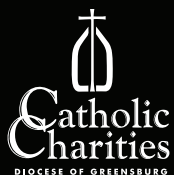




The **LOVE** of **CHRIST** urges us on

2 Corinthians 5:14



2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



INSIDE

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE	3
MEETING BASIC NEEDS/VOLUNTEERS	4
POVERTY RELIEF FUND	5
COUNSELING	6
HEROES OF HOPE	7-9
FINANCIALS	10
STAFF	11

WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
Catholic Charities Staff, Mary Seamans

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.



LIVE UNITED



INTERIM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



"For the love of Christ urges us on ..."

So wrote St. Paul to the community of Corinthians in the early first century (2 Corinthians 5:14). So also is the work of Catholic Charities inspired by our mission in this time of transition.

Catholic Charities' mission of service continued in the face of many challenges and transitions. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted all of our lives in ways unimaginable before March 2020. It drastically (and quickly) changed the manner in which we carried out our ministry as the charitable arm of the Diocese of Greensburg.

- Staff developed the capacity to work remotely. With the assistance of the Diocesan Information Technologies office, our regular activities became almost completely virtual.

- Counseling sessions, assessments and the men's anger group all changed to a virtual format. All our offices were closed to the public, yet the counseling service continued. In fact, retention improved as many people found the virtual environment both necessary and welcoming as

well as convenient. Both our staff and the people who sought assistance adapted. One hundred percent of our counseling sessions occurred via Zoom or telephone during this time. The stress of the pandemic, changes in family life and yes, deaths due to the virus were among the concerns people shared with our staff.

- Our staff continued to provide ongoing material assistance through our Information and Referral service. The need grew greatly largely due to unemployment. We provided food, rental and utility assistance throughout the year but in greater numbers because of the greater need. When our staff distributed food boxes or diapers, they were forced to meet clients outside our office rather than welcoming people indoors. So unlike what we have always done!

- Fundraising took a major hit because events needed to be cancelled or postponed. The largest event in terms of numbers and funds raised is our annual Communities of Salt and Light dinner in the spring. The April 2020 event was cancelled for the second consecutive year. Both the Paul R. Smiy Golf Outing in August 2020 and the Purse Bash in November 2020 were cancelled. All was not lost, however, due to the creative work of the Diocesan Communications Office. Working in concert with Catholic Charities' staff, the first-ever online fundraiser, the "Heroes of Hope" campaign, raised over \$200,000 for material assistance. In addition, Catholic Charities received COVID relief funds from the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania for material assistance.

- Volunteers continued to play a vital role in the ministry of Catholic Charities, primarily through the operation of the Helpline. A few volunteers also assisted with material assistance services as well.

Through the pandemic, Catholic Charities continued to operate with an interim Managing Director following the reassignment

CATHOLIC CHARITIES' MISSION OF SERVICE CONTINUED IN THE FACE OF MANY CHALLENGES AND TRANSITIONS.

of Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle, the longtime Managing Director, as the Diocesan Vicar General in February 2021. The change in leadership was temporary. A strategic planning retreat in August 2021 charted a new course for Catholic Charities, beginning with the hiring of a new, permanent Managing Director.

None of this work would be possible without the generous support of our donors and supporters, our funders, and the generous support of the Diocese of Greensburg. Thank you.

Good things and exciting times are ahead for Catholic Charities and the people of the Diocese of Greensburg. But first the charitable arm of the Diocese of Greensburg must continue to meet the ongoing challenges and demands of the pandemic. What does the future bring? How does the ministry of Catholic Charities rise up to meet the difficulties ahead? No one has the precise answer to those questions.

St. Paul observed that despite setbacks, imprisonments, beatings, fears, anxieties and even shipwrecks, he was not deterred. Instead, "... (T)he love of Christ urges us on." May the same be true of the work of Catholic Charities now and into the future.

*Dr. Paul A. Niemiec, LPC
Interim Director
Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Greensburg*

MEETING BASIC NEEDS/by the numbers

Mary and Todd have two children. They contacted Catholic Charities asking for rental assistance because Mary's work hours were decreased substantially since March 2020, when the pandemic started. Todd was able to continue working, but eventually was laid off in July 2020.

Mary was collecting partial unemployment, but Todd was told it could take up to two months for him to start collecting unemployment. They were able to pay July's rent, but needed assistance with August's rent. They also shared that they were struggling with food.

Catholic Charities was able to assist with one month's rent and an emergency food box.

At the beginning of the pandemic, there was a huge increase in the need for material assistance including clothing vouchers and gift cards, gas cards, baby closet needs, and emergency food. This was primarily

because many clients found themselves without an income, and the process to apply for unemployment and SNAP benefits was cumbersome. In addition, many food pantries were closed.

By late summer 2020, Catholic Charities saw a decrease in requests for food boxes because benefits were in place. However, at that same time the agency saw an increase in monetary assistance requests, including rent and utilities.

Even though there was an eviction moratorium in place, clients often just needed help with one month's rent to keep them caught up as they faced a month or two with no income while they waited to return to work or while waiting for unemployment to start.

We continue to work with many clients who are impacted by COVID, either missing work because they have COVID, workplaces closing or caring for others who have COVID.

14,729

calls handled by the Information and Referral team

2,409

individuals assisted with heating fuel/utilities

1,433

individuals assisted with food

781

individuals assisted with rental assistance

404

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

349

individuals assisted with clothing

338

individuals assisted with baby clothing, food, diapers and wipes

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

VOLUNTEERS

6,990

total volunteer hours put in by 12 active volunteers

523

Helpline calls handled by volunteers

183

teens assisted through the teen Christmas program



Catholic Charities has 12 active volunteers who staff the HelpLine, work in the Baby Closet and help with events.

"Volunteering at Catholic Charities has made me realize how blessed I am with my family and the importance of financial stability," says volunteer Dotty Dominick (pictured), who answers HelpLine calls.

Adds volunteer Marilyn Manion: "I think God put me on Earth to help others, and I am happy and able to do so."

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

2020-21 GRANT RECIPIENTS

CHRISTIAN LAYMAN CORPS

A Bed for Every Child Program

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL PARISH

Utility Super Fund

MOUNT ST. PETER PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY

Poverty Relief Project

WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOOD BANK

Pantry Distribution Program

CHEVY CHASE COMMUNITY CENTER

Soup Kitchen

SETON HILL UNIVERSITY

Griff's On the Go Food Locker

NEW CENTURY CAREERS

Machinist Training
Tuition Program

TRYLIFE CENTER

Parent & Baby Program

\$522,031 | AWARDED BY THE DIOCESAN
POVERTY RELIEF FUND SINCE 2009



Mount St. Peter Parish Outreach Ministry volunteers, from left: Christopher Liberto, Norma Jean Chee, Monica Pallone, Rosanne Granieri and Tom Ferrazzoli. Missing is Maria Jarrett.

Staff overcomes COVID challenges

What a challenging and different year!

All of our counseling sessions during the 2020-21 fiscal year were conducted in a virtual format. Sessions included individual, marital and family sessions as well as the men's anger group. The continuing pandemic forced us into a type of work for which few of us were trained or prepared.

A few statistics:

- There were 3.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) therapists for the year ending June 30.
- Therapists provided just shy of 1,600 individual, couple and family counseling sessions.
- The men's anger group continued to meet weekly except for holiday breaks.
- More than 170 distinct persons participated in counseling sessions.

Keep in mind that

counseling was completely virtual. Though our physical locations were closed during this year, we provided therapeutic services to everyone from anywhere in the Diocese who came to us for help.

The pandemic affected people in a variety of ways. Almost everyone was impacted in some manner. Some people experienced the deaths of family members. Many contracted the virus or were exposed to someone who tested positive. People lost jobs. Families with children experienced the stress of trying to manage remote learning. All the uncertainties about health and illness, infection rates and mitigation efforts took their toll. Consequently, we saw no letdown in the need or the requests for our counseling assistance.

What seemed to occur was that individuals who struggled with depression, anxiety, grief, family conflict or any other difficulty became additionally burdened with COVID-related health problems or concerns. The pandemic magnified already existing conditions and made them more difficult. Through it all (and continuing as of this writing) our small therapeutic staff adapted and adjusted our efforts to meet people's needs as best as we could.

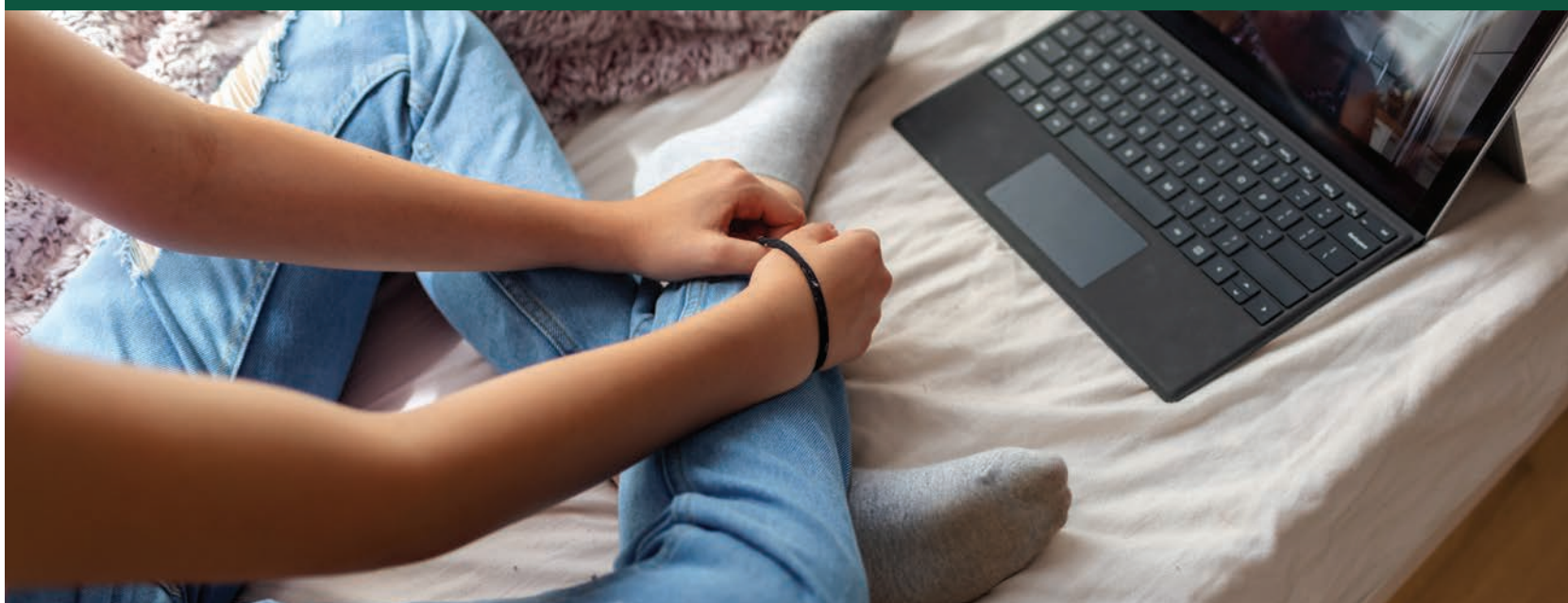
Virtual counseling improved retention. We learned that the ability to connect with people remotely — with or without a pandemic to contend with — allowed individuals to remain in counseling somewhat more consistently than face-to-face counseling. This was an unexpected result, but

1,600
counseling sessions

170
patients served

one that was very helpful for many people.

In June 2021, as the pandemic appeared to moderate (and with COVID mitigation requirements in place), staff returned to daily physical presence in our Greensburg and Indiana offices. Preparations began for opening our doors for people to resume face-to-face counseling in July 2021. Going forward, we envision resuming in-person counseling while retaining virtual counseling as an option for anyone who may choose it.





Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg’s six-week virtual fundraising campaign, the Guardian Angel Appeal, raised \$235,495 for people in need in the four counties of the Diocese. It featured Heroes of Hope who served as “guardian angels” of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.



HEROES OF HOPE

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg undertook a six-week virtual fundraising campaign that began Oct. 2, 2020, with the Guardian Angel Appeal.

Restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of Catholic Charities' three major in-person fundraisers, in an effort to prioritize the health and safety of attendees: the annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner, which raises nearly \$100,000 each year, the Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing and the Designer Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale which, together, raise over \$30,000.

"As Catholic Charities continued its work to meet the needs of the people in the four counties of the Diocese of Greensburg, support of our charitable efforts was more important than ever," Managing Director of Catholic Charities Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle said.

The mission of Catholic Charities continued with the first-ever Guardian Angel Appeal, which allowed anyone to become a Guardian Angel for those who were struggling to afford necessities such as food, utilities, water or rent.

An anonymous donor issued a challenge to match \$25,000 in donations.

The Heroes of Hope honored were people who continued donating their time and talents to support people in need during COVID-19.

Dr. Heather Walker, assistant director of emergency medicine, Excelsa Health Westmoreland, parishioner of Saint Vincent Basilica, Latrobe. Health care workers faced tremendous challenges through the pandemic, learning about the disease while simultaneously trying



to fight it. At Catholic Charities, the priority has been caring for the hearts and minds of thousands of individuals, where faith-based counseling has been a mainstay. Counselors quickly converted in-person services to virtual and tele-counseling.

Cathy Duez, treasurer, Tri-City Meals on Wheels, parishioner of Ascension Parish, Jeannette. Meals on Wheels continued during the pandemic and so did the Catholic Charities mission of providing emergency food boxes.

Jeff Peterinelli, firefighter, Greensburg VFD, parishioner of St. Bruno Parish, Greensburg, and a Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus Council 1480. Firefighters provide an immediate response to all sorts of emergencies and through God's grace are truly life savers. Catholic Charities responds to longer-range realities of disasters such as providing assistance in instances such as tornadoes and floods.

Joe Rice, principal, Aquinas Academy, parishioner of Christ the

King Parish, Leechburg. Within days of the governor's mandatory stay-at-home order, the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Greensburg were able to move to distance learning. At Catholic Charities, remote connectivity helped thousands of individuals in the Diocese of Greensburg through a 24-hour information and referral line.

Ashley Chappell, Mutual Aid, parishioner of St. Paul Parish, Greensburg. Ashley became a Guardian Angel at a young age, saving her father's life in a swimming pool accident when she was just 7. That continues with her work as an EMT, taking charge recently when a man was hurt playing softball, stopping the bleeding, until he could be taken to a hospital. Like Ashley, Catholic Charities works hard to respond to emergencies like COVID-19. Free webinars were offered to assist parents and children who were struggling with fear and anxiety during the pandemic.

Anne Kovalcik and Debbie Sorce, parishioners of Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent, for Pain into Purpose, a project through the church in which wedding gowns are repurposed for infants who are seriously ill to be baptized at the hospital. For many years, Catholic Charities has assisted organizations in repurposing clothing for infants, children and adults. But it's about more than clothes. It's about providing an uplifting experience and treating every person with dignity.

"Like everyone else, we were hindered by the restrictions put in place to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. We had to cancel three major in-person fundraisers, but we did not let that stop our work," Monsignor Riffle said.

HEROES OF HOPE/supporters and sponsors

Hero of Hope (\$5,000 and above)

- Three anonymous donations
- Bozzone Family Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gothie
- Knights of Columbus Council 1480
- Drs. Justin and Staci Sheba

Guardian Angel (\$2,500)

- Four anonymous donations
- Businesses and Individuals of the Fourth Annual Oktoberfest (First Baptist Church members Jennifer Frazier, Debbie Beer and Karen Valasek; Christ, Prince of Peace Church, Father Alan N. Polczynski, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church members George Snyder, Nancy Smith and Lia Rush; Second Baptist Church member Rose Bell; Appleby Manor Church, Bethel Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Heilman Lutheran, First Church of Ford City, Ford Memorial United Methodist Church, Cecilia Bartolovic, Ted

- Brightmyer, Robert and Tracie Brink, Family A.C.T.S., Ford City Sportsmen, Jennifer Frazier, Gross Embroidery, Janny's Hallmark, Mantini's Funeral Home, McDonald's in Kittanning, Grace Lutheran Church in Manorville, Marsha O'Neill, NexTier Bank, John Kaczor, Sheetz in Kittanning, Dilick's 5th Avenue Jewelry, Kolby Relish, Mark Stouffer, Leslie Kriley and Crooked Creek Presbyterian Church)
- Cinti ProAdjuster
- Draper Incorporated
- Loyalhanna Management Services — in memory of Michael Walker
- Dr. and Mrs. Ralph May
- Mother of Sorrows Parish
- Prism
- Seton Hill University

Community Champion (\$1,000)

- Two anonymous donations
- Dr. and Mrs. Primo Bautista
- Mr. and Mrs. George Caric
- Mr. and Mrs. Glenn P. Johnson

- Mrs. Donna Kalman
- Laurel Highlands Wealth Advisory Group of Janney Montgomery
- Mr. and Mrs. William J. McGarrity
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Myers
- The Rev. Alan N. Polczynski
- St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Paul Parish, Carbon
- Sisters of Charity, Seton Hill
- Dr. and Mrs. John C. Uccellini

Charities Supporter (\$500)

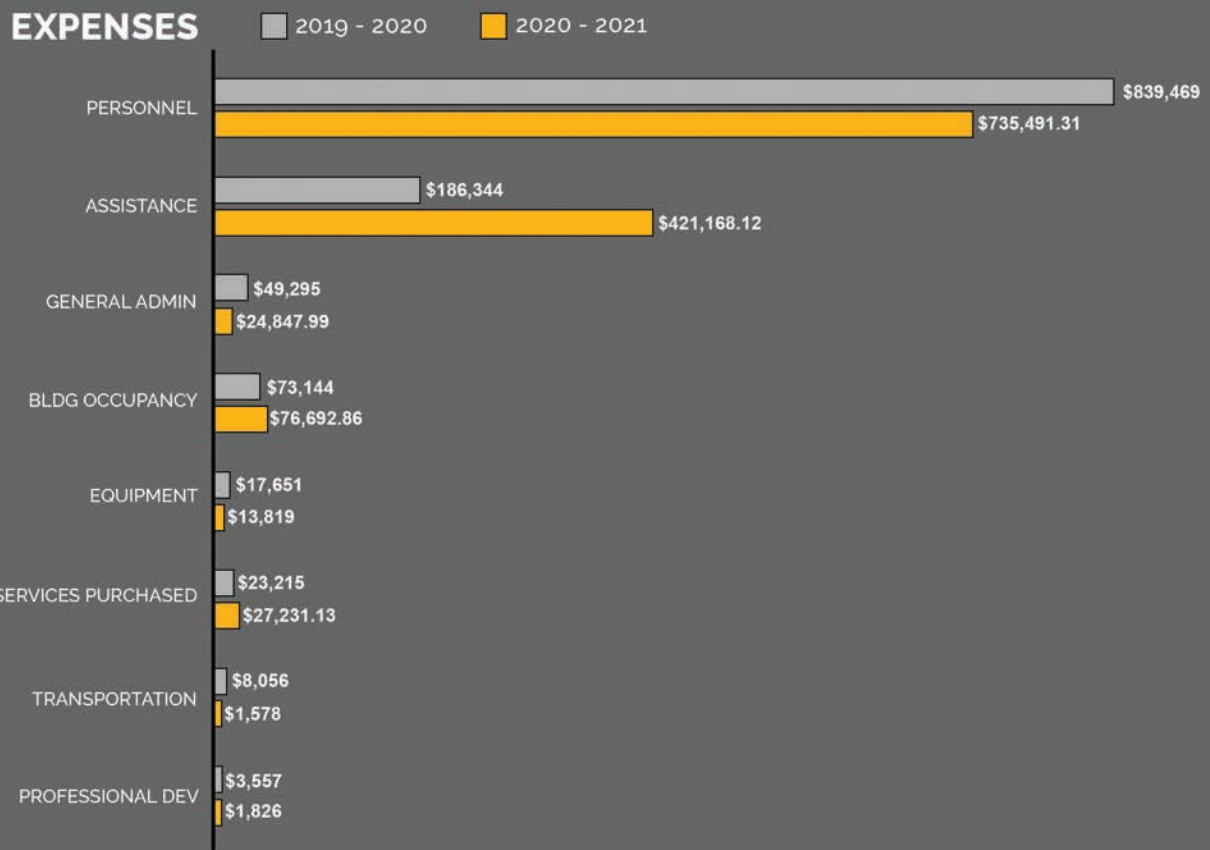
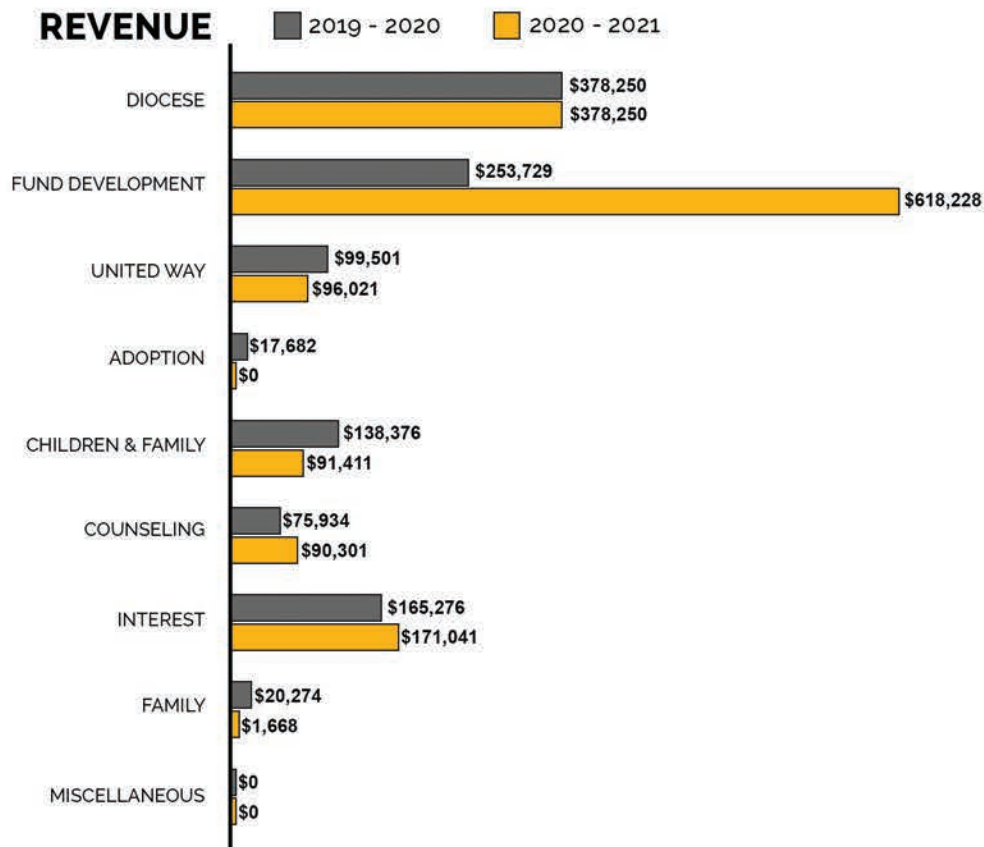
- Two anonymous donations
- Bruce and Dee Argall
- Charles and Diane Boyer
- Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Busch
- Mr. and Mrs. George A. Butler
- Casteel Family Advised Fund
- Excela Health
- Holy Family Parish, Latrobe
- Mr. and Mrs. Natale Pantalone
- Raimondo Construction, Inc.
- St. Paul Parish, Carbon
- Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Valero Jr.
- Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Alice Zaucha

Charities Protector (\$250)

- Two anonymous donations
- Leo M. Bacha Funeral Home, Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. John Dolan
- Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dominick
- Mrs. Mary Duncan
- Dr. and Mrs. Vito J. DonGiovanni
- George and Marilee Fetkovich
- Ray and June Hoehler — in memory of Ray Bologna
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Milchak
- Mrs. Patricia Music
- Mutual Aid Ambulance Service
- Dr. Paul and Mrs. Mary Niemiec
- Mrs. Patricia Policastro
- The Rev. Msgr. William Rathgeb
- Mr. and Mrs. James Sandolfini
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sobota
- Mr. and Mrs. Paul Whalen
- Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Zufelt — in memory of Teri Scurci



FINANCIALS



STAFF



DR. PAUL NIEMIEC
Interim Managing Director
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

2020-21 MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

The Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic, JCL
(July 2020-August 2020, when named Bishop of Cleveland)

The Most Rev. Larry J. Kulick, JCL, VG
(as Vicar General July 2020-September 2020; as Diocesan Administrator September 2020-February 2021; as Bishop of Greensburg February 2021-present)

The Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle (Managing Director through February 2021, when named Vicar General)

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 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 region 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)

NORTH: 724-334-4453

SOUTH: 724-929-4699

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

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.