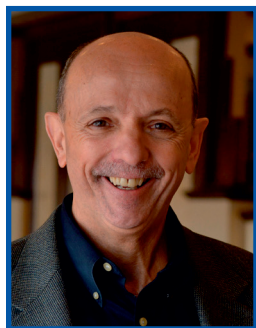


CC WORKS



SUMMER 2020

A WORD FROM THE CEO...



Vincent W. Colonno

Greetings,

And welcome to a very special CC WORKS!

This issue, I invite you to join me as I extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to the staff at Catholic Charities: our very own CC Heroes. Our employees across the Diocese have worked tirelessly to ensure our neighbors could continue to turn to us for help. Time and again, our staff

have been waiting with open arms, providing food items, emergency financial assistance, even domestic violence services and case management.

In this issue, you'll read about some of the solutions our team at Catholic Charities has come up with in response to the

coronavirus, from virtual mentoring to grab-and-go food pantries. You'll also have the opportunity to meet Dr. James O'Brien, who serves on our Board of Trustees and the Stintons, whose generosity has helped so many people throughout their many years of giving and volunteering with Catholic Charities.

I hope this finds you well. I know these last several months have not been easy for any of us and I hope you know that Catholic Charities is here for you, for our community, and for all those who are struggling at this difficult time.

Take Care and Stay Safe,

Vince

IN THIS ISSUE...



Catholic Charities Responds: See the ways Catholic Charities' staff and volunteers are stepping up in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing our mission to serve our neighbors across the Diocese.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



At Catholic Charities, we rely on volunteers to help us in our mission of Caring Beyond Belief. From taking time to pack food for a CC MOVE food distribution to spending a few hours a week mentoring a child, our volunteers make a real difference in peoples' lives.

Sister Betsy Van Deusen, Director of Community Partnerships for Catholic Charities, helps to coordinate Catholic Charities' volunteer assignments and has seen first-hand the positive affect volunteering has on people.

"Volunteering gives us a chance to do what we can," said Van Deusen. "No one person can do everything, but we can all

contribute a little bit, whether that is time, talent or treasure. It also connects us with people we might not meet in our day-to-day lives and reminds us to be grateful for the gifts and blessings that we have received."

At Catholic Charities, volunteers come from all walks of life. Some people volunteer as part of a larger group, others come to Catholic Charities on their own, and others find Catholic Charities through a volunteer organization, such as AmeriCorps or the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.

"Volunteering is about using one's talents, skills, and desires to be of service to others, whether it's working directly with someone or helping an organization such as Catholic Charities in the fulfillment of its mission," said Kathleen Burgess, Regional Director for the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) in Albany. The IVC works with community organizations, including Catholic Charities, to provide men and women, most age 50 or better, with volunteer opportunities to serve others and to transform lives.

"To volunteer is to serve, to serve your sisters and brothers who are in need. Volunteering is one way to give life to the verse in Matthew, *whatever you do for the least of your brothers and sisters, you do for me.*" said Burgess. "It's about serving Christ through service of others – it's that simple."

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Sister Betsy Van Deusen has a message for you. "We would love to have you!" We are committed to keeping our volunteers healthy and are following appropriate safety guidelines.



Contact volunteer@ccrcda.org to learn more.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

By Jason Carnegie



Dr. James O'Brien may be one of the fresher faces on the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees, but with over 20 years' experience practicing medicine, he has a long history of serving others.

Even as a young child, Dr. O'Brien knew he had a desire to help. Following that ambition, he pursued a career

in medicine, receiving his degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1988. After returning state side, Dr. O'Brien completed his residency at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York. He advanced his medical knowledge through a Cardiology Fellowship at Baystate Medical Center and then an additional fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital in 1996. Currently, Dr. O'Brien serves as the Director of Cardiac Arrhythmia Services at Capital Cardiology Associates and is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Albany Medical College.

For Dr. O'Brien, his position on the Board of Trustees was meant to be. He fondly remembers joining his father to volunteer for Catholic Charities as a child. Naturally, when a friend and now-fellow Trustee Michael Costello inquired about Dr. O'Brien's interest in joining the Board, the answer was a resounding "yes".

Through his work on the Board, Dr. O'Brien has found a particular affinity for Catholic Charities' affordable housing initiatives. He credits Matthew Desmond, sociologist and the Professor of Sociology at Princeton University, and his book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* with illuminating the importance of stable households within a community. Households that not only survive, but lead to a prosperous life.

Dr. O'Brien finds the vast need for housing in the Albany Diocese humbling, and is eager to be a part of the solution in his role on the Board of Trustees.

A sentiment many share, and Dr. O'Brien echoes, is the challenge of funding. However, he remains optimistic in spite of recent events and envisions Catholic Charities continuing to provide care to those in need – as they have throughout 2020. Dr. James O'Brien plans to continue his position on the Board for many years to come and looks forward to helping Catholic Charities in reaching even more of our neighbors and friends in need.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES RESPONDS

By Eileen Spath

This March, our world was turned upside down in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Seniors, homeless individuals, the immunocompromised, those without health insurance – in short, the vulnerable – are feeling the disproportionate effects of the outbreak. People living paycheck to paycheck have been laid off, while seniors are ordered to remain home, without the promise of outside communication or socialization.

"Shutdowns, layoffs, illness – these are things that directly impact the people who rely on our services," said Vincent W. Colonna, CEO of Catholic Charities, "One thing we've been able to do, and we're glad to do, is make sure people are taken care of. Our Meals on Wheels program in Schenectady County is still making deliveries, our shelters remain operational, even our summer camps were able to reopen this summer with additional safety measures in place."

As the crisis continues, its effect on our Diocese has become evident. At Catholic Charities, we're seeing new faces. People who've never needed additional support are suddenly turning to us for help. Our CC MOVE Food Distributions are seeing unprecedented crowds. Our neighbors need food and to keep up with that need, we've increased the size and frequency of these distributions. Even so, lines of cars continue to stretch around the block, with people waiting hours for a box of food to feed their family.

"It's heartbreaking," Vince said of the long lines, "but to be in a position to help, I consider that a blessing. I'm proud of our staff and the work they're doing to feed our neighbors. Needless to say, we are doing everything in our power to assist those in need especially during this awful pandemic."



▲ The staff at Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties is organizing mass food distributions, keeping the pantry open and continuing to serve our community in creative ways, from a 24-hour Crime Victim Services hotline to virtual parent support groups.



▲ At Catholic Charities Tri-County Services, we're taking time to review food options for folks at our pantries, providing meals to-go at the soup kitchens, even caring for the children at our Sunnyside Child Care Center— all with a warm and welcoming smile.

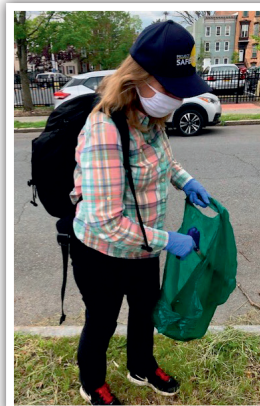
Staff at Catholic Charities Disabilities Services are working tirelessly to provide care and support to the IDD community and the people we serve. Our residential and care staff are true heroes, working the front lines to care for the persons we serve every day.



United Tenants of Albany (UTA) is responding to a call volume that has more than doubled, but the staff is determined in their response to the wave of housing emergencies in the wake of COVID-19. They are serving tenants in need and have expanded the breadth of direct services available in our community.



▲ Our support staff in the Executive Office have moved to a virtual work environment, collaborating via virtual means to keep the lights on. They were instrumental in ensuring our front-line and essential workers were able to continue their work without missing a beat as we adapted our services this spring.

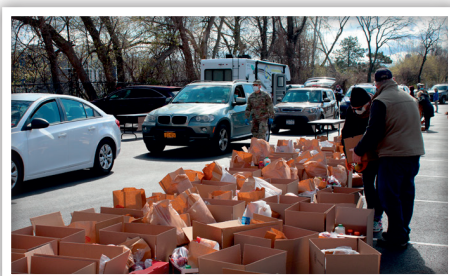


▲ Staff at Catholic Charities Care Coordination continue to provide support and case management to our neighbors who are living with chronic conditions. They're reaching out to those most at-risk from the opioid epidemic which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.

Catholic Charities Senior and Caregiver Support Services has adapted its services to ensure the safety of seniors, while continuing to provide home-delivered meals through its Meals on Wheels program and wellness checks to combat social isolation and facilitate access to vital services.



Our programs at Community Maternity Services have been resilient! The staff have found creative ways to serve the children, adolescents and families who depend on them. Although the pandemic required all of our residents to participate in remote learning, they were successful with the added support of our caring staff.



▲ Through Catholic Charities' CC MOVE initiative, and a successful partnership with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, we've distributed over a million pounds of food to our neighbors in order to help address food insecurity in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.



In Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties, Catholic Charities continues to offer over 20 programs to the community – from telehealth support to our Summer Food Program. We've been able to assist hundreds of individuals and families in meeting their housing, transportation, and utility needs through our Caring Connections Program.

The need for housing is constant, and Catholic Charities' Housing Office is continuing to support individuals across the Diocese struggling with homelessness. CCHO is protecting its residents with temperature checks, PPE, hand sanitizer, and a whole lot of cleaning products!



Catholic Charities of Herkimer County has been able to work through new challenges – providing everything from our transportation program to emergency assistance to runaway and homeless youth programs, along with all of our other services across the county. ▼



◀ In Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties, our staff have become tech experts! Programs "see" clients and each other regularly through virtual check-ins, meetings and supervision. The Domestic Violence staff has gone so far as to facilitate support groups using Zoom.

Our Substance Abuse Prevention Educators in Columbia and Greene Counties have made videos to share with the schools, centering on healthy ways to deal with stress. They've even learned new online teaching tools to help support students this fall. ▶



A CONVERSATION WITH KEITH AND CLAUDIA STINTON



Keith and Claudia Stinton are long-time friends of Catholic Charities, who have volunteered, given, and supported a variety of Catholic Charities programs through the years.

What brought you to Catholic Charities as donors?

I have a few friends that have been involved with Catholic Charities' work over the years. Peg Verno, a former work colleague, has volunteered for Catholic Charities since she retired. Din Cahill has served on the board for many years. We worked together at the St John's/St. Ann's soup kitchen as a community team work project. There I met Sister Betsy Van Deusen, Cookie Towle-Hilt and Kate Qualters, who helped me learn more about Catholic Charities' work and mission.

What does the work of Catholic Charities mean to you?

It's incredible the amount of support that Catholic Charities provides for our community from summer camps, food pantries, and assistance for the elderly. I love the fact that it provides on the ground support for so many different populations in need.

You utilize a matching gift program, allowing your donations to go further. Why is it a good resource?

I am very fortunate to work for an employer that is committed to supporting the charitable interests of its associates both financially and with their time. We are able to make cash or stock gifts to qualified 501c3 charities and request that the gift be matched dollar for dollar. This effectively doubles the gift for the charity. We are also able to recommend projects which we can organize and have colleagues join us to support particular charities. This is what brought me to the St. John's/St. Ann's soup kitchen. One of my colleagues organized a day of service to serve a meal there.

You also give through a Donor Advised Fund. Why is a Donor Advised Fund your preferred method of charitable giving?

I am a big fan of donor advised funds. It is a tool which allows you to streamline your charitable gifting into an account. I gift appreciated stock into a DAF a couple of times a year and direct gifts to qualified charities from that account. It simplifies my tax reporting since I only need to keep track of the contributions in the DAF. It also helps me personally. I use the cash I would otherwise gift to charities to buy the shares that I give away. We call it 'stepping up' my basis.

What would you like to share with people interested in giving to Catholic Charities?

The people who serve those in need are inspiring. They are constantly working to find ways to help, discovering new needs that require attention and working to find solutions to the many challenges encountered along the way. Volunteering to help will provide those who haven't had an opportunity to appreciate their many blessings a keen insight. Supporting Catholic Charities financially will enable donors to know that they are making a positive impact in our community.

CC WORKS

*A Catholic Charities Quarterly
Committed to Active Witness*

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our work across the Diocese:

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