



CATHOLIC CHARITIES


Diocese of Erie

2024 IMPACT REPORT

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

 info@CCIncErie.org

 (814)824-1250

 CatholicCharitiesErie.org

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As the Executive Director of Catholic Charities, I am deeply grateful for your unwavering support and generosity. Your contributions have been instrumental in enabling us to make a significant impact across the 13 counties we serve.

In 2024, we expanded our own outreach programs, provided funding for essential services to those in need, and advocated to various levels of government on issues such as homelessness and housing, maternal health, support for pregnant women and new moms, and human trafficking. From our pilot program providing housewarming kits through our agencies, to our support of parish-based programs,

to our engagement with school administrators, faculty, and students across the diocese, your support has made all this possible. In the following pages, you will find more detailed accounts of various aspects of our work.

Thank you for being a vital part of our mission. Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,



Erin Tubbs
Executive Director

THANK YOU TO OUR ENDOWMENT DONORS

We were so grateful to have made good use of distributions from several endowments at the Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania:

- The Emerging and Unmet Needs Endowment provided food and utility assistance
- The Legacy Endowment provided operational support for the creation of a youth mentoring program
- The Social Justice Endowment provided Black Catholic History Month resources to Catholic high schools across the diocese
- The John E. and Rose M. DeMarco Endowment for Catholic Charities and the Reverend Joseph C. Gregorek Endowment for Catholic Charities provided Christmas gifts for the unhoused and housewarming kits for the newly housed



CATHOLIC CHARITIES MISSION STATEMENT:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie is a ministry of outreach rooted in the dignity of the human person. Catholic Charities serves individuals and families in need, advocates for just social structures, and urges the Church and all people of good will to work toward the common good.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR IMPORTANT WORK

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BINGO

- Friday, April 25th - see back page for more details
- Tickets - \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door
- JPT Event Center Doors Open @ 5:30 - Bingo Starts @ 7:00



ERIE GIVES

- Tuesday, August 12, 2025
- Midnight to midnight
- A portion of all donations will be matched

HELPING HANDS GALA

- Thursday, October 9, 2025
- Gannon University's Yehl Ballroom
- Showcasing a silent auction and honoree ceremony

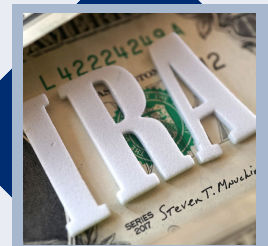


I GIVE CATHOLIC

- Tuesday, December 2, 2025
- Pre-giving days are November 17th through December 1st
- National day of Catholic giving

IRA DISTRIBUTION

- If you are 70 ½ years old or older, you can make a distribution from your IRA directly to Catholic Charities. You pay no income tax on a gift given in this way.



Questions?

Call us at:
814-824-1260

Visit us at:
www.CatholicCharitiesErie.org

A NOTE FROM THE...

OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & LIFE

The Catholic Charities Office of Social Justice and Life (SJ&L) equips disciples on the way to put love into action addressing systemic root causes of injustices that affect many people.

In 2024, SJ&L promoted respect for life and human dignity programs by providing training support for parishes discerning, starting, and continuing Walking with Moms in Need ministries that help pregnant and parenting mothers. We also actively supported People for Life events. Again, this past year, the SJ&L Office traveled to the PA March for Life in Harrisburg with guests from around the diocese to advocate for just laws to protect the most vulnerable.

The office attended the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference annual gathering which included making visits to our Harrisburg legislators. The office advocated for legislation supporting nutrition for children, funding for crisis pregnancy centers, supporting postpartum health education for mothers, rejecting euthanasia, and defending the rights of victims of human trafficking. This advocacy work focuses on the Catholic Social Teachings of respect for human life and dignity, care for the poor and vulnerable, and rights and responsibilities.

In the community, SJ&L advocated for tenants' rights and tenants' education in collaboration with St. Martin Center and the Erie Spiritual Coalition. Additionally, the office coordinated the Catholic Relief Service Rice Bowl Project which provided grants for 25 food pantries across the 13-county diocese and facilitated grants from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection for six organizations serving God's people in our diocese.

SJ&L has also provided education on Catholic Social Teaching at parishes and schools, making CST 101 presentations around the diocese in cooperation with the Office of Faith Formation and participating in Cathedral Prep's Outreach Day and Erie Catholic School System's Catholic Schools

Week activities. With support from the Catholic Foundation of Northwest PA's Social Justice Endowment, the office provided educational resources to diocese high schools about the Saintry Six – six African Americans on the path to sainthood - in celebration of Black Catholic History Month. These resources were a catalyst for an educational infographic contest at Cathedral Preparatory School and an educational presentation on the Saintry Six at Elk County Catholic Middle and High School. SJ&L has also been raising awareness of human trafficking, hunger, and homelessness through presentations at schools highlighting human dignity, option for the poor and vulnerable, solidarity, and the call to family, community, and participation. Finally, the SJ&L office assisted a parish with integrating Catholic Social Teaching, particularly Care for Creation, more intentionally in their Faith Formation program.

TWO FEET



SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

- Life & Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community & Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor & Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation

Do you want to advocate, educate, and help create systematic change? Be a pilgrim of hope and put love into action! Get involved by emailing Elizabeth Slaby at the SJ&L Office: eslaby@ccincerie.org or call 814-824-1254.

“—
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And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

—”
|

...CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFICES

OFFICE OF SOCIAL SERVICE & IMPACT

Homelessness, food insecurity, fear of eviction or utility shut off, lack of furniture or household items, insufficient funds to pay for a funeral, a necessary car repair, or a wheelchair ramp. The reasons that callers reached out to Catholic Charities in 2024 are vast and heartbreaking. The Office of Social Service and Impact continues to be busy responding to requests for emergency assistance with basic needs. One of the goals of this office is to increase our knowledge about services and resources in our diocese so that we can best connect our callers to the assistance they need. Participating in the Home Team, the local FEMA board, and the Niagara Network, as well as attending events organized by the Erie Women's Fund have provided many opportunities to expand this knowledge and create alliances with fellow non-profit agency staff members and leaders.

OF LOVE

CHARITABLE WORKS MEET BASIC NEEDS AID INDIVIDUALS

- Volunteer at homeless shelters
- Tutor Children
- Assist women who face a crisis pregnancy
- Participate in a community beautification program
- Donate to food pantries and clothing closets
- Sponsor a refugee family
- Raise money for an overseas development program

These conversations with leaders of local agencies serving the unsheltered helped us identify some significant gaps in addressing the needs of our neighbors. One gap that Catholic Charities chose to address is the need for household items for previously unsheltered individuals or families who are moving into permanent housing. With the help of some faithful volunteers, fifty Housewarming Kits were distributed to our affiliate agencies who assist clients with housing needs. These kits include a wide variety of items from pots and pans, towels and bedding, to garbage cans and cleaning supplies. Each agency has developed its own distribution process and submits a brief survey to this office so we can evaluate and improve the pilot program.

Catholic Charities also offered support to the Christmas morning brunch at the Upper Room. We donated backpacks, gloves, and more goodies and provided marketing for the event to ensure that those who had no place to go on Christmas morning would have the opportunity to enjoy a hot meal provided by volunteers (led by Anne Bucceri) and

prayer, music, and fellowship with sisters from The Spiritual Family of the Work. Over 85 guests attended.



Another accomplishment of this office for 2024 was the revision of the Parish Care and Concern manual and program that was initially launched by Catholic Charities in the 1990s. We have already started parish promotion and training. As parishes decide to implement or relaunch the program, we will all be able to offer support and assistance more effectively to neighbors in need across the diocese, especially in the areas where there are gaps and insufficient resources.

As Diane Gallagher looked back at her first year, she was amazed at all she had learned and been able to do thanks to the support and guidance from her colleagues in the office, the Catholic Charities Board of Directors, the affiliate agency directors and staff, and the generous collaborators she has worked with throughout the diocese. "Some days, there is so much need placed before me that it can seem overwhelming, and the assistance we can offer can seem insignificant. All I can do is ask God to guide my mind as I prioritize my work, my hands as I serve, and my words as I engage in conversation with my neighbors. I can't do it, but He can."

Do you or someone you know need assistance? Do you want to learn more about Parish Care & Concern or volunteer for one of our upcoming projects? Contact Diane Gallagher at dgallagher@ccincerie.org or (814)824-1251 or find more information on our website at www.CatholicCharitiesErie.org.



Christ has no body on earth now but yours.

St. Teresa of Avila



THE IMPACT OF OUR GRANTS...



Catholic Charities Counseling & Adoption Services...

...has four offices located throughout the diocese (Erie, Bradford, Sharon, and DuBois) and offers professional counseling, adoption services, emergency relief services, and refugee resettlement services.

Catholic Charities, Inc. Grants...

...provided assistance to individuals facing hardships with food, utility assistance, and other basic necessities.

...provided upgraded technology for a better client experience.

St. Martin Center...

...focuses on strengthening lives and supporting the Erie community by providing emergency services, early learning programs, and short-and long-term services that help families reach self-sufficiency.

Catholic Charities, Inc. Grants...

...provided scholarships for new families attending the Early Learning Center.



Prince of Peace Center...

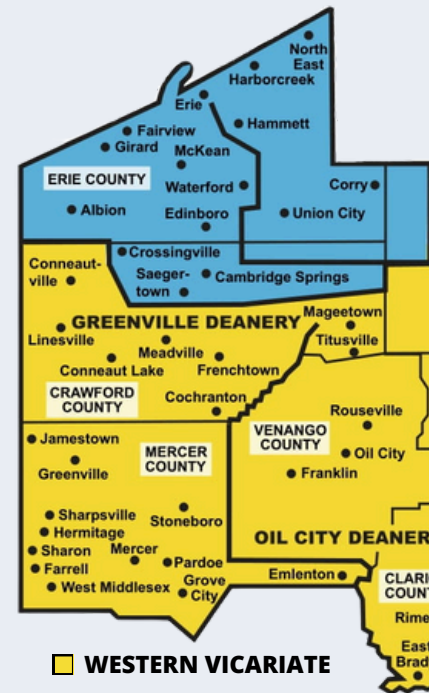
...is a social service agency in Farrell that provides individual and family supportive services, a soup kitchen and food pantry, emergency services, and a thrift store to meet the needs of the community.

Catholic Charities, Inc. Grants...

...assisted with seed money for the new Q Academy, a youth mentoring program for male students in grades 7-12.

...offered support to individuals in urgent need of utility and rent payments, while also helping with food and medical expenses.

■ NORTHERN VICARIATE



■ WESTERN VICARIATE



Bi-Annual Grants Awarded = \$125,000

...HELPING THE HELPERS



Good Samaritan Center...

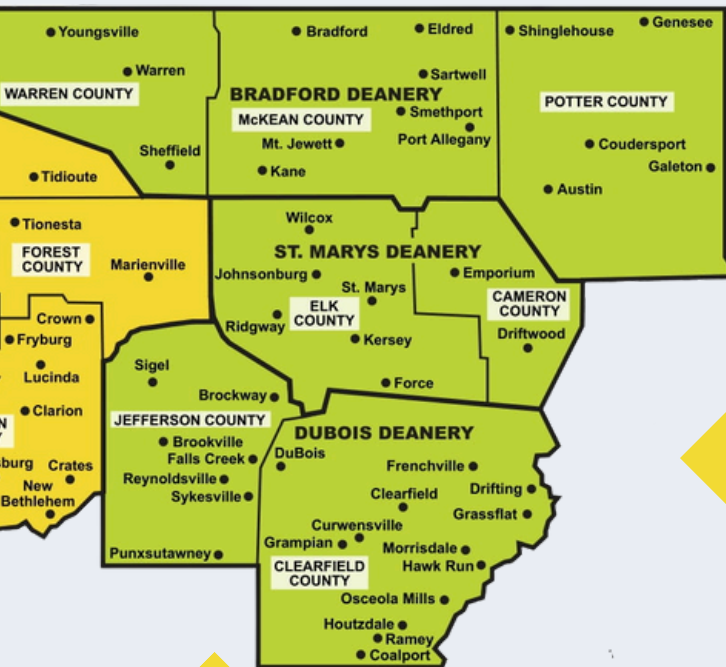
...provides shelter for temporarily homeless men in Clearfield as well as coordinated emergency services for the community.

Catholic Charities, Inc. Grants...

...assisted families facing hardships with rent and utility bills.



■ EASTERN VICARIATE



Christ the King Manor...

...is a continuing care retirement community in DuBois.

Catholic Charities, Inc. Grants...

...helped facilitate the purchase of an integrated wound management system and air mattresses to support the healing of their residents' wounds.



St. Elizabeth Center...

...is a food pantry and outreach center with a thrift store that serves people in need in the Venango County region.

Catholic Charities, Inc. Grants...

...provided funding for specialized food packages for families with autistic members through the Blue Box Program.



Saint John XXIII Home...

...is a continuing care retirement community in Hermitage.

Catholic Charities, Inc. Grants...

...assisted with the purchase of new windows and roof for the 53 year old facility.

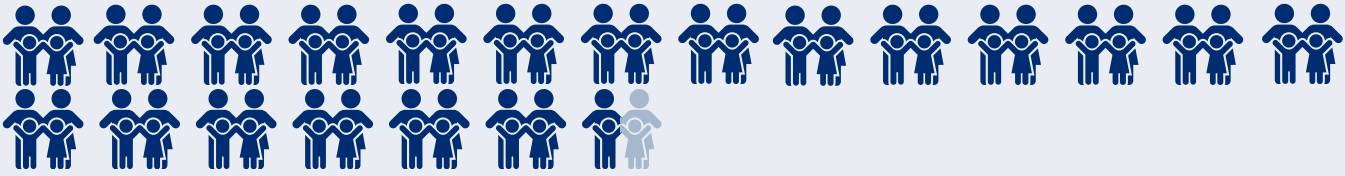
Emergency Grants Awarded = \$12,100



YOUR DONATIONS HELPED...

COMBINED IMPACT OF ALL AFFILIATE AGENCIES

Total Individuals Served (Unduplicated)



Food Assistance



Clothing and Furniture Assistance



Social Service/Counseling/Education Assistance



Refugee Resettlement



Christmas Presents Distributed



Medical Care



Individuals Helped with Financial Assistance

(ex. rent, housing, utilities, etc.)



Total Distributed in Financial Assistance

(ex. rent, housing, utilities, etc.)

\$287,609

** Each icon represents 1,000 individuals

IMPACT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ERIE We are not a direct service agency. We assist primarily through grants to the Catholic Charities affiliate agencies and refer callers to resources. As needs increase and gaps come to light, we are thoughtfully expanding our capacity to assist directly.

Total Individuals Served(Unduplicated)

621

Total Grants Awarded to CC Agencies

\$125,000

Total Emergency Grants Awarded to CC Agencies

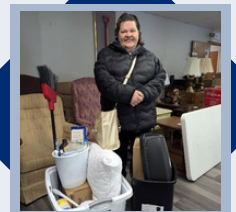
\$12,100

Total Distributed in Financial Assistance

\$5,379

Total Housewarming Kits

**\$9,016 for
50 Kits**



Thank You to All the Incredible Volunteers



**1,817
volunteers**

**13,668
hours**



OUR 2024 GENEROUS DONORS

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who supported Catholic Charities, Inc. in 2024. YOU helped us bring faith, hope, and charity to life.

Mr. William G. and Mrs. Anna Marie Ager
Ms. Jessica Ahlschlager
Mr. Jay and Mrs. Ruth Alberstadt, Jr.
Ms. Jeneane Alfeo
Ms. Hiba Alsabonge
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Mr. and Mrs. John M. Zinna



Lord,
Teach us to be generous;
To give without counting
the cost;
To return good for evil;
To serve without expecting
some reward;
To draw closer to those whom
we find repulsive;
To do good to those who
cannot reciprocate;
To love generously;
To work without being
concerned about rest;
To be solely concerned
about giving;
To give our whole self;
To give to those who need us,
Hoping to receive only You,
Lord, as our reward.

-Noble Saint Vincent DePaul
Patron Saint of Donors



IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. Jack Banister
Mrs. Rose Banister
Deceased Loved Ones of Dr. Gertrude A. Barber
Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Mary Ann Tempestini
Mr. John and Mrs. Rose DeMarco
Mr. Kurt and Mrs. Megan Richter
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Mr. Richard P. and Mrs. Robin A. Vicary, Jr.
Ms. Lottie Wujcik
Ms. Jeneane Alfeo

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Ms. Beth Brynolfson
Mr. Dale R. DeMarco
Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Squeglia
Deacon Richard O'Polka
Mrs. Dianne M. Backer
Mr. Charlie Rutkowski and Mrs. Ann Rutkowski
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Dr. Jeffrey and Mrs. Kathleen McGovern

YOUR DONATION'S IMPACT ON OUR AGENCIES



"I stayed in the abusive relationship because I loved and cared about him, and we had a daughter together. I was scared of him and scared to do it on my own. But then everything changed...Kim and the St. Martin Center helped me and my daughter not only find a place of our own, but they also provided rent assistance and helped us furnish our new home. I am so grateful for what they did for us!" – Amanda P.

Because of your generosity, Amanda and her daughter have found the stability and security they desperately needed. While rent and mortgage assistance provide immediate relief, true transformation happens through empowerment.

At Catholic Charities, we're committed to addressing homelessness in the 13 counties of the Diocese of Erie. Through prayer, research, and collaboration with our affiliate agencies, we've identified a crucial need—household essentials for individuals and families transitioning from homelessness. To meet this need, four of our agencies are distributing Housewarming Kits to eligible families, helping them turn a house into a home. Amanda and her daughter are just one example of how your support makes a difference!

“ —
Each must do as already determined, without sadness
or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

— ”

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FRIDAY, APRIL 25th

Tickets: \$30 in advance • \$35 at the door

JPT Event Center - 2319 W. 38th Street
Doors Open @ 5:30 - Bingo Starts @ 7:00



Scan with your
phone's camera
to buy tickets!

For tickets scan the QR code, visit www.ccincerie.org, or call 814-824-1260

All proceeds go towards programming at Catholic Charities