

Programs & Services

- Emergency Assistance
- Facilitated Supervised Visitation*
- Food Pantry
- Kinship Caregiving*
- Nutrition Outreach
- Education Program (NOEP)
 - Parent Education & Mentoring*
 - Substance Abuse Prevention Education
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*
- Diocesan Wide-In our Counties*
 - Caregiver Support
 - AIDS Services*
 - Care Coordination
 - Disabilities Services*
 - Disaster Relief

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New Look..... Same Mission



We are pleased to present our new logo! Beginning in September 2012, the entire system of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany began the incredible process of strategic planning to proactively plot the future of services in response to current and emerging needs. One of the first realizations was the lack of unity in visual representation of agencies but the strength in connectedness we share in carrying out our mission. With our new logo, located at the top of the page, we have the same look as our sister agencies while maintaining our individuality that defines our service and geographic population. All of the agencies within the 14 counties served by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany will be transitioning to the new logo throughout the rest of the year. As part of our process, we will be phasing out the old logo and introducing the new logo on our website, letterhead, and brochures. (continued on page 3)

Staying Ahead of Prescription Drug Abuse

In the summer of 2012, numerous agencies, service providers, health care providers, professionals and community members formed the Columbia-Greene Controlled Substance Awareness



Task Force (CGCSATF). The goal of this group is to increase the awareness of controlled substance abuse thus decreasing misuse and abuse. The CGCSATF developed two workgroups under their guise; The Practice Guidelines Workgroup and The Prevention Workgroup. The Practice Guidelines Workgroup considers the role that providers, practitioners and others may play in curtailing the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs by identifying and sharing best practices. The Prevention Workgroup focuses its efforts on increasing awareness of the misuse and abuse of controlled substances through education and collaboration.

In September 2013 Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties received the Health Living Grant sponsored by the (continued on page 2)



Staying Ahead continued.....AMA Foundation. The purpose of the grant was to focus on increasing the education and awareness of the dangers of misuse and abuse of controlled substances. In collaboration with The Prevention Workgroup and Twin County Recovery Services a plan was developed and set into motion to carry out an education and awareness campaign throughout Columbia and Greene Counties. Catholic Charities' Prevention Educators developed an easy to use School Tool Kit which was shared by each of the counties' Substance Abuse Prevention Educators to all twelve of our local school districts. This Kit included information for parents, children and schools along with specific ideas and lesson plans which schools could use and incorporate into their existing curriculum. Additionally schools were encouraged to designate the week of April 7th, 2013, Prescription Drug Awareness Week and participate in an awareness campaign poster contest. The response to the Tool Kits was very positive and many schools did not hesitate to follow through with many of the strategies included in the Kit. Well over 100 entries were submitted for the poster contest displaying messages from our youth on making healthy choices and how to stay safe. All entries were displayed and winners were announced on June 11th at the Columbia-Greene Community College Arts Center Theater where internationally known guest speaker Michael Nerney spoke to an audience from both counties including residents from ten local school districts. Winning posters will be transformed into billboards, posters and printed cards to continue the awareness campaign into the community.

It is our hope that by sustaining this awareness campaign through use of the posters as advertisements and continued community education, the prescription drug abuse epidemic that is plaguing our community will end.

Investing In Your Neighbors

Donating to Catholic Charities is an investment in your local community as the funds are used to promote self sufficiency of individuals and families. 100% of your donation stays local with eighty-eight cents towards direct services *regardless of race, creed/religion, or lifestyle* with special emphasis on the poor and most vulnerable.

Donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law as we are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Any denomination of funds helps Catholic Charities to carry out our mission, thank you. Checks and money orders may be mailed to:

Catholic Charities of Columbia & Greene Counties, 431 East Allen Street, Hudson, NY, 12534
Please contact our office at 518-828-8660 to make a donation via credit card or planned giving.

The Gold Standard

As a member of the Columbia Greene Breastfeeding Coalition, we advocate for breastfeeding as the natural way to feed a baby, that breast milk is the “gold standard” in nutrition for infants. Peer Breastfeeding Counselors are part of the WIC program linking newly nursing moms with an experienced and trained breastfeeding mom to provide regular contact to answer questions and to provide encouragement. Once a month WIC holds a “Baby Shower” for soon to be moms to enjoy the company of each other, meet the peers, and to be provided some education. World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every August 1st - 7th. As part of the

activities this year the Coalition is working with local businesses and organizations to demonstrate a breastfeeding friendly environment. Window

clings that can be placed for public

viewing will be distributed throughout Columbia and Greene Counties in advance of the week with the hopes they will be in place year round. Please contact our office for your sticker to proudly display.



New Look continued.... The breath of programs operated by Catholic Charities is deep as each agency tailors programs to meet local needs. Many times these needs cross boundary lines such as the need for food and shelter, parenting education, or health services while other needs are centered in one or two locations. A list of each program for every agency would be quite lengthy yet it is important to have action words to describe how our mission is carried out. We can summarize all of the programs of Catholic Charities into one or more of these five areas of service:

Responding to Those in Crisis

Providing Basic Needs

Supporting and Protecting the Vulnerable

Strengthening Families and the Community

Empowering Individuals



Located on the front cover are the specific programs of Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties and the Diocesan wide programs offered within our counties. As you can see, our programs touch upon each one of the service areas listed above. A full description of our of programs and a brochure listing and locating programs within Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany is available to be mailed, please contact our office and we will be happy to fill the request.



SNAP! Thanks to the award of a four year contract from Hunger Solutions NY, our Nutrition Outreach Education Program Coordinators in Columbia and Greene Counties will continue to assist individuals and families with applying for SNAP (formerly known as food stamps).



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www.catholiccharitiescg.org
www.ccrda.org



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

SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday Nights in November 2014

For our 2nd annual

“DINING OUT FOR OTHERS”

Wednesday nights in November (November 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th) we will be partnering once again with local restaurants who have graciously agreed to donate a portion of funds from the evening’s earnings to Catholic Charities in support of eliminating hunger through the Emergency Assistance and Food Pantry programs. Last year’s restaurants included:

Jackson’s Old Chatham House

La Conca D’oro

Vanderbilt House

Pegasus

Blue Plate Restaurant

Quarry Steak House

Local 111

In October, this year’s even longer listing of participating restaurants will be posted on our website: www.catholiccharitiescg.org.