

CHEMUNG & SCHUYLER COUNTY

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

*Help that works,  
Hope that lasts...*



# Catholic Charities



Chemung & Schuyler

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*Dear Community Partners,*

The work of Catholic Charities continues to change lives and we have you to thank. As part of the Catholic Charities Family – an alliance of Staff, Volunteers, Board Members, Businesses and Compassionate Community Members - you are the stewards of change. Your support reframes the destiny for so many that turn to us during their greatest struggles.

We help transform the lives of real people facing addiction, abuse and isolation...many plagued by the epidemic of poverty. These are the adults, children and elderly that we are committed to serving. By providing the gift of hope, even the most insurmountable adversity can be overcome.

It is my desire that as you read the following pages you will be inspired to continue to share your gifts of hope and compassion. Our commitment is to build a just and compassionate society rooted in the dignity of all people. And, as good stewards of this mission, we will continue our efforts to reduce poverty, promote healthy individual and family life, collaborate with faith communities and advocate for justice and peace.

With this commitment, I ask you for your continued support in changing lives. Thank you for all that you do to make our work possible. We are honored that you choose to give through us to impact our neighbors in need.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Nocera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles Nocera, Executive Director

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**Rebecca Weichenthal**  
Schuyler County DSS

# Our 2014 Impact

## Chemung County:

**9,743 adults and 3,650 children** received emergency food.

**321 adults and 42 children** were provided with emergency shelter and received meals and support on their journey toward permanent housing.

**402 individuals and families** were provided housing and residential support services.

**21 youth** in Foster Care were given the guidance and support to become healthy, independent adults.

**274 individuals** were provided mortgage foreclosure prevention counseling.

Since 1994,

**430 homes** have been purchased through the First Time Homebuyer Program, in partnership with the City of Elmira.

## Schuyler County:

**116 victims** of domestic violence received advocacy and support to develop healthier lives.

During an average month, **331 households, including 230 children** received emergency food from Schuyler Outreach Food Pantry.

**209 individuals donated 22,889 hours** of their time through the RSVP of Schuyler & Yates Counties.



# 2014 Financial Narrative

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuylers operating funds come from federal, state and local government grants and contracts, Medicaid, Program Income, United Way, Diocesan Support, Private Contributions and Investment Income. In 2014, our total operating revenues for the fiscal year were \$5,580,184, falling short of operating expenses resulting in a change to net assets of (\$22,463).

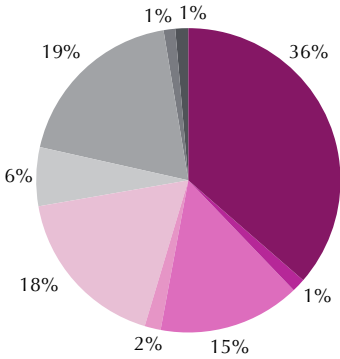
In keeping with our commitment to fulfill our mission, our expenditures – personnel, specific assistance, operating and administrative, stimulate our local economy through employment, renting from local landlords and purchasing from local vendors.

Our primary Program Expenses in 2014 were:

- Employee Salaries and Benefits of \$2,853,446
- Occupancy, Specific Assistance to Individuals (temporary rent, deposits and utility payments), and Food of \$455,119
- Operating Expenses of \$1,819,680
- General/Administrative of \$474,402

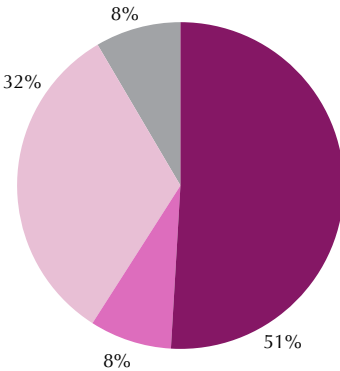
Our Fundraising Expenses were \$76,183; costing us 22 cents to raise each dollar. In addition, our general and administrative costs totaled \$474,402 or 8% of our 2014 operating expenses. Catholic Charities is proud to report that the majority of our operating revenue was spent on programs including direct client assistance.

# 2014 Financials



## Support & Revenues:

Federal & State Awards	\$2,030,969
Diocesan Support	\$80,031
County/Other Awards	\$842,094
United Way	\$95,409
Medicaid	\$983,919
Contributions/ Fundraising	\$348,564
Program Income	\$1,053,341
Investment Return	\$68,921
Other Income	\$76,936
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,580,184</b>



## Expenses:

Personnel Costs	\$2,853,446
Specific Assistance	\$455,119
Operating	\$1,819,680
General/Administrative	\$474,402
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$5,602,647</b>

<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit):</b>	<b>(\$22,463)</b>
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# Sheila's Story

## From Humble Beginnings

It's hard to imagine the direction Sheila's life has taken. If I told you she was a beautiful, introspective woman with a warm, humble personality... would you also believe she spent most of her adult life in prison? What an amazing contradiction to the belief that people cannot change. Sheila is living proof that change is possible and honestly, quite humbling.

Sheila spent her 20s and 30s in and out of jail, using drugs and alcohol, and stealing to get by. In 2000, Sheila went to prison for the first time. Over the course of the next 12 years, Sheila experienced freedom only twice: once for 7 ½ months and a second time for 11 months. She admits, "I had five children and just lived off welfare. I just kept having babies by men thinking they loved me. I was searching for something."

But what was she searching for? Sheila's answer came to her while serving her last prison sentence - the reason it all kept happening - "I was lying on my bunk and it was like a light bulb went off in my head... the drugs and alcohol are the problem. That's why you keep coming back." Finally

"I HAD TO  
TURN THINGS  
AROUND - MY  
BELIEF SYSTEM,  
MY MORALS,  
AND MY VALUES."

acknowledging her substance abuse issue was a huge turning point for Sheila, but there was more. Her need to self-medicate came from a traumatic incident she experienced when she was just 14 years old. Sheila had spent her entire adult life burying this traumatic experience and had been suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). "That's the number one key, once you understand what's going on with you then you're able to change it around. Because I didn't understand about PTSD, I didn't understand why I kept using drugs and drinking. I didn't know anything about recovery. I just knew that I was very hopeless. I felt like my life wouldn't go anywhere."

Armed with her realization, Sheila began digging, asking questions and reaching out for help while serving her final sentence. "I started going to the library there and pulling books out about anxiety and depression. It's hard when you're in prison; you have to carry this personality like you're down with everybody. But I knew in my heart what I was trying to do. I was so relieved the day I got out of there."



Sheila has spent the last two years since her release rebuilding her life. First, utilizing Catholic Charities' Second Place East Homeless Shelter and then finding permanent housing through Catholic Charities' Gateways Community Living Program. "I remember walking down the street and I kept calling Gateways, I kept calling Sharon, to show her I had motivation and that I wanted to change my life. Sharon said, 'we're going to have a meeting and there's no opening yet.' So, I said a prayer. It was probably two hours later, she called me back and she said 'you're accepted.' And I remember standing there and saying 'thank you, God.'"



SHEILA'S MADE GREAT STRIDES TO BETTER HER LIFE.

Now stably housed, Sheila's made amazing strides from her sobriety to her relationship with her children. She has been off Public Assistance for over a year, she continues to work through her PTSD and has sought and won joint custody of her youngest son, who will be ten years old very soon. "He's just my little guy," Sheila says brightly and smiles warmly. "I teach him a lot of things, he teaches me stuff too. I love him, I love him so much." Sheila hopes to rebuild her relationships with her older children who are now teens and adults. "We're not as close as I hoped we would be, but I'm hoping over time." Sheila doesn't look at the challenges she is facing with self-pity, she understands that it is her responsibility to make it right. "The way I look at it, that's my consequence for the things that I have done, because I wasn't a nice person in my addiction. I didn't care. I didn't care if I took from a child's mouth, because the obsession was so strong. And I just wanted to get high."

Sheila is truly a changed woman on a whole new path in life; one where she can finally love herself and the people around her. "I think the main thing is to recondition your mind. I guess when you grow up in an environment that's not healthy and then you go on to start using drugs and alcohol, it's like ingrained in you. I had to turn things around - my belief system, my morals, and my values." Change is possible and honestly, quite humbling.

# Joe's Story

## Community Commitment



JOE'S, B&B FLOWERS, VOTED  
BEST IN THE TWIN TIERS 2014.

When Joe made the decision to buy a flower shop in Elmira, NY, he had no idea where his decision would take him. Joe has spent the last 12 years building a successful career as the owner of B&B Flowers in Southport. His exceptional customer service makes for a warm and inviting shop. And his attention to detail ensures every arrangement, whether big or small, is extraordinary.

So why did Joe need help from Catholic Charities? The answer is homeownership. Joe moved to Elmira with the vision of a successful flower shop, but one thing was missing... a home. During his search for a mortgage, Joe turned to Elmira Savings Bank, who encouraged him to contact Catholic Charities' First Time Homebuyer Program. In addition to closing cost assistance, the First Time Homebuyer Program provided Joe with valuable workshops on everything from securing a mortgage to replacing a hot water tank. Joe found the workshops helpful and informative and makes this comment about homeownership, "it's still the best thing you can do. If we could just get more people to own houses in the city it would solve a lot of problems."



JOE'S CHARMING SHOP, B&B  
FLOWERS IN SOUTHPORT.



JOE'S BEAUTIFUL HOME IN ELMIRA.

Joe's success didn't stop there. After securing a 30 year mortgage with the assistance of Catholic Charities, a healthy down payment and monthly principle payments, Joe was able to pay off his mortgage in just 10 ½ years. He has also made significant improvements to his home, from a new roof and windows to remodeling his kitchen and bathrooms. Joe's home has become a showpiece in his neighborhood. "I stick up for Elmira. There are problems even on my block, it can be anywhere. It's all what you make it. I'm always nervous when there are ins and outs but for the most part my neighborhood is stable. I've got nice neighbors that have been there a long time."

"ITS NOT ABOUT BEING THE BIGGEST, ITS ABOUT BEING THE BEST AT WHAT YOU DO."

The commitment Joe feels to Elmira can be felt in everything he does. "Elmira's been good to me, it really has. We've got all these gorgeous buildings, we just need revitalization." From his thriving business to his welcoming doorstep, Joe is a pillar of his community.

In deep appreciation of your support, Catholic Charities is pleased to acknowledge your gifts which include cumulative donations beginning January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

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John and Deborah Durland

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Alice Joyce Haughey	Eleanor Pevo
Theodore and Onolea Herforth	Judy H. Phillips
Mark and Christine Herrick	Jaimie Potter
Brenda Hill	Lee Potter
Carol Hoke	Ms. Lela Potter
Donald and Catherine Horein	David and Susan Randall
Virginia Houseknecht	Richard and Karen Reisinger
Helen James	Wilfred and Cornelia Ross
Timothy and Janet Jaynes	Tom and Nancy Ruda
Reverend Beverly Karr-Lyon	Franci J. Saunders
Peter and Marcia Kasprzyk	James and Jean Scaptura
George and Tammy Kellogg	Julia Scaptura
Becky Ketchum	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schamel, Sr.
Robert and Bettina King	Tyler and Sally Schouten
Warren and Anne Klick	Leslie and Bonnifer Schweizer
Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Knowles	Richard and Elizabeth Scuteri
David and Carol Kunzmann	Kim and Ken Seaman
James and Shirley Kuttner	Bridgette Searles
Father Steven Lape	Stephen and Deb Seeley
William Waite and Roslyn Lawrence	Mr. Harold G. Shafer, Jr.
Ken and Debbie MacDonald	Karen A. Simiele
Robert Mahoney	Philip Simiele

## Schuyler County

Mr. Thomas Snow & Mrs. Karen Meriwether	Ladies Auxillary to VFW 2674
David and Lucy Soper	Lions Club of Corning
Barbara L. Specchio	Macy's
Janice M. Standish	Montour Falls Moose Lodge
Frank W. Steber	Moreland Presbyterian Church
Harry J. Suits, Jr.	Mustard Seed Ministries
Myron and Pamela Swarts	NYSEG
Pamela Swarts	Odessa-Catharine United Methodist Church
Kimberlee Swartz	Odessa-Catharine United Methodist Women
Kyle W. Tuttle	Odessa-Catharine United Methodist Youth Group
Patricia Van Lone	Presbytery of Geneva
Dennis Vargas, D.D.S.	Raising Dough for Kids Foundation
Betty Vinti	Seneca Lodge
Gerald and Jeanne Voorhees	Seneca Santa
Will Waldron	Sidle Insurance
Paul and Mary Ann Wehrung	Southern Tier Pediatrics
Elvin West	Spaulding Trust
Franklin Wilson	St. Benedict's Church
Robert and Wendy Wirth	St. James' Episcopal Church
Beaver Dams United Methodist Church	St. Mary's Guild
Beaver Dams United Methodist Women	St. Mary's of the Lake Church
BMS Manufacturing Co., Inc.	Sunset View Creamery
Burdett United Methodist Church	The Arc of Schuyler
Cargill, Inc.	The Montour House
Catholic Relief Services	United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
Cayuta Free Church	United Way of Schuyler County, Inc.
Chicone Builders	United Way of the Southern Tier
Columbia Gas Transmission Corp	VanSkiver Motors
Concord Hill Farms	Vedder & Scott, Inc.
Continuing Threads	Village Of Burdett
Dandy Mini Marts, Inc.	Village of Watkins Glen Municipal Office
Dr. Mark Schuller, D.D.S., P.C.	Vintage Vamps Red Hatters
Dundee Area United Fund	Walmart Foundation
Empire Telephone Corporation	Watkins Glen BPOE #1546
Finger Lakes Tatting Group	Watkins Glen United Methodist Church
First Baptist Church of Montour Falls	Watkins Montour Lions Club
First Baptist Church of Watkins Glen	Watkins-Montour Rotary
First Presbyterian Church of Burdett	West Wind Consulting Strategies in Fund
First Presbyterian Church of Hector	Raising, LLC
First Presbyterian Church of Watkins Glen	William A. Tuton Living Trust
GWRRA PA Chapter(R)	Women in Criminal Justice
Harold's Garage	Women of the Moose #1401
Health Ministry of the So. Tier	
Labor of Love	

\*\* Deceased

If your name is misspelled or missing, please  
accept our apologies & contact us at 734-9784  
x 2145 so that we can correct the error.

Catholic Charities



Chemung & Schuyler  
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