

# CC Works

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*A Catholic Charities Quarterly Committed To Active Witness*

## Tree planted in memory of Sister Maureen Joyce, RSM



Above, on November 4 at Branson House in Albany, Sister Maureen Joyce's brother, Larry, is ready to place dirt around a tree dedicated to the memory of his sister. Sister Maureen's dog, Tyronne, looks ready to help.

Below, the Cleveland Select Flowering Pear Tree was donated by Mike and Judy Wildzumas, owners of Osborne Mill Nursery in Albany.



## A message from the Board of Trustees

Last May, Catholic Charities put in place a structure designed to sustain the agency during the search for a CEO. The board of trustees of Catholic Charities of the Albany Diocese formally named Sister Charla Commins, CSJ, as interim chief executive officer (CEO). Sister Charla has 21 years of service as executive director for Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties, a role she will continue to fill while also serving as CEO for Catholic Charities.

The Trustees also identified a transitional leadership team led by Sister Charla. In addition to their current roles, Deborah Damm O'Brien, Michele Kelly, Linda Bonesteel, Jack Simeone and Mary Pat Hickey have been asked to assume additional responsibilities. The board of trustees is grateful for the efforts of those called to new leadership roles throughout the organization, and is delighted with their performance and success. The interim leadership team, together with dedicated executives throughout our 14-county Diocese is continuing Catholic Charities' tradition of dedication to mission and delivery of high quality services to the most vulnerable in our communities.

The search process undertaken in recent months included broad regional and national outreach, and produced impressive applicants with many of the characteristics sought. Nonetheless, the search did not produce a candidate who the committee could advance to fill the CEO position at this time.

This provides Catholic Charities with a unique opportunity to reflect further on the role and characteristics of the CEO who will lead this vibrant organization. The Board of Trustees believes investing additional time in such discussions will result in identification of the candidate best suited to enhance the mission of the agency, work collaboratively with a strong management team, and lead Catholic Charities into the future.

With great confidence, the board of trustees has requested that the interim leadership team continue to guide the agency into the new year. The board has also charged the Search Committee with further evaluating the agency's current needs, and developing new recommendations regarding organizational principles, leadership characteristics and future search strategies.

We anticipate renewing the search for a CEO in the spring of 2011.

**By John Murray, President of Catholic Charities Board of Trustees**

## Sandy Walters



Sandy Walters has served as a member of the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees for three years. Originally from the South, Sandy was educated at

the College of William and Mary (BBA) and Baruch College (MPA) in Manhattan. Her career has been in administration and accounting and she is currently employed as Controller of Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna LLP Law Firm.

When Sandy first came to Catholic Charities she was overwhelmed by the scope of its work and the large number of people served in a variety of programs from soup kitchens to providing transportation for the elderly/disabled. Her involvement on the Board has given her a sense of people's needs and the effective way Catholic Charities responds to them.

Her greatest frustration is the lack of funding, making it impossible to answer all of the needs that are presented. It is particularly difficult when programs/services have to be modified or eliminated due to financial limitations. It is important to Sandy that the Board recognize that it must change as needs change. It is always necessary to evaluate what is being done, looking at new challenges as they emerge. The Board must constantly strive to use its resources wisely and find new avenues of revenue.

Sandy has found the Board and staff of Catholic Charities to be an inspiration, not only in the generous service they give but in their ongoing enthusiasm and commitment to its mission.

She is proud to be a member of the Board and generously offers her valuable experience and financial expertise. We are grateful for her service and dedication.

By Sister Nola Brunner

## Greater Capital Region CA\$H has community seminar

A number of banks came together to help educate people on banking opportunities in the Capital Region. A workshop was held at the Pastoral Center of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese on November 4. The seminar was designed to help people who are at a lower or moderate income level or have struggled with their financial institution in the past. A manager at Citizens Bank Community Investment says a lot of banks have great products, but people just don't know about them. "We just want to get the information out there that the products are there, that people can be trusted, that banks are available to talk to all income level of people and help them put there money where it is very safe," said Erin Boggan, community investment manager at Citizens Bank.

Greater Capital Region CA\$H (Creating Assets, Saving and Hope) put on the workshop. The following banks and credit unions were represented at the event: Bank of America, Citizens Bank, First New York FCU, Key Bank, M & T Bank, SEFCU and Sunmark FCU.

For more information about Albany County CA\$H Chapter of the greater Capital Region, please contact Mary Olsen at Catholic Charities 518-453-6650, mary.olsen@rccda.org, or Erin Boggan from Citizens Bank at 518-472-6843, erin.e.boggan@citizensbank.com.



Cheryl Tretzger from Bank of America addressing the attendees at the CA\$H event on November 4.



## Harvest of Giving

For nearly 100 years, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany has served the needs of people who are our neighbors. Last year, almost 93,000 people turned to one of our 14 agencies in the 14 counties that comprise the Diocese.

Each year, Catholic Charities depends on you through the Harvest of Giving campaign to support these neighbors who need your help. Please send your donation to **Catholic Charities, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, New York 12203**, or donate securely on-line at [www.ccrccda.org](http://www.ccrccda.org).

## Sister agencies join to build a new community

Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties, Catholic Charities of Schoharie County, and Caregivers Support Services – sister agencies of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany – are all fulfilling their mission by offering support and services for a growing population, kinship families.

Kinship families are comprised of non-parent caregivers welcoming into their hearts and homes the children of relatives when biological parents are unable to care for the children. Living with a relative, or significant non-related adult, allows the children to stay within their community and family and out of the foster care system.

Caregivers Support Services has been providing the program for over 12 years and covers the geographic areas of Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties. With the award of a five-year renewable contract from the Office of Children and Family Services, Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties has partnered with Catholic Charities of Schoharie Counties to cover three additional counties.

Program service centers on support and education in groups and is individually geared towards improving family relations, peer relations, and school performance while aiding the family in maintaining stability. Support groups offer caregivers and children an opportunity to have a sense of belonging as they meet and interact with peers living in a similar family unit. The new program has been aided in its creation with training, program support and expertise provided by Caregiver Support Services.

By Theresa Lux

## Sister Enda McArdle, DC, honored

On October 19, 2010, Sister Enda McArdle, DC, was given a Senior Lifetime Achievement Award by the Capital District Senior Issues Forum. This award is granted to Seniors who have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of others at age 85 and beyond.

Sister Enda is a Daughter of Charity who tutors adults in mathematics at the Roarke Center in Troy. Sister has been a member of the Daughters of Charity for over 70 years and a teacher in multiple states during that time. However, Sister Enda is more than just a teacher. She is a friend, role model and inspiration to all who know her.



Bishop Howard Hubbard and Sister Enda McArdle

Still energetic and fun loving, Sister helps her adult students believe in themselves and gain confidence that they can learn the math skills they need for their daily lives or to pass a GED examination. Their successes greatly enhance their self-esteem and quality of life. Sister Enda enjoys a challenge and is very effective in helping our adults to achieve their goals. When one of the students succeeds and passes an exam or is admitted to an advanced program it is difficult to tell who is happier: student or teacher. She truly deserved this award for her long, devoted and generous service to others.

## Pasta dinner fundraiser in Oneonta, NY

On March 11, Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties will have a pasta dinner fundraiser at the Holiday Inn on Rt. 23 in Oneonta. All of the proceeds from the buffet dinner will go to CC of Delaware and Otsego Counties Emergency Assistance Program. Tickets may be purchased/reserved in advance of the dinner by calling Tracey Martindale, executive administrative assistant, 607-432-0061 extension 104. Bills will be sent out through the mail for reserved tickets. There may be some tickets available through the mail. The event will also include entertainment and a silent auction. Catholic Charities is extremely grateful to the management and staff of Holiday Inn for providing the venue and all of the food for this event.

## Wheels for Work partners for success



Catholic Charities Wheels for Work Program, H & V Collision Centers and State Farm Insurance partnered to donate a vehicle to a community member in need as the 2010 Recycled Rides Program came to the Albany area on Monday, November 22. Standing in front of the 2002 Voyager, from left, Michelle Abel, director of the Wheels for Work program; Linda Taylor, vehicle recipient; Lydia Alicea, case manager for Wheels for Work.

## Back to school clothing program

The CoNSERNS-U Back to School Clothing Program was a huge success again this year. Referrals from agencies in Southern Rensselaer County provided back-to-school shopping for 110 needy middle school students in Averill Park, East Greenbush, Rensselaer and Schodack. Each student received a \$100 gift card and was accompanied by a volunteer to help them shop. One hundred percent of the donations was spent directly on the students in the program. Three elements made this program successful: the generous contributions from the community, the agencies that provided the students' names to the program and the volunteers who helped the students shop. It is the hope of Colleen Pidgeon, CoNSERNS-U director, that "more adult volunteers will come forward to assist the students while they shop for their brand new back-to school clothes."

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## Catholic Charities Housing Office receives Residence of the Year Award

On October 25, staff of Catholic Charities Housing Office (CCHO) was honored to receive an award from the Supportive Housing Network of New York recognizing the agency's newly renovated St. Peter's Residence as upstate New York's Residence of the Year. St. Peter's is a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) residence offering supportive housing services as well as an empowerment model of employment—whereby residents receive paid job experience with CCHO—to formerly homeless men and women. Through a \$3.9 million award from NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's Homeless Housing Assistance Program, the residence has been expanded from 35 to 41 units and offers full accessibility features within units as well as the community at large. Many other major improvements were made through the renovations completed in October, including the addition of an elevator and replacement of the building's mechanical, electrical and health and safety systems, flooring, and an extensive remodeling of the interior. SHNNY's award recognizes not only these improved accommodations, but also the supportive services and the "unique sense of ownership the tenants have toward St. Peter's, combined with an environment of respect, tolerance and caring fostered by the community."



**From left, Ted Houghton, SHNNY executive director; Deborah Damm O'Brien, CCHO executive director; Tom Coates, CCHO director of operations; Brenda McAteer, CCHO assistant director of operations; Carole Coppens, executive director, YWCA of Binghamton and Broome County (2009 award recipient)**