



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Altoona Office: Blair, Bedford, Fulton and Huntington Counties • **Bellefonte Office:** Centre and Clinton Counties • **Johnstown Office:** Cambria & Somerset Counties

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TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES



Hiding in Plain Sight:

Those in Need Are Friends and Neighbors

During the first three months of 2014, Catholic Charities fulfilled emergency requests for heating assistance totaling more than \$150,000. This level of assistance is unprecedented and reveals a deeper, growing need right here in our local communities.

Individuals and families in need are often hidden in plain sight. Many are in between jobs, underemployed, or caring for their aging parents. Others are facing cuts in their work hours or emergency health issues. They often find themselves struggling to make ends meet due to sudden and unexpected circumstances. Our long, cold winter and slow economic recovery have resulted in many more people seeking our help.

For some people, reaching out for help is difficult. Being able to turn to Catholic Charities is both a relief and comfort, as one client said, "...when the need hit home it

was surely nice to have the compassionate, non-judgmental face of Catholic Charities there to help."

Because of your support, Catholic Charities offers temporary financial assistance to help friends and neighbors in our communities through difficult times. We take the necessary steps to help families stay in their homes, keep their utilities on, and afford other basic necessities.

In addition to providing compassionate emergency assistance, the caring staff at Catholic Charities works with individuals and families to help improve their lives moving forward. This help can include finding ways to lower utility bills or counseling to regain confidence after a job loss.

People who seek assistance from Catholic Charities are living with feelings of fear and uncertainty. We strive to make them feel safe and secure, and give them hope for a better future. Catholic Charities serves all people in need in our local communities.

"... When the need hit home; it was surely nice to have the compassionate, non-judgmental face of Catholic Services there to help."

Services . . .

How your donations impact local communities:



Counseling

Professional, caring individual, family and group counseling.



Emergency Financial Assistance

Alleviating immediate financial crisis to ensure that basic human needs are met.



Foster Care and Adoption

Professional and confidential services to support birth mothers and create loving families.



Homeless Shelter Program

Catholic Charities' newest program in Cambria County, providing emergency housing for the homeless.



Faith in Action: Lives Are Touched Every Day

At Catholic Charities our caring and dedicated staff are committed to serving the people of central Pennsylvania without regard

for race, ethnic origin, religious belief, or financial means. Through the generosity of donors we are able to act as the voice of those living in poverty, calling for more effective solutions to poverty and

convening leaders from across the public, private and nonprofit sectors to identify pathways out of poverty.

Donations come from caring parishioners and clergy in the Altoona-

Johnstown Catholic Diocese, from the communities we serve, and from the United Ways in Cambria-Somerset Counties, Clinton, Centre County and Blair County.

Did You Know?

In addition to Emergency Financial Assistance Catholic Charities offers...

- A place to turn for a family dealing with the loss of a loved one
- The chance at having a family to a couple who can't conceive naturally
- Safe, emergency shelter when a family has no where to sleep at night.
- Help for a student experiencing difficulty at school.
- Help for a woman dealing with the overwhelming experience of an unplanned pregnancy.

These are just a few examples of the benefits that people receive through the services provided by Catholic Charities.

In Their Own Words

Getting to know Catholic Charities

No one can better express what we do than those who work with us and those we serve. Here are just a few of their comments.

"Catholic Charities has had a great impact on our family. They were a lending hand when our electricity was turned off. We were very thankful to have someone to reach out to when we were facing hard times."

"Through counseling at Catholic Charities I now have more confidence and security in my professional life. I am much more effective at my

job and I am a happier and more stable person."

"Catholic Charities helped my family afford heating oil. Being a single parent of three it was a relief not to worry about my kids being cold through the winter."

"It is so nice to know that there is an advocate to help families through tough situations. Thank you for the caring services you provided to us. May God Bless you and help keep your services available to those who truly need your help."

Centre County Catholic School Students Benefit from Catholic Charities Partnership

Some of the youngest members of our parish families in Centre County are impacted by Catholic Charities through the "PASS" Program.

PASS stands for Parent Assistance/Student Support. This unique program is a partnership with Catholic schools, specifically designed to address at-risk student behaviors before problems arise.

A Catholic Charities counselor works one-on-one or in group settings with students to help them identify their feelings and express them in positive, effective ways. Students who are struggling are

able to talk through their challenges with a trained, qualified counselor who can help them achieve a positive outcome.

Unlike counseling that is offered to Catholic schools through the intermediate units, counseling for students through Catholic Charities can be faith-based. A counselor is able to discuss prayer and one's relationship with God. The program is also available to parents and teachers.

Services available for the PASS program include counseling, consultation and referrals to other programs if needed.

Reinforcing the Lifelong Journey of Marriage in the Teachings of Our Faith



The sacred commitment to share a life together requires ongoing nurturing and attention. Throughout their journey most if not all couples face challenges and obstacles to living out the true joy God has intended for them.

The counseling staff at Catholic Charities values marriage as a sacramental union and can offer services that are faithful to the teachings of the Catholic

Church. This unique perspective has helped countless couples throughout all stages of their journey, from marriage preparation to problem-solving to working together as partners toward a happier marriage.

Thank You to Our Diocesan Community

Last fall Catholic Charities conducted a large-scale survey to find out how much people know about the work that we do to serve communities within the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

The responses we received have been invaluable to helping us learn how to better communicate with the many audiences who can help us successfully fulfill our mission to serve our neighbors in need in the eight-county area we serve. Thank you to everyone within the Dio-

cese who participated in this important project:

- Parishioners and clergy from our 88 parishes
- Diocesan staff, council members and volunteers
- Leaders at our local Catholic schools

Support from our Diocesan community is a driving force behind Catholic Charities ability to put faith into action for the benefit of our local communities.

Thank you!



Bishop Mark L. Bartchak

Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

The mission of Catholic Charities is carried out under the direction of the Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

From the Executive Director:

Thank You, Faithful Supporters, Your Donations Make a Difference



Your gift to Catholic Charities is truly a blessing to families and individuals who turn to us when they are most vulnerable. We rely on your donations to respond to those who suffer in body, mind or spirit all year long.

From providing emergency heating, to restoring water and electricity service to a family, to responding to family in crisis, Catholic Charities provides hope for individuals and families in some of their darkest hours regardless of race, color, ancestry, age, sex, disability, or religious creed.

We believe in providing a hand-up rather than a hand-out. Your support makes this possible.

Catholic Charities receives generous support through a portion of gifts to the Annual Catholic Appeal as well as through direct contributions from individual donors within our Diocese and from donors of other faiths who value our impact in the community.

Your gift will be used with great stewardship as we serve individuals and families in your community with care and compassion.

In Sincere Gratitude,

Jean D. Johnstone, Executive Director

By The Numbers...

\$35 provides life-changing medication for someone managing an illness or disease, allowing them to continue to work

\$50 will provide an emergency gasoline voucher to help a family get to/from the hospital so their child can have chemotherapy for cancer.

\$100 keeps utilities like water or electricity turned on for a family or individual

\$250 is just a few dollars more than the average request we receive from neighbors who are seeking help—that's all it takes to help a local family or individual through a time of economic transition

\$500 can help two families meet their monthly rent or mortgage to stay in their homes

Yes, I want to make a donation that will make a difference.

I want to make a difference to people in our community who need it most. Please accept my contribution of:

☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to:

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

1300 12th Avenue
P.O. Box 1349
Altoona, PA 16603

☐ Please add me to upcoming email communications:

A Step Closer To Home

Johnstown Shelter Promises A Better Tomorrow



Right now, right here in our community, individuals and families are facing homelessness: sleeping outside or in their cars, telling their children they have no home to go to after school, struggling each day with this heartbreaking reality.

Last September when the only homeless shelter serving Cambria County closed its doors, Catholic Charities began offering emergency shelter services. Now, with your help, we are able to offer a more permanent solution.

Along with the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority we identified a vacant residential building as the site for our future homeless shelter at 899 Bedford Street in Johnstown. Major renovations will be completed by late fall 2014.

The new homeless shelter will offer 8 to 12 beds to temporarily house men, women and families for up to 30 days and extensive case management services will continue to be provided. In the words of one of our clients *"I feel safe, helped and like I'm getting somewhere in life."* This is our goal with every client.

Personal accountability is our program's focus. We do this by:

- Having individuals meet daily with a case manager to develop a plan for permanent housing, income, and work
- Trouble-shoot obstacles they face along the way
- Assure their safety and offer much-needed hope for a better tomorrow

We believe in helping others help themselves by providing a hand-up, not a hand-out. Our goal for the shelter is to help individuals and families provide for their future in a permanent home.

Serving Your Neighbors

Catholic Charities serves individuals and families in the eight-county region of the Altoona-Johnstown Catholic Diocese with three office locations (Altoona, Johnstown and Bellefonte) and three additional intake sites.

Your Gifts Stay in Your Community

Contributions you make to Catholic Charities help individuals and families in the same county in which you live.

Help is Here

If you or someone you know is in need, Catholic Charities is here to help through the location nearest to you.

Main Office Locations

Altoona Office:

Blair, Bedford & Huntingdon Counties
1300 Twelfth Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
Phone: (814) 944-9388

Bellefonte Office:

Centre and Clinton Counties
213 East Bishop Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: (814) 353-0502

Johnstown Office:

Cambria & Somerset Counties
321 Main Street, Suite 5G
Johnstown, PA 15901
Phone: (814) 535-6538

Satellite Locations

Fulton Cty Catholic Mission

110 South Third Street
McConnellsburg, PA 17233
Phone: (717) 485-5917

Holy Spirit Parish

3 East Walnut Street
Lock Haven, PA 17745
Phone: (814) 472-3359

Dorothy Day Ctr

Saint Francis University
117 Evergreen Drive, P.O. Box 600
Loretto, PA 15940
Phone: (570) 748-4594

Family Life Office

5379 Portage Street
Lilly, PA 15938
Phone: (814) 886-5551

