

A Gift for Our Bishop

This year Bishop Matthew H. Clark marks his 30th year as the Bishop of Rochester. To recognize his contributions to the mission and development of Catholic Charities in the diocese, all the Charities organizations gathered on September 15 to celebrate with him. Each agency presented a gift to him that reflected the services it provides and its respect for him.

We at Catholic Charities Community Services presented him with rocking chair, embellished with signs, words and symbols of the agency's services and his affect on them.

Catherine Clauss, creative arts therapist working in AIDS Services, created and executed the design of the chair and delivered a very touching and insightful explanation of why a rocking chair was selected and why she had create the particular design. Her words attest to the warm feeling we all have for the bishop. **See page 2 to read Cat's words.**



**Happy Day,
Bishop
Clark!**

A BIG THANK YOU to the
123 community members who
pledged

\$ 28,545.48

to Catholic Charities
Community Services
through Donor Option 2103 in the
United Way Campaign.

The Problems:

ZERO TREND FACTOR

As the Governor of New York prepares his budget for the next fiscal year he faces many decisions, none larger than that of setting the rates for services to the neediest among us.

Last year, to address the state deficit, no increase for the rising cost of services was planned into the rates agencies like Catholic Charities Community Services receive to provide services for persons with disabilities.

Department budgets effected by this zero trend factor are Developmental Disabilities Services, AIDS Services, and Traumatic Brain Injury Services.

It is imperative that we speak up or soon we will be trying to provide 2010 services on a 2008 budgeted amount!

BUDGET CUTS FOR ALL

Governor Paterson has directed an immediate 10% cost reduction across the board in spending by the State government. This means tremendous loss to non-profits who provide support services to persons with disabilities.

Every 39 cents of State Medicaid support directed toward these services generates 61 cents of Federal Medicaid monies. Simple math will tell you this is not a wise way to cut costs. It is like paying a fine to economize!

Organizations throughout the state are telling the governor of this error in his plan. We hope he heeds our words before it is too late and services to the disabled go back to state-run warehouses for people with disabilities!

An Answer:

OUR ANNUAL APPEAL

This year, more than ever, we need your help to meet the rising expenses incurred with the provision of excellent, high quality services to individual persons with disabilities.

Whether it is supplies for the art therapist in AIDS Services who helps children cope with the illness of their AIDS-infected parents, staff training for the stroke victim needs who is re-learning her grandchildren's birthdays, or the multiple trips to the cardiologist for a person whose primary diagnosis of a developmental disabilities brings with it a host of health issues, the cost of delivering these services continues to rise with no relief from the entitlement programs that fund our services. All of these services will be affected by the Governor's plans!

Please respond generously to our Annual Appeal letter!
God bless you!



Bishop's Anniversary Gift Presentation

Written and presented by Catherine
Claus, MS, ATR-BC, LCAT

When I was asked to assist in the creation of the Bishop's 30 anniversary present, as with all creative-minded people, the wheels began to spin and spin and spin. Resorting to my art therapy background, where we are taught that it is not always about the product but the process, I sat back and waited for the answer, and, in true spiritual fashion, it came.

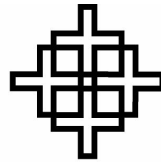
I happened to be flipping through the television channels one day and saw the Bishop being interviewed on RNews. There he sat in a rocking chair and I thought to myself, "How much pondering, how many ideas and creations came while sitting in that rocker?" So, I began to research the history of the rocking chair.

What first struck me was that the originator was unknown, unseen, although its roots lay in the framework of the cradle. I learned the rocking chair has a unique feature for its contact with the floor is only in two places at any one point, thus providing a natural center of gravity and the feeling of a weightless state. This uniqueness captured my attention in its relevance to the work the Bishop has done over the past 30 years.

In presenting the concept of Catholic Charities Community Services, all four programs are represented – Traumatic Brain Injury Services, Developmental Disabilities Services, AIDS Services and Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Services – by the painted picture on the rocker's seat. Included are past and present pieces of program fliers.

The back of the chair, where one rests, has six key principles extracted from the Catholic Charities Community Services' Mission Statement: Individuality, Self-Worth, Dignity, Empowerment, Strength and Independence. I chose to do these in black and white to represent the concrete value of these principles in our work with the clients we serve. The rockers have two quotes, also in black and white, of the Bishop's words that speak to the meaning of the work we do: "The Lord has taught me compassion", from 1988 and "Spread the Good News of God's love", from 2007.

It has been an honor not only to work for Catholic Charities Community Services but to be able to say thank you (in my own creative way) to the Bishop from all the people whose lives we are able to touch everyday because of the services we provide through the dedication, compassion and virtue of the Bishop. It is our hope that this rocking chair will provide the Bishop with a comforting place to continue his thoughtful conceptions for the diocese in the thirty years to come. Thank you.



*A Message from
Our Executive Director*

Welcome to New Board Members

We have had changes on the Board of Directors here and I want to welcome new members and bid farewell to another.

Todd Gunther has served us admirably in his role as board member for three years and then as board chair for six. The agency has grown during his tenure and, as Todd steps down from this position and our Board, we are very thankful for his interest, expertise and compassion.

Taking Todd's place as chair is **Edmund Starowicz, Jr.** who has been on the board since 2003. He has served on various committees and was instrumental in helping obtain donations that helped fund an agency van.

At this time I would like to welcome **Carey Ann Denefrio, Radiah Drayton-Scott, Timothy P. Sheehan** and **Charles D. Steinman**.

Carey Ann Denefrio, law clerk to a local Federal Magistrate, has business and legal experience to the board. Carey Ann brings with her unique talents and we are anxious to tap into them.

Radiah Scott-Drayton brings experience as an employment recruiter for Unity Health Systems to the board. Her extraordinary training in Leadership will serve her well.

Tim Sheehan states in his Board application that "as a parent of a child with Downs Syndrome I bring a family's perspective to caring for persons with disabilities or special needs." Tim is president of Midwest, Inc. and will join the Finance Committee.

Charles "Chuck" Steinman has recently joined the board. He has been an active member of the local bar, both in prosecution and defense work and brings an understanding of the law to our work because of his service to the NYS Attorney General's Office which represents both NYS and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Welcome all, and thank you for serving.

PS: A little puzzle for our readers: can you identify, among our new board members, a tennis pro and a classical pianist?

There's a challenge for you!

MISSION STATEMENT

Catholic Charities Community Services is deeply committed to enhancing and strengthening the independence, inclusion, and individuality of persons with disabilities and those who are living with HIV/AIDS.

We integrate service delivery, advocacy, and education to foster individual and community empowerment. In conjunction with those we serve, we promote the self worth of all individuals to live with dignity as people of God.



Your Chance to be a "Christmas Angel"!

CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT

"Thank you for helping. My children will have a reason to celebrate this year. God bless."

Olga, a parent with developmental disabilities 2008

Every year Catholic Charities Community Services' offices on E. Ridge Road in Rochester become a depot—a stopping-off place—a temporary storage unit—for thousands of Christmas gifts! And every year, by December 24, it is empty (and a little messy) and filled with echo of the collective wishes of many people for a "Merry Christmas" for those we serve.

This is evidence of the wonderful spirit of giving that identifies the citizens of the greater Rochester area ... and you can help.

In the fall, our staff survey to identify the needs of our clients and their families, compile wish lists that include up to three suggestions for each recipient (generally less than \$20.00 value for each item) and submit them to supervisors who review the appropriateness of each request. These wish lists are then forwarded to the Christmas Project Coordinator, Heather Rickett.

In the meantime donors step forward and offer to help, through their churches' giving programs, offices, worksites, and as families. They receive the suggestions for gifts and are heard from again when the shopping and wrapping are complete and the gifts delivered to the office.

Before you can say "Merry Christmas to all" the gifts start heading out the door in the arms of the mighty staff "elves" for delivery all over town. All deliveries are made by staff because we are bound to respect client privacy by our HIPAA regulations. There is still time to be a part of this project this year. Call Heather at 339-9800, ext. 378 and ask Heather what you can do!



NEWSNOTES



Thank you to the Weight Watchers groups that meet here at 1945 E. Ridge Road. They donated nearly 1000 pounds of food to our clients! (It was all pretty healthy stuff too!)

Our "Upstairs Neighbors" at 1945 E. Ridge Road continue to supply us with emergency food from a collection box!
Thank you,

LADY BE FIT EXPRESS



The 2009 Golf Tournament (# 13 played on the 13th) turned out to be a lucky day for all. Players had a good time and the agency realized a profit of nearly \$7,500 that will go toward underfund programs.

THANK YOU to our Supporters!



Kudos for TBI Luau

Traumatic Brain Injury Services held a client-family picnic in September which evoked the following note from a client: *"I can't begin to express what a wonderful time we had. It was great to meet more of the staff and clients...I feel proud to be part of this family. I do now feel like I have a bigger family."*



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ANNE O. SAWYKO Development



WAYS TO HELP...

Friends often ask how they can help Catholic Charities Community Services. Some ways are listed below.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a different idea on how you can help.

- Help with or play at our Annual Golf Tournament
- Volunteer at a community residence or with an agency program
- Make a gift of appreciated stock or bonds
- Honor a special person or event by making a Tribute Donation
- Remember loved ones through designated Memorial Donations
- Remember the agency when planning for your financial future through bequests, trusts and insurance policies.
- Respond to our Annual Appeal
- Give to United Way and choose Option # 2103

Please call the Development Office at 339-9800, ext. 305 if you need further information about these options.

With a little help from our friends, we can continue to provide quality, caring services to those in need.

THANKS SO MUCH!!

This is your chance to be a “Christmas Angel”!

See page 3 to help with Christmas!!

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ROCHESTER, NY
12 COUNTIES OF THE DIOCESE OF
OFFERING SERVICES IN THE
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY,
HIV/AIDS DISEASE, AND
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