

CC Works

Volume 17, Number 3

A Catholic Charities Quarterly

A Word From the CEO...



Vincent W. Colonno

As the long, hot days end and another school year begins, I can't help but think of the great work done by Catholic Charities to help children in our area this summer. From the campers at Camp Scully who spent the summer enjoying nature and building memories on Snyder's Lake, to the children's summer lunch program in Oneonta and Rensselaer, to the students who received a bit of back-to-school help from

Catholic Charities' many school supply drives – we've done our best to make this a happy and healthy summer for children in our area. When I get to visit our programs and I'm greeted by their smiling faces, I know we're doing something right! And that's thanks to your help.

This issue of CC Works highlights one of our supportive housing programs in Oneonta; describes changes happening at Care Coordination Services; and features interviews with Board member Bruce DiStefano and the new Executive Director of Catholic Charities Herkimer County, Deanna Charles. We've also included some photos and short pieces from the memorable events over the past few months, such as Night at the Museum. Finally, we're getting ready to kick off the Harvest of Giving, which is our primary appeal to the people of the Albany Diocese (and all who support our work) to be a part of the good things happening at Catholic Charities.

As always, thank you for your support and involvement with Catholic Charities. Every time we answer the door and find someone in need of help on the other side, you are there with us as we help that person make a better life. Your financial and prayerful support is the oil that keeps the engine moving - if you know someone who would like to be a part of the good work we're doing please invite them to learn more about Catholic Charities, and pass on this newsletter!

Take Care,

Vince



Emeritus, Howard Hubbard, Award Winner Mary Beth O'Brien, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, Award Winner Rev. Michael A. Farano, Rev. Richard Gielow, and Catholic Charities CEO Vincent W. Colonno.

Catholic Charities Night at the Museum was recently held at the State Museum of Albany. Pictured from left to right: Catholic Charities Board of Trustees President Paul Stec, Bishop

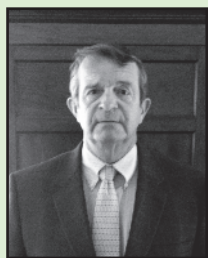
New Catholic Charities Board of Trustees Member Scott Houghtaling, (center), visits Sunnyside in Troy. Pictured with Scott and the kids of Sunnyside are: Sunnyside Program Director Kim Piser (left) and Catholic Charities Tri-County Services Executive Director Jenn Hyde (right).



On July 21st, Catholic Charities Disabilities Services held their 4th annual Night at the Valley Cats. This event offers anyone in the CCDS community (individuals, staff, family and friends) the

chance to have a little fun together while raising money for those in need. The night started out with CCDS's own Leroy Hendrix having the honor of throwing out the first pitch.

Board Member Profile: Bruce DiStefano



Bruce DiStefano grew up in the highway construction business. His Dad laid the groundwork for what would end up to be a lifelong career. Just five years after graduating from Clarkson College of Technology, Bruce started his own company,

"Green Island Construction", where he stayed for 25 years. Today, Bruce owns Ketco Inc. and while he is beginning to wind down and think about retirement, he also spends time helping those just starting out.

A native of Green Island and graduate of St. Pius X and Albany Academy, Bruce knows and supports the Capital Region. It was actually at Academy back in 1968 where he met Sarah Elmendorf. They became high school sweethearts who today, 46 years later, are living happily ever after. Bruce's wife Sarah is a physician at Albany Medical Center and specializes in infectious diseases. They are the proud parents of three children; Keith, a graduate of Siena College, Ellen, Muhlenberg College and Timothy, their youngest, who just graduated from Holy Cross.

It was Trustees Ken Raymond and Mary Beth O'Brien who brought Bruce to Catholic Charities. Mary Beth's and Bruce's parents were friends for years and when Ken told Bruce how impressed he was by the dedication of the people involved with Catholic Charities, Bruce knew he had to help. "When Ken calls, you know there's work to be done, but it will be meaningful." Bruce spoke of the tremendous commitment of the entire board and how taken he was by the amazing work and leadership of Bishop Hubbard. He wishes Bishop Scharfenberger the very best as he begins his new ministry in the Albany Diocese.

Bruce's expertise has especially benefited youth programs at Catholic Charities at both Camp Scully and Sunnyside Center, with his work on the new cabins, dining hall, road, parking lot and hillside above the basketball court. He believes one of the greatest challenges facing CC today is shrinking government funding. Bruce spoke of the need and the importance of the new (Fund) Development Department of Catholic Charities to fill these gaps. "Today, times are uncertain, but all can be assured that in so many different ways, Catholic Charities is absolutely doing its part." **By Mary Pat Hickey**

Name Change & Service Expansion for Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services



Keith Brown

In his novel *Stargirl*, Jerry Spinelli wrote of the title character; "I'm not my name. My name is something I wear, like a shirt. It gets worn. I outgrow it, I change it." The same can be said of the name change from Catholic Charities AIDS Services to Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services. The agency now serves people with a host of chronic illnesses, not just those with HIV. Executive Director Keith Brown explains that with the expansion of the Medicaid Health Home through the NYS Medicaid Redesign Team and the federal Affordable Care Act, his agency was able to expand services from

primarily assisting those with HIV to serving people with other chronic illnesses. Brown feels the new name "more accurately reflects what we do."

The name change came about for two primary reasons according to Brown; the former name did not reflect the service population and it eliminates confusion for those who are now getting the Medicaid Health Home Service. The new care coordination model was based on the model of service already available to those with HIV, so the team did not have to learn a new service model but needed to ramp up their knowledge about various chronic illnesses.

Brown also believes that the service expansion allows his agency to serve people more broadly. For example if someone is a drug user with HIV, they can serve the person from the perspective of drug addiction as a chronic disease. Brown feels the service expansion and corresponding name change "appropriately places us where our expertise is."

Catholic Charities Care Coordination Services serves an eleven county catchment area and has seen their number of service recipients increase from approximately 250 per month to somewhere between six and nine hundred per month. The agency has added new staff to do outreach to potential service recipients. **By Jeff Covington**



Life, interrupted

Otsego County may not be the first place you think of when you think of an SRO (Single Room Occupancy) residence. SROs are usually in cities where a lot of people are in need of housing. The concept of an SRO is to provide safe and stable housing for individuals of very low income who may be at risk of homelessness and experiencing difficulties for a variety of reasons. Oneonta has been home to three such residences for almost 30 years.

There was much encouragement to "go see," and what a great choice that was. Jo Anne Bragonier, Housing Program Manager, and Polly Bailey, Case Manager, were very happy to share the good work that they do each day. Polly has been doing Case Management for over 20 years,

the last five with CC Housing. Jo Anne has been serving in the SROs for 13 years and working in Human Services for over 30 years. When she began her work in Human Services after many years in childcare she knew, "I was where I belonged." Walking up the front walk there was a porch filled with plants and residents happily chatting away. This was clearly the house of a friend!

The relationships and networks that Jo Anne and Polly have developed over the years streamline the referral process and give staff an opportunity to get to know folks before they become residents. A difference between the rural experience and an urban one is transportation. Public transportation is scarce and does not necessarily go where people need to go. Oftentimes Polly accompanies a resident to the Department of Social Services to get benefits squared away.

When I asked them, "What characterizes an SRO?" Polly responded, "Hope." Jo Anne responded "a sense of belonging, stability and something greater than ourselves." Each of the SRO's has a House Manager who contributes to the unique style of the houses on Grand Street, Maple Street and State Street. Residents stay for different lengths of time depending upon their life circumstance. A few have been with the program since the '90's further

continued on page 4



Thank you for supporting Catholic Charities this summer!



Deanna Charles, Executive Director of CC Herkimer



Deanna Charles may be new to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, but she comes by her position here with a strong affection for and familiarity with Catholic Charities in general. While Ms. Charles recently took over the reins at Catholic Charities of Herkimer County, she started her career as a Supportive Case Manager (SCM) at Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison County, in the Syracuse Diocese.

But her connection to the organization goes beyond her own employment. It's where she met her husband James, who held a similar SCM position to her own, although at a different site. In addition, her mother has been an employee of that same agency for about 25 years, and her mother's sister was also employed there nearly as long when the aunt sustained an unexpected brain aneurysm. "The support that was provided [by Catholic Charities] to me and my family during what I found to be the most difficult time in my life made a lasting impression. Although I was not a client receiving a direct service, I was able to see the mission of Catholic Charities in its truest form and it is something that I have never forgotten," Ms. Charles said.

Before coming to CC Herkimer she served as executive director of Brookdale Senior Living in Clinton, NY, an agency that offers options for seniors looking to eliminate the daily demands of home ownership, and for those with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia who need additional care.

Coming to CC Herkimer, she said, "I feel I am energetic and enthusiastic about the mission of Catholic Charities and embrace the changes that continue to come in the realm of Human Services," citing her experience with both human services and health care as great assets that will serve her as Executive Director.

Recalling the time when the search process reached Chief Executive Officer Vincent Colonna, he said, "Deanna impressed me very much in her interview. She is an experienced administrator in human and community services with particular expertise in senior and long term care services as well as a good understanding of Medicaid and other social programs." Noting her CC pedigree along with her other experiences and attributes, he added, "The choice was simple." His recommendation was unanimously approved by the CC Board of Trustees. "I am very excited to have Deanna come on board to lead our Catholic Charities of Herkimer County agency and I am confident that she will continue to follow the lead of her predecessor, Terry Leonard, in serving the Herkimer County community in exemplary fashion."

In the few months that she's been on the job, Ms. Charles said she's "spending time with my staff to truly understand the services we provide and what they do every day to serve the residents of Herkimer County." As to what lies ahead, "I would like to see this agency grow." In light of New York State's recent efforts to re-shape some of its healthcare programs, she noted, "I feel that community based organizations such as Catholic Charities will play a major role in meeting the unmet needs of our county determined in the community needs assessments. I think more specifically senior services and homelessness are two areas I have seen growing since I started." **By Ken Goldfarb**

Life, interrupted *continued from page 2*

suggesting they feel "at home." Polly shared that there will soon be an AA/NA Women's meeting on Maple Street at the request of the residents. A great example of residents deciding what will happen in their home.

Another aspect of being "home" is going on outings. This summer a group of 15 residents went with Jo Anne and Polly to Gilbert Lake where they had a picnic, ate hot dogs, swam, played cards and had a terrific time. The women reported that every resident came in to thank them and to find out what the next "field trip" was going to be.



There continues to be a need for this type of housing in Oneonta and Jo Anne and Polly said they would like to acquire the surrounding houses so the community could expand. We all need to have dreams! But when I asked what kinds of things could regular people do and they said, "Bus passes for all day, mattress gift certificates, Hannaford or Dollar Tree gift cards, personal care items, you know the things that they cannot buy with food stamps – toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine products, stuff like that."

Catholic Charities is certainly blessed by the diversity in our system! Thanks to Jo Anne and Polly and all the folks at CC Housing for all the good work they do to offer affordable housing for our sisters and brothers throughout the diocese. **By Sister Betsy Van Deusen**



Harvest of Giving

September has arrived; time for the harvest, a return to school, and a refreshed focus on work as we move

Molly Nicol

into the 4th quarter of the year. Here at Catholic Charities we are getting ready for our Harvest of Giving Annual Campaign. Years ago, when harvests were gathered, families would plan for what they would need throughout the year and give of their abundance to help feed those who were not as fortunate. That tradition continues with our *Harvest of Giving* campaign every fall. Your donation to Catholic Charities helps meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable throughout the year. Each gift, no matter how modest, means so much to those who have so little.

With your help, Catholic Charities serves and assists over **86,000** people each year. That is **235** different people every day. These include mothers, children, seniors, those suffering from poor health, and the developmentally disabled. Some are in need of temporary assistance; a hand up in life. Others need our care and support for a long time. Each situation is different, but one thing that remains consistent is the way that Catholic Charities helps – with compassion and care for each individual. The funds we raise from Harvest of Giving go directly to help the poor and vulnerable in the 14-county Albany Diocese. All are assisted regardless of race, creed, ethnicity or lifestyle.

Many of you have given generously in the past, and for this we are truly grateful. This year I ask that you *consider* increasing your gift by 5% or 10%. We continue to see increasing numbers of people in need of assistance in our food pantries and soup kitchen. Many of those we assist are the working poor – those trying to make ends meet. When we make a difference in someone's life, remember, we also touch the lives of those around them. Your gift makes this possible. That is why each gift is so important. With your help, this life-changing work can happen. Without your help, we cannot do it. Thank you for your generosity!

Thanksgiving Basket WISH LIST

Summer is coming to a close very quickly and the colder weather will soon be here and it will be time to focus our thoughts on Thanksgiving. The fourth Thursday in November is the day that people gather to give thanks for all that they have. Unfortunately, many people in the 14 counties that Catholic Charities serves, will wonder where their next meal will come from, thankful that they have a little bit to eat on any one particular day.

Catholic Charities agencies are at the forefront of taking care of those less fortunate and getting the help to those vulnerable and marginalized individuals and families, who might not otherwise partake in the Thanksgiving holiday. Below you will find a list of Agencies and the items they need to fill holiday baskets. Here's how you can become a "Thanksgiving Angel"

Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties:



Turkey
Applesauce
Gravy
Cranberry



Sweet Potatoes
Potatoes
Juice
Fruit



Stuffing
Biscuits/Rolls
Butter
Pie



Donations can be dropped off at 489 West Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043

Catholic Charities of Fulton & Montgomery Counties:



Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing
Cans of Cranberry Sauce

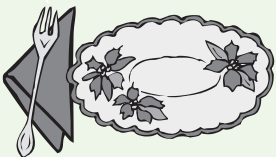


Cans of Fruit
Cans of Vegetables
Gravy



Donations can be taken to their office at the Corner of Kimball Street and Guy Park Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010

Catholic Charities Housing Office for Single Room Occupants in Albany, Troy and Oneonta



Homemade Pies
Stuffing
Holiday Plates/Napkins

Cookies
Fruit Tarts

Canned Green Beans
Mushroom Soup
Fried Onion Rings



Donations can be dropped off at 41 Main Ave., Albany, NY 12203

Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Washington and Warren Counties

Price Chopper Gift Cards



Cards can be sent or dropped off at the office at 142 Regent St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Catholic Charities Tri-County Services

Hilltowns Community Resource Center, Rourke Center,
Sister Maureen Joyce Food Pantry, CoNSERNS-U,

Any items listed in bold above can be brought to CC Tri-County Services office at 50 Herrick Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144



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DID YOU KNOW...

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 170,119 people live below the poverty line (12.2% of the population) in the 14 counties of the Albany Diocese.

Upcoming Events

Save the date and join us for these events supporting Catholic Charities Agencies:

- September 23** – CC Disabilities Services fundraiser at Saratoga Paint and Sip in Latham: 584 New Loudon Rd. Latham, NY
Call 518-783-1111 for more information
- October 8** – Community Maternity Services – A Celebration of Hope Honoring Sister Mary Ann LoGiudice, for 35 years of Service Treviso by Mallozzi's at the Italian American Community Center
Call 518-482-8836 for more information
- November 6** – Catholic Charities Housing – Hope for the Homeless Breakfast Wolferts Roost Country Club, Albany, NY
Call 518-459-0183 for more information
- December 3 to December 7** – CC Saratoga Warren & Washington Counties Festival of Trees, Saratoga Springs City Center
Call 518-587-5000 for more information

CC WORKS

A Catholic Charities quarterly committed to active witness

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DESIGNER: LANE PRESS OF ALBANY

PHONE: 518 453-6650
FAX: 518 453-6792
WWW.CCRCDA.ORG

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Catholic Charities Staff participate in the 2014 CDPHP Workforce Challenge.