

CC Works

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A Catholic Charities Quarterly

A Word From the CEO...



Vincent W. Colonno

Greetings - After a long and cold winter, spring has sprung and you can see the effect it is having on people just by looking at their faces. We are all glad to see the sun again and enjoy some warmth! Along with the new growth and flowers our communities are experiencing a bit of their own spring, as Catholic Charities reaches

out to help those in need build a better life.

In this issue of CC Works you'll see many stories of Catholic Charities helping in our communities, from Terry Leonard's long and fruitful career in Herkimer County to the inspiring work of the Saratoga Mentoring program's collaboration with Skidmore College. You'll read about Betsy O'Haire, one of our dedicated board members, and see some photos and short descriptions of what we've been up to over the past few months. You will also read a little bit about our Bishop, newly-installed Bishop Edward Scharfenberger. I am thrilled to welcome Bishop Scharfenberger to our Board and I am very impressed with the caring and pastoral way he is bringing his ministry to our Diocese. The article here gives some insight into his approach to social service work, and I think you'll like what you see.

Finally, I want to say "Thank You" to all of our donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff members - it's your caring and commitment that makes such a positive impact on so many lives. Thank you for all that you do to support our mission. There's a sign I've had on my desk for many years that spells out TEAM vertically, and horizontally is written: Together Everyone Achieves More. It's so true in life, and certainly in our work. Thank you for being a part of the Catholic Charities team!

Vince



Distinguished Service Award, pictured (from L to R) with Catholic Charities CEO Vince Colonno, Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger and Rev. John Bradley from Blessed Sacrament Parish during the 2nd Annual Sister Maureen Joyce Dinner. See more pictures from the event on Page 3.

Rev. Pat Butler, from St. Edward the Confessor (holding bowl), one of the winners of the Sister Maureen Joyce

Sister Marian Hamwey is the Coordinator of the Roarke Center Food Pantry in Troy. Sister Marian is featured in a wonderful story about "Faith in Her Work" that can be found on our website: www.ccrda.org. Picture is used with permission from the Times Union Newspaper.



Roger & Maria Markovics, Executive Directors of United Tenants of Albany were the winners of the NYS Council of Catholic Charities Directors Vincenza DeFazio Award and are pictured with Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard.

Board Member Profile: Betsy O'Haire



Betsy O'Haire is an Albany native and a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Names. Following her college graduation from Villanova, Betsy worked for ten years at her family's business,

Armory Garage in Albany. When her two sons came along, Betsy left the business to care for them. Jake is now 12 and Kieran is 11 years old.

Sister Maureen Joyce, RSM, was a very dear friend of Betsy's and invited her to serve on the Board of Catholic Charities. This decision was also influenced by Fr. Bill McConville, OFM, another good friend. Betsy, who was first appointed in 1997, is in the midst of her second term on the Board, having been reappointed in 2011.

A meaningful accomplishment for Betsy was to be a part of the renovation of Camp Scully. Betsy noted that because of deteriorating conditions, the Camp was closed for a brief time. Board Member John Hayes teamed up with Betsy to take on a major fundraising effort for the renewal and renovation of Camp Scully. The Camp continues to provide needed respite in the summer months for disadvantaged children.

Despite the fact that there always seem to be challenges facing the people of our area, whether it's caused by hard economic times or by natural disasters in recent years, Betsy noted that Catholic Charities always comes through. Because of the commitment of the Board and Staff, new opportunities of serving those in need are always found.

Through the leadership of Vince Colonna and the staff of Catholic Charities, Betsy is hopeful that the needs of our clients, from caring for babies to caring for the elderly, will be met and this will take a community effort, as well as the work of Catholic Charities staff and volunteers, to create a better society to cover all the needs in our Diocese.

By Marge Mineau



Bishop Scharfenberger reflects on Catholic Charities

"Catholic Charities is putting flesh and bones on the meaning of the Gospel." That's Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger's very succinct way of putting in perspective, and in simple words, the mission of this organization.

In his mind, one of the major responsibilities of any diocese is to take care of those in need. In a recent and extended interview, he said, "Catholic Charities enables us to bring together resources from so many sectors and incorporate them into fulfilling the mission of assisting the homeless, the poor, the

infirm, people struggling with addictions, and all others in need of hearing the healing presence of the Gospel message."

Bishop Scharfenberger also recalled a 1971 Vatican synod on justice which he felt truly underscored what Catholic Charities is all about. He pointed to one of the major points raised by the synod: *Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.*

To put that into his words, "It's not just talking about scripture and moral behavior, but action in support of that message. It's not just believing what is true, but doing what is true."

The work of Catholic Charities, he said, "is an effort to help level the playing field for those who, through no fault of their own find themselves in need. This is an essential way of being Church. To proactively heal the wounds caused by injustice and the personal and impersonal forces that leave people in the margins."

Bishop Scharfenberger also made it clear that this work is accomplished as "faith without boundaries, welcoming all to the table of humanity." As an example he pointed to a legendary effort by Mother Teresa to serve an impoverished and troubled community that was overwhelmingly non-Catholic and non-Christian. In many cases assistance, he said, was extended to non-Christians who were otherwise abandoned by those of their own faiths.

Bishop Ed, as he often introduces himself, said that Catholic Charities, both in his native Brooklyn Diocese as well as here in the Albany Diocese, has been instrumental in reaching out to so many people. In meeting with Albany Catholic Charities staff for the first time as Bishop of Albany he has been impressed by their devotion to this mission. "It's obvious the love that I see in the good people working for Catholic Charities. Their love is visible in the work they do and the way they do the work they do." He added that he'd like to encourage people to tell their stories of why they like to work for Catholic Charities, and spread that love.

He recently spoke to the Board of Catholic Charities, thanking them for the work they do. He told them, "In the Church we talk a lot about Evangelization, and sometimes people think that it's only programs or offices, but really what you are doing – the staff and board members of Catholic Charities – is evangelizing when you bring the love of Jesus to the poor and the downtrodden. You're doing it one-on-one, person to person, and that's the most effective way to bring the Gospel message." **By Ken Goldfarb**



Clockwise, from (Top left) Candice Stellato from the Ladies of Charity, US Congressman Paul Tonko, CEO Vince Colonno, NYS Senator Neil Breslin and Director of Community Partnerships for Catholic Charities Sister Betsy Van Deusen.

(Top Right) Catholic Charities Board of Trustees Secretary Shari Golub Schillinger and daughter Michela.

The 2nd Annual Sister Maureen Joyce Dinner

(Bottom Right) Father John Bradley from Blessed Sacrament Church addresses the over 200 in attendance at the SMJ Center Dinner.



(Bottom Left) The Barbieri family was a winner of the 2014 Sister Maureen Joyce Distinguished Service Award. From (L to R) Robert Barbieri, son Charlie, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, Maria Scott Barbieri, son Michael and Father John Bradley.

Terry Leonard Announces Retirement



They say you should never “judge a man” until you have walked in his shoes. Terry Leonard knows this well. Twenty-four years ago, Terry lost his job at Remington Arms. After eighteen months, he couldn’t find a job. He was short on his next mortgage payment when Catholic Charities of Herkimer helped him make up the difference. Shortly thereafter, Terry began working as a part-time Program Assistant at the office. He also spent time as an

Accounting Assistant, Fiscal Director and finally Executive Director beginning in 2002. Terry’s journey will culminate on June 30th when he retires after 22 years of service with Catholic Charities of Herkimer County assisting individuals and making gestures that help people maintain their dignity much like the one he received in 1992.

Terry asserts that his inspiration comes from the late Sister Maureen who “knew the heart and soul of the needs of the community.” He also credits his fellow staff in the Herkimer office with inspiring him through their hard work and efforts and by consistently “going above and beyond” to meet the needs of their neighbors.

Terry believes that continuing to assist people and provide services that people “need and expect” during challenging fiscal environments has been the greatest accomplishment of his agency during his tenure as Executive Director. Leonard also counts the agency’s ability to assist those who suffered flood damage, especially last June, as another hallmark of his time in Herkimer County.

Terry has been a part of the fabric of the community in Herkimer County. He lives exactly 430 steps from the front door of his office and fondly recalls working with other community agencies such as the United Way in helping people receive emergency assistance during catastrophes such as the flood of 2013.

Terry and his wife Linda have been married for 45 years this month. They have three adult children who have given them the gift of seven grandchildren. This summer he and Linda will celebrate their 65th birthdays, 45th wedding anniversary and his retirement with a Bahamian Cruise.

Terry’s journey from the receiver to the giver of services is truly inspirational. It shows the power of what we as an agency can do to help people have a better quality of life.

We wish Terry all the best in his retirement and thank him for his tireless efforts to assist the poor and vulnerable in Herkimer County. **By Jeff Covington**

Building Resilience One Child at a Time



Children in the Saratoga Mentoring Program work on their Earth Day projects of making water filters after getting instruction from Skidmore College students.

who want to be a mentor. About half of the matches are with Catholic Charities mentors who will take their mentees to places in the community such as the library or museum. The remaining half of the children are matched with Skidmore College students.

The college, known for its involvement with the community, makes space available to the mentees and mentors to meet on campus. The mentoring program operates on campus about nine Saturdays during each semester from noon to 3 p.m. Skidmore College generously treats the mentees to a free lunch with their mentors before each match decides what they want to do for the rest of the afternoon. They might attend one of the college's sports events, use the pool, or participate in a group activity offered by one of the many clubs on campus.

The Saratoga Mentoring Program also provides Case Management services to the child's family. The sole staff person in the program, as well as her intern, meets with the families on a regular basis to assess their needs and offer support. Support may include crisis intervention, linkages with other services such as food stamps, food pantries or educating families on things such as internet safety for children. In addition, the program provides food baskets at Thanksgiving, assists with back to school supplies and helps to facilitate summer camp scholarships.

The program serves a variety of children and families, many of whom are referred through the local school district. Some of the boys in the program might not have a male role model in their life and enjoy spending time with a male student.

The mentoring program has other benefits in addition to just hanging out with a cool college student. Children are able to experience positive social interactions with an adult while in the program. Many mentees are learning new skills such as swimming or riding a bike, which in turn makes them more interested and open to trying other new things. Being on the college campus makes the idea of going to college more achievable, and perhaps, a more tangible goal. This is the case for a young woman who has returned to the mentoring program as a volunteer.



To learn more about the Saratoga Mentoring Program and view a wonderful program video, go to saratogamentoring.org
By Grit Carotenoto



Molly Nicol

2014 Night at the Museum

Who doesn't love a good celebration? And when you can have one that helps our neighbors in need,

and combine it with a memorable venue, terrific friends, and some of the best food around – it clearly can't be missed!

We have much to celebrate in Catholic Charities. Most importantly, we wish to celebrate the community that comes together year in and year out to help us serve the economically poor and vulnerable in our area. We are excited to announce our second annual **Night at the Museum** fundraiser which will be held on June 19th. Night at the Museum is an after-work get-together hosted by Catholic Charities at the New York State Museum in Albany. In 2013 fantastic and unique cuisine by Angelo Mazzone and the beautiful weather made the evening one to remember. What made it inspiring was hearing Catholic Charities clients share their stories through a video at the event.

Every dollar raised at Night at the Museum went to support Catholic Charities agencies from around the 14-county area of our Diocese. Over \$105,000 last year went back into the community from this one evening! Yes, it was a great night with terrific food, networking, views, music, and entertainment – and yes, it was a great way to honor two of our long-time supporters, Bishop Hubbard and Ken Raymond. But it was more than that; it was our way, as a community, to spend one night to reach out and help those in need throughout the year.

This year we are honoring Mary Beth O'Brien and Fr. Michael Farano with awards at the event. I hope that you'll join us, and if you're able, that your business will consider sponsoring Night at the Museum. We look forward to this event to ring in the summer, gather with old friends, make new ones, and pitch in to help the less fortunate right here in our own backyard. I guarantee you will have an enjoyable and memorable experience. Hope to see you there!

Tickets and Sponsorships for Night at the Museum can be purchased online at www.ccrda.org.

WISH LIST

In our 36 year history, program development has been based upon identified unmet needs of the community, with special attention to the emotionally and economically disadvantaged, the poor and vulnerable. Programs continue to be enhanced and expanded to provide for the common good and to empower individuals and families to reach their fullest potential. Our service delivery is flexible and mobile. In addition to two main locations, we have five satellite locations with three additional programs that offer home visits. In addition to direct programming we are active

participants with community partners working towards common goals. Major programs include: Emergency Assistance, Substance Abuse Prevention Education; Suicide Prevention; Women, Infants, Children (WIC); Supervised Visitation; Parenting Enrichment; Kinship; Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP); and Hospitality Centers. We serve residents of Columbia & Greene Counties; homeless, transient, or stranded persons can access our services as well.

Suggested Wish List items include:

- \$10.00 Gas Cards to Provide for Transportation to Kinship Caregivers for Support Groups
- Movie tickets for Families
- Free Standing Basketball Hoop for use in Supervised Family Visits
- Wooden Picnic Table for use in Supervised Visits
- Food and Non- Food Items for Pantry
- Children’s Books for Pantry and Parent Education Program



14 Catholic Schools from the Albany Diocese were represented recently at the Rice Bowl Luncheon as they volunteered their time to raise money for Catholic Relief Services.



CEO Vince Colonna and Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard delivered meals during the March for Meals Program for Meals on Wheels.



Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan volunteered her time at the Sister Maureen Joyce Center Soup Kitchen.

“We love our volunteers!”

Interested in volunteering with Catholic Charities? Contact Sr. Betsy Van Deusen (betsy.vandeusen@rcda.org) to find out about an upcoming volunteer orientation.



Students from St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar volunteer at Catholic Charities Disabilities Services as part of their Day of Service.



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DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that the Catholic Charities Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program prepared 674 tax returns that generated \$1,129,229 in refunds for their clients.

Upcoming Events – CC Works

Save the date and join us for these events supporting Catholic Charities Agencies:

- June 19** – Catholic Charities Night at the Museum Gala Event
 State Museum of Albany
 Call 518-453-6650 for more information
- June 30** – Golf for Good Tournament
 Schuyler Meadows Country Club
 Call 518-453-6650 for more information
- August 13** – Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services & Disabilities Services –
 Evening at the Symphony
 Saratoga Performing Arts Center
 Call 518-453-6650 for more information

CC WORKS

A Catholic Charities quarterly committed to active witness

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Congratulations to Catholic Charities for being named a 2014 Top Workplace by the Times Union newspaper.