

Winter 2013

Programs & Services

Emergency Assistance
*Facilitated Supervised
Visitation*

Food Pantry
*Kinship Caregiving
Nutrition Outreach*

Education Program (NOEP)
*Parent Education
& Mentoring*

Substance Abuse
Prevention Education
*Women, Infants,
and Children (WIC)*

Greater Hudson
Promise Neighborhood
(GHPN)

*Caregiver Support
AIDS Services
Disabilities Services
Disaster Relief*

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Who is Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties?

We are the people a limited income **senior citizen** calls for help in applying for food stamps or comes to receive a few days of food from the food pantry.

We are the people an income eligible **mother** of two talks to about her children's eating habits and leaves with information and checks or vouchers to purchase nutritious food items for those children to develop to their fullest potential.

We are the people a **couple** struggling to pay their water bill turns to as one would turn to your family for a listening ear and guidance. Having no family supports in the area, suffering a loss of income from an injury and depleting meager savings to maintain the mortgage, the couple receives guidance on applying for HEAP and a sense of relief that the water bill will be paid via the Emergency Assistance fund.

We are the people in the schools and after school programs educating the **youth** on staying drug free and how not to be a bully, helping them to make healthier choices now that will lead to their own success in the future.

We are the people a **grandfather** receives answers from on how to enroll his newest housemate, his grandson, into school as well as what forms he needs to seek medical records and to have the ability to make medical decisions in the absence of the biological parents. We are also the people he shares his worries and concerns on raising a child in today's world as it is very different than when he raised his son.

We are the people the **community**, of all races, creed, religions, and lifestyles turn to and receive help from.

We are the people the **community**, of all races, creed, religions, and lifestyles turn to offer help to others through food drives, donations, volunteering, and to make a positive difference.

We are one of fourteen agencies within Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, one of the largest, private social services organizations in the region. We serve and empower all persons in need, regardless of race, creed, religion, or lifestyle; advocate for a just society; and collaborate with women and men of goodwill.

Last year we served 12,686 individuals within our two counties. We are Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties and we are here to serve, empower and advocate for you or your neighbors in need.

SNAP to it!

SNAP is the new name for the Food Stamp Program in New York State. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is designed to help families and individuals purchase the foods necessary for a healthy lifestyle. The average benefit a participating senior (60+) receives is currently \$150/month. A family of 4 could potentially receive up to \$668/month. The benefit amount is based on a client's income relative to expenses. SNAP benefits are easily accessed using an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which is similar to a debit card.

At both our Hudson and Catskill offices, Nutritional Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) Coordinators are here to assist consumers in applying and recertifying for SNAP benefits. Free and confidential "prescreening" is available to determine program eli-

gibility. At our Hudson location, Lynette Livermore serves as the Columbia County NOEP Coordinator, and may be reached at 828-8660. Marcella Schumann serves Greene county residents, and can be reached in the Catskill office at 943-1462. In the last 18 months, Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties has helped over 500 households to apply for SNAP benefits, bringing over \$2,080,512 of spending dollars to our counties.



Pictured to the left are food and diapers given by the community for our food pantry from "Stuff the Bus" held in November 2012.

Investing In Your Neighbors

Donating to Catholic Charities is an investment in your community as the funds are used to promote self-sufficiency of individuals and families. Eighty-eight cents of every donation goes to direct services in your community **regardless of race, creed, or lifestyle** with special emphasis on the poor and most vulnerable.

Donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law as we are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Any denomination of funds helps Catholic Charities to carry out our mission, thank you.

Checks and money orders may be mailed to:

Catholic Charities of Columbia & Greene Counties, 431 East Allen Street, Hudson, NY, 12534

Please contact our office at 518-828-8660 to make a donation via credit card or planned giving.



You can designate your United Way donations directly to Catholic Charities. For Federal Employees: Designate CFC #42852, For State Employees: Designate 50-00435, For Non-government Employees: Write Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties on your campaign card.

Catholic Charities Wish List

Listed below are items needed by the Agency and programs. By fulfilling one of our "wishes", you will have a direct, immediate, and tangible impact on our programs and the people we serve. Wishes come in all shapes and sizes for all budgets!

- * Diapers Size 3, 4 and 5
- * Gas Gift Cards (\$25 and up)
- * Picnic Table For Family Visits (\$250)
- * Outdoor Storage Shed for Toys For Family Visits(\$550).

Pictured to the right are donated gifts awaiting pick up from families in need served by the Adopt-A-Family program December 2012.



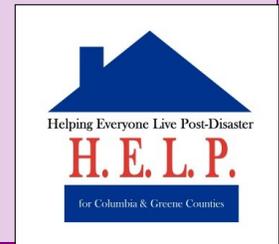
Together We Can HELP Make a Difference

Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties is a founding and active member of Helping Everyone Live Post Disaster (H.E.L.P.) for Columbia and Greene Counties. This long term recovery group was formed in response to the unmet needs of victims following the flood disaster resulting from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee in August 2011.

HELP's mission statement reads; "H.E.L.P. for Columbia and Greene Counties is dedicated to being good stewards, to facilitate disaster recovery, simplify access to resources and to advocate for those most vulnerable." Currently the group focus is on eliminating the continuing unmet needs as a result of Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, and also to remain in place as a formal entity to be a resource for future disasters.

Despite the fact that HELP has a small handful of committed members, feedback from national organizations with experience in long term recovery group development has been extremely positive and encouraging. HELP has worked closely with national organizations such as The Red Cross, FEMA and religious volunteer organizations and groups such as UMCOR and the "Greene Shirts". It is with confidence that HELP can say that organizations has been impressed and praised the group on their development, progress and commitment.

As of February 2013, HELP and Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties have provided disaster assistance to over 35 seniors, 100 adults and 90 children. Subsequently numbers will continue to increase as residents are still recovering from Irene and Lee and several new requests have been made as a result of Hurricane Sandy. With continued support of the community, HELP along with Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties will remain viable resources for disaster recovery.



WIC Celebrates Dental Health Month

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) is one of the nation's premiere public health programs. WIC serves pregnant women and families with children under five. WIC provides a safe, nurturing environment for education, health care and social service referrals, as well as free access to nutritious foods. On average, families come to our office four times a year for services. Twice a year we obtain clients heights, weights and screen for

anemia. Our goal is to assess what the client's primary health concerns are and help them make a plan to change for the better. One topic that comes up in conversation is dental health. Dental health is important to everyone's overall good health. The WIC staff in conjunction with local dentists focused on this topic for the month of February, specifically about caring for teeth during pregnancy and early in a child's life. We discussed the advantages of fluoride for protecting teeth. Staff encourage families to come up with

a plan that fosters good dental habits for the whole family. As nutritionists, we always are giving dietary tips to prevent dental cavities. We also refer families to dentists in the area. Greene Pediatric Dentistry, in Catskill, and All Access Dental, in Germantown, donated giveaways and informational handouts for our families during the month of February. Free toothpaste provided by Crest and toothbrushes provided by Colgate were given to all WIC families at their scheduled appointments in February. Thanks to Columbia Me-

morial Hospital's Dental Health Services, free dental screenings were offered to adults and children in the Catholic Charities' Hudson and Catskill offices for two days as well. The WIC program services clients regardless of county residence, with main offices in Catskill and Hudson. Five additional locations include Chatham, Copake Falls, Coxsackie, Valatie, and Windham. Please contact Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties at 828-9668 in Hudson or 943-9082 in Catskill to make an appointment.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

431 EAST ALLEN STREET
HUDSON, NY 12534
Phone: 518-828-8660
Fax: 518-828-4016

CATSKILL OFFICE

82 WOODLAND AVENUE
CATSKILL, NY 12414
Phone: 518-943-1462
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An affiliate of United Way

Client Survey Says...

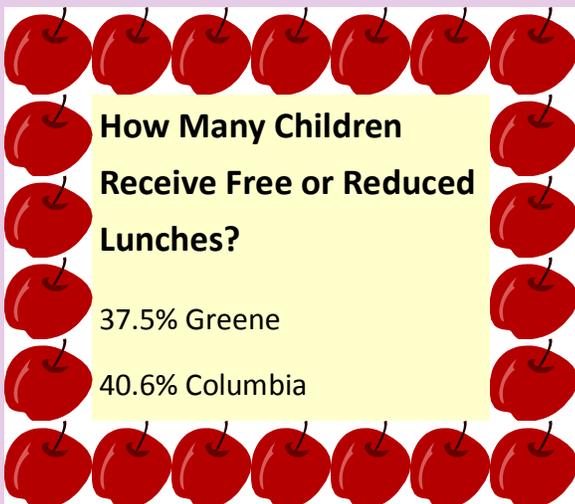
Results of the bi-annual client survey conducted in January indicated overall satisfaction with services and most especially with the dignity and respect in which services were delivered. Full results can be reviewed at our website.

Highest Score: 97%- If you were to seek help again, would you come back to our agency?

Lowest Score: 91%- To what extent has our agency met your needs?

93%- How would you rate the quality of service you received?

95%-How satisfied are you with the amount of help you have received?



**How Many Children
Receive Free or Reduced
Lunches?**

37.5% Greene
40.6% Columbia

On The Web

Visit us at
www.catholiccharitiescg.org for the latest in events, details on all of our programs and services or read past newsletters and client stories.

Please share with us at info@cathcharcg.org if you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.