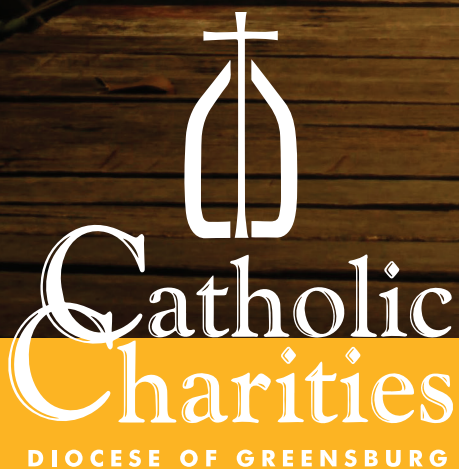




*Walking together
in faith*



2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

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WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Catholic Charities Staff

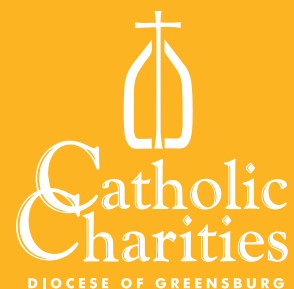
CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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.

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,

Through Catholic Charities' entire 67-year history, countless lives have been touched by the work that is being done by our staff, board, and volunteers in service of our Lord and following His command to meet the needs of the poor among us!

This year, unlike any other, and even in the midst of a pandemic, we have continued to be of service to the people in our portion of Southwestern Pennsylvania. You might be gratified to know that even when we could not see our clients in person, we were able to reach out to them with virtual counseling sessions, which are both confidential and secure. Additionally, our Information and Referral Department distributed over \$200,000 in aid to families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This significant amount of aid was made possible due to our extremely successful Heroes of Hope Guardian Angel Appeal virtual fundraising campaign, which was conducted in fall 2020 in collaboration with our Diocesan Office of Communications and Evangelization and the Information Technologies Department. This campaign, which took the place of our annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner, Golf Outing, and Purse Bash, raised over \$235,495, all of which supports our Information and Referral Department and the actual distribution of funds to those in need.

The tremendous success of this virtual effort indicates the generosity and willingness of people of good will, who historically have been more than ready to reach out and be of assistance to those less fortunate, even as they themselves battle the extremely difficult reality of living through a pandemic. You might say that this is a real life example of what Jesus asks each of us to do, to *walk together in faith*.

This year, especially, has shown us that 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. When this latest crisis finally ends, and I pray to God that it soon will, and as we assess the impact we have made, we quickly realize that we cannot rest for long. There are so many still in need!

John Rutter wrote an Advent carol titled, "Christ Is the Morning Star." In part it reads, "When He, who made all things since time began, will send His Son, to live on earth as man, and when He comes, a child on earth, the sun and stars will shine at His birth, to light a world that long in darkness lay: The Light of God, the Gift of Christmas Day. Christ is the Morning Star."



Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle was named Vicar General of the Diocese of Greensburg in February 2021. Dr. Paul Niemiec was named interim director of Catholic Charities.

It is the work of the Catholic Church and thus of Catholic Charities to be the light of Christ, which shines brightly in the darkness. To all of you who support Catholic Charities, thank you for being steadfast in your love of the work we do. Let us continue to pray for each other as we face the many challenges ahead.

Blessings,

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

Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle

MEETING BASIC NEEDS

Janet and Tom have three children. The restaurant where Janet works as a waitress closed in mid-March 2020 because of mandated pandemic-related regulations. She applied for unemployment but had to wait to be approved. Tom's hours were cut to part time in April 2020. Because their children were learning from home, their food bill had increased drastically; Janet tried to get help from a local food pantry, but it was temporarily closed. They were also struggling to pay the April rent.

Catholic Charities was able to offer the family an emergency food box and one month of rental

assistance. Janet was very grateful for the assistance, saying she appreciated that Catholic Charities could respond to her emergency needs at a critical time.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, Catholic Charities had to take action to not only ensure the well-being of staff, but also to respond to emergency and basic needs of families throughout the diocese. Initially one of the biggest needs was for emergency food. From July 1, 2019, to February 2020, 137 food boxes were given out. Requests for food boxes rose significantly

between March and June 30, 2020, when an additional 175 food boxes were given out.

Early in the pandemic, thrift stores were also closed. Target gift cards were purchased to help families with clothing. Gasoline gift cards were also purchased to help families who were unable to afford fuel for their cars.

There was a marked increase in baby pantry requests, including diapers, wipes, formula and baby clothing.

Catholic Charities continued to assist with rent, utilities and heating fuel as well.



14,651

calls handled during
fiscal year 2019-20

1,000

families helped with
utility assistance

350

families helped with
heating fuel assistance

312

emergency food
boxes distributed

HELPLINE 866-409-6455

Catholic Charities provides basic life necessities before, during and after regular business hours.

POVERTY RELIEF FUND

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.

2019-20 GRANT RECIPIENTS

ALTERNATIVES.YES

Grandfamily Program

CHRISTIAN LAYMAN CORPS

A Bed for Every
Child Program

CONNECT INC.

Welcome Home Shelter

MOTHER OF SORROWS PARISH

Food Pantry

OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH

Food 2 Go 4 Kids Ministry

MOUNT ST. PETER PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY

Poverty Relief Program

SETON HILL UNIVERSITY

Griff's Food Locker

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Utility Super Fund

WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOOD BANK

Food Distribution Program

\$483,986

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



Working in Griff's Food Locker at Seton Hill University are, from left: Lisa Carino, Annette Smiach, Meredith Weber, Autumn Lovas and Lynda Sukolsky.

VIRTUAL COUNSELING



The fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, was a challenging one for counseling. What began as “business as usual” in July 2019 changed dramatically in March 2020 with the spread of the coronavirus and the subsequent health department-mandated shutdown.

The pandemic fundamentally changed the manner in which counseling functioned. Counseling services changed to meet evolving health and social requirements, all the while following the mission of Catholic Charities and the social teachings of the Catholic Church, especially the preferential option for the poor.

The most significant change for our counseling services was the rapid implementation of virtual counseling. Consistent with the governor’s orders, the Diocese of Greensburg mandated remote work and directed that no clients be seen in our offices. With assistance from the Diocesan Information Technologies staff and the cooperation and commitment of the Catholic Charities staff, face-to-face counseling quickly transitioned to telecounseling.

Catholic Charities immediately implemented a virtual platform ensuring compliance with ethical, regulatory, and insurance requirements and waivers

and trained therapists who were new to telecounseling. In four weeks, we had a system in place to meet the emotional and behavioral health needs of the people who sought Catholic Charities’ counseling services. It felt like going from 0-60 miles per hour in about 3.7 seconds. But it worked. People were helped.

Therapists provided counseling assistance to victims of clergy abuse; some were from the Diocese of Greensburg and some had relocated here from other dioceses. A few individuals turned to us in the aftermath of abortion.

Many of these people came to Catholic Charities because our counseling is faith-based while others sought counseling because they could not afford to seek help elsewhere.

Therapists saw an increase in the ever-present issues of anxiety, depression, and family conflict, in many instances compounded by unemployment, isolation, and other coronavirus-related restrictions. This was especially so for the elderly.

The counseling population, which has been low, sank further in March and April as in-person counseling ended and telecounseling ramped up. However, by June the counseling population was back to its pre-pandemic level. Although some people chose not to participate in virtual

1,300
counseling sessions

166
patients served

60
participants in Men’s
Anger Group

counseling most accepted the change. By June many callers expected to be seen virtually and more began to ask for telecounseling.

Although therapists look forward to the day people can be welcomed safely back into our offices, the silver lining in this pandemic cloud is that telecounseling capacity is here. It’s now part of how the Church’s social ministry meets the community’s emotional and behavioral health needs. And it’s not going away.

VOLUNTEERS



6,786

hours logged by volunteers

FUNDRAISERS

Catholic Charities returned to Ligonier Country Club in August 2019 to host the 19th annual Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing. The day featured theme holes boasting ice cream, pierogies, meatballs, a TGIF refreshment hole, and a chance to snap a photo with Pope Francis at the “Pope Putt.” Golfers tried their luck at several holes offering skill prizes and a trip to the U.S. Open for the lucky individual to make a hole in one. The day ended with a meal and award ceremony in the clubhouse. Over \$12,000 was raised, and a wonderful day was had by all who attended.

The Barn at Ligonier Valley was the setting in November for the fourth annual Designer Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale. Attendees lined up early to be the first to browse the table of delicious baked goods plated on crystal and unique serving vessels. The afternoon was filled with chances to win handbags, jewelry, and accessories. A catered buffet was enjoyed by all, along with spiced apple cider, autumn sangria, and a “river of rosé” ice sculpture. The event raised over \$9,000 to help individuals in need with utilities, heating fuel, food, and baby items.

In the spring of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic left Catholic Charities unable to host the 22nd annual Communities of Salt & Light Awards Dinner. Out of an abundance of caution and care for our supporters, the decision was made to postpone the dinner until 2021. Catholic Charities plans to honor Tom and Cathy Gothie (Philanthropy), Larry Kupec (Humanitarian), and the Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity (Human Service Organization) when we can safely gather for an evening of fellowship.

Because these three events raise over \$100,000 annually we knew it was necessary to pivot and host a virtual giving campaign in order to raise funds for those in critical need of basic life necessities. The “Heroes of Hope Campaign” began to take shape in the spring of 2020 by identifying six “front-line heroes” who would be honored in the fall during a six-week virtual campaign. We are humbled by the actions of these individuals and their tireless commitment to serving others.



\$12,000

raised at Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing

\$9,000

raised at Designer Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale

HEROES OF HOPE



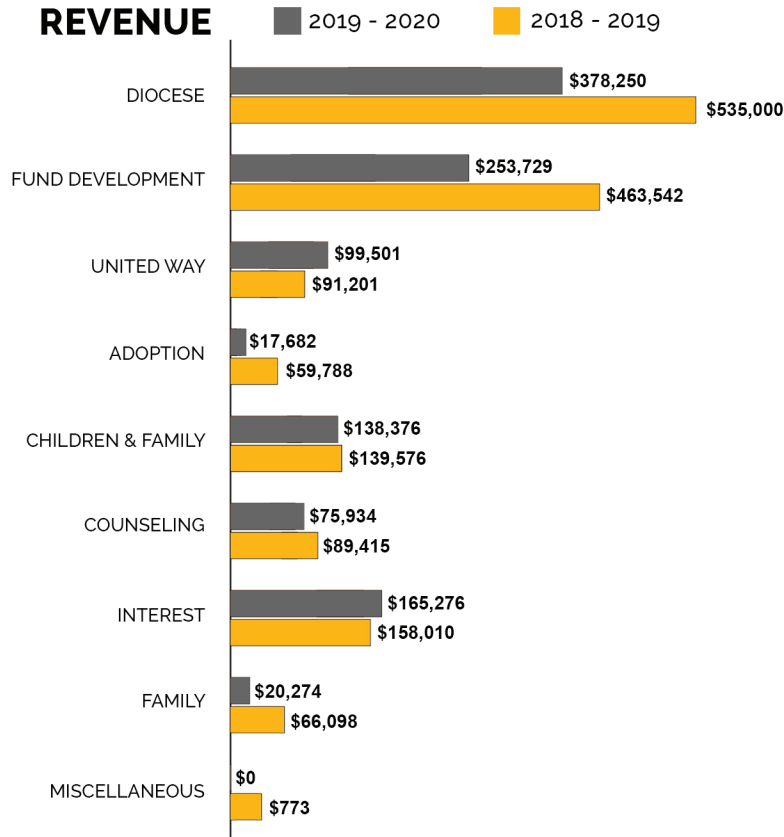
FUNDRAISERS



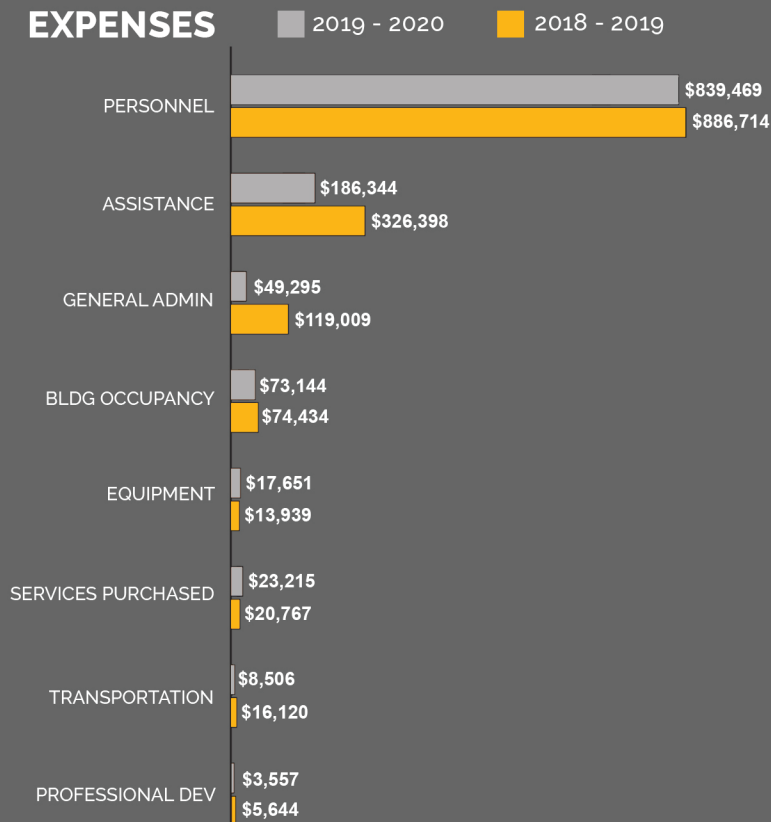
**HEROES
OF
HOPE**

FINANCIALS

REVENUE



EXPENSES



STAFF



MSGR. RAYMOND E. RIFFLE, MSW, MPA
Managing Director



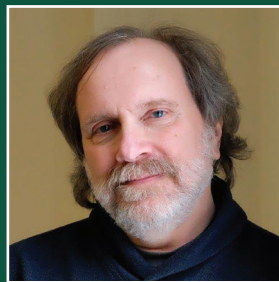
DR. PAUL NIEMIEC
Director of Counseling



HEATHER RADY
Director of Community Relations and Special Events



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



JANE SZCZYGIEL
Volunteer Coordinator



HELPLINE: 866-409-6455

2019-20 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.

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.

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.