

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Chronicle

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

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TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES

“You Did It for Me” Empowering the Faithful to Live the Scripture

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.

Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

- Matthew 25: 35-36, 40

As Catholics, these are words we are meant to live by. Catholic Charities exists to call the faithful to action, and to empower us to touch lives of the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the sick, and the struggling.

Through Catholic Charities, an even more profound opportunity exists to make an impact. Not only can we support those in need, we can truly contribute to the betterment of society and the world. How?

Catholic teachings tell us that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society—that ALL people are made in the image of God and are

deserving of respect, love, and aid. We are mindful of the beliefs of others, and committed to breaking down barriers and extending a hand to our brothers and sisters in need, just as Jesus did, regardless of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, or handicap.

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As Pope John Paul II said during the 1986 Catholic Charities USA meeting, “For your long and persevering service—creative and courageous, and blind to the distinctions of race or religion—you will hear Jesus’ words of gratitude, ‘You did it for me.’”

Amen we say to that.

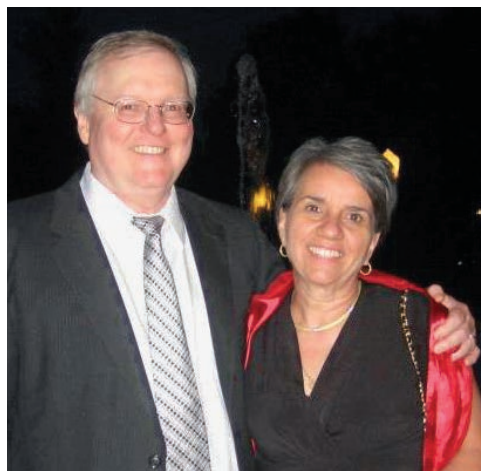
Serving Together in Faith Centre County Couple Enjoys Time Together as Volunteers

The Hanellys wouldn’t call themselves a “power couple,” but together, they make a big impact as volunteers for Catholic Charities.

“Without volunteer support, we could not assist the hundreds in our community in need of our services.”

Mary Anne followed in the footsteps of her husband, Bill, joining the Advisory Board. As board members, the Hanellys attend board meetings every other month to review what is going on in the Diocese, discuss budget and project progress, and assist with fundraising for the organization.

“Through Bill’s involvement I learned about all the great work that Catholic Charities does,” Mary Anne said. “As they often have married



Bill and Mary Anne Hanelly

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Catholic Charities at work in your community

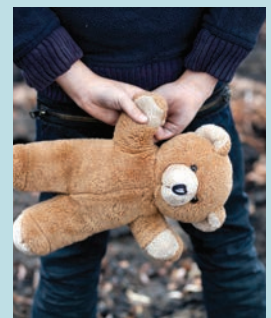
Providing Support, Safety, and Hope

The Martha & Mary House, Cambria County’s homeless shelter, is now open in Johnstown.



Stories of Homelessness in Our Region

The need for shelter could become very real to those in our community faced with an unexpected, devastating crisis.



Catholic Charities Services in Demand

Staggering statistics on those in central PA who need our help.



Guild of Guardians

Special society of benefactors formed.



Thank You to the Following Donors for Providing Generous Financial Contributions to The Martha & Mary House

Atlas Realty Management Company, Inc.
 Frank Bonanno
 Patrick & Isabel Buynack
 Cambria Care Center
 Cambria County Commissioners
 Cambria County Redevelopment Authority
 John Cammerata
 Thomas Capriotti
 Coldwell Banker Prestige Realty
 Community Foundation of the Alleghenies
 Carolyn Concannon
 Tom Criste
 CTC Foundation
 D&C Simmon's Enterprises, LLC
 Thomas and Mary Dolan
 John Dubay
 John & Julie Edwards
 William Felix
 First National Bank
 Carol Folta
 Franciscan Friars, Loretto
 Ann Marie Furman
 Marion Gaydos, in memory of Thomas Gaydos and Louise Kristofco
 Cindy M. George
 Phillip & Marilyn Goff
 Mark A. Grasser
 Greater Johnstown Camera Club
 Group Genesis, LLC
 Ed Hanechak
 Helene Hoffman
 H.F. Lenz Company and Charitable Golf Tournament
 John Hollis
 Joey Del's 2001 Caterers
 Johnstown Material Handling, Inc.
 Johnstown Typographical Union No. 137/ Communications Workers of America Local 14815
 JWF Industries
 Linda Kapustka
 Chris Kelley
 Mary Agnes Kessler
 Kerry Kirsch
 Paul Knupp
 Martin Kuhar
 Edward Lanzendorfer
 Francis Leahy
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 Msgr. David Lockard
 Erin Machusak
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 Margaret Mayer
 Merho Federal Credit Union
 Virgil Moraca
 David & Kristina Moran
 Mark & Ellen Mostoller
 Moxham Church of the Brethren, Inc.
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 John Sedlak
 Frank & Maureen Slavinski
 Slovenian Savings & Loan Association of Franklin-Conemaugh
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 Victor Tononi
 Christine Trotz Cosgrove
 UM Bethel of Salix
 USSCO Federal Credit Union
 United Way of the Laurel Highlands
 Rose Varner
 Pamela Vescovi
 Von's United Beverage
 David Weber
 Wessel & Company
 Linda Wheeler
 Dale Wicks

Providing Support, Safety, and Hope: A Place to Turn for Individuals and Families Facing Homelessness

Martha & Mary House Opened March 2 to Offer Shelter, Planning, and Case Managers to Those in Need in Cambria County

The Martha & Mary House

Cambria County Emergency Homeless Shelter Program
 Operated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

On Friday, February 27, Bishop Mark Bartchak and Catholic Charities hosted a blessing and ribbon-cutting at The Martha & Mary House—the new, official name of the emergency homeless shelter in Cambria County. Local organizations and officials, as well as local businesses and individuals who provided generous support, were on-hand to celebrate the official opening of the shelter.

This ambitious and much-needed project would not be possible without the many individuals, organizations, businesses, and churches of various denominations that provided generous financial support needed to open the doors. Ongoing community support will be necessary to maintain the shelter and the needs of those staying there. The shelter will provide much-needed help to individuals and families in Cambria County.

“Many of our generous donors and members of the Diocese and the community came out to show their support,” said Jean Johnstone,



Bishop Mark donated this beautiful painting of Martha & Mary to display in the shelter to keep our mission and inspiration top of mind.

Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. “We were honored to celebrate the beginning of this new program with the many people who made it possible.”

“We were honored to celebrate the beginning of this new program with the many people who made it possible.”

The Martha & Mary House will provide support, safety, and hope to individuals and families in the form of shelter, planning, and caring case managers, and will temporarily shelter men, women, and families who find themselves without a home. The shelter can accommodate up to 15 people and residents can stay for up to 30 days—enough time to secure financial stability and a more permanent residence.

How You Can Help

Ongoing Support for The Martha & Mary House

- Some opportunities are still available to “adopt” rooms in the shelter; businesses, organizations, churches, and individuals can learn more by contacting Jean Johnstone, Executive Director, at 814-944-9388
- Several churches have taken special collections or established special projects in support of the shelter; to organize a collection or drive for your church, contact Jean at the number listed above.
- Contributions can be made online at www.catholiccharitiesaj.org or by earmarking part of your Catholic Charities contribution to the Martha & Mary House using the form on page 3. You can also mail your donation directly to the shelter at 899 Bedford St., Johnstown, PA, 15902.

Stories of Homelessness in Our Region

On the surface, Annie* seemed to have it all: two young sons and a 10-year marriage. But behind closed doors, Annie was an abused woman. When she finally got the courage to separate from her abusive husband, she found herself alone with her two young children—one with special needs—and no place to turn.

“While we like to think that homelessness could never happen to us, the need for shelter could become very real if faced with an unexpected crisis.”

Due to the behavioral needs of her special-needs son, placement in another shelter setting was not successful. Thanks to community support of our shelter program, Catholic Charities was able to assist Annie and her sons

with shelter, links with agencies to get back into safe housing, and continued support during the first few months.

The people that we serve are the people you interact with every day—the cashier at the grocery store, the friendly face you pass on the sidewalk, or the parent standing next to you at the bus stop. While we like to think that homelessness could never happen to us, a friend, or a loved one, the need for shelter could become very real if faced with an unexpected, devastating family crisis, job loss, or medical emergency. We're here to help those in need as they weather the storm.



Local Need Continues to Grow

All three Catholic Charities offices are working to help a growing number of individuals and families seeking help, especially to afford fuel and basic items like rent, utilities, food, and life-saving medications. Each year, we make every effort to stretch our budget as far as we can to help as many people as possible. Believe it or not, average requests range from \$250 to \$450, a seemingly small amount to help a person or family eat, keep warm, or stay in their home.

Johnstown Office:

- **2,476** EFA requests for a total of **\$635,692** or **\$257** per request
- **446** Fuel calls for a cost of **\$170,254**

Altoona Office:

- **2,101** EFA requests for a total of **\$637,674** or **\$303** per request
- **385** Fuel calls for a cost of **\$148,225**

Bellefonte Office

- **664** EFA requests for a total of **\$291,877** or **\$440** per request



THANK YOU: Truly Blessed by Support from Many

Guild of Guardians and All Donors Make an Impact

In every issue, we report on the growing need in our community for the services we provide. Catholic Charities is truly blessed to receive financial support from generous donors from within our Diocese, our community, our business community, and various organizations who provide grants and other funds.

Without this support, we simply could not fulfill the mission we've been called to champion. All of us at Catholic Charities extend our sincere appreciation.

Recently we established the Guild of Guardians as an opportunity for those who can to pledge a \$1,000 annual gift to Catholic Charities. We are grateful to

"I am proud to support Catholic Charities through the Guild of Guardians because our goal is to help the least fortunate among us in a dignified way, while providing services and a structure to help people help themselves. Catholic Charities does all this with a limited budget and a big heart. I can't think of anything more important."

—Jan Andrews, Board Member, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

the individuals and families who have already made their commitments of support. Commitments can be fulfilled on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis, and are unrestricted, meaning they can be

applied to the greatest area of need. More information is available online at www.catholiccharitiesaj.org, or by calling 814-944-9388.

All gifts to Catholic Charities enable us to provide a holistic combination of social services including life skills education, counseling, and family stabilization through Emergency Financial Assistance. These programs remove barriers to self-sufficiency and wholeness. Our services are tailored to the unique circumstances of the people we serve.

Without ongoing support, Catholic Charities would not be able to consistently provide counsel, guidance, and support in our communities. When we come together to help those most vulnerable, we do the work of Christ.

From the Executive Director:

Our Community Members Rely on Catholic Charities During Lent and Throughout the Year



During Lent, Catholics in our community and around the globe are being called upon to contribute to charity to honor the pillar of almsgiving. We encourage your generosity this season, and implore that you consider Catholic Charities among your annual giving this spring. With your support, we can continue shaping the future for individuals and families in need right here in our community.

But, I hope you'll go a step further and remember your neighbors in need throughout the entire year. The numbers to the left are a staggering representation of the people in our community who approached us for assistance in 2014. But what's even more staggering is the number of local community members in need to whom we were not able to offer help. At the end of the day, our reach is only as big as our budget.

The individuals and families who ask for our help often just need a little boost to help them get back on their feet. Whether it's helping with a medical bill or assistance with an extraordinarily high heat bill following a financial crisis, Catholic Charities helps to break the cycle of poverty in our community.

"Whether it's helping with a medical bill or assistance with an extraordinarily high heat bill following a financial crisis, Catholic Charities helps to break the cycle of poverty in our community."

This Lent, consider those in our community who could use your help—the waitress at the restaurant you frequent, a parent of a student in your child's class, or the family next to you in the pew this Sunday. Each donation made to Catholic Charities stays in our community to help those who need it most. Please put the pillars of Lent into practice and make a gift to Catholic Charities this season.

In Sincere Gratitude,

Jean D. Johnstone, Executive Director

The official registration and financial information of Catholic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Yes! I want to help my neighbors in need.

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

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

I'd like to earmark \$ _____ of my gift to the Martha & Mary House

I'd like to receive more information about joining the Guild of Guardians

Check enclosed, made payable to: Catholic Charities

Donate online: www.catholiccharitiesaj.org

Please add me to upcoming email communications:

Name: _____

Email: _____

**Catholic Charities of the
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown**
1300 12th Avenue
P.O. Box 1349
Altoona, PA 16603

Inspiration from Pope Francis

In his 2014 Message for Lent, Pope Francis reminds us to make our hearts firm (James 5:8) by helping through acts of charity. He says **“Lent is a favorable time for showing [our] concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to one human family.”**

The Pope also calls on us to reflect the Lenten pillars throughout the year. He says, **“Every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people. Her mission is to bear patient witness to the One who desires to draw all creation and every man and woman to the Father. The Church follows Jesus Christ along the paths that lead to every man and woman, to the very ends of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8). In each of our neighbours, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again. What we ourselves have received, we have received for them as well. Similarly, all that our brothers and sisters possess is a gift for the Church and for all humanity.”**

Need Help?

Call or visit a Catholic Charities location near you

Main Office Locations

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

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

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



Nominate Deserving Individuals in Our Community for Humanitarian Awards

Annual Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner Honors Individuals Demonstrating Exceptional Service

Our Annual Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner is approaching quickly. Each year, we award select individuals with the **Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award** and the **Monsignor William M. Griffin Humanitarian Award**. It's time to nominate deserving individuals in our community!

The Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award is given to up to two elementary and up to two high school students for demonstrating exceptional service to their communities, specifically the poor and needy. Award winners receive a scholarship for tuition/school/college expenses and a plaque recognizing their achievements. The winners, their parents, and the person nominating the student will be invited to attend our June 3rd dinner as our guests.

To nominate a student, please visit our website and download the nomination form. **Return it by April 24, 2015 to:**

Catholic Charities, Inc.
Recognition Award Nomination
P.O. Box 1349
Altoona, PA 16603-1349

The Monsignor William M. Griffin Humanitarian Award is given to individuals demonstrating a significant, long-term commitment (professional or volunteer) to serving the poor, marginalized, and most vulnerable within our diocesan community.

To make a nomination, complete the nomination form on our website and a one-page letter of recommendation.

Return it by April 24, 2015 to:

Catholic Charities, Inc.
Monsignor William M. Griffin Award
P.O. Box 1349
Altoona, PA 16603-1349

**You can also email your nomination form to jjohnstone@dioceseaj.org or fax it to 814-941-2677.*

Serving Together in Faith...Continued from page 1

couples serving together, it sounded like a great fit for my skills and interests, while benefitting my community.”

As a board member, Mary Anne knows firsthand the unique impact that Catholic Charities makes on individ-

“[Catholic Charities] does not turn people away; it may be the last chance for those in need to receive comfort and hope.”

uals and families in our community. Although her role is not hands on, it is rewarding to Mary Anne to know that she's helping to fulfill the mission of Catholic Charities and expand its impact through her fundraising assistance and support work.

“As public services cannot cover everyone, Catholic Charities steps in to ensure no family or individual is left out in the cold,” she said. “Our organization does not turn people away; it may be the last chance for those in need to receive comfort and hope.”

Bill spends his days as a financial professional, while Mary Anne has been a stay-at-home mom to four children. And, Mary Anne exemplified her passion for volunteering for her children, offering her time and talent in various school, church, and civic organizations. She's been Cub Master, room mom, and a CCD instructor for every grade, and was active in many areas of high school PTO including president.

The Hanellys attend Our Lady of Victory in State College, where they serve as Eucharistic ministers, readers, and members on the RCIA team. They are also part of Second Sunday Ministry, attending Mass at Rockview State Penitentiary with the prisoners, fulfilling the call of Jesus to visit the imprisoned. Mary Anne also regularly volunteers with Meals on Wheels and St. Vincent de Paul.

Catholic Charities is blessed to have the generosity and dedication of committed volunteers like Mary Anne and Bill Hanelly. Without volunteer support, we could not assist the hundreds in our community in need of our services. We thank all our volunteers who make our organization and operations possible.

“Only in heaven will we see how much we owe to the poor for helping us to love God better because of them.”
- Mother Teresa