



Catholic Charities Newsletter

Creating Hope, Transforming Lives

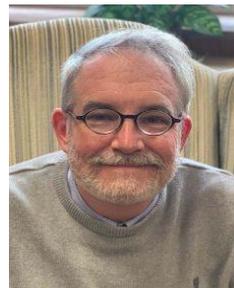
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 2022

I am extremely pleased to introduce the Catholic Charities of Oneida Madison Counties agency newsletter! I hope you will all look forward to each issue as we highlight the many contributions our agency has made to creating hope and transforming the lives of those we serve in our two counties.

We have seen our organization demonstrate great resilience over the past three years as we have grappled with the many uncertainties presented by the Covid19 pandemic. As I reflect on the many challenges we faced, I am proud to say that our doors never closed to the individuals and families who relied on us to meet their needs. It is only through the determination, collaboration, and good will of our dedicated staff, volunteers, board, donors, and friends that we have persevered and now continue forward with great enthusiasm to expand our agency services to address the complex social issues of our time and to passionately fulfill the mission of Catholic Charities.

I invite you to participate in this effort to inform staff, clients, supporters and community partners about our programs by submitting suggestions, articles, news and opinions for inclusion in upcoming issues. Your input will make this a truly special endeavor!



Jack Callaghan
Executive Director

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome

Page 2

Board Member

Highlight

Page 3

Program Services

Page 4

Youth Services

Page 5

Events

Page 6

Other Happenings

Page 7

Ways to Give

Page 8



WELCOME

Our Mission

Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse is dedicated to caring for those in need while promoting human development, collaboration, and the elimination of poverty and injustice. We strive to empower those served to transform their lives in the spirit of God's love and compassion.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEES!

Charlene Brown
La'Tayshia Chastine
Michael Christie
Shane Dietz
Kyja Fields
Jennifer Hagen
Ali Howard

Bethel Landis
Lyric Lowe
Tabatha Miller
Rhontessa Sessoms
Robert Spratt
Tonay Stewart
Monica Wing
Stefanie Hranek

MILESTONES

Thank you for your dedication!

5 years

Karen Johnson
Marcus Zwierecki
Jacinda VanHoeven

15 years

Glen Griffin
Jimmie Carter



#MakeYourMoveToMastrovito

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our new Agency Sponsor, Mastrovito Hyundai!



BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Meet Jim Davis!

James (Jim) S. Davis Jr. Ed.D., LMHC is the Executive Director at Samaritan Counseling Center of the Mohawk Valley, Inc. and has served on the Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County Board of Directors for 3 years. Jim resides in Utica, NY with his wife Lori, son Lucas, and dog Davey.

How did you become involved in the organization, and what has your involvement looked like over time?

I became involved with the organization due to being on the advisory board for Grady's Way.

What makes our mission meaningful to you?

The Catholic Charities mission aligns with my personal values and work values. Those values include believing that all people have the ability to learn from past mistakes or challenges and grow, learning from those challenges. The services Catholic Charities provides supports people in their growth and journey while making their quality of life better. The Catholic Charities mission mentions promoting human development, elimination of poverty and injustice, and empowering those served to transform their lives. These are all values and beliefs that I hold that align with the core of what Catholic Charities does and I am proud to support the work all the Catholic Charities staff do to make the mission a reality.

What is the most important thing you have learned while serving on this board?

The most important thing I have learned about serving on the board is that we have a diverse group of supporters in the community, at Catholic Charities, and on the board who all value the Catholic Charities Mission. I was also a part of the interview committee when hiring Jack Callaghan as the Executive Director. I was very impressed by the professionalism and support of the Diocese and the selection/interview committee led by Mike Melara. I appreciate the commitment of the committee members who donated time to meet and carefully craft interview questions, as well as take time to deliberate on the candidates to identify who would be the best fit and qualified to lead Catholic Charities. It was a great experience, and I learned some best practices in structuring interviews, questions, and the importance of collaboration in the hiring process.

If you had to choose only one: donating your time or donating your money; which would you choose and why?

If I had to choose between donating money and donating time, I would choose donating time. This choice does not mean I would never donate money, but I find I like to be able to connect with people on a personal level and volunteering to participate in events or activities allows me to connect with and help/support others is very rewarding. There is something about being able to make a positive impact in person that just feels good, and I think shows others how much a person cares. We have spent almost 2.5 years being isolated from others due to COVID-19; I think it is very important for our wellbeing to be able to get out in the world and connect with others to work at making an impact or reach a goal. I do not think there is any better way to do that other than supporting an important cause that enables people to spend time together and interact on an interpersonal level while working towards a cause.

What is your favorite community event?

My favorite community event to date was the Tails and Ales event. My family and I enjoyed the day and being able to support families in need by also supporting their pets through donations of pet food and other items. I thought this was a great event because as a pet owner, our dog Davey, is a part of our family. By being able to support families in need, including their pets, which are also part of the family. I am also looking forward to the HalloWine Event this year. I did not attend the one prior to the pandemic but look forward to attending this year's HalloWine event.

People would be surprised if they knew:

I think people would be surprised if they knew I had an opportunity to watch many rockets blast off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida when I was about 6 or 7 years old. My father was in the Air Force, and we were stationed at Patrick's Air Force Base. Then years later, as I was a little older, around 11 years old, I was able to see the Space Shuttle land at Edward's Air Force Base in California. Those are some memories I have had for a long time and still can remember them as vivid as if it were yesterday. Being an Air Force Brat I have had the opportunity to live and travel all over the USA. Something that has given me a great appreciation for all the beauty and wonder we have in the USA.

2022 CCOM Board of Directors

Margaret Galloway, President

Michele Garcia, Vice
President

Theresa M. Rockwell,
Treasurer

Jeffrey T. Lottermoser, Jr.,
Secretary

Randolph Grant, Immediate
Past President

Emily Arthur

James Davis

William Nicholson

Rev. Joseph Salerno

Nicholas Tabone

Leo Callari, Honorary
Director

Mike Melara, Diocesan
Director

CCOM Leadership Team

Jack Callaghan, Executive
Director

Victoria Paolozzi, Chief
Administration Officer

Rhiamon Pysnik, Chief
Human Resource Officer

Stefanie Hranek, Chief
Financial Officer

Renee Coppins, Chief
Program Officer

Ilene Smith, Director of
Quality Improvement



PROGRAM SERVICES

Our Community Assistance Program has been one of our most utilized programs this past year providing aid to many here in Oneida and Madison Counties. Services in this program include: food vouchers, providing personal hygiene items, utility and rent assistance, our Rome Food Pantry, and more.

Community Assistance by The Numbers

Oneida and Madison Counties:

- Rent payments: 28 totaling \$21,572
- Utilities payments: 6 totaling \$3,108
- Fire victims (2): gift cards to Walmart
- Emergency shelter (hotel): 1 family for 4 nights
- One-time payments for: child support, medical co-pay, moving costs, professional licensing fee, laundry, gas

Rome Food Pantry: Served 1,328 individuals for a total of 19,920 meals (providing a 5-day supply per person)

Care and Share (Natl. Grid program): Oneida County - CC facilitated 18 applications; customers received \$200 credit to their account.

Christmas Program (Utica): Served 232 families with 732 children, receiving gift cards for food and toys from Toys for Tots

Christmas Adopt a Family Oneida: served 16 families with 42 children

Additionally, our sites located in Utica, Rome and Oneida distributed personal hygiene supplies, diapers, children's clothing and school supplies.

Our sites will also make referrals to other appropriate community resources as needed.

For more information about our Community Assistance Program, please contact Connie Marcus at 315.724.2158 x7012
cmarcus@ccharityom.org

FOOD \$EN\$E

Catholic Charities is the site for Utica's Food \$en\$e program, a nutritious and economical way to stretch your food dollars! Anyone can participate in this program by ordering and picking up a boxed unit of food on a monthly basis, as well as taking advantage of great specials.

For \$20.50, a typical boxed unit includes 4-5 meats, 4-5 staple items and 2 fresh (seasonal) items. Special add-ons are also offered.

For more information on the program and for the Monthly Menu's, visit:
www.foodbankcny.org/our-programs/food-sense-program/

Orders may be placed with
Connie Marcus (315)801-7012
cmarcus@ccharityom.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County offers a wide variety of services to those in our community who are most in need.

In addition to Community Assistance, Catholic Charities operates 7 licensed NYS Office of Mental Health Community Residences and 2 NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services Halfway Houses for Men and Women.

To learn more about other services and programs we provide, please visit our website:
www.catholiccharitiesom.org



YOUTH SERVICES



Camp Nazareth, our residential youth camp, enjoyed a successful 2022 season following a 2-year hiatus accommodating 175 campers for the three-week camp season. Many memories were made this summer from swimming and boating on Little Long Lake to hiking wilderness trails and hanging out eating smores by the camp bonfire. The campers also enjoyed outdoor Zumba classes and camp dances which were held each Wednesday night in the Chapel.

Camp Nazareth also celebrated three victories for two of our Lead Counselors, Jeff Spencer and Gavin Reid (pictures below) in the canoe regatta/race that was held each Friday afternoon of camp. Canoers had to paddle to the Palisades and touch a hand to the Palisades rocks before returning to camp. Even with a challenge in week three by our Camp Director LuAnn and Charities staff David, the dynamic duo of Gavin and Jeff could not be beaten this season.



We would like to thank all our volunteers and our Catholic Charities staff who contributed both their time and energy into making this camp season a success. It was great to see campers again and watch them have fun and enjoy the outdoors. We look forward to Camp Nazareth's 2023 season!

For the remainder of the summer, Camp Nazareth will be hosting two additional local children's summer camps and two wedding rentals. Camp Nazareth rentals are open to anyone interested in utilizing our 300-acre Adirondack Property with its natural scenery and privacy. It is a unique destination for a family reunion/party/wedding/business outing. Rentals can be arranged via Catholic Charities (315) 724 2158 x2246. For more information, please visit www.campnaz.org

CYO Basketball, our basketball league for high school students, is looking forward to the upcoming Fall and Winter 2022/2023 season!

Our league is looking to expand and is currently seeking students in grades 7 through 12 that are interested in basketball and adults who would like to volunteer their time to coach or assist.

Local churches and organizations that would like to create a positive experience for kids and help create a bigger impact in our community are also welcomed to contact us.

Basketball games are due to begin December 2022.

For more information about our CYO Basketball League, participating, or volunteering, please contact:

Dave George (315) 801-7015
dgeorge@ccharityom.org



EVENTS

A “Paw-some” AFTERNOON OF TAIL WAGGING SUCCESS

Tails & Ales - Rome, NY

More than 100 pet enthusiasts came out to Copper City Brewing in Rome, NY on Sunday, June 5, 2022, raising more than \$4,500 for our Rome Food Pantry and launch of our Pet Pantry.

The afternoon was filled with cold brews, professional dog portraits, raffles, food, and live music from Spencer Morgan. Attendees not only brought their beloved pups, but donations of dog food, cat food, and cat litter to help stock the shelves of the soon to be launched Pet Pantry.

A photo booth specially made for pet photos was on display for Lisa Curtis of L.C. Photography to capture our four-legged friends. Raffles, most of which carried on with the pet theme, included many donations from local businesses.



Both visitors and canines were able to satisfy their appetites with delicious human treats from Babycakes by Becca, and all natural preservative free dog treats from Bone Appet’ Treat Barkery. Jimbo’s Food Truck was also on site baking up doggie desserts for dogs to enjoy while waiting for their photo opp.

Catholic Charities Rome Food Pantry currently offers food to households in need within the City of Rome. Last year alone, we helped 1,328 individuals by providing more than 18,000 meals through this program. As many include animals as part of their families, the Rome Food Pantry wishes to offer an additional service to help support families by lessening the burden of this cost as well.

The food pantry is located at 199 West Dominick Street in Rome and welcomes donations of canned, boxed, or frozen foods. The pantry is now accepting donations of both dog and cat food, in addition to cat litter.





OTHER HAPPENINGS

CCOM PICNIC

On August 18th, we held our Employee Appreciation Picnic at The Roselawn Banquet Facility in New York Mills. Employees spent the afternoon enjoying food, games, and raffles! Some of the raffles included a day off, various gas/grocery gift cards and even a grill!



SAVE THE DATE

October 21, 2022



Utica Public Library
With Special Guests:
Ghost Seekers of Central New York

Our Annual Wine & Craft Beer Event with a Haunted Twist is back! Get ready to enjoy an evening filled with lively music, delicious drinks and food, raffles, and haunted happenings!

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor:
NBT Bank

We were named as a finalist in the following categories for the Undisputed Excellence Awards!

- Non-Profit of the Year: Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County
- Business Person of the Year: Jack Callaghan, Executive Director



Winners will be announced September 21st!



WAYS TO GIVE

It is the purpose of Catholic Charities to serve without judgement those most in need, meeting them where they are, to create hope and transform lives.

Your support will help us in our fight against poverty, hunger, mental illness, & homelessness.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



DONATE ONLINE:

You can donate online with your major credit card or PayPal account via one time or recurring payment. You do not need a PayPal account to use this, simply use the "pay with credit card" option. Once we receive your donation, we will send you a thank you note along with a receipt showing your tax-deductible donation for your tax recording purposes.



MAIL A CHECK:

Checks may be payable to "Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County" and mailed to 1408 Genesee St. Utica, NY 13502



MAKE A LEGACY GIFT:

Planning to give to Catholic Charities as part of your estate planning is a great way you can help us out. Consult your legal counsel to explore your options.



SPONSOR:

For sponsor opportunities, please contact Jennifer Hagen, Director of Development, 315.801.7002 jhagen@ccharityom.org



VOLUNTEER:

For a volunteer application to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Jennifer Hagen, Director of Development, 315.801.7002 jhagen@ccharityom.org



CONTACT US:

For more information, visit our website: www.catholiccharitiesom.org; or call 315.724.2158

Look for us on September 20!

