



A SHARED MISSION IN ROME

Sister Betsy joined Catholic Charities USA leadership for a week of prayer, meetings, and conversation at the Vatican.

The first week of May, members of CC USA's Board of Directors and executive leadership team gathered in Rome for the organization's Board of Directors meeting as well as meetings with Vatican Offices (Dicasteries). Among those attending was our very own Sister Betsy, who was appointed to the national board last summer. In her role, she joins Catholic Charities leaders from across the country in helping guide the mission and future direction of one of the nation's largest charitable networks.

The pilgrimage included prayer, visits to churches and shrines, rich conversation, collaboration and deeper recognition of the relationship between the Church and Catholic Charities. A highlight of the visit was a private audience with Pope Leo XIV, where the delegation shared in conversation and prayer centered on faith, service, and the Church's mission to care for the poor and vulnerable.

"Every day, we see the impact compassion and accompaniment can have in the lives of individuals and families," Sister Betsy shared. "To represent Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany and our communities in Rome was an incredible honor and a reminder that our mission is a universal one. Our colleagues from Caritas Internationalis and from across the country are truly an inspiration to me and a reminder that together we are changing the world community by community."

FROM ROCK BOTTOM TO RISING UP

George's Journey of Recovery and Redemption

"I have struggled with substance abuse since I was 15 or 16," George Irizarry shared. "I didn't really fit in. I hung out with a bad crowd. I've been incarcerated. I've been homeless. It was dark times."

By the end of 2022, George found himself back in jail for violating parole on drug-related charges. But something changed.

"I finally decided I had had enough and needed to turn my life around," he said.

That decision marked the beginning of a courageous journey. After inpatient treatment and time in a long-term recovery program, George arrived at Nichols House in Herkimer. There, he began volunteering with **Catholic Charities of Herkimer County**, delivering harm-reduction supplies.

"It gave me a sense of purpose," he said. "I was tired of the cycle. Something finally clicked."

Though the path wasn't easy, at times marked by shame, guilt, and the challenge of asking for help, George pressed forward. He later joined Catholic Charities as a peer specialist, using his lived experience to connect with others.

"A peer-to-peer connection is powerful," he explained. "It helps people open up." Today, George works nights at a local homeless shelter and continues to support individuals at their most vulnerable. In May 2025, he was promoted to volunteer and harm reduction coordinator a role that reflects both his passion and his progress.

"Now I help people in my shoes. I haven't let my past define me, and I don't want others to feel defined by theirs."

For George, recovery is more than a personal victory, it's a daily opportunity to give back. "I love seeing the spark in people," he shared. "I help people, and they help me too."



*George Irizarry, Peer specialist,
and his son.*



HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES

By addressing mental health, substance use, and access to care, we supported **21,519** individuals on their path to healing and stability.

Substance Abuse Prevention: **15,157**

Counseling & Mental Health: **1,928**

Health Related Services: **2,560**

Health Insurance Enrollment: **1,134**

Human Trafficking Support: **392**

Adolescent Parenting Support: **348**



Delaware, Otsego & Schoharie is honored to be selected as a 2026 Top 5IVE Award recipient by Capital Region Independent Media.



Columbia & Greene recently held a Dining Out for Others event at Roe Jan Brewing Company. with proceeds supporting local services.

Fulton & Montgomery recently received a donation from SFCU in support of its food pantry services for local families and individuals in need.



Congratulations to Jack Ryan and Michael Mensah from our Executive Office on graduating from University at Albany with degrees in Business.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



AUGUST 9

FOURTH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Pine Hills Golf Course | Frankfort, NY
Hosted by Domestic Violence Program of Catholic Charities of Herkimer County

SEPTEMBER 15

FESTIVAL OF TABLES 5 - 7 PM

Anthony's Banquet Hall | Leeds, NY
Hosted by Catholic Charities of Columbia & Greene Counties

NOVEMBER 5

EMPTY BOWLS 5 - 7 PM

HFMBOCES | Johnstown, NY
Hosted by Catholic Charities of Fulton & Montgomery Counties

DISABILITIES SERVICES' MASQUERADE CELEBRATES INCLUSION

Catholic Charities Disabilities Services welcomed guests to the Masquerade on March 6, for an evening celebrating inclusion, creativity, and community. The event brought together participants, families, staff, and supporters for music, dancing, and shared joy while highlighting the importance of belonging and opportunity for individuals of all abilities. The celebration reflected the spirit of connection and support at the heart of Disabilities Services.



A PLACE AT THE TABLE BRINGS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Catholic Charities Tri-County Services welcomed community members to the A Place at the Table Breakfast on May 5 for a morning centered on compassion, outreach, and support across both urban and rural communities. Guests heard stories reflecting the unique challenges individuals and families face throughout the region and the impact of programs responding to those needs. The gathering highlighted the power of neighbors coming together to strengthen communities through service and support.



BRINGING COMFORT AND CARE TO THOSE IN NEED

Catholic Charities Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties celebrated the Spring Soirée on May 14 with an evening of community, generosity, and support for Mary's Haven, a community home for individuals nearing the end of life, along with other programs serving the region. Guests enjoyed fellowship, auction bidding, and opportunities to learn more about the compassionate care and support provided through their services.



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2025 IMPACT




FOOD INSECURITY SERVICES

Through meals, pantry support, and nutrition programs, we helped ensure **22,569** individuals had reliable access to the food they need to live with dignity.

Food Pantry: **10,747**
WIC: **3,218**
Nutrition Assistance & Education: **2,892**
Congregate Meals: **2,494**

Extra Helpings: **1,882**
Soup Kitchens: **1,059**
Food Farmacy: **168**
Homebound Meals: **109**



Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties welcomed a woman who had just learned she was pregnant. While there was joy in that moment, she also shared something much deeper there was a time not long before when she had nearly given up on life. She spoke of being in a very dark place, overwhelmed by hardship and weighed down by a sense of hopelessness.

But discovering her pregnancy changed everything. It gave her a reason to look toward the future with purpose and marked the beginning of a new chapter. Through the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program, she received nutrition support, guidance, and connections to additional resources to meet her broader needs. What began as a moment of crisis became a turning point, helping her move from simply surviving to beginning to rebuild her life with strength and intention. These are the moments that remind us of the profound impact compassion and care can have.



HOUSING & SHELTER SERVICES

We helped **1,899** individuals find safety, stability, and a place to call home through shelter and housing programs.

Permanent Housing: **1,321**
Warming Stations & Short Term Shelter: **183**
Supervised Living: **158**

Domestic Violence Shelter: **136**
Housing Services: **101**

78,063 SERVED



YOUTH, FAMILY & OLDER ADULT SERVICES

From youth programs to elder care, we strengthened and supported **9,682** individuals throughout every stage of life.

Youth After-School Programs: **4,856**

Elder Care: **1,215**

Adult Development & Family Life Education: **1020**

Parenting Programs: **656**

Youth Summer Programs: **591**

Mentoring: **322**

Respite Services: **281**

Transportation: **236**

Habilitation: **218**

Family Preservation: **127**

Child Care & Resources: **84**

Youth Development: **76**

A woman traveled more than an hour for a job interview, an opportunity that could change everything. But on her way home, she stopped for gas and realized she had lost her credit card. Stranded, upset, and unsure of what to do, she was referred to **Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego and Schoharie Counties** for help. When she arrived, she kept apologizing, insisting she would repay the assistance. Instead, she was met with compassion and reassurance. Through our Emergency Assistance program, we provided gas cards so she could get home safely.

Months later, a letter arrived. Inside were three gas cards and a note filled with gratitude. She had gotten the job, settled into her new life, and wanted to give back. What began as a moment of crisis transformed into unmistakable gratitude. That's the power of emergency assistance, meeting someone in their moment of need and helping change what happens next.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

In moments of urgent need, we provided critical emergency support to **7,698** individuals and families facing financial and personal crises.

Overdue Bills
Baby Supplies
Utility Payments
Rent & Housing Deposits
Grocery Store Gift Cards
Hygiene & Personal Care Items
Emergency Shelter & Motel Vouchers

Bus Passes
School Supplies
Food Pantry Items
Household Essentials
Clothing & Winter Coats
Prescriptions & Medical Necessities
Transportation Assistance & Gas Cards



COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Through community-based programs and resources, we empowered **14,696** individuals to build stability, connection, and opportunity.

Thrift Shop: **6,973**

Case Management: **2,459**

Court & Mediation Services: **1,276**

Crime Victim & Domestic Violence Services: **1,490**

Asset Development: **1,485**

Employment Training: **743**

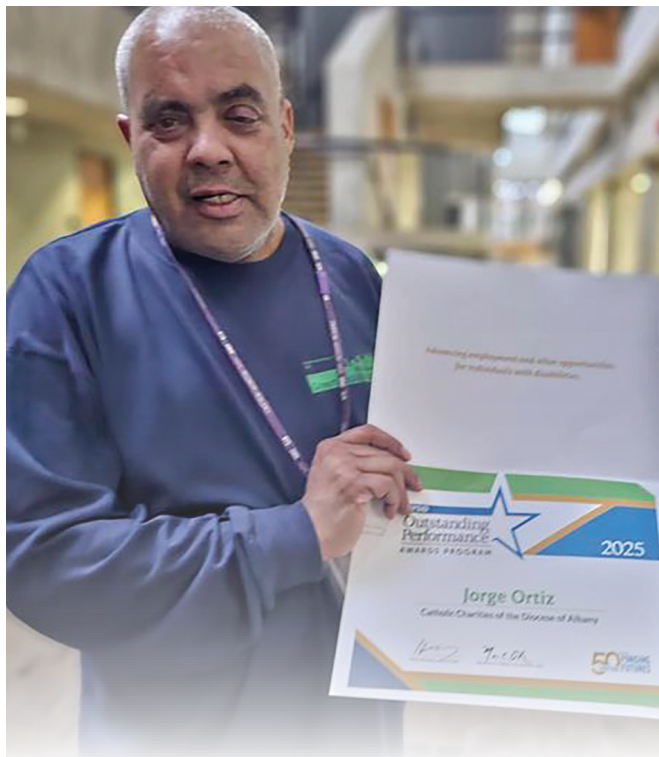
Immigration & Crisis Support Services: **270**

A LIFE RECLAIMED

Jorge rebuilt his life through recovery, meaningful employment, and a commitment to helping others heal.

Jorge's journey is one of perseverance, recovery, and renewed purpose. After becoming addicted to heroin and alcohol at just eleven years old, he spent years living on the streets and cycling in and out of jail. It wasn't until his time at Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility, where he participated in the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT) program, that his life began to change. Today, Jorge celebrates an incredible 37 years in recovery.

Three years ago, however, Jorge faced another difficult chapter. Struggling with depression, unemployment, and limited education, he worried about how he would support his wife and son and keep a roof over their heads. Turning to Catholic Charities, he found the support he needed through a NYSID-supported employment opportunity.



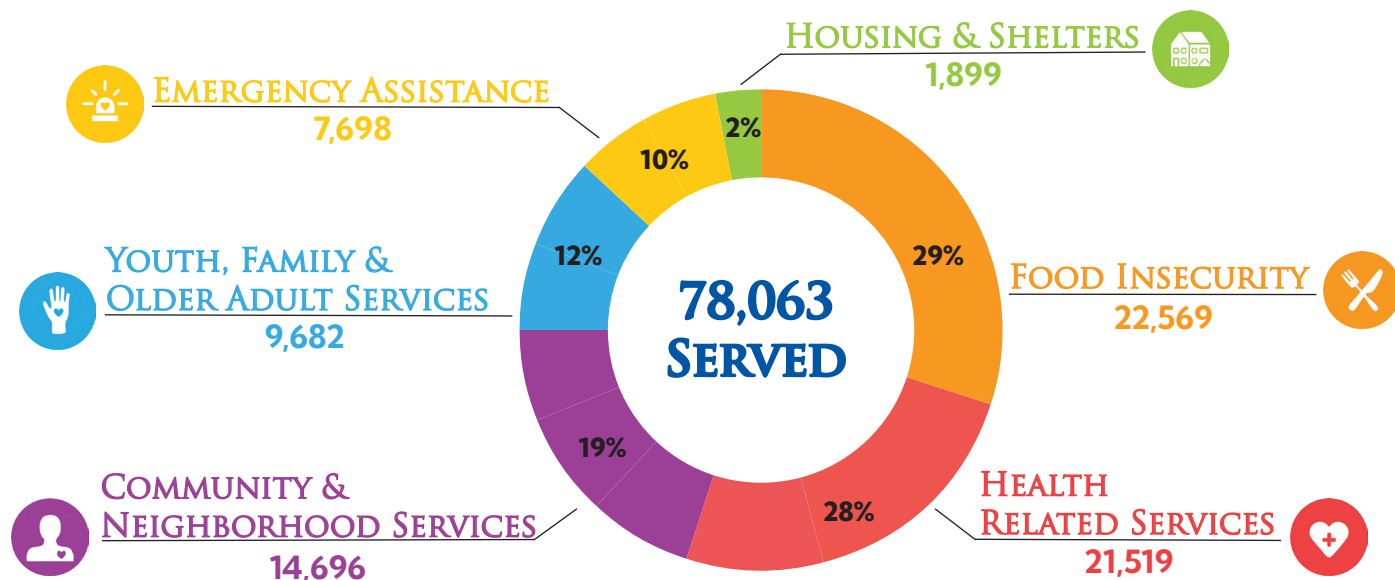
Jorge receiving an Outstanding Performance Award from NYSID.

Jorge began working as a cleaner at the Capital District Psychiatric Center through Rayben Enterprises. His strong work ethic and attention to detail quickly set him apart, and he soon earned a promotion to weekend supervisor. "Jorge is an integral team member who can be trusted to take on any task," shared his supervisor.

Beyond his work, Jorge makes a lasting impact by supporting others in recovery, offering encouragement and understanding drawn from his own experiences.

He remains active in Narcotics Anonymous, enjoys time with his teenage son, and has rebuilt relationships with his family.

Grateful for the opportunity to rebuild his life, Jorge's story is a powerful reminder that, with support and determination, lasting transformation is possible.



78,063 individuals received support through one of our programs between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. This reflects unduplicated individuals served, meaning each person is counted only once, even if they accessed multiple services such as food assistance, housing support, or other programs throughout the year.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Behind every number in this report is a person, a family, or a neighbor who turned to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany during a difficult moment. The need is without bounds but our ability to meet that need is a matter of finances.

This year, we struggled with a change of direction from the Federal Government causing funding to shift, decrease and stop. That impacted resources at the State level as well. It was a very challenging fiscal year for Catholic Charities but with your support, we can become stronger and more resilient to meet the needs moving forward.

Every meal served, safe shelter provided, counseling session offered, and family supported is possible because of generous donors who believe in our mission.

There are many meaningful ways to make a lasting impact:

- Become a sustaining donor through a monthly gift
- Include Catholic Charities in your will or estate plans
- Make a one-time contribution to support urgent community needs

BECAUSE OF YOU, IT'S THE GOOD WE DO!

Scan the QR code to make a secure donation and help continue this life-changing work.

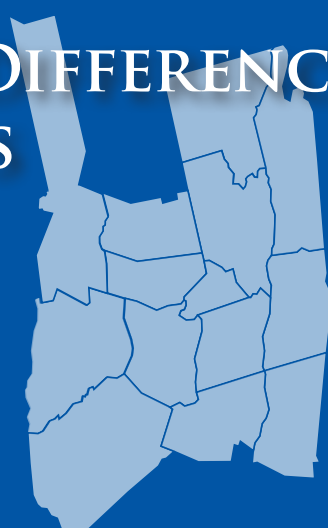
Feel free to reach out to our Director of Advancement and Communications, Sharon Holbrook-Ryan at sharon.holbrookryan@ccrcda.org | (518) 641-6831.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

SCAN ME



TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE ACROSS 14 COUNTIES



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany provides services in 14 counties, covering 10,000 square miles across the Greater Capital Region. Programs and services are delivered to the poor and vulnerable through Catholic Charities' eleven agencies.

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OUR MISSION

Catholic Charities, a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Albany, is committed to active witness on behalf of the Scriptural values of mercy and justice.

Catholic Charities, recognizing human need at all stages of life, responds to all persons regardless of race, creed, or lifestyle, with special emphasis on the economically poor and vulnerable.

Catholic Charities serves and empowers persons in need, advocates for a just society, calls forth and collaborates with women and men of good will in fulfillment of its mission.



Reach out to our dedicated team for any inquiries, assistance, or information you need.

(518) 453-6650

40 North Main Ave.
Albany, NY 12203

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