

CHARITIES^{IN}ACTION

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown

2022 Fall Edition

Home Again

You have probably heard the phrase, “everything old is new again.” Catholic Charities will be relocating its Lehigh/ Northampton Counties service office to 402 W. Chew Street in Allentown – directly across the street from St. Luke’s Sacred Heart Hospital.

The move will take place in late October; however, this will not be the first time Catholic Charities has operated in that building.

According to Msgr. Walter Scheaffer, past president and member of Catholic Charities’ Board of Directors for more than 30 years, the building at 402 W. Chew Street, known as Seton Hall, served as Catholic Charities’ office once before around 1961 when the Diocese of Allentown was first established by Pope John XXIII.

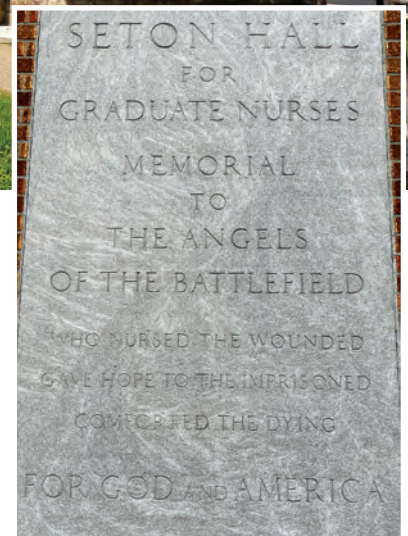
Who said you can never go home again?



Catholic Charities staff awaits a tour of their new office building.

The Seton Hall building also was the site of the former dormitory for students in the Sacred Heart Hospital nursing school, many years ago.

“St. Luke’s Sacred Heart is super excited to be welcoming Catholic Charities to Seton Hall at the corner of our center city campus. This new partnership – Catholic Charities and St. Luke’s Sacred



Heart - will help to transform the lives of our most vulnerable residents,” said Frank Ford, President, St. Luke’s Hospital - Sacred Heart Campus.

Stay tuned for more news about the move in the next edition of *Charities in Action*.



SERVICE OFFICES

Berks County
234 Grace Street
Reading, PA
610-376-7144

Lehigh/Northampton Counties
402 W. Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-1541

Carbon County Office
252 Lafayette Avenue
Palmerton, PA, 18071
610-435-1541

www.CatholicCharitiesAD.org

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If you or someone you know is experiencing a suicide crisis, call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **800-273-TALK (8255)** or call **911 immediately.**

Dear Friends,

September was National Suicide Awareness Month. But the topic is one that requires awareness year-round.

Suicide is a troubling public health issue that devastates families.

Between 1999 and 2019, the suicide death rate in our country increased 33%. An average of 123 people die by suicide in our country every single day.

The facts are alarming; the statistics staggering: there were nearly 46,000 deaths by suicide in 2020; 12.2 million adults seriously thought about suicide; and 1.2 million attempted suicide.*

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10 to 14 and adults ages 25 to 34; the third leading cause for people ages 15 to 24, the fourth leading cause for ages 35 to 44, and the seventh leading cause for ages 55 to 64.**

Today’s school-aged children face many stress factors in their daily lives: bullying, drugs, peer pressure, unhealthy relationships, family abuse, gangs, fear of school violence and more.

For the past five years, Catholic Charities has been present in some of our local Catholic and public elementary and high schools to provide counseling to students. With permission from their parents, students receive counseling to assist with their ability to cope with stress, depression and anxiety; to improve communication and anger management, as well as to support those struggling with trauma-related issues. These services are provided free of charge as funds allow.

Catholic Charities also offers individual and family counseling by appointment in all of our service offices - Allentown, Palmerton, Pottsville and Reading. Counseling fees are based on a sliding fee scale.

As a whole, we all need to be more proactive than reactive when it comes to mental health issues. We can all pay attention to someone we know who might be struggling. Their life could depend on it.



Rob

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)*

***Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (Feb. 2022)*



Rob Nicoletta, Executive Director

How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Lisa Camilli, Secretary/Case Aide, Berks County

Gardening is my passion, so when I started at Catholic Charities three and a half years ago, I was thrilled to see that Lori McGeehan, Supervisor of our Reading office, had a small cherry tomato and cucumber garden in the rear of our building here in Berks County. Through the past few years, we have expanded this garden to include eggplants, peppers and Roma tomatoes. It must be hallowed ground because we always have a plentiful bounty of vegetables which we share with staff and clients, who appreciate getting the fresh, organic produce along with dry goods and frozen foods.



NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMER FOOD DISTRIBUTION



By Lori McGeehan, Catholic Charities Berks County Supervisor

As everyone knows, the summer of 2022 was extremely hot with sweltering days reaching brutal temperatures.

The three days Catholic Charities’ Berks County office held its Neighborhood Summer Food Distribution were no exception.

Tuesday, June 21, Wednesday, July 20 and Thursday, August 25 were scorchers, but staff members survived the heat and may have even sweated off a few pounds!

The distribution was held out of the garage on the office property located at 234 Grace Street in Reading.

Staff members prepared and distributed food boxes filled with canned items and dry goods along with fresh fruit, produce, and dairy items obtained through a partnership with Helping Harvest Fresh Food Bank, which serves Berks and Schuylkill counties.

At the June event, 17 boxes were given out, serving 114 people. There were 25 boxes serving 100 people given out at the July event and in August, 18 boxes were distributed, serving 76 people.

The food giveaway was promoted with signage at the service office, through flyers at a nearby school in May, and on Helping Harvest’s website. The numbers of those served surpassed last year’s, the program’s initial year. Staff members are hopeful to grow the event and serve even more families next summer.

The people in need who benefitted from the extra summer food were thankful and appreciative of all the items they received.

Remember ...

GIVING TUESDAY

November 29, 2022



2022

Gala

*Come Home To
Catholic Charities*

The 2022 Gala, held on April 3, was attended by more than 500 people and raised \$260,000!

We thank all of the attendees, sponsors, committee members, volunteers and staff who helped to make Gala 2022 a life-changing success!



Recipients of the first Jeffrey P. Young Youth Service Award on stage with Sandy Young and Bishop Schlert.



Honoree Frank Ford receives his award from Bishop Schlert.



Bishop Schlert presents Monsignor Robert J. Wargo with his honoree award.



Jane and Von George, Gala Chairpersons, speak to attendees.



Kevin McDonald, who was featured in the Gala video, is surrounded by friends and colleagues.



Student Volunteers from Allentown Central Catholic High School pose with Bishop Schlert.



Seminarians, left to right, Aaron Scheidel, Deacon Alexander Brown, Nikolai Brelinsky, Keaton Eidle, prepare to greet guests.

SAVE THE DATE!
CATHOLIC CHARITIES 15TH ANNUAL

2023

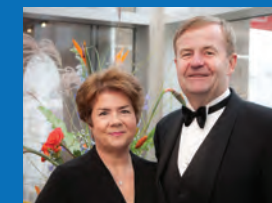
Gala

SUNDAY MARCH 12, 2023
DeSALES UNIVERSITY

2023 Honorees:



REV. JOHN
GIBBONS



MR. & MRS.
PAUL HUCK

GIVING
TUESDAY

Please visit our Website at
www.CatholicCharitiesAD.org
to donate securely online or
mail your gift directly to:

Catholic Charities,
Giving Tuesday
402 W. Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18102

On Tuesday, November 29, organizations around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate and encourage charitable giving. Catholic Charities has joined #GivingTuesday, a global giving movement that harnesses the collective power of individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities, to support and champion important causes they believe in.

#GivingTuesday isn't just about fundraising; it's about communities coming together and giving through a collective spirit of generosity that changes the lives of those who need our help. Any size gift has an impact!

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!

We are very grateful for the generosity of Catholic Charities supporters Pat and Sandy Corpora, who have matched our collective #GivingTuesday gifts for the past five years. This year, when we reach \$15,000 in donations, the Corporas will match that with their own gift of \$15,000!

You don't have to wait until November 29! You can make your gift now and it will count towards our 2022 GivingTuesday Campaign!

Thank you for helping us to help those who need it most.

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

Violetta Dougherty



By Bob Olney
Catholic Charities
Community Outreach Administrator

Violetta Dougherty of Nazareth has been a committed volunteer at a very difficult time due to the economy and the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Violetta responded enthusiastically to a need for volunteers during the pandemic. “We are most impressed with Violetta's compassion and dedication to the community served by our Community Center and Soup Kitchen in Allentown,” said Bob Olney, Community Outreach Administrator. Typically, volunteers serve four hours per month. Violetta gives up her Saturdays after working a full-time job and volunteers 25 hours per month organizing food donations, taking inventory, identifying gaps, and training volunteers.



She shows initiative, solves problems and is committed to quality at our food pantry operations. Edith Burga, Soup Kitchen Coordinator, nominated Dougherty for the Hunger Hero Award given by Second Harvest Food Bank. Said Burga, “I nominated her because she does all of this with great love.”

“We are most impressed with Violetta's compassion and dedication to the community served by our Community Center and Soup Kitchen in Allentown.”

A Blessed Move



By Stacy Ayers, Catholic Charities
Case Manager

Rufus H. was referred to Catholic Charities in June through the Berks County Veterans Affairs office.

He is a widowed 76-year-old Vietnam veteran who is on a fixed income. He was about to lose his housing because the apartment complex in which he was living was being sold. After living there for 10 years, Rufus had only a short time to vacate the premises.

Catholic Charities case manager, Stacy Ayers, was able to connect with a local property manager and secure a new apartment for Rufus. Utilizing Berks County United Way Veterans funding, Catholic Charities was able to pay the security deposit and first month's rent to

help Rufus. Ayers, along with some veteran volunteers, also assisted Rufus with the physical move.

What seemed like an impossible task turned into a success story. Rufus has acclimated well to his new apartment and has been able to sustain himself financially with no outside assistance.



Carbon County Gets Two Service Offices

Although Catholic Charities has been serving those in need in Carbon County for decades, it has never had a physical office presence there.

Plans to establish office space in Carbon county in 2020 were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, Catholic Charities offices were officially opened in Palmerton and Lehighton, respectively. Tom Miller, Catholic Charities' Carbon County



Tom Miller, Catholic Charities
Carbon County Supervisor

Supervisor, works out of both the Palmerton and Lehighton offices, providing services including counseling, case management, and direct assistance as needed. In addition, Miller provides in-school counseling to students at Marion and Nativity High Schools weekly.

“It is wonderful to finally be a presence in Carbon County! To date, we have served hundreds of families here with rental and material assistance, food, diapers and other baby essentials, counseling and support. I look forward to Catholic Charities' continued growth in Carbon County in the months and years to come,” Miller said.

According to Rob Nicolella, Catholic Charities Executive Director, “Opening an office in Carbon County has long been a goal for Catholic Charities. Conversations began with Father Campion early in 2020. However, with COVID impacting all of us, the office move was tabled. We are grateful to Father Ganser (Pastor, Sacred Heart parish), who helped us move into space across the street from Sacred Heart parish in Palmerton and to Father Zelonis (Pastor, SS. Peter and Paul Parish,) who assisted with space at his parish in Lehighton. Our gratitude goes out to all who helped make this happen so that Catholic Charities can better serve those in Carbon County.”





402 W. Chew St., Allentown, PA 18103

www.CatholicCharitiesAD.org



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*Sister Bernadine Lomema,
Catholic Charities Berks County
Counselor - Case Manager*

One thing that has been beneficial for my state of mind since the COVID19 lockdown is crafting.

Even though art and craft have been part of my life for a long time, in the recent years, it has become part of my self-care routine and a way of recycling. Painting pistachio shell and glass bottles allows me to enter a state of relaxation and well-being. The pistachio shell craft and glass bottle center piece were designed to nourish the body, mind, and spirit for all those who came to Mariawald Renewal Center

**PLEASE
MAKE
NOTE OF
OUR NEW
ADDRESS!**

**Catholic Charities
Seton Hall
402 W. Chew Street,
Allentown, PA
18102**