

Finding Hope as Poverty Levels Rise

The rising poverty levels across the diocese are indicative of poor economic conditions across the country. According to Catholic Charities USA, the first quarter 2010 numbers are in and they are alarming. Of the agencies reporting, 75% show an increase in families seeking assistance, 75% report an increase in requests for rent or mortgage assistance, and 89% show an increase in unemployment. With no sign of economic improvement in sight, the future looks very bleak for the underprivileged among us.

On a national level, Catholic Charities USA is staunchly committed to addressing the challenges of hunger, housing, economic security, education/job training, and health. Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA says, "We live in the richest and smartest country on earth, but our children are hungry. We must take responsibility for this gross injustice and advocate for real sustainable change to ensure the common good of every American."

Our local Catholic Charities fights a continuing battle with poverty. Programs to help with emergency needs are in place, and money necessary to keep them running is raised and funneled directly into the communities. Those in need across our diocese are calling out for help and Catholic Charities is answering the call one person at a time; the child who goes to bed hungry; the mother who needs clothes to wear to job interviews; the young family losing its home.

Staggering unemployment numbers throughout the Erie diocese are changing the face of poverty from a total stranger to the



family next door. One of the hardest hit areas is Oil City in Venango County where 76.4% of female headed households, (no husband present) with children under the age of 5, are below the poverty level.* The needs of these children must be met.

Whether on a local or national level, Catholic Charities strives to implement programs that help in a basic, immediate way...giving people in need the chance to find hope in the face of despair.

*Source: US Census Bureau, American Factfinder

A Unique Initiative in Poverty at St. Martin Center

The new Culinary Lab Program at St. Martin Center (SMC) graduated its first class in early March with 4 graduates obtaining local paid food service positions. The graduates are resettled refugees who went from needing the services of St. Martin Center to learning skills that earned them employment in the community. According to Jessica Hancock, Development and Public Relations Coordinator at St. Martin Center, "This program follows our philosophy: to avoid giving people a handout. Rather, we want to give them a boost and help them figure out how they can become self-sustaining." Chef Joe Fontecchio is currently teaching his second 12 week course, along with embedding a catering business at SMC. The Summer issue of the Catholic Charities newsletter will have more on how a local college business class helped spark this unique initiative in poverty.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER

Shelter for Homeless Men; Food/Financial Referrals; Furniture Store; Emergency One-Family Apartment

ST. MARTIN CENTER

Emergency assistance; HIV/AIDS support; Day Care Center; Thrift Store; Nutrition Education; Housing Counseling

PRINCE OF PEACE CENTER

Soup Kitchen; Budget Counseling; Thrift Store; Food Distribution; Home Case Management & Life Skills; Transitional Housing for the Homeless

ST. ELIZABETH CENTER

Food Pantry; Thrift Store; Clothing & Bridal Shop

COUNSELING & ADOPTION SERVICES

Professional Counseling; Pregnancy Counseling; Problem Gambling Counseling; Anger Management Groups; Sexual Abstinence Program; Project Rachel; Adoption Services; Refugee Resettlement

CHRIST THE KING MANOR

Continuing Care Retirement Community providing Skilled Nursing Care, Personal Care, Alzheimer Units, Rehabilitation Services, Home Support and Independent Living Cottages

JOHN XXIII HOME

Assisted Living; Respite; Physical Therapy; Alzheimer Services; Long-Term Care; Counseling & Referral; Occupational Therapy

HARBORCREEK YOUTH SERVICES

Campus & Community-Based Residential Facilities; Assessment/Diagnostic Services; Private Education; Drug & Alcohol Counseling; Community Service; Work Experience; Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care

BETTER HOMES

52 Units of Affordable Housing, Social Services for Families

PASTORAL SERVICES

Family Life: Pre-Cana, Engagement Encounter, Nova, Marriage Enrichment, Worldwide Marriage Encounter, Retrouvaille

Healing: Rainbows, PALS, HIV/AIDS Support Group

Disabilities: Deaf Ministry, Parish Advocacy, Spiritual Enrichment, Victorious Missionaries, Faith & Light, Mental Health Spirituality Outreach

Parish Social Ministry: Parish Care & Concern, Bereavement, Elizabeth Ministry, Justice & Peace/Respect Life Advocacy

Refugee: Parish Education, Spiritual Support

Mission: Mission of Friendship, Propagation of the Faith, Mission Education, Holy Childhood Association

Rural: Pastoral & Ecumenical Outreach, Spiritual Support, Parish Education, Retreats/Enrichment Day Programs, Faith Sharing Groups

A MESSAGE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

At Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie we believe that every person should have the opportunity to strive to reach their fullest human potential and to improve their own lives; this is our mission! Because of this mission we work very hard: staff, volunteers, board members, partners and donors, to bring about this goal for as many people as we possibly are able to help. As you read this report, you will see that in 2009 the various works of Catholic Charities touched the lives of 62,000 people. We are proud to share with you here the story of some of our successes and the impact that our work has had on the people of the thirteen counties of the Erie Diocese.



This year, as we celebrate our Bishop Donald W. Trautman's Anniversary, we congratulate him and are reminded of the special importance of his leadership to the work of charity which is so vital in this Diocese. It was Bishop Trautman who

had the vision twenty years ago to create Catholic Charities as we know it today. It was his insight that the network of Charities would give life to the variety of works and ministries that serve the needs of the poor, of families, the disabled, refugees, the elderly, married couples and youth, of all faiths, who come to us in need. In this report you will see the results of this system in action.

We express gratitude to all of our partners who help in so many ways to sustain our efforts. Continuing these works of charity would not be possible without the hundreds of benefactors who give of themselves to assist those in need. The impact of a strained economy on the lives of families has placed great demand on our emergency and material assistance programs this year. It is only through the generosity of many that resources are available for Catholic Charities to continue its mission of helping people to reach their fullest human potential.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Maxwell".

Mary Maxwell, M.A.
Executive Director

An International Highlight at the Ball

Victoria Angelo, Marta Sam, and their daughters, Helen Harman, Sara Waya, Hannah Harman, and Georgina Longya share a sampling of their rich heritage at the Catholic Charities 15th Anniversary Ball. They sing, dance and share the music of the Acholi people of Uganda and Sudan. True success stories, both Marta and Victoria are dance instructors and Child Care Providers at St. Martin Day Care Center, another example of how this year's Ball celebrates the diverse cultures we serve through Catholic Charities.

Pictured in the photo, left to right: Marta Sam on drums (arrived in the USA in August 2002), Helen Harman (arrived in the USA in July 2003), Sara Waya (arrived in the USA August 2002), Hannah Harman (arrived in the USA in July 2003), and Georgina Longya (arrived in the USA in 2003). Victoria Angelo is pictured leading the group (arrived in the USA in 2003).



St. Elizabeth Center Links People With Needed Resources

The best qualification Kathy Gonzales has for her new job is being a good listener! She works as the Family Advocate at St. Elizabeth Center in Oil City, and holds the Center's only paid position. Kathy listens to the underprivileged who visit the Community Food Pantry, Clothes Closet & Thrift Shop at St. Elizabeth. She hears stories that break her heart, and she knows exactly how to help.

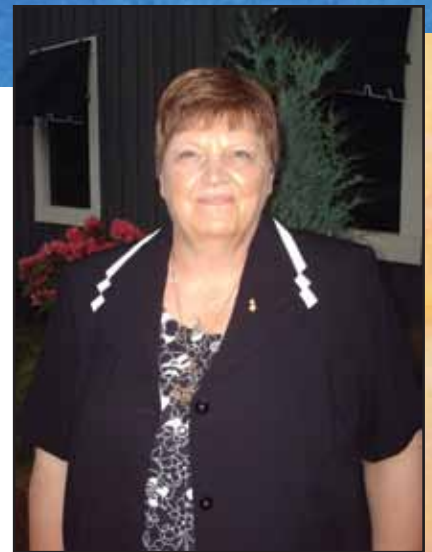
"I don't try to preach or control them," says Kathy. "I empower them with information they need to take responsibility and learn to help themselves." After listening to someone's story, she hands them her business card and encourages them to call her or come to her office and learn more about available resources. She loves reaching out to people in need, and the Oil City poverty situation provides her

with a constant stream of those who need her help

"Oil City is a depressed area," says Deacon Tim Wren, Director of St. Elizabeth Center. "Our food pantry is helping so many people, but there is a definite need to help in ways other than food. People need guidance and help finding the

programs that are available to them." Thanks to some assistance from Catholic Charities, Kathy is able to fill that need.

"I focus on their strengths which often they don't see for themselves."



Family Advocate, Kathy Gonzales

Kathy works with more than a dozen families at any one time. "When I talk with individuals," says Kathy. "I focus on their strengths which often they don't see for themselves. People focus on what is wrong in their lives and not what they are capable of doing to help themselves out of their situation." In her role as Family Advocate, Kathy supports, advises and intercedes on behalf of the families who seek her assistance. "I stress to the families with children," says Kathy, "that they are the primary model for how children experience relationships. They provide a sense of belonging and a foundation for self-esteem."

Part of Kathy's job is to attend community meetings that deal with the needs of those living in the Venango County area. She makes other agencies aware of what St. Elizabeth Center has to offer as she gathers contacts to add to her list of resources. The growing need in Oil City is being met with a valuable network of agencies and programs designed to meet the needs of those who are suffering.

Charities Ball Proceeds Are Lifeline to 20,000 People

Catholic Charities takes a strong stand in helping people cope with rising poverty levels across the Erie Diocese. Nearly \$200,000 raised from the last four Catholic Charities Balls has gone directly into the communities where it is most needed. These funds are a lifeline for more than 20,000 people across our diocese who depend on the services of Catholic Charities.

This year, the Ball's International theme, "World of Wonder", captured the global scope of Catholic Charities; reaching out to all corners of the Diocese helping people in need from all cultures and faiths. Festivities included the presentation of the Helping Hands Award to Atty. Jim and Mary Ann Toohey because of their extraordinary service to their church and community.

The Ball proceeds assure that emergency needs are being met, utility bills are being paid and hungry children are being fed and clothed. These are basic needs that are easy to take for granted unless you are cold and hungry with no place to go. This year \$68,000 will be distributed in grants to those most in need...an increase of \$15,000 from last year!

Top right photo: Nightly News Anchor, Amanda Post, won first place in the Charities Ball Erie Celebrity Dance Contest with accomplished dancer, Jerry Stefanic. Bottom: Jessie Kunz, experienced dancer, dazzled a crowd of 450 with music instructor and bagpiper, Danny Geary, who won first place for male celebrity.





Bags of food are assembled for several blind residents at the Prince of Peace Center (POPC) food pantry tended by HOPE Advocacy Case Manager, Lisa Huffman.



The Easter Bunny gathers children with the help from Kennedy Catholic students for the annual POPC Easter Egg hunt!



Tony Kirby, daughter Alaysia, and wife, Brandi, enjoy the annual Family Supportive Services cookout.



Faces of Catholic Charities: Joe Flecher

Joe Flecher is the Executive Director of Prince of Peace Center in Farrell, PA, a position he has held for 7 years. He manages a staff of 19 much like the programs he is responsible for...he empowers them. "I believe that the more input you have in your job, the more ownership you take," says Joe. "I do not micro-manage. I let my staff know what needs to be done, I tell them I am here to help if needed, and I get out of the way." A big part of Joe's job is teaching, encouraging and coaching from the sidelines. He empowers his staff to make a difference in the way they do their job.

The services provided through the Prince of Peace Center are designed to teach life-skills and allow people to grow and improve their lives. They do not rely on the system to simply hand them what they need. Several programs incorporate this philosophy including the AWESOME Program, Project RUTH, and HOPE Advocacy. "I am proud to be affiliated with these programs," says Joe. "They move people toward greater independence."

The AWESOME Program offers life-skills training courses in exchange for a \$125 stipend to assist with bill payments. The mentality changes from "expecting a handout" to "expecting to learn how to help myself". Project RUTH provides homeless families with permanent housing. And HOPE Advocacy is a program that increases family stability and sufficiency through long-term support. It targets the people who lack solid parenting influences in their life.

All of the programs at Prince of Peace fall under the leadership of Joe Flecher, and he takes his responsibilities very seriously. "Prince of Peace is aligned with the mandated commitment of our Catholic faith: when you see someone in need, you do something about it!"

Another "Faces of Catholic Charities" will be published in the Summer 2010 Newsletter.

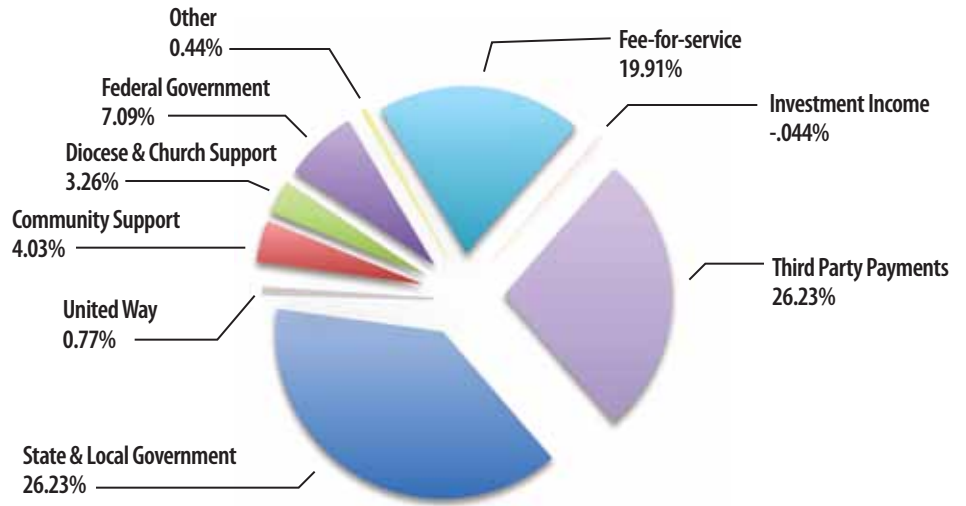
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SOME OF THE BEST OF WHAT HAPPENED IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN THE YEAR 2009

- 24,824 unduplicated persons were nourished through Catholic Charities soup kitchens, pantries, dining programs and food banks.
- Renovations at St. Elizabeth Center provided new space for Catholic Charities Counseling Agency's Project WIN (Women in Need) Program.
- A 7 week "Summer of Sanctuary" was devoted to staff and residents' experience of the new trauma informed care model at Harborcreek Youth Services.
- 85 mental health professionals participated in a conference "Assessing Spirituality as a Dimension of Mental Health Recovery" sponsored by the Office of Disabilities.
- 1,173 adults and babies received pregnancy related services from Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services.
- 175 refugees were resettled into a welcoming community.
- 7 previously homeless families secured permanent housing through Project RUTH at Prince of Peace Center.
- The new Msgr. John Mignot Rehabilitation Clinic and Short-Term Rehabilitation Unit opened at Christ the King Manor.
- Over 14,000 persons received clothing assistance.
- The innovative Culinary Lab was established in the renovated kitchen of St. Martin Center.
- The AIDS support group continued to meet at St. Mark Center.
- Harborcreek Youth Services expanded Multi-Systemic services to 36 families in their homes.
- More than 1800 children received gifts at Christmas.
- 170 couples were honored at Wedding Anniversary Celebrations hosted by St. Luke Parish, Erie and St. Leo Parish, Ridgway.
- 30 children attended a RAINBOWS Program at St. Mark Center for children who are healing after the divorce of their parents.
- Two new counselors and a lead-based paint assistant were added to make a total of eleven staff in the Housing Department at St. Martin Center.
- Over 6,600 unduplicated persons received some form of financial assistance, excluding rent or mortgage money.
- The Rural Sisters began a second Ministry of Mothers Sharing Program (MOMS) in the Oil City Deanery.
- School supplies aided underprivileged children.
- John XXIII Home provided 66,000 days of care services and housing for the infirmed, chronically ill and aging of the Shenango Valley.
- 338 volunteers offered more than 6,050 hours of service to their neighbors at Prince of Peace Center.
- A grief and healing program was held for 60 persons who experienced the loss of their marriage through divorce, separation or death.
- A Cancer Support Group began at St. Mark Center, facilitated by Fr. Tom Aleksa.
- 142 boys received care and guidance in the residential program at Harborcreek Youth Services.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

REVENUE 2009



EXPENSES 2009



Compilation of financial activity of Affiliate Agencies and programs as submitted to Catholic Charities USA.

COMMUNITY Impact

Unduplicated Clients

Children/ Adolescents (Under 18)	Adults (18 to 64)	Seniors (65+)	Total
23,567	29,471	8,954	61,934

SERVICES

Service	Children/ Adolescents (Under 18)	Adults (18 to 64)	Seniors (65+)	Total
Counseling & MH Services	271	818	20	1,109
Addiction Services	11	195	2	208
Pregnancy Services	60	1,113	0	1,173
Adoption Services	195	110	0	305
Refugees Services	359	470	67	896
Education & Enrichment Services	164	1,913	517	2,594
Socialization & Neighborhood Services	835	1,390	1,558	3,783
Social Support Services	3,351	8,369	4,944	16,664
Health-Related Services	430	290	876	1,596
Services to At-Risk Populations	372	250	0	622
Soup Kitchens	150	250	65	465
Congregate Dining	225	633	853	1,711
Food Banks/Pantries	9,105	9,771	1,814	20,690
Other Food Services	75	1,823	60	1,958
Housing Services	2,100	1,331	209	3,640
Foster Care Services	6	9	0	15
Group Home Care	18	0	0	18
Residential Care	119	25	118	262
Temporary Shelter Services	0	115	0	115
Transitional Housing Services	24	16	0	40
Permanent Housing Services	105	54	8	167
Prescription Assistance	10	19	127	156
Clothing Assistance	6,753	6,789	743	14,285
Financial (non rent, mortgage, etc.)	1,860	1,007	303	3,170
Utilities Assistance	1,607	1,494	428	3,529
Other Basic Needs	1,148	1,377	286	2,811

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

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Toll Free: 800.374.3723
www.eriecnd.org or www.erieRCD.org/charities.asp

Inside this Report:
Speaking to Reality
POVERTY

YOUR DIOCESAN LEADER IN HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL AND PASTORAL MINISTRIES

Planning for Your Legacy Today

What do Frank Viola, Captain Clare Baldauf, Mary Ellen Erhart, Ray Flesher, Dr. Frank Episcopo, and Walter Trawka have in common? They provided for Catholic Charities in their wills and estate plans. And for that we are eternally grateful. Their planning via wills, life insurance, annuities, etc. was simply a continuation of the help they provided throughout their lives to the people that Catholic Charities serves 365 days a year.

Bequests can be a stated dollar amount in your will or you can bequeath a certain percentage. Another type of bequest gives great peace of mind after all your loved ones have been provided for through the "residue," the amount that remains after paying all inheritances, costs, etc. Or, if you already have a will, consider a simple codicil (amendment) and include Catholic Charities or Catholic Charities Endowment at The Catholic Foundation in this amendment. The address is 429 E. Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA 16504. To discuss these ideas and more, contact Dr. Emma Lee McCloskey, at 814.824.1236.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

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MISSION STATEMENT

As Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, we are witnesses and servants of Jesus Christ. We provide health care, social and pastoral services that educate, affirm and support individuals and families to their fullest human potential. We advocate on behalf of those who are limited in power, voice and access. Catholic Charities agencies, institutions and programs are committed to the sacredness of human life and the betterment of society.