


*Helps*  
HOPE  
*Healing*



  
**Catholic  
Charities**  
DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

Catholic Charities

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## 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 teachings of the church, Catholic Charities' 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.

With the ongoing support of Bishop Edward C. Malesic, 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.



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Two of our fundamental mandates as Catholics are to love one another and to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through works of charity and service. Christ specifically reminds us in the Gospel of St. Matthew that we are to show special love and help the people in our midst who are most in need of assistance, regardless of who they are.

Helping our brothers and sisters in need is the reason for Catholic Charities, the social service agency of the Diocese of Greensburg. Catholic Charities has continued to partner with the parishes and parishioners of our diocese to assist more than 16,980 families, regardless of their ethnic, religious, social or economic background. We have worked with the bishop, priests, deacons, men and women religious, and the lay people of the diocese to help people in all four of our counties, just as we have done for the previous 65 years of our existence.

This past year Catholic Charities assisted people who suffered significant losses from flooding that hit more than a few areas of our diocese; we administered the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund, which has awarded more than \$405,986 in grants to groups in the diocese that serve people in need; we provided counseling services to 262 people in more than 1,500 sessions; and we held the 20th annual Communities of Salt and Light Award Dinner. Through this dinner alone, over the last 20 years, we have generated \$1,270,000 for basic material assistance.

This annual report provides a glimpse into the work of Catholic Charities' board, staff and volunteers and shows just a few of the ways we assist our neighbors. I ask you to reflect on the commitments made by so few to help so many of our brothers and sisters in need around the diocese. Then consider joining us in this mission. There are many ways you can help people in the diocese who are less fortunate.

The work of Catholic Charities is the work of the Church and all Catholics. On behalf of Bishop Edward C. Malesic, the members of our Board of Trustees, our staff and volunteers, I thank all of you for your support. Please pray for us and the people we serve.

In Christ,



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



## MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

Eleanor (not her real name) has lived in Uniontown for 40 years. After her husband passed away in November 2017, the 78-year-old found herself dealing with grief and with trying to pay her bills.

After her husband's death, she lost half of her Social Security income. Fortunately, her house is paid off, and she was able to pay her utility bills.

However, she was struggling to pay for heating fuel. Eleanor was denied LIHEAP heating assistance because money received from her husband's life insurance policy put her over the income limit. She used that money for funeral and burial costs.

In December 2017, Eleanor contacted Catholic Charities when she ran out of fuel and felt like she had nowhere else to turn. She said she didn't have

money for heating fuel because she had been using electric heaters to stay warm, and her electric bill was high.

A Catholic Charities information and referral specialist organized delivery of heating fuel paid for by Catholic Charities and contacted the electric company and worked out a new payment plan that would allow Eleanor to get caught up on her bill.

She also received budget counseling to help her manage her bills.

Eleanor was extremely appreciative of the information and referral specialist's compassion and the resources and direct assistance provided, which have helped her become self-sufficient.

# HELPLINE 1-866-409-6455

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





## Catholic Charities

Answers nearly **20,000** calls for assistance every year



Delivered **\$14,008.30** in aid to 24 families who lost their furnaces and water heaters during weather disasters in **2017-2018**



**\$1.27M** distributed in direct material assistance from Salt & Light dinners **1999-2018**

Helps **1,000** families a year pay their utility bills



Helped **352** families with heating fuel

Prepared **250** emergency food boxes



PHOTOS COURTESY HERALD-STANDARD

A tornado hit Uniontown in February 2018. Catholic Charities provided **\$10,762** in assistance for rent, heating fuel, water, electric bills, and hot water tank and furnace repair.

## ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS

In 2017, Bishop Edward C. Malesic committed the diocese to providing a pastoral response to the growing opioid and substance use disorder crisis in the diocese. He launched the initiative after hearing many heartbreaking stories about the impact of the epidemic during parish visits.

As part of the response, Catholic Charities began working with the bishop's Advisory Board on the Addictions, which includes experts in the fields of recovery and rehabilitation and two county coroners. The advisory group was tasked with developing tools to help parishes direct individuals to the appropriate resources and establish support groups for parishioners and community members.

Bishop Malesic wanted the initiative to be rooted in the parishes. The Catholic Community of Connellsville — at the time the parishes of Immaculate Conception, St. John the Evangelist and St. Rita — responded.

Under the leadership of Father Robert T. Lubic, pastoral leader of the community, and Mary Sampey, director of evangelization and a member of the bishop's advisory board, parishioners came together and formed two groups in September 2017, shortly after Bishop Malesic hosted an education and prayer session



in Connellsville, one of seven he held around the diocese that summer.

The Connellsville parishes started a NARANON (Narcotics Anonymous) group for families and friends of people suffering from substance use disorders and a grief support ministry for people who had lost a family member or

friend to drugs.

“People came forward after the listening session saying they wanted to help,” said Sampey, who lost a sister to an overdose late in 2016. “People know we are here to support them, and they reach out to us all the time. The groups are open to people of all faiths.”

The concept to start the groups originated with Catholic Charities, and the advisory board helped her connect with existing resources, Sampey said.

Catholic Charities continues to be on the front lines of the Church's response to the substance use crisis with its counseling services and by serving as a clearinghouse to help parishes direct people to the appropriate resources around the diocese.

## FAITH-BASED COUNSELING

Catholic Charities offers caring, professional, faith-based counseling services to individuals, couples and families of any denomination throughout the Diocese of Greensburg. We understand that one's spirituality, religious beliefs and practices are a vital part of life. Rather than exclude them, Catholic Charities therapists support people of any faith who try to live by their beliefs.

Our therapists are experienced in the treatment of a wide variety of problems and concerns. People seek counseling for depression, anxiety, family conflict, marital infidelity or grief. They may have suffered physical or sexual abuse or another form of violence. Many people are in recovery from substance use disorders, and families of those in recovery often seek counseling support, too. Some people have difficulty dealing with anger, and some experience workplace issues. Whatever the challenge, our therapists support healing and health. They will also work with medical professionals, attorneys, and school and court officials as

necessary to assure complete mental and behavioral health care.

Catholic Charities is one of the few professional counseling services in the four-county Diocese of Greensburg that welcomes religious beliefs in the counseling room. Catholic Charities therapists follow the individual's lead: If religious faith is a significant part of one's experience, then it becomes part of the counseling relationship. Respect for the individual and his or her strengths and abilities to make healthy choices in life, as well as professional ethics and treatment excellence, always guides the counseling work.

A woman called to inquire about our counseling services and asked if it was OK to talk about her spiritual life in counseling. Assured that she was

encouraged to bring her faith into the sessions, she said another psychotherapist had told her there was "no place for religion in therapy." She began to talk about her loveless marriage and the challenge that presented to her faith and her commitment to her marriage vows. Her husband joined the counseling, and the two began to make progress toward repairing their marriage.

That is the type of care we offer to anyone who calls.



## NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The Natural Family Planning Cervical Mucus-Basal Body Temperature (CM-BBT) program teaches a natural, organic method to manage your family planning needs without chemicals, medicines, or devices. This unique program offers you the opportunity to learn the CM-BBT method of Natural Family Planning, while receiving personalized support and expertise from trained professionals.

This program is a scientifically-based medical program for couples who wish to postpone, avoid, or achieve pregnancy naturally. It was researched in Pittsburgh and is now being used world-wide. It is inexpensive, organic, and has no chemical side effects.

After the session, you will continue to receive written and phone support during your training period. After you complete each chart and the self-interpretation, you will submit it for a personalized review. You will receive a written interpretation that guides you towards independence. This will help you learn

For more information about NFP and the CM-BBT method, visit [www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org/nfp](http://www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org/nfp).

about your unique cycles. Most couples are confident and completely independent in their use of the method within 1 year.

Couples are encouraged to attend the session together to enhance their overall communication, mutual agreement, and shared responsibility.

Family planning is more effective when you learn together. The man is encouraged to attend at no additional cost.\*



*\*Text used with permission of UPMC Mercy Natural Family Planning CM-BBT Program*



## POVERTY RELIEF FUND GRANTS

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

Grants between \$750 and \$5,000 are awarded for specific projects. Proposals are due each Nov. 2 for review in January.

For information, contact: Heather Rady  
724-837-1840  
hrady@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

“This is amazing. I have been thinking about going to a food bank but haven't been able to because of circumstances. Having this food locker as an accessible place has been great.”

**SETON HILL  
UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT**

### 2017-18 RECIPIENTS

**CHRISTIAN LAYMAN CORPS** (A Bed for Every Child Program)

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** (Utility Super Fund)

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOOD BANK** (Food Pantry Distribution)

**TRYLIFE CENTER** (Parent and Baby Program)

**CITY MISSION — LIVING STONES INC.** (Safe Lighting)

**LOWER BURRELL MEALS ON WHEELS** (New Freezer Unit)

**MOTHER OF SORROWS PARISH** (Food Pantry)

**SETON HILL UNIVERSITY** (Griff's Food Locker)

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** (Transportation Program)

# \$405,986

awarded by the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund since its inception in 2009



Volunteers staff Griff's Food Locker at Seton Hill University, which assists students who are experiencing food insecurity.

# CHARITY



**ANNUAL PAUL R. SMY MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING**



**PURSE BASH AND CRYSTAL BAKE SALE**

To join in or sponsor our fundraisers, contact:  
Heather Rady  
724-837-1840  
[hrady@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:hrady@dioceseofgreensburg.org)



**COMMUNITIES OF SALT AND LIGHT AWARD DINNER**



**PAINTING WITH A PURPOSE**

# STAFF



**Msgr. Raymond E. Riffe, MSW, MPA**  
Managing Director



**Dr. Paul Niemiec**  
Director of Counseling



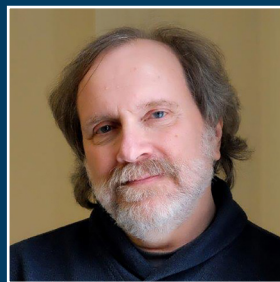
**Heather Rady**  
Director of Community Relations and Special Events



**Alicia Donnelly**  
Director of Adoption and Foster Care Services



**Donna Hagan**  
Director of Information and Referral Services



**Robert Brinker**  
Therapist



**Mark Eidemiller**  
Therapist



**Sharon Grabowski**  
Executive Secretary



**Danene Haines**  
Information and Referral Services



**Kimberly Hunt-Landa**  
Therapist



**Amy Jones**  
Information and Referral Services



**Shaina Kelly**  
Information and Referral Services



**Mary Ann Newhouse**  
Natural Family Planning/  
CM-BBT Instructor



**Lynn Saxman**  
Therapist



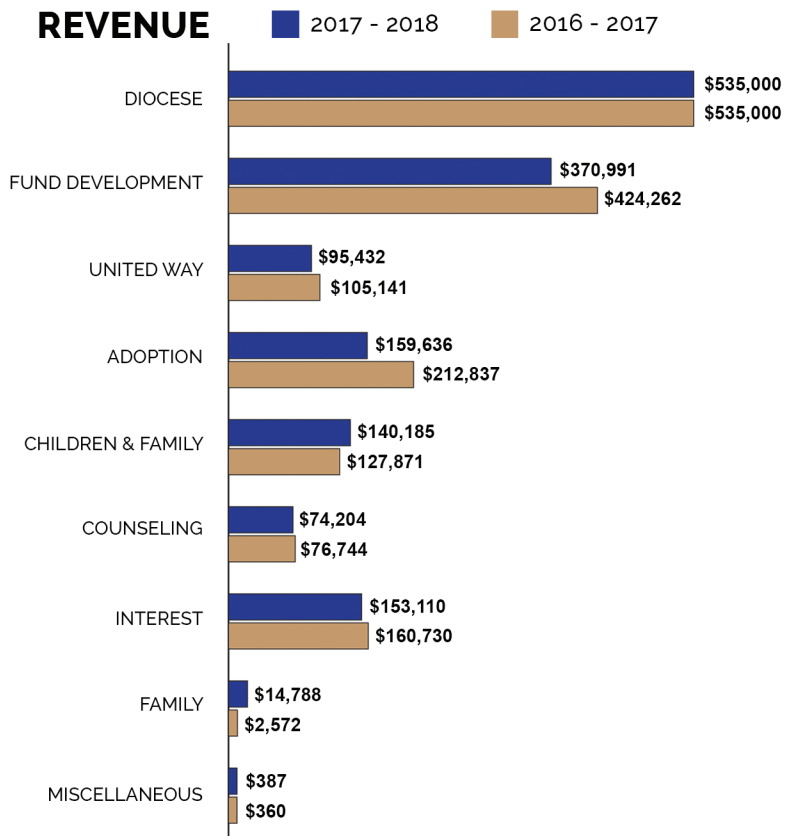
**Allison Sedlacek**  
Adoption Caseworker



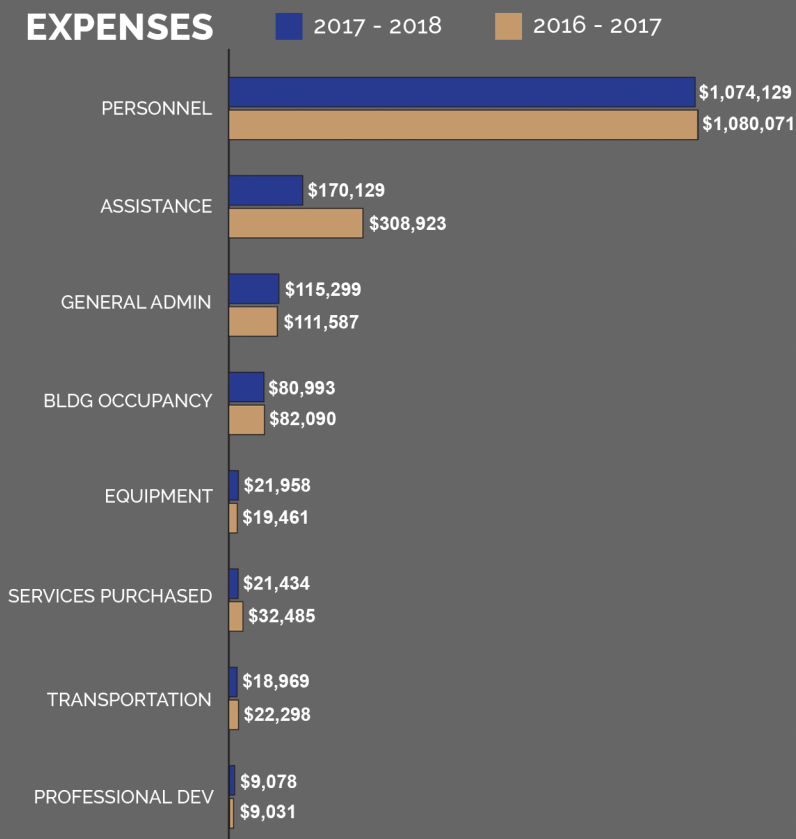
**Jane Szczygiel**  
Volunteer Coordinator

# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



# VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEERS SHARE GIFT OF TIME

Catholic Charities' dedicated volunteers help provide the "human touch" that lets people in need know they are not alone.

Jane Szczygiel, volunteer coordinator for Catholic Charities for more than 10 years, and her team of 12 regular volunteers, along with additional seasonal volunteers, put in 7,246 hours in 2018 alone.

Each year, their work includes a Christmas project that provides gifts to at least 200 teenagers; representing Catholic Charities at senior expos and ParentWISE's annual summer Ice Cream Blast; organizing the Baby Closet, which provides clothing and other items to parents in need; and helping with the United Way Day of Caring.

Their main job is to staff the Catholic Charities HelpLine (866-409-6455), which takes calls from 4:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours a day Saturday and Sunday.

People may call the HelpLine for assistance with bills or just to talk through problems.

"They give that human touch, so people don't feel the coldness you receive from an answering service. It is so you know you're not alone nor forgotten," says Szczygiel, a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Greensburg.

Catholic Charities volunteers believe the gift of time is meant to be shared and welcome people who would like to get involved. Szczygiel can be reached at 724-837-1840, ext. 1533, or [jszczygiel@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jszczygiel@dioceseofgreensburg.org).



# VOLUNTEERS

**7,246**

hours logged by  
Catholic Charities  
volunteers in 2017-18

**200**

teenagers received  
gifts through Catholic  
Charities' Christmas  
program in 2017

**866-409-6455**

Catholic Charities HelpLine, staffed by volunteers



Volunteers are honored at the  
2018 volunteer recognition dinner.



**HELPLINE: 866-409-6455**

## MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

**The Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic, JCL**

**The Rev. Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, JCL, VG**

**Margaret DiVirgilio, Chancellor**

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Thomas Gothie, President**

**Dr. Ralph May Jr., Vice President**

**Charles Deluzio, Treasurer**

**Molly Robb Shimko, Secretary**

**Father Daniel L. Blout**

**Mary Blythe**

**Dr. Vito DonGiovanni**

**David Kent**

**Father Matthew J. Morelli**

**Denise Reilly**

**Hollie Uccellini**

**Janice Walker**

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

### WESTMORELAND COUNTY

#### CENTRAL

Catholic Charities offices,  
711 E. Pittsburgh St.,  
Greensburg, PA 15601

724-837-1840

724-837-4077 (fax)

724-552-2643 (TDD)

#### NORTH

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

#### SOUTH

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

### ARMSTRONG COUNTY

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

### FAYETTE COUNTY

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

### INDIANA COUNTY

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

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.dioceseofgreensburg.org](http://www.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 [www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org](http://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.

### 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, 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.