

A WORD FROM THE CEO...



Vincent W. Colonno

Greetings,

As the holidays approach, it's hard not to look back at this past year. I know it has not been easy for any of us. We're seeing more and more new faces at our doors in need of help and are looking ahead to an uncertain future.

However, as I look ahead, I can't help but feel hopeful. Look no further than our

outreach centers, soup kitchens and pantries - all of which remain open to those in need. I take comfort in seeing how many people have reached out to Catholic Charities, asking "How can I help?" over the past year.

In this issue of CC WORKS, we'll once again be showing you some of the ways Catholic Charities is serving our communities as we head into the Christmas season. You'll read about how our

staff at Catholic Charities Disabilities Services is able to make Thanksgiving special for our residents, from the meal prep to dessert. You'll also get to meet Catholic Charities' Trustee Joe Watroba and you'll be able to see some action shots from our recent Empower Today 5K, a virtual event held in support of domestic violence survivors in our community.

Once again, please know that Catholic Charities is grateful for your support. On behalf of all those in need during these challenging times, thank you.

Take Care and Stay Safe,

Vince

IN THIS ISSUE...



At Catholic Charities Disabilities Services, we take time throughout the year to celebrate holidays like Thanksgiving.



Catholic Charities Wish List: See how you can get involved and help us to make Christmas special for the people we serve.



Meet Catholic Charities' Trustee Joe Watroba and learn more about his work in the community.

CC WORKS

*A Catholic Charities Quarterly
Committed to Active Witness*

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Here's what's been happening at Catholic Charities

Food Farmacy Opens: Catholic Charities Tri-County Services is partnering with Better Health for Northeast New York (BHNNY) to support food insecure patients after hospital or emergency department discharge.

Catholic Charities recognized for Excellence in Local Impact: The Capital Region Chamber honored Catholic Charities at this year's Nonprofit Business Awards for its efforts in serving the community over the past year.

Volunteers Needed in Columbia & Otsego Counties: Catholic Charities Senior & Caregiver Support Services is recruiting volunteers for assistance with transportation to appointments, grocery shopping, and other community-oriented activities.

Subscribe to our E-News by emailing catholiccharities@ccrcda.org to get monthly updates delivered to your inbox!



OUR CHRISTMAS WISH LIST



Catholic Charities Agencies throughout the diocese will be participating in Holiday Giving this year, in order to provide dinners and gifts to the poor and vulnerable throughout the area. Please see our wish list below for information on how you can donate and get involved!

Community Maternity Services

In need of: Walmart, Target or Amazon gift cards or donations for foster care youth in residential placement

Contact Marsha at marsha@cccms.org or Ann at ann@cccms.org or call 518-482-8836

Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties

In need of: \$50 Aldi's gift cards to assist families whose children normally receive free meals while school is in session

Contact Tracey Martindale at 607-432-0061

Fulton and Montgomery Counties

In need of: Gift cards, winter gear (hats, mittens, jackets) and toys for children ages 2-12

Contact Alice Burgado at 518-842-4202 x 3101

Herkimer County

In need of: \$25 gift cards to Target, Amazon, Walmart or donations (indicate Christmas giving)

Contact Maureen at mpetrie@ccherkimer.org

Adopt-a-Family

Some of our agencies are running Holiday Adoption Programs, allowing people to adopt a family or individual for the holiday season. For information on these programs, please reach out to one of the contacts below:

Care Coordination | Michelle Quentin at (518) 449-3581 x 100 or michelleq@ccalbany.org

Columbia and Greene Counties | Vanessa Vogel at vavogel@cathcharcg.org

Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties | Tracey at 607-432-0061

Disabilities Services | Jamie at jamied@ccdservices.org or 518-783-1111 x 1237

Herkimer County | Maureen at mpetrie@ccherkimer.org

Housing | Contact Claire at claire.laurange@rcda.org or 518-459-0183

Housing

In need of: Gift cards, winter gear, stress-relief items (journals, stress balls, etc.) and home items (toiletries, towels, sheets, blankets) for folks moving out of shelters

Contact Claire at claire.laurange@rcda.org or 518-459-0183 x 19

Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties

In need of: Gift cards to various locations, including gas cards, local grocery stores, Walmart, and Target

Contact Allison at 518-587-5000

Tri-County Services

In need of: New, unwrapped toys or gift cards (\$25-\$50 to Target, Dick's Sporting Goods, Amazon, etc.), grocery store gift cards (\$10-\$15), clothing, winter items, books and stocking stuffers

Contact Justine at jcarroll@ccrcda.org or 518-512-3577

United Tenants of Albany

In need of: Gift cards to local grocery stores to help guests with food insecurities over the holidays

Contact Librada at Librada@unitedtenantsalbany.org

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

By Jason Carnegie



Joseph Watroba may be one of the newer members of the Board of Trustees, but his impact on Catholic Charities and the community is felt by many. Through his work on the Catholic Charities Board and through his non-profit, Play it Forward 518, Joe has built a life in service of others.

Joe grew up the youngest of three siblings. He attended Mohonasen High School in Rotterdam. Upon graduating, Joe went on to Siena College where he met his wife Michaela and earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Accounting, all while he was managing the men's basketball team. Joe began his career in Albany as a public accountant and currently works as a licensed CPA at Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte, CPAs.

Joe is so much more than his resume. A cancer survivor, he received the Fighting Spirit Award from Coaches vs Cancer. It was at this event where he first met Ken Raymond, current President of the Board of Trustees. Joe credits Ken with introducing him to Catholic Charities.

Inspired by his experience, Joe founded Play it Forward 518 in 2015 - a foundation that raises money for the Make-A-Wish foundation and the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center. Play it Forward 518 has netted over \$100,000 that has benefitted cancer patients in the area.

He began volunteering on Catholic Charities' Advisory Board, where he served on various committees before being asked to join the Board of Trustees in 2018.

As a Board Member, his goal is simple: "Catholic Charities has been around for 100 years. It's my job to make sure that Catholic Charities will be around for 100 more."

Joe commends the hard work of the Catholic Charities team amid the pandemic and is particularly impressed by seeing so many initiatives come to fruition - initiatives like CC MOVE's Food Distributions. Seeing the community come together and seeing the scale of all of the food, volunteers and guests was a powerful moment.

While he anticipates many challenges and changes in the future, Joe feels as long as we continue to adapt to these changes as proactive and forward thinkers, Catholic Charities will remain a valuable resource in our ever growing community.

Joe and his wife Michaela currently reside in Castleton.



RUN, BIKE, ROLL, OR STROLL

Empower Today 5K raised funds, awareness for survivors.

On October 24, we hosted our first-ever virtual 5k to benefit our domestic violence programs. These programs seek to empower survivors about their rights and resources and work with community systems to create opportunities for safety for survivors and their children.

We want to extend a special "Thank You" to all of our 5K participants and our sponsors, Everett Auto Repair, the Medicine Shoppe and Midtel, who made this event a success.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: THANKSGIVING AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES DISABILITIES SERVICES



By Eileen Spath

At Catholic Charities Disabilities Services (CCDS), residents are as good as family - complete with holiday traditions.

“There’s just so much good that goes on behind the scenes.” Maria Vigorito-Lopez, Director of Residential Services, knows just how hard the staff at CCDS work to pull off a Thanksgiving Dinner for their residents. Catholic Charities supports 83 individuals with developmental disabilities across its 17 residential programs.

“In all of our programs we do the same thing,” said Maria. “This is a huge holiday. Our staff are there working and we go all out with a full thanksgiving dinner.”

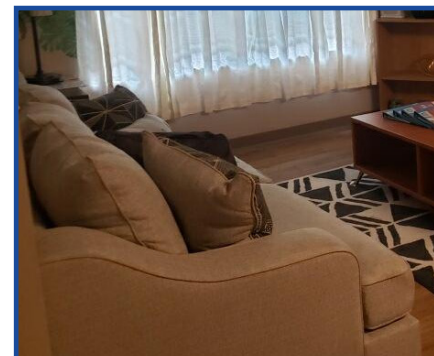
That means not only supplying the food, but preparing the food and providing the staffing - all while maintaining the level of care and supports needed at each residence.

Scheduling staff is no easy feat and this year, with COVID-19 safety precautions in place, one staff person cannot support multiple locations. Staff are scheduled weeks in advance with back-ups in place in case of an emergency.

Staff and residents who can spend the day with family often do so, but some residents have family who live out of town or simply don’t have a family to celebrate with.

Meal prep is a group effort, with residents participating however they can. Some people may help set the table, or plan the meal while others will spend the day in the kitchen, listening to holiday music and enjoying the company.

“Whether they’re home with their biological family or with their Catholic Charities family, they deserve to have a blast that day.”



**We’re opening new residences
developmental disabilities can f**

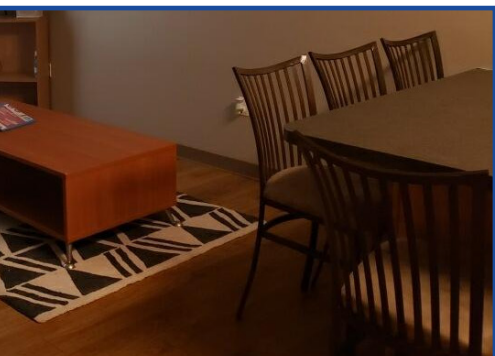
About Catholic Charities Disabilities Services Residential Programs

Catholic Charities Disabilities Services provides residential care in a number of settings throughout the Capital District.

Catholic Charities Disabilities Services offers a range of community living residential opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. We offer residential and clinical supports and services to individuals in certified residences including homes that provide 24-hour support.

Residents can be found in the city of Albany, the town of Colonie, Loudonville, Schenectady, Niskayuna, Clifton Park and the town of Brunswick

Catholic Charities serves 83 individuals across 18 residential programs.

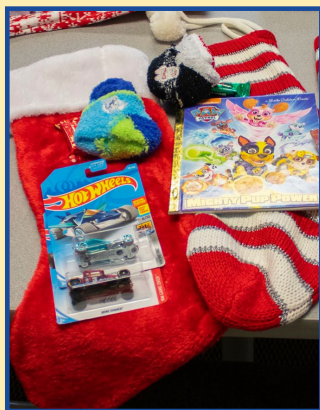


This fall so even more individuals with and a home with Catholic Charities.

THE “WHY” OF HOLIDAY GIVING

“I give to Catholic Charities because I know they do such *good work!*”

- Dolores, Catholic Charities Donor



It’s been a challenging year for us all. Let’s celebrate our good work together because only together do we make a difference!

Each November, we kick off our World Day of the Poor and Giving Tuesday Campaign (This year, November 15 to December 1).

This global online giving movement celebrates the good in helping others who need it most.

Giving Tuesday kicks off a month of holiday giving and provides all of us with a reminder to take a break from the busy buying of the season and spend some time supporting non-profits like Catholic Charities in their work of caring for others.

Why give back this Christmas?

... so people won’t have to choose between paying for heat or paying for medicine.

... to support single parents working from home while balancing virtual learning with their kids.

... to reach out to isolated seniors in need of conversation, hot meals and connection.

... so families can make Christmas special for their children.

It’s not too late to show our neighbors that we care this holiday. Help struggling families during these tough times and join us as we give back.

www.ccrda.org

THE CARES ACT

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (**CARES Act**) was signed into law on March 27, 2020, and extended financial aid to for-profit and nonprofit businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the CARES Act, limitations have been removed for federal income tax purposes. Additionally, anyone who donates up to \$300, whether they itemize or not, can deduct that against other income for donations in 2020.

Disclaimer: Please consult with your advisor to ascertain how these opportunities may complement your own personal, philanthropic and tax planning objectives.