



Celebrating 100 Years

The Campaign For Catholic Charities

In 2017, Catholic Charities celebrates a major milestone of 100 years as an active witness to the scriptural values of mercy and justice. As part of this celebration, we believe it is time to boldly refocus our efforts to improve our programs and service delivery.



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Celebrating 100 Years

"We must also acknowledge that the majority of the men and women of our time continue to live daily in situations of insecurity, with dire consequences"
- Pope Francis

DIGNITY: It's a simple word. You can't measure it, or point to it, but you know when it's missing. Since 1917, Catholic Charities has been relentless in its commitment to lifting others up in the face of poverty and crisis. We have been steadfast in providing children, women, and men, with the most fundamental needs for survival - food, shelter, and clothing. And just as importantly, they have been embraced with compassion, respect, and dignity. The circumstances of poverty may have changed since 1917, but the fundamental need for dignity in the face of such challenges remains the same.

The Campaign for Catholic Charities seeks to raise \$5,545,000 in order to:

- Place more families into **Affordable Housing** units with appropriate support
- Strengthen our **No Wrong Door** service delivery, linking clients to a network of programs
- Increase our ability to meet **Emergency Assistance** requests
- **Enhance our Service Centers** to better reflect the care and dignity we extend to clients
- Dramatically increase the number of **Volunteers** to join in our charge



Affordable Family Housing

Stable and quality housing is a critical component of a family's quality of life. However, in the last two decades, skyrocketing housing prices, depressed wages, and a shortage of quality affordable housing have jeopardized that reality. At one time, the poorest of the poor were homeless. In today's world, an alarming number of families considered the "working poor" cannot even afford the most basic apartments.



CC Residence in Oneonta, NY

Unfortunately, the working poor don't qualify for supportive housing, nor are they eligible for, or able to access, subsidized housing through programs like Section 8, the government's low-income housing assistance program. When unexpected emergencies occur, such as serious health care issues or transportation problems, eviction becomes a harsh reality for many.

Catholic Charities' Housing Agency currently has 37 affordable rental units suitable for low-income families, but that is not enough to meet the need. With a year-long waiting list for these spaces, the requests for help are overwhelming.

Severely Rent Burdened:

24.6% of rental households in Albany County spend more than 50% of their income on housing.

Our Plan | \$3,455,000

Catholic Charities will purchase approximately 25 properties to create 60 permanent, 2- and 3-bedroom family apartments. This housing initiative will provide much-needed rental housing for low-income families and could benefit up to 200 more children and adults annually.

No Wrong Door Program

Approaching Catholic Charities for food support is often a sign of more deeply-rooted problems such as job loss, housing problems, mental health challenges, or other financial burdens. Clients who are committed to improving their situation are taxed by the daily grind of poverty and sorting through a complex web of services.

Our Plan | \$1,198,000

The No Wrong Door Program will be piloted at several geographic agencies so that no matter where they enter into our system, there is “no wrong door.”

Each client who visits a food pantry will be assigned a mentor, connecting them with services to solve short-term problems while focusing on long-term solutions.

This will be accomplished by:

- A robust client database system which will allow Catholic Charities to track outcomes, services provided, and assistance opportunities across the 90 Catholic Charities programs operating in 14 counties.

*More than 1 in 6
Americans face
food insecurity.*



- Our first Mobile Outreach Unit will deliver critical services to those living in the most rural, low-income regions in the Albany Diocese. It will contain a food pantry with case management staff who offer health information and referrals, as well as additional services to meet community needs. By bringing Catholic Charities closer to our clients' homes, the Mobile Outreach Unit will increase our capacity to better serve more people in our rural areas.

Emergency Assistance Program

*Nearly 1 in 5
people served by
Catholic Charities
receives emergency
assistance.*

The number of clients who come through our doors with emergent and sudden needs has steadily increased over the past decade. The needs are usually small — help with a heating or medical bill or an unexpected car repair — but for the working poor, these expenses may lead to setbacks which can quickly snowball and cause them to sink into poverty.

Emergency assistance is a core and fundamental component of our mission. Enhancing the emergency assistance reserve meets critical needs of the program and our clients. Every day people walk through the doors of Catholic Charities looking for help. With increased resources, we can work with our clients to help them create greater stability.

Our Plan | \$510,000

Grow the Emergency Assistance Program so that more individuals will receive the help they need.

Emergency assistance requests typically range from \$25-\$200. This small amount can address an emergent need, which in turn may prevent the loss of a job, stop electricity from being turned off, or pay for medical expenses.

Each year we meet the need of hundreds of people with emergency grants, but too many are left unsupported. Last year 24,158 individuals were helped through our emergency assistance program. We seek to grow this program by 20%, helping an additional 5,000 people with emergent needs.



Property Improvements

Catholic Charities currently operates 52 properties which serve as homes, program centers, and offices. This includes a place to call home for newborns and their young mothers, as well as shelters for the homeless. Approximately half of these properties are in need of updates and improvements.

Our Plan | \$182,000

To better reflect the dignity and care Catholic Charities embodies, an average investment of \$7,000 into 26 of the properties will create much needed improvements, such as a fresh coat of paint, a roof repair, new carpeting, furniture replacement, and appliance purchases.

In conjunction with the funds needed to improve these facilities, we will utilize a core of volunteers to assist with carpentry, painting, landscaping, and interior design.



CC Care Corps Volunteer Program

Caring for our neighbors is a community effort and volunteers have been critical to our success. As funding streams for staff and programs decrease, the need to strengthen our volunteer core has grown.

Our Plan | \$200,000

Double the number of Catholic Charities' volunteers and establish the CC Care Corps, an expansive network of people committed to helping others.

CC Care Corps will be led by a designated staff member and serve in a variety of capacities: mentoring clients, assisting with maintenance and repair of our facilities, expanding our network of shelter and soup kitchen volunteers, and increasing our visual presence in the community.



The Campaign for Catholic Charities

Affordable Family Housing

\$3,455,000

Purchase 25 properties at an average cost of \$107,000 to create 60, 2- and 3- bedroom apartments for families and provide the staff needed to support the program

No Wrong Door Program

\$1,198,000

Enhance staff and training in our food pantries
Operationalize mobile unit and provide staff and maintenance
Implement an electronic client records database

Emergency Assistance Program

\$510,000

Grow the program by 20%

Property Improvements

\$182,000

Improve 26 properties with an average investment of \$7,000 per location

CC Care Corps Volunteer Program

\$200,000

Increase the number of volunteers to 2,200 throughout our 14 counties

Program Investment: \$5,545,000

Partnering with You

For one hundred years, we have partnered with our community to help thousands in crisis and to protect the vulnerable. Together we have kept people in their homes, provided food, secured assistance, and managed crises. The Campaign for Catholic Charities is a \$5.5 million fund raising effort which will improve how Catholic Charities provides dignity to those who struggle most in our Diocese.

We invite you to participate in The Campaign for Catholic Charities and welcome the opportunity to have a conversation with you. Any one of us or a member of our committee can visit with you or please contact Kate Qualters in our executive office.

The Campaign for Catholic Charities Committee

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How to Make a Gift

There are many ways to contribute: cash; securities; and pledges that can be fulfilled over three years. Additionally, your gift may be matched if you work for a matching gift company.

For more information, contact:

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