



# Catholic Charities Newsletter

Creating Hope, Transforming Lives

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### February 2023

Welcome to our second issue of the agency newsletter and best wishes for 2023!! As you can see from the many highlights contained within, we had a busy end to the year 2022, and were able to “roll with the punches” from Covid and still deliver some holiday cheer to our clients.

Going forward, as we continue to adjust to the changes that Covid has brought to our day-to-day functioning, I am mindful of the impacts on staff, clients, and agency culture. At the very least, it should be apparent that every job, and every person in each of those jobs, is important to fulfilling the agency’s mission. Please know that at the leadership level, we value each individual employee’s efforts, the support and generosity of our friends and donors, and the contributions of our dedicated board to achieve this end.

Although Covid is less visible now, the after-effects will be here for months and years to come. As a human service agency, we are often the last resort for our neighbor’s needing assistance. It is not only in the goods and services that we may provide to them, but the kind word and friendly smile that can lift their spirits as well as our own. We look forward to re-establishing prior connections and making new ones in the greater community to benefit our clients, a task that will be accomplished through the efforts of all of us. Sincere thanks to all of you for helping the agency move forward and grow!!



**Jack Callaghan**  
Executive Director

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## 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!

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Jahnien Matteson</b> | <b>ShonTae Davis</b>   |
| <b>Bernadette Rella</b> | <b>Victor Espinosa</b> |
| <b>Pricilla Jay</b>     | <b>Remus Woodson</b>   |
| <b>Shelly Kane</b>      | <b>Paulette McMath</b> |
| <b>Joseph Tremblay</b>  | <b>Tommie Foster</b>   |
| <b>Alison Carlin</b>    | <b>Fred Gaston Jr.</b> |
| <b>Rob Savoy</b>        | <b>Karimah Pearson</b> |

Thank you to our Agency Sponsor





## Celebrating 100 Years!

Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County is amongst several agencies that provide direct services to all people in need within the seven counties the Diocese of Syracuse serves.

For 100 years, Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse has served our communities by helping our most vulnerable and empowering them to change their lives in the spirit of God's love and compassion.

Over the next year, the Diocese will be looking back and sharing the impact made on thousands of individuals throughout its counties. Help us in celebrating this monumental anniversary and continue with our legacy of love and service.



### 2023 CCOM Board of Directors

Margaret Gallaway, President

Michele Garcia

Jeffrey T. Lottermoser, Jr.

Randolph Grant

Emily Arthur

James Davis

William Nicholson

Rev. Joseph Salerno

Nicholas Tabone

Cheyenne Schoff

Lori Jenkins Davis

Ann Smith

Edward Walsh

Leo Callari, Honorary  
Director

Mike Melara, Diocesan  
Director

### Leadership Team

Jack Callaghan, Executive  
Director

Victoria Paolozzi, Chief  
Administration Officer

Rhiannon Pysnik, Chief  
Human Resource Officer

Stefanie Hranek, Chief  
Financial Officer

Renee Coppins, Chief  
Program Officer

Ilene Smith, Chief Quality  
Improvement Officer



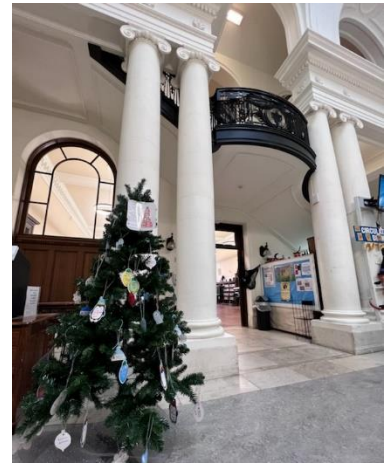
## HOLIDAY SEASON RECAP

For Thanksgiving, our Pathways to Independent Living staff packed and delivered delicious dinners for some of our residents to enjoy.



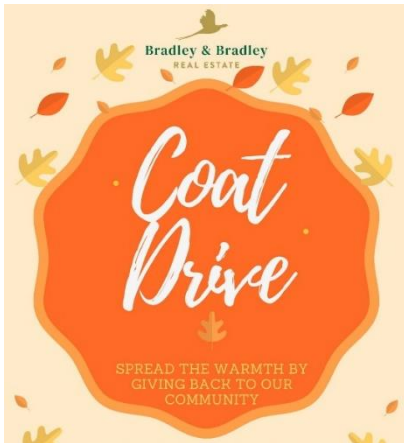
In December, we assisted 60 families in the Utica and Oneida area to celebrate Christmas! This year looked a little different as we were able to support the family unit by donating not only toys, but clothing, household items, and grocery gift cards. The families selected this year provided us with their wish lists to help us fulfill.

Without the support of our agency sponsor, Mastrovito Hyundai, the Dunham Public Library in Whitesboro, the Utica Public Library, and the generosity of our community, this year would not have been possible. Christmas trees were placed at our main office in Utica, Mastrovito Hyundai, and library locations with ornament tags listing various gifts from our families wish lists. Catholic Charities staff collected all the donated gifts, shopped, and stuffed bags to deliver to families in need.





## HOLIDAY RECAP cont'd



Bradley & Bradley Real Estate held a coat drive collecting donations of new and gently used coats. During the cold winter months of Upstate New York, we see an increase of requests for warm jackets. The coat drive supplied many coats to our Community Assistance Program to distribute amongst those in need.



## Christmas Spirit Week

Our CCOM staff helped spread Christmas cheer and joined in on some holiday fun! Each day leading up to Christmas we celebrated with a different theme and activity for employees to enjoy. We voted to select the Holiday Cheermeister, with an office door decorating contest, donned our ugliest sweaters, feasted on Chicken Riggies, challenged ourselves with trivia, and relaxed in our comfiest PJ's while eating our favorite Christmas cookies.





## YOUTH SERVICES



### CYO BASKETBALL is BACK!

CYO basketball provides youth the opportunity to play basketball in a league that promotes a positive culture that is safe and where there is respect between all involved including players, coaches, fans, officials, and CYO staff.

Serving both faith-based and community teams, our league provides kids from grades 9 through 12 that do not currently play for school teams.

Games are held Friday nights (7 PM and 8 PM) and Saturday mornings (9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM) at the Jewish Community Center located at 2310 Oneida Street Utica, NY. Games will be held during the months of January, February, and March.

### Camp Nazareth

Registration to Open Soon!

#### 2023 Season Dates

*Week 1: Sunday, July 9th -  
Friday, July 14th*

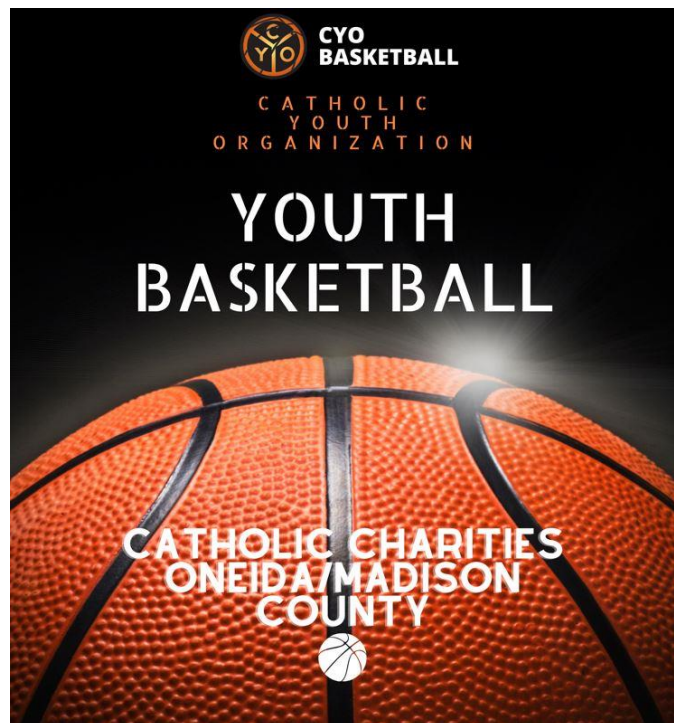
*Week 2: Sunday, July 16th -  
Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>*

*Week 3: Sunday, July 23rd -  
Friday, July 28th*

Check out the Camp Nazareth website for updates!

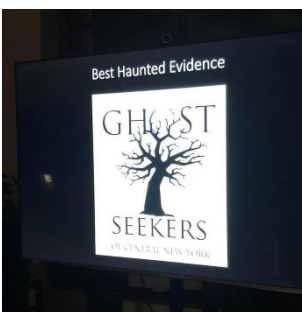
[www.campnaz.org](http://www.campnaz.org)

**Look for us in the 2023  
Utica St. Patrick's Day  
Parade on March 11<sup>th</sup>**





## EVENTS



### **A SUCCESSFUL & SPOOKY TIME at HalloWine!**

After a 2-year hiatus, more than 170 guests and volunteers attended HalloWine at the Utica Public Library on October 21, 2022.

Guests enjoyed unlimited beer and wine tastings, heavy hors d'oeuvres, delicious desserts, and haunted happenings, all while exploring the historic library.

Party goers danced to beats provided by DJ Myle Walker M-Dub, eagerly listened to the paranormal findings thanks to an investigation by our friends, Ghost Seekers of CNY, and bid on high end raffles as the evening evolved.

Thanks to our Agency Sponsor, Mastrovito Hyundai, and our Platinum Presenting Sponsor, NBT Bank, amongst other generous sponsors, local business donations, and the support of our community, volunteers and staff, the return of HalloWine raised more than \$18,000 for programs at Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County.



### SAVE THE DATE!

Our 2023 spring fundraiser will be held on May 6, 2023, at the Sadaquada Golf Club. This year, we will be celebrating the Kentucky Derby!

|                             |           |      |       |     |      |       |                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------|-------|-----|------|-------|------------------|
| <b>SAVE THE DATE</b>        |           |      |       |     | 23   | YEAR  | <b>ADMIT ONE</b> |
| <b>KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY</b> |           |      |       |     | 06   | DAY   |                  |
| THE SADAQUADA GOLF CLUB     |           |      |       |     | 05   | MONTH |                  |
| TO BENEFIT                  |           |      |       |     |      |       |                  |
| <b>CATHOLIC CHARITIES</b>   |           |      |       |     |      |       |                  |
| ONEIDA / MADISON COUNTY     |           |      |       |     |      |       |                  |
| <b>MAY</b>                  | <b>06</b> |      | 05    | 06  | 23   |       |                  |
| MONTH                       | DAY       | YEAR | MONTH | DAY | YEAR |       |                  |



## CCOM TEAM

### Employee Appreciation Luncheon

On November 18, 2022, we recognized several employees for their years of service with Catholic Charities. Our staff enjoyed a lunch provided by Club Monarch and cannoli cake from Café Caruso.



Congratulations to our dedicated staff members for all their hard work!

- Maureen Zullo – 20 years*
- Jimmie Carter – 15 years*
- Glenn Griffin – 15 years*
- Karen Johnson – 5 years*
- Marcus Zwierecki – 5 years*
- Jacinda VanHoeven – 5 years*



### CAREER FAIR

In January, we hosted our first in house career fair.

More than 40 candidates stopped by with their resumes for an opportunity to work at Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County!

This success would not have been possible without our CCOM staff who welcomed attendees, assisted with applications, answered questions, and conducted on the spot interviews.







## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce – Business of the Year Awards

Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County was honored to be a finalist for the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce 2022 Business of the Year Awards. Our agency was nominated for Non-for-Profit organization with over 50 employees. Each finalist presented a video showcasing their work at the awards luncheon held at Hart's Hill Inn. We congratulate Hospice & Palliative Care of Oneida, Herkimer and Eastern Madison Counties on winning the award for this category!



### RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

**Restorative Practices is an emerging social science that studies the science of relationships and community.**



Building Connections to Change Behaviors,  
Repair Relationships and Improve Results

**With the assistance of grant funding from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, our agency was able to offer the community multiple free one day training sessions in Utica, Rome, and Oneida. The facilitator and our staff member, Marianne Conte, organized a modified version of the curriculum to ensure the participants would learn key and effective components of this social science during their training. The sessions were met with positive responses and feedback with other local organizations requesting Restorative Practices training at their sites!**



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## WAYS TO GIVE

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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](mailto: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](mailto:jhagen@ccharityom.org)



### **CONTACT US:**

For more information, visit our website: [www.catholiccharitiesom.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesom.org); or call 315.724.2158