



Housing, Services & Property Management

Sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

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Reflections Produced by

Kathleen Ide
Emily Pethic

The Ladies of the Catholic Charities Guild of Schenectady once again contributed their amazing talents and energy to the great benefit of our senior services in Schenectady. The Water's Edge Lighthouse was packed with Guild members and supporters for the Guild's holiday fundraising luncheon in November. Dozens of themed gift baskets were raffled as diners enjoyed the Mohawk River view, an elegant meal, and a beautiful acoustic performance. Marigold's also provided on-site holiday shopping during the event, donating a portion of their proceeds to Catholic Charities Senior Services in Schenectady's programs. All Guild proceeds were generously donated to our senior services programs as well. Thank you all for your continued support!

Message From Deborah

It has been a cold and snowy winter. I keep saying this is an "old fashioned" winter like those I recall from my childhood. (I guess I am now of an age that I can say things like that...how did that happen?) Yet, reading this newsletter is a burst of sunlight and warmth on a very grey day! It is hard to say more than a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Christmas 2010 so wonderful for so many!

It is also rather fitting that we bring these stories of Christmas to you at this time. It may sound odd, but they provide a great lead in to the season of Lent which begins in a few weeks. At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of God's love in the world in the birth of a little child. In the season of Lent, we reflect on how much each one of us and our world need God's loving presence. These stories of kindness and generosity show how much love each one of us has to share and how each of us can bring God's love to life in the world. What a wonderful reflection for any season.

We are so blessed that you share our mission! 🙏

Deborah Damm O'Brien, Executive Director



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Catholic Charities Housing Office • Catholic Charities Senior Services in Schenectady
DePaul Housing Management • McCloskey Community Service

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During the 2010 Christmas season the clients throughout all of Diocesan Housing and Services' programs were blessed by an outpouring of generosity from so many of you—our wonderful supporters. In this issue we hope to convey the warmth and cheer we witnessed this holiday season because of your generous support.

Dashing through the Snow: Our Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Meals on Wheels (MOW) and the Salvation Army maintained their tradition of providing hot Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for Schenectady County residents this past year. The annual holiday meals are made available to both clients of MOW and those in the community who might otherwise not have a special meal. Byrne Dairy also helped out and donated 300 units of milk for Thanksgiving and 400 units for the Christmas meal. A total of 406 Thanksgiving meals were delivered by 21 volunteers. On Christmas Day, 467 meals were served with the help of 25 dedicated volunteers! Many of these volunteers continue serving as an annual family tradition, visiting the men and women on their routes and bringing their family to share with those who may have none at all. Some of the children of past volunteers now have children of their own who keep the tradition alive. Our volunteers are exceptional, often making cards or bringing small gifts to the people they visit on their routes.

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Holiday Traditions at Mercy House & Lwanga Center



Mercy House Staff—Frances, Barbara & Sitara—happily make holiday preparations for guests of the program

Christmas can be a very difficult time for the people living in temporary shelters. During the holidays Mercy House and St. Charles Lwanga Center were full—sheltering 19 women and 19 men. Staff on site were well-prepared to bring some of the traditional joys of the season to each of them.

At both locations, trees were decorated, lights were hung, and the spirit of Christmas was definitely in the air. Local parishes and private contributors donated items for gift bags, which were given to all the guests on Christmas Day. A peek inside revealed plush

robes, towels, washcloths, socks and underwear, toiletry gift sets, and even new coats from Lodge's. Christmas stockings were also given to Mercy House guests with a \$5 bill!

A delicious dinner was provided at both shelters—volunteers served roast beef, turkey, ham, vegetables, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, sweet potato pie, and cake! Long-time supporter Faith Fish and her "We Care Project" sponsored the meal at Mercy House, while Brother David Parrish and fellow Brothers of the Holy Cross prepared the dinner at Lwanga.

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Reflections

DEPAUL HOUSING MANAGEMENT

- St. Vincent's Apartments
Albany, NY
- Bishop Broderick
Apartments
Albany, NY
- Bishop Hubbard
Senior Apartments
Halfmoon, NY
- Carondelet Commons
Senior Apartments
Watervliet, NY
- St. Jude Apartments
Wynantskill, NY
- Branson Manor
Senior Apartments
East Greenbush, NY
- Cabrini Acres
Senior Apartments
Watervliet, NY
- Sanderson Court
Senior Apartments
Watervliet, NY
- Marie-Rose Manor
Slingerlands, NY
- Fontbonne Manor
Senior Apartments
Watervliet, NY
- Delhi Senior
Communities I & II
Delhi, NY
- The Lawrence Commons
Schenectady, NY
- Father Leo O'Brien
Senior Community
Rotterdam, NY
- Franciscan Heights
Senior Community
Rensselaer, NY
- Ávila Retirement
Community
Albany, NY

Season of Joy in Schenectady

The joy of the 2010 Christmas season was seen in full force throughout our Senior Nutrition, Transportation, Dayhaven, Aging Services, and Nutrition Outreach & Education Programs. Throughout December 100 winter hats (hand-knit by our NOEP Coordinator Colleen Dacey and her family) were displayed on a stretch of wall in the waiting area at our Erie Boulevard offices. A sign was posted inviting clients and visitors to take one for warmth this winter. One client expressed how grateful she was for the opportunity to provide a hat to her friend for Christmas, whose only wish was for a hat to buffer the cold this season. In our Aging Services program 40 seniors were given stockings filled with Mary Kay lotions, soap, and other products donated by Independent Consultant Ruth Raym. Gifts for five other seniors were generously sponsored by The Baptist Health Center. More than 50 seniors with very limited incomes were provided grocery store and pharmacy gift cards thanks to St. Helen's Bethlehem Tree, the Christmas Bureau, and a private donor, Margaret Connoly. We are sincerely grateful for the astounding support from the community and the generosity of our donors. The holiday season was truly more joyous for many in Schenectady County, thanks to your support! 🏠



The tradition of Christmas caroling at the Waldorf Residence in Albany continued this past year—residents, staff and local musicians joined together in song, ushering in the true joy of the season

New Comforts Warm SRO Housing

Thanks to Matt Bette and The Bette Family of Companies each of the 171 men and women in our SRO Residences unwrapped a brand new blanket, sheet set and pillow on Christmas this past year. We are so grateful that Matt chose to remember these tenants, ensuring none were overlooked this season. Although Christmas is such a beautiful and inspiring time of year, we know that it can cause as much sadness for some as it does joy for others. In the weeks after the packages had been distributed, CCHO staff heard from nearly every tenant about how much these thoughtful gifts brightened their holiday: "That was so nice of a gift," Tanya at DePaul Residence beamed, "when you are starting over, a group of people who don't know you give a helping hand."

CCHO's SRO residences provide a private room, furnished with a bed and typically a dresser, table and chair. Hot meals are also served in community dining rooms. We know that though quality shelter, furnishings, and meals satisfy the most dire needs of those we serve, the soft touches of brand new, warm bedding go a long way in making the place "home." Thank you again, Matt! 🏠

Meals on Wheels Volunteers . . . continued from page 1

In addition to all these wonderful things some of the Meals on Wheels clients were surprised by a visit from "Santa", or John Juhren, as we know him—a Meals on Wheels driver. He brought candy, cards and many smiles to brighten their day. He posed with many of his clients so they could take pictures to prove to family and friends that Santa really does exist, visiting people young and old. 🏠 ~Louise Remillard

Adopt a Family at Christmas



Two days before Christmas, Maria and Dylan pose for a picture with Santa, who delivered hundreds of presents to families residing in CCHO's Apartments Program thanks to our 2011 Adopt-a-Family supporters

This past December the dedicated case managers of CCHO's Family Housing Program received a heart-warming response to our "Adopt a Family at Christmas" appeal. Three local parishes, several state employees, and many members of the community purchased gifts and food for the formerly homeless tenants in our Family Apartments Program.

Twenty-one food baskets were distributed as well as gift cards to grocery and discount stores, bedding, household items, toys, jewelry, and even a AAA membership! Our case management elves worked closely with "Santa" to review the wish lists of all the children in our apartments. Not to our surprise, Santa came through, and all the children found just what they had hoped for under the Christmas tree.

Our generous supporters this year include St. John/St. Ann's Outreach Center in Albany, St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Delmar, St. Pius X Church in Loudonville, and the following private sponsors: Staff of the State Division of Criminal Justice Services, who worked tirelessly to collect many dozens of gift cards for CCHO's families; Trista Bradt and colleagues at the State Comptroller's Office; Sandie DeLorenzo, Colleen Fiato, and their colleagues at the NYS Department of Health; Jennifer Hartwell and Family; Elena Smith and Family; The Rowan Family; and our own Pam Rost of DePaul Housing Management. We thank all of you for brightening the Christmas season for the families in our program! 🏠 ~Emily Pethic

A Tradition of Benevolence

Twenty tenants in DePaul's communities for seniors were delighted to receive pharmacy gift cards just before the holidays, thanks to a generous contribution from Colin and Rose Nadeau. Diocesan Housing's programs and tenants have been many times blessed by the support of the Nadeaus. In honor of Colin & Rose's dedicated support their children also gave a gift in Rose and Colin's name to Catholic Charities Housing's programs this Christmas. Thank you to the Nadeau Family for your extraordinary commitment to our programs! 🏠

Santa's Elves

On Christmas morning tenants at the Waldorf Residence in Albany awoke to find an envelope from "Santa" had been slipped underneath each of their doors, with a thoughtfully hand-written card and ten dollars inside of each one! With the help of a group of very generous elves, Santa ensured the spirit of Christmas was about that morning at the residence. Thank you to our anonymous donors for the warmth and joy you extended to the good men and women at the Waldorf this season! 🏠

Mercy House & St. Charles Lwanga Center . . . continued from page 1

We especially thank for their generosity the Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Albany; our diocesan colleagues Richard Farrell and Noel Olsen; and many community supporters including Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle in Delmar; Our Lady of the Assumption Church and their "Angel Tree Program"; Nina Molta of the Zonta Club of Albany; The Wood Family; Faith Fish; John Wairegi; CCHO staff, and the many volunteers who helped coordinate holiday events. 🏠 ~ Emily Pethic

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOUSING OFFICE

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(518) 462-6829

Emergency Housing

- Mercy House
Albany, NY
- St. Charles Lwanga Center
Albany, NY

Family Apartments

Lexington Avenue,
Third Avenue,
Clinton Avenue &
Broad Street in
Albany, NY

Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Residences

- DePaul Residence
Albany, NY
- Waldorf Residence
Albany, NY
- Swyer Residence
Albany, NY
- St. Peter's Residence
Troy, NY
- SRO Residence
Oneonta, NY

Emergency Services for Refugees & Victims of Human Trafficking

Support Services for Hispanic & Latino Individuals & Families

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SENIOR SERVICES IN SCHENECTADY

Aging Services Information & Assistance

Dayhaven Adult Day Services

Meals on Wheels

Nutrition, Education & Outreach Program

Senior Dining Centers

Senior Transportation

Call (518) 372-5667
for more information
about these programs