

## A WORD FROM THE CEO...



**Vincent W. Colonno**

For many of us, the holidays are a time to be thankful as we look back on this past year. It is easy to see that, at Catholic Charities, we have so much to be thankful for. Personally, I am grateful for the thousands of people – from staff to donors – who came together in support of our work.

We have accomplished so much, and helped so many people, thanks to your help.

In this special winter edition of CC WORKS, you'll have the chance to read about how Catholic Charities is providing heating assistance to our neighbors in Delaware, Otsego

and Schoharie Counties. You'll also get to know Board Member Rev. David LeFort and take a peek at Saratoga's annual Festival of Trees, a community event to benefit Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties – just one of the many ways we celebrate Christmas within our Diocese.

I hope you and your family enjoy this Holiday season. I cannot wait to continue our work together in 2020. Thank you and God bless!

Take Care,

*Vince*

## IN THIS ISSUE...



Get to know Trustee Fr. David R. LeFort and how he hopes to impact Catholic Charities



Take a closer look at Saratoga's Festival of Trees to benefit Catholic Charities programs in the area



Learn more about CC MOVE, our No Wrong Door service model, and how we're reaching out to folks across the diocese

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

By Jason Carnegie



Feeding chickens, brushing horses and tending to the sheep was just an average day for David LeFort growing up on a farm in Ballston Lake. His father, a mechanical engineer, and his mother, a homemaker, instilled strong virtues into their four

children. Caring for these animals on a daily basis taught him responsibility for others at a young age. He's since left his farm and the sheep behind him, but David LeFort – now **Very Reverend David R. LeFort S.T.L.** – continues to care for a flock.

After earning a degree in Philosophy from Nazareth College in 1993, Fr. LeFort studied at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and was ordained in 1998 before returning home the following year. His first parish assignment was to Our Lady of Assumption in Latham, NY with Pastor Geoffrey D. Burke. Less than three years later, Fr. LeFort received his first pastorate at Our Lady of Hope in Whitehall, NY and St Ann's Church in Fort Ann. In 2007, Fr. LeFort was assigned to the Church of St. Mary at Clinton Heights in East Greenbush where he stayed for ten years. Fr. LeFort currently serves as Rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, Vicar General for the Albany Diocese, and Moderator of the Curia.

As a member of the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees Fr. LeFort is learning new things everyday. He is dedicated to the charitable work of Catholic Charities which he says, *"is so essential to our receiving the gospel of Jesus, transmitting it and continuing to share it"*.

His greatest hope is to one day see a time when the services of Catholic Charities are not necessary and all those in need of assistance are living their lives to the fullest. In the meantime, Fr. LeFort will do all he can in every role he plays to serve and help those in need.

Fr. LeFort sees great things to come and is delighted to see such a large group of people of all ages serve and give back to their community.

## INTRODUCING: CC MOVE

In early 2017, St. Mary's Healthcare in Amsterdam and the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY approached Catholic Charities about food deserts in rural Montgomery and Fulton Counties, seeking alliance and partnership to broaden the availability of and access to food in those communities. With No Wrong Door in development at Catholic Charities, including Catholic Charities' Mobile Outreach Vehicle Extension (CC MOVE), the timing was right to fully launch the program in the Albany Diocese, which completed its pilot year in 2019.

Together, these organizations coordinated mass food distributions and health fairs in areas with limited access to healthy and nutritious food. Visitors were connected to other available resources and received information on how to schedule an appointment for mobile case management.

## CC MOVE BY THE NUMBERS

In the first year of establishing the CC MOVE program, a strong community network of organizations and service providers has developed to include over **40 Community Partners** in Amsterdam, Fonda, Fort Plain, Gloversville and Johnstown. Through these partnerships, community leaders, staff, and upwards of **100 volunteers** now know one another and understand the roles each play in their communities. These groups and individuals can work with one another to meet the unique needs of their community.



With **14 mass food distributions** totaling **over 168 tons of food** to date, the CC MOVE program has made a large impact on it's surrounding communities.

# KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY WARM ONE BRICK AT A TIME

By Eileen Spath

Oneonta, NY - As you walk down Main Street this time of year, you may notice something unusual taking shape in the storefront of Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties. The usually empty window is adorned with little red bricks and a welcoming fire. The hearth may be made of paper, but it goes a long way in providing real warmth and comfort to our neighbors in the area.

The display is built brick by brick as a part of Catholic Charities' annual "Keeping Our Community Warm One Brick at a Time" fundraiser. The initiative raises funds to help residents of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties with heating assistance. Each year, community members, businesses or other organizations can purchase a brick for \$25.00 during the winter months. Every brick purchased is placed in the window, and together, the community builds a fireplace.

The fundraiser supports people who are struggling to make ends meet, who are not eligible for other public assistance programs.

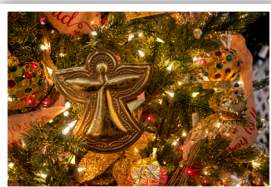
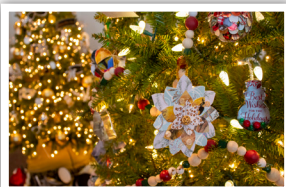
"The winter can be a tough time for those individuals and families who are living pay check to pay check," said Lynn Glueckert, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties. "The rise in heating costs and the Holidays can force some to choose between paying for food or medicine and paying the heating bill."

Last year, the Catholic Charities agency helped 125 households with approximately \$37,000 in utility assistance.



*Keeping Our Community Warm One Brick at a Time runs through March. To purchase a brick, call (607) 432-0061 or stop in the office at 176 Main St. in Oneonta, NY. Donations can also be made online at [www.charitiesccdos.org](http://www.charitiesccdos.org). Just be sure to mention Brick Fundraiser in the comments.*

## GALLERY: Saratoga Festival of Trees



Now in it's 24th year, the Saratoga Festival of Trees is the largest annual fundraiser to benefit Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties. Each year over 250 centerpieces, wreaths and decorated trees are designed and donated by the community and sponsors to be sold to the public.

## WHY DO YOU SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES?

Our ministry is simple – rooted in the teachings of our faith, we recognize human need at all stages of life and serve with mercy, justice and compassion.

Choosing to support Catholic Charities is a true gift to our mission and those we serve. It truly makes a difference in so many ways.

Several donors recently shared with us their reasons for giving.

We were so moved by their words, we thought we would share them with you.

"I want to help people in need. Jesus told us to take care of the poor and to love one other."

"It warms my heart to reach out to moms and their children."

"My daughter had years of happy camping and is now giving back as a counselor. Happy to help other kids share in the fun of Camp Scully."

"Thank you Catholic Charities for providing so much help in ways that I cannot do, personally."

"We met with the team from Catholic Charities Disabilities Services and want to support the great work they are doing."

"Though we are now retired, we want to give what we can in our area."

As you read these testimonials, we hope you feel inspired to share why Catholic Charities is important to you. We would love to hear from you!

Join us on Facebook, Instagram, or email me personally at [kate.qualters@ccrcda.org](mailto:kate.qualters@ccrcda.org) and tell us:

**"I support Catholic Charities because...."**

God bless you for your support, generosity and belief in our work.

- **Kate Qualters**  
Director of Development



# AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES, THERE IS NO WRONG DOOR

By Sister Betsy Van Deusen



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany has been serving those most in need for more than 100 years. In that time, we have assisted people with housing, food, emergency assistance, and countless other ways. This work has always been and will always remain critical to our neighbors living in poverty and in vulnerable circumstances.

It has become clear to us that Catholic Charities must play an even bigger role in helping people find real solutions to their struggles, empowering them to develop the skills, resources, and networks they need to live healthy and productive lives.

No Wrong Door (NWD) is the solution. “No Wrong Door” means just that – there is no wrong door to Catholic Charities’ services. Through the NWD service model, people who come to Catholic Charities for help will be connected to services to address short-term problems while focusing on long-term results.

We seek to identify some of the causal factors of our clients’ circumstances and offer them real solutions in a three-pronged approach:

- Through a new client intake process, No Wrong Door Navigators – Catholic Charities’ front-line staff – will partner with clients to meet their needs. This will allow us to serve our neighbors beyond their basic need of food, shelter or transportation, offering greater supports with the goal of self-sufficiency.
- A newly integrated Information Technology system will assist our Navigators to monitor client needs, services received, and allow them to work together to progress toward their goals.
- At the heart of No Wrong Door is the belief that all persons deserve equal care and access to services. The Diocese of Albany is actually a very rural region, spanning over 10,000 square miles. A new Mobile Outreach Vehicle will deliver critical services to those living in rural areas of our diocese.



**The CC MOVE RV will provide a private place for case management and will allow Catholic Charities to take its services on the road.**

## CC WORKS

*A Catholic Charities Quarterly  
Committed to Active Witness*

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