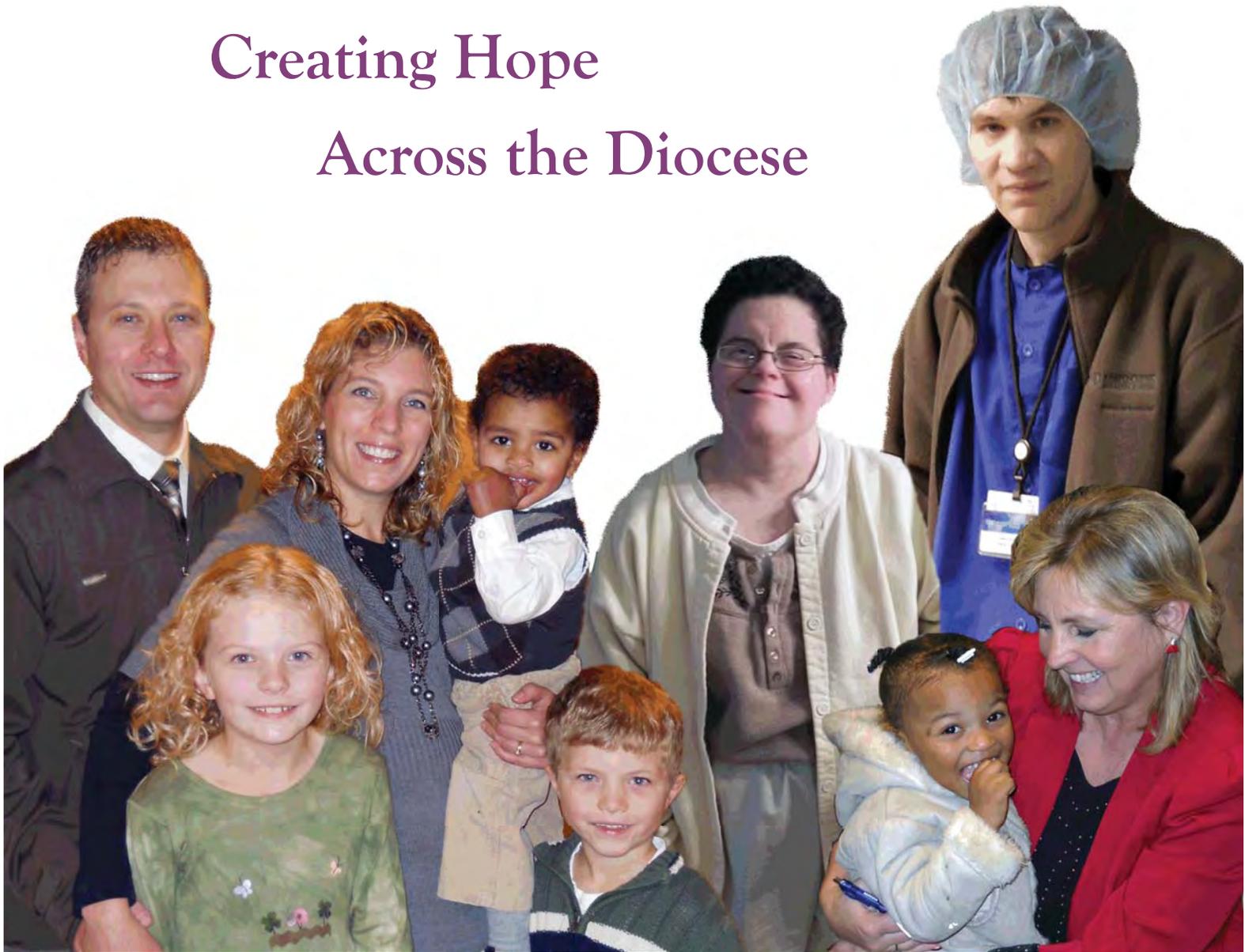




CATHOLIC CHARITIES

of the
Diocese of La Crosse

Providing Help ...
Creating Hope
Across the Diocese



2012 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our faith calls us to respond to our brothers and sisters in need. In this “Year of Faith”, it is incumbent on us to live that faith by lending assistance to the poor and afflicted.

We are privileged to have Catholic Charities provide a leadership role in the service of charity in our diocese. Catholic Charities strives to not only provide excellence in human services, but distinguish its service as a reflection of God’s love and compassion for those in need.

In 2012, Catholic Charities was again at the forefront of charitable outreach, particularly in helping the homeless of the diocese. Sojourner House in Eau Claire and the Warming Center in La Crosse provided thousands of sheltered stays for homeless guests. With these established shelters as a model, we are happy and privileged to extend ministry for the homeless to Wausau, where a new warming center opened in February 2013.

Caring for the homeless is just one of many services Catholic Charities provided in 2012. In fact, its services are as diverse as needs of the people of the diocese. They include St. Lawrence Community Services, which provides financial education and outreach; Adoption Services, which helps build families through adoption; Disability Services, which assists individuals with developmental and emotional disabilities; Immigration Services, which provides legal assistance to immigrants seeking naturalization; and Disaster Response, which provides relief and recovery services to persons and families dealing with natural disasters.

I hope you will take a few moments to read the stories contained in this Annual Report. I ask that you continue your prayers and financial support for this important ministry. May God bless you for investing in a ministry that inspires hope to so many in our diocese.

Very truly yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, OFM, Conv.
Bishop of La Crosse



Bishop Callahan with Newman High School Students at the 2013 Wausau Lenten Luncheon

JOB TRAINING IS HALLMARK OF TRANSITIONAL SERVICES PROGRAM



Like many 20 year-olds, Luke Cochran dreams about his future.

“I want to attend radio school and find a job as a DJ (disc jockey) or doing voice-over work,” he said.

As a three-year participant in Catholic Charities’ Adult Support and Transition Services (ASTS) program, Luke is working hard to achieve his dream.

He is one of many success stories for ASTS, which offers training for young adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Soon after graduating from La Crosse Aquinas High School in 2011, Luke enrolled in classes at ASTS. His areas of study included strategies for getting along with co-workers, managing money, safety skills and work ethic - all which prepared him for the workplace.

ASTS is one of many programs under the Disability Services umbrella at Catholic Charities. Others include Day School for students with challenging behavioral issues that typical special education classes cannot address; After School Program, which helps students improve their social daily living and educational skills; In-Home Support Program, which helps parents cope with children with special needs; and the recently opened Dwelling Place, a home that provides a residence, care, treatment and services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Luke has made the most of his training. Currently, he works part-time at the Baker’s Hearth bakery at Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse. It’s a position that was made possible through the assistance of the Wisconsin Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, which works hand-in-hand with organizations like Catholic Charities to find jobs for persons with disabilities.

Luke says it’s his favorite job since entering the workforce in high school. “I like making labels and packaging bakery items,” he said, citing those tasks because they allow him to use his digital technology skills.

Joan Porath, nutrition services coordinator at the Mayo cafeteria, said Luke has adapted well to his 7 to 9 am job. “He is so diligent and always on time,” she said. “In fact, he’s usually here before the restaurant opens, ready to begin work. He has a routine.”

Known for his impersonations and character voices, he frequently cracks-up his co-workers, a unique skill that he hopes to extend to voice-over work some day.

Prior to working at the bakery, Luke obtained valuable work experience through part-time jobs at the Men’s Clothing Closet at Catholic Charities, where he folded, sorted and hung clothing; Gaming Generations, where he alphabetized and re-stocked videos; and Petco, where he cleaned fish tanks and bird cages.

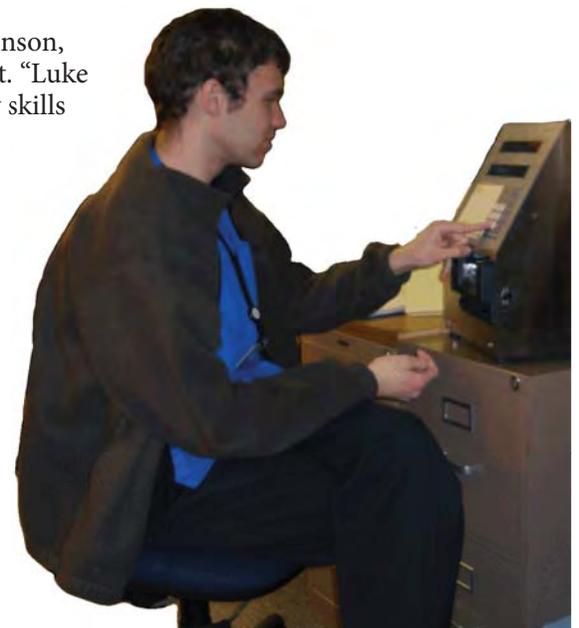
Maureen Runyon, transition coordinator at ASTS, and job coach Chelsie Swenson, helped Luke land those jobs and oversaw his progress with store management. “Luke is one of our success stories,” said Runyon. “He has worked hard to learn new skills and get to where he is now. I see no reason why he can’t achieve his goals.”

Luke’s mother, Margaret Grenisen, has noted an improvement in his social interaction skills since he enrolled in the program. “He has grown up so much in the last few years,” she said.

“Maureen and staff have been great to work with,” added Grenisen, “They have really helped him with his self-esteem and confidence. They have a lot of enthusiasm, and that’s important in this line of work.”

The next stage in Luke’s life includes enrollment at a La Crosse broadcasting school, where his mom hopes he will be able to pursue his passion.

If a positive attitude and hard work count, Luke just may achieve his goal in broadcasting or voice-over work some day. You can be sure the staff at Catholic Charities is pulling for him.



PROJECT STEP UP PROMOTES FINANCIAL STABILITY

Achieving financial independence in today's economic times is easier said than done, especially for single parents.

For individuals like Nicole Hollander, Project Step Up (PSU) was just the boost she needed to help her get on track financially.

As a program within St. Lawrence Community Services, Catholic Charities' charitable outreach and financial services program, PSU offers financial counseling to families who are struggling to make ends meet for themselves and their children.

Hollander, a single mom who was burdened with mounting debt and bills, said she couldn't have survived financially without the aid of the program.

"I absolutely couldn't have done it without Catholic Charities and especially the help of Carmen Engelman (PSU coordinator)," said the appreciative Hollander. "They didn't judge me, and that gave me hope."

Hollander's story is a model of success. With Engelman's coaching and mentoring, she was able to establish financial goals, including creating a budget to meet those objectives. It was a first step in improving her financial literacy and stability.

At first the goal was modest – being able to afford diapers for her infant daughter. Once that was achieved, she set her sights on two much larger goals: paying off her car loan and buying a house. Within six months, she was able to pay off her car. Soon thereafter, she was able to achieve her biggest challenge of buying a house. Those accomplishments, along with opening savings accounts for herself and her daughter, were all accomplished within one year of beginning the program.

Quite an accomplishment for someone who earns a living on a \$10 an hour job!

"I'd be lying if I said there weren't some tough days," said Hollander. "But it was nice to have someone there for support along the way."

Project Step Up, a program under our blanket of St. Lawrence Community Services, strives to assist clients with long-term financial success rather than short-term fixes.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES MISSION & VALUES

Mission Statement

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse proclaims Christ's Gospel of Life and promotes human dignity by alleviating poverty, and strengthening individuals and families.

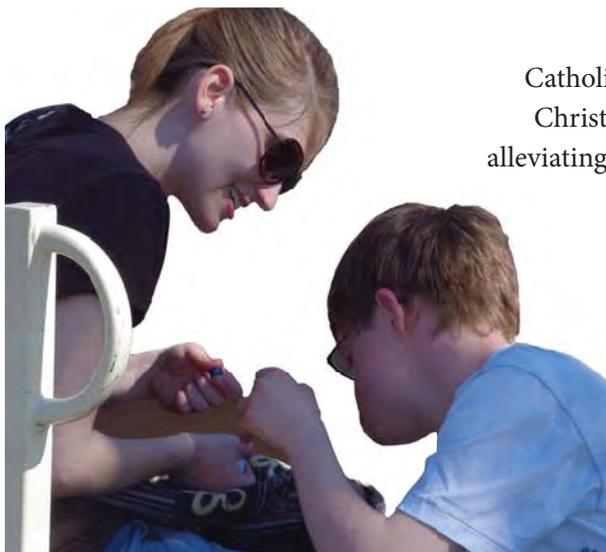


Values Statement

Anyone wanting to be a leader must first be the servant. If you choose to lead, you must serve (cf. Mark 9:33).

These values are a guiding expression of the vision and mission of Catholic Charities:

Respect	Dignity	Integrity	Compassion
Hospitality	Excellence	Stewardship	



2012 SERVICES PROVIDED

YOUR HELP...THEIR HOPE!

ADOPTION SERVICES

40 children found forever families through our birth parent, relative and international adoption programs.

4,405 individuals benefited from the encouragement and instruction received through our Post Adoption Resources program.

52 birth parents were supported through pregnancy to live birth.

COMMUNITY HOMELESS FACILITIES

15,215 sheltered nights of service were provided to the many poor, hurting, homeless and often "faceless" people in our communities.

31,527 meals were served to the Eau Claire Sojourner House and La Crosse Winter Warming Center shelter guests.

DISABILITY SERVICES

44,841 hours of service were provided to students with behavioral disorders, autism spectrum, and other developmental disabilities to help them stay in their homes and be successful in school.

DISASTER RELIEF

17 families received assistance with disaster relief and recovery service.

DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAM

211 victims received assistance and direct services in Crawford County.

MIGRATION, IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE (MIRA)

257 clients, from over **37** different countries, received legal services in their quest for US citizenship or permanent residency.

REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE PROGRAM

556 clients throughout the southwestern part of the Diocese received confidential and supportive assistance with budgeting their fixed income to meet their basic needs while planning for future goals.

ST. DAMIEN OUTREACH

35 clients received pastoral care and practical support from Catholic Charities staff and volunteers. We provided a compassionate presence to those living with HIV/AIDS and support to those who love them.

ST. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES

7,238 families and individuals received charitable outreach assistance with utility, food, transportation, health related, housing, clothing and other basic human needs.

1,664 families reached through various financial literacy programs; helping to try to make a permanent change in their financial situation.

1,858 individuals and families received housing counseling session to learn how to stay in their homes.

VOLUNTEERS

Over **764** volunteers provided over **20,640** volunteer hours of service; helping Catholic Charities in its mission.

2012 FINANCES

ASSETS

	2012
Current Assets (cash, accounts receivable, prepaids)	922,386
Property & Equipment (net of depreciation)	491,955
Other Assets (assets whose use are limited)	1,599,564
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	3,637,263
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,651,168

2012 REVENUE

Program Fees	2,072,197
Contributions & Grants	1,682,769
Investment & Other Income	196,325
TOTAL	\$3,951,291

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

	2012
Current & Non-Current Liabilities (accounts payable, deferred revenues)	1,150,260
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,203,474
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	655,613
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	3,641,821
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$6,651,168

2012 PROGRAM EXPENSES

Adoption Services	478,835
Community Homeless Facilities	321,027
Disabilities Services	1,541,390
Domestic Abuse	50,722
Fundraising & Development	241,291
General & Administration	5,342
Migration & Immigration Assistance	105,760
Parish Social Ministry	71,188
St. Lawrence Community Services	989,060
TOTAL	\$3,804,615

Dear Friends:

This past year represented a banner year for Catholic Charities. Not only did we serve a record number of individuals and families through our programs, I am also pleased to report that Catholic Charities was re-accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). After an exhaustive evaluation of our programs, COA awarded us with the highest level of compliance.

I am very proud of our dedicated staff, who is committed to the highest performance standards and who has a firm belief in serving individuals and families with the utmost dignity and respect. The re-accreditation affirmed that we are on the right track for providing the services that the people of the diocese deserve.

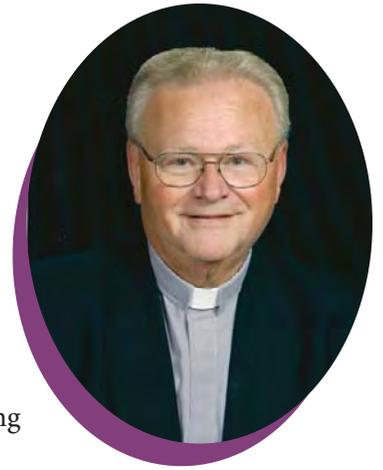
One of the most notable achievements of the year was in our service to the homeless. In its first full year of operation, Sojourner House in Eau Claire provided more than 12,000 sheltered stays for the homeless of the Chippewa Valley, while the Warming Center in La Crosse also served a record number of individuals.

Another program underwent some changes to better address the needs of the financially burdened in the diocese. St. Lawrence Community Services (formerly Emergency Services) was restructured to provide long-term financial education and assistance rather than focus on short-term financial aid.

With 2012 behind us, we will once again strive to make life easier for the poor, homeless and disenfranchised who rely on us for help. We wish to thank you for sharing with us God's love by serving others.

Sincerely yours in service,

Deacon Richard Sage
Executive Director



2011-2012 Catholic Charities Board of Directors

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J. Manas

Sr. M. Gschwind

M. Fleisner
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Thanks to the many communities, organizations, trusts, and foundations that financially support our mission.

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IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF ITS BENEFACTORS, CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GIFTS. IT IS THROUGH THIS FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS CARE TO THOSE IN NEED IN THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE. WE COMPILE THE LISTS IN OUR ANNUAL REPORT WITH CARE. IF YOU FIND YOUR NAME HAS BEEN OMITTED OR MISSPELLED, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGY. ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS ARE INADVERTENT AND WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WILL NOTIFY US, SO OUR RECORDS WILL BE CORRECT IN THE FUTURE.

\$10,000 and above

Bishop Callahan and the Diocesan Annual Appeal
Mark and Karen Draskowski
First Lutheran Church, Eau Claire
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse
Hansen Family Foundation
Rev. William J. Matzek
The Newman Community, Eau Claire

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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Catholic Charities is very grateful to all donors, monetary and in kind, supportive parishes, and grantors, for their continued support of our work. In an effort to save on resources, we have only listed a small portion of our generous donors. However, you may review an extended version of our 2012 Annual Report by visiting us online at www.cclse.org. Thank you!

\$250-\$499 cont.

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