



# Providing help, hope and healing

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



## ABOUT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Established in 1954 as the primary social service arm of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Greensburg and rooted in the Gospel and social teaching of the church, 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.

The organization's governance and management policies, practices, and procedures meet the highest ethical standards for nonprofits in Pennsylvania.

Our mission was undertaken shortly after the diocese was established in 1951. Bishop Hugh L. Lamb invited religious sisters from Philadelphia to the new diocese to assess its human social service needs.

With the support of Bishop Lamb's successors, Bishop William G. Connare, Bishop Anthony G. Bosco, and Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt, Catholic Charities expanded its original pregnancy and adoption services to include counseling, comprehensive information and referral, and others.

Today, with the ongoing support of Bishop Larry J. Kulick, Catholic Charities remains committed to its mission to provide help and create hope for those in need throughout the four county diocese.

Catholic Charities fulfills the church's role in the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life.



## CORE VALUE: ALWAYS

**We will always answer.** We answer the calls for help with urgency and compassion. Our resources and those of our partner agencies are the clearinghouse for the material, spiritual and mental health needs of the Diocese.

**We will always serve.** We value our new and culturally diverse neighbors. That is why we strive to make our parish communities welcoming and supportive with service, volunteer and stewardship opportunities to bridge divides and share our love of Christ.

**We will always care.** We have deep love and concern for God's people, especially the aging, at-risk and mothers in need in Western Pa. Our organization is focused on advocacy and empowerment, providing help, hope and healing to those who need it the most.



LIVE UNITED



# Message from the Director



**MELANEY  
HEGYES**  
Managing  
Director

Responding to calls for help, lending a listening ear, meeting the emotional and physical needs of our community members are all daily actions taken to provide help, hope and healing in the present and for the future of those we serve. We always keep God at our heart, the rights of every person in our mind and Catholic Charities' mission at the forefront.

This report illustrates the many services Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg has always provided, but with new approaches to meet people where they are in

their lives and address the growing needs of our community's most vulnerable living throughout our four-county region of Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties.

We are hearing from individuals and families who have never had to ask for financial help before, having felt the economic impact of increasing costs associated with meeting their daily basic needs. Our Information and Referral Department continues to support the ever-increasing needs for rent, utilities, clothing and food, by providing education and resources that stretch budgets further and lead to self-sufficiency.

We welcomed a new Director of Pro-Life Advocacy, and we partnered with the parish-led outreach Walking with Moms in Need, uplifting young or financially unstable mothers, parents and families choosing life for their child and reaching out for emotional and financial support in a time when

less is being offered to encourage childbirth and growing families.

Although the leadership of our Counseling Department has changed, the commitment to offer remote counseling services while simultaneously reopening office doors for in-person services continues. Collaboration with the Diocesan Catholic schools with the goal of providing school counselors on-site for the benefit of students, families and administrators in the next school year is also taking shape.

In a time when so many continue to face frustration, sadness and difficult decisions as they rebuild their lives, Catholic Charities remains dedicated to meeting the physical, spiritual and behavioral needs of all those who call upon us for help. Thank you for growing with us, welcoming change, and supporting your Catholic Charities office. God calls us to serve those around us, and only together can we provide for the many faces in need.

# Meeting Basic Needs

Catholic Charities provides financial assistance for heating fuel, rent and utility bills; material assistance, including baby supplies and emergency food boxes; and gasoline gift cards for eligible clients needing gas to get to doctor appointments, work or school. Many clients shared that they were struggling to pay bills because of the high cost of heat, food and gasoline as well decreased work hours. Senior citizens and disabled adults often experienced financial difficulties because they are on fixed incomes.



**SUCCESS STORY:** Single mother Carla and her two teenage sons are one of many families helped by your donations. Carla contacted Catholic Charities about an electric termination notice. When her son was injured in an accident, she had to take an unpaid week off from work; when she returned, her employer cut her hours. Carla was in the process of looking for a second job, but she was unable to pay her electric bill.

Catholic Charities assisted Carla with her electric bill and an emergency food box and encouraged her to apply for SNAP benefits and visit a food pantry. Carla eventually found full-time employment, and her financial situation stabilized.

**DISASTER RELIEF:** In the town of Unity, Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, more than 80 families were affected by flooding Aug. 5, 2022. Most were lower-income residents whose needs varied from complete loss of housing to appliance replacement and electrical repairs. Working with other local human service agencies and county government officials, Catholic Charities helped replace hot water tanks and furnaces, supporting 10 families at a cost of \$16,900. Of this amount, \$10,000 from Catholic Charities USA was used to purchase and install hot water tanks for seven families and a furnace for one family.

**13,493**  
calls handled by the  
Information and Referral team

**3,499**  
individuals assisted  
with heating fuel/utilities

**559**  
individuals assisted  
with food

**810**  
individuals assisted  
with rent

**211**  
individuals assisted  
with car payments, car  
repairs and/or gift cards

**319**  
individuals assisted  
with clothing

**318**  
individuals assisted with  
baby clothing, formula,  
diapers and wipes

# Poverty Relief Fund

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg has announced the distribution of \$40,000 from the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund to nonprofit organizations for the March 2023 grant cycle. These organizations are working passionately to assist families and individuals with programs and services designed to ease the burden of poverty. We applaud their efforts within the community.

## **CHRISTIAN LAYMAN CORPS**

A Bed for Every Child – \$5,000

## **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

St. Paul Parish, Greensburg, Utility Super Fund – \$5,000

## **ALTERNATIVES.YES**

The Mother's Pantry, Essentials Program – \$5,000

## **WESTMORELAND CASE MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORTS, INC.**

Early Intervention of Safety Items – \$5,000

## **INDIANA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION**

ICCAP Power Pack Program – \$5,000

## **FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.**

Food Bank Shop-Thru – \$5,000

## **MOUNT SAINT PETER OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Poverty Relief Project – \$5,000

## **WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOOD BANK**

Food Pantry Distribution Program – \$5,000

# \$40,000

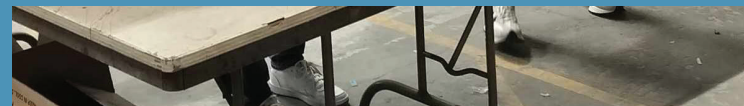
distributed  
in 2022-23

# \$598,231

awarded  
since 2009



*Indiana County Community Action Power Pack Program volunteers pack food for distribution to area children.*



# Counseling

Catholic Charities' counseling services support our community through individual, couples and family counseling. In addition, we are working to establish these new services within our Diocesan schools.

With our offices in Indiana County (at St. Thomas More University Parish, Indiana) and Armstrong County (at St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning) reopening, and virtual counseling as an option, our services are even more accessible in our communities, where needs continue to grow.

Our counselors remain steadfast in their approach, welcoming all as Christ. Often an open heart and a listening ear are what is needed for one to find peace or lift the weight of burdens. This support can guide others toward more satisfying, happier lives.



**67%** of services are provided in-office; 33% are virtual



The **men's anger management support group** has been meeting weekly for more than 30 years, helping men recognize anger as a part of life and channel the energy it produces positively. Support and education are available for men and women.

**Outpatient counseling** helps individuals, couples and families with a variety of difficulties, including depression, anxiety, grief, family conflict and anger issues.

**Project Rachel** offers counseling to women (and family members) who have experienced abortion. Information: [hopeafterabortion.com](http://hopeafterabortion.com); [ccharitiesgreensburg.org](http://ccharitiesgreensburg.org)

# Pro-Life Advocacy

Pro-Life Advocacy is an outreach to the community to help educate and support individuals, schools, parishes and the Diocese of Greensburg at large on life issues.

Collaborating with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Walking with Moms in Need initiative, outreach groups in our parishes help families and individuals with pregnancy and family concerns. Parish leaders share ideas and provide support to individuals, the Catholic Charities outreach ministries, and area Pregnancy Resource Centers.

The Pro-Life Advocacy department sponsored the participation of more than 400 students in Diocesan Catholic schools in an essay contest focusing on Respect Life Heroes.

Participation in Respect Life Month includes attending the Pennsylvania March for Life in October and the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., in January. More than 100 people from the Diocese participated in these life-affirming marches this past year.

Support is also given to post-abortive men and women through Project Rachel.

The Pro-Life Advocacy Department is committed to prayer. We have joined parishes from the Diocese to pray at Planned Parenthood during 40 Days for Life. Prayer is our greatest weapon in preserving and supporting life issues. We pray the Rosary for Life and encourage others to pray with us through social media posts.

We invite all of you to join our efforts for life.

# Volunteers/Outreach

From coordinating the Teen Christmas Program and maintaining the Baby Closet to packing food boxes and staffing the Helpline, volunteers are essential to Catholic Charities' success. Catholic Charities also welcomes students to assist with fundraisers, organize the Baby Closet and pack food boxes. If you would like to volunteer, please call 724-837-1840.

**6,894**  
hours  
provided  
by 13  
active  
volunteers

**676**  
Helpline  
calls  
handled by  
volunteers

**174**  
teens  
assisted  
through  
the Teen  
Christmas  
Program



"Volunteering keeps me connected to the Church and its ministry to the people of the Diocese."  
*Sister of Charity Mary Norbert Long, Helpline Volunteer*

"Through volunteering, I love that I can help someone else who needs us. I have been so blessed in my life that I want to give back to others."  
*Marilyn Manion, Volunteer*



# Fundraisers

Each year Catholic Charities hosts four major fundraisers to raise funds for those in need across the four counties of the Diocese – Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland. The annual Communities of Salt & Light Awards Dinner, Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing, Farm to Table Dinner, and Designer Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale collectively raised nearly \$147,000 in fiscal year 2022-23.



## COMMUNITIES OF SALT & LIGHT AWARDS DINNER

Held in April, the dinner is the largest fundraiser to benefit Catholic Charities. In 2023 the Humanitarian award was presented to Gerald "Jerry" Wilcox, a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg. The Kindness Closet at St. Edward Parish, Herminie, was awarded the Outstanding Human Service Award. Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Greensburg. In 2023, the dinner raised \$107,757, which was distributed in the form of utility and heating fuel assistance, rent, food, and baby items to those calling upon us in their time of need.





## PAUL R. SMY MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Catholic Charities hosted its 21st annual golf outing at Ligonier Country Club. For the fourth year in a row, the event was a sell-out, attracting golfers from around the Diocese as well as our continued supporters from Maryland, South Carolina and Texas. The event features popular theme holes such as the "Pope-Putt," "Tee-rific Pierogies" and "Marvelous Meatballs," plus skill prizes, raffles and a meal where participants share in fellowship and stories from the course. The 2023 event raised \$29,583.

## FARM TO TABLE DINNER

Catholic Charities joined Bishop Larry J. Kulick at The Barn at Fallingwater to host its second annual Farm to Table Dinner. The evening began with a social hour with wine and charcuterie. Seasonal fare was prepared by The Yard, Connellsville, and local guitarist Stephen Gallo provided music. The event is aimed at promoting stewardship and raising awareness about the works of Catholic Charities within the Diocese.

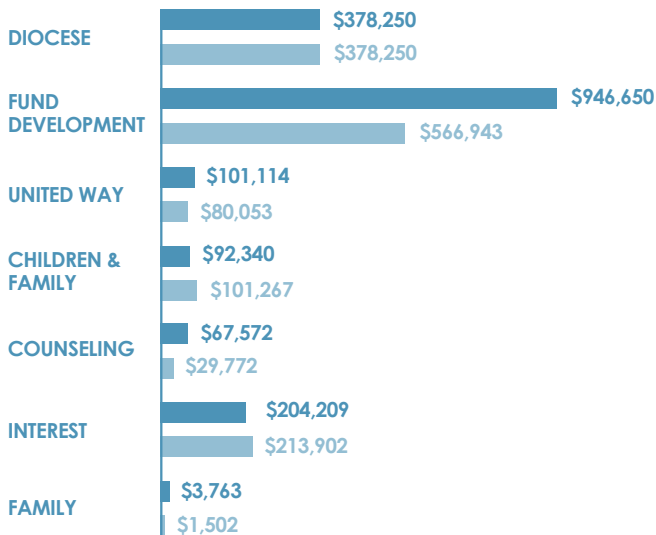


## DESIGNER PURSE BASH AND CRYSTAL BAKE SALE

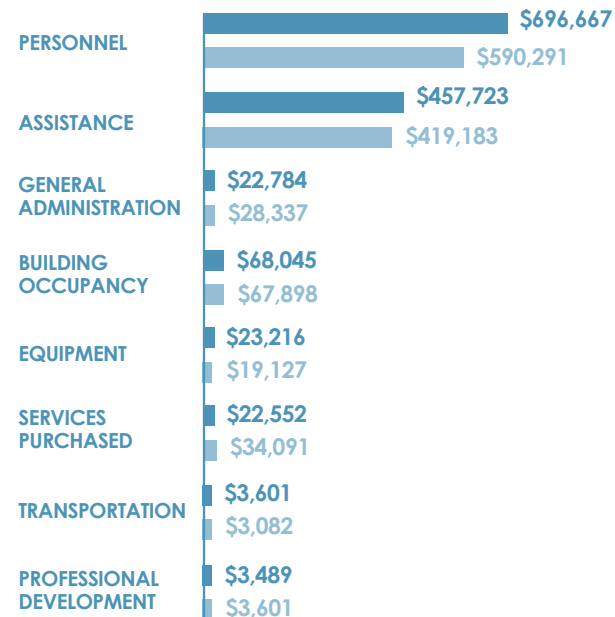
The sixth annual event was held at The Barn at Ligonier Valley and included lunch by Carson's Catering. The bake sale featured 125 delicious desserts plated on unique crystal and fine china. In addition to designer handbags, the event featured jewelry raffles, 50/50 and a custom-made grand prize cake. In 2022, the event raised \$9,626 for the programs and services offered by Catholic Charities.

# Financial Information

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



## DEVELOPMENT: 5 YEARS IN REVIEW

Over the last five years, our three major fundraisers – the Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner, Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing and Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale – raised \$678,000, not including the year of the pandemic, in which the Heroes of Hope online campaign raised \$235,000. All money raised is given back in financial and material assistance to our less fortunate in the four counties of the Diocese. Through the generosity of individual donors and foundations, \$724,000 has been leveraged to support those in most need.

# Staff/Leadership



**MELANEY HEGYES**  
Managing Director



**ROBERT BAUM**  
Director of Counseling



**DONNA HAGAN**  
Director of Information and Referral Services



**HEATHER RADY**  
Director of Community Relations and Special Events



**CAROLYN CANNIZZARRO**  
Director of Pro-Life Advocacy



**ROBERT BRINKER**  
Therapist



**KIERSTIN HUFNAGLE**  
Information and Referral Services



**KIMBERLY HUNT-LANDA**  
Therapist



**AMY JONES**  
Information and Referral Services



**SHAINA KELLY**  
Information and Referral Services



**JANE SZYGIEL**  
Volunteer Coordinator



**ROBERTA TORRANCE**  
Therapist



**KATIE WALLACE**  
Office Specialist

## TRUSTEES

Hollie Uccellini,  
*President*

Dr. Vito J. Dongiovanni,  
*Vice President*

Kristen Hughes-Marhefka,  
*Secretary*

David Kent,  
*Treasurer*

Amber Blair

Mary Blythe

George Butler

Roy Draper

Marie Dillion Griffith

Roland "Bud" Mertz

The Rev. Matthew J. Morelli

The Rev. Alan N. Polczynski

## MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

The Most Rev. Larry J. Kulick, JCL, Bishop of Greensburg  
The Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, Vicar General



**Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg maintains two physical office locations in Indiana and Westmoreland counties. Local numbers are maintained for callers in need of our services in the north and south regions of Westmoreland County as well as Armstrong and Fayette counties.**

### **WESTMORELAND COUNTY**

#### **CENTRAL**

Catholic Charities offices  
711 E. Pittsburgh St.  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-837-1840  
724-837-4077 (fax)

### **ARMSTRONG COUNTY**

724-548-1009

### **FAYETTE COUNTY**

724-439-3531

### **INDIANA COUNTY**

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

# **HELPLINE: 866-409-6455**

## **MISSION**

In the spirit of Jesus Christ, our mission is to bring help, hope and healing to God's people as the charitable, service and outreach arm of the Bishop and the Diocese of Greensburg

## **VISION**

Through charity, service and outreach, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg is the link between those in need and the resources which can help them. We are constantly telling our story and the stories of those in need to raise awareness and much needed support for our Catholic mission. We connect people with information and referrals for material assistance and mental health services. We empower seniors to be more independent, and we welcome and support our new and culturally diverse neighbors.

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 [DioceseofGreensburg.org](http://DioceseofGreensburg.org).

Catholic Charities is listed in the Official Catholic Directory and is a nonprofit 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 [CCharitiesGreensburg.org](http://CCharitiesGreensburg.org).

### **NONPROFIT 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, 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.