



The Advocate

A NEWSLETTER OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SCHOHARIE COUNTY

Summer 2009

A Message from the Executive Director

Tim Mulligan

It was 5 minutes until closing on a summer Friday evening and the staff at Catholic Charities was ready to start the weekend. We were turning off our lights and computers, when suddenly we heard the front door. It was a young man and his pregnant wife. The couple looked tired and worn out and clearly needing help. We put aside our desire to beat the evening traffic and sat with them as they began to tell their story. The details were unique but so very familiar, too. Joblessness, homelessness, and economic instability are the common threads that weave through so many stories we hear. Ron and his wife Lisa were heading to jobs in Maine with hopes that they could finally live without fear of tomorrow.

At Catholic Charities, we realize that compassion and care become real at inconvenient times. Ron and Lisa came to our door with needs that don't always fit nicely into a 9-5 office schedule. Our mission statement reminds us that the work of justice is not a job but a mission. This means that we will respond to all persons regardless of race, creed, or lifestyle, with special emphasis on the economically poor and the vulnerable.

Last Sunday at Mass, I found myself thinking about Jesus' ministry and that of Catholic Charities. Jesus was often tending to the needs of the people at inconvenient times. Whether it was multiplying loaves and fishes at the end of a long day, or arriving at a place for much needed rest only to be greeted by throngs of people, one thing is clear. Caring for the needs of others is demanding work that pushes any of us to our limits. Yet when we are willing to pay the cost of caring, we can truly make a difference in the lives of others. It is our goal to welcome every person with dignity and respect whether it is convenient or inconvenient.

One thing I am most proud of at Catholic Charities is our outstanding staff. I watch the way they welcome the stranger, console the sorrowing, build up the broken, and support those who are in need. Our domestic violence staff is always ready, day or night, to help a woman and her children to find safety. Our legal advocates spend countless hours in courtrooms making sure that the voiceless have a voice in a court system that can be intimidating and confusing. All of our staff are ready to do what needs to be done in order to help people like Ron and Lisa. They show me day after day what it means to put the needs of others first and care for others in the inconvenient times. Catholic Charities will continue to open our doors to Ron and Lisa and countless other families and individuals who need what we can give.



Above L-R: Tim Mulligan and Lee Hartjen

Below L-R: Meg Cooke, Barbara Russell and Tim Mulligan

Wine and Cheese

On June 24, attorneys and legal professionals attended a wine and cheese social at Catholic Charities. The event helped to familiarize the legal community of our services including crime victim advocacy, legal advocacy for victims of domestic violence and community service restitution.



**MORE MORE MORE MORE
MORE MORE MORE MORE
MORE MORE MORE MORE
MORE MORE MORE**

AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES
THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM
FOR ONE **MORE**



An agency of Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Albany

Catholic Charities

10th Annual
Golf Outing
August 10, 2009



THINK GREEN(s)!

COBLESKILL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

LUNCH, DINNER, PRIZES,
AND GOLF BALLS DROPPING
OUT OF THE SKY!

JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY

CALL TONI TO SIGN UP YOUR FOURSOME TODAY!

518-234-3581



Feeding the Hungry

In the United States of America, we think of hunger as a third world issue. But anyone who understands soup kitchens, food banks and food pantries knows that hunger is never far away. It might be around the corner or even closer than that. Right here in our own community, neighbors are hungry and they will skip meals when the money runs out. More and more families are finding themselves unable to provide food at the end of each month. "There are more people coming to the food pantry today for the first time than recurring clients," says Marty Blankowitz, Office Facilitator and Food Pantry worker. Marty and Toni Joslin form a team that runs the Food Pantry and Extra Helpings Food program at Catholic Charities. Today, they are seeing more elderly, more new families and more unemployed than ever before.

Schoharie County is especially efficient in helping the hungry because of an effective network of food pantries. Each of these pantries coordinates its schedule so that people in need can find help Monday-Friday. First Baptist Church, SCCAP and Catholic Charities provide the largest volume of food pantries but churches and other agencies provide vital sites throughout the county that provide availability and access.

On Mondays and Fridays, Toni and Marty spend their day preparing baskets of food for families in need. They listen to stories of hardships and

struggles. Sometimes we can point them toward services to help with these problems, and sometimes we provide a shoulder to cry on. But in the end, we can always provide food to feed a family for several days.

The Food Pantry at Catholic Charities is supported by the Regional Food Bank of New York and donations from our friends and donors. Non perishable donations such as cereal, powdered milk, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and spaghetti sauce allow us to feed hundreds of people with nutritious long-lasting food items. Families in crisis situations are always grateful for the help.

Last week 13 year old Lizz Whitney from

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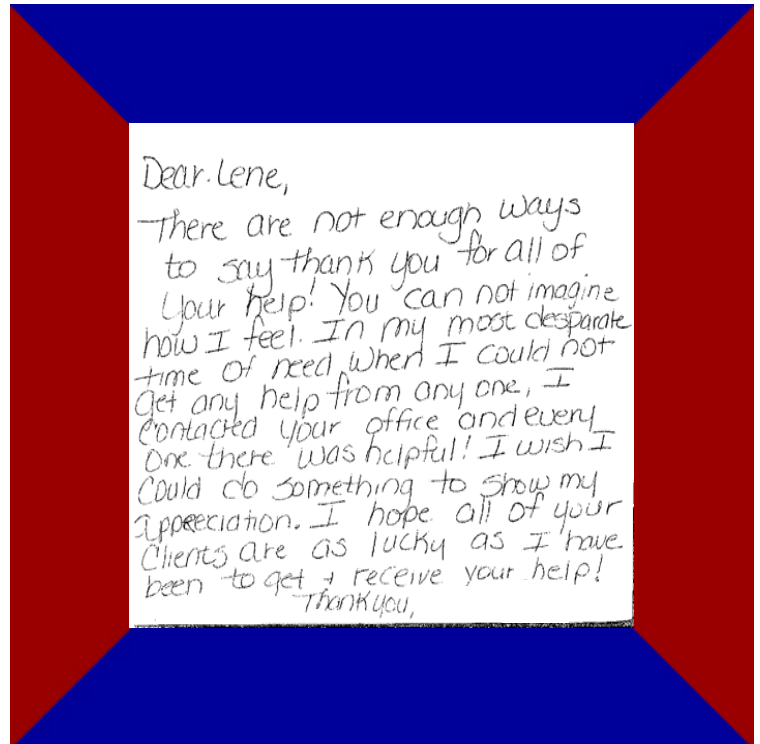
Annual Dinner

On June 1, 2009, the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities held its 10th Annual Dinner. Larry Joyce entertained crowds with memories, a trivia quiz and some great prizes. The evening was a celebration of service to the people of Schoharie County. Thank you to all of our friends and supporters.



Feeding the Hungry *continued from page 2*

Cobleskill came to Catholic Charities with her parents and presented several baskets of food. Lizz told us that for her birthday party this year, she asked all her friends to bring items for the food pantry instead of gifts. It is this kind of mindfulness that makes a difference in the lives of the poor and struggling people. Thanks, Lizz, for your example.



Elene "Lene" Berard-Johnstone has been advocating for victims of crime for more than 8 years.

Be a Partner ...Join a Mission to Serve

GOAL: 200 Partners \$15,000.00
CURRENTLY: 58 Partners \$4,970.00



Partnership - A relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility, as for the achievement of a specified goal.

Our Goal is 200 partners. Become a partner today!

2009 PARTNERSHIP DRIVE

To help my neighbors who are facing difficult times,
I am making a donation of \$_____.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____



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E-mail comments to:
services@catholiccharitiesofschoharieco.org



**Catholic Charities of Schoharie County is
pleased to welcome new members
to the Board of Directors**

Michele Finin
Martha Harvey Lucear
Rachael Rys
Georgia Van Dyke
Sr. Connie James

**2009
Officers**

Mary Tillapaugh
President
Susan Cimino-Cary
Vice President
Rev. Steffen Zehrhuhs
Treasurer
Marlene Towne
Secretary

WELCOME

Serving Schoharie County in 2009
From January through June, we served:

Community Service Restitution	65 people served for 2,975 hours
Crime Victims Advocacy	49 people served
Counseling	67 people served with 328 hours of therapy
Extra Helpings	275 people with 411 orders of food
Emergency Assistance	61 people with \$2,437.26
Domestic Violence Shelter	27 people served with 847 bed nights
Domestic Violence	27 people served with 678 counseling services
Legal Advocacy	60 people served with 2438 consultations
Food Pantry	296 people with 109 baskets