

A Word From the CEO



Sister Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ

Welcome to the Summer/Fall 2023 edition of CC WORKS!

It is hard to imagine that an entire year has already gone by that I have had the privilege of serving as CEO of Catholic Charities! They say the only constant is change and we certainly have experienced that this year.

New staff and volunteers have been welcomed while we said adieu to others. Our partnership with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps has been a rich source of committed and talented blessings. We eagerly look forward to others joining us!

Columbia and Otsego Catholic Charities' agencies launched their Aging Life Programs offering resources and assistance for seniors to stay safely in their homes and engaging the wider community to assist them in doing so. Find out more – Catholic Charities of Columbia/Greene (catholiccharitiescg.org) or Catholic Charities of Delaware/Otsego/Schoharie Catholic Charities (charitiesccdos.org).

A number of projects have been completed at two of our programs for children – Camp Scully with new siding on

the Day Camp Building and Sunnyside with a new roof, new floors, railings and a newly painted pool.

Our Columbia County office suffered a flood but thankfully is in the process of being put back together better than ever! Catholic Charities of Saratoga/Warren/Washington was able to host their 27th Annual Festival of Trees, bringing back all activities after scaling back the past couple of years. Herkimer's Recovery Center was visited recently by Attorney General Leticia James to highlight our good work.

Internally at our admin offices, several system-wide services, in finance, payroll and human services, have been streamlined for ease of service and efficiency.

None of these things and the scores of others would not be possible without our extraordinary staff, stalwart volunteers, committed Board members and you, our faithful, generous donors! Thank you for your part in the Mission of Catholic Charities. We can't do the good we do, without you!

Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ

Sister Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ
CEO

In This Issue



What we've been up to this Summer.



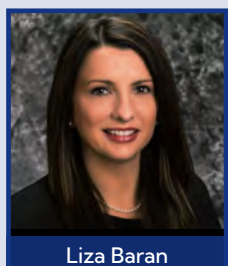
Another successful Night at the Museum



A thank you to our CC MOVE volunteers

Board Member Profile

By Jason Carnegie



Catholic Charities recently welcomed new board member, Liza Baran, a dedicated individual with a deep-rooted connection to rural communities and a strong desire to make a positive impact. Liza's journey began in rural Schoharie County, where she was raised by parents who instilled in her a profound appreciation for the values of hard work and community.

Growing up in the picturesque Schoharie Valley, Liza's first job involved picking vegetables, which gave her a genuine understanding of the importance of local agriculture and a strong regard for the rural community. After pursuing higher education, she graduated from Siena College with a Finance Degree and went on to earn her MBA from the University of Albany.

Her life took a pivotal turn when she joined Fenimore Asset Management as Director of Shareholder Services & Firm Operations. It was through this association that Liza's admiration for Catholic Charities deepened, witnessing the organization's widespread and diverse services benefiting countless individuals across the region.

Residing in the Village of Altamont with her husband and two young children, Liza is an active participant in her local community, cherishing the small-town charm and close-knit relationships it offers. Her strong sense of belonging and desire to contribute to her community motivated her to engage in volunteer work over the years.

When Liza learned about the opportunity to join the Catholic Charities Board, she seized it. She had long respected the organization's compassionate mission and admired the significant impact it had on the lives of people in need. Additionally, her interactions with CEO Sister Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ, who shared her upbringing in Schoharie County, further fueled her desire.

As a new board member, Liza is well aware of the challenges that Catholic Charities faces. The organization's services span a vast area, each with unique needs and funding requirements. However, she remains steadfast in her commitment to tackle these challenges head-on and contribute her expertise to ensure that Catholic Charities continues to deliver effective and comprehensive aid to those it serves.

Looking towards the future, Liza is filled with hope. She envisions a community that recognizes the power of their contributions, be it through monetary donations or volunteering their time. With countless volunteer opportunities throughout the region, Liza is eager to promote awareness of Catholic Charities' impactful work and inspire more individuals to get involved and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

With Liza Baran's arrival on the board, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany gains not only a dedicated and compassionate individual but also someone who understands the values of small-town life and the importance of community support. Her presence is sure to inspire and drive positive change, further cementing Catholic Charities' vital role in the region's well-being.

Happy Faces



Captions: (Top to Bottom) • Friends and staff enjoy the night at a ValleyCats game • CPR training in style in honor of National Sunglass day • Summertime fun at Sunnyside Child Development Center • Staff in Columbia and Greene Counties celebrate Catholic Charities being named a Top Workplace • Beach day at the Executive Office.

A Busy Summer of Events



With more than 350 members of our Catholic Charities family joining us at the New York State Museum, we honored Stewart's Shops/The Dake Family, whose generosity speaks volumes of their commitment to uplifting neighbors in need throughout the Diocese.

Together we raised over \$215,000! That's \$215,000 invested back into the communities we live and serve, providing life-changing support that meets our neighbors' urgent and essential needs.



Catholic Charities' Care Coordination Services held its Annual Garden Party to raise funds for Care Coordination Services programming and services, including Project Safe Point and to raise awareness for those struggling with chronic illnesses including substance use disorder and mental health conditions.

This year Care Coordination Services was proud to honor Janelle Shults, the Regional Director of NY Health Homes. Janelle has dedicated her career to working with individuals who experience behavioral health issues.



Celebrating Five Years of CC MOVE: A Heartfelt Thank You

By Jason Carnegie



As we bid farewell to the CC MOVE (Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Vehicle Extension) mass food

distributions, it's time to celebrate and reflect on the incredible journey we've shared. Without your unwavering support and dedication, this remarkable initiative wouldn't have been possible. Your time, your commitment, your genuine care—these are the ingredients that brought heart and passion to CC MOVE.

Over the past five years, CC MOVE has been a beacon of hope for countless families in need, and this success story is as much yours as it is ours. Let's take a moment to revel in the astounding statistics and heartwarming memories we've gathered along the way.

Nearly 300 Food Drops:

Each of those moments was a testament to the power of community coming together to make a difference. Rain/snow/shine, our volunteers were there, ensuring that no one went to bed hungry.

Over 4,000 Volunteers:

More than 4,000 incredible individuals, just like you, stepped forward to lend a hand in the spirit of giving. Your collective effort created a ripple of compassion that touched the lives of so many. Together, we formed a family dedicated to helping our neighbors in need.

Over 140,000 Households Reached:

We have impacted over 140,000 households, spreading warmth and nourishment. Behind every number is a story, a family, and a grateful smile.

Feeding Over 400,000 Neighbors:

We joined forces to feed over 400,000 of our neighbors in their times of need. These aren't just numbers; they are lives changed and stomachs filled. You have made a real and lasting difference.

5 Million Pounds of Food:

Yes, you packed and distributed a staggering 5 million pounds of food. That's the weight of your dedication and the embodiment of your compassion. It's a testament to the incredible impact we've made together.

This incredible journey was made possible because of you, our extraordinary volunteers. Your selflessness, your hard work, and your belief in the power of community have brought light to our community and made CC MOVE a symbol of hope to all.

As we close this chapter, we want to extend our deepest gratitude once more. Thank you, thank you, and thank you again! You are the heart and soul of CC MOVE, and your legacy of compassion will continue to inspire us for years to come.

Though our food distributions may have ended, our spirit of giving lives on. Together, we've proven that when a community comes together with love and purpose, there's nothing we can't achieve.

Thank you CC MOVE Heroes for making a difference, one meal at a time and a special thank you to our amazing community partners: The Capital District Area Labor Federation, CDPHP and The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York for making this possible.

Will Power

A will is so much more than a way to distribute your assets. Your will can also be a powerful tool to leave a legacy and change your community. You can name Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany in your will.

For more information & a confidential conversation please reach out to:

Diane Cameron Pascone at 518.453.6677

With one foot raised

By Dennis Quinn



Two years before I retired from New York State, I read an article in *The Evangelist* on a newly formed organization in the Capital Region called the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC). IVC was seeking retirees as volunteers to serve in not-for-profit organizations in the area, using the talents and skills acquired in their work lives to provide meaningful service during 10-month assignments. The volunteers would gather monthly to learn about and reflect upon Ignatian spirituality and the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Not ready to retire at the time, I mentally filed this article away until retirement. Yet I vowed to myself that I would become an IVC volunteer, attracted by the prospect of serving others while joining a community of Christian volunteers growing in faith and knowledge of the teachings of St. Ignatius.

I spent over 31 years in State government in the fields of budgeting, project management, contracting and procurement. I finished my career as director for the office responsible for all technology contracts and purchasing for New York State, during which I adopted the servant leader style of leadership. I come from a family of public servants who viewed community service as integral to their Christian faith.

At Catholic Charities, I joined a team responsible for distributing food to people throughout the Diocese of Albany who suffer from food insecurity, i.e., the lack of access to sufficient food or food of an adequate quality. Dubbed CC MOVE, this Catholic Charities initiative began in November 2018 and has continued monthly since then, growing exponentially since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Well over 300 food distributions have occurred in this time, often consisting of 10 separate events per month in church, college, school, and business parking lots around the Diocese. CC MOVE's volunteers bag and distribute food donations to people in their cars on designated distribution days. Upwards of 3800 volunteers and supporters have joined the cause in three and a half years. I am responsible for e-mailing notices and flyers for these monthly events to those volunteers and fielding their questions.

In January 2023, I created, distributed and analyzed the results from a first-ever survey of all CC MOVE volunteers. Volunteers were asked about their experiences, solicited for their suggestions and asked about their interest in volunteering with Catholic Charities in other capacities. The results of this survey are being used to improve the program, identify volunteer interests and, hopefully, connect willing volunteers with other programs within Catholic Charities in need of volunteer assistance.

For me, who began with limited knowledge of St. Ignatius and even less of Ignatian spirituality, IVC has been a tremendous growth experience in both my faith life and service life. The monthly gathering of like-minded retirees learning and sharing their faith has been as rewarding as putting my talents to use in meaningful ways.

In recognition of Bishop Emeritus Howard J. Hubbard's recent passing, we would like to acknowledge his support & dedication to the community. Historically, Bishop Hubbard was an advocate for the poor and suffering. May he rest in peace.