

A WORD FROM THE CEO...



Vincent W. Colunno

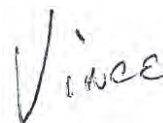
It is hard to believe we're wrapping up our 100th anniversary year here at Catholic Charities. Throughout this year I have been so impressed with everybody's commitment to our mission – we have celebrated our past successes and look forward to the future. Our focus on helping the poor and vulnerable is needed more than ever, and our staff, volunteers, and donors are energized to work on the next 100 years of helping our neighbors.

You will see several different examples of how we put our mission into action in this issue – from an interview with our inspiring board member Tony Rivera, to an update on the Campaign for Catholic Charities, to a description of how our Disaster Response and Recovery Office recently assisted survivors of the Cohoes fire. Also in this issue is an explanation of

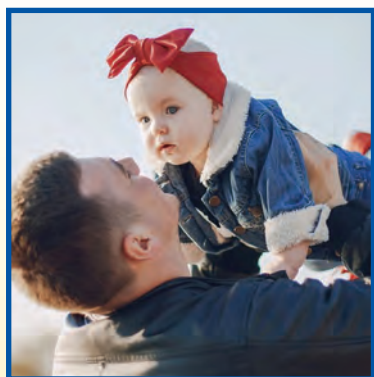
what we're doing with Children's Health Homes, an initiative that provides care management and help to parents whose children have complex medical needs. This is an important element of the Medicaid Redesign, and another way we can assist our vulnerable neighbors. Every time we are there to help, our donors and supporters are right there with us as we extend a compassionate hand.

I hope you are enjoying the long-awaited Spring season, and (though it's hard to believe) our summer gathering at Night at the Museum is right around the corner – hope to see you there! Thank you again for all that you do to support our good work.

Take Care,



IN THIS ISSUE...



Children's Health Homes provide case management so parents may better meet a child's complex medical needs.



Catholic Charities Disaster Response and Recovery Office helps survivors of disaster.



Meet Tony: Get to know Catholic Charities' Board of Trustee member Tony Rivera

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

By Mary Pat Hickey



Tony Rivera calls himself a connector. He likes to connect people and focuses on allowing others to shine. Tony grew up in foster care and will tell you that he beat the odds. He feels extremely blessed and grateful to those who have supported him along his journey.

After completing two Master's Degrees (an MBA and a MS in School Counseling), Tony chose to dedicate his career to assisting young people who share the struggles he faced. He also understands the challenges and overwhelming feelings youth and their parents face in navigating college today. Years ago Tony received assistance through an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and currently is the Director of the EOP at SUNY Adirondack, a program he helped design.

Trustee Ken Raymond and former Trustee Paul Stec got to know Tony when he worked in Admissions & with the Bonner Service Program at Siena College. They knew he had previously sat on the Catholic Charities Hispanic Outreach Board and with his strong commitment to the mission, the Board of Trustees would be the natural next step.

Tony and his fiancé, Yalitza Negrón (whom he will marry in October), recently became volunteers at the Sister Maureen Joyce Soup Kitchen. An opportunity to help others while using his culinary & baking skills make it the perfect volunteer experience for Tony. His 7-year-old son Alex, who Tony refers to as his "mini me", is very excited to join them.

As he thinks about the future, Tony wonders how the new federal tax plan could impact donations needed to support the programs and services of Catholic Charities. His hope is that we continue to be able to recruit the type of dedicated and generous board members who sit around the table today, who on a regular basis share their hearts, their time and their talent!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

By Grit Carotenuto

Have you been online today? Maybe chatted with a friend on facebook, looked up the answer to the question your kids asked you or maybe you are even reading this newsletter online? Technology helps us to stay informed and keep in touch with family and friends. But what if technology is being used to control us?

This is a growing trend Catholic Charities domestic violence staff encounter when working with survivors. Many abusers utilize technology to intimidate, threaten and monitor their victims. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) or apps might be helpful when somebody has an accident and first responders can locate that person through their cell phone. However, they can also be used to track the location of a woman who left an abusive relationship. Domestic violence staff discusses with clients the importance of turning off this function on their phones when entering a domestic violence shelter. They also review the importance of going through children's belongings when a child returns to the shelter from visiting with the other parent to ensure that no tracking device has been placed in their belongings.

Another example of how abusers utilize technology is spyware. Easily installed on a computer (often remotely) it allows the abuser to secretly monitor a victim's computer activity and with that gaining access to passwords or becoming aware that a victim has reached out to a domestic violence program to obtain help. In many situations the behavior of the abuser escalates when they realize that their victim is seeking help, creating an even more dangerous situation for the victim.

We encourage you to learn more about domestic violence and how it impacts your community. Do you have questions regarding domestic violence or know somebody who could benefit from survivor services? You can find help by calling one of the hotlines which are operated 24/7:



Herkimer County: 315-866-0458

Montgomery County: 518-842-3384

Schoharie County: 518-234-2231

Warren and Washington Counties: 518-793-9496

New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence
Hotline: 1-800-942-6906

REBUILDING AFTER THE FIRE

By Eileen Spath

A fast-moving fire on the evening of November 30, 2017, tore through the Remsen Street area of Cohoes, upending lives and causing a massive amount of damage. Thankfully nobody was killed, but the rebuilding process from an event like this can take many months. That's where Catholic Charities comes in. "We're finding out quickly how [a fire] looks different than the disasters we've had a lot of history with," explained Mary Olsen. Mary and Wilhelmina Murray-Davis have a combined 28 years of experience in responding to disasters. Together, Mary and Mina run Catholic Charities Disaster Response and Recovery - an office that works to provide disaster case management services to survivors of natural and man-made disasters. They also assist in the development of local community organizations active in disaster (COAD).

The Catholic Charities Disaster Response and Recovery Office has responded to disasters on a local and national level, from storms to floods to hurricanes. The Red Cross dealt with the immediate aftermath of the fire, while the Cohoes community rallied together and raised over \$100,000 for the survivors. When the Mayor's office contacted Catholic Charities to assist in managing the funds, the Disaster Response and Recovery Office once again stepped up without hesitation.

While the Disaster Response and Recovery Office was able to effectively assist the community, the fire recovery was not without its challenges. Unlike previous disasters the office has faced, there could be no home visits, as so many survivors had no home to return to. "With a flood or a storm," explained Mina, "we would do home visits so that we could physically go there and assess the damage. With a fire that was very different because there was no home to visit."

The long-term recovery process can take time to work



Mary Olsen (left) and Wilhelmina Murray-Davis (right)

through, and that kind of deliberate and methodical recovery work is where Catholic Charities excels. Each survivor received a comprehensive intake to assess individual needs. Catholic Charities then worked with the survivors to best allocate the funds based on those needs. Those in need of furniture replacement were able to receive new furniture; residents who lost their homes received rent and security deposits for a new place.

"So, even though we were not necessarily cutting a check for them," said Mina of the process, "people were put back into new apartments, with each room furnished, with food and they were closely mirroring their pre-disaster state." Clients expressed gratitude for the experience and even those who began the process skeptical of Catholic Charities' approach were won over in the end. That has a lot to do with how Mina works with each client - with respect, compassion, and a 'get it done' attitude.

"The important thing to remember, is that every disaster is different," noted Mary, "We keep learning every single time there is a disaster." With Cohoes, the Disaster Response and Recovery Office has worked to improve their response to these kinds of disasters, and help coordinate the response from the community. So that if and when the next disaster happens, Catholic Charities will be better prepared to help our neighbors with the long-term recovery needs.

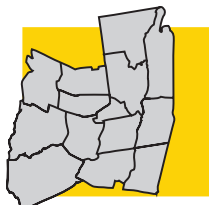


SERVING SENIORS

Catholic Charities has served senior citizens throughout the past century:

OVER 7,000

Seniors (age 55+) receive services from Catholic Charities every year.



Catholic Charities offers Services for Seniors in all 14 counties of the Diocese of Albany.

In the 14 counties of the Diocese, 7.2% of seniors live below the poverty line.

Over 15,000

Programs Include:



CAREGIVER Support Services

Transportation Services



Nutrition & Meal Services

For more information on Catholic Charities Senior and Caregiver Support Services, visit www.ccseniorservices.org

DEVELOPMENT CORNER: CAMPAIGN UPDATE

By Kate Qualters

Just over one year ago, Catholic Charities launched a Campaign with very ambitious goals to secure \$5.45 million over three years to expand our mission and services in honor of our 100th anniversary.

I am delighted to tell you that, as of today, commitments to this Campaign are nearly \$2 million! Thank you to our most generous donors thus far who have helped us hit the ground running to realize our vision. Here's what many of you have helped us accomplish already:

- Our dream of providing Affordable Housing to the working poor has begun with the purchase of a home Hoosick Falls, and we are close to purchasing several other homes in our diocese.
- Emergency Assistance funding has been expanded with a gift of \$60,000, allowing us to assist more individuals with emergent needs such as rental assistance, utility costs, and medical bills.
- Plans have begun to refurbish several of our programs and residences. Thank you to the *Carl E. Touhey Foundation* for a generous grant of \$100,000 to update and restore our men's shelter in Albany, St. Charles Lwanga Center, where dozens of homeless men each year find safety and support to rebuild their lives.

Our residence for teenage mothers and their babies, Heery Center, will also get a fresh coat of paint and new furniture – making for a warmer “home” environment for our young families who receive mentoring, parenting skills, child care, and counseling.

Thanks to the amazing support of our early donors to this Campaign, we are in a strong position to achieve our goals to place more families into Affordable Housing, strengthen No Wrong Door service delivery, increase Emergency Assistance grants, improve Service Centers and Properties, and grow our Volunteer Program. But there's still work to be done!

As we move into the next phases of this campaign you can expect to see some of these initiatives come to fruition, and additional opportunities to get involved and be a part of the future of Catholic Charities.

With your support, your help, and your prayers, Catholic Charities will continue our efforts to change lives for the better.



CHILDREN'S HEALTH HOMES

By Paul McAvoy

Have you ever wondered what a "Health Home" is? Are you the parent of a child who has complex medical issues and is receiving medicaid? If so, the CMS Health Home could be a good service to help you.

What is a Health Home?

A Health Home is NOT a physical place! It is a voluntary program which provides additional benefits to eligible children who are receiving Medicaid. This service is meant to help parents/guardians meet their child's health care needs.

Health Homes are programs that provide parents and guardians with care management support. A Health Home is a care management service model whereby all of a child's caregivers and providers communicate with one another so that all of the child's needs are addressed in a single Plan of Care. A care manager helps coordinate, advocate, and assist with communication between doctors, health providers, and others involved in helping care for a child with complex needs. This service can be very helpful for parents whose children receive care from many different providers.

Why is a Health Home the RIGHT choice for your Child?

- If your child has physical or mental health needs, Health Home Services offers your family coordinated care to meet your child's needs.
- A Care Manager will be assigned to your child to assist you with accessing, attending and coordinating your child's medical/mental health specialists.
- A Care Manager can also assist you in learning more about your child's diagnosis by linking you with others who may have a similar experience to you.
- Care Coordination Services are designed to help you avoid hospital or other out of home placement for your child.

To be eligible, a child:

- Must be younger than 21 years of age,
- Be receiving NYS Medicaid services,
- Have 2 chronic health conditions or 1 mental health condition or HIV or Complex Trauma
- Have parent(s) encountering difficulties navigating the child's health needs

Community Maternity Services (CMS), an agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, has expanded their services to assist families of children with special physical or mental health needs. CMS has engaged with multiple Health Homes serving children within the 14 counties of the Albany Diocese to provide Care Coordination Services for children who are receiving Medicaid and have been diagnosed with special physical or mental health care diagnoses.



For more information on how the CMS Health Homes program can help you or a family member, contact Peg Ellett at 518-482-8836 or PEG@cccms.org



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NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM | 222 MADISON AVENUE, ALBANY

HONORING JOHN F. MURRAY, JR. &
THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

Tickets are available at www.cccrda.org/NAM or 518-453-6650

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