



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CREATING HOPE. TRANSFORMING LIVES.



## **OUR MISSION**

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County is dedicated to caring for those in need while promoting human development, collaboration, and the elimination of poverty and injustice. We strive to empower those served to transform their lives in the spirit of God's love and compassion.

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### A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As you read this annual report, Catholic Charities will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. Established in 1923, Catholic Charities has been a constant in addressing the ever-changing needs of our community. This past year, 2022, was no exception. In a year when human frailty was made visible to us in countless ways, Catholic Charities was present, willing, and able to meet these needs. Whether it was the unprecedented number of Ukrainians who made their way to our Northside CYO office seeking help, or the more than 5,700 individuals who accessed food and our emergency services, or the 221 children enrolled in our Universal Pre-K classrooms whom we prepared for Kindergarten... in every case, Catholic Charities staff compassionately embraced our most vulnerable community members.

This annual report provides you with 2022 highlights. If you read "between" the lines of the text that follows, you will see an agency that is devoted to serving those who are poor in resources, opportunities,

and spirit. Our "highlight" as an agency is the tremendous support we receive from all of you — our donors, benefactors, and friends. You are shoulder-to-shoulder with us each day as we see the face of God in every person we serve.

We are proud of our history of tackling some of the toughest challenges facing our community. In instances of poverty, homelessness, hunger, education, and access to healthcare, Catholic Charities is present and accountable to the people we serve and to all of you. Thank you for being a valued supporter and an even better friend to Catholic Charities.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Melara
Executive Director

In a moment or over an extended period of time, circumstances can change. A crisis can emerge, requiring immediate assistance. While the causes vary, the effects are the same: people in crisis are vulnerable and we are there to offer relief.

Catholic Charities' **Crisis Response** programs offer immediate shelter, food, rental assistance, hygiene products, utility payments, transportation to temporary housing, and more to people who are facing immediate needs. Staff ensure that individuals and families have access to the basic elements of survival so they may focus on reaching their full potential.

For many members of our community, Catholic Charities' crisis and emergency services are a critical lifeline, providing vital support during extremely challenging times.





### **CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAMS**

#### **HOMELESS SERVICES**

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative
- Rapid Re-Housing
- HUD Rental Assistance Program
- Men's Shelter

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
- Food Pantries
- Relocation Assistance
- Emergency Assistance Services
- Homeless Prevention

"HOMELESS MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BE MADE INVISIBLE. THEY ARE WORTHY OF DIGNITY, COMPASSION, AND RESPECT."

- Mike Melara, Executive Director





#### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

#### Life-Saving Measures at the Men's Shelter

Our Men's Shelter is "ground zero" for human need and suffering. Unsurprisingly, it is also the place where our core value of hospitality is best represented. Some quests need temporary accommodations, while others stay for longer periods of time. Guests' health and mental health needs can be extensive and, at times, require life-saving measures.

To foster a sense of community for quests, our staff typically celebrate holidays and sporting events. On Halloween, one of our guests fell and stopped breathing. Minutes later, another guest nearby incurred an injury that required First Aid. Senior staff members, fully dressed in

Halloween costumes, responded immediately by administering CPR to the first guest while attending to the injury of the second quest.

After minutes of resuscitative efforts, the condition of both men stabilized. For one of the guests who received CPR, the experience was transformative. Following a brief hospital stay, the individual visited our staff, extending thanks and sharing his decision to check himself into a rehabilitative facility. The experience — our staff — had provided him with an opportunity to change the trajectory of his life.

#### SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

■ Permanent Supportive Housing: 98% of residents remained housed in 2022.

2,262



Individuals Provided with Basic Needs, including Transportation, via the Intake Center

483

Guests Welcomed at the Men's Shelter

313

Households, on Average, that Benefited from Monthly Fresh Food Distributions

5,734



Individuals Served at the Food Pantries

Experiencing a sense of stability in life can be a complicated undertaking, especially as one emerges from challenging circumstances. Catholic Charities' **Stability Services** reduce behaviors or conditions that create chaos in the lives of the people we serve. Such people may be senior citizens without a trusted advisor or a family of refugees trying to navigate a new culture.

Stability programs offer social, emotional, mental, physical, and economic resources based on need assessments. Staff develop customized plans to build communal relationships, improve communication skills, and enhance independent living.





## **STABILITY PROGRAMS**

#### **HEALTH SERVICES**

- Children's Health Home
- Adult Health Home
- Elderly Services
- Clinical Services

#### **REFUGEE SERVICES**

- Refugee Resettlement
- Refugee Youth
- Employment
- Citizenship & Immigration Legal Services

"REFUGEES ARE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME. WE COULD HAVE A CONFLICT IN THE UNITED STATES THAT WOULD REQUIRE US TO LEAVE. AND WE WOULD HAVE TO RELY ON OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT US."

- Felicia Castricone, Program Officer of Refugee Services

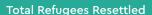




405 **m** 

Individuals from Ukraine **Received Assistance** 

500



#### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

#### Supporting an Influx of Ukrainians

Russia's attacks on Ukraine has forced Ukrainian residents to flee for safety. Family members, friends, and compassionate strangers have volunteered to sponsor their relocation to the United States. This sponsorship model has proven effective for brief periods of time. Eventually, however, Ukrainians understandably require additional resources.

As such, since early 2022, our Refugee Services staff have experienced an overwhelming increase in the number of Ukrainians seeking assistance at our Northside CYO office. To adequately attend to those at our doorstep, Catholic Charities hired four Case Managers of Ukrainian descent.

Within a period of two months, our agency assisted approximately 240 individuals from Ukraine. Over a 12-month period, the number of Ukrainian individuals resettled exceeded our typical, average number of refugees served in any given year. Despite the extensive process ensued to receive benefits, our commitment to serving Ukrainians never wavered. We endured, guiding the Internationally Homeless along a path to self-sufficiency and success.

#### SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

■ Refugee Employment: 100% of refugees and immigrants who received job-related services from Catholic Charities secured employment; 75% of those individuals maintained employment for at least 90 days. 367



Adult Health Home **Participants Served** 

263



Seniors Supported through Elderly Services, 100% of Whom Continued Residing Safely at Home

Capacity Building Services are essential to expanding knowledge, skills, and adaptive strategies so that individuals may take care of themselves and their family. Through personal and/or group instruction, coaching, and mentorship, participants acquire skills to achieve their personal goals. Capacity building programs promote healthy emotional, mental, and academic outcomes by working directly with parents, their children, single adults, and youth.

Educational resources combined with personal attention from our staff provide an environment that is highly conducive to learning.





### CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

## CLINICAL, FAMILY, AND PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

- Mental Health Counseling
- Peer Support
- Family Preservation
- Early Intervention

#### **DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

- Universal Pre-K
- Youth & Teen Skill Building
- School-Based Services

#### "OUR WHOLE AGENCY IS BUILT ON ACCEPTING."

- Chris Curry, Chief Operating Officer





#### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

Catholic Charities' Skill Building program helps youth ages 5 to 18 to develop skills in three core areas: emotional regulation, social competency. and community connections. A safe space is created for participants to identify thoughts and/or behaviors that they would like to manage productively.

For one student struggling with identity, family dynamics deterred their ability to attend school and engage in the community. Stressful living conditions contributed to poor grades and physical challenges.

Soon after enrolling in our program, the young person and a Skill Builder staff member established a mentoring relationship. New methods of communicating were learned and effectively applied, thereby offering an opportunity to restore family connection. After six months in the program, the student demonstrated improved communication skills and higher self-esteem.

The youth officially graduated from Catholic Charities' program, equipped with mental health tools from which they will benefit for years to come.

#### SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

■ Universal Pre-K Program: Of the 221 children enrolled, 87% displayed improvement in social-emotional learning skills.

142

People Impacted by **Family Advocacy Services** 

76 **1** 



Children Served through the ParentChild+ Program

125 😓



Car Seats Distributed to **Expecting Parents Upon Completion of Safety Training** 



Individuals Benefited from Lullaby League, a fourweek Infant Care Class





#### A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



As President of the Board, I have a "front row seat" to the incredible services Catholic Charities provides on a daily, if not hourly, basis. As a Board, we are proud of agency personnel and their devotion to serving those members of our community who are most vulnerable and in greatest need.

For most of 2022, our new Housing Services Center was under construction. As each day passed, we witnessed the realization of our vision for a campus where housing-vulnerable individuals could receive

the full spectrum of critical services.

The lives of individuals welcomed by Catholic Charities are also often "under construction." Annually, we provide blueprints and tools to nearly 13,000 individuals who are overcoming a crisis, establishing a solid foundation, and/or lifting their skills to new levels. We are privileged to contribute to such transformation; it is truly inspirational.

To our dedicated Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your commitment to building a healthier community in which each person's voice and infinite value are acknowledged.

Additionally, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our partners, donors, neighbors, and friends for your support of Catholic Charities. Our work is never complete but rather always continues, thanks to your assistance.

Sincerely,

Julian B. Modesti President, Board of Directors

#### CATHOLIC CHARITIES

House of Providence Awards

PRESENTED BY

J.W. Burns and Company Investment Counsel



During the 37th Annual House of Providence Awards, Catholic Charities had the privilege of recognizing three leaders for their dedication and commitment to serving others: **Ann Rooney** received the Humanitarian Service Award, **Jaime Alicea** accepted the President's Award, and **Monsignor Charles J. Fahey** welcomed the Bishop's Award.

## Thank you to our 2022 Signature and Major Sponsors:

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#### LEAVE A LEGACY

Catholic Charities proudly partners with the Central New York Community Foundation to assist donors with planned giving. If you would like to explore options for including Catholic Charities in your financial or estate planning, please contact:

#### Thomas M. Griffith

Interim President & CEO; Vice President of Development Central New York Community Foundation TGriffith@cnycf.org 315-883-5544

or

#### **Lindsay Cronkright**

Chief Financial Officer & Director of Donor Engagement
Catholic Charities of Onondaga County
LCronkright@ccoc.us
315-362-7542

### GIFTS OF STOCK

Donating shares of stock could be an ideal way to support Catholic Charities while avoiding long-term capital gains income tax. To discuss potential income tax benefits, please contact Lindsay Cronkright, Chief Financial Officer & Director of Donor Engagement, at 315–362–7542.



#### "WE ARE ALL PEOPLE....WE ARE ALL IN THE BUSINESS OF PEOPLE."

- Danchell Hicks, Program Director of Homeless Stability Services

## "AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ONONDAGA COUNTY, WE ARE A CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPASSION."

- Lindsay Cronkright, Chief Financial Officer & Director of Donor Engagement

#### **HONOR ROLL OF DONORS**

## Gifts made between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022

The Honor Roll of Donors acknowledges the cumulative giving of individuals and organizations that supported Catholic Charities via a financial contribution during the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Special recognition is given to members of the 1923 Society, our premiere giving society named for the year Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, NY was incorporated. 1923 Society members have made unrestricted gifts totaling \$1,000 or more annually.

- Circle of Light Members have made an annual unrestricted gift of at least \$10,000
- Leadership Members have made an annual unrestricted gift of at least \$5,000
- Sustaining Members have made an annual unrestricted gift of at least \$1,000

The publication of the Honor Roll is intended to recognize and sincerely thank our donors. We have made every effort to ensure this list is comprehensive and accurate. Notwithstanding, please advise of any errors of omission or fact by emailing us at giving@ccoc.us.

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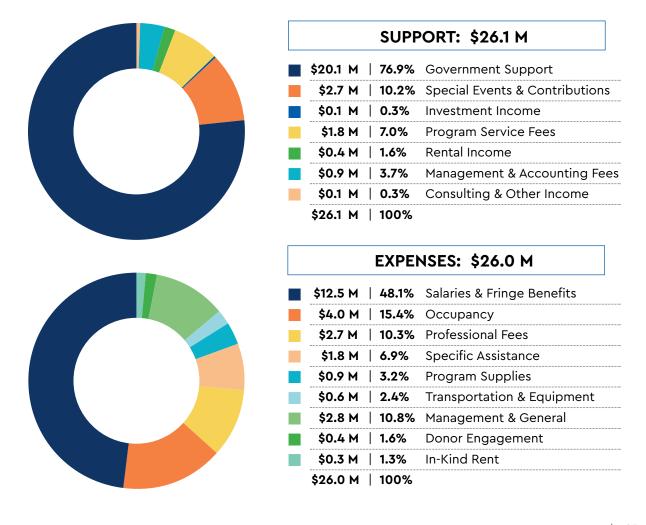
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