



Harvest of Giving

Catholic Charities Annual Appeal

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September 2011

Dear Friends,

“More than one of every six people in the United States lives in poverty.”

That was the headline in the newspaper a few weeks ago, and I was appalled but not surprised. My colleagues and I at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany meet those people every day. They are often your neighbors and mine.

Catholic Charities has worked to meet the needs of these neighbors for more than a century. Just last year, almost 123,500 people reached out to one of 14 agencies across the 14 counties of the Diocese. This is possible only because people like you care and support our efforts with gifts. Today I ask you to renew that generosity with a gift to our 2011 Harvest of Giving campaign.

Our staff and volunteers serve those in need with endless energy and ceaseless compassion. Some folks need specialized help – from our Community Maternity Services, for example. Others require core necessities: lunch today, a roof tonight, heat this winter.

The needs are plentiful – as are the rewards. We smile with the city kid in her first frolic at Camp Scully. We share the relief of a young mom learning to care for her infant. We cheer the individual who overcomes personal challenges to live and work independently.

You make these rewards possible – by giving to our annual appeal, Harvest of Giving.

Today we need your help more than ever. The usual needs, intensified for several years by economic hardship, remain. Today, the horrific effects of the recent tropical storm compound our challenges. Entire communities that had already relied on our services today lay in utter devastation.

The families you will help, you may never meet. But their need is intense, and their gratitude will be real. **Will you please give generously this year?** To donate online, please see www.ccrda.org, *Harvest of Giving* campaign. Thank you.

Gratefully yours,

Vincent W. Colonno
Chief Executive Officer

