



Catholic Charities Newsletter

Creating Hope, Transforming Lives

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 2023

As I watch the various ways that our community prepares for the coming holiday season, I am mindful of the many blessings that our agency has received during the past year, some of which you will read about in this issue of the newsletter.

Despite the continued impact of COVID, our agency continues to provide important services to people in need, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers.

It is my hope that we keep the spirit of giving foremost in our endeavors, not just at Christmas, but in every month of the year.

I wish you and your families a happy and peaceful celebration and all the best for 2024.



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!

Beverly Garner
Rosairys Polanco Fabian
Anthony Destito
John Hammond
James Klauser
Amanda LaBarge
Amanda Bahamonde
Yalaunda Clark
Caleb Elliott
Regina Manfredo
Amanda Cuthbertson

Nicole Gehringer
Molly Stuttler-James
Corey Achen
Raigan Verminski
Deinna Granato
Roneeka Barber
Kala Flynn
Sandy McQuinn-Colvin
Jessica Pope
Carolyn Adams
Amy Garcia
Robin Wilson

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

5 years Donna Luck-Martin

10 years Mary Testa
Edvina Dokic

15 years Theresa Capponi
Loretta Becker

25 years Kristen Lazarek

30 years Beverly Brazie

35 years Kelly Williams





Living Annual Report

2023 CCOM Board of Directors

James Davis, President
Michele Garcia
Ann Smith
Jeffrey T. Lottermoser, Jr.
Emily Arthur
William Nicholson
Nicholas Tabone
Cheyenne Schoff
Edward Walsh
Jason Hill
Bernadette Quenneville
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



After three years, our Board of Directors and staff were able to gather in person for our Living Annual Report.

Each year staff members are selected to share an impact story and their experience working at Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County.

Our Executive Director, Jack Callaghan discussed the challenges our agency has overcome, our achievements, and aspirations for the year.

We sincerely appreciate our staff members who shared their emotional, uplifting, and heartfelt experiences working at our organization.

Thank you to our Board of Directors and staff who attended and to Brooklyn Pickle for the delicious lunch!



Leadership Team



CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

In commemoration of 100 years of service to the seven counties of the Syracuse Diocese, Catholic Charities Diocese of Syracuse celebrated with a centennial mass led by Bishop Lucia and reception that followed.

Guests included the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Julian Modesti; Chief Executive Officer Michael Melara; Senator John Mannion; and Congressman Brandon Williams.

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. Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse serves Broome, Cortland, Chenango, Oneida/Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties.





YOUTH SERVICES



Camp Nazareth soars into its 70th season!



2024 Season Dates are here!

WEEK 1 7/7/24 - 7/12/24
WEEK 2 7/14/24 - 7/19/24
WEEK 3 7/21/24 - 7/26/24

For more information:
Dave George
Program Manager - Youth Services
dgeorge@ccharityom.org
(315) 724-2158 ext. 7015

www.campnaz.org

Camp Nazareth - After reopening in 2022, Camp Nazareth increased camper enrollment by over 30% in 2023, while continuing to provide financial assistance to families in need.

Camp Nazareth is an overnight summer camp for boys and girls ages 8-16 that provides traditional camping activities in the heart of the Adirondacks.

This program provides children the opportunity to create lifelong friendships, share experiences with kids from different backgrounds, build self-confidence, promote independence, become more responsible, and create new personal and team building skills.

Camp Nazareth also continued its partnerships with CABVI and MUCC in 2023, allowing other community organizations the opportunity to utilize our 300-acre lakefront property and its amenities for their specialized programming and services.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, campers, and families for another successful season!



YOUTH SERVICES cont'd

Our friends at BME- Business Machines & Equipment Inc., our staff, and volunteers spent time cleaning up our beautiful Camp Nazareth to get ready for the season!



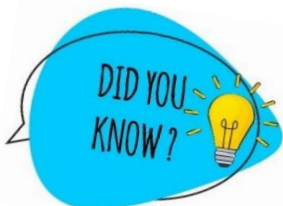
Thank you to the Edwin J. Wadas Foundation, Inc.! Because of their support to Camp Nazareth, our campers enjoyed 20 new kayaks (including life jackets)!

These kayaks will allow children to build self-confidence, responsibility, and independence. We were grateful for the opportunity to provide our campers with a new experience this summer!





Programs



Food \$en\$e

Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County is a host site for Food Bank of Central New York's Food \$en\$e program.

Food \$en\$e is a monthly food buying co-op for anyone who wants to stretch their grocery dollars. This program provides a monthly box of 12-15 staple grocery items at a discounted price.

There are no qualifications, no subscription, and no requirements to participate.

Each package costs \$20.50 without limitation to the number of packages you may buy.

Items vary month to month with rotating specials.

Online ordering is now available for orders that are placed with a debit or credit card via the following link:

<https://foodsense.foodbankcny.org/>

EBT and cash payment orders must be placed in person and pre-paid at time of order at Catholic Charities located at 1408 Genesee St. in Utica. Monday-Friday 9am to 3pm.

Questions?

Kala Flynn – Community Outreach Program Manager

(315) 724-2158 ext. 7012

kflynn@ccharityom.org

Pathways to Independent Living Apartment Program

Catholic Charities operates a 48-bed apartment program in Utica/Rome for individuals diagnosed with mental illness. Staff is available to provide support, monitoring, and advocacy to assist individuals in their apartments and develop skills that will allow them to live independently in the community.

Our staff enjoyed the opportunity to take individuals we serve on a trip to the Wild Animal Park!



For more information, please contact:
Betsy Williams, Intake and Capacity Building Manager
(315) 724-2158 ext. 7010
ewilliams@ccharityom.org



VOLUNTEERS

Utica University Pioneer Pitch-In 2023



Each year new students at Utica University volunteer to make a difference in our community. We were fortunate to have a group 'pitch in' and assist our agency.

Students spent the day mulching & raking, painting, picking up litter, moving furniture, cleaning agency vehicles, and took on the task of organizing, and itemizing donations.

Thank you for the tremendous amount of work that was accomplished!





AT CCOM

We enjoyed treating our staff to some 'Summer Treats' with mini golf passes, ice cream, and hosting a BBQ lunch! Thank you, Brown Brother's BBQ, for joining us on site, and Palm Springs Mini Golf for coordinating all the passes.



On October 10th our staff took time to raise awareness about mental health for World Mental Health Day. This day serves as a reminder to prioritize our mental health and work to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.

World Mental Health Day also highlights the need for accessible mental health services worldwide. It's a day to come together and advocate for positive mental health practices and support those who may be struggling. We thank our employees for what they do every day to make a difference in the lives of our clients.





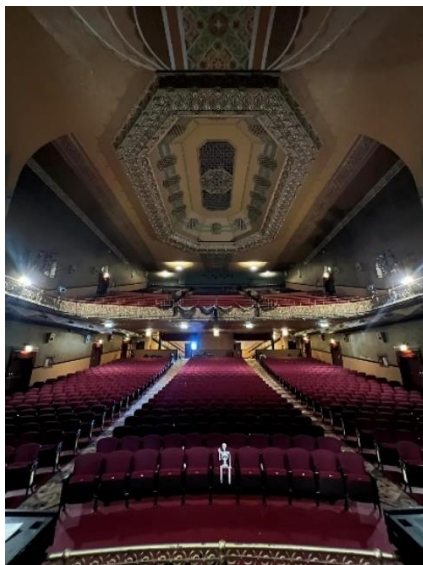
AT CCOM cont'd

Our annual Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County picnic was blessed with beautiful weather, lots of fun and plenty of laughs! Our staff spent the afternoon at 12 North eating delicious food, playing games, and even throwing some axes. Treating our employees to an afternoon of relaxation is well deserved for all their hard work and dedication to our organization!





AT CCOM cont'd



More than 180 guests and volunteers attended HalloWine at the Capitol Theatre in Rome.

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

Party goers enjoyed the 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, including 'Backstage' VIP tours, 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, HalloWine raised more than \$25,000 for programs at Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County.





IN THE COMMUNITY

We had a great time at ICAN's annual Par 4 Kids Ladies Golf Tournament to benefit Evelyn's House!



Some of our staff joined the Greater Utica Chamber's Catalyst Group to take donations for America's Greatest Heart Run & Walk telethon during their kickoff at Accelerate Sports.



The Out of the Darkness Community Walk is a journey of remembrance, hope, and support. It unites our communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about.

Staff members participated in this walk at Bellamy Harbor Park in Rome to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.





IN THE COMMUNITY cont'd

Our agency was fortunate to recognize several Veterans amongst our staff for the 2023 Flags for Heroes hosted by The Good News Center.

This annual Healing Field display of 1,000 United States Flags were in honor of veterans along the Memorial Parkway in Utica.

Proceeds benefit Sitrin's Military Program. This program helps veterans and service members returning from duty who are faced with physical, psychological, and emotional changes in their lives.

Thank you to all veterans and active military for your service!



Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County is honored to be a finalist in the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Awards in the Not-for-Profit with over 50 employees category!

Winners will be announced on December 14, 2023.



FINALISTS!

Not-for-Profit organization with over 50 employees

- CNY Quest
- Catholic Charities
- The Arc, Oneida-Lewis

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Delta Hotel • 11am

In honor of First Source's 85th Anniversary, for Giving Tuesday, each employee was given \$85 to donate to the charity of their choice. Branch Manager, Karina Casaletta selected Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County because of our mission, values, and commitment to our community. Thank you, First Source Federal Credit Union and to Karina for choosing our agency!



Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County is a proud member of:





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.

To learn more about ways to give, contact:
Jennifer Hagen
Director of Development
(315) 801-7002
jhagen@ccharityom.org



Jennifer Hagen
Director of Development



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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



Thank you, Mastrovito Hyundai
for committing to another year as
our Agency Sponsor!