



Summer 2012

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)
- Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood (GHPN)
- Caregiver Support
- AIDS Services
- Disabilities Services
- Disaster Relief

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Families Of All Shapes And Sizes

Across all generations and cultural diversity, grandparents, aunts and

uncles, and extended family members, have come forward to raise children whose parents are unable to do so at this time. This act of love is known as Kinship Care. This kind of care helps protect the children and assists in keeping families together. If children cannot stay safely with their parents, other friends and family members can provide a secure and safe environment for these children, as well as helping to maintain their cultural diversity. If not for these Kinship Family members choosing to raise these children, they would most likely end up living in a house with strangers within the formal foster care systems established.



An older woman cares for her two grandsons where the generational differences are large but not outmatched by love. Parenting has evolved over the years and this requires new ways of thinking and doing for some.

Beginning in 2009, Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties has been providing service to these non-traditional families through the Kinship Caregiver Program to Columbia, Greene and Schoharie Counties. The program started with a pilot grant from the United Way of Columbia and Greene Counties and funding from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. With the success of the pilot program and continued demonstrated need, Catholic Charities applied and was awarded a five year grant contract from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services which began in December 2009.

"Extended family members and close family friends care for more than 27 million children in the United States, an increase of almost 18 percent over the past decade. The vast majority of these living arrangements are established informally within families." (Kids Count Policy Report/Stepping Up For Kids, Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2010).

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Photo from September 2011 taken in Prattsville, NY

Disaster Relief One Year Later

August and September 2011 brought two of the most devastating tropical storms to the Northeast, and in particular, Greene County New York. Whole towns and thousands of people literally were cut off from the rest of the world, many for weeks and even months. Today, almost 11 months later, there continues to be many bridges out, roads closed and a shocking amount of people still displaced, unable to move back into their homes and still in great need. In September 2011 Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties began doing outreach to try to help victims of the flood. Surprisingly and much to our concern, individuals were not asking for help. Communities and neighbors were pulling together in an effort to "take care of themselves". Remarkably, that really worked and the kindness and generosity of the human spirit were clearly visible in light of such tragedy. Yes, it worked... for a while.

In January 2012, the "proverbial" flood gates opened for assistance, no pun intended. Individuals, collabo-

rating agencies and newly hired Disaster Case Managers began calling Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties for assistance. Requests came in for everything; building materials, car repairs, shelter and utility needs, excavation clean up, telephone line repair, appliances, Laundromat needs, survey costs, firewood, Medical and Veterinary costs, transportation needs, etc. Overall the largest requests came from individuals and families who literally lost everything in the flood; clothing, household items and

food. As of 7/12/12, Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties has spent over \$41,500 in financial assistance to victims and hundreds of hours of time meeting with residents, spending time in the communities, advocating for victims and collaborating on cases. Assistance has been provided to approximately 75 households which includes about, 75 adults, 70 children and 50 senior citizens, and new requests continue to come in every week. There is a great sense of humanity and satisfaction helping victims of this disaster, and being a part of a greater good. Almost every week the Agency receives at least one phone call or thank you note from an individual or family. Recipients are truly grateful and their strength and spirit are evident. However, the recovery is far from over. For as many of those who have received help, there is another who is still in need. Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene County is an active member of the Long Term Recovery Group of Columbia and Greene Counties.

Through the efforts of the Agency and the group we hope to leave no need unmet, and we pray to have continued support and donations to help us be successful. Thank you all who have donated your time and/or money already to the recovery efforts and may we always be grateful for our own blessings.

Stewart's Holiday Match Benefits Kinship Families

A \$4,000 donation from the Stewart's Foundation as a part of the Stewart's Holiday Match was received this spring. Stewart's Holiday Match collects donations from customers from Thanksgiving until Christmas to be matched 100% by Stewarts and distributed to non-profits in the area. Each year shoppers continue to be generous in giving to their local community.

Catholic Charities' portion of the Holiday Match will be used in the Emergency Assistance Program, with a dedication of funds to aid Kinship Families to secure stable housing.



Youth and adults (photo above) of the Hudson City School District come and share ideas on how to improve their school and community during a community event sponsored by the Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood Planning Grant.

Introducing the Catholic Charities Wish List

Listed below are items needed by the Agency and programs. By fulfilling one of our "wishes". You will have a direct, immediate, tangible impact on our programs and the people we serve. Wishes come in all shapes for all budgets. Try one on for size!



- * School Supplies (backpacks, notebooks, paper, etc)
- * Gas Gift Cards (\$25 and up)
- * Movie Tickets for Kinship Families (\$28)
- * Resource Books For Parent Education (\$35)
- * Picnic Table For Family Visits (\$250)
- * Outdoor Storage Shed for Toys For Family Visits(\$550)
- * Replace Carpeting on Front Stairs (\$800)
- * Reception Room Chairs (\$1500)


Donating to Catholic Charities is an investment in your community as the funds are used to promote self-sufficiency of individuals and families. Eighty-eight cents of every donation goes to direct services in your community regardless of race, creed, or lifestyle with special emphasis on the poor and most vulnerable.

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.

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.


Serves • Empowers • Advocates



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
of Columbia and Greene Counties

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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82 WOODLAND AVENUE
CATSKILL, NY 12414
Phone: 518-943-1462
Fax: 518-943-9054



An affiliate of United Way

Going Once...Going Twice...GONE!

Don't Miss Out on the

Catholic Charities Annual Auction !!

Friday November 9, 2012

Bring Family, Friends, & Neighbors!

\$10.00 at the door gets you access to a silent auction, live auction, and hors d'oeuvres.

Events includes:

50/50 Raffle, Wine Raffles & Door Prize

Auction starts at 5:30 pm at the Catskill Elks Lodge

Items from a previous auction (photo right) included a Pet Supply Basket with Grooming Certificates, Paintings, a Wii Gaming System, and a \$200 Dinner Basket with Wine and \$100 Certificate To Red's Restaurant.



Recognizing Generosity Of Others

Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties would like to heartedly thank all of our volunteers and supporters. As the economic crisis continues, more and more individuals and families are seeking assistance from numerous Agency programs, in particular the Emergency Assistance Program and the Food Pantry.

A core group of volunteers consistently come each week to help with the Food Pantry Program. Without their tireless and selfless efforts the Food Pantry emergency service could not operate as seamlessly and successfully as it has for the last several years. The logistics of operating a food pantry is much more entailed than it initially appears. Volunteers have continued to offer their time and labor in everything from using their own vehicles to help transport food, loading, unloading and lugging cases of food to stock the pantry shelves, and assisting clients. The caring and non-judgmental way in which they assist those accessing emergency food services, directly speaks to their dedication in carrying out the mission of Catholic Charities.

To those who support Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties, whether it be donations of food, time, or money... THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! You all are an integral part of Catholic Charities and ongoing acts of kindness.

WIC Qualifying Income Guidelines Have Been Raised !

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) assists families with children under five in the household with the ability to provide nutritious foods on a daily basis. In addition to offering milk and formula; cereals, whole grains, fruits, and vegetables are on the WIC menu. Service locations and flexible hours are available throughout Columbia and Greene Counties. One appointment can result in over \$70.00 of foods the same day. Generous income guidelines apply. Package value varies upon age of child, infant, and stage of pregnancy. Please contact the WIC program of Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties at 828-9668 in Hudson or 943-9082 in Catskill to make an appointment or for more information.

NEW YORK STATE WIC INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	WEEKLY
1	\$20,665	\$1,723	\$398
2	\$27,991	\$2,333	\$539
3	\$35,317	\$2,944	\$680
4	\$42,643	\$3,554	\$821
5	\$49,969	\$4,165	\$961
6	\$57,295	\$4,775	\$1,102
7	\$64,621	\$5,386	\$1,243
8	\$71,947	\$5,996	\$1,384
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER ADD:	+\$7,326	+\$611	+\$141

FAMILIES cont: The Kinship Caregiver Program has been designed to provide the opportunity for relatives, who have a child in their care, to easily access information regarding assistance and services available to them. Some of these services include: information and referrals, child care subsidies, wrap around services (i.e. furniture, suitable housing, legal services), and access to monthly grants to support the children in the home.

The program's day to day work is completed by two caseworkers. One caseworker works with the Columbia and Greene County participants while the other caseworker provides these same services to the residents of Schoharie County. Although the zoning of these counties is expansive, the Caseworkers, along with the Caregivers, develop Service Plans that address the needs of their family. Setting these goals and objectives with the Caregivers, allows the Caseworkers to introduce all of the resources available to them within their communities and assists the Caregivers in developing the confidence they need, to raise young children at this time in their lives. The relationships that have been built between Caregivers and Kinship Care Providers are one built on trust and respect.

Along with weekly and/or biweekly home visits, monitoring the achievements of the goals and objectives set for the families, the Caseworkers also provide Kinship Support Group Meetings on a monthly basis. These meetings are



Creative arts are one avenue of expression during the Kinship Monthly Support Group meetings where Caregivers can build their sense of community.

held in different places, from church halls, community libraries, and alternative community resources. These support groups are protected by privacy and confidentiality, allowing the participants to gather together and discuss the needs and concerns for their families. These Support Group Meetings have helped to form cohesive relationships among the group members.

The Caseworkers are busy with family visits, providing accompaniment through the legal system, the social service system, as well as the educational system, always there, encouraging the Caregivers along the way. There are educational trainings provided for both adults and the children in their care. Some of the trainings and in-

formation the Caseworkers have been providing the Caregivers and their families address the following topics: raising children with Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Individualized Educational Plans or IEP's, health and nutrition, living on a budget, parenting skills, and communicating with adolescents. As the family structure has evolved over the years, so have the training offered to the families.

Respite care is a challenge facing Caregivers. The need to have their own time, to do things for themselves has been lacking with the search for respite care by the Caseworkers ongoing. During the summer respite can be provided through camp enrollments. There are quite a number of overnight camps that have been able to provide a wonderful experience for the children while at the same time giving the Caregivers a chance for some free time. Some of the overnight camps providing these services are: Camp Scully (Catholic Charities), Fowler Camp, Skye Farms Camp, Cloverpatch Camp, and Camp Oswegatchi. These camps have also been known to provide scholarships to the children enrolled in the Kinship Program. There are also day camps available to our Caregivers for the children who prefer coming home daily.

If you are or know of a Kinship family needing a listening ear, guidance or that can share their positive experiences with others, please contact our offices at 518-943-1462 for Columbia and Greene and 518-234-3581 in Schoharie.