

A WORD FROM THE CEO



Vincent W. Colonno

Greetings,

It is my pleasure to present to you another edition of CC WORKS! In this issue, you'll hear some of the outstanding work happening at Catholic Charities this fall.

We're once again looking ahead as our community needs continue to change in new and unexpected ways. Our Creative Hearts Program is safely reopening its

doors and once again teaching pottery and painting, while also supporting the mental and financial health of our clients. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and our domestic violence support programs and shelters remain a haven to men, women and children affected by domestic violence.

In this issue, you'll not only learn about the Creative Hearts and Domestic Violence Support Programs, you'll have the opportunity

to meet one of our newest Trustees, Keith Stinton, who joined the Board this past summer.

We know times are not easy. A lot of people are struggling, a lot of families are struggling, and a lot of businesses are struggling. At Catholic Charities, we are committed to working within our communities across the Diocese to "bridge the gap" and help our neighbors to get back on their feet.

As always, I am incredibly grateful of the support you have shown to Catholic Charities. It is because of people like you our work is possible. Thank you.

Take Care and Stay Safe,

Vince

IN THIS ISSUE...



How you can maximize your philanthropic impact by leveraging your IRA.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Catholic Charities is here to provide support to survivors in our region.



The Creative Hearts program is once again a place of art and community as it reopens in Troy.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS GIVE HOPE TO SURVIVORS

October was established as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989 to shine a light on the prevalence of domestic violence, the impact it has on victims/survivors and their families, and to educate the community about the availability of resources.

By Grit Carotenuto

A common misconception around domestic violence is that perpetrators “lose control”. Domestic violence is really a pattern of behavior in which one person establishes and maintains power and control over another.

At Catholic Charities, we operate four domestic violence programs providing services in Herkimer, Montgomery, Schoharie, and Warren and Washington Counties. Through these programs, we provide safe temporary shelter (in confidential locations), one-on-one support and access to support groups.

Most people come to Catholic Charities domestic violence programs through a dedicated 24-hour helpline (listed at the end of the article). Some of the survivors might have experienced a domestic violence situation for the first time very recently, while other survivors might have suffered abuse for years or even decades.

Regardless what brought them to Catholic Charities or how long the abuse might have happened, our staff listen to each survivor’s story. They know that each person is an expert on their own experiences and has the capacity to decide what they want to happen both in the short, medium, and long term. The goal of the staff is to support each individual in their choices.

In addition to their helpline and shelters, each program offers one-on-one services and referrals to community resources and available benefits, , advocacy and various resources including legal and law enforcement, housing, educational opportunities and supportive counseling.

If you or someone you know is in need of domestic violence support services, help is available:

Catholic Charities Programs

Herkimer County | www.herkimerdvp.org
24-Hour Hotline: (315) 866-0458 or

Fulton and Montgomery Counties
www.catholiccharitiesfmc.org/domestic-violence
24-Hour Hotline: (518) 842-3384

Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Counties
24-Hour Hotline: (518) 793-9496

Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties
www.charitiesccdos.org/Domestic_Violence.html
24-Hour Hotline: (518) 234-2231

State and National Resources

New York State DV 24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-942-6906
or 711 for Deaf or Hard of Hearing

New York State Chat/Text Hotline: 844-997-2121
or opdv.ny.gov/chat.html

National DV 24 Hour Hotline 1-800-799-7233 or
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

National Deaf Hotline Videophone: M-F, 9am-5pm 1-855-812-1001 or deafhelp@thehotline.org

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

By Jason Carnegie



Born and raised in the Long Island Hamlet of Commack, Keith J. Stinton Esq. is one of the newest members on Catholic Charities Board of Trustees. Keith recognizes that his strong faith and family values were instilled in him at a young age. His father was a Knight of Columbus and an usher; Keith fondly remembers

going to Christ the King Church every Sunday at 9:00am and sitting in the center pew. Among the lessons learned, Keith truly saw the importance of supporting and giving back to the community.

Following high school, Keith moved upstate to attend Siena College where he majored in accounting. There, Keith met his wife, Claudia. Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, Keith pursued his Juris Doctor at Albany Law School of Union University. Claudia went to Northeastern to get her master's in psychology, but the distance was short-lived. They were married following the completion of their degrees.

Keith and Claudia have made a home in the Capital Region and have three daughters: Kaitlyn, Emily and Abby. All of whom have attended Catholic Colleges – no doubt inspired by their father's faith.

Today, Keith works as a Managing Director and Counsel for Goldman Sachs Ayco Personal Financial Management and has spent his entire 28-year professional career working for the organization.

Keith's first experience with Catholic Charities came as a volunteer at the St John's/St. Ann's soup kitchen through a community work project with Ayco. During this two-year project, Keith got to speak with Catholic Charities' staff and learned about the breadth of Catholic Charities' services and mission. Inspired by this experience, Keith went on to organize a fundraiser for Camp Scully and has continued to grow his involvement in Catholic Charities to joining the board.

As a Trustee, Keith is eager to help shape the future of Catholic Charities. He recognizes that Catholic Charities is facing challenges and difficulties amid a pandemic and growing community needs across the Diocese. Keith commends the vast amount of work by Catholic Charities staff to not only serve the public but to keep their fellow employees and volunteers safe.

As one of several new Board members, Keith is hopeful for the future. Our landscape is ever-changing and new perspectives will benefit the organization, allowing Catholic Charities to "evolve" and grow its current slate of programs and services to assist even more of our neighbors.

CREATIVE HEARTS C

By Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ



Creative Hearts members prepare for the Empty Bowls fundraiser.

So many things stopped abruptly in March 2020. Catholic Charities' Creative Hearts art program at the Roarke Center in Troy was on that long list. The program offers a safe place for neighbors to support one another, create art and be a source of encouragement to others. For many of these women and men there are few places where they are accepted, loved for who they are and recognized for their talents in the arts.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Creative Hearts program operated weekdays from 9 - 12 and members had the option to come every day or on specific days for a specific medium. Among the choices were sewing, weaving, print making, painting, creative writing, photography, ceramics, drawing and others as volunteer teachers offered their expertise.

With increased vaccination rates and decreased infections, the program began to reopen in

CONNECTING & CREATING AGAIN



isier by molding and hand-painting ceramic bowls in the newly reopened Creatie Hearts program, an art program housed in the Roarke

August. The Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation provided a grant to purchase art supplies helping to facilitate the reopening. Sr. Jackie Power, the director, has been contacting members to encourage them to come back. Sr. Jackie said she is happy to witness the members returning and contributing and enjoying a good time at Roarke.

I had the pleasure of visiting on a Friday when the members were working in ceramics. Mary, the volunteer instructor, told me that she first learned about the Creative Hearts Program when she was hired give a workshop. When it was over, she asked when she could come back. That was ten years ago, and Mary has been volunteering ever since. She is delighted to once again share her talents with the members.

Three members – Moses, Sheila and Helen – were busy at work preparing for the annual fundraiser in Troy called Empty Bowls. They were glazing the pieces that they had made and shared their excitement that the first project upon reopening was to give back. They were telling me how nice it is that “everybody gets along,” “we get to see our friends,” and “we get to be creative again.”

Being with the group listening, talking and watching them work on their pieces was a real joy for me. The environment was accepting and warm and it appears that there will be many such “home comings” in the weeks ahead as Creative Hearts fills even more hearts!



Helping Real People

Thanks to the support of our community members and community partners, we are able to help *real* people as they work through real problems.

Take Jaime. Jaime is a young mom with a 2-year-old son. Together, they were living with Jaime's partner in an apartment. When they separated, Jaime was left without a home for herself or her boy.

She was able to find an apartment to rent. And although she had a job working at a local hospital, she had not had time to save any money before moving out of her old apartment. She needed assistance with first month's rent and security so her family could once again live in a safe and stable home.

Jaime was able to show that she could pay rent moving forward with the income from her job.

Thanks in part to donations from our neighbors, Catholic Charities was able to provide financial assistance for rent and security so that Jaime would have a place to live with her young son. During a follow up call with Jaime, she shared that she and her son are doing well and are thankful for the assistance they received.

USE YOUR IRA TO MAXIMIZE YOUR PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT



As a caring community member, we know you're always looking for ways to maximize your philanthropic impact. Whether your tax bill is higher than expected or you're just charitably minded, there are ways to give back to neighbors in need while being tax-smart.

Alternatively, many people that don't need or want these funds from an RMD instead choose to make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) from their IRA to registered not-for-profit organizations like Catholic Charities (EIN: 14-1340033). Individuals can donate more or less than their RMD via a QCD up to a maximum of \$100,000 annually, while married couples can each separately donate up to that amount from their own IRAs. The best part is that QCDs are generally not considered taxable income, but do count towards fulfilling your annual RMD. QCDs can benefit taxpayers regardless of whether they itemize or take the standard deduction.

It's truly the best of both worlds: you're lowering your tax bill and Catholic Charities can put your dollars to good use in our community. Of note is that QCDs must be paid directly from your IRA to the qualified charity of your choice. Your IRA trustee can assist you with their process for making a QCD. and be sure to let your tax advisor know that you made a QCD when they are preparing your taxes!

DID YOU KNOW?

You can also name non-for-profit agencies like Catholic Charities as a beneficiary of your IRA!

Reach out to Meghan Meyerson at meghan.meyerson@ccrcda.org or 518-453-6677 to learn more and include Catholic Charities in your estate planning.

CC WORKS

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Committed to Active Witness*

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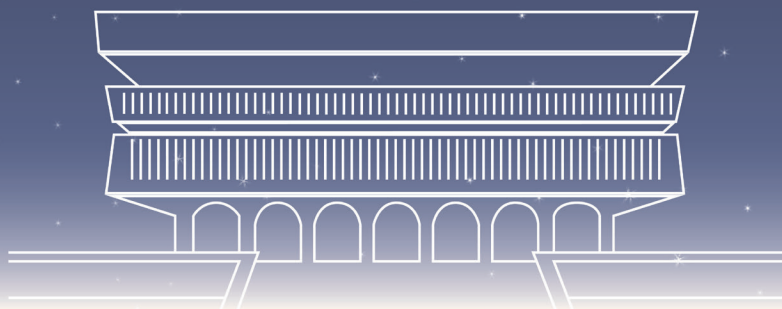
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Save the Date! **NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM**

June 16, 2022



**Night at the Museum will return to the
New York State Museum on June 16th.
*We hope to see you there!***