



Strength through adversity

The healing power of God

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



About Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg

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.

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 Pennsylvania. Our organization is focused on advocacy and empowerment, providing help, hope and healing to those who need it the most.



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.



LIVE UNITED



Director's Message



The presence of God is evident in all that we do at Catholic Charities to aid the vulnerable, and faith in his healing power enables us to move forward with our efforts. As a result of the pandemic, we have had to reevaluate some of the ways in which we serve the people of the Diocese of Greensburg, but we did not and have not stopped answering the call of God to serve.

While we have reopened our doors and can assist people in person, we have maintained our virtual presence for those who welcome the option. Challenges continue to surface for many from the COVID-19 pandemic, and inflation has caused an increase in the need of our poorest community members for essential services. The continued generosity of our community's involvement and their willingness to volunteer, attend fundraising events and be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves help to strengthen and support our staff as we continue to provide essential services.

Responding to more than 1,000 client calls per month Catholic Charities makes every effort to meet

the many requests for food, baby supplies, rent and utility assistance, clothing and mental health services throughout our four-county region of Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland counties.

Entrusted to enhance our support and help more people who are less fortunate, we seek out opportunities, advocate for the less fortunate and find new approaches to resolve problems. As we strive to support the Diocese of Greensburg, we hope that you see our efforts. We have committed to four priorities named by our strategic planning committee in August 2021 to guide our efforts, communicate priorities and lead us to success:

Goal 1: Provide help, hope and healing.

Goal 2: Develop Comprehensive Communication.

Goal 3: Become a resource for new and culturally diverse parishioners in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Goal 4: Renew our focus on seniors and enable them to age in place.

Catholic Charities is committed to serving God's people as the charitable, service and outreach arm of the Bishop and the Diocese of Greensburg. It is an honor for me to contribute to the work of Catholic Charities. I am deeply grateful to a very dedicated team of staff members and volunteers, as well as to the generous financial support we receive from our donors, especially during difficult times. While adversity may be present, we draw our strength from God and continue to offer help, hope and healing to the people we serve.

— Melaney Hegyes,
Managing Director,
Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Greensburg

New Executive Director Named

In January 2022, Bishop Larry J. Kulick named Melaney Hegyes Managing Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg. Hegyes joined the Diocese after serving in several leadership positions at the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania for 14 years.

In her new role, Hegyes became the first woman to lead the charitable agency for the Diocese of Greensburg, and the first lay person to serve as Managing Director.

At United Way, Hegyes was Community Engagement Manager and then Westmoreland and Fayette Impact Director. She previously was Program Director/Site

Coordinator for Jacobs Creek Area Open Your Heart to a Senior, formerly Faith in Action.

Hegyes succeeds Dr. Paul A. Niemiec, LPC, who retired. Dr. Niemiec served as Interim Managing Director of Catholic Charities after longtime director Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle was appointed by Bishop Kulick as Vicar General for the Diocese of Greensburg in 2021.

Monsignor Riffle served as managing director of Catholic Charities from 1995 until 2021. Dr. Niemiec was the Director of Counseling Services for Catholic Charities for nearly 20 years.

Meeting Basic Needs



14,211

calls handled by the Information and Referral team

3,507

individuals assisted with heating fuel/utilities

552

individuals assisted with food

839

individuals assisted with rent

320

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

354

individuals assisted with clothing

360

individuals assisted with baby clothing, formula, diapers and wipes

Miranda contacted Catholic Charities sharing concern that her husband recently left, leaving her with their two toddlers and no means to support them. Miranda was attempting to find a job, had applied for food stamps and had signed up for WIC, but was struggling with basic needs such as diapers and food assistance. Catholic Charities assisted Miranda with diapers, baby wipes and an emergency food box to help her through until she could sign up for a food pantry. She was made

aware of other assistance offered through Catholic Charities in case she needs assistance in the future. Miranda was very grateful for the emergency assistance.

Catholic Charities continues to see an increase in requests for assistance with heating fuel, rent and utility bills. Many clients have said they are struggling to keep up with their bills because of the high price of gasoline and food. Others have fallen behind because of missed work due to illness.

Volunteers

6,940

volunteer hours put in by 13 active volunteers

613

Helpline calls handled by volunteers

175

teens assisted through the teen Christmas program

Catholic Charities has 13 active volunteers who staff the HelpLine, work in the Baby Closet and represent Catholic Charities at events.

“Volunteering in general, especially in retirement, is essential to my happiness. Volunteering specifically for Catholic Charities allows me to be of service and also follow the beliefs that are important to me. It’s a win-win!”

— Jane Szczygiel, Volunteer Coordinator



Poverty Relief Fund

distributes \$36,000 to area nonprofits in 2021-22

2021-22 Grant Recipients

CHRISTIAN LAYMAN CORPS

A Bed for Every Child Program, \$5,000

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL PARISH

Utility Super Fund, \$5,000

ALTERNATIVES.YES

Earn While You Learn, \$5,000

FEEDING THE SPIRIT

Legal Document Procurement Program, \$1,200

INDIANA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

Power Pack Program, \$5,000

CITY MISSION LIVING STONES, INC.

ASPIRE Youth Center Furnace, \$5,000

MOUNT ST. PETER PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY

Poverty Relief Project, \$5,000

WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOOD BANK

Food Pantry Distribution Program, \$5,000

During the March 2022 grant cycle, the Diocese of Greensburg distributed a total of \$36,200 to these most worthy nonprofit organizations. 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.

Coordinated by Catholic Charities, the Poverty Relief Fund has distributed \$558,231 in grants to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations. Proposals are due each Nov. 2 for review in January.

For information, visit ccharitiesgreensburg.org or contact Heather Rady at 724-837-1840.



Staff and volunteers teach pregnancy and parenting classes in the Alternative Yes Earn While You Learn program, and help sort and tag baby supplies clients earn by taking classes. From left are Donna Rutt of Mount Pleasant, Jane Ottenberg of Scottdale, Lori Kooser and Christina Richey of Connellsville and Lacey Krysak and Barb Mulich of Uniontown.

\$558,231

awarded by the Poverty Relief Fund since 2009

Counseling



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFERS:

- Family counseling**
- Couples counseling**
- Individual counseling**
- Men's Anger Group**
- Project Rachel**

Counseling Services Expanding

In an attempt to be more responsive to the needs of our communities, Catholic Charities' counseling services recently began to restructure its operations.

While those new directions are being developed and added to the services Catholic Charities provides, the needs of families, couples and individuals continue; often acceptance, a listening ear and a chance to tell one's story — and support to try out new behaviors — can help people live more satisfying, happier lives.

So while Catholic Charities begins to revise and expand counseling services, caring, professional counseling for individuals, couples and families remains available both in person and virtually. Counselors

help individuals, couples and families with a variety of difficulties, including depression, anxiety, grief, family conflict and anger issues. Most major insurances are accepted. The self-pay schedule (for those without insurance) remains in place and unchanged as of this writing. Scheduling is flexible. Appropriate referrals are available when a more intense level of care is needed.

In addition to regular counseling services, the men's anger group continues to serve the needs of individuals in need of counseling and support. The group has existed continuously for over 25 years.

Catholic Charities also continues to offer counseling, through Project Rachel, for women who have

experienced abortion. Other family members affected by an abortion also participate in the healing ministry. For more information, please see hopeafterabortion.com as well as ccharitiesgreensburg.org. Project Rachel counseling is always free of charge.

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, as well as his predecessors, likes to tell people that Catholic Charities is the "social services arm of the Diocese of Greensburg." With the support of the Diocese, and your support, the commitment to the counseling ministry will not only continue but become more responsive to individuals, couples, families, parishes and schools.

Stay tuned. And thank you for your ongoing support.

Staff Retirements



DR. PAUL NIEMIEC

For 21 years, Dr. Paul Niemiec served as Director of Counseling Services. In addition to providing counseling, he administered the counseling program while providing training for Diocesan staff on issues such as child abuse prevention and mandated reporting. He also was appointed to serve as the Diocese Victim Assistance Coordinator and consulted for the Office of Clergy Formation, Seminarian Review Board and Diaconate Formation Board. During the height of COVID-19, Dr. Niemiec served as Interim Director of Catholic Charities when former Director Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle was appointed Vicar General for the Diocese. Dr. Niemiec retired in April 2022 but serves part time as the Bishop's Liaison for Special Ministries.



SHARON GRABOWSKI

Sharon Grabowski, administrative assistant for Catholic Charities, celebrated her golden work anniversary March 20, 2022, and retired June 30, 2022. Grabowski has spent two-thirds of her life at Catholic Charities. She only worked at one other place — for one day — before coming to the Diocese at age 18.



MARY ANN NEWHOUSE

Mary Ann Newhouse retired May 25 after 26 years as Natural Family Planning/CM-BBT Professional for Catholic Charities. "I have been blessed to be able to help 500 men and women with the method and provide them with follow-up and support," Newhouse said, describing her experience as "awesome."

Fundraisers

Communities of Salt and Light Awards

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg recognized outstanding individuals or groups in the categories of humanitarian, philanthropy and outstanding human service organization at its 22nd annual Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner April 21, 2022, at Stratigos Banquet Centre, North Huntingdon. The awards dinner was in person after being postponed for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Receiving awards in 2022 were:

Humanitarian — Larry Kupec, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell



Kupec has been a volunteer at his parish for decades. Since 2011, he has served as the leader and coordinator of the parish food pantry, which provides food for more than 300 clients a month. He has led the altar server program for many years and is finishing a 50-year career

as a high school and youth sports referee. He is a lector, extraordinary minister of holy Communion and member of the parish choir.

Philanthropy — Tom and Cathy Gothie, Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg



The Gothies are generous supporters of all three major fundraisers held by Catholic Charities and are willing to help with whatever needs arise at events. Tom is the president of the Catholic Charities board. Cathy grows and donates vegetables from her garden to local food programs.

Outstanding Human Service Organization — Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity; Courtney Guerrieri, Executive Director

Central Westmoreland Habitat for



Humanity is one of 1,500 local affiliates in the United States. It partners with people in the community to help them build or

improve a place they can call home. The local affiliate was founded in 1993 and serves all of Westmoreland County south of Route 22, as well as Murrysville, Export, Delmont and Derry. It also operates a warehouse outlet in Greensburg.

All proceeds from the dinner are redistributed to the most vulnerable and at-risk residents of the Diocese in the form of temporary emergency financial assistance for food, electricity, water, sewage and heating.

This year's dinner raised \$148,191 and drew 565 attendees. To date, the event has netted \$1.27 million to help nearly 9,000 individuals and families in the four counties served by the Diocese — Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana and Westmoreland.



Fundraisers



PAUL R. SMY MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING



FARM TO TABLE DINNER



SABIKA BINGO

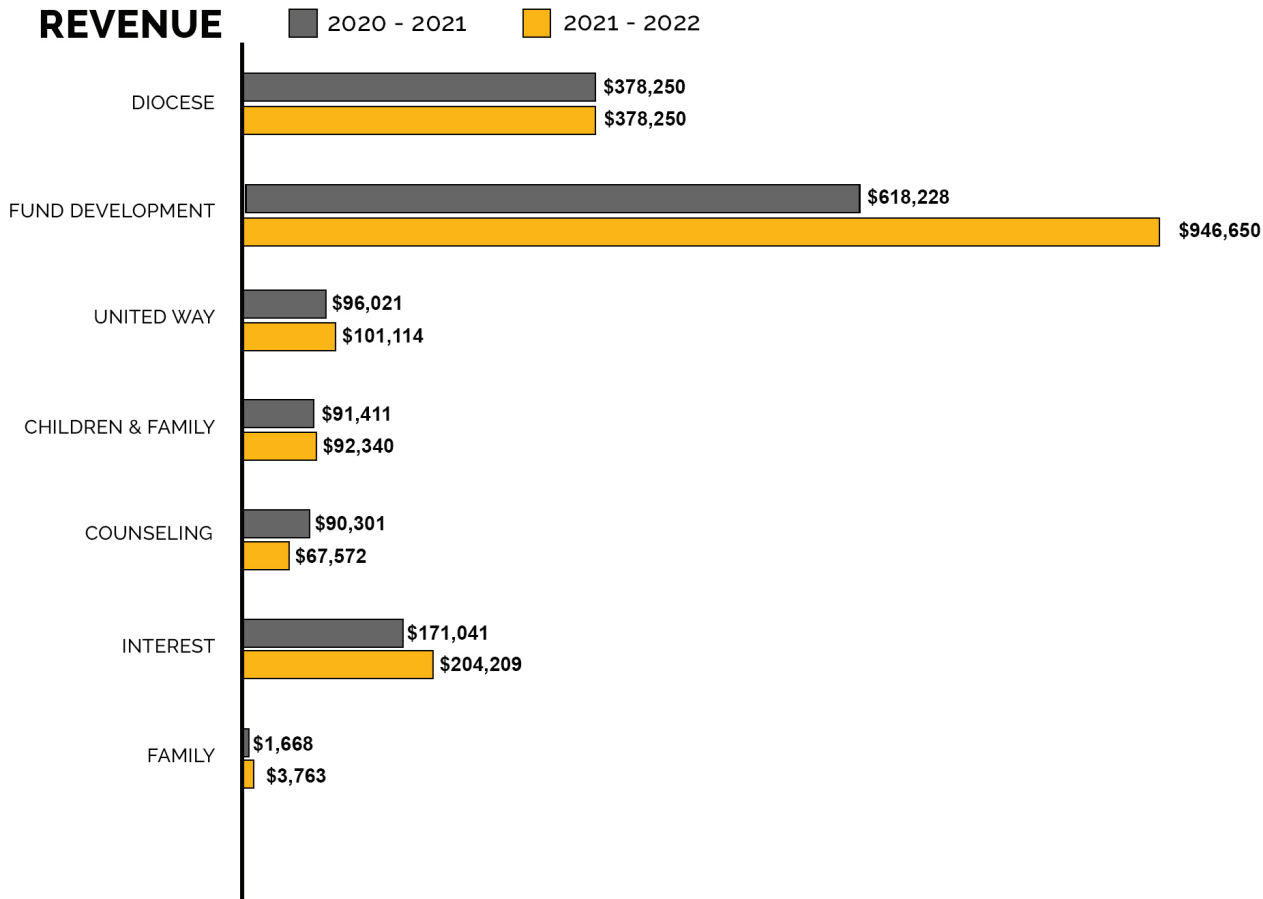
The 2021-22 fiscal year welcomed Catholic Charities' generous donors back to a variety of fundraisers in support of those who turn to us in their time of need. Catholic Charities is proud to have raised nearly \$200,000 at its three yearly major fundraisers: the Communities of Salt and Light Awards Dinner (565 in attendance), the Paul R. Smy Memorial Golf Outing (a sold-out event) and the Designer Purse Bash and Crystal Bake Sale (220 attendees). New for the year was a Sabika Bingo and Farm to Table Dinner, along with several craft workshop "fun-raisers" aimed at building good will and relationships within the community. Your support matters to the thousands of individuals served each year within our four-county diocese.



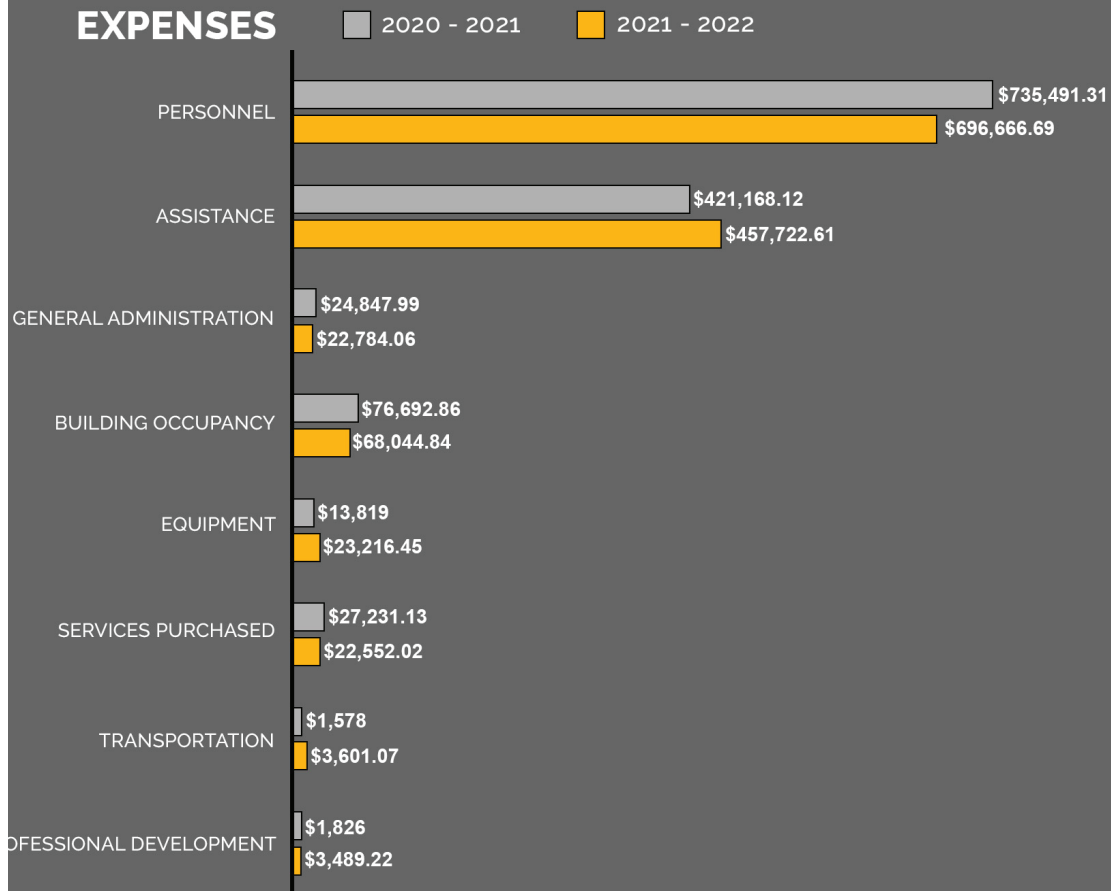
DESIGNER PURSE BASH AND CRYSTAL BAKE SALE

Financials

REVENUE



EXPENSES



STAFF



MELANEY HEGYES

Managing Director
February 2022-present



DR. PAUL NIEMIEC

Interim Managing Director
Director of Counseling



DONNA HAGAN

Director of Information
and Referral Services



HEATHER RADY

Director of Community
Relations and Special Events



ROBERT BRINKER

Therapist



MARK EIDEMILLER

Therapist



SHARON GRABOWSKI

Executive Secretary



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



JANE SZCZYGIEL

Volunteer Coordinator



HELPLINE: 866-409-6455

2021-22 MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

The Most Rev. Larry J. Kulick, JCL, VG
Bishop of Greensburg

The Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle
Vicar General

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hollie Uccellini, President
Dr. Vito DonGiovanni, Vice President
Roland "Bud" Mertz
The Rev. Matthew J. Morelli
The Rev. Alan N. Polczynski
Kristen Hughes-Marhefka, Secretary

David Kent, Treasurer
Amber Blair
Mary Blythe
George Butler
Roy Draper
Marie Dillion Griffith

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

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.

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.