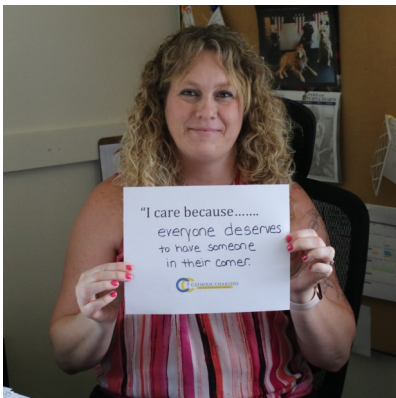
A Place at the Table was held solely on line for one week from August 10th to August 14th. Each day a video was launched on the website highlighting our programs. The website was shared by our "table captains" to their friends and family to promote our agency and to ask for donations. We are so grateful for the support we received and we are thrilled to share that we met our goal of \$25,000. We are very excited to announce that this was a huge success and we would like to especially thank our sponsors for this event which included:

Sterling Insurance
Otsego Telephone Inc.
Jo-Ann LaMonica
Scoville Meno Dealerships
Sidney Federal Credit Union
Pickett Building Materials/Oneonta Block Company
Curtis Lumber
Lester R. Grummons Funeral home
Sportsfield Specialities
Fidelis Care

You can check out the website for **A Place at the Table** and watch the videos through this link:
<https://give.classy.org/APATTDOS>

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STAFF

Staff have been busy working throughout the pandemic and care for the poor and vulnerable. Here is why they care:



NEW SERVICES

In 2020, Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties started two new programs to address the rising need for housing assistance, for both those households that are currently homeless and for those that are in threat of becoming homeless. In June of 2020 our agency started our Homelessness Assistance Program serving Schoharie County. This program is currently funded for one year. The Homelessness Assistance Program will provide case management services through two case managers. An initial assessment is conducted to determine the needs of the household in the program and then those needs are addressed through assistance from the case managers. Issues that led to the homelessness or the threat of becoming homeless, such as mental health challenges, lack of employment, and/or substance abuse issues are also addressed by the case managers. Rental assistance is also offered for up to six months so that households can focus on their needs and issues while maintaining housing.

Our second housing program, which will start in the fall of 2020 and will serve Otsego and Schoharie Counties is very similar to our Homelessness Assistance Program. This program will provide a case manager in Schoharie County and a case manager in Otsego County to assist those households who are homeless and that are put in local motels/hotels through the Department of Social Services. This is a costly way to house homeless individuals and often with no case management support do not result in households finding permanent housing. Case managers will work with households, again to address the issues that led to their homelessness and will assist them in finding housing. Financial assistance for rental payments will be offered for up to six months.

We are hopeful these programs will prove successful in helping households to achieve stable and permanent housing.

SIDNEY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In response to one of the biggest needs that has been identified through the pandemic, food insecurity, or the lack of reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food, Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties held two mass food distributions in Sidney, the location of our Delaware County office. These



were done in partnership with the Sidney United Way, the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities Move, and the Regional food bank. Families were given a variety of food items, including cheese, yogurt, canned goods, fresh fruits, vegetables, and milk. The first was held on July 8th and the second was held on September 17th. For both mass food distributions we served a combined total of over 970 families and gave out 24 tons of food.



CHILD CARE SUPPORT SERVICES

Since March when New York first went on PAUSE due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Child Care Support Services program at Catholic Charities has been busy responding to the child care needs of providers, parents, and the community at large. We have been assisting parents with finding child care, offering scholarships for child care payments to essential workers through funding from the CARES act, offering emergency funds to providers whose enrollment was adversely affected, providing technical assistance and support to community members as they try to navigate a changed and changing world for school age children, as well as acting as boots on the ground for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services through regulatory oversight and support for child care programs, businesses, and families in a system that has many cracks and holes, not the least of which are a lack of available care and a lack of affordable care.

Throughout the pandemic Child Care Support Services has flowed through \$47,950 of CARES Act funds for scholarships to help pay for child care for essential workers so they could continue to work and for the purchase of PPE, cleaning supplies and other items needed for child care providers to continue to stay open and providing child care during the pandemic.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF DELAWARE, OTSEGO, AND SCHOHARIE COUNTIES
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US Postage Paid
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Permit No. 6

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



OUR THRIFT SHOP IN COBLESKILL IS OPEN!

COME SHOP WITH US!
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY
10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

FACE MASKS
AND
SOCIAL DISTANCING
PRACTICES ARE IN PLACE!



October 2020 | Virtual Race Day October 24th

1st Annual Empower Today 5k!

Run, Bike, Stroll or Roll united with Catholic Charities against Domestic Violence. Sign up today and raise money for programs that help survivors of domestic violence in your community.

See the event page:

<https://give.ccrda.org/event/empower-today-5k/e301437>

