

# Sharing the Good + News



## *The Year in Review*

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT — The Heroes Edition**

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, Inc.

[CCIncErie.org](http://CCIncErie.org)





On March 11, 2021

we recalled the naming of COVID-19 as a worldwide pandemic one year ago. I took some time to pause and reflect on life in our diocese during this time. I thought about suspension of Masses, changes in nursing homes and hospitals, and even funerals, as well as a massive adaptation in the way education was delivered. We donned masks, bought hand sanitizer and cleaned our living and workspaces with gusto. Gradually, we saw each other less, began working remotely and watched as businesses shuttered. Suddenly a 'front-line' worker was anyone who interacted with the public and our understanding of hero became redefined. We were grateful for people who delivered our groceries or cut our hair. Yet amid the changes and adjustments, life did go on. While heroes appeared around us, so were growing numbers of people in need like visitors to our food pantries and soup kitchens and those requesting emergency assistance for utilities, rent and gasoline — things we often take for granted. Neighbors who prided themselves on their own self-reliance suddenly found themselves calling a Catholic Charities agency for help. Soon after the world came to a halt, we recognized our expanding mission: to assist those specifically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. And thanks to our donors, we did.

Despite the ongoing need for social and physical distancing, we remain committed to providing help whenever and wherever needed. Your support enabled us to distribute over \$169,000 in assistance in 2020, with special thanks to those who helped us to create the COVID-19 emergency relief fund. To date, your contributions — whether a direct donation or a transferred sponsorship from the canceled Club CC Night fundraiser — enabled us to provide additional COVID-19 funding to agencies, parishes, food pantries, our Mexican mission and even some of our Catholic schools that were in need of PPE, financial support or other emergency assistance.

“when you...help a neighbor in need, you become a HERO.”

and confidence in the future of our work. Simply put: when you give what you can to help a neighbor in need, you become a HERO. On behalf of every person who has benefitted from your generosity — thank you.

2020 — what a year it was — but the clarity with which we can see all that has been accomplished gives me great hope



Ann M. Badach  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES AGENCIES IN THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING AND ADOPTION SERVICES** has eight offices throughout the diocese that provide a range of services including counseling, adoption, refugee resettlement, pregnancy counseling (Real Alternatives) and emergency assistance. Erie **1**

**Satellite Offices:**

<b>A</b> Bradford	<b>D</b> Greenville	<b>F</b> St. Marys
<b>B</b> Clearfield	<b>E</b> Grove City	<b>G</b> Sharon
<b>C</b> DuBois		

**CHRIST THE KING MANOR** is a continuing care retirement community offering skilled nursing care, older adult daily living services, independent living, dementia care, short-term rehabilitation and home support services that give seniors the support they need. DuBois **2**

**GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER** provides short-term shelter for men who are homeless and offers emergency services to neighbors in the community. Clearfield **3**

**HARBORCREEK YOUTH SERVICES** is a nationally recognized trauma-informed therapeutic treatment facility offering high-quality, diverse programs using sanctuary

principles to help youth and families overcome adversity. HYS has been supporting kids, their families and the community since 1911. Harborcreek **4**

**PRINCE OF PEACE CENTER** is a social service agency that provides emergency services, family supportive services, a soup kitchen and food program, thrift store and PA work-wear program to meet the needs of individuals and families in the Shenango Valley community. Farrell **5**

**SAINT JOHN XXIII HOME** is a senior living community that provides skilled nursing care, personal care, respite and hospice care, secured dementia care and independent living for the seniors of the Shenango Valley. Hermitage **6**

**ST. ELIZABETH CENTER** is a food pantry and thrift store that serves people in need in the Venango county region. Oil City **7**

**ST. MARTIN CENTER** focuses on strengthening lives and supporting the Erie community by providing early learning programs, emergency services and short- and long-term services that help families in need reach self-sufficiency. Erie **1**

# What is Catholic Charities, Inc.?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable organization whose purpose and mission support the work of diocesan affiliates and agencies through

responsive granting and emergency funding in order to address the health, social and pastoral needs of all people across 13 counties in northwestern Pennsylvania.

# What does Catholic Charities, Inc. do?

For three decades, Catholic Charities, Inc. has provided support and resources for the agencies that belong to the network of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie. Our work is two-fold. Catholic Charities, Inc. subsidizes agencies' work within the Diocese of Erie through regular granting cycles and emergency grants. Catholic Charities, Inc. also works to create a bridge between the network of agencies that belong to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie and our local region through community outreach and engagement, charitable giving, and relationship building.

Our shared experience of COVID-19 has presented our global, national and local communities with real and complex challenges. The global pandemic has disproportionately affected the most vulnerable among us and has caused unprecedented need worldwide and in our local community. In response, Catholic Charities,

Inc. established a COVID-19 emergency relief fund. Thanks to our community's overwhelming generosity, Catholic Charities, Inc. was able to extend resources to parishes and other organizations that work to support those most affected by the pandemic.

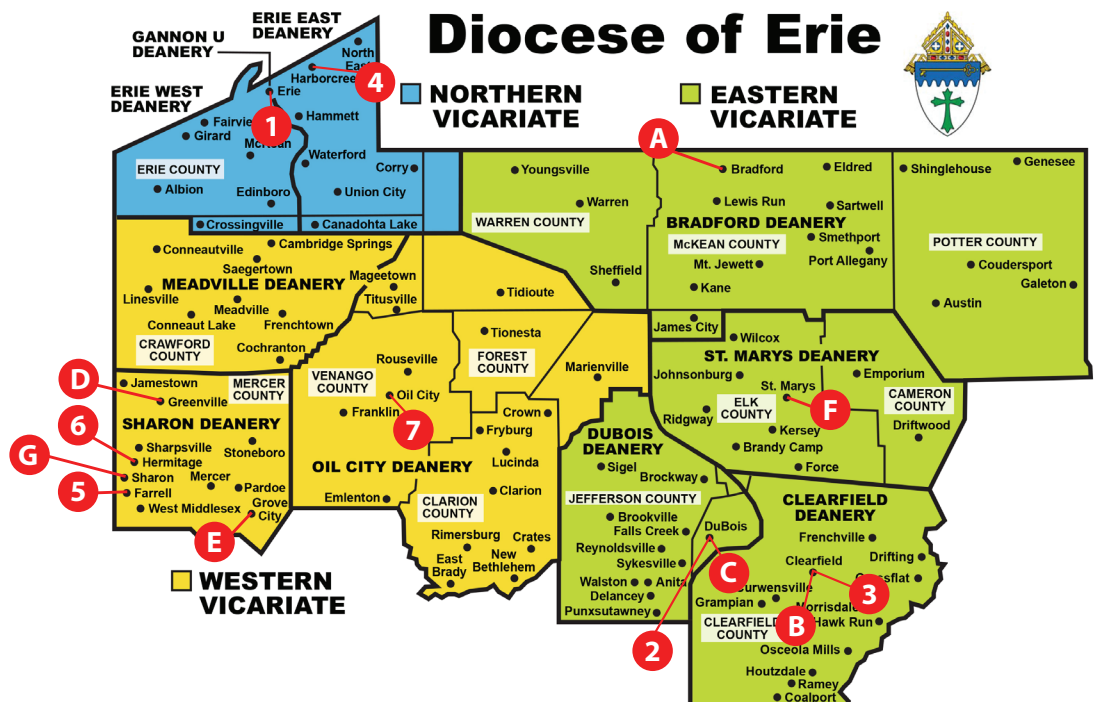
While the pandemic has confronted us with vulnerability and needs that were unthinkable beforehand, it also has revealed the power of solidarity, empathy and care for one's neighbor.

*"the power of solidarity..."*

As we move forward with our work of providing support and resources and building bridges, the board of Catholic Charities, Inc. does so with a renewed commitment and energy to provide for those among us who are in need.

**ERIC DART/Board Chair**

*Where are the agencies that Catholic Charities, Inc. assists?*



# *The impact of our agencies during a pandemic*

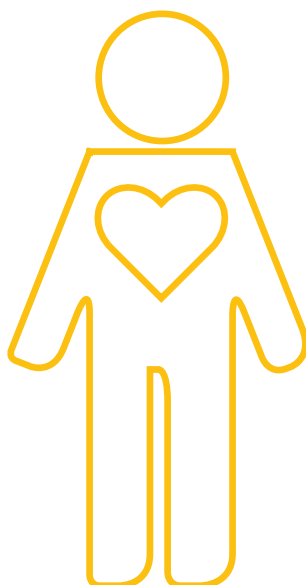
## 2020 was a year like no other...

**AND OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS PROVE THAT!**

**11,951 more services** provided in 2020 as compared to 2019 — a 38% increase...

**8,520 more unduplicated persons** were served in 2020 as compared to 2019 — a 47% increase...

**750 employees and 396 volunteers** provided a total of 43,062 services to a total of 17,999 unduplicated individuals at nine Catholic Charities agencies in 2020...



**And we did it all with the same number of employees (750) but many fewer volunteers — 396 as compared to 660 — because of COVID-19.**

**We provided many of same services our community has come to depend on:**

- 286 people were housed/received housing services
- 1,209 received pregnancy counseling
- 1,386 received case management services
- 385 persons with a disability were helped
- 1,944 received counseling or health related service



**But in certain areas of need, demand was higher in 2020:**

- 4,295 (2,801) children and adolescents served — a 53% increase as compared to 2019
- 20,471 (13,314) hungry people were fed — a 54% increase as compared to 2019
- 3,075 (1,772) received clothing or furniture assistance — a 74% increase from 2019
- 7,860 (2,982) received emergency assistance — a 164% increase from 2019

In a year like no other, Catholic Charities helped its agencies be heroes in the lives of people in need. Here are some ways they sprang into action!

**St. Elizabeth Center assisted a 35-year-old single mom.**

They helped her and her six children receive monthly food distributions and also obtained school clothes and Christmas gifts for the children through the Jesse Tree program at the parish.

**Prince of Peace Center helped a single mother who had to stay home from work when children transitioned to virtual learning.**

With a past due electric bill, her electric was shut off. Prince of Peace Center helped pay towards her past bill to get service reinstated for this family facing challenges.



**Christ the King Manor began a FaceTime program**

for family members to engage with loved ones throughout the pandemic. Chat boxes were constructed for outside visits and window/foyer visits.

**A single dad received assistance from CCCAS** that enabled him to provide beds for his children.

**A single father sought help from St. Martin Center after losing his job in March 2020.**

With delays in receiving unemployment assistance, he reached out to request utility assistance. Thanks to the generosity of Catholic Charities, he and his three young children received help they so desperately needed.



## *The impact of Catholic Charities, Inc. grants to our affiliated agencies*

In 2020, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, Inc. provided \$169,866 in grant funds to support the work of the church in northwestern PA. In a normal year, Catholic Charities makes grants to its network of affiliated agencies. During the pandemic year, Catholic Charities responded to the increased needs brought on by the pandemic to support special projects in the region, and to help local parishes and Catholic Schools respond to various emergency needs. The grants were distributed to the organizations or institutions listed below for the following purposes:

9

**A total of nine emergency assistance grants** were made to support a walk-in freezer replacement, food for a thanksgiving dinner program and to support clients needing help with rent and utilities.



19

**Nineteen COVID-19 emergency relief grants** were made to nine different parishes and 12 parish-based schools to purchase masks, support parish food pantries and assist parishioners with food and hygiene products.



37

**Thirty-seven COVID-19 emergency relief grants** were made to charities in northwest PA to support individual clients with rent and utility needs, or the agency itself for additional storage due to increased food pantry needs, additional technology needs to maintain client connections and deep cleaning of agency facilities following COVID diagnosis onsite.



## *Some examples of how grants were used*

**St. Martin Center** in Erie received a grant for needed technology upgrades and to replace flooring in its Early Learning Center multipurpose room. “The new flooring ensures a safe, healthy space for learning activities for the children of our center. We are able to further our mission of providing education to those in need by utilizing this space for a variety of educational programs. SMC is very appreciative of this type of grant funding,” says Stacy Hellmann, Chief Operating Officer at St. Martin Center.

“The grant funding for technology upgrades allows our agency to reach more clients and provide further assistance that might otherwise not be available,” says David González, chief executive officer at St. Martin Center.

**Prince of Peace Center** in Farrell received grant funding towards maintenance expenses and for installation of an updated VOIP communications system. “Our visitors appreciate entering a safe and pleasing environment in which to receive services or learn about or partner in our mission. We strive to provide such a facility for all our guests, regardless of the reason for their visit,” says Jennifer Wallace, chief executive officer at Prince of Peace Center.

**Harborcreek Youth Services** in Harborcreek received a grant for staff training and safety equipment and for professional cleaning and sanitation services. “This grant allowed us to keep caring for some of the most vulnerable children — kids who have experienced complex trauma and need a high level of behavioral care. Despite the pandemic, we continue our day-to-day operations, and this grant helped ensure the health and safety of the kids and staff we serve,” says John Petulla, chief executive officer.

**Catholic Charities** is able to grant funds due to the generosity of others and socially responsible investments.





## Our donor heroes in 2020

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who supported Catholic Charities, Inc. with a gift in 2020. You helped us to help a neighbor in need, which makes you our HERO.

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***"We have always marveled at the good works of Catholic Charities. With minimal overhead they have delivered a myriad of services throughout northwestern Pennsylvania in a caring Christian way. Coming from a devout Catholic family, two uncles that were Benedictine priests, very devout parents, a brother who is a retired Monsignor and a professional career serving families at one of their most difficult times, we are honored to be able to support Erie charities, especially Erie Catholic Charities."***

**Carl and Marlene Brugger**



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*"We are very happy to support Catholic Charities and all the good work that they do. We have been abundantly blessed and **feel that we are called to share our blessings with others** and what better way to do it then by supporting the Erie Catholic Diocese and their work. It is an honor to partner with Catholic Charities and the work of the Erie Catholic Diocese."*

**Warren and Christine Beaver**

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*(Continued on next page)*

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Mrs. Kathleen Young  
Mrs. Christine K. Hess

*"Catholic Charities for me has always provided services for people throughout every stage of life, from womb to tomb. **They've always been there to help parish priests in their ministry** and I've always known I could go to them for help. Catholic Charities starts programs when there is a need for infants, kids, adults, the whole spectrum of life. This is why I support Catholic Charities."*

Reverend James Gutting



# *Ways to support the important work of Catholic Charities*

Catholic Charities' community giving model means that we pull resources together and leverage every donation to stretch farther and help more people. **Here are many ways you can partner with us to bring faith, hope and charity to life:**

## **Make a direct gift**

Our agencies are at the front lines in service to neighbors most in need. You can support this critical work with a gift to Catholic Charities. Visit **CCIncErie.org** to make an online gift or send your support to:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, Inc.  
429 East Grandview Blvd.  
Erie, PA 16504.

## **Start or give to an endowment**

An endowment gift to Catholic Charities is a permanent legacy of faith. You may establish and name an endowment for a minimum of \$10,000 or give to an already existing Catholic Charities endowment. **Current Catholic Charities' endowments held at the Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania include:**

### **Catholic Charities Legacy Endowment**

Supports the operational needs of affiliates and agencies within the Catholic Charities network with focus on specific staff and programs that provide direct services to the poor or persons in need.

### **Captain Clare Baldauf Endowment for Catholic Charities Emerging Needs**

Supports emerging and unmet needs.

### **Robert and Pauline Osmer Endowment**

Supports Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie's greatest needs.

### **Toohey Family Endowment**

Supports the corporal works of mercy of the Diocese of Erie through its Catholic Charities.

### **Robert M. Gallivan Charitable Endowment**

Supports outreach services to the poor through Catholic Charities.

### **Thomas J. and Mary H. Loftus Charitable Endowment**

Supports agencies in the Catholic Charities network within the Diocese of Erie that serve the indigent.

## **Support your favorite Catholic Charities ministry through #iGiveCatholic.**

The #iGiveCatholic giving day brings the entire northwestern PA community together to support the local ministries that serve our brothers and sisters in need. Save the date for this year's #iGiveCatholic giving day on November 30, 2021.



**I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people.**

**Maya Angelou**

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## MISSION STATEMENT

As Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, we are witnesses and servants of Jesus Christ. Consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church, we provide health care, social and pastoral services for those in need, regardless of faith. Catholic Charities is committed to the sacredness of human life and the betterment of society.

# SERVING PEOPLE OF **ALL FAITHS**

*Save the date for our special anniversary celebration!*



***Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, Inc. to mark anniversary by hosting  
Catholic Charities Helping Hands Gala  
Saturday, October 9th***

Join us in person in the Yehl Ballroom at Gannon University or virtually by Zoom. More details to follow.

For more information, to become a sponsor or to donate, please contact Tina Espin at:  
814/824.1260 or at [tespin@CCIncErie.org](mailto:tespin@CCIncErie.org) or visit [CCIncErie.org](http://CCIncErie.org).