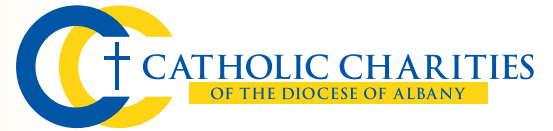


# CC WORKS



SUMMER 2021

## A WORD FROM THE CEO...



**Vincent W. Colonno**

Greetings,

Across the Diocese, summer is coming to a close and our communities are looking ahead to a fall of change and opportunities.

Catholic Charities is no different. We're welcoming five new members to our Board of Trustees and recruiting for a wide array of volunteer and job openings as we continue to anticipate the ever-changing needs of

our communities. And, as always, our agencies from Saratoga to Herkimer, down to Columbia and Greene counties continue to welcome our neighbors with open arms, serving people with care, compassion and dignity.

In this edition of CC WORKS, you'll learn more about the many ways our staff, volunteers and donors are stepping up in service of others. You'll read about the Ombudsman Program and how it supports residents in long term care facilities. You'll also meet Meg,

who uses her monthly donation to help our neighbors year-round and you'll learn more about how Catholic Charities is providing emergency assistance to keep people stable in their homes.

Simply put, it's business as usual at Catholic Charities. We have served this Diocese for over 100 years and, while we head into a season of change and uncertainty, we continue to take our mission of service seriously. Our doors remain open to those in need, and I want to personally thank you for your help and support in making that possible.

Take Care and Stay Safe,

*Vince*

## IN THIS ISSUE...



A new Memorial Garden stands in Albany in honor of the clients, staff and friends we've lost through the years.



Through the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, volunteers work with residents of long term care facilities to see their needs are met.



Community Sustainer Meg shares why she gives back on a monthly basis.

# BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

By Jason Carnegie



Jerry Mastrianni grew up family-oriented with strong Catholic roots. Coming from a large family (he's eighth of nine), Jerry learned the value of sharing with others. His father, Dr. Saverio, and his mother Joan instilled in each of their children the importance of giving back to and supporting the community.

Today, Jerry can be seen giving back not only through Catholic Charities, but with several local organizations.

As a child, Jerry attended Vincentian Institute (VI) Grade School before moving on to VI High School and finishing his high school education at Bishop Maginn. From there, he attended La Moyne College for a year before ultimately transferring and graduating Cum Laude from Siena College. Jerry joined Chemical Bank (Now JP Morgan), and worked in the Banking Industry for a couple organizations for 36 years and his last position in Banking was with NBT Bank as an SVP and Regional commercial Banking Manager for the Capital District and North Country regions. Jerry recently joined Mohawk Chevrolet as Director of Finance and is pursuing his lifelong interest and passion in automobiles.

Jerry first got connected to Catholic Charities back in 1990 through Catholic Charities Disabilities Services. In a span of over two decades, Jerry served on the board, became treasurer, and held various other positions. After just a couple years away, Jerry returned to join Catholic Charities Board of Trustees.

Jerry commends the hard work of the Catholic Charities team amid the pandemic and is particularly impressed by CC MOVE's drive-thru pantries and the scale at which the community has come together. From the volunteers and guests, to the sheer volume of food given to those in need, Jerry takes pride in the work of Catholic Charities. He also recognizes the importance of the work of Catholic Charities Community Maternity Services, which assists young mothers and their children.

Jerry is optimistic in the future of Catholic Charities, but recognizes the challenges posed by funding constraints.

"Funding is essential" said Jerry, "I think some people don't know the full extent of what goes on at Catholic Charities in it's mission to support the poor and under privileged." The work done by Catholic Charities in supporting food pantries throughout the Dioceses during the pandemic was outstanding and helped serve thousands of people in a very difficult time.

Even though there are some hurdles along the way, Jerry believes Catholic Charities will be able to continue supporting the entire Diocese through it's wide array of services well into the future.



## THE SERENA HOUSE MEMORIAL GARDEN

On August 5, 2021, Catholic Charities held a dedication ceremony for the new Serena House Memorial Garden. The garden is located at Serena House in Albany and stands in honor of residents, staff and friends who've died, not only in these past 18 months, but in honor of all we've said goodbye to throughout the years.

The garden is filled with a variety of perennial flowers and windchimes and is easily accessible for guests and residents. Serena House is a residential program operated by Catholic Charities Disabilities Services.

## EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Did You Know? Catholic Charities provides emergency rental, heating, electric and financial assistance across the Diocese to our neighbors who are facing financial hardship. Through the Emergency Assistance Program, Catholic Charities meets people where they're at to keep them housed, safe and stable.

Just this year, we were able to work with a mother and her young son who had lost their housing unexpectedly. With a little help from Catholic Charities, she was able to afford her security deposit and has had a stable place to live ever since.

If you or someone you know is in need of emergency assistance, you can Catholic Charities directly at 518-453-6650.

## OMBUDSMEN STEP UP

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is a state-funded advocacy program operated by Catholic Charities Senior & Caregiver Support Services across 10 counties of the Albany Diocese. LTCOP provides opportunities for residents and their loved ones to voice concerns and address problems that impact their quality of life and care.

Marty Delmonico (pictured below) is a proud Ombudsman and counts herself among a small but dedicated group of volunteers that help ensure the welfare of thousands of New York State long term care residents.



Marty Delmonico is no stranger to long term care facilities.

"I would visit my mom, who was in a nursing facility for eight years. I got familiar with the staff

there and the way the nursing facility worked," said Marty. "I realized after she passed that not everyone had the support my mother had."

After retiring from a teaching career of over 30 years, Marty turned to volunteerism. She worked with schools providing tutoring and mentoring support before finally hearing about the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP).

"I heard about the program from a teacher friend of mine. I knew I was comfortable in a nursing home setting and I thought I could help."

Ombudsmen do just that: they help residents of nursing homes and other long term care facilities. Through the LTCOP, trained volunteer Ombudsmen work with long term care residents and their loved ones to identify and then address any concerns around quality of life or quality of care. They act as an advocate and a liaison, working with the facility staff to see residents' needs are met.



Above: Ombudsmen visit with residents in long term care facilities to assess their needs and address their concerns.

"It gives them a sense of autonomy over their situation," explained Marty. "Sometimes they feel they don't have any control, but you empower them and help them feel more independent – they can make decisions for themselves."

While rewarding, serving as an Ombudsman is not without its challenges. From training to working with residents, Ombudsmen are creative, compassionate problem-solvers.

"The training was more than I thought it would be. It runs about a week, and you get a lot of information. It was intense in terms of expectations, which was good in the long run, because we have a responsibility for what we're doing.

"Folks come from all walks of life – a director, a lawyer, a janitor. To me, they deserve respect and dignity and care. They deserve the best that we can do and being an Ombudsman is one thing I can do to help."

**Interested in becoming a Long Term Care Ombudsman?** We're offering free, virtual training sessions this fall. Visit [www.ccseniorservices.org](http://www.ccseniorservices.org) or call Catholic Charities Senior and Caregiver Support Services at (518) 372-5667 for more information.

## MONTHLY GIVING MAKES A MAJOR DIFFERENCE

Each month, Catholic Charities' Community Sustainers join us in our mission to serve our neighbors in need, spreading hope throughout the Diocese. Our Community Sustainers commit to a monthly donation in support of our programs and services, including food pantries, housing, emergency financial assistance, senior services and domestic violence shelters, to name a few.

Even the smallest monthly gift makes a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve every hour of every day. It's the easiest and most effective way to ensure our community's most vulnerable individuals and families receive a helping hand when they need us most.



*"I donate to Catholic Charities because the scope of their mission reaches wider than most people think. From helping children abused inside the foster care system, to assisting girls as young as thirteen through their pregnancies, I know my donation*

*is truly making a difference in many different ways. I make my gift monthly so that I have the opportunity to make a more substantial contribution financially by breaking it up over time. It feels wonderful to know every month I'm making a difference."*

**-Meg McGoldrick, Community Sustainer**

You can join Meg in giving back to our community's most vulnerable by making your monthly gift today. Gifts as small as \$25 a month allow Catholic Charities to provide warm meals at our soup kitchens and support services for people battling chronic illness.

Make a gift of \$50 a month or more and you'll receive a complimentary ticket to Catholic Charities' signature event, Night at the Museum, on June 16, 2022, held at the New York State Museum.

Become a Community Sustainer today! Simply text **CCSustainer** to **41444** or call 518-453-6650 for more information.

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES WELCOMES FIVE TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Join us in welcoming Christine, Ann, Matthew, Keith and Christopher to our Board of Trustees.

At Catholic Charities, we are pleased to announce the appointment of five new members to our Board of Trustees. As Trustees, they will be responsible for leading Catholic Charities as we continue to provide services and supports to our neighbors who are vulnerable or living in poverty.

“It is a pleasure to welcome such well-qualified individuals to our Board of Trustees,” said Catholic Charities’ CEO Vincent W. Colonno. “Each brings a wealth of experience in their field and a belief in Catholic Charities’ mission of serving others with dignity. I look forward to having them on the Board and supporting our efforts to provide outreach and compassionate services to our neighbors in need.”



**Christine M. Cary** joins our Board of Trustees with over 25 years in public service with the Town of Colonie, including 12 years as the Director of the Senior Resources Department.

She has a wealth of experience in service to older adults and caregivers alike and has served with organizations such as Capital District Senior Issues Forum (CDSIF) and the New York State Coalition for the Aging (NYSCA).



**Ann Malagisi Dejnozka** is the Head of Advancement at the Emma Willard School in Troy, NY. She brings with her over 26 years of experience as a development professional, primarily

in educational institutions. She is an active member of the community, volunteering with St. Clements Regional Catholic School, Parkhurst Field Foundation, Leadership Saratoga Program and Saratoga ArtsFest.



**Matthew Rucinski** currently serves as the Principal at St. Mary’s School in Waterford. Prior to serving as Principal, he was a teacher for seven years, and worked as an Operations Manager

at Prime Corporate Apts. Matthew brings a diverse background of property, educational and leadership experience to the board.



**Keith J. Stinton Esq.** is a Managing Director and Counsel, for Goldman Sachs Ayco Personal Financial Management. A graduate of Albany

Law School, Keith has 28 years of experience in the legal and financial services industry and is active in coordinating volunteer efforts with Catholic Charities.



**Christopher Y. Wright** is a Director at Coldwell Banker Prime Properties where he oversees education, training and recruiting. He has a long history of volunteering, most recently as the President of the Women’s Council of Realtors for the Capital Region and as a Board Member for Trinity Alliance in Albany. He is a former officer with the US Navy, and advocate for social change and an experienced podcaster.

May God bless and guide you as you work in serving our neighbors from across the Diocese.  
Thank you for walking alongside us in our mission of Caring Beyond Belief!

## CC WORKS

*A Catholic Charities Quarterly  
Committed to Active Witness*

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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**  
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**EDITORIAL BOARD:**  
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## JOIN OUR TEAM!

### We're hiring at Catholic Charities



Catholic Charities is looking for people who will work to find creative solutions to help our neighbors in need - people who are looking for a rewarding career in support of others (with great benefits, plenty of time off and EAP assistance)!

Join the team that helped feed over 150,000 people last year. To continue our work, we're hiring for positions across the Diocese, including nutritionists, direct support professionals, clinical specialists and others. All of which are vital and necessary in helping the people we serve.

Visit <https://www.ccrda.org/employment> for our current list of job opportunities today.