



Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE



2015 ANNUAL REPORT
CREATING HOPE, TRANSFORMING LIVES.



Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy.

Let the Church be your visible face in the world.

Send your spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy.

*-Adapted from Pope Francis'
Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy*





BISHOP'S MESSAGE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is my pleasure to again provide you with the Annual Report for Catholic Charities. Upon reviewing the enclosed, I was reminded of a poignant tweet from Pope Francis. Tweets as you know are intentionally brief, limited to 140 characters and require one to “get to the point”. Pope Francis is the master of stating the obvious in a way that makes you pause and reflect. He wrote: “May we never get used to the poverty and decay around us. A Christian must act.”

Yes, a Christian must act. One of the greatest challenges in our society is to overcome the indifference towards the basic needs of others. As Pope Francis reminds us, “We need to ‘de-naturalize’ extreme poverty, to stop seeing it as a statistic rather than a reality. Why? Because poverty has a face! It has the face of a child; it has the face of a family; it has the face of people, young and old. It has the face of widespread unemployment and lack of opportunity. It has the face of forced migrations, and of empty or destroyed homes.”

Catholic Charities treats each and every individual as a child of God. I am proud that people in our community know that Catholic Charities is the place to turn to if one is in need of food, housing, job skills training, nutrition, counseling, resettlement and more. Equally important is the work Catholic Charities does with other human service agencies to find the root cause of many of these challenging issues and work towards creating systemic change.

I am grateful to the professional staff and the thousands of donors and volunteers who support and carry out the mission of Catholic Charities. I would specifically like to thank Joseph Slavik, President and CEO of Catholic Charities, who is retiring at the end of this year. Joe has been with Catholic Charities for 42 years and has worked each day to try to improve people’s lives with hope and dignity. We are a better organization because of Joe’s leadership.

I invite you to read through this report and join me in praying that the good works of Catholic Charities will be strengthened and grow.

“May we never get used to the poverty and decay around us. A Christian must act.”



Cordially yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. Cunningham

Most Rev. Robert J. Cunningham
Bishop of Syracuse



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Creating Hope, Transforming Lives is the motivation that guides us every day at Catholic Charities. Whether you are a board member, staff member, volunteer, donor or a recipient of our services, hope and transformation are the key elements that bind us all together.

We are truly honored to be the social arm of our Church in the Syracuse Diocese bringing the good news to the poor and vulnerable of our communities. This report captures the essence of our work in providing a wide range of programs dedicated to serving children, families, individuals, special needs populations, seniors and veterans. With each encounter, it is our mission to provide much needed hope and support and eventually transform their lives. No small task but one that we embrace with energy and optimism.

When announcing the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis proclaimed, "Let the Church always be a place of Mercy and Hope where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven." At Catholic Charities mercy, hope, love and forgiveness are evident everyday.

All of our accomplishments would not be possible without the support of Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, our Corporate and Area Board of Directors, our dedicated and committed staff and volunteers, our donors, and our parish communities. We are forever grateful for their time, support and commitment to the mission of Catholic Charities.

It is my hope that this report makes all of you feel connected to our Catholic Charities' mission of service in *Creating Hope, Transforming Lives*.

Yours in Christ,

Joseph G. Slavik, President/CEO
Catholic Charities Diocese of Syracuse

“ At Catholic Charities
mercy, hope, love and
forgiveness are
evident everyday. ”



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we'd first begun.*

We often associate Catholic Charities with giving food and shelter and clothing to those of God's children who are in need of those things. In fact, I believe, Catholic Charities gives out grace. Catholic Charities gives without condition, without judgment, without expectation of payment. We give because there is a need.



The people of Catholic Charities work so hard to provide sustenance to so many because they believe that by filling need and easing pain they, in fact, do relieve fear. Teaching people to work, providing skills, matching children needing a family with a family needing a child, counseling the hurting, offering support to victims of violence, offering residences to those who can go nowhere else... none of this is easy work. Only those with faith and grace can perform it.

The people who staff our Catholic Charities and who serve on its Boards believe that they have a responsibility and a mission to try and guide those among us in great need through their "dangers, toils and snares" and through their grace and the grace of Catholic Charities, lead them safely home.

Every one of us, at some point in our life will need help hoping. For some of us the Lord works through Catholic Charities to rekindle that hope, to make good on the Lord's promise of goodness and protection.


Catholic Charities is as vital and needed today as it was when it first was founded. People still hurt. Hunger never leaves us. There will always be those who cannot fend for themselves or need just a little help to make it. And I have great faith that Catholic Charities will always be working for those people... providing hope with Amazing Grace.

Blessings,

Grayson Stevens, Chair
Catholic Charities Corporate Board



BROOME COUNTY



Nate's life was in a state of crisis, and all before he reached the tender age of six. Because his parents had drug and anger issues and could not care for him, he spent years in the foster care system before entering our Boys of Courage program at age 14.

The Boys of Courage Community Residence is a New York State Office of Mental Health certified program that provides boys 12-18 years of age case management, independent living skills, counseling, and recreation. Nate found comfort within this structure because of the compassionate staff and activities offered. A hyperactive kid with anger issues, the program provided him with the stimulation and physical activities he needed to transform and channel his energy in positive ways. He found a love and passion for hiking, biking, skateboarding, karate and the training discipline of parkour.

At 18 Nate moved into our adult community residence, Damon Hall, a 24-hour supervised congregate setting where support is provided to individuals in developing independent living skills. These include: self-advocacy, community integration, daily living skills, health services, medication management, parenting skills, rehabilitation counseling, skill development, socialization, substance abuse services and symptom management.

The transition to adulthood was very difficult for Nate. Like most teenagers, he went through a phase feeling bored and lost. He started running around with the wrong crowd, experimenting with drugs and alcohol and ran into some legal trouble. But he quickly turned his life back around with the help of Catholic Charities and his caseworker who worked tirelessly to keep Nate focused and on the right track. Nate is candid when he says, "Catholic Charities has always been there for me and without their support I'd probably be in prison".

Having overcome his history of behavioral health issues, Nate is truly a success story. Now living on his own he attends the BOCES TASC program, and is active in his church. He is also involved with the Catholic Charities Stepping Stone Drop-In Center, a safe non-threatening haven for recipients of mental health services to “drop-in” at their convenience.

One day he hopes to give back by opening his own bike shop where he will offer free bikes to children who cannot afford them!




“Catholic Charities has always been there for me and without their support I’d probably be in prison.”

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- Medicaid service coordination was provided to **253** individuals.
- **57** individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities were provided housing.
- The Supported Housing Program added **21** beds that required hiring and training additional staff.
- Addiction services were provided to **270** individuals.
- Stepping Stone Drop-in Center provided **35 to 40** people a day with a supportive environment, self-help groups to assist in recovery and a nourishing meal.
- Mental health staff provided services to **2,500** people through **54,989** contacts.
- Assertive Community Treatment served **80** people to assist with daily living needs and clinical treatment for their serious mental illness.
- Protective Services for Adults provided case management and representative payee services to almost **300** people at risk of abuse and neglect



CHENANGO COUNTY



Catholic Charities of Chenango County is a beacon of hope for so many in our community. Ben and Sue, a young couple with a baby on the way, faced a tough financial situation. Sue's pregnancy was difficult and the demands on Ben's time as he cared for his wife resulted in the loss of his job. With no income, they lost their housing and had to live in a tent. They realized they needed help after spending a night in the tent during a torrential downpour. That's when they turned to us.

We determined that the couple would be eligible for a local Shelter Plus Care program. Catholic Charities of Chenango County partners with the local housing authority, Norwich Housing Authority, to deliver this valuable program. Norwich Housing performs intakes, screens for eligibility, and provides HUD rental assistance vouchers to at-risk households. Catholic Charities helps with housing search, resource referral, budget counseling and advocacy. Ben and Sue stayed at a local motel during the apartment search. The couple did have SNAP benefits, but it's difficult to stretch food dollars living in a tent or motel without kitchen facilities. They received support from the Catholic Charities' food pantry. Once the couple was stably housed, they could work on other goals to achieve financial stability. Staff connected Sue to WIC and the women's health center for prenatal care and enrolled Ben in a job skills development program at the local BOCES.

“Once the couple was stably housed, they could work on other goals to achieve financial stability.”

Ben and Sue now live in quality affordable housing with support from the local Shelter Plus Care program. With advocacy from our staff Ben was able to regain employment quickly. He is still enrolled in the BOCES program to develop new skills that will help him improve his job performance. With the proper prenatal care, Sue gave birth to a healthy baby. She decided to work toward her GED, and plans to enroll in an early child development program at the local community college. We continue to support this young family with goal setting, budget counseling, and advocacy as needed. Ben and Sue greatly appreciate our assistance in removing them from a terrible living situation. But even more so, they appreciate that we were able to provide hope for a better future.

Ben and Sue's story shines a light on the benefits of community partnerships like Shelter Plus Care, which maximize limited resources while reducing duplication of services. Catholic Charities is an active member of the HUD regional homelessness intervention coalition, the FEMA emergency food and shelter advisory committee, Chenango Inter-agency Council, Chenango Suicide Prevention Council, and the Chenango Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Through our collaborative efforts, Catholic Charities plays a crucial role in providing hope to many vulnerable households in our region.



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

5,763 households/**16,513** individuals received emergency food assistance.

970 families stretched food dollars through the Food Sense Cooperative.

586 households received gently used books and adult literacy services.

85 TANF recipients received job skills training that enabled **9** individuals to gain paid employment.

39 underinsured families received necessary prescriptions.

21 homeless families were provided safe affordable housing.

221 households received free income tax preparation with **60** recipients reporting using tax savings to pay down debt.

12,769 households/**36,930** family members were served through all of our programs.

CORTLAND COUNTY

Suitable housing for vulnerable populations is challenging for many communities, and very much needed in Cortland County. The barriers of income, mental health issues, lack of opportunity, and available affordable housing units have made it very difficult for local residents to find and remain stably housed. To remedy this situation, plans were developed for a joint venture between Catholic Charities and Christopher Community to provide a combination of affordable and supportive housing in our community called the Riverview Apartments Project.

For several years, the property located at 6-8-10 Riverview was a licensed adult home that was purchased by Catholic Charities of Cortland in 1999. It was then developed into Independent Housing Options for individuals who found existing housing models very challenging to succeed in. The space was converted to serve 12 individuals. This program was the first to utilize the Housing First model for housing in Cortland, before it was widely accepted.

As part of Governor Cuomo's "Central NY Rising" initiative, the New York State Office of Mental Health SBSRO grant opportunity and Homes and Community funding, the Riverview Apartments Project consists of 39 apartment units; 37 one-bedroom units and two two-bedroom units. Twenty of the units will be designated for individuals in need of behavioral health



“This building will be one of only three buildings in Cortland that is fully ADA compliant, adaptable, and ready to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities.”

services in a supportive housing setting. These services will include: case management, housing supports, peer supports, linkage to health home providers, and 24/7 emergency support. There will also be convenient off-street parking and beautiful community spaces for all residents. In addition, this building will be one of only three buildings in Cortland that is fully ADA compliant, adaptable, and ready to meet the needs of people with physical disabilities.

Great care was taken to design the apartments to meet the challenging needs of the people we serve. Each unit is fully accessible for handicapped individuals. All appliances are Energy Star rated and the building complies with Enterprise Green Communities Criteria. There is a program office, communal lounge, resident storage space, utility and laundry rooms, as well as bike storage for residents on the site.

There has been a tremendous amount of interest in this project and it has been fully embraced and welcomed by the community, largely due to the positive reputation that Catholic Charities has maintained in this small rural community. The Riverview project is an excellent example of how Catholic Charities responds to those in need, helping people move from crisis to stability.

2015 STATISTICS

2,124 people were served who live with hunger and food insecurity.

The Community Food Pantry supplied food for **52,827** meals.

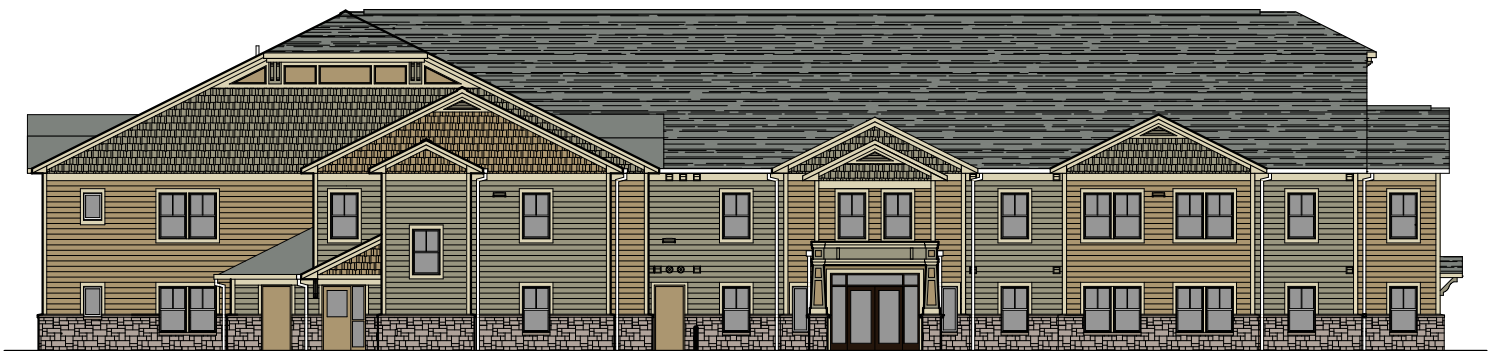
453 individuals and families received Emergency Assistance to purchase necessary medications, rent and utilities, baby items, transportation, or other medical needs, thus preventing homelessness and further medical emergency.

School aged children were served **6,603** meals at our summer "Lunch in the Park" program.

Peer wellness supports for over **200** individuals in recovery from mental illness and substance use were facilitated by five NYS certified consumer employees, preventing hospitalization, diverting crisis, and helping access needed services.


239 people with mental health or chemical dependency challenges received residential treatment and supported housing services.

Health Home care management services and case management for emotionally disturbed children touched the lives of more than **350** individuals and families, providing support and care coordination resulting in improved lives and health outcomes.





ONONDAGA COUNTY



Refugees who arrive in Syracuse are resourceful and resilient, having navigated significant hardships to escape unrest in their home countries. They often spend many months or years in a refugee camp before receiving authorization to come to the United States. Many disembark in Syracuse with few material belongings. Some are suffering from trauma brought on by exposure to war, conflict and, in some cases, torture. They often arrive feeling at once hopeful and fearful at the prospect of reclaiming their lives in a foreign country.

Each year, Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Program helps hundreds of refugee families achieve stability to live successfully in their new homes. Before each family is met at the airport, agency staff members arrange safe and affordable housing. Weary from hours of travel, staff members help them settle into their new home and then make sure they have food, seasonally-appropriate clothing, necessary medical care, and access to other critical resources. After this initial period, however, many families still struggle to establish themselves and gain self-sufficiency. Obtaining health care and other benefits and enrolling kids in school are challenging enough for a native English speaker, let alone for a newcomer struggling to learn a new language. Many refugees are eager to find a job and earn income. Yet, limited language skills and lack of familiarity with workplace culture often thwart their efforts. For many refugees, lack of quality, affordable, childcare presents another significant barrier to employment.

“By helping recent refugees gain stability, these programs enable individuals, families and entire refugee communities to thrive.”

Catholic Charities' Home-Based Childcare Training Program offers a unique solution to this double-edged challenge. The program is designed to help refugees start their own home-based, childcare business. It provides participants with English instruction as well as training in child development, child safety, first aid, business planning and the basics of financial management. Staff members work with licensing agencies to ensure each home meets stringent safety guidelines and that each participant completes extensive training and testing. Since the program began in 2014, more than 60 women have participated. Five women have completed all the steps to open a registered childcare business at home and more than a dozen continue to pursue that goal. Others are employed in childcare centers or provide informal childcare in their community.

These families gain independence and economic stability while providing critical childcare services for other members of their community. With trusted childcare in place, many refugees can take advantage of other employment services the program offers, such as training in resume writing, orientation to workplace culture, and help with the job search process. Refugees can also take part in the agency's Culinary Arts for Self-Sufficiency (CASS) program which trains people in basic industrial kitchen skills, and Project Joseph, a social enterprise that offers on-the-job training in property maintenance.

Programs like the Home-Based Childcare Training, CASS and Project Joseph provide an antidote to the myriad challenges that refugees face when struggling to reclaim their lives. By helping recent refugees gain stability, these programs enable individuals, families and entire refugee communities to thrive.



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

206 beds were available every night to homeless men, women and children.

2,010 people received emergency food at our food pantry.

1,613 refugees received services.

1,363 people received housing support.

250 recent refugees gained employment.

2,918 children under 18 reached through educational programs.

250 pregnant women received services.

119 at-risk youths were mentored.

561 children at risk of abuse were given support.

16 people were employed through Project Joseph.

ONEIDA/MADISON

After a 29-day stint in jail, Jerry Jones sat in front of the Utica Police Department, scared and lonely with nothing but the clothes on his back. Who is going to help me? How am I going to survive? Where will I go? These questions all ran through his mind. Jerry was a heroin addict. He had no contact with friends or family, no job, no home and he was desperate. He had spent more than 30 years of his life using drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism and things had spiraled out of control.

Catholic Charities Oneida/Madison County proved to be the path to Jerry's stability. He was admitted into Rutger House, a program of Catholic Charities that assists men in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. Jerry spent six months at the halfway house learning how to be the man that he always wanted to be. He learned how to live a sober lifestyle, he gained self esteem and most importantly he felt loved and cared about for the first time in many years.

The counselors at Rutger House not only became his support system, his sounding board and his cheerleaders, but they also became his friends. Jerry worked hard during his time there, restructuring his entire life. As Jerry celebrated six months of sobriety, he moved out of Rutger House and into his own apartment with the assistance of Catholic Charities. At the insistence

“ Jerry began working for Catholic Charities and made it his mission to transform the lives of the men that he works with every day at Rutger House. ”

of his friend and mentor Joyce Nebush, who is also the Rutger House Residence Manager, Jerry applied for a job as a counselor for the program. Joyce states, “Jerry could bring a believable hope to the men here. They can look at him, hear from him and relate to him.”

Jerry knew that he had been given a second chance at life and he wanted to help other recovering addicts find hope and healing. Jerry began working for Catholic Charities and made it his mission to transform the lives of the men that he works with every day at Rutger House. “I have so much in common with these guys. I have finally been able to take off my mask and wake up every day not having to be something that I am not. I want to be able to give back”, says Jerry.

Whether Jerry is giving these men “tough love” or sharing stories and pictures with them of his beloved dog, Emma, Jerry finds the good in every person that comes through the door. Jerry’s enthusiastic smile and appreciation for all that he has is contagious. Every day he is grateful; grateful for the trials that he has gone through, grateful to Catholic Charities for the opportunity to turn his life around and grateful for his job at Rutger House where he can make a difference in the lives of others.



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- Initiated major IT project to establish client data collection and upgrade use of technology; including the hiring of a Project Coordinator
- Completed major renovations to the reception area, conference room, entrance and hall of the main office at 1408 Genesee Street, Utica
- Awarded the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award for 2015

PROGRAMS:

- Expansion of the Supported Housing Program
- Preliminary assessment for Grady’s Way, an emergency housing shelter for boys, and agreement with the private donor



OSWEGO COUNTY



Denise Chaires worked full time (50-60 hours a week) in customer service. She was very active in the community. She was married, had 2 kids, owned a house. She was the fundraising coordinator for her daughter's cheer-leading squad, among other things. In March 2012, on a Monday, as Denise recalls, her life changed forever. Her toes were numb and as the week went on, the numbness continued up her legs. By Sunday, she was in the hospital, was diagnosed with MS and paralyzed from just below the waist down. One week.

Denise was in a wheelchair for 8 months, but with a lot of hard work and determination, she worked to get the feeling back. Her left side is still weak.

She hit a low spot about a year after she was diagnosed. She received a letter from Catholic Charities saying that someone referred her for services. Denise ignored the letter. She said, "I was stubborn. I was in denial about MS. Some time later, a lady who was visiting me was talking about Catholic Charities and it reminded me of the letter."

After hearing more about the services available, Denise finally realized that Catholic Charities may be able to help her as well so she filled out an application.

Three years later, Denise says, "I truly believe the help Catholic Charities provided has saved my life. From the minute the caseworker, Mary Simard, walked in the door, she was wonderful."

“I truly believe the help Catholic Charities provided has saved my life.”

Mary describes Denise as a truly courageous woman who was very good at advocating for herself. “She has learned that reaching out is a strength, not a weakness.”

Catholic Charities has been able to help Denise with security deposits for two apartments and helped her to get furniture. Denise said they have even helped her with calls to doctors and with Medicaid issues. “They go above and beyond. All of them. If Mary can’t get it done, she goes to her bosses and they make sure they get it done. I think Oswego County and people like me would be completely at a loss without them.”

Denise’s MS has progressed rapidly. She was recently diagnosed as legally blind and contacted some organizations who provide supportive services for the blind to get funding for an enhanced vision camera that was recommended by a refraction specialist. Denise was quite excited about the camera when she saw that it could help her to read. When her efforts to secure the funding failed, she reached out to Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities is trying to help Denise with this project. “Being able to read would be wonderful. I serve as secretary of the Phoenix Lions Club. I have not been able to do my job for them because I can’t see to do it.”

According to Mary Simard, “We are here to enhance the quality of life for others. We want to ease their pain and suffering. It is a joy to be able to provide services to Denise and to advocate for her and many others in Oswego County who are in need.”



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

126,630 meals were served.

684 children were provided with free meals and **684** youth were served through the CYO.

1,416 at risk families and children received services.

576 adults received services through Care Management.

Emergency Services:

104 people received prescription assistance.

662 individuals received clothing assistance.

308 people were helped paying their utility bills.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Action Ministry (SAM) Office shares the gospel, Catholic social teaching, Pope Francis' teachings and the social teachings of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) with diocesan Catholics and their communities. We work in cooperation with parishes, the Presbyteral Council, deacons in training, Faith Formation, Le Moyne College and all Ministries of the diocese.

Laudato Si' Task Force

SAM organized a *Laudato Si'* (the Pope's Encyclical Letter) Task Force with Sr. Caryn Crook, SOSE, and Fr. George Coyne, S.J., as co-chairs, to spread Pope Francis' message.

Fr. Coyne introduced a series of lectures on the scientific/theological basis of *Laudato Si'*. Bishop Cunningham and the diocese co-sponsored the inaugural talk. The initial session of the Le Moyne/Syracuse Diocese/Franciscan Sisters Colloquium on *Laudato Si'* drew a SRO audience at the Panasci Chapel at Le Moyne College, and distributed a video stream to 8 different locations. The Binghamton location reported over 40 participants. In the Southern Tier the team of Fr. Tim Taugher, Andrea Schaffer, Faith Formation Director, and Amy Fleming organized 2 series of seminars over 6 weeks based on Pope Francis' thoughts and *Laudato Si'*. The series drew 110 people from 11 parishes and 4 non-Catholic groups. In addition, weekly excerpts of *Laudato Si'* were distributed to all parishes and diocesan entities.

Iran Nuclear Agreement

Pope Francis and the USCCB urged Congress to pass the Iran Nuclear Agreement. To further that cause, SAM shared the Pope's words and the USCCB's position on the Agreement with all parishes and diocesan ministries.

Four of our members of Congress and Senators were contacted and SAM reached out to other Catholic leaders



in other states to do the same. The Iran Nuclear Agreement passed with the support of Senator Gillibrand.

Immigration Reform

Immigration Reform has stalled in Congress, but SAM continues to work with organizations that promote the interests of immigrants in this country.

The Workers Center of CNY exists on a shoestring budget. SAM helped them prepare a national Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) funding proposal. They do important advocacy for low wage workers, many of which are Hispanic. SAM also organized the third annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and lunch co-sponsored by Respect Life and Spanish Apostolate.

SAM continues to work very closely with the USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign to effect change.

PUBLIC POLICY OFFICE

The Public Policy Office represents the diocese in matters of public policy on both the state and national levels.

During 2015 the Public Policy Office worked in concert with the New York State Catholic Conference to educate people in the diocese about the serious negative impact that enacting the Physician-Assisted Suicide bill would have. We anticipate that this will also be a focus of the 2016-2017 legislative session. To inform parishioners, the Public Policy Office published an end-of-life pamphlet, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," which outlines the Church's teaching on end-of-life moral issues. 11,000 copies of the pamphlet were distributed in the diocese.

The Public Policy Office continues to encourage Catholics to sign a Healthcare Proxy rather than the Medical

Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form or a living will. The Healthcare Proxy is preferred because it gives the power to make an individual's healthcare decisions to a person of the signer's choice.

In addition, the office has worked with the Catholic Lawyers Guild in Syracuse to prepare for the annual Red Mass. The Guild is also sponsoring a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) event which will enable its members to obtain credits to renew their law licenses and learn about church-related issues.

The Public Policy Office worked with parishes to celebrate The Fortnight for Freedom which encourages prayer and vigilance to protect our religious freedom. Parishes were also provided with tools to assist parishioners to register to vote. Our representative also attends the meetings of the Catholic Medical Association and provides the group with Public Policy information.

OFFICE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Office of Persons with Disabilities is dedicated to raising awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities in our diocese as they seek to become full participants in the life of the church. The Disability Commission offers suggestions to help parishes recognize the gifts of persons with disabilities and to bring those precious gifts to light so that the entire Church might be enriched.

The Disabilities Commission has created a website which functions as part of the diocesan website. It includes resources to help parishes meet the needs of persons with disabilities and to provide case studies that demonstrate how parishes throughout the country have made small changes that made sizable differences in the life of Catholics with disabilities in their parishes.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

ASIAN APOSTOLATE

The Asian Apostolate is designed to coordinate and serve the Asian population, as well as other immigrant populations throughout the diocese. Since its beginning three decades ago, the Apostolate has nurtured refugee communities that have coalesced around parishes, helping them to become integrated and self-sufficient. The Hmong and Vietnamese communities that are now thriving are a model for the ever expanding Burmese population, many of whom have found their spiritual center at St. John the Baptist church in Syracuse. This year the Asian Apostolate provided for the basic needs of more than 60 new Burmese families who have been relocated in Syracuse as it also continues its support of the many hundreds of past Asian refugees.

Volunteers and donations have enabled the Asian Apostolate to distribute mittens, hats, and socks before winter, to provide Christmas gifts to refugee families, and to teach English classes.

Part of the goal of the Asian Apostolate is integration and self-sufficiency which allows the ministry to attain the success that it has. Working and collaborating with parishes in Syracuse, Utica and Binghamton, the Apostolate continues to position itself to reach out to many refugee and immigrant populations all across our diocese.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. They are the official overseas relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Here in our diocese, CRS is under the auspices of Catholic Charities. Our mission is to assist whenever we are called upon by CRS in their work to reduce poverty around the world.

During Lent we take up a collection for CRS and also the CRS Rice Bowl program. This Lenten faith formation program is used in parishes, schools, religious education programs and by families and individuals in the home. Participants prepare to celebrate Christ's resurrection by reflecting and acting on His mission of love for those in need. They pray together; give things up or fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of hunger and poverty around the world; and give sacrificial donations to those in need.

In 2015, through the generosity of our parish families and communities, approximately \$76,150 was collected and sent to CRS.

A total of \$29,980 was collected for Operation Rice Bowl, our Lenten program of which 25% is retained for various hunger projects in our diocese. \$22,235 was sent to CRS and \$7,745 was used for various hunger projects in our diocese.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the domestic anti-poverty program of the United States Catholic Bishops which works to address the root causes of poverty in the United States through promotion and support of community-controlled self-help organizations.

CCHD was established in 1969 to provide funding for groups of poor and low-income people who are empowered to address the root causes of poverty in their neighborhoods and communities. By helping the poor participate in the decisions and actions that affect their lives, CCHD offers a “hand-up”, rather than a hand-out, by helping people and communities overcome injustices, escape poverty and build bridges of solidarity.

Here in our diocese, CCHD comes under the auspices of Catholic Charities. A collection is taken up each fall for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. 75% of the collection goes to the National CCHD Office and 25% remains in the diocese.

Working through a diocesan committee of lay people and clergy, two programs were funded in 2015 with National CCHD funds for a total of \$100,000:

- The Alliance for Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS), a county-wide organization dedicated to providing low-income individuals and families the opportunity to speak out on issues that affect them and their community
- Syracuse United Neighbors (SUN), a community organization group working closely with their neighbors and community on the south side of Syracuse in improving the quality of housing for that area and its residents

Utilizing the 25% of the collection retained by our diocese, the CCHD Committee put forth a proposal for groups engaged in youth activities, providing the opportunity to connect young people and poverty. The

overall purpose was to create awareness for young people and the issues that affect their low income peers and families. A total of \$26,950 was distributed to these youth groups across our diocese.





2015 AREA REPORT

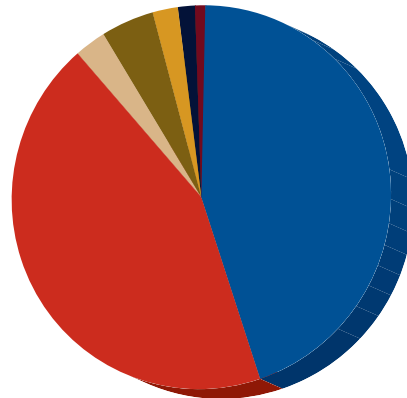
REVENUE	Broome	Chenango	Cortland	Oneida/Madison	Onondaga	Oswego	Total
Government Funding	\$6,641,223	\$1,000,103	\$1,723,926	\$2,337,183	\$11,516,670	\$1,709,774	\$24,928,879
Program Service Fees	\$14,254,342	\$1,729,085	\$1,578,409	\$4,634,608	\$1,299,985	\$906,924	\$24,403,353
Investment & Management	-\$45,955	\$2,183	\$8,796	\$257,779	\$1,279,256	-\$215	\$1,501,844
Bequest & Contributions	\$226,209	\$241,605	\$53,214	\$770,570	\$1,055,280	\$167,359	\$2,514,237
United Way	\$221,166	\$44,717	\$67,803	\$66,784	\$711,717	\$85,600	\$1,197,787
Diocesan Support	\$164,085	\$87,437	\$68,399	\$173,809	\$217,992	\$98,770	\$810,492
Special Events	\$196,372	\$30,958	—	\$27,265	\$227,734	—	\$482,329
TOTAL	\$21,657,442	\$3,136,088	\$3,500,547	\$8,267,998	\$16,308,634	\$2,968,212	\$55,838,921

EXPENDITURES	Broome	Chenango	Cortland	Oneida/Madison	Onondaga	Oswego	Total
Residential Services	\$10,029,258	\$1,096,002	\$1,613,768	\$5,254,221	\$4,272,039	—	\$22,265,288
Mental Health Services	\$4,812,862	\$621,077	\$982,410	\$645,653	\$598,081	\$821,092	\$8,481,175
Emergency Assistance	\$421,815	\$182,064	\$125,719	\$282,103	\$1,349,359	\$213,904	\$2,574,964
Children & Family Services	\$2,690,037	\$794,399	\$339,281	\$480,279	\$3,402,838	\$1,240,953	\$8,947,787
Elderly Services	\$188,774	—	—	—	\$381,972	—	\$570,746
Employment & Training	\$396,430	—	—	—	\$95,824	—	\$492,254
Refugee Services	—	—	—	—	\$2,757,580	—	\$2,757,580
Administrative Services	\$2,079,786	\$391,426	\$376,423	\$882,434	\$1,192,751	\$316,275	\$5,239,095
Other Indirect Services	\$817,778	—	\$217	\$305,405	\$1,381,847	\$118,696	\$2,623,943
Fundraising	\$201,706	\$18,057	—	\$51,756	\$375,994	\$23,218	\$670,731
TOTAL	\$21,638,446	\$3,103,025	\$3,437,818	\$7,901,851	\$15,808,285	\$2,734,138	\$54,623,563

Catholic Charities Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year: January-December 2015

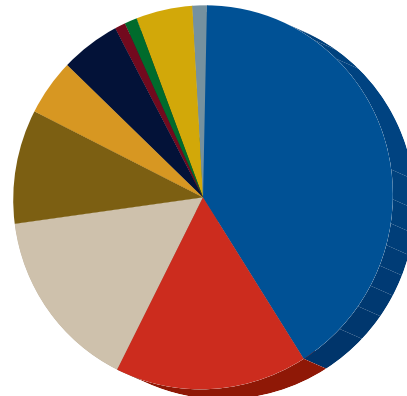
REVENUE

Government Funding	\$24,928,879	44.64%
Program Service Fees	\$24,403,353	43.70%
Investment & Management	\$1,501,844	2.69%
Bequests & Contributions	\$2,514,237	4.50%
United Way	\$1,197,787	2.15%
Diocesan Support	\$810,492	1.45%
Special Events	\$482,329	0.86%
Total	\$55,838,921	100.00%



EXPENDITURES

Residential Services	\$22,265,288	40.76%
Children & Family Services	\$8,947,787	16.38%
Mental Health Services	\$8,481,175	15.53%
Administrative Services	\$5,239,095	9.59%
Emergency Services	\$2,574,964	4.71%
Refugee Services	\$2,757,580	5.05%
Employment & Training Services	\$492,254	0.90%
Elderly Services	\$570,746	1.04%
Other Indirect Services	\$2,623,943	4.80%
Fundraising	\$670,731	1.23%
Total	\$54,623,563	100.00%



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