

*Providing help.  
Creating hope.*

324 W. Buffalo St., Ithaca, NY 14850 / 272-5062

*from our  
executive director*

At Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga, our mission is to help build communities that care for all people by reducing poverty, promoting healthy individual and family life, collaborating with community agencies and faith communities, and advocating for social justice. The flexibility and adaptability of our mission allow us to create programs that address gaps in local services. We are committed to avoiding duplication of any existing programs in the county.

On a daily basis, as we visit with our program participants and listen to their concerns, we hear over and over that families have no money. Many have never had to ask for help before, and are embarrassed or nervous to ask us for clothing, personal care products, and diapers to help them get through another week with no paycheck.

One of our most critical services is providing crisis relief for Tompkins County households who not eligible for other support services, who are in a short time crisis situation (e.g. laid off from work, recent divorce/separation, short-term medical condition of self or dependent, domestic violence situation) and

*continued on page 2*

Catholic Charities  
  
Tompkins/Tioga

Spring 2011

*news and notes*

## **A special, special thanks to ...**

Cynthia Baldwin for her ongoing support with 100's of gifts for children!

St. Catherine's for their Giving Tree Donations!

Immaculate Conception School for their shoe box Christmas gifts!

First Congregational Church for their shoe box Christmas gifts!

## *In This Issue*

Board Member Insight	3
2008 Supporters	5-8
Stories of Help & Hope	4 & 8
Meet The Staff	9
Volunteers Make the Difference	10
Samaritan Society Event	11
Share the Warmth	12
Help that Works	12

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## *director continued*

who are at risk of falling into “situational” or “episodic” poverty, where a single crisis starts a chain of reactions that leads to a downward spiral that can include job loss, family instability, long-term debt, substance abuse, and/or homelessness.

Poverty that comes on so suddenly can be grueling, especially without a support network. For people who have worked hard all their lives, it may seem like everything is being taken away for no apparent reason. Situational poverty can potentially strike anyone; many people who are employed and stable today are only a catastrophic accident away. If the downward spiral is prolonged, it has a potential to become long-term, potentially generational poverty, creating an ongoing cycle which is very hard to break. By providing a rental or utility payment, we can keep a family stable until the crisis passes.

Recently, most of our requests for assistance are coming from families who are struggling to pay their heating bills—we’re receiving about 10-12 calls each week. Many families rely on propane for heat, have exhausted their HEAP benefits, and are calling in crisis. Most are cash-only customers, meaning that advance payment is required for delivery of fuel. Minimum delivery ranges from \$450 to \$850. While they seek assistance to pay for the delivery, their supply runs low and they must pay an additional fee, usually \$50-\$100, for an emergency delivery.

*continued on page 4*

## *from a celt board member's perspective*

### **Phil Cox**

In their pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the U.S. Bishops remind us that: "As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord." As Christians, I believe, we generally recognize our responsibility to share our God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure with our community. But in some instances we are unsure about how to actually go about sharing these gifts with the least fortunate among our community. We either do not know who they are or reaching out to them, personally, may take us way out of our comfort zone.

Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga serves as the perfect tool for those of us who wish to fulfill our responsibilities to feed the poor, cloth the naked, and shelter the homeless right here in our community, but may not have the ability to do so on a first-hand basis. The agency is efficient and truly effective in assisting those who are in dire need. As the reputation of the organization continues to grow in the two counties served, more and more families and individuals in distress are finding their way through our doors, many for the first time, seeking assistance because they have exhausted all other possibilities. Plus, as the good works of the agency are recognized by the citizens of our counties, support is growing from among a wide range of



faith communities, civic and governmental organizations. It is little wonder that I am so proud to be associated with such an amazing organization as Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga.

Phil & Marsha Cox came to Ithaca in 1975 when Phil began working for the City of Ithaca. They raised their three children here and are now proud grandparents to five grandsons. In 1982 Phil moved to Cornell's facilities organization and retired in 2009 as Senior Director for Facilities Management. During his career he took great satisfaction in serving with a number of civic and professional associations. Currently he serves on the Immaculate Conception parish's Stewardship Committee.

## *programs*

### **Tompkins County**

#### **Samaritan Center**

- Clothing Closet
- Personal Needs
- Emergency Financial Assistance

#### **Housing First (HPRP)**

#### **Immigrant Services**

#### **Justice & Peace Ministry**

#### **Family Empowerment**

#### **Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP)**

## *director continued*

As you can imagine, this type of need drains our resources. Your support means so much to each of the families we assist. With your help we can stabilize families, keep them in their homes, and help them to avoid longer-term crises. We thank you for your caring and generosity.

*Christine Sanchirico*

In 2010, CCTT's Samaritan Center provided over 40,000 clothing items to 1451 households consisting of 2,699 individuals. We provided personal need product packages to 4,129 individuals, and emergency assistance (rent, utility payments, security deposits, prescription, and car repair) to 338 households.

## *our mission*

The Mission of Catholic Charities Tompkins / Tioga is to help build communities that care for all people by reducing poverty, promoting healthy individual and family life, collaborating with faith communities, and advocating for social justice.

## **Catholic Charities Helps & Gives Hope**

An elderly, recently widowed woman lives with her son, who is in his early 20's. The father passed away last month, and the son is now supporting his mother on his own. Their propane tank was empty, and they were trying to apply for HEAP but had no current benefits. The propane company would only provide a full tank, for \$400-600, and they did not have the funds. We were able to help them fill the gap until they received HEAP assistance, since it was 15 degrees and they needed heat immediately.

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Our objective is to recognize every supporter. If we've inadvertently left your name off the list of donors, please notify CCTT so that we can recognize you in a future newsletter. We greatly appreciate you and your support.

Denotes In-kind Gift

## Catholic Charities Helps & Gives Hope

Sam and Cathy are a local married couple who live in a rural "rent-to-own" mobile home. Sam's ex-wife moved out of the area with their two sons to be near friends when they divorced. Suddenly, his ex-wife, with no warning, put the children on a plane home to Sam. Sam and Cathy were determined to take care of the boys. Cathy quit her job to stay home with them over the summer, and when school started she found a job. Sam found a new night job so that he would be home when the boys got out of school each day, but the pay was less than he had been making previously. Also, unfortunately, his pay was still being garnished for child support, even though he was now caring for the boys. They had fallen behind in the rent while they waited for the Court to relieve Sam of the child support payments, and were threatened with not only eviction but losing the investment they already have in the rent-to-own mobile home. Our assistance kept them in their home until the court date.

## *meet the staff*

### **Gloria Montes**

Gloria Montes started working as the front desk Receptionist in December 2010. Previously, she volunteered in our Clothing Closet; Gloria confides that she loved every minute of helping people. It made her day when she was able to bring smiles to their faces. Unfortunately, she stopped volunteering when she accepted a job at a local retailer as the Store Manager. Even though the job was a good one, she felt she needed something more compelling. So when Catholic Charities had an opening, she jumped on it.

Gloria has three children and lives in Ithaca. She attended Pennsylvania College of Technology where she studied Accounting. However, she realized that working in Human Services was what she really wanted to do. Therefore she appreciates the opportunity of working at Catholic Charities and being able to help to improve people lives by providing them with resources.

She also enjoys listening to music, dancing, watching movies, but most of all, spending time with her children and family.

### **Melissa Young**

Since Jan. 11, 2011, Melissa has served as the NOEP Coordinator at Catholic Charities where she pre-screens people applying for Food Stamps and assists with their applications. Although Melissa is a native of Riverside, Calif., she very much enjoys living in the small, but sweet community of Caroline Center.

Melissa has lived in New York approximately 15 yrs.

Melissa attended College at TC3 where she completed two internships working with individuals suffering with a personality disorder and also drug/alcohol addiction. After graduating from TC3 with her Associates in Chemical Dependency Counseling, Melissa took a job with Catholic Charities in Cortland, where she served as a per-diem Counselor at The Lawrence Residential Recovery House. She loved working with all the residents on a daily basis and was very touched by each person.

Melissa is a very proud mother of two perfect, artistic, strong, little girls; Taylor is turning 13 in June and Hailey just turned 9. Together, these ladies and their family dog love the outdoors—fishing, camping, hiking, and riding four wheelers and dirt bikes. After work Melissa plays the role of a taxi driver, cook, waitress, housekeeper, mediator, referee and advocate.



## *volunteers make the difference*

The Clothing Closet of the Samaritan Center serves over 1,451 households a year and we distribute over 41,688 pieces of clothing! All of this is accomplished with dedicated volunteers.

***Our volunteers make  
all things possible!***



The volunteers work hard by making sure we have the best of the best items in the clothing closet. They sort. They stock. They make outfits. They re-stock and re-sort. They fold linens. They assist our customers by listening and helping.

The clothing closet is completely staffed by volunteers who work a combined total of 42+ hours per week.

Our volunteers are comprised of a great group of ladies and a few good men who graciously donate their time for the good of Catholic Charities. Their backgrounds are varied and they all have different reasons for volunteering including preparation for entering the convent, keeping busy, needing to be useful and wanting to be helpful to the community.

Our clothing closet offers clothing,

shoes, linens, towels, pillows, small household items and more. Every item that is available in the clothing closet was donated to Catholic Charities. And we distribute for FREE.

We are always in need of men's and boys' clothing and shoes. Please feel free to donate any gently used items—weather appropriate.



Pictured are a few of the volunteers who work the clothing closet. **Top photo left: Emily Sosna, Dot Messenger, Sally Leyda**

**Above photo: Sallie Devlen, Eky Hohendahl**

**CLOTHING  
CLOSET HOURS:  
Tuesday – Friday  
9:00 am to Noon  
and  
1:00 to 4:00 pm**

## *leadership gifts recognized*



Pictured (l to r): Rev. McMullin, Mary Agnes Hamilton & Mary Berens

## *Samaritan Society*

In 2008, the Board of Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga (CCTT) founded The Samaritan Society to develop and sustain consistent financial support by focusing on leadership gifts. Each year we invite our supporters to join those who are making the most generous commitment to support the mission of CCTT.

The Cornell Catholic Community hosted our gathering this year. Reverend Daniel McMullin shared his thoughts on the importance of the work we do to serve the most vulnerable individuals in our community.

In the past year we were blessed to receive leadership support (\$1000 or more) from 36 individuals and couples—several giving at this level for the first time and many continuing to support us at this level annually.

Thank you to all whose financial and volunteer gifts make it possible for CCTT to continue to provide help and hope to those in need.

# 18th Annual Share the Warmth Exceeds Previous Year's Numbers!

The Board & Staff of Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga would like to once again thank our dedicated co-sponsors of Share the Warmth for another successful and beneficial year. The 18th year of **Share the Warmth helped even more individuals & families than in 2009!**

Share the Warmth is an annual event sponsored by Ithaca Rotary, Trumansburg Rotary, Cornell, Ithaca College, Ithaca Re-Use and Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga.

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**747 households**  
**1136 adults & 977 children**

- 888 adult coats
- 586 kids coats
- 1516 sweaters/sweatshirts
- 853 scarves
- 276 snow pants
- 1290 gloves/mittens
- 377 boots
- 391 blankets
- 1152 hats

**Grand Total: 7,329 items**

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## Help that Works ... Hope that Lasts.

*Yes, I want to support the work of Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga.*

Enclosed is my donation:  \$1000  \$500  \$100  \$50  \$25 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed my check payable to Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please bill my credit card:  VISA  MASTERCARD

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s)  Mr.  Ms.  Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*(We like to thank our donors publicly when possible. To keep your gift anonymous, check here )*

My gift is  in memory of  in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgements to: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send to: Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga, 324 W. Buffalo St., Ithaca, NY 14850  
All gifts to Catholic Charities are tax deductible.*