



Adoption and Foster Care



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg.

Since its inception in 1954, the goal of the Adoption Center at Catholic Charities of the Diocese

of Greensburg has been to create permanent families for our children. Adoption can be both a rewarding and challenging experience. It is a lifelong process during which both parents and children learn about one another to form a loving, caring and permanent family unit. The Adoption Center offers individuals, married couples and families opportunities to begin or extend their families by preparing a loving and caring home for an infant or an older child.

The Adoption Process

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg is licensed by the Pennsylvania

Department of Human Services to conduct home studies for the residents of Pennsylvania. Once approved, each family is certified for both foster care and adoption. We are Hague Accredited through COA to conduct home studies and post-placement services for international adoption. The range of adoption services provided includes:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| † Infant | † Special Needs |
| † Private | † Interstate |
| † Older Child | † International |

To make the adoption process more personal and to create a positive foundation for the possible future



**Providing Help.
Creating Hope.**

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exchange of information with the birth parent(s), placements can involve the option of openness. Some examples of an open adoption are face-to-face visits and the exchange of letters, pictures and/or child development information following the completion of a legal adoption. Completely closed adoptions are also possible.

Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network Affiliation

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg is an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), which aids in the placement of children who are in foster care and have the goal of adoption. These children may have emotional challenges, physical disabilities and/or mental health diagnoses. They may be in a sibling group, part of a minority group or be close to aging out of the system.

The Adoption Center staff is involved in the preparation of written life histories of these children as well as the family profiles needed to make permanent matches. Support services are also offered to help maintain the stability of the family unit.

Post Adoption Support Services

Through SWAN, Post Adoption Services are available to **all** children who have been adopted and are under the age of 18. The services include:

- † Case Advocacy / Management
- † Support Groups
- † Respite

Adoption Search

Catholic Charities can assist with Adult Adoption Search for those who were adopted as an infant or who placed a baby for adoption through our agency. Identifying and non-identifying searches are conducted by Authorized Search Representatives pursuant to Pennsylvania Act 101 of 2010 (Open Adoption and Search Law).

Confidential – Professional – Affordable

All information is held in strict confidence and within the guidelines of all international, federal and state adoption laws.

The Adoption Center at Catholic Charities supports all of our families throughout the lifelong process of adoption with the professional aggregate experience of over fifty years.

Agency fees for the adoption process are reasonable. There may be opportunities for state funding based on the special needs of children over the age of 12.

Volunteer opportunities are also available.





Serving

Westmoreland County:

Central

711 East Pittsburgh St.
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-837-1840
724-837-4077 (FAX)
724-552-2643 (TDD)

North

St. Joseph Parish
1129 Leishman Avenue
New Kensington, PA 15068
724-334-4453

South

St. Sebastian Parish
801 Broad Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
724-929-4699

Serving Armstrong County in Kittanning:

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe
348 N. Water St.
Kittanning, PA 16201
724-548-1009

Serving Fayette County in Uniontown:

Family Service Center
140 N. Beeson Avenue, Suite 406
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-439-3531

Serving Indiana County in Indiana:

St. Thomas More University Parish
1200 Oakland Avenue
Indiana, PA 15701
724-463-8806

All Catholic Charities staff and volunteers are mandated reporters of child abuse. All Catholic Charities staff and volunteers maintain current clearances as required by the Diocese of Greensburg and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For more information please refer to Dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Catholic Charities is listed in the Official Catholic Directory and is a non-profit organization, designated as a 501(c)(3) corporation by the Internal Revenue Service. This ruling is issued annually as a group tax exemption for all organizations listed in the current Official Catholic Directory. All contributions to Catholic Charities are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in making a contribution in the form of a financial gift, bequest, or other manner of donation, please contact our Director of Community Relations and Special Events at 724-837-1840 ext. 1504, or visit our website at www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org

Mission Statement

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, rooted in the gospel and social teachings of the Church, is the primary social service agency of the Diocese. Our mission is to serve the human needs of individuals and families, regardless of their religious affiliation, and to provide leadership in building collaborative efforts with parishes and communities in addressing these needs.

Non-Profit Status

The official registration and financial information of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Helpline: 1-866-409-6455



A United Way Organization

Catholic Charities is funded by the Diocese of Greensburg, United Way appeals in the four counties of the Diocese, state government and independent contracts, client fees, private foundation grants, individual contributions and bequests.



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