

A WORD FROM THE CEO...



Vincent W. Colonno

Welcome to another edition of CC Works! As the school year ends and summer begins, many of us are looking forward to some rest and relaxation with friends and family. The long days and the nice weather are perfect for reconnecting with the people we care about and enjoying a little "R and R" for ourselves. Life gets busy, and I hope you make the time to enjoy and appreciate your loved ones this summer.

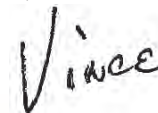
Speaking of appreciation, here at Catholic Charities we just wrapped up our annual Night at the Museum fundraiser, where we had a chance to publically appreciate two fantastic individuals: John Daly of Amsterdam and the late Sr. Anne Bryan Smollin, CSJ. It was wonderful seeing so many of our friends and supporters at the State Museum to honor the memory of Sr. Anne and the work of John Daly. Thanks to the evening's sponsors and attendees, we had a wonderful night and raised valuable funds for the programs of Catholic Charities!

We're also highlighting in this issue the life-saving work of Catholic Charities Care

Coordination Services, which is helping New York State train and distribute overdose prevention kits to combat the opiate abuse problem in many of our towns and cities. You'll be reading about one of our Executive Directors, the very talented Marlene Hildenbrandt, and the work she's doing to help senior citizens, as well as meet our trustee Joe Coccozza. Finally, as summer gears up, efforts like the summer lunch program, Sunnyside Day Camp, and Camp Scully are well on their way to making this summer one of happy memories for disadvantaged kids in our diocese.

Thank you for the work you do and your support, which makes it possible for Catholic Charities to continue helping people in crisis in a most caring and compassionate way. We simply couldn't do it without you! Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer for you and your loved ones.

Take Care,



Congratulations to Deborah Damm O'Brien, Executive Director of CC Housing and DePaul Housing Management. Deborah was honored with the Vincenza DeFazio award by the NY State Council of Catholic Charities Directors for her outstanding contributions to Catholic Charities in NY State. Pictured from left to right: Maria Markovics, from United Tenants; Deborah Damm O'Brien; Roger Markovics, United Tenants; Anne Oden, Catholic Charities Disabilities Services.



Alba Giordano was honored at the 2015 Sister Maureen Joyce Center Dinner in Albany for her volunteer efforts at the center over the years. Pictured from left to right, Vincent W. Colonno; Bishop Edward Scharfenberger; Alba Giordano; Jenn Hyde of Catholic Charities Tri-County Services.



Keith Brown, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Care Coordination, discusses a life-saving training that his agency has given to thousands of people in our area. More on Page 5.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

By Mary Pat Hickey



Joe Coccozza

Children, Youth and Families are very important pieces of Joe Coccozza's life. It comes through in the love and pride in his voice as he spoke of his Easter Celebration with his 4 children and 7 grandchildren, or when reflecting on his over 40 year career focused on

helping children, youth and families in need.

After growing up in a mill town in Massachusetts, Joe attended Boston College before completing his Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. He taught at Ursuline College until 1973 when he moved to our area to begin his career in the mental health research field. In 1978 Joe joined the NYS Council on Children & Families and from 1983-90, served as its Executive Director under Governor Mario Cuomo. Since 1990 Joe has been at Policy Research Associates, Inc. where he is responsible for running the National Center for Mental Health & Juvenile Justice.

It was at the Council on Children & Families where Joe met Sister Serena Branson and Sister Maureen Joyce, former CEOs of Catholic Charities. At that time, an important focus of his work was on adolescent pregnancy so a seat on the Community Maternity Services Board in the early 80's seemed like a natural fit. Joe spoke of his great affection and respect for Catholic Charities, and Community Maternity Services, in particular, for their bravery in setting up Farano House, a group home providing care for children infected with the AIDS virus right at the beginning of the AIDS crisis.

Joe has been very impressed by his fellow trustees' involvement in the recent Strategic Planning Process, developed to guide Catholic Charities into the future. "The leadership and ability to pull together large groups of people from all the agencies within the system of Catholic Charities resulted in a very successful plan. As Federal and State funding decreases and the external environment continues to change at a rapid pace, Catholic Charities has taken the time to step back, examine its work and identify strategies for ensuring its ability to continue to fulfill its mission in the future, serving and empowering people in need."

MARLENE HILDENBRANDT

By Grit Carotenuto

With a little more than four months under her belt as the new Executive Director of Catholic Charities Senior and Caregiver Support Services, Marlene Hildenbrandt appreciates how her agency and staff are able to provide services to the most vulnerable among us in a way that best meets the clients' needs.



When Marlene came to Catholic Charities in January 2015, she brought with her experiences of serving diverse populations such as adults and children with mental health issues, families, the senior population and their caregivers. What she found was a staff that was experienced and dedicated to the aging population and their caregivers. When talking to Marlene, she could not say enough about how incredible the staff at the agency is and how they embody the mission of Catholic Charities every day. For example in one program, all of the staff combined have a cumulative 50 years of service to Catholic Charities and two of her senior managers have been with the agency for over 20 years.

With all of us getting much older than previous generations and the Baby Boomers reaching retirement age, Marlene knows the work is only beginning. Currently the agency provides nutrition services through Senior Dining Centers and Meals on Wheels, operates an extensive transportation program, provides information and assistance related to Medicare and Medicaid enrollment as well as other health insurance information counseling, provides support services to caregivers and has a social day care for adults.

Marlene would love to see a stronger focus on the benefits that volunteers might bring to the agency and seniors. Utilizing an interfaith model, she would like to link volunteers with homebound seniors who are in need of non-medical services particularly companionship, help with shopping, and minor home chores. She would also like to expand the geographic area served by the agency, ideally bringing services to all of the counties served by the Albany Diocese.

Marlene knows that aging not only provides challenges for the elderly person, but also for the caregiver. Often family members try to do it all on their own when they are caring for an aging or ill loved one; forgetting to take care of themselves in the process. The agency currently provides respite services to give these caregivers a much needed break, support groups, counseling to help caregivers manage and navigate the complex system of care, as well as information and referral to caregivers. Marlene would like to increase these services going forward.

Marlene is confident that when a client knocks on the door of Catholic Charities Senior and Caregiver Support Services, that person will be served by our dedicated and committed staff. This makes her happy to be a part of Catholic Charities and excited about the future and the possibilities it will bring.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC CHARITIES!

Photographs from the 2015 Annual Gathering honoring volunteers and staff.



ANOTHER WAY TO SERVE

Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ

What do January 1, January 19, February 16, May 25, September 7 and October 12 have in common? They are the Monday holidays in 2015, days when the Sister Maureen Joyce Soup Kitchen would normally be closed. Recognizing a need and excited about being able to “touch” the work that they labor about, a group of Catholic Charities staff and friends committed to “Monday Holidays at SMJ.”

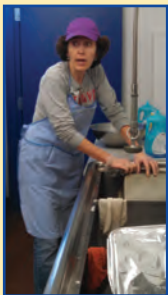
The group has varied in our four outings but one thing that remained constant was taking the opportunity to serve the soup kitchen guests at the table, restaurant style, and the response from the guests has been gratitude and enthusiasm. Initially folks were not sure what to do and then they were able to sit back and enjoy the experience. On Mondays and Thursdays an average of 85 meals are served by Catholic Charities staff and SMJ volunteers. The Monday holidays have been consistent with that.

The staff who volunteered often work in administrative or office roles for Catholic Charities and do not have day to day

contact with the people who are served by Catholic Charities. When staff volunteers were asked why they volunteered they said, *“I wanted to get firsthand knowledge of our services. I wanted to meet and talk to some of our clients.”* *“The opportunity was a very clear reminder of why I came to Catholic Charities..... an opportunity to live our mission and connect more directly with clients rather than just discuss it in a meeting.”* *“To introduce my husband to the work that CC does, spend time with my colleagues, support the program staff and better understand what the staff is doing on a daily basis.”* *“It was because I knew that serving those who needed help the most was going to be the biggest benefit to doing my job.”*

They were also asked, “What, if anything, did you struggle with?” *“Just thinking about and observing the struggles the clients actually live with.”* *“I think, for me, the struggle is when I get home and can still see those we serve and I think and I hope they are all safe, warm, and have not gone hungry. It does make me more grateful for the comforts that I have.”*

Each time a person places themselves in a new situation there is opportunity to reflect and consider what it means. The system of Catholic Charities is doing that as well as a result of our Strategic Plan and recognizing that volunteers are the lifeblood of so much of what we do. To this end, all our agencies will be assessing their use of volunteers and developing position descriptions for ways people can help. We are blessed by the time, talent, and treasure already shared and look forward to even more involvement in the future!



NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Over 400 people turned out for our annual gala at the NY State Museum – a great time was had by all!



SISTER ANNE BRYAN SMOLLIN: 1943-2014

At Night at the Museum this year we honored our dear friend Sister Anne Bryan Smollin, posthumously, with the Bishop Howard Hubbard Humanitarian Award. Sister Anne's work with Catholic Charities began through the Counseling for Laity program, which

was originally a ministry of Catholic Charities in Albany, and continued there for 33 years. She leaves us with a legacy of joyfulness, a passion for ministry, and a gratitude for life. To see a video of a terrific speech she gave in 2011, visit our website: <http://www.ccrca.org/NightAtMuseum2015.htm> and look for the link about halfway down the page.

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

SUSTAINABILITY



Molly Nicol

Sustainability – This is a term that has been discussed frequently in all human services organizations, including Catholic Charities. How will we sustain the programs we have put in place to serve the needs of the economically poor and vulnerable in our community? How will we meet the needs of the people affected by the next natural disaster? How will we sustain our after-school

programs for children? How will we address the concerns of the large group of people entering their senior years?

We are fortunate. We live in a very generous and giving community. Many of our supporters provide financial assistance to us year in and year out. We could not accomplish all that we do without this annual support.

However, another way to help sustain the work of Catholic Charities is through a planned gift. The term “Planned Giving” simply describes a wide variety of giving vehicles that allow donors to give a gift during their lifetime or after death, while meeting current income needs. Planned giving is an option open to donors of all income levels.

If you would like to extend your support of Catholic Charities to make a lasting impact, there are several gift arrangements to choose from. Some of the options include:

Bequest or Estate Gifts

In a will or living trust, donors may designate a portion of their estate to benefit Catholic Charities.

Honorary & Memorial Gifts

An Honorary gift to Catholic Charities may be made to honor a person during their lifetime or commemorate a significant event. A memorial gift may be made to honor the memory and ideals of a loved one who is no longer living. Families of those honored will be notified of the donor's gift.

Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between the donor and Catholic Charities. The donor transfers cash or securities to Catholic Charities and receives a fixed income amount during his/her lifetime. Upon the donor's death, the remaining principal goes to support Catholic Charities.

The programs of Catholic Charities depend on your goodwill. To learn more about planned giving visit: www.planyourgift.org or call Molly Nicol at 518-453-6677.

Catholic Charities of Herkimer County's purpose is to maintain the dignity and improve the quality of life of families and individuals in Herkimer County. By our actions and visible presence, we seek to influence others to become more aware of and responsive to human needs. Our programs are: Community Dispute Resolution Center, Domestic Violence Program, Retired Individuals Driving

Elderly (RIDE), Herkimer County Prevention Council, Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program, Food Pantry, Emergency Assistance Program, Thrift Store, Nutrition Outreach & Education Program, Runaway & Homeless Youth Program, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, and Supervised Visitation Program.

SUGGESTED WISH LIST ITEMS INCLUDE:

Gift cards for Hannaford, Gas and Walmart to use for Emergency Assistance

Movie passes and Personal Care Items for our Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

Diapers and Formula for Emergency Assistance

Food and non-food items for our Food Pantry

Credit card donations are also accepted on our website at www.ccherkimercounty.org
Any questions contact: Cynthia Cardarelli at (315) 894-9917

TEACHING AND TREATMENT SAVES LIVES By Ken Goldfarb



Keith Brown, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services

Saving lives is what it's all about. What it is, is Naloxone (AKA: Narcan), a treatment that can quickly save the life of a drug user who has overdosed. And the value of such a treatment has increased to a huge degree, corresponding with the drastic and epidemic level of drug abuse, particularly heroin, in the last 10 years. Keeping track of this problem and, in one sense helping to lead the way to dealing with it is Keith Brown, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services.

Until 1996, only paramedics and other medical professionals were in a position to use Naloxone to save someone from a potentially fatal overdose. Since then, through legislation and a state-funded program, the use of that treatment is now also available for use by properly, and easily trained lay people, usually, friends and family members of those who are known drug users.

As a result and since 2012 in this region Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services, by administering this wholly state-funded program, has been at the forefront of training and distributing the Naloxone treatment to those who may encounter someone close to them who is at risk for an overdose. "We started small," Mr. Brown said. But in the last two years the need and demand has increased dramatically. So far his organization has trained roughly 3,000 people, and they estimate that on an annual basis they now expect to be training from 1,000 to 1,500.

"I can definitively tell you that the current heroin and opiate epidemic is impacting all communities. Contrary to what many people might think, this is not an urban or low-income issue. We're seeing the largest number of people coming from suburban and even rural areas. In my opinion, this misconception has created a sense of denial that contributes to the problem we're facing," he said.

As an example, he pointed to a story he read about a "soccer mom"

who, after a serious car accident and treatment for pain, slowly went from a prescription pain killer through an escalation of drug use that eventually led to heroin addiction, a secret she kept while holding down a job and caring for two sons and her grandmother.

Mr. Brown said it is the recent increase on the reliance and availability of potentially addictive prescription drugs that has been a major contributing factor in the serious drug problem we face today.

That's why, "We train drug users, family and friends, and professionals who work with and encounter drug users," he said. "We've trained a few thousand, the bulk have been in the last year. We've been approached by a cross section of the community to bring the training to them." As an example, he recalled that last summer his staff conducted trainings over three days in Saratoga, Rensselaer and Columbia counties in an effort coordinated with and co-sponsored by state Sen. Kathleen A. Marchione (R-43).

Mr. Brown estimates that they trained and provided the treatment kits to about 120 individuals each day.

The success of these training programs is undeniable. In just a 10-day period earlier this year, his agency learned of five successful overdose reversals by those individuals they had trained in the use of this remarkable tool.

One major contributing factor to its success is the "relative ease with which it is administered," Mr. Brown said. He demonstrated using a sample kit. The Naloxone is inserted into a vial that then atomizes the liquid as a spray into the nose of someone who has overdosed. "It's definitely less intimidating." He said it takes just seconds to administer and save a life.

For the drug user, it essentially results in withdrawal symptoms, so it's important to call 911 immediately so medical professionals can be on hand to deal with that circumstance, Mr. Brown said. "We're keeping people alive," and friends and family members have expressed their extreme gratitude after having saved the life of a loved one. Quoting one such parent, he said, "You can't put a value on the fact that I saved my kid's life with this."

CC WORKS

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Committed to active witness*

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DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic Charities served 86, 801 people in the last fiscal year, which is an average of almost 238 people daily.

Golf for Good – Rescheduled for Monday, July 20th. Morning Flight Golf Spots are available! Call Erica Kirkland for more information at 453-6650.

HAVE AN OLD CAR TAKING UP SPACE IN YOUR DRIVEWAY? DONATE IT TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ALBANY!



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