

Catholic Charities

Spring News 2015

2014 Year in Review

2014 started off with a bang – literally. We experienced some burst water pipes that forced Catholic Charities to temporarily relocate to Lincoln Hills Development Corporation. We moved back into our original (and improved) location in early May. While this was a difficult time for us logistically, it served as a reminder of the individuals we encounter who experience unexpected circumstances and often do not have an alternative to their crisis situation. We are grateful for the patience and courtesies extended to us during that time and pledge to continue to be the best stewards of your support as we can be. During this time and throughout all of 2014, Catholic Charities was busy providing help and creating hope for the most vulnerable among us. We would like to use this report to let you know of our activities during 2014; activities made possible by your support and encouragement.

MARTIN'S CLOAK FOOD PANTRY: The food pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month, and is housed in the basement of St. Martin of Tours Church in Siberia. During the calendar year 2014, food was distributed to 1,010 families (3,226 individuals). Of these, 791 were 18 years of age or younger; 1,846 were between the ages of 19 to 64 years; and 589 were 65 years or older. Martin's Cloak Food Pantry and Catholic Charities are members of the Perry County Food Coalition, comprised of five food pantries in Perry County. Catholic Charities hosts the coalition meetings and is the drop-off site for canned/non-perishable food drives conducted in the county. Catholic Charities also serves as the fiscal agent for the Food Coalition, and all monetary donations are routed through Catholic Charities on behalf of the five pantries. Monies received through the food coalition are deposited with the Tri-State Food Bank and the pantries use that credit for food purchases.

LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES: Lifeline for Families serves as a resource for low-income pregnant women and families with small children. Assistance is given with diapers, formula, and connecting people to other resources within our area. The Early Years Store, which is supplied with donations from the community, allows families to shop free of charge for maternity clothing, baby clothing (NB to size 2T), baby furniture, and other baby items. In 2014, we assisted 192 families through this program. In November, we again conducted some Adoption Awareness activities by holding a gathering with the high school

religious education students of the deanery, featuring an adoption expert from St. Elizabeth's Catholic Charities in New Albany. We also held a luncheon for local groups who may be the first to know of a woman's unexpected pregnancy, including clergy, health care workers, school counselors and other social service providers. The intent of Adoption Awareness is to educate the public about adoption, asking them to consider adoption as a loving option.

SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE: As we seek ways to help people with their basic needs – food, clothing and shelter – the Specific Assistance Program helps those in need with utility and rent payments, prescription medications and gasoline for out-of-town medical appointments. We are also responsible for distribution of funds for the Salvation Army and the Ohio Valley Gas Corporation Gas Help Fund.

In 2014, many families were assisted through these three funds. Through Catholic Charities, we provided help to 288 families (786 individuals). The Salvation Army funds assisted 243 families (718 individuals), and the Gas Help Fund assisted 57 families (177 individuals). In 2014, Catholic Charities increased the amount of assistance given per instance while still serving almost the same number of families. With Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army, help is given only once every 6 months and the Gas Help Fund assists those needing help only once annually.

We continue to serve as a resource for many people, posting job openings, encouraging education and training opportunities and helping to guide individuals through the maze of governmental and social service agencies to get the help they need.

TABLE OF BLESSINGS: We have just begun the 6th year of this ministry, which is a collaboration between Catholic Charities and EUCC Church. Many area organizations, civic groups, church groups, prayer groups, businesses and individuals come together to provide a meal for those in need in our community. In 2014, 6,561 meals were served, an increase of 29% from the previous year.

Part of the blessing of this ministry is becoming friends with those who choose to eat their Thursday evening meal with us on a regular basis. We have watched children grow up, families reconnect and smiles grow brighter with the fellowship.

During the growing season, we receive fresh produce from Branchville Training Facility and individuals sharing from their home gardens. Table of Blessings is truly an ecumenical and community-wide effort.

In 2014,
we provided
help to
262
families and
723
individuals
through
emergency
assistance.



BUDGET BASICS: In 2014, more volunteers were trained to teach classes in budgeting to those who have never been given the skills and knowledge to manage their money. Three different classes were conducted this past year and we plan to expand this ministry. Class participants are given many helpful tips and incentives for attending and completing their homework. We hope to add a component on nutrition and grocery shopping on a budget as we expand this program. Graduates of Budget Basics have been able to improve their life circumstances with the knowledge gained. Thanks to a gift from United Way, this program has not needed any additional funding.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS: With gratitude to our generous and faithful donors, Catholic Charities is able to continue to provide help and create hope in the lives of many who struggle on a daily basis in our area. Through our 5th Sunday Collections, we received \$13,013.98. Some parishes donated directly to Martin's Cloak Food Pantry in the amount of \$907. Noble's IGA receipts brought in another \$955.81. Continued support through our faithful donors has been essential to our work. We strive to use all of our resources that have been entrusted to us as wisely as possible.

Catholic Charities continues to serve in a variety of ways to best meet the needs of individuals and families living in our community:

- Distributing a total of 408 coats and 59 blankets to those needing warmth. A special thank you to Hilger's Laundry in Tell City for cleaning these donated coats for us free of charge.
- Serving on the Transportation Advisory Council for Perry and Spencer counties, working on improving public transportation in our area.
- Continuing our work with Branchville Correctional Facility to provide clothing to released offenders.
- Helping students reach their potential by accessing post-secondary education through the College Success Coalition.

Catholic Charities will continue to provide help, create hope and serve all in need in our communities. Without your support, none of these efforts and ministries would be possible, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission. May God bless all of you for your support through donations, volunteerism and prayers.

We look forward to a great 2015!



To sign up for e-newsletters, find volunteer opportunities, or donate to provide help and create hope, visit us at
CatholicCharitiesTellCity.org.