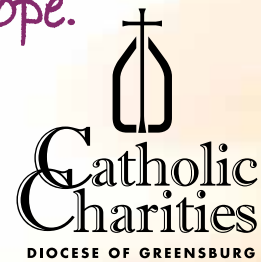




Providing Help. Creating Hope.



2016-2017

Annual Report



Providing Help. Creating Hope.



Providing Help. Creating Hope.





A Message from the Managing Director

Dear Friends,

One of the greatest gifts we have benefited from in the 63 year history of Greensburg Catholic Charities is the generosity of the people of this Diocese who have constantly supported the mission, ministry and the good works of our agency. Catholic Charities has always enjoyed the constant support of the Bishop, Priests, Deacons and lay people of the Diocese of Greensburg. Without this constant support we could not have assisted the tens of thousands of people of every ethnic, religious, social or economic background. Year after year our competent staff and volunteers have always striven to make life a little better for those we serve. Christ's expectation that we care for the poor and disenfranchised is embodied every day in those who do this work. Additionally, as did his predecessors before him, Bishop Edward C. Malesic has allowed the agency to set aside 100% of the monies raised by our Catholic Charities Golf Outing and our Salt and Light dinner for exclusive distribution to the poor with no administrative drawdown. In the last year or so this cumulative total surpassed one million dollars.

As you study this annual report I invite you to be amazed at how so few have helped so many by a judicious use of the resources Catholic Charities has received. This is Catholic Stewardship at its best. I would also ask you to take a moment and join me in giving thanks to God for all of those who have made it possible for us to be of service to the Lord in this most special work and to pray in a special way that they may continue to be strong. This would include not only those working for Catholic Charities as staff or volunteers but our bishop, priests, deacons, men and women religious, our pastoral center staff, as well as the many lay ministers and faithful people of the parishes of our diocese.

The work of Catholic Charities is the work of every Catholic. This diocese has been a living example of that reality. All of us at Catholic Charities give thanks to the Lord for your continued support.

In Christ,

The Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, M.S.W., M.P.A.
Managing Director



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg

Adoption

Foster Care

Information

Referral

Pregnancy

Social Ministry

Poverty Relief

Pro Life

Project Rachel

Volunteers

Counseling Services





Adoption Foster Care

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.

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, Private, Older Child, Special Needs, Interstate, and International.**

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





Poverty Relief

December 2016 Grant Cycle

Christian Layman Corps – A Bed for Every Child	\$5,000
St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Paul Parish Utility Super Fund	\$5,000



The Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund was established by Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt in December 2009 to allow for better support of local organizations in the Diocese of Greensburg that completely accept and promote the mission of the Catholic Church in their care for the poor and needy.

Requesting and Receiving Funds

Grant proposals will be reviewed once each year in January. Requests for funding are accepted throughout the year, and must be received or postmarked by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on November 2nd. Applications received after the deadline will be considered for funding during the next cycle. When submitting a request:

1. Be specific with the nature of the request and the amount requested.
2. The amount being requested should be at least \$750 and not exceed \$5,000.
3. Each grant proposal should address only one project.
4. Please note: The committee does not approve multiple year funding or general operating grants. Also, the committee will not review a list of projects and select one that is appealing.

Qualified grant applications will be reviewed and award decisions will be made according to the date of the application.

If a grant is awarded to an organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed to, or be used to benefit, any other program or organization other than the applicant.

The Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg reserves the right to adjust grant request award amounts based on funds collected/available for disbursement. Catholic Charities also reserves the right to request return of monies not utilized within the grant usage period, or if close-out report is not received by March 31st of the following year. Additionally, after a review of the close-out report(s), Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg reserves the right to request the return of a portion, or all, of the money if the use of the grant money is not determined to be in accordance with the exactly stated parameters of the grant request award letter. Questions should be directed to Heather Rady at 724-837-1840.



Since its inception in 2009, the Poverty Relief Fund Grant has distributed a total of \$363,986 in grant monies through the end of fiscal year 2016-2017.



Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at Catholic Charities provides a caring and professional response to people with a wide variety of painful or challenging circumstances.

**Loss...of loved ones, of relationships, of employment.
Abuse, Addictive Behavior, Anxiety, Depression, Health Issues, and Interpersonal Conflict**

Catholic Charities provides confidential counseling services which support the human dignity of the person, engender hope, help people identify strengths and resources, gain new knowledge, skills and coping strategies, and expand their possibilities for the future.

Counseling Support and Services

Individual Counseling, Marital or Couple Counseling, Family Counseling, Project Rachel Counseling, Gambling Problems, Drug & Alcohol Assessment, Grief, Bereavement, Anxiety, Depression, Men's Anger Group, Military Issues.

Affordable

Because Catholic Charities is strongly supported by the Diocese of Greensburg, contributions from individual donors and United Way appeals, the agency is able to offer its counseling services at affordable rates.

Counseling fees are based on income and family size. Many types of insurance are accepted.

Confidential

Catholic Charities' counseling fees are always less than the prevailing rates for comparable services. Catholic Charities recognizes persons seeking counseling services have the right to confidentiality. Information they provide will be treated with respect and confidentiality by all staff. Catholic Charities is committed to maintaining client confidentiality with the exception of disclosures required by Federal and State laws.

Inclusive

Catholic Charities provides counseling services to all residents living within the four-county Diocese of Greensburg (Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana, and Westmoreland) regardless of religion, race, sex, age, nationality or political belief.





Information & Referral

At Catholic Charities, Comprehensive Information and Referral offers a caring and confidential response to a person in need. Trained specialists respond to callers and walk-ins with supportive listening, an assessment of needs and short-term case management. This service provides connections to suitable resources and assistance with problem-solving to develop solutions with attainable goals toward self-sufficiency.

Catholic Charities' Information and Referral staff maintain certifications as "Information and Referral Specialists" through the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS). As specialists they are the "data collectors" of social service resources for the four-county diocese and are required to maintain up-to-date information to ensuring referrals and assistance are accurate and appropriate. Catholic Charities' representatives collaborate with local churches, social service agencies, community and religious organizations in Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana, and Westmoreland counties while advocating for clients' rights and responsibilities.

Temporary Emergency Financial Assistance

Catholic Charities can provide temporary emergency financial assistance for safety net services and/or emergency food items based on established eligibility guidelines. Due to limited resources, every effort is made to connect callers with programs and services offered by other organizations. Catholic Charities is committed to its service to the most vulnerable and strives to bring new knowledge of existing programs to these individuals, couples, and families to help them to advocate on their own behalf.


Catholic Charities' Information and Referral Program may also offer emergency financial assistance to victims of disasters. Funding to provide this assistance is based on private grants and is subject to established eligibility guidelines.

HelpLine 1-866-409-6455.

The Catholic Charities HelpLine provides for immediate basic life necessities before, during, and after regular business hours.



Pro Life & Social Ministry



Social Ministry empowers parishioners in parishes and regions to act on their faith in their everyday lives and respond to the needs of their brothers and sisters who are poor or vulnerable.

The Office of Pro Life and Social Ministry within Catholic Charities develops partnerships among parishes and regions by providing basic and ongoing programs in social ministry:

Basic Parish Social Ministry, Leadership Training for Parish Social Ministers, Legislative Advocacy, Senior Enrichment, Parish Ministry of Care & Consolation, and Parish & Community Networks.

The Pro Life and Social Ministry Office assists regions and parishes in their response to social issues that impact poor and vulnerable people through the development of community networks, direct political advocacy and links to those who legislate social policy.

Pro Life Advocacy promotes a culture of life which recognizes the value in all phases of human existence. The office addresses a variety of issues including:

Respect for Prenatal Children

Religious Liberty, Dignity of Marriage & Family

Just Labor Relationships & Poverty Relief

Immigration Needs & Faithful Citizenship

Capital Punishment & Criminal Justice

End-of-Life Decision Making

“Justice can reduce differences, eliminate discrimination and ensure the conditions necessary for respect for the dignity of the person. Justice however needs a soul. And the soul of justice is charity, a charity which places itself at the service of every person.”

*Address of St. John Paul II
Vatican City March 31, 1999*





Parish Social Ministry

“According to Catholic news services...”

According to a Catholic News Services report by Cindy Wooden on All Saints Day 2016, Pope Francis offered Catholics at Mass in Malmo, Sweden, a modern reflection on the Beatitudes. He was describing the joy of the saints as he praised their energy and commitment to the needs of others. He offered them these Beatitude inspired words:

“Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.

Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness.

Blessed are those who see God in every person & strive to make others also discover Him.

Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.

Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.

Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.”

Supporters of the mission of Catholic Charities often exhibit the blessings described above in their social ministry endeavors. In the interest of serving the community of Indiana County, the Grandmother Corp collected comfort items for families with hospitalized children. Members of Our Lady of Grace parish held a retreat for people with physical challenges and their families, while numerous other parishes held prayer events for unborn children.

Although well-mannered people are often warned never to discuss religion and politics in polite company, people throughout the Diocese of Greensburg celebrate religious liberty during the Fortnight for Religious Freedom. The Knights of Columbus hold voter registration drives, while members of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women raise awareness of the scourge of modern slavery through education about human trafficking. Hundreds of young people travel from the Diocese of Greensburg to the March for Life in the District of Columbia every year during the coldest days of winter for a peaceful, yet persistent, rally for the rights of unborn children throughout the world.

In the interest of achieving common goals, Catholic lay volunteers often work with non-Catholic community groups. The Knights of Columbus raise funds for local crisis pregnancy centers to purchase ultrasound machines so that pregnant women of all faiths or no faith may see the developing bodies of their unborn children. Members of the Saint Thomas More Society provide free workshops open to the public so that frail and elderly people of all persuasions might be protected as age makes them more vulnerable to neglect. Leaders in the Diocese of Greensburg collaborate with interfaith groups such as the Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania to address issues of violence, poverty, and community peace and religious liberty initiatives.

None of us is perfect, even the saints themselves experienced troubling spiritual challenges in their time. All of us together, however, the budding saints of our times, can in solidarity help one another along life’s paths. It is all of these gestures of kindness, great and small, which add up to a truly blessed charity. Thank you for the work that you do.

Director of Pro Life and Social Ministry

Mary Ellen Pellegrino



Information & Referral

A Success Story

Francis and his wife Marian had always worked low paying, full-time jobs for many years and had accepted the prospect of a meager retirement when they reached the age of 65. However, when Francis fell and permanently injured his back at the age of 62, they had to find a way to keep up with their bills on one income. Francis applied for disability but was told to expect a wait of two years for a determination. Marian attempted to work a second job but she was physically unable to keep up with both jobs. Realizing they needed more affordable housing, they moved from their home of 22 years to an apartment. Once they paid their security deposit and first month's rent, they did not have \$226 for their old electric bill along with \$180 electric security deposit that was needed to start electric service. Catholic Charities was able to pay both of these electric amounts and Francis and Marian were very grateful that Catholic Charities was able to help them on the road toward self-sufficiency.





Pregnancy Project Rachel

Family Planning — CM-BBT

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg offers assistance to support family decisions. The agency provides a complete menu of services regarding life choices to all individuals and their families regardless of age, marital status, economic condition or religion.

Pregnancy

The agency offers free pregnancy tests. Upon learning of a pregnancy, Catholic Charities can assist in planning for an expected child; whether the choice is to raise the child or plan for adoption.

If the decision is to raise the expected child, Catholic Charities will provide support and counseling throughout the pregnancy, as well as offer referrals for baby items, birthing classes, childcare, parenting classes and other community services. Infant clothing and diapers are available until the child's first birthday.

Should a plan for adoption be the choice, the birth parents have the opportunity to choose the adoptive parents. They may or may not wish to meet and interview the couple, and the adoption may be open or closed. Open adoptions are available under Pennsylvania law to the extent that the birth parents and the adoptive parents agree. Trained mediators are available for the negotiation of these agreements.

Project Rachel

Project Rachel, a ministry of the Catholic Church, offers help to women and men suffering from an abortion experience, regardless of age, religion or connection to the abortion. Designed for those who are struggling after abortion, Project Rachel provides a safe place where specially trained staff can provide hope to help overcome grief and loss.

Family Planning with CM-BBT Method

CM-BBT (Cervical Mucus –Basal Body Temperature) instruction is provided by a medically certified professional instructor. The CM-BBT Method is a scientifically based, medical model for Natural Family Planning.

When used correctly and consistently, CM-BBT is 97% effective. Use of the method safely promotes personal health and wellness of body. CM-BBT invites better marriages, enhances communication, and encourages mutual respect and responsibility.



Volunteer



Get Involved

Catholic Charities offers a wide variety of opportunities for volunteers to get involved in the work and mission of the agency. If you are 18 years of age or older and want to dedicate your time to helping meet the needs of others please contact Donna Hagan, supervisor of Information and Referral services, at 724-837-1840 ext.1661.

- ***Staff our HelpLine***
- ***Assist with our Baby Closet***
- ***Assist at events where Catholic Charities provides exhibit tables***
- ***Serve on a Fundraising Committee***
- ***Provide Counseling through our Counseling Center***
- ***Catholic Charities participates in several United Way events throughout our four county diocese, and welcomes others to join us in this effort.***

You Can Make a Difference



Volunteers in Action



Disaster Funds



After a torrential rainstorm caused several small creeks in Connellsville to overflow in August 2016, 165 homes were damaged in several Connellsville Communities. Catholic Charities was asked to lead a Diocesan effort to assist families affected by the flood. Through Diocesan collections and donations, over \$190,000 was received to assist flood survivors to repair and replace hot water tanks and furnaces. In total, the Disaster funds were used to repair 18 furnaces, provide 40 new furnaces and replace 18 hot water tanks and two oil tanks. Catholic Charities continues to collect donations to be prepared should another disaster strike within the Diocese of Greensburg.

Mary and John had been living in Bullskin Township in Connellsville for eight years when over five inches of rain came down in August 2016 flooding their basement and taking down trees throughout their yard. They salvaged what they could of their belongings from the basement and called their insurance company. They were informed that because they did not carry flood insurance, the insurance company could not assist them. When they called the Red Cross, they were offered clean up kits for the basement and were offered a free inspection of their appliances.

Mary and John were invited to attend an event at the Connellsville Junior Senior High School the following Saturday to meet with various social service agencies. With over 15 social services represented, Mary and John realized that there was help available. When they stopped at the Catholic Charities table, the caseworker suggested that the couple send the estimates for their furnace and hot water tank to the agency. Catholic Charities worked with the furnace company and the family to purchase a new hot water tank and to pay for repairs to the furnace. The family was very grateful for the assistance and the cooperative effort of the agencies working together to help them during a difficult time.





Special Events Fundraisers

On April 20, 2017, Catholic Charities hosted the **Nineteenth Annual Communities of Salt and Light Award Dinner** at Stratigos Banquet Centre in North Huntingdon, PA. Each year the event honors individuals in the categories of Humanitarianism and Philanthropy as well as the group efforts of the Human Service Organization category. The dinner has grown to become the largest fundraising event for Catholic Charities. One hundred percent of the net profits from the dinner are used to provide emergency material and financial assistance to individuals throughout the four county diocese who are in need.



ABOVE: Catholic Charities hosted the annual Communities of Salt and Light Award Dinner on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at Stratigos Banquet Centre in North Huntingdon. The dinner now in its nineteenth year honored Mr. Jerry Overman, Jr., Humanitarian; Ms. Patricia A. Smiy, Philanthropy, and accepting the award on behalf of SpiritLife, Outstanding Human Service Organization Mr. Louis Wagner, Executive Director. The honorees are pictured receiving this esteemed award from The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, J.C.L., Bishop of Greensburg.



Special Events Fundraisers



In August Catholic Charities traveled to the Laurel Highlands to host the 15th annual **Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing**. In 2016, Ligonier Country Club was home to the event. Participants enjoyed 18 holes of golf followed by a meal and fellowship. As with the Salt and Light Dinner, one hundred percent of net profits are used to assist individuals faced with hardships. Help comes in the form of utility bill payment, heating fuel, shelter, emergency food boxes, infant diapers and formula. To date over one million dollars have been raised by the annual Salt and Light Dinner and Paul R. Smiy Golf Outing.



Special Events Fundraisers



On November 6, 2016, Catholic Charities hosted its first annual **Designer Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale**. The event was held at the Barn at Ligonier Valley. The event raised over \$6,000 to benefit the programs and services offered by Catholic Charities to those in need within our four-county diocese.



Your Catholic Charities Staff



Mark Eidemiller
Therapist



Alicia Donnelly
Adoption/Foster Care Caseworker



Lisa Corsaro
Clerical Support



Robert Brinker
*Therapist/Men's
Anger Group*



Amber Blair
Supervisor of Adoption/Foster Care



Sharon Grabowski
Executive Secretary



Donna Hagan
*Supervisor of Information & Referral
Services and Volunteer Liaison*



Danene Haines
Information & Referral



Kimberly Hunt-Landa
Therapist



Amy Jones
Information & Referral



Shaina Kelly
Information & Referral

Committed

Your Catholic Charities Staff



Mary Schafer
Receptionist



Susan Seifert
*Adoption/Foster Care
Caseworker*



Jane Szczygiel
Volunteer Coordinator



Lynn Saxman
Therapist



The Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle
M.S.W., M.P.A.
Managing Director

to serve



Mary Ann Newhouse
CM-BBT Instructor



Paul Niemiec
Director of Counseling



Mary Ellen Pellegrino
*Director of Pro Life and
Social Ministry*

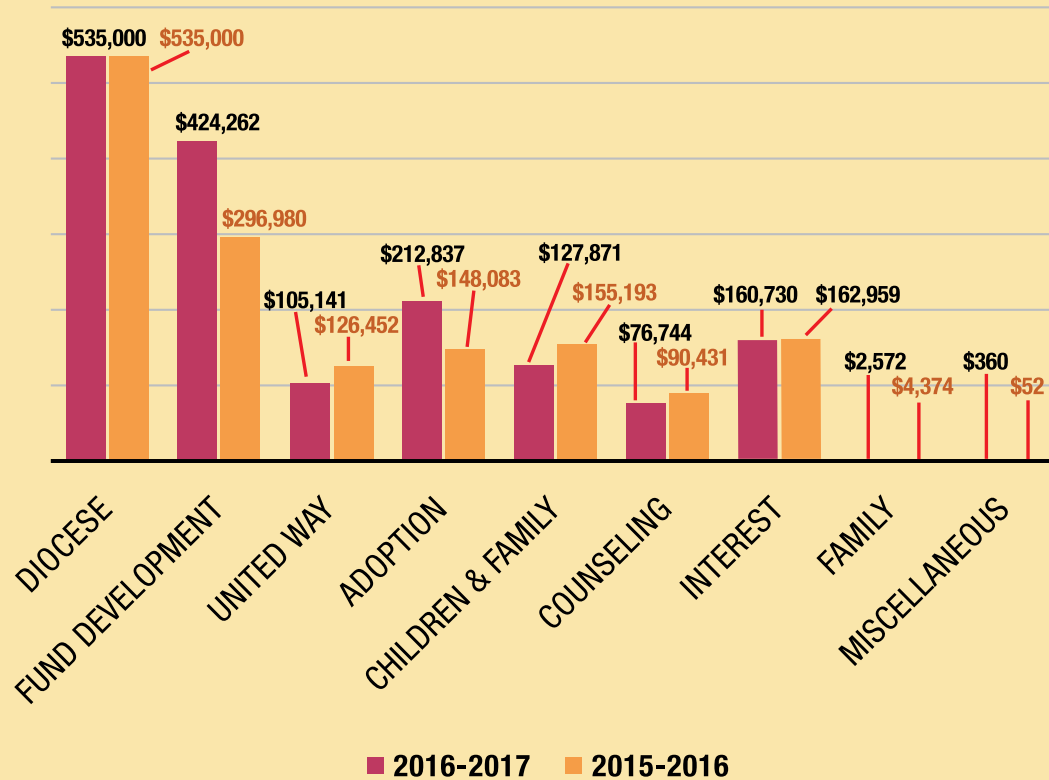


Heather Rady
*Director of Community Relations
& Special Events*

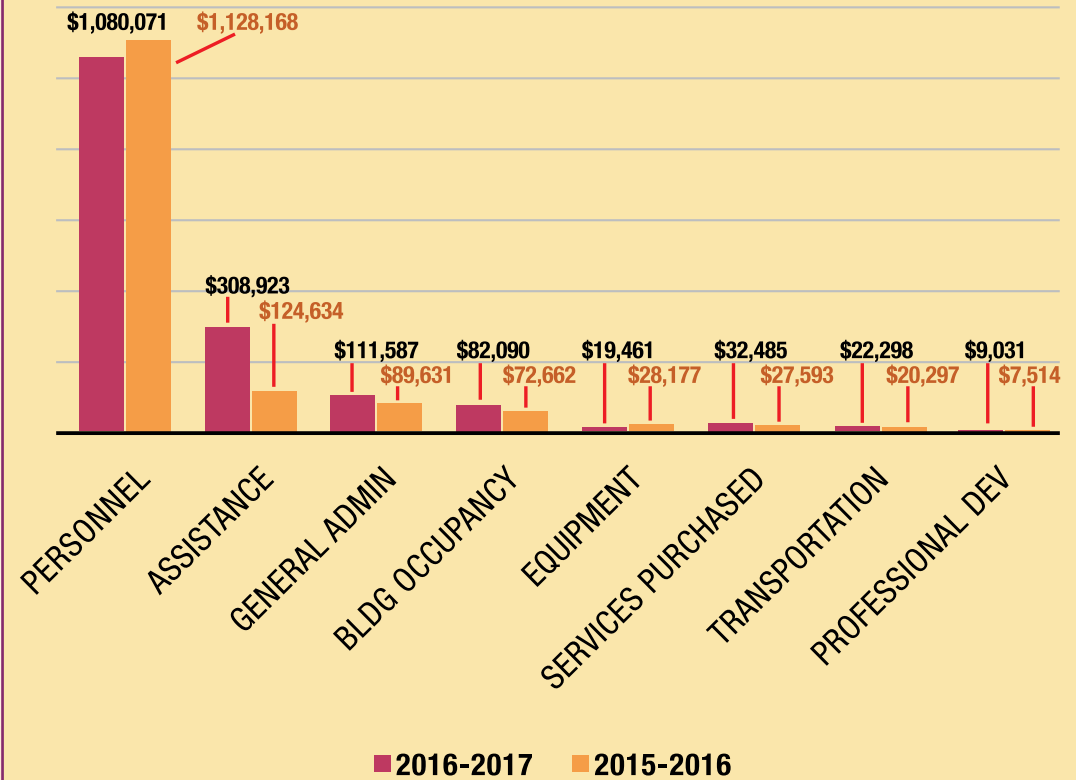
Financials 2016-2017

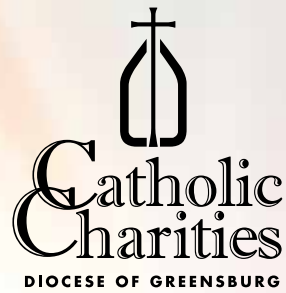


Revenue



Expenses





Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Greensburg, PA Board 2016-2017



MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

The Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic, J.C.L.
The Rev. Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., V.G.
The Rev. Jonathan J. Wisneski, J.C.L.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

George A. Butler, President
Thomas Gothie, Vice President
Charles Deluzio, Treasurer
Molly Robb Shimko, Secretary
The Rev. Daniel L. Blout
Mary Blythe
Dr. Vito DonGiovanni
David Kent
Dr. Ralph May
The Rev. Matthew J. Morelli
Denise Reilly
Hollie Uccellini
Janice Walker

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, PA Administrative & Management Staff

**The Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle,
M.S.W., M.P.A.**
Managing Director

Mary Ellen Pellegrino, J.D.
Director of Pro Life & Social Ministry

Heather P. Rady, MBA
*Director of Community Relations
and Special Events*

Dr. Paul A. Niemiec, LPC
Director of Counseling Services

**Catholic Charities of the Diocese
of Greensburg maintains six
offices throughout Armstrong,
Fayette, Indiana and
Westmoreland counties.**

Serving Westmoreland County:

Central

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

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

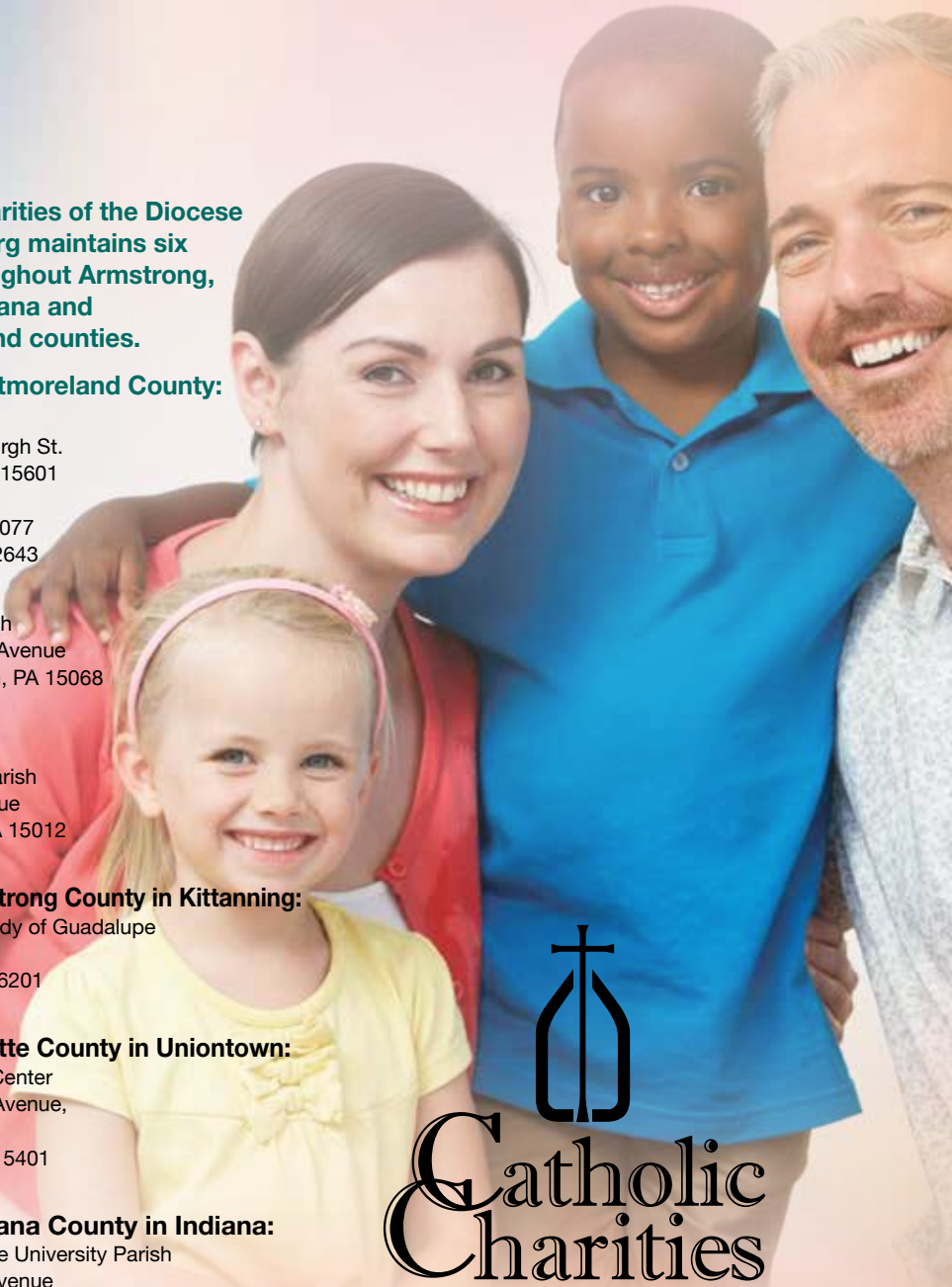
Serving Fayette County in Uniontown:

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

Helpline: 1-866-409-6455



At 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 www.Dioceesefgreensburg.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.




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.



HAGUE ACCREDITED




**Catholic
Charities**
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG