



## Housing, Services & Property Management

Sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

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## Message From Deborah

During the summer, Paul and I spend hours on the Mass Pike going to Lenox for the varied plays produced by Shakespeare and Company. This year, one of the extraordinary plays being staged is Red Velvet, the story of the first African American to play Othello on a major stage. Ira Aldridge was the actor and the stage was London's Covent Garden...the year, 1833. The play describes the incredible bigotry he faced from the educated theater board, the media and his fellow actors. It made no difference that he was an accomplished actor...he was black and "other" and did not "belong."

I hope you see that the stories you read here paint quite a different picture of humanity. It still happens with some regularity that people of color, people who are immigrants, people who are homeless, and people who are poor are portrayed as somehow not quite like the rest of us human beings. But in the stories you read here...all shared by the staff who work day to day in our various housing and outreach programs...you see that our work is about helping each person know that, while they may have problems, they are a vital human being and, just like each of us, made in God's image and likeness.

Jean Vanier wrote in Signs "We are here to encounter others in humility, to respect them, and to reveal their individual value. The 'sacrament of encounter' makes Jesus present." Each day, we "encounter" each other, and the men, women and children who come through our doors. With your continued support and partnership, we will keep fighting the good fight...and making Jesus present in our world!

Deborah Damm O'Brien, Executive Director



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## REFLECTIONS

# Housing, Services & Property Management

DePaul Housing Management • Catholic Charities Housing • McCloskey Community Service

## Realizing Your Dream

Here at DePaul Housing we are celebrating one of our amazing residents! At the age of 78, Ms. Thelma Marie Coleman accepted her bachelor's degree in community and human services from SUNY Empire State College.

Her accomplishment garnered the attention of local Times Union reporter Paul Grondahl who featured her story in a June 12, 2015 article outlining her successes and some of the hardships she has overcome. Among these hardships is a diagnosis of dementia, a setback that actually inspired her to jumpstart her dream.

She states, "If you don't have goals, you're not living, you're just existing...I want my grandchildren to see that you can always improve and reach higher...Don't let anyone keep you from your dream."

Congratulations to Ms. Thelma Marie Coleman on a dream realized! We are so proud of you. —Emily Pethic, Administrative Coordinator



Photo credit: Lori Van Buren, Times Union

## An Unexpected Face at Mercy House Shelter for Women

Our case manager at Mercy House, Melinda Crandall, is sharing the below story with you, to paint a picture of homelessness that you may not be used to seeing.

"I want to tell this story because I am so impressed by a past guest we had at our Mercy House women's shelter. A year ago, Becky Riley (name changed) worked with us for a short time as a volunteer through the *Back to Work* program. She was a hard worker and was really great with our shelter guests. Just a few months ago, Mercy House received a referral for someone with the same name. Could it be her?

When she showed up at the door, she gave us this grin that seemed to say: *'Yup, it's me. I am happy to be sheltered here, but not proud I need to be here.'*

I cannot imagine how it must have felt for her to be sheltered at a place where she had recently volunteered to work. When I met with Becky, she spoke about how hard it was for her to be in the shelter, especially with her four kids, when she has always been capable of providing for them one way or another. I encouraged Becky to use the knowledge that she received while she was volunteering. In no time, Becky was on the move. She was out all day long with her children in tow. She never took a day's rest, she rarely asked for my assistance, and she completed everything that was asked of her in a timely fashion. In less than a month, Becky found and moved into an apartment with her children and has been doing well since.

It is not very often that we get single moms sheltered with their children into permanent housing in such a short period of time. Becky was able to put her embarrassment aside and do what needed to be done for herself and her children. She is an inspiration to me."

—Melinda Crandall, Mercy House Case Manager

## Thank You to Glen Sanders Mansion for Feeding the Homeless



Immediately following the fatal March fire on Jay Street in Schenectady, the team at Catholic Charities Housing came together with many other service providers to begin disaster recovery efforts. Food for the newly homeless victims was a concern. The Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia responded to our request for food, and provided dozens of pans of prepared foods. And the donations didn't stop there. The Glen Sanders Mansion continues to think of homeless individuals we serve, with repeated donations of prepared meals. We are so grateful to the entire team at the Glen Sanders, especially Executive Sous Chef Stephen Greeley and Corporate Executive Chef Will Brown for their eagerness to help.

— Emily Pethic, Administrative Coordinator

## DEPAUL HOUSING MANAGEMENT

### ALBANY COUNTY

Bishop Broderick Apts.  
50 Prescott Street  
Albany, NY 12205

Cabrini Acres Senior Apts.  
4 Carondelet Drive  
Watervliet, NY 12189

Carondelet Commons Senior Apts.  
2 Carondelet Drive  
Watervliet, NY 12189

Fontbonne Manor Senior Apts.  
10 Carondelet Drive  
Watervliet, NY 12189

Marie-Rose Manor  
100 Marquis Drive  
Slingerlands, NY 12159

Sanderson Court Senior Apts.  
6 Carondelet Drive  
Watervliet, NY 12189

St. Vincent's Apts.  
475 Yates Street  
Albany, NY 12208

### DELAWARE COUNTY

Delhi Senior Communities I & II  
7 Main Street  
Delhi, NY 13753

### RENSSELAER COUNTY

Branson Manor Senior Apts.  
3 Grandview Drive  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Franciscan Heights Senior Comm.  
1 St. Anthony Lane  
Rensselaer, NY 12144

St. Jude Apts.  
50 Dana Avenue  
Wynantskill, NY 12198

### SARATOGA COUNTY

Bishop Hubbard Senior Apts.  
54 Katherine Drive  
Clifton Park, NY 12065

### SCHENECTADY COUNTY

Father Leo O'Brien Senior Comm.  
3151 Marra Lane  
Schenectady, NY 12303

The Lawrence Commons  
2660 Albany Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305

### DIOCESAN HOUSING MAIN OFFICE

41 N. Main Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203  
518-459-0183  
depaulhousing.com

## Save the Date: Hope for the Homeless is November 5, 2015!

**Hope for the Homeless**, our breakfast fundraiser for the homeless housing programs of Catholic Charities Housing will take place on **Thursday, November 5, 2015 from 7:30AM to 9:30AM at the Wolferts Roost Country Club in Albany.** Admission is \$60. We hope you will join us and support our mission of ending homelessness in our communities. Please call 518-459-0183 for more information.

## Summer Happenings at the DePaul Housing Senior Communities



Residents at Father Leo O'Brien Senior Community do not have to chase down the ice cream truck this summer! Friday afternoons, Mr. Ding-a-Ling takes orders right in front of the community.



Sandra Doty, a resident of Carondelet Commons, received a certificate of achievement for her beautiful acrylic painting of a covered bridge at the annual LeadingAge New York Art Exhibit on July 15, 2015.

## The Meaning of Community at Bishop Broderick Apartments

Residents of the Bishop Broderick Apartments (BBA) in Colonie have been developing some great new relationships.

**Reaching in** – Diane Dunn came to BBA this past spring with a desire to begin a community garden to benefit her fellow residents. With a little help, Diane is growing tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, green beans and more. Diane has welcomed all of her fellow residents to share in the harvest of these homegrown vegetables. Diane feels it's important for the BBA community to take care of each other.



**Working together** – BBA Residents and the Youth of Rotterdam United Methodist Church have enjoyed several intergenerational activities. The youth prepared and served a free pasta dinner, hosted a Mardi Gras luncheon with crafts, and celebrated Earth Day by planting seeds with the residents.

The youth Confirmants also volunteered their time to help residents prepare for our current renovation project. Both groups are looking forward to future activities.

— Barbara Paul, Community Manager



## Catholic Charities Housing Assists In Houston Flood Recovery

The sprawling City of Houston, Texas was saturated with rain during the month of May. Spillways and drainage bayous could not move water to Galveston Bay fast enough, causing damage to more than 2,500 homes, suspension of public transportation and closure of roadways and schools. Six people died in the flooding, and a seventh person was reported to have died from a heart attack while assisting a motorist stranded in high water.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston called for volunteers across the country to assist in recovery efforts. Our own CCHO Director of Support Services Shannon McLaughlin and CCHO Case Manager Luther Herring both responded to their call. They began their deployment as disaster case managers on June 29. For two weeks, Shannon and Luther canvassed affected neighborhoods, identified victims, and linked them up with financial aid, emergency food stamps, and other recovery resources. As they met with family after family, it became clear that each survivor had a story that badly needed to be heard.



Luther explained, "The eyes of the world are able to see the ruin caused by the flooding, but what isn't always visible through the lens of a camera, or through the human eye is the devastation within. I sincerely hope, that if I was not able to do anything more, that I was at least able to provide each person I encountered a listening ear and a caring heart during their recovery."

This is the nature of human services. There is always a story that yearns to be heard. When we can offer a compassionate ear in addition to resources, we undoubtedly make more meaningful connections with our clients. We are so proud of Shannon and Luther for sharing their kindhearted expertise with our brothers and sisters in Texas.

## Schools Supplies Drive for Children



The 46 kids in our Family Apartments are enjoying the last days of summer vacation but soon they will be back in school. We want them to feel prepared so they can start the year off strong!

The parents in our Family Apartments are not always able to provide all of the basic school supplies each year. So we are asking for your help! **We are holding a School Supplies Drive at our Center for Community Collaboration now through September 9** to ensure that each child has new notebooks, folders, pens, pencils, highlighters, jumbo erasers, a calculator, protractor, and ruler. We greatly appreciate donations of any of these items!

School supplies can be dropped off on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30AM to 1:00PM and 2:00PM to 4:00PM at 326 Clinton Avenue, Albany, NY 12206.

## NEW TEAM MEMBER CORNER

Keenan Bailey joined Catholic Charities Housing as Family Case Manager for our Family Apartments Program. Keenan is focused on mentoring and guiding our children and teenagers.

Saretha Sotomayor joined Catholic Charities Housing as Community Resource Advisor at our Center for Community Collaboration in Albany.

Jim Tully joined DePaul Housing Management as Property Management Specialist.

Laurie Bender joined DePaul Housing Management as Community Manager at the Franciscan Heights Senior Community in Rensselaer.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOUSING

### HOMELESS SHELTERS

*City of Albany*  
Mercy House  
St. Charles Lwanga Center

### FAMILY APARTMENTS

*City of Albany*  
Broad Street  
Clinton Avenue  
Lexington Avenue  
Livingston Avenue  
N. Allen Street  
Second Street  
Third Avenue  
West Street

*City of Schenectady*  
Third Avenue

*City of Troy*  
1st Street  
6th Avenue

### SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCIES

*City of Albany*  
DePaul Residence  
504 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206

DePaul Residence Too  
35 N. Main Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203

Waldorf Residence  
29 Maiden Lane  
Albany, NY 12207

*City of Oneonta*  
Oneonta SROs  
52 Maple Street  
Oneonta, NY 13820

*City of Troy*  
St. Peter's Residence  
2335 Fifth Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180

### DROP-IN RESOURCE CENTER and SCREENING & INTAKE

*City of Albany*  
Center for Community Collaboration  
326 Clinton Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206  
518-462-6829

### DIOCESAN HOUSING

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