

## A WORD FROM THE CEO...



Vincent W. Colonna

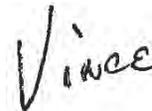
2017 is the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, and this centennial year is flying by for us. We have had some great events throughout the diocese to commemorate people who have made a lasting impact on our work with Centennial Medallions, and it has been so energizing to be able to thank and celebrate some of the people who have helped our mission.

You'll see some photos of those events in this issue – and you'll also read about some of the programs and people making a difference today. Programs like VITA, helping working people file accurate tax returns, and people like the volunteer staff members who have deployed to Houston, Texas, to help with Hurricane Harvey recovery work.

Also included in this issue is a special description of The Campaign for Catholic Charities, a bold effort to improve and expand our services in the Albany Diocese. With your help, and the help of thousands of generous donors, we're ready to expand affordable housing, enlist more volunteers, inter-connect our services, and improve the ways and places we help those in need. Take a minute to read about it, and if you attend a Catholic parish be on the lookout for a special second collection in October to help this effort.

Thanks for being with us as we move into the next century of Caring Beyond Belief!

Take Care,



## IN THIS ISSUE...



The Campaign for Catholic Charities seeks to bring more services to rural corners of the Diocese with our first ever Mobile Outreach Unit.



VITA volunteers from local Catholic high schools and colleges serve the community while gaining experience.



100 years is something worth celebrating! We're commemorating our centennial year with celebrations throughout the area.

# BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

By Mary Pat Hickey



**Dan Urban**

Dan Urban was recently applauded by the clients being served at the Sister Maureen Joyce Soup Kitchen after preparing one of his most amazing meals yet! Sister Betsy Van Deusen, Director of Community Partnerships, says, “Dan is a good sport and his humility and willingness

to help has made him a great asset to the volunteer team.” When one of the ingredients received from the Regional Food Bank was duck, Chef Urban put his creative culinary skills to work and prepared the most delicious goulash for that Monday’s lunch. Their guests were extremely pleased!

Dan is no stranger to volunteer work. Before he joined the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees in 2014, Dan had volunteered with St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital for 30 years. There, he helped to open a local development office and brought the Capital District campaign to where it is today.

When asked why he chooses to get involved, Dan notes that in addition to the invitations he received from very good friends, he has much to be thankful for and believes he must return his thanks in ways that can help other people.

Dan feels he was blessed with having had two careers; one in hotel management in the Capital District and the second as sales manager for 37 years in the office equipment industry (34 years with the same company). Dan and his wife, Charlene, have two children and two grandchildren who they enjoy spending a little extra time with these days.

Dan is proud to work with Catholic Charities to continue to do whatever he can to make sure every person has their basic needs met with food, clothing and shelter. He is committed to the mission of Catholic Charities and hopes that someday soon healthcare will no longer be an issue for people struggling in our society.

# VITA VOLUNTEERS FIND REWARD IN SERVICE

By Katie Costello

For Andrew Kochian, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is more than a service opportunity; it is the opportunity to directly improve a neighbor’s quality of life while gaining



valuable experience and participating in a vibrant volunteer community. With sites operated by Catholic Charities, VITA is a CA\$H coalition program, providing free IRS-certified tax preparation. It is staffed primarily by a group of volunteers — from high school and college students to professionals, and retirees. VITA sites are located in Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Schoharie counties.

The program site at the Pastoral Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany at 40 North Main Ave., Albany, attracts student volunteers from SUNY Albany, Albany Law, The College of Saint Rose, and Siena College, while also drawing high school students through a long-standing collaboration with Catholic Central High School in Troy. It was there, through his sophomore accounting class, that Andrew first encountered VITA.

“I was intimidated, I knew nothing about taxes, but I wanted the experience outside the classroom, so I gave it a shot,” he said. After only one season with the program, he says the work and the community “had me completely hooked and I came back for more.” He’s been coming back for the last eight years as a volunteer and advocate.

Mary Olsen, VITA coordinator for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, describes similar experiences, having witnessed volunteers begin the season nervous and shy and then finish confident and self-assured. She’s also seen high school students choose their college majors based on their experience, and clients, initially unsure of having a volunteer prepare their tax documents, return year after year. Both clients and volunteers, she says, “simply fall in love with the program.” It’s easy to see why since collaboration, dignity, education, and community are hallmarks of the program.

# THE CAMPAIGN FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

By Sr. Betsy Van Deusen

How great would it be if, now that Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany is 100 years old, the problems of poverty were solved and we could go out of business?

As we all know, that is not the case and as we considered how to mark these 100 years it seemed most appropriate to boldly step out to do what we do even better and more comprehensively. We are working in 14 counties to meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable in food and nutrition, housing, in emergency assistance, and so many other ways.

There is still great need in our diocese, from the urban areas to the rural communities, and with **The Campaign for Catholic Charities** we aim to do more than we have ever done before. In the campaign there are five initiatives that expand and enhance our ability to help our sisters and brothers. These are: *Affordable Family Housing*; *No Wrong Door Program including a Mobile Outreach Unit*; *Emergency Assistance*; *Property Improvements*; and the *CC Care Corps Volunteer Program*.



Money raised for the campaign will go toward program improvement and expansions throughout the Diocese, including affordable family housing and growing our volunteer program.



We would like to share with you a short version of our goals so you can get excited about the future with us:

**Affordable Family Housing** will establish 60 units of housing that is affordable for those who are “the working poor” and are not eligible for government programs.

**No Wrong Door** is an initiative based in our food programs to get to the root of the problem for our clients and help them forge a path for their own success. This includes a mobile food pantry to be able to meet people where they are – especially in rural areas.

**Emergency Assistance** is a critical vehicle for people to meet that immediate need – a new tire, payment on a utility bill, bus fare, or work uniform (just to name a few). This initiative will expand what we already do to help an estimated 5,000 more people. Last year we helped 24,158 people with Emergency Assistance.

**Property Improvements** comes in to play at the 52 locations that we use for offices, shelters, and residences. It can be as simple as a paint job or a new rug, or perhaps a new furnace or appliance replacement. The places in which we greet and house people will look better and make our clients feel better.

**CC Care Corps volunteer program** will build on our exciting volunteer success and expand it to include easier ways for groups to join us in our work through mentoring, property improvements, and some things not yet imagined!

These ambitious projects will take commitment, enthusiasm, and dollars. But we’re ready to roll up our sleeves. We hope you can envision your part in helping Catholic Charities launch boldly into the next century of our work and help us celebrate **a Century of Caring Beyond Belief!**

*Donations to the campaign for Catholic Charities may be made online at [www.ccrda.org](http://www.ccrda.org) or by mail at: The Campaign for Catholic Charities, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, 40 North Main Ave. Albany, NY 12203.*

*Should you have any questions, please call Kate Qualters, Director of Development, at (518) 453-6677. Thank you!*

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES EMPLOYEES HEAD TO HOUSTON

We've deployed six employees to Houston, Texas, for two weeks to assist with the storm recovery from Hurricane Harvey. Follow their story on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/ccrcda](https://www.facebook.com/ccrcda).



Alisa Nurminen, Peter Catal, Bob Boehlert, Samantha Coluccio, and from Catholic Charities Disabilities Services



David Gabrielson and Alysabeth VanBramer from Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services



Catholic Charities staff is all smiles as they wait for their plane to Texas on September 18th



Albany Angels assist in hurricane clean-up efforts



## DEVELOPMENT CORNER

By Kate Qualters

The Richard J. Egan Emergency Assistance Fund was recently established by Pat Greene and his family, in honor of their uncle Richard Egan of Amsterdam, NY. Richard passed away in May; however he lived a life rooted in Catholic faith with a deep commitment to community. As a WWII veteran and successful attorney, he believed that if one enjoyed success in life they are obligated to give back. Throughout his volunteer years, he served on the Catholic Charities of Montgomery County board of directors and was passionate about helping young people.



**Richard J. Egan**

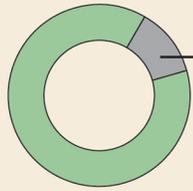
Through this named fund, Richard's legacy of service will be honored every time individuals and families receive financial assistance for an emergent need. A simple grant of \$50 - \$200 can bridge financial gaps that might cause job loss or help pay a bill.

Annually, more than 24,000 people turn to Catholic Charities for emergency assistance. Their needs are seemingly basic for those of us living modestly, but these every day occurrences can create setbacks financially and emotionally for those living in or at the edge of poverty.

You are invited to consider a very special kind of contribution—like Richard Egan's family, you can create a fund in your name or the name of someone whose life is meaningful to you.

To learn more about establishing a fund and supporting Catholic Charities, please contact Kate Qualters, Director of Development at 518-453-6677 or [kate.qualters@rcda.org](mailto:kate.qualters@rcda.org). We would be privileged to partner with you, create your legacy, and together, serve those most in need.

## Poverty Statistics in the 14 Counties of the Albany Diocese:



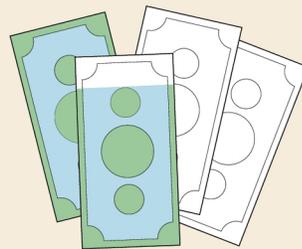
165,273 - 12.3% of all people - live at or below the poverty line.

Nearly **1 in 5** Persons under the age of 18 live in poverty.

Over **47,000 Children** are facing **POVERTY**.



Each year, Catholic Charities assists nearly 80,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable in the Diocese.



An impoverished family of four makes under \$25,000 yearly - a mere **44%** of the average household income of \$56,516.

*Reflective of latest SAIGE data available through the US Census Bureau*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Join us for one of these fantastic events to support Catholic Charities*

### Campaign for Catholic Charities Second Collection

#### **October 14th-15th, Diocesan Parishes**

As a part of The Campaign for Catholic Charities, there will be a second collection in all Catholic parishes of the Diocese of Albany to help raise money for the campaign priorities.

### Hope for the Homeless Breakfast

#### **November 2nd, 7:30AM, Avila Retirement Community**

Hope for the Homeless is your opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the homeless individuals served by Catholic Charities Housing office our community! Call (518) 459-0183 for Sponsorship and Ticket information.

### Dining Out for Others – Columbia and Greene Counties

Each Wednesday night in November (**November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th**), we will be partnering with local restaurants in Columbia and Greene Counties who have graciously agreed to donate a portion of the evening's profits from the earnings to Catholic Charities. For a full list of participating restaurants and dates, visit [www.ccrda.org/events](http://www.ccrda.org/events).

### Saratoga Festival of Trees

**November 29th** (preview reception) - **December 3rd, Saratoga Springs City Center** See more than 250 beautifully twinkling trees, wreaths, centerpieces, and other holiday items on display for visitors to purchase or simply admire. All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties. Check [www.saratogafestivaloftrees.com](http://www.saratogafestivaloftrees.com) for details. Preview reception tickets are available through their office at (518) 587-5000.

**We're Hiring!** See Yourself at Catholic Charities: [www.ccrda.org/employment](http://www.ccrda.org/employment)



## CC WORKS

*A Catholic Charities Quarterly  
Committed to Active Witness*

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## CATHOLIC CHARITIES CELEBRATES 100 YEARS



**A CENTURY  
OF CARING  
BEYOND BELIEF**

