



The Advocate

A NEWSLETTER OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SCHOHARIE COUNTY

Spring 2011

Budgets and Priorities

Budgets, budgets, budgets! Everywhere we turn, there is talk about budgets! The federal budget battles worry many Americans with cuts to important programs. At the same time we hear about record deficits and our ears tingle when we hear the “t” word—that means trillion!

In New York State, our new governor has proposed his own budget that cuts more than \$10 billion. While everyone is in agreement that we can’t spend what we don’t have, the true impact of budget cuts is in the effect it has on real people. From the vantage point of Catholic Charities, our concern is how the budget cuts will effect the people who are struggling to maintain a minimal lifestyle such as food on the table, and a safe place to live.



Every day, Catholic Charities staff is at work among the most vulnerable in society, the poor, the unemployed, the disabled and homeless. Every day, Catholic Charities staff sees how program cuts directly impacts a family that is treading water and in danger of sinking.

Governments have a responsibility to be wise stewards of taxpayer funds. Roads and bridges need to be repaired, schools and facilities need teachers and administrators to perform their missions well. Budgets require prioritizations and thoughtful care.

At the core of any budget are a set of values that are the building blocks of a just society and they have a lasting impact. Our American social values are inflamed when we hear of international protests that are met with military suppression and blood shed. Americans believe in freedom of speech and the right to protest injustice. We also believe that every person possesses basic rights and that the government has a responsibility to ensure that these rights are preserved.

In biblical times, the prophets agitated rulers with a consistent message about justice. A just society is measured by its care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger. Today the widow, orphan and stranger are the poor and disabled, those escaping domestic violence situations and victims of crime, the homeless, the grandparents who are raising their grandchildren on a fixed income, the mentally impaired and so many others who need the support of a caring society. As the New York State Constitution (Art. 17) states so succinctly, the “aid, care and support of the needy are public concern and shall be provided by the state.” Let us continue to remind our elected officials that they need to be fiscally responsible **and** preserve our most important values for everyone, especially the poor.

Tim Mulligan
Executive Director

CLIENTS SERVED IN 2010

2,432 people came through our door here at

Catholic Charities

- 36 People served in our Domestic Violence Residential Program
- 144 People served in our Domestic Violence Non-residential Program
- 99 People served in our Kinship Caregiver Program
- 60 People served in our Crime Victims Assistance Program
- 1,274 People served in our Food Pantry Program
- 240 People served in our Extra Helpings Food Program
- 221 People served in our Community Service Restitution Program
- 252 People served in our Emergency Assistance Program
- 106 People served in our Counseling Program



An agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany

Thank you!



(L-R) Tim Mulligan, Elene Berard-Johnstone, Maria Bullock, Diane Szabo

Elene is holding an award for 10 years of dedicated service to Catholic Charities. Maria (19 years) and Diane (13 years) hold awards recognizing their years of service as they retire from Catholic Charities in December 2010. Catholic Charities is proud of the long-standing service and commitment from our outstanding staff.

Thrift Shop Makeover!

The Catholic Charities
Thrift Shop
will close temporarily
from
March 21 through June 30.

Join us when we reopen
our doors in July!

Help Support Catholic Charities!!

Name _____

Address _____

Please accept my gift of \$_____ to help provide vital services to our neighbors in Schoharie County

Make checks payable to:

Catholic Charities of Schoharie County

489 West Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043



Grateful

So I'm 63 and retiring from Catholic Charities— no one is more astonished by that fact than I—mostly the 63 part. I'm hearing Judy Collins song in my head a lot these days—"...who knows where the time goes."

In the 19 years since I walked through the door at (the then) Family and Community Services, I've met so many wonderful people—counselees, service providers and friends disguised as co-workers. Here's the thing: you've changed me, especially my counselees. You know who you are!

Thank you for the privilege of getting to know you. My life is better because of each and every one of you. Thank you for the referrals and thank you for trusting me with your family members. I love you all.

And for my friends, there are no words to describe how really crazy you all are. I'm so grateful for that.

To quote Elton John..."how wonderful life is while you're in the world." Thank you to everyone and take care.

Maria Bullock



Toni Joslin organizing the Thanksgiving food baskets. In 2010, we served more than 560 individuals with a turkey and all the fixins.

2011

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The Counseling Center at Catholic Charities

In 2011, Catholic Charities welcomed new staff to the counseling program. The counseling program will continue to serve adults, couples, families, and children.

Tara McDonald is a part-time therapist who specializes in work with adolescents, adults, and domestic violence. Tara currently works full time with the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Bonnie Post is the part-time counseling supervisor. She is currently coordinator of Schoharie County Chemical Dependency Clinic where she has worked since 1987. Bonnie has been a resident of Schoharie County since 1981. She has worked as a Youth Employment Counselor for a Summer Employment Program, a Home Based Visitor for Head Start and even served as a Probation Officer.

Beth Cash is a part-time therapist who specializes in children, adolescents, and marriage counseling. Beth is a teacher in the Cobleskill-Richmondville School District and is very involved with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and her church.

Sarah Keenan is a part-time creative arts therapist with a focus on art therapy. Sarah has worked with children in residential settings, outpatient programs, and in classrooms. Trained to facilitate creative expression in therapeutic settings, Sarah uses art to enhance self-esteem, alleviate stressors, and strengthen academic engagement. She has also worked with adults in inpatient psychiatry and in long-term nursing facilities.

Kathleen Reinhart is a part-time therapist specializing in domestic violence, veterans, and relationship issues. Kathleen has been employed at Catholic Charities for 12 years as a Domestic Violence Safe House Worker and as the Coordinator of the Community Service Restitution Program.