

Sharing the Good News

Fall 2020

A Note From Ann

Of course, COVID-19 remains at the epicenter of everything, since everything we understood as normal changed in March. And here we are, eight months later, still waiting for the light at the end of the tunnel. But despite the fear and uncertainty, there have risen real examples of silver linings during this pandemic, and a few really stand out for me.

For example, the family who told me about finding themselves working at home, sharing space with their toddler children 24/7: Who would've guessed that they would now enjoy three family meals a day *and* coffee-break-turned-dance-parties with their kids? Or what about the website dedicated to the beautiful pop-

up gardens planted in our neighborhoods listing dates and times to tour them for free? Beautiful weather has really graced our diocese, making dining outdoors a real treat. Folks are walking more, too, and chatting with neighbors. Pets in shelters have found new homes with families eager to share their affection when feelings of isolation set in. No matter where you look, people are finding reasons to smile and hope.

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I like to think that this sense of making lemonade out of lemons is instinctive in every person of faith. After all, we are a resurrection people, right? The stories you will read in this newsletter give evidence of hope offered by our agencies, too. Even as businesses were closing, our soup kitchens and food pantries were in full-swing. People donned masks and stood six feet apart, but we've stayed connected with the neighbors we serve, no matter what.

I INVITE YOU TO LOOK FOR THE...



I invite you to look for the silver linings while we await the end of this pandemic; or offer an act of kindness and *be* the silver lining for someone else. As Pope Francis has said, "Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you!" How true.

Be well,



Ann M. Badach
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A focus on COVID-19 can't stop...

Service

Catholic Charities agencies provide help and create hope throughout the year. But during this year when COVID-19 hit, our agencies have risen to the challenge of leaving no need unmet. As front-line workers, they continue to provide services regardless of religious, social or economic backgrounds.

Pre-pandemic, **St. Martin Center** provided an average of 374 monthly food distributions to families in need. This number nearly tripled in March 2020. And in April, May and June of this year, it remained 22 percent higher than pre-pandemic numbers with an average of 457 monthly distributions.



Prince of Peace Center in Mercer County saw a 20 percent increase in soup kitchen meals this year as compared to last year. The weekly food distributions saw an initial 27 percent spike in March. Needs are expected to grow again as the pandemic continues to hit communities hard.

Our agencies are also seeing a decrease in the self-generated revenue they count on in order to provide their essential services. **St. Elizabeth Center's** thrift store had to close for several months during the worst of the COVID-19 outbreak. As a result, thrift store revenue is down about \$4,000 from what was expected. The ongoing need for food assistance in the Oil City region is expected

to persist as the economic impact of the pandemic continues to spread.

Christ the King Manor in DuBois, and **Saint John XXIII Home** in Hermitage, each have done an extraordinary job in keeping their residents and staff safe and healthy despite unimaginable odds of contracting COVID-19. Additionally, they continue to find creative ways for residents to experience community through activities and visits within their facilities. At the same time, they are helping residents stay connected to family members through technology

and innovative outdoor booth visits. Staff have gone the extra mile in ensuring the health and safety of all.



These examples highlight just a few of our Catholic Charities agencies, all of which have continued to serve people in need throughout this difficult time. COVID-19 may

have stopped a lot of things in 2020, but our dedication and assistance to people in need has continued, and will continue, for as long as there is need.

Generosity

If you are one of the hundreds of individuals who usually attend the Catholic Charities' annual Club CC Night fundraiser, you know that it had to be cancelled in order to protect the safety and well-being of our community. During this time, Catholic Charities had to rethink how that critical financial support could still be raised.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic Charities launched a community relief fund in the spring of 2020. This was done in collaboration with the Diocese of Erie to support specific emergency outreach efforts through agencies, diocesan ministries and parishes. The goal was to offer support broadly and promote Catholic giving for immediate needs.

With donations to the Emergency Relief Fund, and the generous Club CC sponsors who agreed to redirect their sponsorships to COVID relief efforts, \$67,326 has been granted to 21 parishes for their outreach efforts, eight Catholic Charities agencies and three other ministries in our region with emergency needs.

We are grateful to all who have supported our efforts to help those in need. The following areas benefited greatly from this effort: Clarion, Clearfield, DuBois, Erie, Farrell, Grampian, Greenville, Harborcreek, Hermitage, Kersey, Linesville, Lucinda, Meadville, North East, Oil City, Punxsutawney, Reynoldsville and Warren.

thank you

A special thank you to PNC for a \$15,000 grant awarded in April to support Catholic Charities' needs for operations, emergency funding and programming related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This support is in addition to donating their Diamond-level sponsorship for the cancelled Club CC Night fundraiser.



A focus on **Club CC Night sponsors**

*We express our gratitude to those **Club-CC Night 2020 sponsors**
who redirected their sponsorships
to meet the immediate needs of COVID-19 relief efforts.*

Platinum Sponsors

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and
Allegheny Health Network

Diamond Sponsor

PNC Bank

Gold Sponsors

HUB International
Quinn Law Firm

Silver Sponsors

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Erie Bank
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National Fuel Gas Company
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Saint Mary's Home of Erie
The Reason For Our Hope Foundation

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A focus on Giving

Will you help us help them?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, Inc. recently mailed a fall appeal letter. Because we couldn't gather in person for our annual Club CC Night fundraising event this year, we currently have a \$40,000 shortfall in funding to support people in need. During this extraordinary year, and likely far into the future, increased demand for services will continue.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO THIS APPEAL.

Every dollar we receive helps us to feed those who hunger, serve at-risk children and youth, and house people in need. Your generosity allows us to provide grants to our Catholic Charities network of agencies who respond to emergency requests throughout the diocese. If you have not yet made a gift, your support is more necessary now than ever. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER.

On behalf of all those who depend upon Catholic Charities in their time of need, thank you.

donations

To donate online, visit: www.ErieRCD.org/Charities

Alternatively, checks may be made payable to:

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE IS
*Funding direct and emergency relief
when people need it most.*

*Will you say yes
with a gift to
Catholic Charities?*

DONATE TODAY AT

www.ErieRCD.org/Charities

PROTECT EACH OTHER

2020 saw the widespread use of masks in public places. Catholic Charities did its part to stop the spread of COVID-19 by purchasing and donating over 5,000 masks to the Catholic Charities agencies and the Diocese of Erie's eight different parish-based schools.

"The mask donation from Catholic Charities demonstrates a true collaboration across departments and shows how we are really all in this together. Thank you Catholic Charities for your generous gift."

Jim Gallagher
SUPERINTENDENT OF
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A legacy of generosity for those in need

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, Inc. is pleased to announce the Catholic Charities Legacy Endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to fund the operational needs of the agencies in the Catholic Charities network, including support of programs that provide direct services to people in need.

This endowment, newly established with The Catholic Foundation of Northwest PA, is being seeded by the generous bequests of Mark Kulyk and Msgr. William Biebel, two longtime supporters of the good works of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Erie.



Mark is described in the words of his wife Joyce as a generous, caring person who was dedicated to his faith. Mark's passion for helping people in need led him to volunteer at the local Catholic Charities agency when he and Joyce lived in Virginia, and then he continued this commitment to Catholic Charities in Erie soon after

they moved to the region in 1984. Joyce is thrilled that Catholic Charities has used Mark's bequest to seed this new legacy endowment. She says, "Mark would be pleased, too. This is how he can stay involved in the work he was so passionate about."



Msgr. William Biebel also had a long history of working with Catholic Charities, and part of his final wishes was to include a gift to Catholic Charities in his estate plans. His entire lifetime was spent in service to the Diocese of Erie, and according to Msgr. Biebel's friend and executor of his estate, Michael Gaines, he was known to have "great concern for people. He wanted



them to be helped." Msgr. Biebel wouldn't hesitate to refer someone in need to a Catholic Charities agency while he was alive, and in his final act of generosity, he made a bequest in order to continue the good works of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities has decided to use these two legacy gifts not only to honor the generosity of Mark Kulyk and Msgr. Biebel, but also to ensure that their gifts last into the future and continue the work to which they were so committed. By establishing the Catholic Charities Legacy Endowment, Catholic Charities ensures that their gifts give forever.

Ann Badach, executive director of Catholic Charities, says of the endowment "the board of Catholic Charities believes that every act of Christian charity creates a ripple effect — many are helped from every gift. We hope that the establishment of this legacy endowment may inspire others to honor their own loved ones and enlarge the ripple effect created by this gift to help others in need."

To learn more about making a planned gift to support this endowment, contact Lisa Louis at (814) 824-1237 or llouis@cfnwpa.org.



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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

Agencies and Services:

Good Samaritan Center

Shelter for Temporarily Homeless Men;
Community Referrals

St. Martin Center

Emergency Assistance; Early Learning Center;
Budget Counseling; Housing Counseling

Prince of Peace Center

Soup Kitchen; Budget Counseling;
Thrift Store; Food Distribution;
Home Case Management & Life Skills

St. Elizabeth Center

Food Pantry; Thrift Store, Referral Services

Counseling & Adoption Services

Professional Counseling; Pregnancy Counseling;
Addictions Counseling; Adoption Services

Christ the King Manor

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

Saint John XXIII Home

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

Harborcreek Youth Services

Campus-Based Residential Facilities;
Private Education; Drug and Alcohol Counseling;
Multi-systemic Therapy and Therapeutic Foster
Care; Campus Ministry

PASTORAL SERVICES

Social Justice and Life:

Justice & Peace; Respect Life Advocacy

Mission: Mission of Friendship;

Propagation of the Faith; Mission Education;
Holy Childhood Association



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#GIVINGTUESDAY

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SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE CATHOLIC CHARITIES MINISTRY ON

DECEMBER 1, 2020

THE #iGIVECATHOLIC DAY OF GIVING, OR AT ANYTIME
DURING THE ADVANCED GIVING PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 16 - 30

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*Let's help provide them
with the mission-critical
support they need during
this challenging time!*

Your gift could help your ministry
win a **CASH PRIZE!**



#iGiveCatholic is being facilitated for ministries in the Diocese of Erie by the Catholic
Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania