



**Providing Help,
Creating Hope.**



MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

This past year has once again been one of turmoil across the country for faith based organizations like Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg. The Federal Government of the United States has tried to define agencies like our own beloved Catholic Charities as simply social service agencies, one among many. In July Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt and I both testified in Federal Court regarding the truth that there is no distinction to be made between religious employers such as the Diocese and its parishes and related nonprofit religious organizations such as Catholic Charities and the Catholic Schools of the Diocese. Together our parishes, schools and our Catholic Charities Agency are the Church in action. Catholic Charities serves all of those in need; regardless of their faith, and like our parishes, our prime motivation comes from the mandate of Jesus Christ to be present to all those in need. The government requirements of the Health and Human Services Mandate which would oblige us to provide abortion inducing drugs, contraception, sterilization and related counseling services in our insurance coverage are unacceptable.

Fortunately at this time Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg has a Federal Court

order granting us a permanent injunction which prohibits the Federal Government from enforcing the above mentioned HHS insurance requirements on us. I ask everyone to pray that this decision is not ultimately reversed. If this ruling is reversed it will have a devastating effect on our ability to do our work. I also encourage you to do everything in your power to advocate at every opportunity with all of our elected Federal officials to educate them about the catastrophic result this HHS Mandate will have on Catholic Charities and our Catholic Schools if it is allowed to be implemented. If forced to provide the offensive services through our insurance the only moral option would be for Catholic Charities to close due to the unbelievable burden (over one million dollars a year) that Government noncompliance fines would place on us.

On the brighter side, as you review this annual report I 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 and I ask you to pray in a special way that they may continue to be strong. Your prayers should 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 people of the parishes of our diocese. By the way, the excellent work we do at Catholic Charities is also recognized beyond the Catholic community. Our efforts have allowed us as an agency to be the recipient of monies from other non-government entities and benefactors of all faiths and denominations to further our good work.

The work of Catholic Charities is the work of every Catholic. This agency has been a living example of that reality. It has been my privilege to work with so many good people who have defined their connection with Catholic Charities not as a job or as a nice place to volunteer but rather as a ministry.

As you review this report you will see that we have been good stewards of your generosity. On behalf of Bishop Brandt, our Board, our staff, our volunteers and all those in need who we have served this past year, I thank you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond E. Riffle". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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



The staff of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg. Seated (left to right) Dr. Paul Niemiec, Bob McHenry, Amber Blair, Kim Landa and Heather Rady. Standing (left to right) Donna Hagan, Mary Schafer, Amy Jones, Sue Williams, Mary Ellen Pellegrino, Mark Eidemiller, Joanna DePalma, Sharon Grabowski and Mary Ann Newhouse. Not pictured: Lisa Corsaro, Lynn Saxman, Sarah Govora, and Jessica Bucci.

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

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Each day we rise to the challenge of our commitment to act with dignity and respect when it comes to serving others. Respect for human rights, preservation of family unity, and serving the poor and disenfranchised are cornerstones of Catholic Charities' work. The agency is dedicated to providing help and creating hope for individuals and families through material assistance, counseling, adoption and foster care services and social ministry.

Pope Francis recently said, "Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." Catholic Charities strives to serve each "masterpiece of God" with the utmost "reverence and respect."

Under the direction of managing director Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, the staff of Catholic Charities is committed to serve, to counsel and to advocate for social justice.





ABOVE: Stratigos Banquet Centre was once again the site for the Annual Communities of Salt and Light Award Dinner now in its sixteenth year. The April 2014 honorees included Salt & Light Organization at St. Joseph Parish, Uniontown, gathered with The Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, J.C.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Greensburg. RIGHT: Lois Weidner of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell, accepts the Humanitarianism award from Bishop Brandt.

POVERTY RELIEF

In fiscal year 2013-2014, Bishop Lawrence Brandt and the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities provided the following grants totaling \$30,000 which address both short and long term conditions that contribute to the sufferings of poverty. The goal of the grant is to aid non-profit organizations aiming to alleviate despair and instill hope in those individuals struggling with the effects of poverty.

- Westmoreland County Food Bank**
- Food Pantry Distribution\$10,000**
- Christian Layman Corps**
- A Bed for Every Child.....\$10,000**
- St. Vincent de Paul Society –**
- St. Paul Parish Utility Super Fund ...**
- \$10,000**

Since the inception of the Poverty Relief Fund in 2009, Catholic Charities has distributed over \$225,000 in grant monies to non-profit organizations dedicated to helping the poor.

SPECIAL EVENTS / FUNDRAISERS

Each year the net profit of the Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner held in April, and the Paul R. Smiy Golf Outing held in August, provide Catholic Charities the necessary additional resources to offer temporary emergency assistance to individuals in need. These services may include financial assistance for the payment of utility bills, i.e., electric, gas, water, sewage, heating fuel, emergency food boxes, infant diapers and formula and shelter in extreme emergencies. The 2013-2014 fiscal year marked the dinner's sixteenth year. To date over \$900,000 has been raised by the annual Salt & Light Dinner and Paul R. Smiy Golf Outing. The monies are distributed throughout the four counties served by the diocese.



The beautiful Laurel Highlands were the setting for the twelfth annual Paul R. Smiy Golf Outing. Participants enjoyed 18 holes of golf and a wonderful meal after a great day on the course. The annual event held in August raises funds to support the poor and marginalized through material assistance.

ADOPTION/FOSTER CARE

Adoption is a life-giving, loving option for the future of both an unborn child and children in the foster care system. At Catholic Charities it remains our long-standing commitment to strengthen families and provide safety, permanency, and a loving, nurturing environment for children. Our adoption staff works to place infants, older children and sibling groups in their forever homes. We are proud to share the following success story:

A prospective couple wanting to adopt an infant had been waiting three years for an adoptive placement. They were encouraged by their adoption caseworker to attend the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) Summer Conference held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They attended and changed their path of adoption. They now wanted to adopt an older child who was in the Pennsylvania foster care system. After searching for one year, they were placed with Timothy, a five year old boy who had experienced extreme physical abuse and neglect. Timothy has made vast improvements since being placed with his forever home. His adoptive family is dedicated to Timothy and nothing would ever make them give up on him. Timothy has been adopted, he and his adoptive family are ecstatic that they are finally a "legal" family although they knew in their hearts they were the first day they met!

In addition to adoptive placement, the department assists with birth parent searches and is staffed with certified mediators to address open communication between adoptive/foster parents and birth parents. Mediation is a process in which an impartial third party facilitates



Amber Blair and Jessica Bucci present at the SWAN event.

communication and negotiation and promotes voluntary decision making by the parties. Catholic Charities uses the facilitative style of mediation to assist parties in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement.

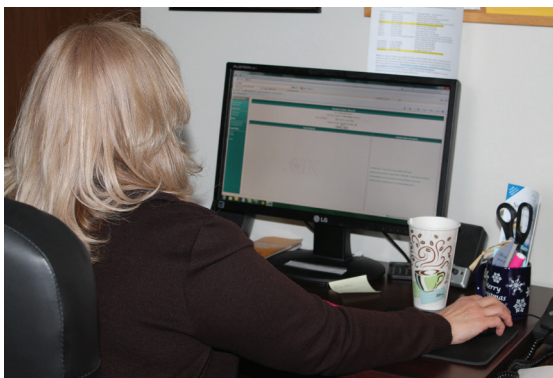
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg provides adoption, foster care and family services under the licensing of the PA Department of Human Services. International adoptions are carried out under the Hague Accreditation of COA.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

(Emergency Financial Assistance And Case Management)

Catholic Charities exists to help people in our communities. As we encounter those in need, we support these individuals and families as they move towards a better life. We do this by responding to those in crisis, assisting in providing basic needs, protecting and supporting the vulnerable, strengthening families and communities and empowering individuals.

As a member of the Alliance for Information and Referral Systems (AIRS), a partner of the United Way of Westmoreland, Fayette, and Indiana counties, and a data collector for the PA 2-1-1 SW system, Catholic Charities provides a comprehensive, caring and confidential service that allows our Certified Information and Referral Specialists to assess the needs of the callers, afford them with supportive listening with the goal of providing the caller with referrals, information or temporary emergency financial assistance to meet their basic needs.



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

We offer regular natural family planning training classes through **CMBBT Instruction** to married couples.

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 an abortion. In this program specially

trained staff help individuals overcome feelings of grief and loss, and move toward healing and hope.



VOLUNTEERISM

Catholic Charities is proud to say that we couldn't move forward without the help of our dedicated volunteer staff. Our volunteers donate their time and energy in return for a meaningful experience for themselves as well as for the organization. Our Volunteer Coordinator directs needed services both internally and externally. The volunteer staff is invaluable in helping to deliver services to the clients Catholic Charities serves. Some examples of their efforts are:

- Fully staffing the 24/7 HelpLine
- Maintaining the Baby Closet by sorting and cataloging infant and toddler diapers and clothing
- Operation of the Christmas Program by matching donors with families in need and preparing gifts for over 300 recipients
- Specific clerical program assistance as needed
- Staffing various health fairs and service exhibits across the four county diocese

LEFT: Jane Szczygiel (Volunteer Coordinator): I have the "gift of time" and can't think of any better way to use that time than to give back to others. Catholic Charities provides the perfect opportunity to help others.

COUNSELING

Efforts to meet Catholic Charities' Mission also allows the agency to provide faith-based counseling services to individuals, couples and families of any denomination throughout the Diocese of Greensburg. Catholic Charities understands that one's spirituality, religious beliefs and practices are a vital part of life. Faith-based counseling is not spiritual direction but sometimes the two overlap. Not all psychotherapists accept the reality of spirituality and faith. Catholic Charities is one of a very few professional counseling services in the four counties of the Greensburg Diocese that welcomes religious beliefs in the counseling room.

Being that spirituality and faith are an integral part of life; rather than excluding them from counseling, Catholic Charities' licensed counselors support individuals of any faith who try to live their lives accordingly.

A couple seeking counseling for marital and family issues found resolution from a Catholic Charities therapist who helped them learn to speak calmly with one another in a kind manner. The therapist helped the couple to gradually realize they had similar beliefs and expectations of one another and of their relationship. The problem was that they were not taking the time to listen to each other.

Counseling slowed them down so they could respectfully hear and respond to each other's needs. They also learned it was important to take a step back from the conflict and wait for a better opportunity to address concerns with their children.

PRO LIFE 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.

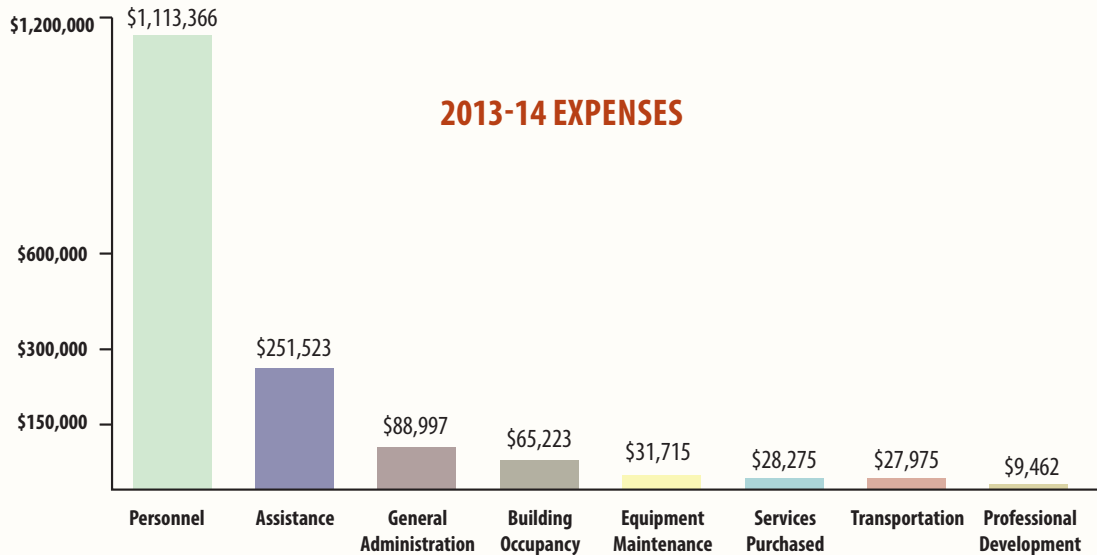
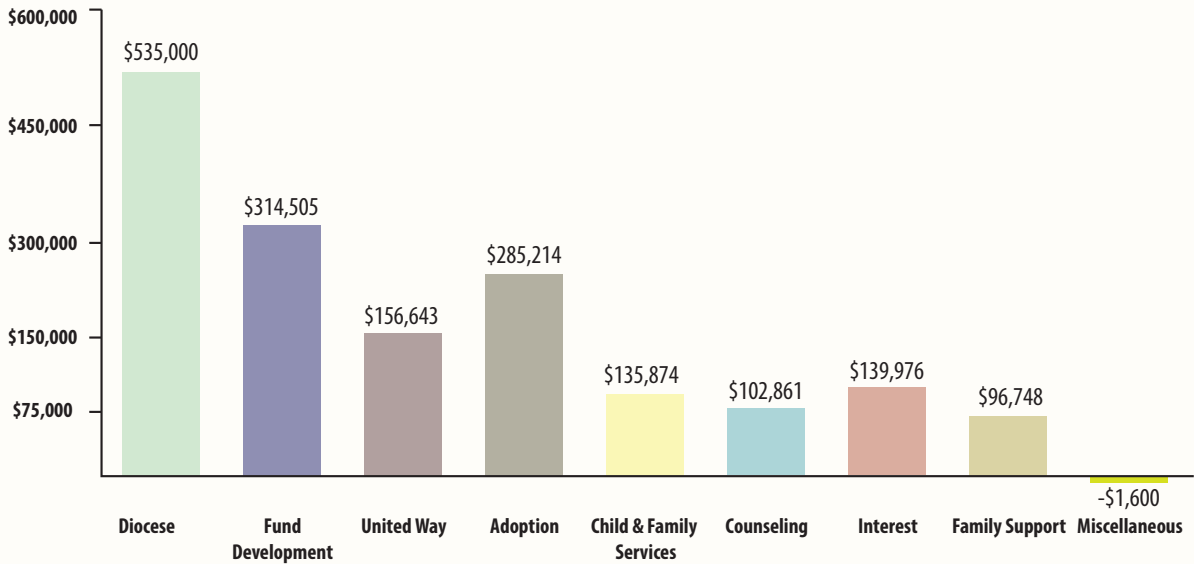
Presentations are provided to a variety of civic and religious groups in effort to instill knowledge and equip individuals with the skills necessary to respond to the needs of the community.

In November of 2013 the office of Pro-life and Social Ministry brought together experts in the legal and medical professions for an evening of reflection on issues of concern to the senior members of the community. End of life health care was discussed with a focus on living wills, advanced health care directives, and family decision making skills.

In May of 2014 family issues were again discussed during a midday workshop, but with a greater focus on modern methods of communication. Experts were invited to demonstrate the latest innovations in social media and communications devices currently on the market in our area. David J. Safin, Saint Vincent College Director of Multimedia Services and Lecturer in Communications provided an excellent informative presentation on the multitude of ways grandparents can reach out to their grandchildren. The use of modern social media can overcome great geographical and time differences when it is employed wisely in the building and maintaining of intergenerational relationships.

FINANCIALS

2013-14 REVENUE



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 2013-2014**

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
Charles Deluzio
Dr. Vito DonGiovanni
Thomas Gothie
David Kent
Dr. Ralph May
Joseph Scaffoni
Hollie Uccellini

**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. Pittsburgh 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

St. Mary, Our Lady Queen of Peace
111 Second Street
Yatesboro, PA 16263

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