



CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES  
Diocese of Metuchen

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

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

Hope

HAPPENS  
HERE!

# Leadership



Reverend Msgr. William Benwell, V.G.  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Left

The Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D.  
Bishop of Metuchen

Center

Marianne Majewski, LCSW  
Executive Director

Right

## Board of Trustees

- The Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, D.D.  
Bishop of Metuchen
- Rev. Msgr. William Benwell, V.G.  
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- James E. Ryan
- Bernadette Sohler
- Rev. Msgr. John B. Szymanski, P.A., V.G. Em.
- Gordon M. Ur



**“I would encourage you to keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty. They, too, need to be given hope.”**

**– Pope Francis**

**53,000 PEOPLE RECEIVED**

**203,825 HOURS OF SERVICE THROUGH**

**103 PROGRAMS WITH THE HELP OF**

**656 VOLUNTEERS WHO GAVE**

**26,658 HOURS OF THEIR TIME**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**“Driven by the social teachings of the Church, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, provides quality services with dignity and respect to the poor, vulnerable and all people in need, and partners with families and communities to improve the quality of life.”**

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# PROVIDING PATHS to self-sufficiency

## Shelter

The cost of living in NJ is one of the highest in the nation, and the challenges a single parent faces can seem insurmountable. Naomi's Way is a source of hope to the residents that live there. Located in New Brunswick, Naomi's Way offers support to homeless mothers who are employed or engaged in job training.

A resident would have to make \$28.04 per hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Middlesex County, more than three times the minimum wage in New Jersey. Naomi's Way provides families with resources and the gifts of time and living space until they can afford to live in their own apartment.



***In 2015, 9765 days of care were provided at Naomi's Way to 61 individuals in 24 families.***

At Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, we respect everyone who comes to us for help. So while these stories are true, client names and images may have been changed to protect privacy.

## *Stories of hope*

**SUSAN** was a working mother of three school aged boys who worked three jobs when she entered the shelter, unable to maintain her housing. After entering Naomi's Way, Susan continued to work and save money. While in residence, Susan was provided with case management and life skills training. Her boys excelled academically and were school athletes, the oldest in college and the next on his way. Thanks to Naomi's Way, Susan was able to move into her own apartment and her family continues to be stably housed.

**MARIA** was employed, but came to Naomi's Way due to being displaced from her home while fleeing domestic violence with her daughter. Over the course of a year, Maria saved enough money to move into her own apartment. Having succeeded, Maria returns to Naomi's Way as a motivational speaker, providing hope and inspiration to others who can benefit from her experience and success.

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Over 20 Catholic Charities programs are available to provide short term assistance that lead to self-sufficiency, including the Ozanam Family Shelter in Edison, and the Ozanam Inn, a men's shelter. ***Last year, 215 shelter residents transitioned to stable housing and an improved quality of life.***

***DON*** was hungry, frightened and alone; he was in a place of despair. But through the services of Catholic Charities, he found more than a meal and a bed, Don found HOPE.

## Did you Know?

**9.3 percent of all America's children live in "deep poverty" and will suffer lifelong consequences.**

**1 in 7 families were food insecure last year.**

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# Meeting Basic Needs



The Catholic Charities Social Service Center opened in a new location in 2015. The new location, at 387 South Main Street in Phillipsburg, is owned by Catholic Charities and brings together its food pantry and thrift shop in one building. The services, previously located in separate rented spaces, have been serving Warren County since 1982.

The food pantry stocks grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy, and protein products. Additionally, through collaborative efforts with local senior citizen complexes, goods are delivered on a quarterly schedule. Case management is offered to people in need of encouragement, information, referral and advocacy services. Discounted goods sold at the thrift store help residents stretch their budgets.

More than 46 million Americans live in poverty, and almost one million of them live right here in New Jersey. Because making “ends meet” continues to be a struggle for residents in the Diocese of Metuchen, providing a safety net for the poor and vulnerable remains a major focus of the work of Catholic Charities.



Social Service Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

***Staffed largely by volunteers, and supplemented by churches, organizations, and individuals who contribute in-kind donations, the Social Service Center responded to more than 11,000 requests for food and clothing in Warren County in 2015.***

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# hope for a **BRIGHTER FUTURE**

## Counseling

### TREE OF HOPE

Addiction has no boundaries and can affect anyone, regardless of age, race, religion or economic status. The programs in the Addiction Services Area serve adult individuals, families and adolescents who are struggling to overcome their addictions, providing hope to each individual as they reach for their goals in relation to themselves, their families and their recovery.

Catholic Charities' East Brunswick Family Service Office proudly accepted the Tree of Hope award in 2015 from the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Middlesex County, and the spotlight it shines on addiction. The "Tree of Hope" is awarded annually to an organization that promotes recovery from addiction.

At the ceremony, Catherine shared her story, ***"I don't know where I would be today without Emma and Catholic Charities. Emma has taught me so much about addiction, and also about myself. She's shown me hope. Through this program and AA, I have my family back in my life. I'm working on getting my child back in my life; I have a job that I show up for... that at one time I would never have been able to do."***

In addition to addiction services, Catholic Charities' East Brunswick Family Service Center offers general counseling, bilingual counseling, anger management counseling and services to persons in the community with serious and persistent mental illness. ***The East Brunswick Family Service Office provided over 10,000 hours of service to 698 clients in 2015.***



**"We chose Catholic Charities as our 2015 Tree of Hope recipient because of their impact on the communities they serve, every day. They not only give people hope, but also a real opportunity for recovery."**

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# building **BETTER COMMUNITIES**

## Health, Wellness & Advocacy In Child Care

### YOUTH ENRICHMENT SERVICES & SCHOOL AGE CHILD CARE

Health and wellness is a focus of all Catholic Charities programs; the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Program is no exception. YES achieved success in 2015 in promoting the importance of a healthy lifestyle among its clients and community members. As a participant in the Shaping NJ initiative, (funded by The NJ Department of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, NJ YMCA State Alliance, Partners for Health and Atlantic Health System), the YES program provided a wealth of resources, information, events and activities to the families and children they serve at the YES program in Middlesex County.

A series of monthly workshops about health and nutrition, field trips and hands on experiences, such as gardening, cooking and exercising were all part of a community collaboration that culminated in a Healthy Families, Healthy Community Fair. These activities will have continuing effects that promote lifestyle changes and place importance on access to healthy food and opportunities for routine physical activity. The YES Program will continue to partner with local community organizations to educate families and the community about health, nutrition, and obesity prevention.



Catholic Charities School Age Programs participated in Lights on Afterschool, as it does each year, a nationwide event that celebrates afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The event sends a strong message that millions more children need quality afterschool programs.

Affordable quality child care is one of the services most frequently requested by the clients of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Catholic Charities responds with expertise and compassion, providing quality care, empowerment and education to the community to adopt a healthier lifestyle. **Overall, 1530 children were enrolled in Catholic Charities Child Care Programs, including 190 in preschool, 935 in school age child care and 405 in summer camp programs.**

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# HOPE IN ACTION

Unity Square, a social justice initiative of Catholic Charities continues to empower community members and catalyze change in the poorest residential neighborhood of New Brunswick, NJ. In so doing, Unity Square addresses a diverse set of issues, including economic development, employment, civic participation, crime and safety, immigrants' rights, and tenants' rights.

More than a year ago, in response to the requests of its neighborhood residents, Unity Square staff and resident leaders gave Mayor Jim Cahill of New Brunswick input on the original framework of an ordinance that would require paid sick leave for the Unity Square community. These efforts paid off!



***In 2015, the city of New Brunswick became the eleventh municipality in New Jersey to mandate paid sick leave, and the first city in the state to specify that this short-term leave may also be used for purposes related to the effects of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.***

<http://www.ccdom.org/usq>

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# our SERVICES

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen is one of the largest non-profit social service providers in New Jersey. Our programs provide our clients with Hope for a better life! We provide shelter to those suffering from the sting of homelessness; give hungry men, women and children a nutritious meal; provide before and after school child care for working parents who struggle to make ends meet; give single mothers who are victims of domestic violence and their children a safe place to live. Our programs strengthen individuals and families, providing them with a path to self-sufficiency and HOPE for a better future.

- **Basic Needs**  
Making ends meet
- **Child Care**  
Providing affordable options for families
- **Counseling Services**  
Helping to face life's challenges
- **Disaster Relief**  
Restoring hope, rebuilding lives
- **Foster A Child**  
Ensuring a loving and caring home
- **Housing & Shelters**  
Offering a safe haven
- **Immigration**  
Seeking justice for newcomers
- **Maternity Services**  
Giving the best care for babies and mothers
- **Out Of Home Placement**  
Providing caring structure and support
- **Services Needing A Referral**  
Navigating the system
- **Social Justice**  
Giving a voice to the voiceless
- **Youth Services**  
Nurturing the potential of every child

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# how **YOU CAN HELP**

**At Catholic Charities, we work in partnership with volunteers, community resources and donors to provide services for anyone who needs us.**

**We can't do it alone and need your help!**

**DONATE!** If you would like to help us serve more people in need, please go to:  
**[www.ccdom.org/donate](http://www.ccdom.org/donate) or call: 732-324-8200**

**VOLUNTEER!** Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, welcomes volunteer inquiries since the generous contribution of time and talent from individuals enables us to offer a higher level of quality service to those in need. Opportunities include but are not limited to: office assistance, mentoring, food preparation for our shelters and shopping and friendly visits to homebound.  
**call: 732-324-8200**

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE** A free, convenient service for converting a car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation benefiting Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Free pick-up is available and vehicles do not need to be running. Funds from the sale of donated vehicles support our programs serving the poor across Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren counties. Donated vehicles are tax deductible. Donate online at:  
**[www.ccdom.org/cars](http://www.ccdom.org/cars) or call: 877-999-8322 to make your donation.**

**LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE:** Include us in your will. Please consider naming Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, as a beneficiary of your will. A gift through your will evidences your strong commitment to the needy and less fortunate that lasts beyond your lifetime. It is suggested that you use the following language:

I hereby give and devise to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, a charitable organization located at 319 Maple Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey 08861, \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for its general charitable purposes.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, prefers that gifts be made for unrestricted general purposes so that your gift can be used where it is most needed. Thank you for your kind and thoughtful consideration in this regard.

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# Spread the Word!



People from all walks of life, all races, all religions and all economic levels come to us for help. Catholic Charities responds with compassion, expertise and resources through more than 100 programs, and provides hope for a brighter future. Anyone can call us for help.

**Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen**  
319 Maple Street  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

**Phone: 732-324-8200**

**Fax: 732-826-3549**



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United Way 