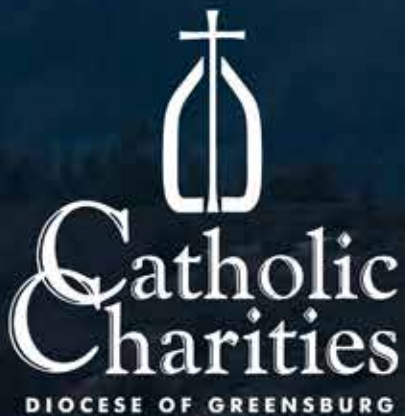


*A new day*



**2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT**

Catholic Charities

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**WRITING**  
Elisabeth Smith

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Mary Seamans, Paul Niemiec, Jennifer Miele

## 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,

Over the last 25 years, I have faithfully served Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg as its managing director. I was appointed to this position June 21, 1995, by Bishop Anthony Bosco. Each and every day I am truly humbled by this amazing opportunity. Through our entire 66-year history, countless lives have been touched by the work which is being done by our staff and volunteers in the name of Our Lord.

Much has changed in the communities served by our diocese since I began leading this wonderful organization. Over the years, we have evolved in many ways in response to the needs of the needy of our diocese. At this point in time, as we look forward, once again, I see "a new day" for Catholic Charities, which is the theme for this year's annual report. As the world changes, we must look at our work differently, adjusting to the pressing needs of the people we serve and working with other volunteer organizations and our parishes to broaden the considerable efforts being made to serve and aid those at risk.

In this report I want to especially call your attention to the good work being done to help both the old and the young. Our good and faithful staff work with the elderly throughout the Diocese of Greensburg and focus on their mental health and well-being. Our tireless volunteers help to stock a baby closet with food, clothing and supplies for families struggling to make ends meet with infants in tow. Over the years, I have continually felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as I have seen the fruit of our very successful Catholic Charities Christmas Program. Each year, donations pour into our office from parishes across the diocese, providing gifts of joy for families in need.

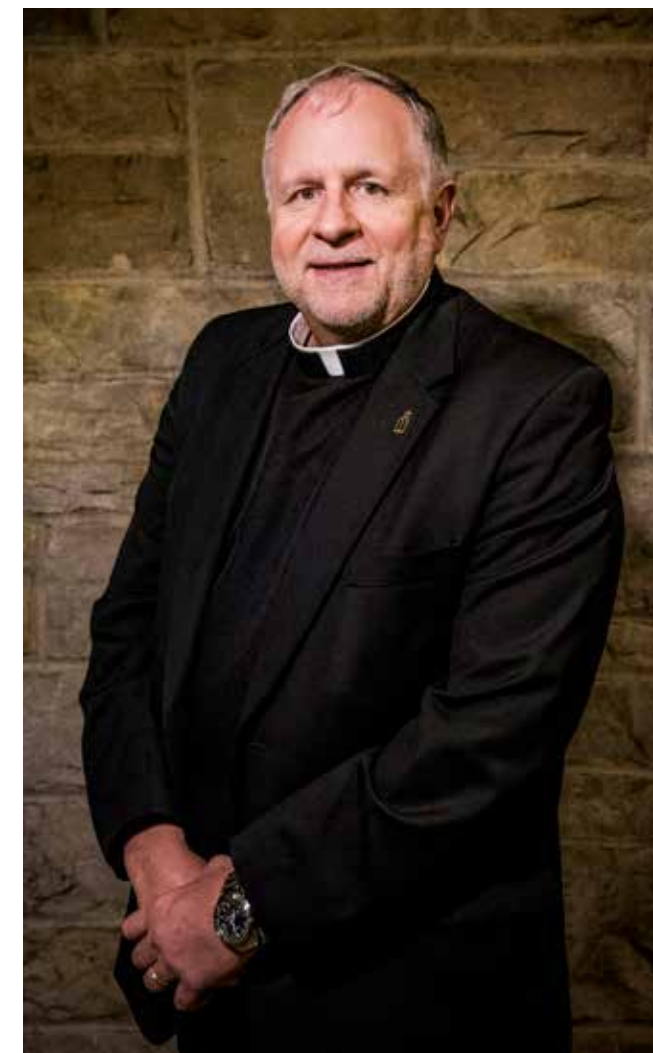
When the year comes to an end and we assess the impact we've made, we quickly realize that we cannot rest for long. There are so many in need!

The Book of Lamentations says, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lam 3:22-23).

To all of you who support Catholic Charities, thank you for being steadfast in your love of the work we do. Please continue to pray for us in the many new days ahead.

Blessings,

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



# NEW CHALLENGES

## MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

Mary is a single parent of two sons, 13 and 10, and they have lived in Westmoreland County for the past three years.

Mary, who was working as a secretary, suffered a debilitating injury in a car accident and was unable to work. She started receiving disability benefits, but she is currently in a wheelchair.

Because of her physical limitations, Mary found it increasingly difficult to live in her two-story home. She contacted Catholic Charities to ask about rental assistance so the family could move into a first-floor apartment, which would allow her to be more mobile.

Last year, Mary asked Catholic Charities for help with a security deposit for the new apartment. A Catholic Charities information and referral caseworker helped her connect with the

Westmoreland County Housing Authority, and she was screened for rental help through the Bethlehem Project, a collaborative program of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg, and Catholic Charities that offers rental assistance to people in need. With help from WCHA and the Bethlehem Project, Mary was able to pay her security deposit and first month's rent. She also received help from Catholic Charities to pay a deposit to start water service.

Mary said Catholic Charities' help allowed her to become more self-sufficient.

## HELPLINE 866-409-6455

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

**104**

families assisted with diapers

**55**

families assisted with clothing

**32**

families assisted with formula

**41**

hours logged by volunteers organizing the Baby Closet



### Catholic Charities

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



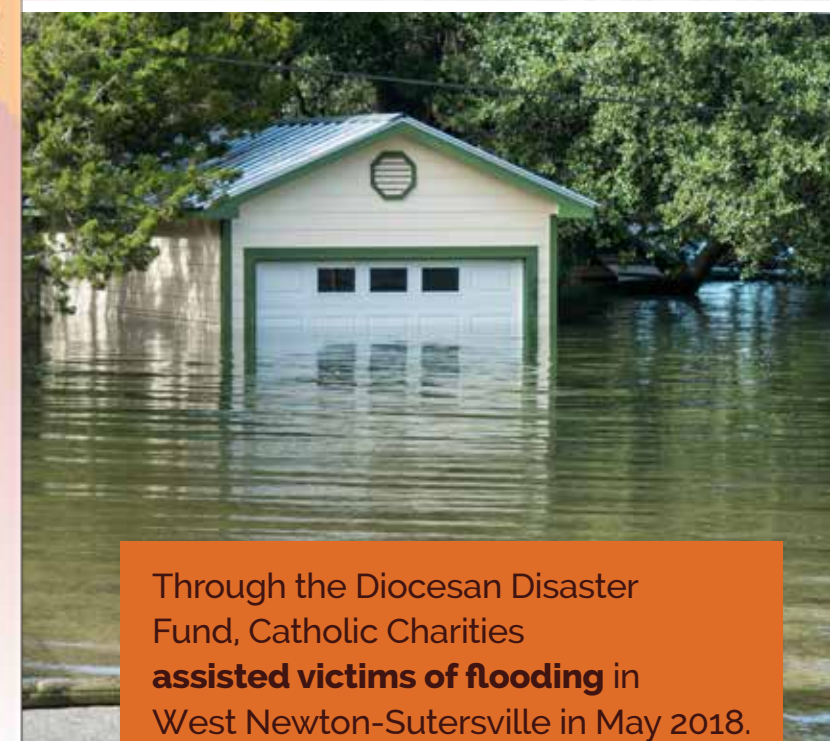
Delivered **\$147,516.08** in aid to 44 families who lost their furnaces and water heaters during weather disasters in **2018-2019**

**\$1.36M** distributed in direct material assistance from Salt & Light dinners **1999-2019**

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



Helped **360** families with heating fuel  
Prepared **260** emergency food boxes



Through the Diocesan Disaster Fund, Catholic Charities **assisted victims of flooding** in West Newton-Sutersville in May 2018.

## SERVING OUR SENIORS

As an outpatient therapist with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, Kimberly H. Landa describes her current duties as “the most rewarding work I’ve ever done.”

Landa’s work is part of Catholic Charities’ partnership with the United Way program, Open Your Heart to a Senior (formerly Faith in Action). She visits with seniors in their homes to provide behavioral health services, filling a growing need across Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties.

“The need is so great,” Landa, a licensed clinical social worker, says. “Our population is shifting, and I believe it will be mostly seniors in the next 20-30 years.”

Landa works with clients in Westmoreland County to provide

emotional support, with special attention to challenges unique to seniors such as losing a spouse after decades of marriage. She travels to their homes because most of her clients have vision loss or other impairments that prevent them from driving — a challenge that can also contribute to their isolation and need for support.

“It is a very rewarding experience to work with my clients because they have a special sense of wisdom and gratitude,” Landa said. “They also are people of faith, so I am able to use my faith as part of what I do.”

While many visits do focus on hardships like grief and loss, others call for simple fellowship and prayer.

“Sometimes I just sit down with these wonderful people and listen to their

**Learn more:**  
[unitedway4u.org/OYHS](http://unitedway4u.org/OYHS)

interesting life stories, like about using trolleys in the 1940s and 1950s ... and laugh together about funny things and stories, past and present,” Landa said. “Sometimes we are quiet together and pray when silence is needed.”

Open Your Heart to a Senior needs volunteers for friendly visits, appointment escort, handy person/ minor repairs, telephone reassurance, caregiver relief, errands and shopping, referral assistance, and yardwork and gardening.

## 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](mailto:hrady@dioceseofgreensburg.org).

### 2018-19 RECIPIENTS

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

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

**FEEDING THE SPIRIT**  
(Housing)

**TRI-CITY MEALS ON WHEELS**  
(Kitchen Air Conditioners)

**UNION MISSION**  
(Men’s Shelter)

**ALTERNATIVES.YES**  
(Earn While You Learn Program)

**CONNELLSVILLE AREA COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**  
(Support for Success Program)

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, ST. JAMES THE GREATER CONFERENCE**  
(Poverty Relief Project)

# \$443,486

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

Tri-City Meals on Wheels volunteers Bob Thomas, left, and Ed Lischick



## ‘Christmas should not end for them’

### PROVIDING GIFTS FOR NEEDY TEENS

Months before the snow falls and the lights begin to glisten, a dedicated handful of volunteers with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg are already working to make Christmas magical for a group that can be easily overlooked: teenagers in need.

The annual Christmas Program identifies families who have required assistance throughout the year and focuses on those with children ages 13-18 — children who otherwise might not receive gifts. Last year, the program served 225 teens.

For more than 12 years, current volunteer coordinator Jane Szczygiel has been part of this effort. She calls the program a “labor of love” and says it fills a critical need.

“There are so many other programs in the community doing wonderful things, like Toys for Tots, but those are focused on younger children and many end at age 12,” she says. “We don’t feel Christmas should end for these older children just because their families can’t afford it. They are still in school, and everybody wants to go back to school wearing something new and be able to talk about their gifts. In the teen years, especially, they are very sensitive to fitting in with peers.”

Throughout the year, Catholic Charities caseworkers identify families who would be eligible for the program and notify Szczygiel and her fellow volunteers. The group then secretly

works with the teens’ parents to make wish lists for each one — items like clothes, perfumes or colognes, and accessories rather than electronics, games or music — and matches them with sponsors.

Sponsors are volunteers with organizations that partner with Catholic Charities for the Christmas Program each year, including local parishes, schools, colleges, corporations and individuals. They receive the wish lists just after Halloween and drop off their donated gifts to Catholic Charities just after Thanksgiving.

“The gifts are always so generous,” Szczygiel said. “It looks like the North Pole here when they start coming in.”

Over the next month, the team of seven to eight volunteers spend nearly 100 hours screening and wrapping the gifts and arranging pickup with the teens’ parents — all with the goal of the teens never even knowing their presents came from anyone but their families.

“It’s a lot of work, but it’s so much fun,” Szczygiel says. “Everyone wants to do good, and we are especially lucky

## GET INVOLVED

To help the Christmas Program continue to thrive and grow, interested sponsors or volunteers can contact Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg at 724-837-1840.

because our volunteers are so generous with their time.”

The Christmas Program grows steadily each year, she says, with new sponsors joining in and longtime sponsors increasing their donations and, therefore, more teens being served.

But the need remains great.

“Right now, we probably serve only about a third of the families who would be eligible for the program,” Szczygiel said. “The needy will always be with us, and it’s a wonderful time of year to be able to help like this.”



Members of Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg: Top: With Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, Catholic Charities managing director, from left: Charles Deluzio, Hollie Uccellini, Dr. Ralph May and Thomas Gothie. Bottom, with Bishop Edward C. Malesic and Msgr. Riffle: Kristen Hughes-Marhefka and George Butler.



# FUNDRAISERS



## Catholic Charities fundraisers

include the Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner, Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale, the Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing and Painting with a Twist.

To join in or sponsor our fundraisers, contact:  
**Heather Rady**  
724-837-1840  
hrady@dioceseofgreensburg.org



# STAFF



**Msgr. Raymond E. Rifle, 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

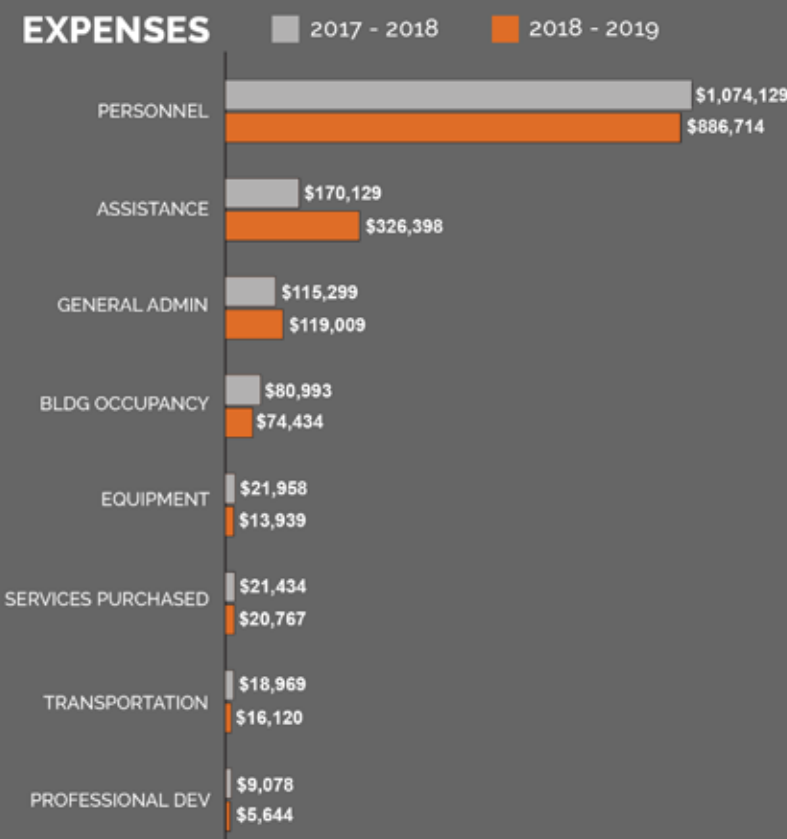
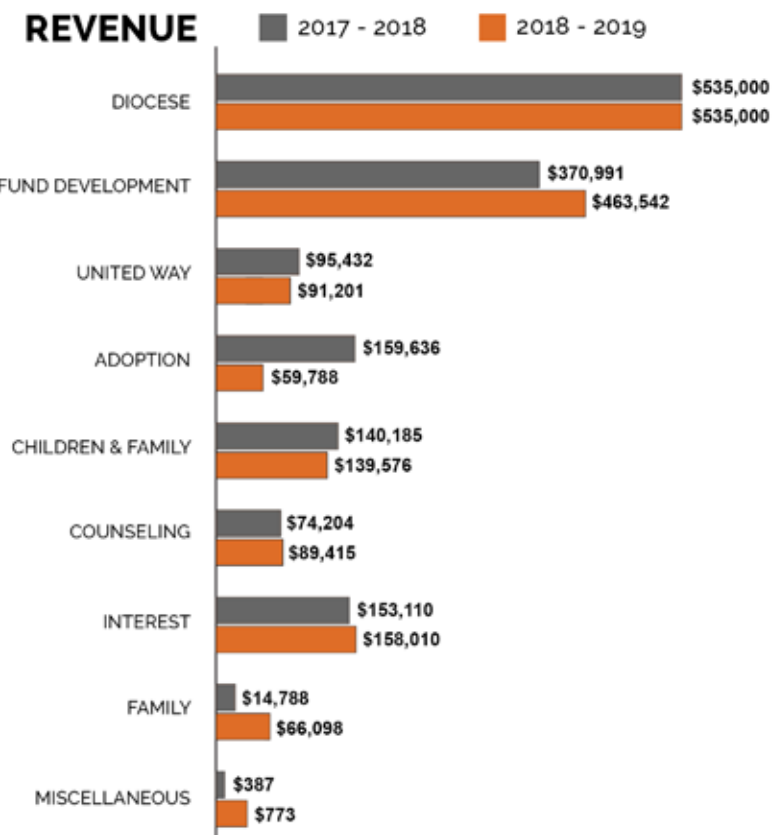


**Allison Sedlacek**  
Adoption Caseworker\*



**Jane Szczygiel**  
Volunteer Coordinator

# FINANCIALS



\*Department closed in fall 2019

## BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

### ANGER MANAGEMENT GROUP SEEKS TO BUILD TRUST

A pattern started to emerge inside the walls of the counseling center at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg.

Couples were seeking marriage counseling but, in numerous cases, staff discovered another problem — uncontrolled anger, especially among the men.

That was in 1994, when Bob Brinker was an intern. With the help of priests and full-time staff, he secured a six-month grant to launch an anger management program that would address the root of behavior that was destroying these men's relationships.

"My approach has always been nonjudgmental and seeks to connect with these men and get down their

defenses," Brinker said. "Most of them have a lot of hurt and pain."

A group of four men doubled in size by the end of the six-month grant. It was so effective that the men asked to continue meeting. Soon the local court system became aware of the group's positive results, and judges, attorneys and other officials began requiring certain offenders to attend.

Twenty-five years later, men still gather weekly with Brinker at the helm. Although members can join only through referral and a screening process, it can still swell up to 25 people at a time. Now with his master's degree in counseling, Brinker says the anger many of these men exhibit is a result of the world around them.

"We are taught anger in many of our films, video games and often in our own families," Brinker said. "How we express anger has been modeled and taught to us. But we are all capable of change and learning a better way."

The group focuses on exploring the root of each man's anger, as well as discovering healthy ways to deal with rage, stress and channeling emotions, all while firmly holding each person accountable, he said.

The program results in a breakthrough feeling for many of the men, according to Brinker — a feeling quite different than the anger they carried through the door.

"They finally experience a sense of trust," he said.



Volunteers are honored at the 2019 volunteer recognition dinner.



Bishop Edward C. Malesic talks with Communities of Salt and Light Awards honorees Henna and Dr. Primo Bautista.



Managing directors of the Diocese of Greensburg, from left: Margaret DiVirgilio, chancellor; Sheila Murray, chief financial officer; Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, managing director, Catholic Charities; Msgr. Larry J. Kulick, vicar general; Maureen Marsteller, superintendent of Catholic schools; and Jennifer Miele, chief communications officer.

You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world.

Mt 5:13-16

## 7,172

hours logged by Catholic Charities volunteers in 2018-19

## 225

teenagers received gifts through Catholic Charities' Christmas program in 2018

## 866-409-6455

Catholic Charities HelpLine, staffed by volunteers





**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**

**Hollie Uccellini, Secretary**

**The Rev. Daniel L. Blout**

**Mary Blythe**

**George Butler**

**Dr. Vito DonGiovanni**

**Kristen Hughes-Marhefka**

**David Kent**

**The Rev. Matthew J. Morelli**

**Molly Robb Shimko**

**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.