Catholic Charities
Tompkins/Tioga

Help That Works...
Hope that Lasts.

Fall 2026

An Exciting New Housing Initiative in Ithaca

We were honored to join local leaders, funding partners, and developers for the official ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of the Stately Apartments. Located at 510 West State / MLK Street in Ithaca's West End, this vibrant new 57-unit mixed-use development marks a major milestone in addressing local housing shortages and expanding resources for our community.

As a key operational partner in this project, we will manage the supportive services funded through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI).
Out of the building's 57 total homes, 20 units are specifically designated for ESSHI residents, providing an essential foundation of stability for neighbors transitioning out of homelessness. This includes five units dedicated to survivors of domestic violence and 15 units for individuals with a history of substance use disorders.



Our staff who will be overseeing the new housing. From left to right: Deputy Director Michaela Cortright, Residential Director Shawnae Milton, and Residential Assistant Cassy Wilson.



A resident of the building, Lorraine Colon, spoke at the ribbon cutting. She shared her experience of going from homelessness to permenant housing.

To ensure residents have the absolute best environment for recovery and independence, we will staff an on-site case management office right in the building. Our team will provide continuous, personalized guidance.

Here's what our Deputy Director, Michaela Cortright, had to say about this new initiative: "The opening of Stately Apartments represents more than just housing. It creates opportunities to build a foundation of stability, recovery, and independence. Through partnership with Arbor Housing, Catholic Charities is proud to provide supportive services that help residents achieve their goals, create successful lives, and a lasting hope for the future."

Celebrating a Member of Our Team



We are excited to share that a member of our staff has been awarded a prominent local honor. Our Deputy Director, Michaela Cortright, received the James J. Byrnes Award of Excellence from Tompkins Bank & Trust. The award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution towards improving the quality of life for others, through non-profit work, individual philanthropic efforts, or volunteering. Michaela had this to say about her recognition:

I am truly honored to receive the James J. Byrnes Award of Excellence. Receiving this award has given me time to reflect on the people and organizations that have helped shape my life. In my eleven years at Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga, as I grew professionally from part-time Receptionist to Deputy Director, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many individuals.

Those relationships have been a huge part of that journey. I have been fortunate to have people, both personally and professionally, who encouraged me, supported me, and challenged me to become the best version of myself. I've watched coworkers start families and raise their children alongside my own, and I've witnessed our office be a source of safety, support, hope, and belonging, not just for clients, but for staff as well.

My work, this award, and the organizations that have touched my own life have shown me that when people truly take the time to support and lift each other up, the impact can have an amazing ripple effect that continues in ways we will likely never see. I am grateful to those who have played a meaningful role in my life, and I look forward to continuing to pay that support forward in our community. Thank you for this recognition.

Please join us in congratulating Michaela!

.

From Learning to Earning

At Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga, our Employment Services programs help individuals of all abilities build the skills, confidence, and independence they need to pursue meaningful employment. Through supportive, individualized services, participants gain valuable experience that prepares them for workplace success and beyond.

For many, the journey begins with Pre-Vocational Services, where hands-on activities help build essential workplace skills, strengthen communication and teamwork, and encourage greater independence. Supervised work experiences offer opportunities to practice these skills and prepare for job responsibilities.

For Lauretta, that journey began with Tioga F.R.E.S.H. (Fresh Resources Everyone Should Have).

Through our food truck program, Lauretta gained practical experience in food preparation and kitchen operations while developing important skills such as following directions, communicating with others, working as part of a team, and building confidence in a work environment.



Lauretta at work in her new kitchen job



Our Tioga FRESH food truck

As her skills grew, Lauretta advanced to Extended Employment, where she continued to strengthen her abilities through valuable on-the-job experience. Her hard work and determination have now led to Lauretta working in the kitchen at a community-inclusive school!

Her success is a wonderful example of what can happen when people have access to the right opportunities, encouragement, and support. From learning new skills on our food truck to contributing in a community kitchen, Lauretta has taken meaningful steps toward her employment goals.

Please make a gift to Catholic Charities today!

The incredible work that you see in these pages was supported by the generosity of friends and benefactors just like you. We are incredibly grateful for your support.

You can send us a check with the remittance envelope included with this newsletter or you can make a donation online. You can also use this QR code below, which will take you to the donation page on our website:

Catholic Charities
Tompkins/Tioga

324 West Buffalo St.
Ithaca NY 14850
607-272-5062

PO Box 69
932 W. River Rd.
Nichols NY 13812
607-414-1023

www.catholiccharitiestt.org

MAKE A GIFT FROM YOUR IRA

If you are 70-1/2 or older, you can give any amount (up to $100,000) from your IRA directly to Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga, reducing your taxable income.

Please consult with your tax or financial advisor. Call Seph for more information: 607-272-5062 ext. 29



Cutting the ribbon on the new Stately Apartments!

Excellus
A nonprofit independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

The Community Foundation
for South Central New York

Community Foundation
of TOMPKINS COUNTY

Counties of Tioga, NY • Bradford, PA • Potter, PA • Sullivan, PA • Tioga, PA
community foundation
for the twin tiers

United Way
Tioga United Way, Inc.

United Way
United Way
of Tompkins County