

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
HOPE for all seasons

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SISTER MARY MCCARRICK, OSF LCSW-R
Diocesan Director

DENNIS C. WALCZYK
Chief Executive Officer

November 7, 2014

Dear Mr. Graber:

Please accept the Catholic Charities of Buffalo 2013 Annual Report in appreciation of your support. You will find it is an eye-catching calendar, the popular format of our 2011 report, filled with stories that showcase a milestone we reached in 2013: Serving people in need for 90 years.

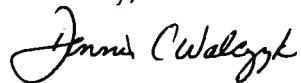
Throughout nine decades you have helped us remain strong and it is only fitting that we tell the story of the impact of your support using the theme "Reflections of Hope." We highlight seasons of life in which Catholic Charities' services brought hope. Through your generosity we offer so much – second chances, the cutting edge of care, the opportunity for a loving home and tools for a better, more successful life.

You will also find information about organizational accomplishments and outcomes, an Appeal update and a sincere thanks to our donors. You will read that our efficiency and effectiveness consistently surpass those set by credentialing organizations, and demonstrate that Catholic Charities is a good steward of your donation.

While such measures are critically important, the accomplishments showing how we live our mission to help people lead meaningful, healthy and productive lives truly motivate us in our work.

If you would like to learn more, please call us at 716-218-1400 or visit us at www.ccnw.org, [facebook.com/ccbuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/ccbuffalo) or [twitter.com/ccbuffalo](https://www.twitter.com/ccbuffalo). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dennis C. Walczyk
Chief Executive Officer



Sister Mary McCarrick, OSF
Diocesan Director

Enclosure

ACCREDITED BY



CREDIBILITY

INTEGRITY

ACHIEVEMENT

Reflections of

HOPE



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Mission

Catholic Charities of Buffalo is a Catholic sponsored human service agency serving anyone in need in the eight counties of Western New York. Believing all persons are created by God, we *empowers* individuals, children and families to achieve and maintain meaningful, healthy and productive lives.

We advocate for those in need – particularly those who are poor and most vulnerable.

Vision

Catholic Charities will be the community leader in providing quality, effective and efficient human services. We will be the premier agency of choice for clients, donors, employees and volunteers. We will be the *beacon of hope* for those in need.

Please enjoy with compliments this calendar for 2015, as well as the review of our 2013 progress.

A message from the Chairman of the Board



Dear Friends,

Pope Francis calls on us again and again to reach out in *compassion* and *care* for others. This is exactly the work of Catholic Charities in Western New York.

We serve everyone, not because they are Catholic, but because we are Catholic and it is an obligation upon us to serve. Caring for one another is the service and work that Jesus himself calls us to.

In describing the “enormous contribution” of the Church today, Pope Francis in his first Apostolic Exhortation wrote about how the Church helps “so many people to be healed,” and is “present to those enslaved by different addictions in the poorest places on earth.” The Church is devoted to the “education of children and young people.” The Church takes care of the “elderly who have been forgotten by everyone else,” and looks for “ways to communicate values in hostile environments.”

Within this report you will gain a greater sense of the vast contributions Catholic Charities makes with respect to some of these very needs – healing those who are lost and traumatized, those who have been forced from their homeland with no choice but to make a new life, endowing individuals to free themselves from alcohol and drug abuse, educating young people and caring for our elderly neighbors.

These reflections of hope are made possible through the transformational work of the staff of Catholic Charities, and also through the generosity of the Body of Christ, our Church, which has supported and sustained the mission of Catholic Charities here in our diocese for 90 years. I also am thankful for the support of many companies and organizations outside the Church who support and partner with us because they value our services. To all I extend my prayerful best wishes and my profound gratitude.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone
Bishop of Buffalo
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Message from the Chief Executive Officer



For Catholic Charities of Buffalo, the year 2013 marked 90 years, or about 23,400 days, of being a *beacon of hope*. We started in one county with facilities that served orphans and the elderly, and programs that fed those who were poor.

How do you measure the impact of decades of hope instilled? Thousands of children adopted into loving families, anxiety and trauma quelled through mental health counseling and relief when there is food once again for hungry stomachs – these are but a few examples. We can only imagine the ripple effect of the totality of our 90-year legacy.

Today we are eight counties strong, empowering individuals of all ages, couples and families with a variety of life-changing services, affirmed for quality by the Council on Accreditation.

Reflecting on significant events and accomplishments during 2013, we consider:

Education and Workforce Development: New programs Project Jump Start and Work and Gain Education and Employment Skills (WAGEES) now help youth and young adults who have had a brush with the law get back on track, in school or on a career path (learn more about WAGEES on the March page). Buffalo was on the short list of cities funded through the U.S. Department of Labor. Project Jump Start is administered by Southwest Key Programs of Austin, Tex., and WAGEES by the Latino Coalition of Bakersfield, Calif. Both signify new partnerships for Catholic Charities.

School Based Services: South Buffalo Promise Zone (SBPZ), part of the Closing the Gap (CTG) partnership, was one of seven programs honored by the New York State Office of Mental Health during its event, "What's Great in Our State: A Forum to Celebrate Children's Mental Health." Along with SBPZ, CTG and the Say Yes Buffalo partnership, Catholic Charities identifies student and family needs in 42 Buffalo Public Schools, which will be extended to all 55 schools by 2015.

Domestic Violence Model Training: Using a model approach for offender accountability working with the criminal justice system, our Domestic Violence Offender Program is offered across Western New York. Program Coordinator Gregory White is a nationally known expert in the New York Model for Batterer Programs, which is endorsed by state and national advocate groups. For several years, Catholic Charities has hosted a two-day training event, drawing attendees from across the state.

Niagara County Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Marks 15 Years: A celebration in Niagara Falls marked the 15th anniversary of MST, an intensive, family-focused intervention which has served 1,100 at-risk youth ages 12-17 and their families since 1998. Therapists strive to help change how young people function at home, at school and in the neighborhood, promoting positive social behavior, decreasing anti-social behavior and keeping families intact. Catholic Charities' 85-year presence in Niagara County also was recognized.

Preparing for Changes in Older Adult Care: The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York funded a Ready or Not Initiative for the older adult programs in Erie, Genesee and Orleans counties. It is allowing our programs to prepare for economic and legislative changes impacting access to care for this population, including Medicaid redesign and the Affordable Care Act.

Your role in our work, as board members, employees, clergy, donors, funders, volunteers and clients, cannot be understated. You are the why and the how we have flourished for nearly a century. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

Dennis C. Walczyk
Chief Executive Officer

Financial Report July 2012 - June 2013

INCOME

Appeal.....	\$10,757,155*
Government Contracts.....	\$15,981,535
Service Fees.....	\$7,623,826
Bequests and Other Contributions	
.....	\$1,434,618
Other.....	\$852,965

TOTAL REVENUE **\$36,650,099**

EXPENSES

Program Services.....	\$31,829,982
Administration.....	\$2,105,344
Fundraising.....	\$1,327,861

TOTAL EXPENSES..... **\$35,263,187**

*Reflects cash and pledges collected through June 30, 2013

NOTE: For more detailed financial data, please go to: <http://ccwny.org/AboutUs/FinancialInformation.aspx>

January

2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	NEW YEAR'S DAY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Message from the Diocesan Director



Catholic Charities is one organization with four components: clients, volunteers, staff and donors. We come together to *change lives*, and in doing so positively change the communities of Western New York. I would like to share how we do that.

Our outreach to seniors brings together clients and volunteers, supported by professional staff. Throughout Erie, Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming counties, Catholic Charities focuses on the needs of the older adult. The Home Visitation Program, telephone assurance programs and A Gathering Place are a few life-saving services offering personal outreach. For example, an 87-year-old widow named Jane had been receiving telephone calls from Liz, a Home Visitation volunteer. Liz called one morning and Jane did not sound herself. "Her speech was not clear and she did not seem to understand who I was, though we had spoken each morning for almost a year," explained Liz. She called 911, and it was discovered that Jane had suffered a stroke. Liz was able to notify the Catholic Charities social worker. After short hospital and rehabilitation stays, she returned home. Jane said, "I thank God and Liz for saving my life!"

Multisystemic Therapy is another kind of life-saver, bringing together families, their supports and a therapist to effect change in at-risk youth. As one client, Annie, wrote, "We are so grateful for our therapist, Sue! Our teenage daughter was really out of control, making bad choices and skipping school. Sue helped my husband, Jim, and me to be clear about our expectations of each of our kids and to provide positive and negative consequences for behavior. It took six months of hard work by our family and my mother, since she is often here when we are working. It's a new life, thanks to Catholic Charities."

Each donor has his or her own story. Rick's story really caught my attention because it came in a letter from beyond the grave, with a copy of his will. It read, "This gift to Catholic Charities comes in repayment of an old family debt. My aunt always seemed a bit different, and in her later years we realized she had a mental illness. She was also physically handicapped and wouldn't leave her home. The Catholic Charities outreach team went into her home to provide the assessment and help my aunt needed. Please use this money from my estate to benefit others."

We are energized by the possibilities of healing offered in our various programs. Your belief in our mission and your overwhelming generosity allow us to provide needed services to our neighbors. I thank you in the name of our clients, volunteers and staff. I thank you in God's own name; it is God's work we do together as Catholic Charities.

This is the fourth year Catholic Charities has received a four-star designation, the highest rating, from Charity Navigator, for efficiency and transparency. Catholic Charities continues to surpass standards set by similar organizations and is a good steward of your contribution.

May God reward your generosity!

Sister Mary McCarrick, OSF
Diocesan Director

February 2015



Pictured: Lizette Torres and Elsa Rosario with high school equivalency teacher Jay Stainsby

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	GROUNDHOG DAY 2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	VALENTINE'S DAY 14
15	PRESIDENTS' DAY 16	17	ASH WEDNESDAY 18	CHINESE NEW YEAR 19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



Pictured: Reggie Branch, Jr.

A second chance for *success*.

All it takes is one opportunity to make a positive change. Just ask Reggie Branch, Jr.

Reggie, now 23, left high school as a freshman and was incarcerated by age 18. In January 2014, he began parole.

Eager for a fresh start, Reggie enrolled in Catholic Charities' WAGEES (Work and Gain Education and Employment Skills) program, which provides educational and career services to Buffalo youth 18-24 who have been involved in the Juvenile Justice System. Reggie learned of WAGEES through his uncle, an agency employee.

With help from his employment counselor, Reggie participated in a professional development series focused on resume writing and employment readiness. He also completed training through the Center for Transportation Excellence, which prepared him to interact with customers.

Highly motivated, Reggie was offered a paid internship with the Catholic Charities maintenance department, gaining valuable work experience. One month after the internship, Reggie secured full-time employment with the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Amherst.

"I now have a positive means to pay my bills, instead of looking over my shoulder all the time," says Reggie. "I needed a chance to prove myself. I knew I would succeed if given the chance."

The eldest of seven children, Reggie knows he also has to set a good example for his siblings.

He is focused on entering college this fall, with an interest in business, someday hoping to start his own.

2015 March

Getting back on *track*

Funded through a grant from the Department of Labor administered by the Latino Coalition of Bakersfield, Calif., WAGEES assisted 75 individuals in 2013. The program is implemented by Catholic Charities' Education and Workforce Development Department, offering services throughout the City of Buffalo and in portions of Erie County. Last year, the department provided services to 525 individuals.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	ST. PATRICK'S DAY 17	18	19	SPRING BEGINS 20	21
APPEAL FIRST SUNDAY 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
2015 APPEAL WEEK - PLEASE GIVE TODAY						
PALM SUNDAY APPEAL SECOND SUNDAY 29	30	31	1	2	3	4



On being trauma-informed.

Pictured: Trauma Committee members Maria Picone, Laura Greene and Jackie Garcia

Catholic Charities “intensified its focus on developing trauma-informed care...

...and trauma-specific treatments to its clients when the weight of evolving literature and study on trauma presented its significance as an ever-growing health risk,” explained Jim Lowe, educator in the Education and Workforce Development department, who has been instrumental in sharpening the focus.

Studies show the effects of wide ranges of trauma experienced at an early age can have life-long impact not only on mental health, but also on physical health, and contribute to a lower economic position.

After a group of Community Health Foundation Fellows, led by such agencies as Catholic Charities and Baker Victory Services, hosted the first trauma conference in Western New York in 2009, a coalition was formed to educate and train professionals on trauma, trauma-informed care and trauma-specific services.

Through the dedication of a number of employees, Catholic Charities has embraced trauma awareness and trauma-informed care. Counselors are being trained on a range of specialized evidence-based interventions to treat trauma and its impact on children and adults; all new employees receive trauma awareness training; an internal trauma committee guides the organization in increasing awareness and making changes to reflect this; and Catholic Charities continues to participate in the Trauma Informed Coalition of Western New York.

“Our counselors are trained to provide services with sensitivity to and respect for trauma,” asserts Meichle Latham, director of school-based services. “Counselors infuse the five guiding principles (safety, choice, trustworthiness, empowerment and collaboration) in their daily work as they offer, for example, emergency relief services, counseling, preventive services and school-based services.”

20
15
April

Developing trauma *expertise*

A total of 149 staff or supervisors have been trained in trauma, and 11 active mentors conduct bi-monthly mentor development groups, case consultation groups and supervisor consultation groups.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	APRIL FOOL'S DAY 1	2	GOOD FRIDAY 3	HOLY SATURDAY 4
EASTER 5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	EARTH DAY 22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



The road to *resiliency*.

Pictured: Mark Hamel and Elizabeth Mair

Mark Hamel has experienced things most people won't encounter in a lifetime. His resiliency is impressive.

Adopted at age 5, Mark was introduced to pain medications following surgery at 16. Three years later, he joined the U.S. Army and became a combat medic, serving in Saudi Arabia when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

On a second tour, Mark was injured in combat in the Middle East. Mark took four bullets while holding his best friend, who died in his arms. He earned a Purple Heart. Multiple injuries hospitalized him for 18 months and pain medications again took hold.

He earned a nursing degree and worked as a nurse, but needed drugs to function, struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other issues. He returned to Western New York about a year ago, graduating from ECMC's drug rehabilitation unit. A medical procedure brought him back in contact with opiates. Mark entered the Chemical Dependency Treatment program and receives Suboxone treatment for opiate addiction.

The program continues to grow substantially because referring physicians like the required counseling component and the therapists' continuous communication with them.

Elizabeth Mair, Mark's therapist, said, "Mark's physical pain is very real and that adds another component to his treatment and recovery."

Mark values the program's one-on-one counseling and the "assortment of groups that are offered," such as the dual diagnosis (addiction and mental health) group. "Jesus is 'on the wall' here," Mark says. "That's a blessing I have; my spirituality and my faith are so important to me.

"This place changed my life. Even if I don't have appointments, some days I just come here to meditate or talk with staff – this is a peaceful place."

20
15
May

Successful *treatment* option

The Suboxone program started in 2011 as an option for opiate-dependent individuals. Its success has led to doubling both physician hours managing patients as well as the number of referring physicians. The Chemical Dependency Treatment program experienced an 11% increase in patients discontinuing primary substance use at discharge to 2013, along with a 7% increase in patients completing the program.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	CINCO DE MAYO 5	6	7	8	9
MOTHER'S DAY 10	11	12	13	ASCENSION OF JESUS 14	15	ARMED FORCES DAY 16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	MEMORIAL DAY 25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Protect. Strengthen. Empower.

Pictured: Foster Grandparent Wilson Lamar and Buffalo Public School #84 Student Nefeeehia

The 2013 Appeal theme, “Protect. Strengthen. Empower.,” signified how Catholic Charities’ efforts benefit the community and those who turn to us for help.

It also magnified the strong link between donor support and Catholic Charities’ ability to sustain its work.

More than 60,000 donors contributed to a total of \$10,819,043.65, exceeding the \$10.7 million goal. This was the third year the Appeal surpassed its goal since 2007, when that year’s \$11 million goal was exceeded by \$15,000.

The campaign welcomed the Most Rev. Richard J. Malone, who was installed as the Bishop of Buffalo in August 2012. Bringing a fresh perspective with the same hope of assisting our neighbors in need, he shared the words of Appeal Patron Blessed Frederic Ozanam, who said, “Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future.”

At the final announcement, Bishop Malone extended his deepest thanks to 2013 Appeal Chair Stephen Ulrich, along with the entire leadership team: Michael and Maureen Pratt, vice chairs and large gift/leadership gifts chairs, Rick Cronin, parish chair, and Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Mattimore, community chair.

Catholic Charities’ Corporate Division, led by Bill Lawley, Kathy Lawley Best and Anthony Delmonte, Jr., raised more than \$1 million, only the second time that amount has been reached and the first time since 2007.

The Community Division also surpassed the previous year’s total by 64%, while Leadership gifts (\$1,000+) increased by 17.5% over 2012. The second annual Leadership Circle event was held in October at Christ the King Seminary with a Mass and reception to thank donors for their generosity.

To continue to involve youth and increase awareness of Catholic Charities among a younger demographic, the second year of the social media initiative “Get Real. Give Hope.” encouraged youth ages 13-34 to register on Facebook to enter to win a weekly prize. Each day in March, a question, statistic, video or task was posted on our Facebook page and Twitter feed, sharing what we do and how participants could give hope in their own way.

With the continued support of a foundation of donors, board of trustees, volunteers, staff and clients, we serve with determination, providing protection, strength and empowering those in need.

June 2015



Pictured: Dennis Walczyk, Stephen Ulrich, Maureen Pratt, Mike Pratt, Bishop Richard Malone, Ralph Meranto, Sister Mary McCarrick, Rick Cronin

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FLAG DAY 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
FATHER'S DAY SUMMER BEGINS 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4



A focus on *outcomes*.

Pictured: Clients of Project HOPE (Helping Older People Excel) at a Spring Social Club gathering

The implementation of a Performance and Quality Improvement Plan, adopted by Catholic Charities, has resulted in stronger methods and tools to increase the agency's ability to manage, monitor and evaluate its continuous quality improvement processes.

Two key outcomes include:

- Developing and implementing an agency-wide **Dashboard** that summarizes program performance using key indicators.
- Programs submit **quarterly PQI reports** that identify and provide data on at least one measurable goal for program outputs and outcomes, and client satisfaction.

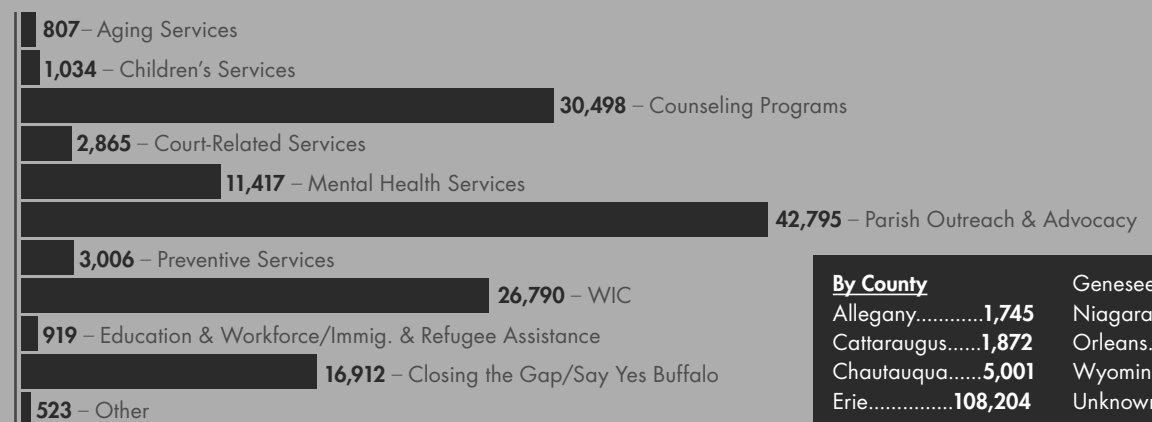
A few examples are:

- A total of 86% of **Marriage Counseling Center** clients, based on pre- and post-service measures, showed a significant improvement;

- A total of 95% of 257 youth in the **Multisystemic Therapy program**, an intensive family and community based treatment program for chronic juvenile offenders, were living at home at time of discharge while the national average is 88%, and 93% of youth had no new arrests on discharge, exceeding the 85% national average;
- Outcomes for **Therapeutic Supervised Visitation**, a continuum of visitation services for families with supervision and skill building, included 98% of families achieved at least weekly access together and 84% of all scheduled visits were held; and
- **A Gathering Place**, older adult day program, saw a 40% increase in participation in group activities.

Clients served in Western New York – 137,566

By Service



By County	
Allegany.....	1,745
Cattaraugus.....	1,872
Chautauqua.....	5,001
Erie.....	108,204
Genesee.....	1,527
Niagara.....	14,696
Orleans.....	503
Wyoming.....	2,743
Unknown.....	1,275

July 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	INDEPENDENCE DAY 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

MSGR. JOHN J. CONNIFF SOCIETY

The Monsignor John J. Conniff Society is a leadership group of contributors and friends of the Appeal.

Started in 2006, the society honors the legacy of Msgr. John J. Conniff, the Buffalo native and fifth director of Catholic Charities (1965-1995) who died in 2007.

The Msgr. Conniff Society especially recognizes Appeal contributors who share generously each year from the goodness with which they have been blessed and for extraordinary dedication to the Appeal. Criteria for inclusion are annual individual gifts of \$5,000 or more, corporate gifts of \$10,000 or more, or service as Appeal Chair. A reception is held annually to thank members.



Pictured: Carol Gibson and the Honorable Kenneth H. Schroeder, Jr.

- Mr. and Mrs. David Alexander
- Mr. Frederick G. and Mrs. Judith† Attea*
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Joseph Attea
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Aubrecht*
- Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bailey
- Bank of America
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Barnett
- Mr. and Mrs. James D. Basil*
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Basil, Sr.
- Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Bauer
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Bauer
- Mr. and Mrs. James Beardi
- Mrs. Patricia Becker
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Beecher, Jr.*
- Mrs. Catherine Beltz
- Mr. and Mrs. James E. Biddle, Sr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bluemle*
- Mrs. Margaret A. Bopp
- Mr. Edward Brady
- Mrs. Augusta Brannen
- Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Brunsing
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Budin
- Dr. John Campbell and Dr. Heidi Crow
- Mr. Ronald B. Carey
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Castiglia
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- Catholic Health
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- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chiampou*
- Miss Joyce Cieslar
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Ciminelli KCHS
- Mr. John and Mrs. Sherri Ciminelli
- Dr. and Mrs. James Cirbus*
- Miss Vivian Cody
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- Mr. and Mrs. William Collins
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- Mr. Franklin Downing†
- Mr. Charles G. Duffy, III
- Dr. Melvin Dyster
- Mr. Edward Eberl
- Eileen and Rupert Warren Charitable Fund
- Ellicott Development Company
- Mr. and Mrs. William A. Evans
- Fatta Foundation
- First Niagara Bank Foundation
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- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Foyle
- Mr. William E. Fraas*
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Frandina
- Frank L. Ciminelli Family Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. John Gatti
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- Gernatt Family Foundation
- Gioia Foundation
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- Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Greene
- Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Grundtisch
- Mrs. Amy J. Habib LHS
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- Dr. Donald L. Hayes
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- Mr. and Mrs. William L. Holcomb
- Mr. Joseph P. Huefner
- Mrs. Joan C. Hurley
- Mr. and Mrs. John Hurley
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- Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Jones, Jr.
- Joy Family Foundation
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- Mrs. Katherine Juhasz*
- Mr. Richard Kaiser
- Mr. Brian Keating
- Mrs. Geraldine D. Kennedy
- KeyBank, NA
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- Rev. Louis S. Klein
- Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Klocke
- Most Reverend Edward U. Kmiec, D.D., S.T.L.
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- Mrs. Mary Koessler
- Miss Elizabeth Kolber
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- Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Landfried
- Lawley Insurance
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- Deacon and Mrs. John Leardon
- Mr. Paul E. Leone
- Ms. Susan Littell
- Mr. Alfred F. Luhr, III
- Lumsden and McCormick, LLP
- LV Wood Floors
- M&T Bank
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- Mader Construction Company, Inc.
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- Maid of the Mist Corporation
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- Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Pratt
- Queen of Martyrs Parish
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- Ms. Laura Zaepfel
- Mr. Robert W.† and Mrs. Marilyn Zahm

*New Member
†Deceased

August 2015



Pictured: Katie and Jake Schneider, and Bishop Richard Malone

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 ASSUMPTION OF MARY
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Pictured: Mariah and Kelli Helmer

Everyone deserves a *home*.

From a young age, Kelli Helmer knew she wanted to be a foster parent.

After purchasing her first home in 2007, at age 24, she enrolled in Model Approach to Partnership in Parenting (MAPP), training that provides individuals and families with information and resources needed to become a foster parent at Catholic Charities.

With a passion to help children who possess special needs, Kelli met Mariah, a 3-year-old with Down syndrome, severe learning disabilities and autism. Mariah was in need of a foster-to-adopt placement. With a background in special education, Kelli was excited to welcome Mariah into her home.

"I do not remember my life before Mariah," said Kelli. "It has been a great experience."

In all, Kelli has cared for more than 10 foster children, each with varying levels of needs, from life-threatening illnesses to behavioral issues.

She has never once wavered on her decision. "It was part of my life plan," explains Kelli. The Foster Care Program linked Kelli to respite services as well as Bridges 2 Health, which helps foster families coordinate a wide range of needs.

"They've been great," said Kelli of Catholic Charities. "Every person I have been in contact with has been fantastic."

Catholic Charities supported Kelli in her decision to become certified to administer MAPP, and she is now co-teaching the training for the second time. She also serves on the Foster Parent Recruitment Committee.

Kelli hopes to open a special needs daycare center in the future and is currently looking to expand her living space so she can assist more children in need.

September 2015

Growing *families* in WNY

In 2013, the Foster Care Program provided placement for 48 children and case management services for them and their families in 32 certified foster homes. The Adoption Program finalized seven adoptions, six of which were freed through the foster care system. Seven children in foster care returned home or to family members.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	LABOR DAY	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	FALL BEGINS	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	1	2	3



Pictured: Jackie and Vanessa Bemeriki

Hard work in *bloom*.

After leaving Rwanda amidst conflict and violence in 1994, Jackie Bemeriki moved her family to Kenya...

...where life improved somewhat. Wanting independence and a better life, she applied for refugee status in the U.S. in 1999.

From the moment she stepped off the plane, the Immigration and Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP) was there to help with documentation, food, housing and clothes. "They picked me up at the airport and assigned a caseworker," Jackie explained. The agency also helped her secure financial assistance, learn to use public transportation, and obtain a Social Security card, a driver's license and eventually citizenship.

As she worked to settle her three young children, she sought employment. "My goal was to be independent, so I needed to work." After five years working as a bilingual customer service representative, she started a group family daycare center to better balance work and raise her son Jean d'amour, now 21, and two daughters Trinithas, 20, and Vanessa, 11.

Jackie is now preparing to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Flower Garden Child Care, which she opened out of her Buffalo home in 2004. Many of the children she cares for are referred by families who receive assistance from IRAP.

"I am trying just to be able to give back," she said.

Jackie credits Catholic Charities for providing the life she and her family dreamed of. "You don't have to be scared to come here."

Jackie continues to help others. She is developing a program to educate refugee families on cultural differences in parenting, and is creating Flower Garden Childcare International, a nonprofit organization to promote the well-being of refugees.

October 2015

Seamless flow of *services*

In 2013, the Immigration and Refugee Assistance Program served about 1,200 clients monthly, representing more than 30 nationalities, and resettled 585 refugees. The program model offers a seamless flow of services from pre-arrival through employment and economic self-sufficiency. 2013 outcomes included: 65 Green Card applications filed, 362 Naturalization applications filed, 139 clients became citizens, 40 people received legal counsel and 248 attended English as Second Language or Citizenship classes.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	COLUMBUS DAY	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	HALLOWEEN 31



Pictured: Jeanne Smith

Support groups *serve* the sufferer.

In an effort to meet the needs of people in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties,

Catholic Charities has expanded over the last several years the variety of support groups offered. Tough love, Alzheimer's caregiver, domestic violence victims, suicide survivors and four grief support groups all meet differing numbers of times per month and in various locations.

"The groups give us more ability to serve the community," said Matthew Wenke, district director for the two counties, who added the groups "can be held closer to where clients live" and "meet during the daytime to accommodate one set of needs and in the evening for another."

Jeanne Smith came to the Alzheimer's caregiver support group at a critical point in her husband's struggle with dementia and stayed through his placement in a nursing facility, his death and long after. Today, she helps co-facilitate the group which has met at Pines Nursing Home in Machias for seven years.

"I am more of an adjunct facilitator," Jeanne says modestly. "As facilitators we can help people express what they might be having trouble expressing, and the person ends up feeling loved, wanted and secure and says, 'I can handle this.'"

"Matt Wenke and others like him enable many, many sufferers to see hope in a tough situation," she added.

November 2015

Reaching out to our *neighbors*

In 2013, a total of 176 individuals participated in 10 groups offered in churches, nursing homes and hospitals, and at the Olean and Wellsville Catholic Charities offices. Collectively in Cattaraugus and Allegany counties, 3,617 individuals and their families were served through emergency assistance, counseling and other programs.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL SAINTS' DAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS END 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	VETERANS DAY 11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	THANKSGIVING 26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5



Pictured: Emerson C. and Marie Andersen Strait

Funding Organizations

We are *grateful* to these organizations which support our programs.

Allegany County Department of Social Services
 Allegany County United Way
 Buffalo & Erie County Workforce Development Consortium
 Buffalo Promise Neighborhood
 Buffalo Public Schools
 Buffalo State College
 Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
 Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services
 Cattaraugus County Department of Mental Health
 City of Buffalo - Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency
 City of Lackawanna
 Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
 Corporation for National and Community Service
 Erie County Department of Social Services
 Erie County Department of Senior Services
 Erie County Department of Mental Health
 Erie County Retired Senior Volunteer Program
 Erie County Department of Youth Services
 Federal Emergency Management Agency
 Fidelis Care New York
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 Food Bank of Western New York
 Foodlink
 Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo
 Grigg-Lewis Foundation, Inc.
 Health Foundation for Western and Central New York
 Health Research Institute
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 Ladies of Charity of the United States of America
 Latino Coalition
 M&T Bank Foundation

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 New York State Office of New Americans
 New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance
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 P2 Collaborative of Western New York
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 Say Yes Buffalo
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 Univera Healthcare Foundation
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 U.S. Department of Labor
 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services
 United Way of Buffalo and Erie County
 University at Buffalo
 Violence Against Women Act (U.S. Depts. of Justice & Health and Human Services)
 West Buffalo Charter School
 Workforce Investment Board
 WNY HEALTHeLINK

December 2015



Pictured: Darlene Sery (far left) with Bishop Kmiec Food Pantry volunteers during the annual letter carriers food drive

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	WINTER BEGINS 22	23	CHRISTMAS EVE 24	CHRISTMAS DAY 25	26
27	28	29	30	NEW YEAR'S EVE 31	1	2

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF BUFFALO

Serving Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara,
Orleans and Wyoming Counties

Services Provided Across Western New York

Adoption Counseling and Assistance
Advocacy and Referral
Basic Emergency Financial Assistance
Counseling for Individuals, Couples
and Families (including trauma)
Domestic Violence Victims'
Counseling/Programs
Domestic Violence Classes for Men
Ladies of Charity
Our Kids: Parent Education & Awareness
Parish Outreach and Advocacy

County-Specific Services

Allegany & Cattaraugus

Food Pantry & Outreach (Wellsville)
Intensive Case Management
Kinship Caregiver Program
Multisystemic Therapy Program
Support Groups: Grief, Caregiver,
Suicide Survivors, Tough Love, DV Victims

Chautauqua

Chautauqua County Outreach
Friendly Phones, Friendly Visitors
Multisystemic Therapy Program

Erie

Adoption and Foster Care
Catholic Charities Service Corps
Chemical Dependency Treatment
Closing the Gap / Say Yes Buffalo
High School Equivalency Education
& Work Readiness

Immigration and Refugee Assistance
In-School Social Work
Marriage Counseling
Mental Health Services (adult and child)
Monitored Exchange
Multisystemic Therapy Program
Pantries (Buffalo & Lackawanna)
Parent Education Programs
Preventive Services (including
Kinship Preventive)
School Intervention Service
Therapeutic Supervised Visitation
WIC (Women, Infants and Children)
Nutrition Program

Senior Services – Comprehensive Care,

Foster Grandparent Program,
Project HOPE, Telephone Assurance
Program, A Gathering Place

Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming

Friendly Phones
Home Visitation Program
Preventive Services

Niagara

In-School Social Work
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WIC (Women, Infants and Children)
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