2013 Annual Report
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the Lord give you peace.

I hope you take a few moments and page through this booklet and find real life friends and neighbors who would like to thank you personally. You’ll discover the beautiful faces of good people who are genuinely grateful that you were there for them. So grateful, in fact, that they agreed to share their stories. Like me, they want you to know just how important you are to Catholic Charities.

We were there for literally thousands of people in our diocese in 2013 because you were there!

Ours isn’t vague work done in far away lands seen only on television commercials. Instead, we provide shelter and warmth for the homeless, encouragement for those with disabilities, and food, clothing, and services for people right here within our own diocesan neighborhoods.

How wonderful a gift to know that Christ can be found, not in the extraordinary, but in the everyday faces of our brothers and sisters! He’s right here with you, among you, and in you too!

I add my personal sentiments of gratitude for your support and participation in the beautiful ministry of Catholic Charities. May God bless you abundantly for your goodness!

With personal good wishes and prayers, I am,

+ William Patrick Callahan  
Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan  
Bishop of La Crosse

We were there to serve thousands of people in our diocese, because you were there!
A Message from the Executive Director of Catholic Charities

Dear Friends,

Sometimes we never know how God is going to manifest Himself in our lives on any given day. Here at Catholic Charities it may be in a young couple coming in to talk to us about adoption; or it may be a mom with a baby riding on her hip and a toddler in tow who’s near tears because she’s behind on her utility payments and is afraid they’ll be turned off. Perhaps it’s an individual seeking help with an immigration situation; or occasionally it’s a co-worker who has just received some bad news or is faced with some new medical problem. In the past few years, and notably this past year in 2013, we’ve had many homeless people come to our doors at our shelter in Eau Claire or at the Warming Centers in Wausau and La Crosse. Every day we strive to see the face of Christ in those we serve.

Recently I had a phone call from one of those we serve and I spent about ten minutes just listening to him tell me about some of the current “concerns” in his life. I don’t think I actually spoke more than four or five words. At the end of our “conversation” he said thanks for listening and taking the time to talk to him. He said, “I really appreciate talking to you about things.” Perhaps sometimes it’s not the face of Christ that is manifested to us, but His voice.

Servant of God Dorothy Day once asked Ade Bethune, the artist/illustrator for the Catholic Worker newspaper, to do an illustration of a story from one of Dorothy’s favorite saints, St. Francis de Sales. It seems that Francis’s servant had a habit of coming home drunk at night. One time he passed out at the front door where the saint found him, picked him up, and put him in his own bed while he sat up all night in a nearby chair and prayed for him. When the servant awoke to see St. Francis there serenely praying for him, he mended his ways and never drank again. Dorothy loved the story because of the many alcoholics who came as guests to the Catholic Worker house. She needed a beautiful yet simple reminder that everyone who knocked at the door was Christ himself, no matter what their condition or appearance.

I’m always amazed and humbled by the goodness of so many of you who through your generosity partner with us in serving others. It is a privilege and honor to serve the people of God at Catholic Charities. It is a joy to speak simply and from the heart about how Jesus makes His presence known in our lives.

Sincerely yours in Service,

[Signature]

Deacon Richard Sage
Executive Director

Easter Greetings from Catholic Charities

In his homily for his Inaugural Mass last week, Pope Francis identified himself and the Church (all of us) as being “protectors” and called for “tenderness.” We should show “loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, and those in need – who are often the last we think about.”

Last week at the Catholic Charities Lenten Luncheon in La Crosse we heard a little story about a college student who brought a crucifix to his chaplain. The arms and legs of Jesus had been broken off. “What is a proper way for me to dispose of this crucifix, Father?” he asked the chaplain. “It doesn’t seem fitting to just put it in the trash, shall I burn it, bury it? What is the proper way?” The chaplain looked at the crucifix and said to the youth, “Take this crucifix back to your home and hang it on your wall. Let it be a reminder to you that Jesus must use your arms and your legs to do his sacred work.” The student did as he was asked. So should we all.

I think that is the real challenge of the gospel: that we accept as our responsibility to be the arms and legs of our Lord to protect, serve, and embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest and weakest. We (all of us) are the ones who put flesh on the Church’s promise to be Christ for those who are suffering, marginalized, and vulnerable in this world. When we contemplate the great love that Jesus displayed in his redemptive act on Calvary, we come to know better the love of God who loved us first. And when we recognize that God loves us first, we are compelled to respond in love to others.

May these closing days of Holy Week lead you to a most joyous Easter!
In 2013, Catholic Charities provided services to those in need across our diocese. We are very grateful to all who assisted us with our mission of promoting human dignity by alleviating poverty, strengthening individuals and families, and seeing Christ in those who come through our door.

At the end of 2013, Bill walked into our office asking for utility assistance. With winter so cold, he was running out of propane and needed help. He said we had assisted him in 2011. We checked and verified; “yes” we had helped him; however he found himself once again in need and finding comfort in our previous assistance, came back to our door.

Through our community resources and the generosity of utility appeal donors, Bill was able to once again have a warm place to live. Before he left, we asked if he needed any other help such as food or clothes and his response was “No”. He wanted us to help others who might need it more than him. He replied that he could go into the woods and hunt for something to eat. He stressed over and over, I will be back when I receive my disability. I will pay Catholic Charities back.

Even though we assured Bill that there was no need to pay us back, in early 2014, there was a knock on our front door. It was Bill. He had received his SSDI approval and handed us a check for $332. This included the $160 from 2011 and the recent amount of $172. He said, “I told you I would come back to pay you, so now please help someone else”.

Holly, a US citizen, and Ricky met while she was a teacher in Spain. Ricky would see her everyday when he took his little brother to school. But it was at their church that their conversations first started and a relationship emerged. In time their relationship grew. Ricky obtained a visitor's visa, and together Holly and Ricky flew to the United States to meet her family. After they arrived, Holly learned of recent difficulties that had fallen upon her family. It was during this time that Ricky and Holly discovered their lives did have a permanent course together, and they had the blessings of their families. They were married in September 2013.

It was also in September that Ricky and Holly came to Catholic Charities and trusted us with another important service they needed in their lives. They did not want to complete their roundtrip to Spain, but rather to stay in the United States to be close to Holly's family and begin a life together.

This is just one story. There are thousands of people without immigration status living in the Diocese of La Crosse. Catholic Charities has successfully assisted hundreds of these families from all over the world to attain status to live here without danger of deportation. At Catholic Charities, we feel fortunate to have this opportunity to carry out the Gospel's call of service to our neighbor. This is a long-standing call, and we draw inspiration from Leviticus 19:34.

“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you. You shall love the alien as yourself for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

In 2014, Ricky got his green card!

November 2013 was an exciting time for Catholic Charities. With the help of the community, our Wausau office moved all of our programs and the Community Warming Center into one new location. This not only allowed us to offer shower and laundry services, but our St. Lawrence Community Service (SLCS) Financial Wellness Advocates were there to meet with clients when they were ready to try to find a way out of homelessness.

Daniel had been a warming center guest off and on all winter. Through choices he had made, he had found himself unemployed and homeless, and not sure where to turn. After coming to the center, he met Michelle, our SLCS advocate. She was able to meet with him periodically throughout the winter. By the time the warming center season ended, Michelle had encouraged Daniel to find employment and helped arrange housing to start him on a new journey.
## 2013 Services provided... because you were there!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Birth parents were supported through pregnancy to live birth through our pregnancy support program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Children found forever families through our birth parent, relative and international adoption programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>309</td>
<td>Immigration Clients from over 31 different countries received legal services in their quest for U.S. citizenship or permanent residency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>537</td>
<td>Individuals 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 through our Representative Payee Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,119</td>
<td>Families and individuals benefited from the encouragement and instruction received through our Post Adoption Resource Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,961</td>
<td>Individuals and families received assistance with charitable outreach, advocacy or financial education and enrichment through St. Lawrence Community Services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16,827</td>
<td>Sheltered nights of service were provided to the many poor, hurting, homeless, and often “faceless” people in our communities through our La Crosse and Wausau Community Warming Centers and the Sojourner House in Eau Claire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22,329</td>
<td>Volunteer hours were provided to the various programs and offices across the diocese that help Catholic Charities provide help and hope to those in need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35,488</td>
<td>Meals were served to our community homeless facilities guests in Eau Claire, La Crosse and Wausau.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39,812</td>
<td>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 with the help of our Disability Services Program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2013 Catholic Charities Board Members

- Sr. Mary Ann Gschwinda, FSPA, Chairperson, La Crosse
- Christine Heinzl, Vice Chair, Necedah
- Brad Sturm, Treasurer, La Crosse
- Chris Ruff, Secretary, La Crosse
- Most Rev. William Callahan, La Crosse
- Rev. Msgr. Francis Abuah-Quansah, La Crosse
- Kevin Brey, Altoona
- Kyle Brownell, Wausau
- Jeff Dirks, Wausau
- Marie Fleisner, Marshfield
- Rev. Msgr. Michael Gorman, La Crosse
- Rev. Michael Klos, Cashton
- Julie Manas, Eau Claire
- Gary Peckham, Richland Center
- Margaret de Pereiro, Friendship
- Tom Tiggelaar, La Crosse

### 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.
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. Unfortunately space would not allow us to list all of our generous donors. To see a complete list, please go to www.cclse.org.

$10,000 and above
Anonymous Donor
Blessed Sacrament Parish, La Crosse
ALM Charities
Hansen Family Foundation
First Lutheran Foundation, Eau Claire
Dr. R. James Schindlbeck
Noel Smith
St. Olaf Parish, Eau Claire

$5,000 to $9,999
Anonymous Donors
Edward and Roseanne Buchberger
Mark Debruijn
Terry and Diana Fischer
Ron and Jeanette Hammes
Brian Larson
First Lutheran Church, Eau Claire
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond D. Nass
Royal Credit Union, Eau Claire
Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire
Harold Schommer
Connie and Thomas Schuette
George and Marita Smith
The Newman Community, Eau Claire
Valleymoor Church, Eau Claire
Realtors Association of Northwestern Wisconsin, Eau Claire

$1,000 to $4,999
Anonymous Donor
Sofia Adams
Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc.
Mary Kelly Anderson
Pamela and Steven Anderson
Daniel Babl
The Northwestern Bank
Mary Baron
Randolph and Lynn Barr
Tamara and Allen Becker
Ann and Gabriel Berendes
Bessmeier Trust
Joanna Boornazian
Kurtis and Angela Breiling
Paul Bunczac
Mark and Minda Chamberlain
Chris and Reyne Check
David and Janet Chestnut
The Washington Post Company
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eau Claire
Community Consignment

$750 to $999
Indianhead Insurance Agency, Inc.
John Calvert
Scott and Cinda Chorski
St. Paul United Church of Christ, La Crosse
Michael Clauson
Bruce Cooeyt
North Central Community Action Program, Inc.
M. Thomas and Kathleen Edwards
First Congregational Church, Eau Claire
Chapel Heights United Methodist Church, Eau Claire

Breakfast Optimist Club, La Crosse
Douglas and Jan Path
Rev. Leon Powell
Richard Rady
St. Paul Lutheran Church, La Crosse
Mary Ann Steiber
United Way of the Greater Triangle
Nicholas Veverka
Dr. Timothy Wengert
Mary Jo Werner

$500 to $749
Eau Claire Post No. 305-VFW
Mary Kelly Anderson
Wausau Police Benefit Association
Dr. Dennis and Jean Bardelmeier
Blessed Sacrament Women, La Crosse
Kathryn and David Bliven
Amy Boller
William Boylan, DDS
Jerome and Grace Brickner
James Briggs
Kenneth Buck
Robert and Jill Buck
Paul and Kristen Busch
Duane Calkins
CenturyLink
Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, Wausau
NorthCentral Technical College
Marathon Cheese Corporation
Coulee Bank
Lester and Rosemary Davis
Clarence and Sandra Durr
Catholic Financial Life
Philip and Susan Flock
The Saint Paul Foundation
Association of Fundraising Professionals, La Crosse
Annette Gent
Shirley Giblin
Thomas and Elizabeth Gillett
Gerald and Mary Guentner
Le Jardiniste Garden Guild
Jack and Jo Anne Hackman
John and Sally Hattenhauer
Cheryl Hoepner
Robert Hollern
Venkateshwaran K. and Kauudi V. Iyer
Mary Jacobson
Lois Jenco
Timothy and Regina Johnson
Betty Justen
$500 to $749 cont.
Robert Keith Kadinger
John Klug
Knights of Columbus, Chippewa Falls
Audrey Kotnour
Christopher and Patricia Leach
Root Down Yoga, LLC
Logan Middle School
Darcie and Fran Manning
Connie Marshall
Barbara Martin
Scott and Sheri Martin
Lawrence and Maxine Matl
Mauston/Sparta Deanery
Laurel and Marcus McEllistrem
Patrick Mertens
Carol Neill
Mary Nelson
Charlotte L. Nesseth
Steven Bircher and Deborah Nissen
Mary and Jeff Normandt
James Novak
Jim and Monica Oberle
Mark and Pamela Outzen
Vicki Peroutka
Elizabeth Piotrowski
Preston Chiropractic Office
Jane Rendler
Roger and Carol Resar
Dr. Robert and Deborah Ridenour
Daniel and Nancy Robinson
Jay Rolefson
Alan Ross
Jeanne Sauer
Dr. David and Lacey Schlagel
Steven and Donna Schmidt
Jason Sobolik
Kathy Speller
Douglas and Mary Koller-Spierle
St. Alexander Parish, Port Edwards
St. Florian Parish, Hatley
St. James the Greater Parish, Eau Claire
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Eau Claire
St. Mary Parish, Tomah
St. Michael Parish, Wausau
St. Patrick Parish, Mosinee
Mark and Amy Steigerwald
Bradley and Lynn Sturm
Brian and Diane Sullivan
La Crosse County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
AbbyBank-Abbotsford Story
Alliant Energy Foundation
AnnMarie Foundation
Arnold and Lois Domer Foundation
B.A. and Esther Greenheck Foundation
Bank of America
Capital One
Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Citi
City of Eau Claire-Community Development Block Grant
Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin
Dan Storey Foundation
Dudley Foundation
Eau Claire County
FEMA
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
Frank J. Lewis Foundation
Franke Foundation
GNP Company
Green Bay Packers Foundation
HUD-CCUSA
Judd Alexander Foundation
Knights of Columbus-La Crosse
La Crosse Community Foundation
La Crosse Kiwanis Club
Marathon Savings Foundation
Ministry Health Care Fund-Weston
National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program
National Foundation of Credit Counseling
Otto Bremer Foundation
Post Adoption - State of Wisconsin
Richland County United Givers Fund
Rotary Works Foundation
Russell and Vera Smith Foundation
Rutledge Charities
Sarah Shinn Marshall Memorial Fund-Eau Claire
Shopko Foundation
State of Wisconsin-Domestic Abuse
State of Wisconsin-ETH Homelessness Prevention
State of Wisconsin-HCRI-year 1
State of Wisconsin-State Shelter Subsidy Grant
United Way Marathon County
United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley
United Way of Prairie du Chien
US Bank
Victor and Helen Geisel Foundation
W O’Neil Foundation
Wausau Community Development Block Grant
Wells Fargo Homeownership Grants
William Cherek Charitable Fund
Wisconsin Public Service Foundation (WPS)
Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus
Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation
Xcel Energy

### 2013 Finances

#### Assets 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets (cash, accounts receivable, prepaids)</td>
<td>966,907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment (net of depreciation)</td>
<td>545,710</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets (assets whose use are limited)</td>
<td>1,667,733</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beneficial interest in perpetual trust</td>
<td>4,034,883</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>7,215,233</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities & Net Assets 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities (accounts payable, deferred revenues)</td>
<td>1,175,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>1,207,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>792,736</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted Net Assets</td>
<td>4,039,441</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>7,215,233</td>
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#### 2013 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>2,204,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>1,907,638</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment &amp; Other Income</td>
<td>251,982</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,364,600</td>
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#### 2013 Program Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoption Services</td>
<td>526,856</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Homeless Facilities</td>
<td>396,695</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability Services</td>
<td>1,699,651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>54,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising &amp; Development</td>
<td>300,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administration</td>
<td>4,907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal &amp; Immigration Assistance</td>
<td>192,262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster Assistance</td>
<td>10,861</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Lawrence Community Services</td>
<td>1,038,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,223,794</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“There but for fortune, go you and I”  
a reflection by Deacon Dave Ashenbrenner

I worked Monday nights at the warming center from the time it would open in the evening until all the guests were gone in the morning. The first night I worked—three days after the center opened—we had four guests. Talking quietly to one of the other workers and listening to the sounds of snoring, words to a song from back in the ‘60’s started running through my mind. “There but for fortune, go you and I.” One of the volunteers I worked with was Angie, a college student.

The following Monday I was walking to the door of the warming center when I met Angie also coming in. We went through the first doors and waited for someone to let us in the other door. A lady came up who we did not know, saw us standing there, and said, “I’m sorry. You’ll have to wait until we’re open.” We then told her that we were volunteers, not guests. The lady apologized profusely for mistaking us for the homeless. I then thought, “No, she shouldn’t be apologizing to me. But now, she should be apologizing to them, to the homeless.” Because when we start to think that what they are and should be apologized for then we take away their dignity and lose ours in doing it. “There but for fortune, go you and I”.

When people back in Galloway ask what the homeless are like, I have a hard time answering them. One night we had 14 guests and as near as I could figure it, there were 14 different reasons. “There but for fortune, go you and I”.

I feel grateful and blessed for the things I have. When we have been given good health, both mental and physical, fortunate circumstances, a good family and a roof over our heads, we should be willing to share that good fortune and remember those who have not received these benefits. “There but for fortune, go you and I”.

We invite you to join us in serving others! Visit our website at www.cclse.org or call 1-888-212-HELP today to learn how you can become involved. Donate and/or volunteer today!