

Sharing the Good+News

Fall 2018

Helping the Neediest, at the Time of their Most Urgent Need



Proceeds from the recent Club CC Night fundraising event, as well as outright donations throughout the year, enable Catholic Charities, Inc. to award grants to affiliate agencies like Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services (CCCAS). Dale DeMarco, Chair of the Catholic Charities board of directors; Joe Haas, Chief Executive Officer of CCCAS; and Ann Badach, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Inc. celebrate a recent grant that provides emergency assistance to CCCAS clients.

Faithful to Christ's mission of love, Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services (CCCAS) serves communities throughout the Catholic Diocese of Erie. A ten thousand square mile area makes the Diocese of Erie the largest in the state of Pennsylvania. And throughout most of this territory, CCCAS is there to help.

Their mission is to provide professional counseling and adoption services and other programs that educate, affirm and support individuals of all faiths to achieve their fullest human potential.

Real Alternatives is one way they do that. This important program offers training, support, child care, education and tangible items to expectant mothers who may be scared and unsure of their ability to raise a child. These free pregnancy support services empower women to choose childbirth instead of abortion.

Counseling is another way that CCCAS helps thousands of individuals throughout the diocese. With eleven office

— CONTINUED —

DID YOU KNOW?

Thus far in 2018, Catholic Charities has granted **\$183,232.41** to Catholic Charities affiliates and Catholic Charities diocesan ministries. These funds, made possible through the annual Catholic Charities fundraising event, as well as donations from generous donors, help people most in need throughout the Diocese of Erie.

Leaf through for more:

- >>> Photos from our Club CC Night
- >>> Students work and sacrifice for donations to Catholic Charities

Agencies and Services:

Good Samaritan Center
Shelter for Temporarily Homeless Men;
Food Referrals; Thrift Store

St. Martin Center
Emergency Assistance; Early Learning Center; Financial 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; Problem Gambling Counseling; Anger Management Groups; Sexual Abstinence Program; Adoption Services; Refugee Resettlement

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; Assessment/Diagnostic Services; Private Education; Drug and Alcohol Counseling; Community Service; Work Experience; Multi-systemic Therapy and Therapeutic Foster Care; Campus Ministry

PASTORAL SERVICES

Family Life: Pre-Cana; Engagement Encounter; NOVA; Worldwide Marriage Encounter; "Families Always Matter"; Family Perspectives; Transitions; Divorce Ministry

Disabilities: Deaf Ministry; Parish Advocacy; Spiritual Enrichment; Victorious Missionaries; J.O.Y. Ministries

Social Justice and Life:
Justice & Peace Respect Life Advocacy

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

Focus on... Young Donors

Inspiration Rocks!

Catholic Charities recognizes and appreciates the creativity of the 5th grade religious education class at St. John the Evangelist Church in Girard. Earlier this year they painted inspirational words on stones and sold them after Masses.

Funds raised were given to Catholic Charities to help victims of natural disasters along with a note that said, "May God bless you and the victims that you are helping."

Ann Badach says, "I am moved to see how good and generous you are to take such positive action to make a difference in the lives of those who face many hardships from flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters. It is through your generosity and continued prayer that they feel hope."



Catholic Charities offices throughout the United States are committed to helping individuals and families who are victims of natural disasters. One hundred percent of donations collected locally for natural disasters that occur in the United States is sent directly to Catholic Charities USA, who work directly with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in disseminating the funds.

The Gift of Sacrifice

Students at St. Jude School, Erie, completed a special Lenten project of alms giving, prayer and sacrifice this year.

Second and sixth graders embraced the true spirit of Lent with a project to benefit Catholic Charities. Students gave up their free recess time to make Sacrifice Beads and then sold them during Ice Cream Days. Students were asked to forgo their ice cream treats and purchase a Sacrifice Bead instead.

Hundreds of the prayer beads were sold to support the good works of Catholic Charities to people most in need throughout our diocese.

The generosity of students and families was overwhelming and \$656.61 was raised for Catholic Charities.

Thank you, St. Jude students!



Focus on... Helping the Neediest

— CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE —

locations, therapists provide individual, family or couple counseling and, unique to the Erie office, addictions counseling.

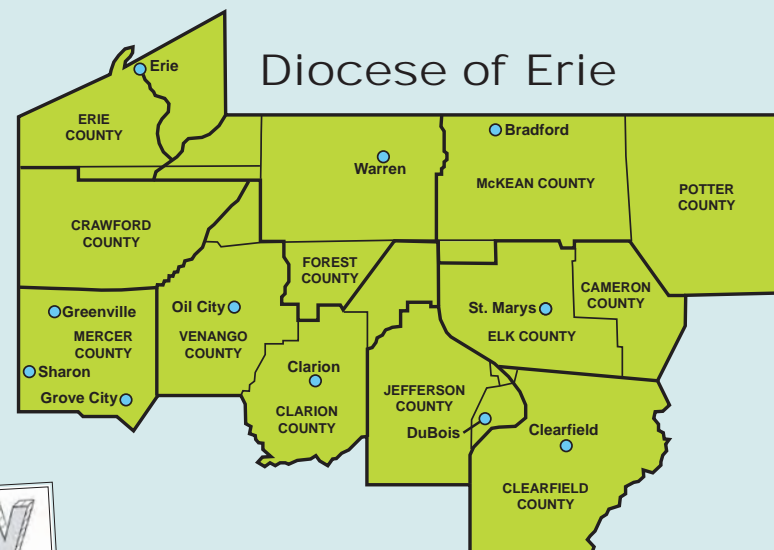
A sliding scale is offered for individuals without insurance, or whose insurance deductibles are too high. In fact, no one at CCCAS has ever been turned away from counseling services because of an inability to pay. That is the hallmark of 'charity' in their name.

But as director Joe Haas explains, CCCAS offices do more than counseling and adoption services.

"Emergency assistance is a way for us to extend the reach of Catholic Charities," Joe explains. An answering service fields emergency calls that come in overnight while regular staff handle calls that come during the day. Imagine an individual fleeing from an abusive spouse in the middle of the night or a family who needs help just to be able to purchase beds for their children.

Joe says, "We are here for people in need. If we don't have the service, we refer them to get the help they need." In responding to why CCCAS provides all these services, Joe says, "It goes to the mission of the Church. We help the neediest, at the time of their most urgent need."

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING AND ADOPTION SERVICES IS HERE TO HELP YOU OR A LOVED ONE regardless of where you live within the boundaries of the Erie Roman Catholic Diocese. Eleven office locations provide ample opportunity to access an array of services available to people regardless of their religious affiliation. If you, or someone you know, is looking for help or guidance, contact the CCCAS office nearest to you. Visit their website at www.cccas.org.



CCCAS CAN HELP PEOPLE IN THEIR TIME OF CRISIS because of the financial support provided from Catholic Charities, Inc. Proceeds from the annual Catholic Charities fundraising event, as well as outright donations throughout the year, enables Catholic Charities to award grants to affiliate agencies like CCCAS. CCCAS has used these important funds to provide emergency housing, rent and utility assistance, appliances and bedding, food, baby items and even photo IDs.

To support the work of the counseling agency or any other agency within the Catholic Charities network, visit www.ErieRCD.org/charities.

Thank you for your support of our annual fundraising event!

2018 Helping Hands Awardees:
Ann and Charlie
Rutkowski



Host Chaircouple, Meg and John Britton
with Bishop Lawrence Persico



CLUB CC
NIGHT

The Rutkowskis with Catholic Charities Executive
Director, Ann Badach, and Bishop Persico



Ann Rutkowski warmly
welcomes the guests.



Guests are eagerly waiting for check-in at Club CC Night!



The Catholic Charities staff is all smiles!



The Catholic Charities Board of Directors



Guests are settling in and enjoying the relaxing lounge area.



Guests enjoy a delicious tableside dinner.



Bishop Persico addresses the Club CC crowd.

2018 Helping Hands
Award recipients receive
their award from Bishop
Persico and Ann Badach.



Event chairperson, Dawn Schaaf, (far right) mingles with guests.

Local comedienne,
Sr. Agnes, passes the
basket...for a good cause!



Cleveland-based DJ,
Brent Schmidt,
entertains the crowd!



Guests dance the night away!



CLUB CC NIGHT 2019: MAY 11

Focus on...

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Focus on...

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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**

God Loves a Cheerful Giver



A cheerful and giving spirit infuses all that Brittany Barko does.

Using her gifts in music ministry and music education, Brittany serves people in need as a music therapist, music teacher and a church

musician, sometimes playing for five masses per weekend.

But she still sought to do more.

Brittany credits her musical talent as a gift from God, so she uses part of the stipend she receives from that gift to give back to the church. "I've been in music ministry most of my life and I do a lot of work for the church, but I'm not always able to do service. In my discernment of how I can provide service when I don't have the time, I decided to give some of my stipend back to the church." She gives half of her tithe to her home parish, Our Lady of Mercy, and half to Catholic Charities.

"I give to Catholic Charities because it reaches beyond the city to help people in need throughout the community. I feel called to help," Brittany says.

Brittany set up her weekly gift to Catholic Charities almost a year ago to be automatically debited from her checking account. As an unrestricted gift, it allows Catholic Charities to respond to whatever the greatest need is at the time.



Did you know that you can set up a recurring donation?

We are so grateful to all our recurring donors!

By becoming a monthly or weekly donor, you provide a dependable source of income we use to help our neighbors in need. When you donate to Catholic Charities, you help us to feed the hungry, provide shelter for the poor, assist those escaping abuse or violence and much more.

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