



ANNUAL REPORT

> Providing Help, Creating Hope.



2014-15



A message from the **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

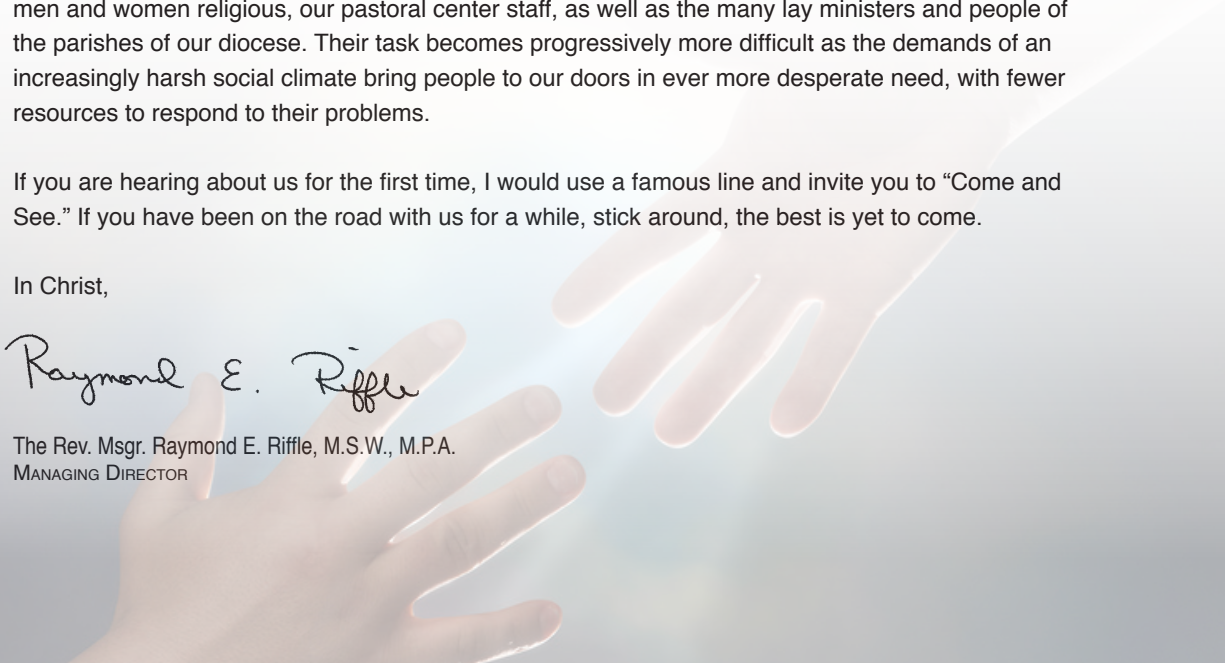
Throughout our 61 year history Greensburg Catholic Charities has always enjoyed the constant support of the bishops, priests and people of the Diocese of Greensburg. In fact, without this constant support we could not have assisted the tens of thousands of people of every ethnic, social, religious or economic background. Year after year our assemblage of competent staff and volunteers has 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 by those who do this work.

As you read through this annual report I would ask you to take a moment and give 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. At the front of this list are the people of the Diocese of Greensburg whose constant generosity keeps us going as well as individual donors and volunteers of every faith.

I believe that the work of Catholic Charities is the work of every Catholic. This diocese has been a living example of that reality. Therefore, I ask you to pray in a special way this year for those currently engaged in the work of Catholic Charities that they may continue to be strong. This would not only include those working for Catholic Charities as staff or volunteers but our bishop, priests, men and women religious, our pastoral center staff, as well as the many lay ministers and people of the parishes of our diocese. Their task becomes progressively more difficult as the demands of an increasingly harsh social climate bring people to our doors in ever more desperate need, with fewer resources to respond to their problems.

If you are hearing about us for the first time, I would use a famous line and invite you to "Come and See." If you have been on the road with us for a while, stick around, the best is yet to come.

In Christ,

A large, faint graphic of two hands reaching towards each other, one from the bottom left and one from the top right, set against a light blue background. The hands are rendered in a soft, glowing style.

Raymond E. Riffle

The Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, M.S.W., M.P.A.
MANAGING DIRECTOR



COMMITTED TO SERVING

Seated (left to right) Lisa Corsaro, Mary Ann Newhouse, Kim Landa, Amy Jones; Standing (left to right) Monsignor Raymond Riffle, Ursula Adams, Heather Rady, Mary Schafer, Mark Eidemiller, Donna Hagan, Sharon Grabowski, Paul Niemiec, Bob McHenry; Absent from the photo: Mary Ellen Pellegrino, Sue Williams, Amber Blair, Lynn Saxman, Cassie Emery, Sherese McBride, and Joanna DePalma.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg is committed to continuing the mission of Jesus by responding to the call of those in need. Whether it be adoption and foster care, counseling, social ministry and advocacy, or material assistance and emergency services, Catholic Charities is committed to preserving the dignity of every individual and serving without prejudice

Under the leadership of Managing Director Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, and inspired by the Gospel, Catholic Charities strives to alleviate the suffering of those in need and to offer quality services designed to respect the dignity of every person and build a just and compassionate community within the Diocese of Greensburg.

POVERTY RELIEF

During fiscal year 2014-2015, Bishop Lawrence Brandt and the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities approved the following grant requests totaling \$60,000. The goal of the Poverty Relief Grant is to assist non-profit organizations in their mission to alleviate suffering and despair and instill hope in those individuals struggling with the effects of poverty.

December 2014 Grant Cycle

Westmoreland County Food Bank	\$10,000
Christian Layman Corps	\$10,000
St. Vincent DePaul - St Paul Parish, Super Fuel Fund	\$10,000

June 2015 Grant Cycle

Tri-City Life Center, A Pregnancy and Family Resource Center	\$10,000
Union Mission of Latrobe, Inc.	\$10,000
Connect Inc. - Welcome Home Shelter	\$10,000

The Poverty Relief Fund was established by Bishop Lawrence Brandt in 2009. Beginning in 2009 and running through the end of fiscal year 2015, Catholic Charities has proudly distributed \$257,986 in grant monies to non-profit organizations dedicated to serving the poor.



ABOVE: Catholic Charities hosted the annual Communities of Salt and Light Award Dinner on April 23, 2015 at Stratigos Banquet Centre in North Huntingdon. The dinner now in its seventeenth year honored Nicholas Kolb, Humanitarian, Charles Fischer, Philanthropist and St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Joseph Church, New Kensington. The honorees are pictured receiving this esteemed award from The Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, J.C.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Greensburg.

SPECIAL EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS

On April 23, 2015, Catholic Charities hosted the Seventeenth 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.



In August Catholic Charities traveled to the Laurel Highlands to host the annual Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing. In 2014, 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.

COUNSELING

All types of people seek counseling at Catholic Charities. We have learned that “the poor” come in different guises. Many people who seek counseling have no jobs, little money, and fewer resources. Some people have sought counseling elsewhere in our communities, only to be told that since they had no insurance, counseling would not be afforded to them. Some people who seek counseling are not necessarily poor in finances. Instead, they are poor in love, respect, and compassion.

Some people, particularly the elderly, are isolated and lonely, with limited resources and no transportation. They may be depressed or may be dealing with family conflicts. Some may experience failing memory or physical infirmities that limit their mobility and that restrict their ability to take care of their own needs as well as they used to. They might benefit from talking with a counselor about their fears or anxieties but have little ability to travel to counseling sessions anywhere.

This year our counseling services began an experimental collaboration with a local Faith in Action agency in order to provide home-based counseling services to elderly individuals. The Faith in Action volunteer identifies the individual who may benefit from counseling. The volunteer makes the referral, and one of our therapists visits the person’s home to assess their situation and to provide counseling as needed.

An elderly individual welcomed our therapist and the Faith in Action staff person into her small, neat home. Her living room wall was covered with photos of her children and grandchildren. As the conversation continued, the woman sadly admitted that she and her adult daughter had not spoken for some time, and when they last did speak, the conversation was an angry one. The woman had not seen her grandchildren recently. Asked by the therapist if she might wish to participate in a counseling session or two with her daughter at home to begin to deal with their conflict, she agreed to try it.

Catholic Charities continues to work with Faith in Action to train volunteers, to provide home-based counseling services and to expand our availability to the vulnerable elderly populations in our communities.

ADOPTION FOSTER CARE

No matter the age, every child needs and deserves a loving family to call their own.

The Adoption Center at Catholic Charities has a rich history of bringing children and families together through the blessing of adoption. As an affiliate agency of the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network, Catholic Charities is able to conduct home studies for individuals and families interested in adopting older or special needs children from foster care at little to no cost to the adoptive families. In addition to the foster-to-adopt program, Catholic Charities provides infant, private, interstate, and international adoption services, as well as post-adoption services and adult adoption search.

Catholic Charities enables pregnant women to carefully consider the life-giving options of keeping/parenting their child or placing their child for adoption through the availability of free, confidential counseling. Should a woman choose to parent her child, pregnancy counselors provide support and additional resources to help her be successful in raising her child. If a woman chooses to place her baby for adoption, pregnancy counselors will assist her with creating an adoption plan. Catholic Charities facilitates open, semi-open and closed adoptions.

Catholic Charities is licensed to provide domestic adoption and foster care services through the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and is Hague Accredited through the Council on



Adoption and Foster Care caseworkers Cassie Emery (left) and Sherese McBride (right) attended the SWAN/IL (PA Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network/Independent Living) Winter Statewide Conference, in State College, PA. The conference featured a matching event aimed at pairing adoptive families and children with affiliate agencies. The goal is to help children find their forever homes.

Accreditation to provide international adoption services. Pregnancy services are funded through Real Alternatives Women in Need. Adoption and pregnancy services are available to individuals and couples in both the Diocese of Greensburg and the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL (Emergency Financial Assistance And Case Management)

At Catholic Charities, Information & Referral means determining causes and addressing symptoms to prevent further issues of need. We believe it is not enough to simply cover the immediate need but to better serve our clients by helping them determine root causes of the need and working toward self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities handles an average of 100 calls per day. That totals over 20,000 calls each year from individuals in need of services and resources to assist with life’s basic necessities. Catholic Charities will provide emergency financial assistance for food, utilities, fuel, and screen for possible rental assistance programs. With our digital resource database covering the four counties of the Diocese and long-established partnerships with local social service agencies, the Information and Referral team is able to connect callers with needed services, provide options and assist with decision making. The members of our comprehensive team are expected to become Certified Information and Referral Specialists. They are well trained and educated in exploring and understanding the human needs of the individuals they interact with. They are able to build trusting relationships with clients and provide a level of service that consistently meets the needs of those who are struggling and in need of help. The Catholic Charities Helpline, staffed by volunteers, operates each day after business hours and on weekends and holidays. This service provides assistance to anyone in a critical need of food, shelter, or resources. Our volunteer staff is highly trained and updated with resources as new programs arise.



- Providing clerical support as needed
- Staffing numerous health and senior fairs across the four county diocese

When asked what volunteering means to them, Marilyn Manion, volunteer, responded; "During my lifetime, others have done nice things for me. I enjoy the opportunity to pay it back."

VOLUNTEERISM

At Catholic Charities our volunteers are a key component to the success of the agency. We are blessed with a dedicated and enthusiastic group of individuals who offer support in the following ways:

- Fully staffing the 24/7 HelpLine, answering calls for assistance after business hours, on weekends and during holidays
- Maintaining the Baby Closet by sorting and organizing infant diapers, clothing and formula
- Operating the Christmas program by matching donors with over 200 teens in need of Christmas gifts

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Catholic Charities offers monthly Natural Family Planning CM-BBT instruction sessions to married couples and engaged couples with a committed wedding date who reside within the four county diocese. Instruction is provided by a medically certified professional instructor. CM-BBT promotes couple involvement, enhances communication and encourages mutual respect and responsibility.

In the event of an unexpected pregnancy, the agency offers Pregnancy Support for mothers and fathers faced with the difficult decision as to whether to parent their unborn child or consider adoption.

Project Rachel is a post abortion reconciliation ministry of the Catholic Church which provides a safe place for both women and men who are struggling after participation in abortion regardless of age, religion, or connection to the abortion. In this program, specifically trained staff help individuals overcome feelings of grief and loss, and move toward healing and hope.

In fiscal year 2014-2015, volunteers logged at total of 7224.25 hours – the equivalent of 3.5 full-time staff.

PROLIFE AND SOCIAL MINISTRY

The office of Pro Life and Social Ministry at Catholic Charities strives to promote the social justice mission of the Catholic Church by working towards a comprehensive and consistent ethic of life for the pursuit of the common good.

Additionally the department assists parishes in understanding and implementing the concept of a consistent life ethic, whereby the respect and dignity of all persons is embraced from the moment of conception to natural death. A consistent life ethic means being pro-life across the board: opposing abortion, capital punishment, and assisted suicide.

This ministry aspires to enable people of faith to develop a passion for justice, to express this passion in concrete acts of social ministry, and to expand the work of social ministry in their faith communities. It creates and supports faith formation processes and resources that emphasize the Gospel message of peace and justice, Church social teaching, and the intersection of spirituality and action.

Resources and information are provided to both individuals and groups via electronic communications and community expositions. Presentations are provided to a variety of civic and religious groups in effort to instill knowledge and equip individuals with the skills necessary to respond to the needs of the community.

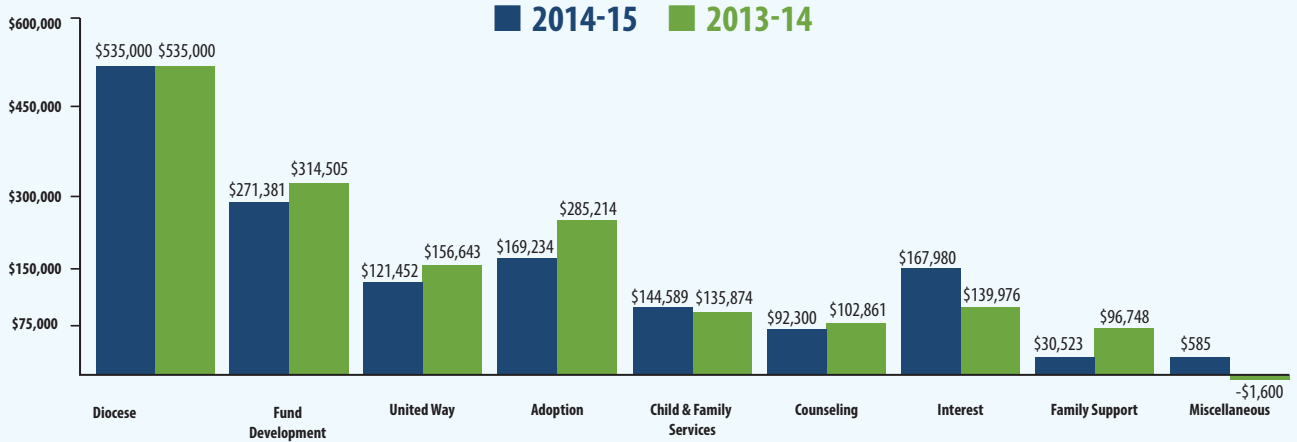
In November of 2014, the office of Pro Life and Social Ministry invited Deacon Gary and Kay Aitchison of Iowa to Greensburg to discuss "The Grand Adventure: A New Call to Grandparenting" with the families of our diocese. Deacon and Mrs. Aitchison are former leaders of the Christian Family Movement. Through their decades of work within that international organization they strove to promote Christ-centered marriage and family ties by helping individuals and their families to live the faith in daily life. Together they developed the "Grand Adventure" model for grandparenting in an effort to improve society through family centered actions of love, service, education, and example. The couple provided a lively and inspiring description of how the model meeting agendas and resource materials had brought family generations together in activities large and small.

The November workshop also included members of the Grandmother Corps of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux Parish in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Reverend Don Conroy and the Grandmother Corp members shared their experiences in the local group with parishioners who attended from all around the diocese. As a result of positive feedback from the attendees at the workshop, the Grandmother Corp is currently developing a website designed to continue the sharing of grandparenting ideas on a more regular basis.

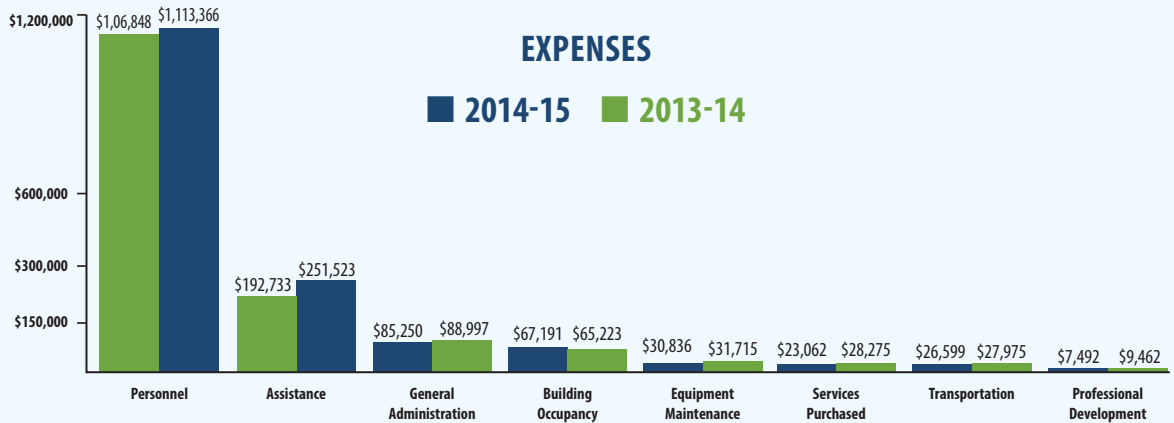
In March of 2015, a different kind of diocesan group was formed through a more grass roots approach to growth and development. Members of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women were saddened by accounts of injustices against laborers and especially against women and children exploited within the illegal drug and sex trades. Two DCCW members came to the office of Pro Life and Social Ministry as a response to the parish circulated materials developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in honor of the memory of Saint Josephine Bakhita. Attention to prayer for victims of human trafficking led them to ask what they can do locally to alleviate such suffering. When they were introduced to the USCCB's Become a Shepherd Tool Kit, the two women were able to bring together many more women to help with prayer, education, and services for this extremely marginalized segment of society. Catholic Charities offices can become a springboard for the development of community action in many different ways.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE



EXPENSES



A copy of the latest audit report is available upon request by contacting Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, PA Director of Operations and Finance, 711 E. Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601, 724-837-1840, ext. 1502.



Catholic Charities Diocese of Greensburg, PA Board 2014-2015

MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

The Most Rev. Lawrence E. Brandt, J.C.D., Ph.D.
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*
George Fetkovich, *Vice President*
Sr. Mary Fran Bassick, *Treasurer*
Molly Robb Shimko, *Secretary*
The Rev. Daniel L. Blout
Mary Blythe
Charles Deluzio
Dr. Vito DonGiovanni
Thomas Gothie
David Kent
Dr. Ralph May
The Rev. Matthew J. Morelli
Joseph Scaffoni
Hollie Uccellini
Janice Walker

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

The Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, MSW, MPA,
Managing Director

Robert C. McHenry
Director of Operations and Finance

Mary Ellen Pellegrino, JD
Director of Pro Life and 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 E. Pittsbanh Street
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-837-1840
724-837-4077 (fax)
TDD 724-552-2643

NORTH

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

SOUTH

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

SERVING ARMSTRONG COUNTY

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

SERVING FAYETTE COUNTY

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

SERVING INDIANA COUNTY

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

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

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.

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.

Catholic Charities gratefully acknowledges the support of those who assist in our mission and ministry. Your financial support enables Catholic Charities to maintain and expand its care of those in need in the Diocese of Greensburg. Gifts of cash, securities, properties or automobiles are always welcome. For information on planned giving, bequests, or other forms of donations to Catholic Charities, please contact Heather Rady, Director of Community Relations and Special Events, at 724-837-1840, ext. 1504, or visit our website.

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.



www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org