

# Sharing the Good + News

Spring 2017

## *From the Executive Director*



Ann M. Badach

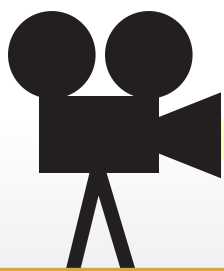
Three years ago this month, I became the executive director of Catholic Charities and immediately began to witness God's grace in action through the amazing efforts of our affiliates and agencies. Because of their good work, individuals and families are given new hope — often in their darkest hours.

But these good works — providing food, clothing, shelter, childcare, transportation, counseling and case management services — could not occur without the generosity of you, our donors.

Although we do our best to thank you individually, I want you to know that we also pray for you during our staff meeting, reciting together a prayer that was written just for this purpose.

Soon we'll be gathering at the Catholic Charities Ball, our annual fundraiser, not only to celebrate our accomplishments, but to stand hopeful for your continued support. I pray we can count on you in the same way that our neighbors in our 13-county diocese count upon us.

Yours in Charity,



LIGHTS  
Camera  
Action!

Lights, Camera, Action is the theme of this year's **Catholic Charities Ball** set for Saturday, May 20 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. Enjoy delicious food stations and cocktails while dancing to fabulous music by The Chosen Few. This year's Helping Hands Award will be presented to Dawn and Dan Schaaf for their faithful service to church and community.



Dawn and Dan Schaaf are the 2017 Helping Hands Award recipients.

**Make your reservation by calling (814) 824-1250 or online at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org).** Tickets are \$100; proceeds benefit persons/families of all faiths through the work of the Catholic Charities affiliated agencies.

## Agencies and Services:

### Good Samaritan Center

Shelter for Temporarily Homeless Men; Food/Financial Referrals; Thrift Store

### St. Martin Center

Emergency Assistance; Early Learning Center; Financial Counseling; Housing Counseling

### Prince of Peace Center

Soup Kitchen; Budget Counseling; Thrift Store; Food Distribution; Home Case Management & Life Skills; Transitional Housing for Homeless Women and Men

### St. Elizabeth Center

Food Pantry; Thrift Store

### Counseling & Adoption Services

Professional Counseling; Pregnancy Counseling; Problem Gambling Counseling; Anger Management Groups; Sexual Abstinence Program; Project Rachel; Adoption Services; Refugee Resettlement

### Christ the King Manor

Continuing Care Retirement Community Providing Skilled Nursing Care, Personal Care, Alzheimer Units, Rehabilitation Services, Home Support and Independent Living Cottages

### Saint John XXIII Home

Assisted Living; Respite; Physical Therapy; Alzheimer Services; Long-Term Care; Occupational Therapy

### Harborcreek Youth Services

Campus-Based Residential Facilities; Assessment/Diagnostic Services; Private Education; Drug and Alcohol Counseling; Community Service; Work Experience; Multi-systemic Therapy and Therapeutic Foster Care; Campus Ministry

### Better Housing for Erie

51 Units of Affordable Housing

## PASTORAL SERVICES

**Family Life:** Pre-Cana; Engagement Encounter; NOVA; Worldwide Marriage Encounter; "Families Always Matter"; Family Perspectives; Transitions; CDSG Divorce Ministry

**Disabilities:** Deaf Ministry; Parish Advocacy; Spiritual Enrichment; Victorious Missionaries; Faith & Light

**Parish Social Ministry:** Parish Care & Concern; Bereavement; Elizabeth Ministry; Justice & Peace/Respect Life Advocacy

**Mission:** Mission of Friendship; Propagation of the Faith; Mission Education; Holy Childhood Association

**Rural:** Pastoral & Ecumenical Outreach; Spiritual Support; Parish Education; Retreats/Enrichment Day Programs; Faith Sharing Groups

Focus on...

## Mission and Purpose

### Retreat to Re-energize and Serve

Catholic Charities' agency directors and pastoral ministry staff recently gathered for their annual 24-hour retreat at Olmstead Manor in Ludlow, Pa. Led by Father Mike DeMartinis, the group spent quality time together in prayer, discussion and service.



This year, the leadership team prepared 18 large pans of lasagna which were given to local community housing residents and shut-ins in nearby Kane, Pa. As part of their retreat experience, the participants shopped together for ingredients at the local supermarket, then peeled, chopped, cooked and assembled the hearty meals.

Under the leadership of Father Phil Pinczewski, former pastor of St. Callistus Parish in Kane, delivery was arranged and coordinated with the help of several parish volunteers.

"The efforts of these leaders reminded all of us of the importance of every effort that is made to lessen the burden of the poor," said Ann Badach, executive director of Catholic Charities. "With so many cooks in the kitchen you'd think there would have been chaos, but instead, what we experienced was the joy that comes from being generous, and a chance to share in the experience of hands-on service."

Directors representing five agencies and five rural and pastoral ministries from across the Diocese of Erie were represented at this year's retreat.



Focus on...

## Affiliate Agency Impact

### Better Housing for Erie

#### Hooray!

Tasha Miller, a resident of Better Housing for Erie, was accepted into Gannon University's Nursing Program.

#### Oh no!

As a first-generation college student, this dream and opportunity was overwhelming for Tasha even before classes began. The application fees and process, financial aid forms, information packets and down payments required for enrollment were more than she could handle on her own.

#### Thank goodness.

Makenzie Hanlin, a service coordinator at Better Housing, a Catholic Charities affiliate, knew Tasha and was available to help her with the process.

#### Thank you.

The computers, printers, and supplies available in the Better Housing community center for circumstances like this were made possible by Catholic Charities' grants.

#### More where that came from.

The "business of life" often revolves around internet connections, online applications and correspondence. Tasha's is just one of many stories of personal life management made possible by Catholic Charities' affiliates and agencies.

Catholic  
Rural  
Ministry

#### After 24 years...your position has been cut

Imagine working for a company for 24 years, living check to check and discovering your position has been cut. Always having worked, you do not know the social service network.

Then you receive a bank repossession notice of the only home you have ever known.

Now imagine the relief and gratitude you feel when receiving assistance from the Sisters of Catholic Rural Ministry which allows you to stay in your home. And through the sisters, you learn how the social service networks function in your community for food, unemployment benefits, budgeting assistance and support groups for the unemployed.



For more information about Catholic Rural Ministry, visit [www.ErieRCD.org/rural.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/rural.htm).

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Ann Rutkowski

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Father Christopher Singer

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Atty. James B. Toohey

Ann Badach,  
Executive Director



Bringing **Faith, Hope** and **Charity** to Life

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[www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)

or [www.ErieRCD.org/charities.htm](http://www.ErieRCD.org/charities.htm)

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### MISSION STATEMENT

As Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Erie, we are witnesses and servants of Jesus Christ. Consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church, we provide health care, social and pastoral services for those in need, regardless of faith. Catholic Charities is committed to the sacredness of human life and the betterment of society.

# SERVING PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS

*Action!*



The 2017 Catholic Charities Ball Committee has planned a great night of fun! Pictured left to right are: Kathy Grisier, Julia Cooney, Allison Hodas, Meg Britton, Brady Louis and Leslie Hooven. Ruth Alberstadt, Christine Toohey and Annie Rutkowski are also on the committee.



All-Faith Focus on...

## Thank You, Donors! (October 1, 2016 - February 28, 2017)

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**You can have an everlasting influence** on the lives of families in need throughout our diocese with a planned gift to Catholic Charities. Simply ask your attorney to include a bequest for Catholic Charities in your will.

**Contact Lisa Louis at (814) 824-1237  
or [LLouis@ErieRCD.org](mailto:LLouis@ErieRCD.org) to learn more.**

All-Faith Focus on...

## Thank You Donors! (Continued)

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Let us pray...

Dear God,

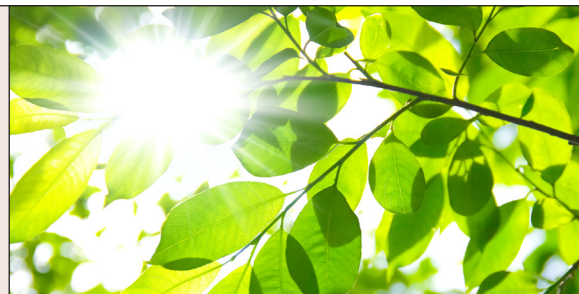
*Mindful of the generosity we have received from the hands of our donors, we in Catholic Charities are filled with joyful gratitude.*

*We give thanks to you for countless blessings received and rejoice that, by their gifts, our donors share in our Mission. Through the generous gifts of our donors, we are able to provide healthcare, social and pastoral services for those in need regardless of faith.*

*Thus, in thanksgiving for the sacrifices and contributions offered by so many, we offer our most precious gift: our prayers.*

*"Every good gift comes from above."*

JAMES 1:17



*And so, acknowledging this we ask for blessings for our donors and their families. "We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers." (1 THESSALONIANS 1:2)*

*(First names of donors are mentioned)*

*Lord, continue to unite us with our donors as we work together to strengthen our commitment to the sacredness of human life and the betterment of society.*

*Amen.*