

**Programs &
Services**

Substance Abuse
Prevention Education in Schools
And Communities

Women, Infants, Children (WIC)
Nutrition Education

Emergency Assistance
With Food Pantries
in Hudson and Catskill

Court Ordered
Supervised Visitation

Application Assistance for Food
Benefits through the Nutrition
Outreach Education Program

Parent Education
& Mentoring

Correctional Facility
Hospitality Centers

Diocesan Wide- In our Counties
Senior and Caregiver Support
AIDS Services

Health Home Care Coordination
Disabilities Services
Disaster Relief

Board of Directors

Michael Pirrone
President

Wayne Jones
Vice President

Mary Ann Patsky
Treasurer

Karen Frishkoff
Secretary

Denise Barry
James Cashen

Tim O'Leary
Shari Tessitore

Executive Director

Theresa Lux



Spring 2017

Happy Birthday Catholic Charities



Pictured from left to right: Former Board President Hank Digeser, Current Board President Michael Pirrone, Former Board President Ellen De Lucia, Former Executive Director Tom Gillespie, and Current Executive Director Theresa Lux. Ms. Lux presented four Centennial Medallions on May 7th. Also receiving the award, not pictured, were Jim Cashen and Chris and Mary Jo Gibson

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany is celebrating our Centennial this year. Catholic Charities was established by a Special Act of NYS Legislature in 1917. Initial work centered on welcoming orphans and assisting families with adoption. Over the years, services expanded from the initial foundation in the Capital District to services in all 14 counties of the Diocese. In the early years the Bishop assigned priests to serve as leaders of Catholic Charities. Sr. Serena Branson, a Daughter of Charity, served as the Executive Director from 1974-1990. She was the first woman to lead a Catholic Charities organization in the country. During her tenure, she expanded services by establishing agencies in Saratoga, Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie, Columbia, Warren, Delaware, Herkimer, Greene, Fulton and Washington counties.

In 1990, Sr. Maureen Joyce, a Sister of Mercy, who had established Catholic Charities Community Services, became the Chief Executive Officer and served until her death in 2010. Her vision for social and economic justice was inspirational and her support for the poor and vulnerable was unwavering and passionate. Relationships to foster education with elected officials and a focus on justicecontinued page 2

Birthday *continued*:

as well as charity were hallmarks of Sr. Maureen's leadership.

Following Sr. Maureen's death, a team led by Sr. Charla Commins, a Sister of St. Joseph, assumed leadership until Vincent W. Colonno was named CEO in 2011. Vince has worked to streamline human and community services and works towards economy of scale in reaching our neighbors in need. To celebrate our first 100 years and in recognition that our work is not completed in isolation but rather is enhanced through the efforts of those in the community, Centennial Medallions will be awarded to acknowledge the contribution of 100 individuals, couples, and groups throughout the 14 counties. Four medallions were presented at the first of many ceremonies held on May 7th during the Music in the Hollow event which also doubled as the 40th Anniversary celebration for Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties.

Based upon a needs assessment which found high rates of teen pregnancy, suicide, and child abuse our doors and programming opened in September 1977. The first Columbia County offices were in Valatie and Bliss Towers in Hudson and in Greene County the office was a storefront on Main Street in Cairo. Catholic Family and Community Services' (our original name) initial programs were emergency assistance and family counseling which included a 24 hour crisis hotline. Over time, programs expanded to further carry out the mission of Catholic Charities. The family counseling program was unique in that it included an outreach component where home visits were made to those families unable to come to the office for services. Visitation to isolated elderly and working with families in their homes were ways that the Organization was able to meet the needs of the community then and now. Along with the expansion of services, the physical needs of the Agency began to increase as well. From 1978 to 2003 the Columbia County office moved 3 times and the Greene County office moved twice. Some of the Columbia County office locations included, the Brennan gatehouse in Kinderhook, River Street in Valatie, Route 9 in Valatie with programs operating out of an office on Warren Street in Hudson, and finally the



building we presently occupy at 431 East Allen Street, Hudson. Catholic Family and Community Services in Greene County moved from Cairo to Jefferson Heights in Catskill in the late 1990s. This afforded the Agency to be more accessible to clients. In 2003 we moved to 82 Woodland Avenue, Catskill. July 2015, the agency moved to its present location, the Father Murphy Center at 66 William Street, Catskill.

The Agency continued to grow, as did the needs of the families throughout both counties. In 1996, the Columbia and Greene offices united to form Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties. The organization has weathered many changes but has always remained focused on fulfilling the mission of Catholic Charities. Today under the guidance of Catholic Charities Diocese of Albany CEO Vince Colonno, the direction of Executive Director Theresa Lux, with the commitment of the Board of Directors, the passions and skills of staff and volunteers and the support of community partners, Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties is a major provider of services in the two county area and an advocate for the poor and vulnerable. It is with dedication and honor that we serve, empower and advocate for persons in need regardless of race, creed, and lifestyle.

Congratulations to our Medallion recipients and thank you for your meritorious service.

Feeding The Hungry

In 1991, Catholic Charities began an emergency food program in Columbia County. As the years passed, utilization of emergency food services slowly increased. Since 2008, the economy has continued to spiral downward and individuals, families and seniors have come to rely on food from our Hudson pantry as a necessity to make it through each month. During this time, services at Catholic Charities' Greene County Office began to grow as well, and in 2015 the Agency moved to a larger location at 66 William Street, Catskill, New York.

With much experience meeting the need for emergency food services in Columbia County, Catholic Charities decided to open a food pantry in Catskill to help combat this need in Greene County. With help from a grant from Catholic Charities USA and additional funding from Fidelis the food pantry open to the public in March 2016. Unlike our Columbia County pantry which operates a Client Choice system where participants choose their items from a shopping list, the Greene County pantry allows the individual to physically shop and pull desired items from the shelves themselves. In January 2017, the Catskill

Food Pantry was approved for membership to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. This membership will allow the Agency to not only purchase food at lower prices from the Food Bank, but also opens up eligibility to apply for grants and funding through the US Department of Health for 2017-2018. Fidelis Care has generously provided funding last year and this year to support the pantry as well. Pantry Hours are; **Hudson: Monday 9-12, Wednesday 4:30-6:30 & Thursday 1-4** and **Catskill, Tuesday 9-12**. Both sites are available for walk-in emergency food services any time during regular business hours.



A pantry volunteer for 5 years, Karl Vehlies was recognized for his service and dedication at the Catholic Charities Annual Dinner on May 9th.

Investing In Neighbors and Neighborhoods Through Disaster Relief

Many remember all too well the devastation of Hurricane Irene as it tore through our counties. Catholic Charities was there to assist those impacted right in our own backyard. Our skill and knowledge at that time period was aided by the experiences of others in the Catholic Charities system that have helped in other disasters around the country. When Hurricane Matthew struck North Carolina, help was needed and Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties was proud to send a staff person to assist. Michael Wheeler was part of a five person deployment team sent and supplemented from the



Investing In Your Neighbors

Donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law as we are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Checks and money orders may be mailed to: Catholic Charities of Columbia & Greene Counties, 431 East Allen Street, Hudson, NY, 12534

More ways to be a part of our mission can be found on our website including donations via credit cards:

www.catholiccharitiescg.org

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany. He met with those impacted face to face and worked with them on returning to a "new normal." For some it meant distributing immediately needed items such as food, cleaning supplies, and clothing. For others, it was helping them towards meeting long term goals including permanent housing. Each person had their own story, but the message was the same: in their time of need, people look towards Catholic Charities to help.



HUDSON OFFICE
 431 EAST ALLEN STREET
 HUDSON, NY 12534
 Phone: 518-828-8660
 Fax: 518-828-4016

CATSKILL OFFICE
 66 WILLIAM STREET
 CATSKILL, NY 12414
 Phone: 518-943-1462
 Fax: 518-943-9054

www.catholiccharitiescg.org
www.ccrda.org



Please share at info@cathcharcg.org if you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.



NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 22



Please join us as we celebrate 100 years of Caring Beyond Belief at Catholic Charities' Night at the Museum!

Honoring the Revered Rev. John J. Bradley & the Ladies of Charity

Silent Auction, Italian Getaway Raffle, Carousel Rides, Giving Tree, Gourmet Cuisine Stations, Beer & Wine

Medallion Presentations

Visit www.ccrda.org/nam or call 518-453-6650 for tickets. Tickets: \$125 each; or \$75 for Young Professionals (Age 40 & under)

Mark Your Calendars, Gather Your Friends, Prepare Your Appetite

Dining Out for Others will be returning each Wednesday in November for the fifth year. Supporting local restaurants and raising funds for the winter months' emergency assistance needs when food income is limited due to heating needs. Local restaurants donate a portion of the evening's proceed to Catholic Charities, nothing is added to your bill as you enjoy delicious food knowing you are helping others have food for their families. Local businesses join in the effort with sponsorship in the program booklet, listing participating restaurants, distributed throughout Greene and Columbia Counties in October.



Schedule a family night out, gather with neighbors, or move the monthly meeting to a participating restaurant; there are many reasons to dine out in November and helping those less fortunate is one of the best reasons.

If you are a local business or restaurant interested in participating this year, please contact our Hudson office at 518-828-8660 for more information.



Pegasus was one of fourteen restaurants participating in 2016, with choices on both sides of the river.