

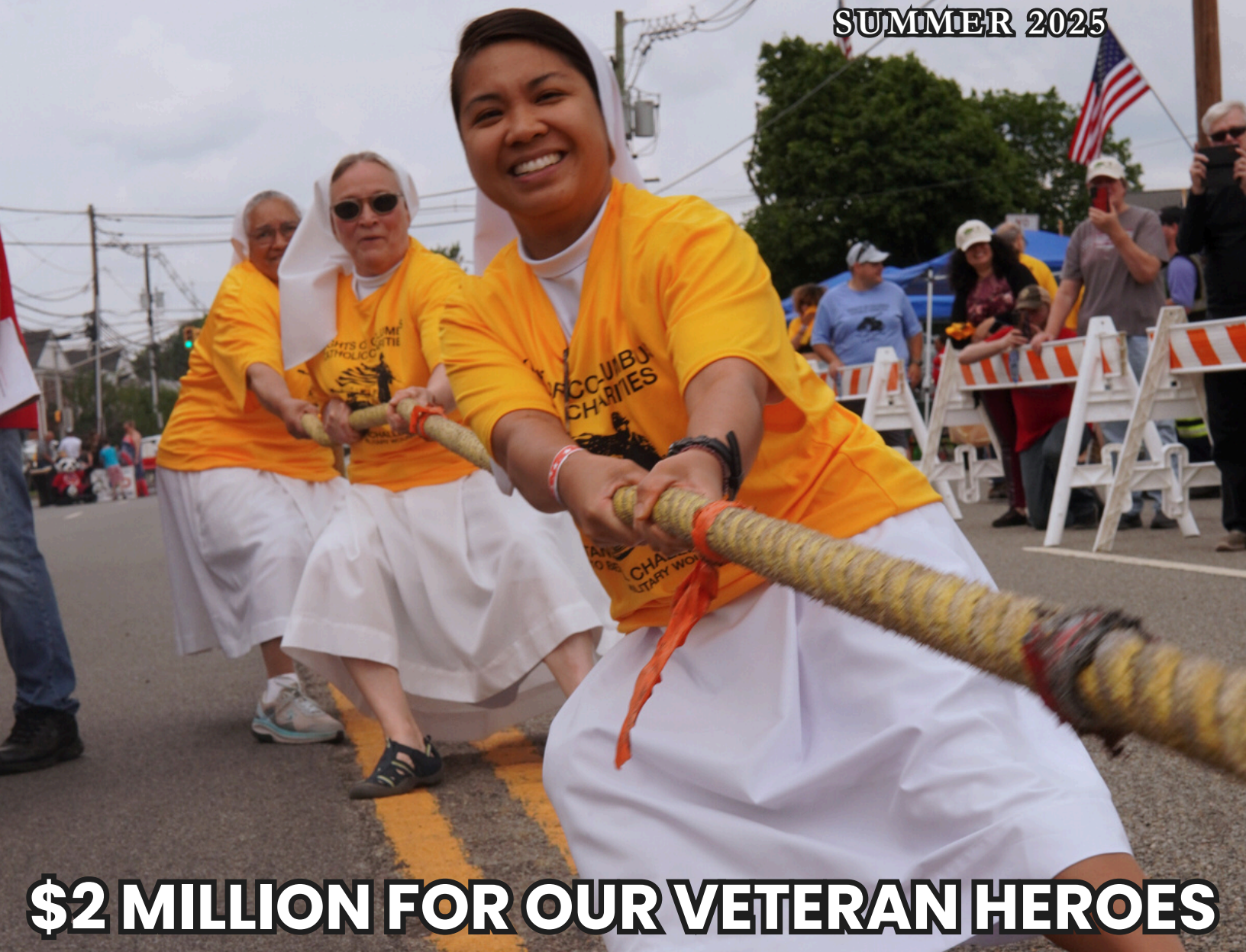


Catholic Charities
Diocese of Paterson
www.CCPaterson.org

PROVIDING HELP
CREATING HOPE

CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2025



\$2 MILLION FOR OUR VETERAN HEROES

15 years of the NJ Army Tank Pull co-hosted by the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Charities

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15 YEARS OF TANK PULL RAISE 2 MILLION DOLLARS FOR VETERANS

Clifton, NJ

by Sofia Silveira

On June 8, 2025, the streets of Clifton Avenue echoed with the sounds of determination and unity as 53 teams gathered for the 15th NJ Army Tank Pull Challenge. Co-hosted by Catholic Charities Diocese of Paterson and the State Knights of Columbus, approximately 2,500 people of various backgrounds came together to honor and support our nation's veterans. This year, a record 53 teams, 20 major sponsors and donors, and 2 dozen service organizations joined in supporting this much-awaited sold out event.

This year's event was particularly significant, as it pushed the total funds raised since the Tank Pull's inception to \$2 million. These funds directly benefit veterans in need, notably through the work of various organizations serving veterans in NJ.

The 53 teams hailed from diverse sectors and from all across the state, including 11 veteran partner teams, 11 Knights of Columbus teams, and 10 labor union teams.

Bishop Kevin Sweeney participated and cheered seminarians and religious sisters who pulled for the "Tugged by Grace" team (on cover photo).



Families enjoyed bouncy castles and a popular ice cream truck while savoring hamburgers and hotdogs fresh from the grill, expertly manned by our dedicated veteran volunteers who brought their own special touch to the cookout. On stage, 3 National Guard service women celebrated 15 women veterans for their invaluable contributions to military service.

FASTEST PULL TIME COMPETITION

	IBEW Local 102 Men	5.00 seconds
	IBEW local 164	5.28 seconds
	Pallotti's People	5.34 seconds

LOWEST WEIGHT COMPETITION

	K of C State Team	248 lbs.
	TRAPA & NJVN	308 lbs.
	Natoli Construction	346 lbs.

This year, proceeds from the Tank Pull will be distributed to high-impact initiatives and programs serving veterans in New Jersey including: Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey, Paramus Veteran Memorial Home, Hudson County Wreaths Across America, NJSOS Veteran Stakeholders Group, Operation Sisterhood of YMCA of Northern New Jersey, Paterson Food Pantry, Wyckoff YMCA Veterans Program, Atlantic Health Care True North Program, County College of Morris Veterans Program, Paterson Veterans Council, Clifton Cares, Clifton Veterans Parade Committee, and Clifton Avenue of Flags.

Team Pallotti's People pull with their captain, Fr. Peter Sticco



Team "Straight & Narrow: Tank the Stigma" was a fan favorite - winning enthusiastic supporters from all ages



The success of this remarkable event was made possible through the tireless efforts of countless individuals who deserve our heartfelt gratitude. There were so many people who contributed, and we thank them all, but must especially recognize co-chairs John Hughes and Ray Lill of the Knights of Columbus, David Pearson, and Hazel Yaptangco for their outstanding leadership, along with our incredibly active Tank Pull organizing committee of 15 dedicated members.

Special thanks also go to Vergona Crane, Two Brothers Trucking, sponsors, veteran partner organizations and vendors, and the small army of volunteers whose combined efforts made this milestone 15th anniversary celebration an unforgettable success for veterans and families alike.



A record 10 union teams led by Tom Kelly, Passaic County Central Labor Council president, participated in the Tank Pull

CEO'S MESSAGE

As we savor these final days of summer and prepare for the promise of autumn, I am filled with profound gratitude for the incredible momentum building across our Catholic Charities family.

The generosity of our community continues to amaze me. Our capital projects are thriving, with transformative projects taking shape before our very eyes: Straight & Narrow's state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Center is nearing completion, the Father English Food Pantry renovations are progressing beautifully, and we're making significant strides in upgrading and relocating group homes for our adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each of these initiatives represents hope made tangible and our shared commitment to serving those who need us most.

I invite you to celebrate these fruits of our collective labor. The stories and updates in this newsletter showcase the many ways your support creates lasting change in our community.

From all of us at Catholic Charities, thank you for being essential partners in this mission of love and service. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community—one life, one family, one neighborhood at a time.



CEO of Catholic Charities,
Diocese of Paterson

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF PATERSON

Providing Help, Creating Hope

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(973) 279-7100

IBEW 102 BIKE RUN TO BENEFIT STRAIGHT AND NARROW



Visit this link to register:
ibew102.org/events



IBEW Local 102 Men's Tank Pull team

Our incredible friends at IBEW Local 102 are hosting their 12th Annual Bike Run & Cruise In on September 6th, 50 Parsippany Road, Parsippany – and we're honored to be their chosen beneficiary!

This isn't just any ride – it's many years of brotherhood, community, and making a real difference! Every registration and every mile will help save and transform lives through addiction treatment and recovery at Straight & Narrow.

Celebrating their 125th year as an organization, the hardworking men and women of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 102 have a great tradition of helping local community organizations, including Catholic Charities. IBEW Local 102 Men's and Women's team participated in the Tank Pull with impressive scores. The Men's Team won first place in the Fastest Pull competition at five seconds flat, an impressive feat indeed!

Straight and Narrow to be featured on Empowered - Hosted by Meg Ryan

We are thrilled to announce that Straight & Narrow will be featured on the groundbreaking series Empowered with Meg Ryan!

S&N's story will air on Public Television stations nationwide, highlighting our journey — from rebuilding after the devastating 2019 fire to creating a state-of-the-art facility that provides comprehensive, compassionate care for those in recovery.



Go to instagram and for a link to the press release and stay tuned for some behind the scenes from filming day!

AN AMAZING SUMMER AT DPD

by Corinne Kilkeary



Residents of Werhlen House enjoyed a trip to NYC to see The Lion King Day! Hakuna Matata!!



Clients enjoyed working in the garden at Gruenert Center



Summer is a time for sunshine, connection, and creating lasting memories—and that's exactly what our DPD family did across our programs and residences! From Broadway lights to baseball nights, the season has been filled with joy, community, and heartwarming moments that reflect the spirit of the Department for Persons with Disabilities.

At Wallace House, summer evenings came alive with the crack of the bat and the roar of the crowd during a trip to a Sussex County Miners baseball game at Skylands Stadium. Cheering on the home team under the lights was a highlight of the season for residents and staff alike.

Meanwhile, students from Immaculate Heart of Mary's uServe middle school program spent a day connecting with our clients at Wehren and Barnet Houses. Their youthful energy, compassion, and willingness to serve brought smiles, laughter, and new friendships—all reminders of the importance of intergenerational bonds and service.

Basile Apartments were treated to a delightful evening of hospitality, thanks to the incredible kindness of Dianne Macchia and her daughter, Katy Hanson.



Students from Immaculate Heart of Mary's uServe middle school program visited DPD



Gruenert staff and clients stayed cool by enjoying the pool at DPD through the heat wave

Fr. Charlie Lana organized a discernment retreat for current seminarians and several discerning High School aged boys. DPD was only one of their many service stops this week. They were welcomed at the Gruenert Center where they kicked off Christmas in July with a prayer service. Afterwards, the gentlemen played Santa and gave out gifts to all of the clients. They truly brought Christmas Joy to us all. The clients really enjoyed showing off/sharing their new gifts with each of the retreatants. Carolina treated everyone to a delicious lunch.



The following day, the retreat attendees visited Finnegan house where they were tasked with some deep cleaning, organizing and furniture assembly. After working up an appetite, they returned to the AP (All-Purpose) room to find Sr. Theresa Lee and some of their new friends from Gruenert waiting to join them for lunch! Several of the men commented that they had no idea that our diocese even had an agency like DPD and expressed an interest in coming back as volunteers.

Fight for the Right volunteer, Jenn Minervino organized a collaboration with Soldier's Angels - a nonprofit dedicated to sending care packages to troops overseas. Our DPD clients wrote letters and made crafts to send to Air Force chaplains, an effort involving every Group Home and apartment as well as several House volunteers.

They have written 2 dozen letters, and made over 50 bookmarks and pens for our Troops. All the items were presented at the annual summer party for the residents on July 22, 2025 in Oak Ridge.



Whether through outings, visitors, or quiet moments of connection, the DPD celebrates the dignity and joy of every individual we serve. These summer moments are more than just events—they are examples of inclusion, compassion, and the vibrant community we are proud to build every day.

51st Wiegand Farm Golf Classic Raises Over \$92,000 for Catholic Charities

Crystal Springs Resort | Hamburg, NJ

by Sofia Silveira

On a beautiful June morning at the picturesque Crystal Springs Resort, Catholic Charities hosted its 51st Annual Wiegand Farm Golf Classic, bringing together the community for a day of golf, fellowship, and philanthropy that exceeded all expectations. The June 16th event drew an impressive crowd of over 248 golfers, supported by more than 50 dedicated volunteers and 25 major sponsors.

Participants enjoyed 18 holes across Crystal Springs' stunning Ballyowen and Wild Turkey courses, taking advantage of pristine playing conditions and breathtaking scenery. The tournament offered more than golf and featured a unique and longstanding Win-a-Watch contest where golfers had the meaningful opportunity to meet residents from the Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD) group homes. "Seeing our golfers connect with the residents we serve brings the true purpose of this event into focus," said Joanna Miller, DPD Executive Director. "It's not just about the game – it's about building relationships and understanding the lives we're helping to improve."



After golf, celebrations continued with a luncheon and awards ceremony at the Big Sky Pavilion. The evening's most meaningful moments came during the recognition of three outstanding community members whose leadership and commitment truly embody the mission of Catholic Charities.



DPD residents, staff and Knights of Columbus members volunteered side by side for a fun day on the fairway

Another highlight came at the reveal of the 50/50, when Jon Paul Blasi II got one of the biggest prizes in the event's history: \$7250.

Paul Natoli was honored as Person of the Year; **John Hughes** received the Knight of the Year award, and **Ariel Jacob Luna** was named Veteran Partner of the Year.

This year's Classic achieved a milestone with a record-breaking net income of \$92,000, funds that will directly benefit adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other vital ministries of Catholic Charities Diocese of Paterson.

Special recognition goes to our Diamond Driver sponsors – Gallagher, Natoli Construction, and iHeart Media – whose generous support alongside numerous sponsors and volunteers made this success possible.

REBUILDING HOPE: S&N TREATMENT CENTER CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION



After years of meticulous planning and months of construction, the brand-new Treatment Center is nearing completion. This transformative project has been made possible through the generous support of our faithful donors and an exceptional partnership with labor leaders including AFL-CIO HIT, Natoli Construction, Building America, and countless other dedicated partners who share our vision.

Thanks to this remarkable collective effort, we will soon open our doors to a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide compassionate, comprehensive care for individuals and families struggling with addiction.

PARISHES ACROSS MORRIS, PASSAIC, AND SUSSEX COUNTIES TAKE PART IN 12TH ANNUAL CORPUS CHRISTI FOOD DRIVE



A small army of volunteers were mobilized to accept, sort, and transport donations of pantry items and toiletries

Thanks to the unwavering generosity of parishioners and volunteers across the Diocese of Paterson, the 12th Annual Corpus Christi Food Drive was a remarkable success. Each year, an effort across 109 parishes helps stock the shelves of our three food pantries bringing toothpaste, toilet paper, canned meats, diapers and more!

Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney and Msgr. Mark Condon offered strong leadership throughout the initiative. We are especially grateful to Fr. Hubert Jurjewicz and St. Simon the Apostle Church for hosting the Morris County sorting site, and to Deacon William Ruane and the diocesan deacons who volunteered countless hours to organize the generous donations.

The success of this drive also hinged on the tireless work of our committee volunteers and food pantry staff, led by Carlos Roldan. Special recognition goes to Connie Catania of St. Simon Parish, who coordinated efforts with 46 parishes, and Sharon Horvath of Hope House Food Pantry, who managed logistics, sorting, and transportation with dedication and precision.

This united effort comes at a crucial time. According to a 2024 report by the New Jersey Office of the Food Security, food insecurity in the state has worsened significantly—from 8.7% to 10.7% overall, and from 11.3% to 13.2% among children between 2018 and 2022. The Corpus Christi Food Drive is one way the Catholic Charities community continues to fight back against this growing crisis with compassion and purpose.

Check out our 2024 Annual Report!
ccpaterson.org/annualreport



45,207

Unduplicated Clients Served Across our Three Agencies.

3,643

Volunteers.

31,288

Clients Served across our Food Pantries.

2,507

Clients Served by our S&N Programs.

313

Clients Served through DPD programs and Group Homes.

There is nothing more beautiful than getting to know who we serve, how many people we were able to reach and how we have touched their lives.

FATHER ENGLISH FOOD PANTRY RENOVATION NOW IN FULL SWING

The beloved Fr. English Community Center, a cornerstone of the Paterson community for decades, is undergoing an exciting transformation that will create a state-of-the-art facility designed to serve our neighbors with greater dignity and comprehensive support.

At the heart of this renovation is the complete reimagining of the Fr. English Food Pantry. The new facility will feature grocery-style aisles and modern refrigeration units, allowing clients to shop with dignity through our choice food pantry model. This approach empowers individuals and families to select foods that meet their specific dietary needs and cultural preferences.

The renovated center will offer much more than food assistance. New classroom spaces will host workshops covering essential life skills, including nutrition and healthy cooking, wellness education, English as a Second Language classes, citizenship preparation, and hands-on hydroponic farming practices.

This major capital project is made possible with the support of Bishop Kevin Sweeney, the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, and the generous and faithful donors within the Diocese of Paterson.



The classic church exterior will be preserved and the Father English Community Center will be modernized



"We're committed to nurturing the body, mind, and spirit of everyone who walks through our doors," said Joseph Murray, Executive Director, Catholic Family & Community Services. This holistic approach creates a continuum of care designed to help individuals and families build the skills and confidence needed for long-term self-sufficiency.

The enhanced facility will also serve as a better resource and support system for Catholic Charities food pantry operations in Dover and Franklin as well as other food pantries, parishes, and community groups.

By consolidating more services under one roof, we'll increase efficiency, improve safety measures for our most vulnerable neighbors, and strengthen our collective impact throughout the region.

F.M Kirby Foundation Gives \$25,000 in Support of Hope House Program for Unmet Needs

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our amazing community partners at the F.M Kirby Foundation for the \$25,000 grant awarded to Hope House's Unmet Needs in Housing, a critical program for the Dover and Morris County area families and individuals who are struggling with an unexpected housing challenge.

Since 1931, the FM Kirby Foundation has sought to make thoughtful and prudent philanthropic commitments to highly selective grantee partners.



Their goal is to invest in opportunities that foster self-reliance or otherwise create strong, healthy communities. Foundation President, Justin Kiczek, and his team toured our Hope House facility, met with Director Karina Calabuig and staff, and observed firsthand their challenges, many successes and the vital programs that serve families and individuals in Dover and other parts of Morris County.

From food pantry services to case management and crisis support, Hope House continues to be a beacon of hope—and it's because of generous supporters like the F.M. Kirby Foundation that we can do this life-changing work.

Turn Your Old Ride Into a New Beginning



Your vehicle donation can drive meaningful change in our community.

Donate your car or boat to Catholic Charities

Go to ccpaterson.org/cars

find out how you can change lives by donating your vehicle.

***Make saying goodbye to your ride
a new start for others***

STARBUCKS FOUNDATION DOUBLES DOWN ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT WITH TWO GRANTS

By Sofia Silveira



Thanks to Starbucks partners and stores in our community and The Starbucks Foundation, grants were provided to the Father English Community Center and Mary's Hands program.

Mary's Hands offers immediate material aid and support to the most needy in the Morristown area. They create a welcoming environment where each individual is embraced, valued and given the opportunity to succeed. Mary's Hands provides one-on-one family assistance with clothing and baby essentials as needed, offering parent workshops as well as weekly ESL classes for adult learners.

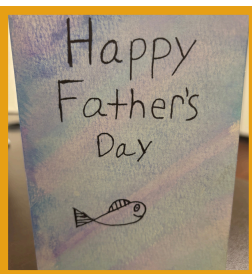
The Father English Food Pantry is located in the heart of Paterson, serving those most in need.



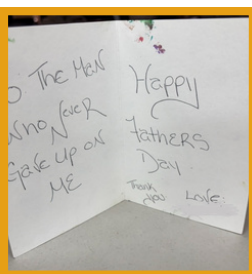
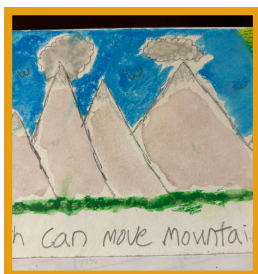
Food pantries are one of Catholic Charities most vast reaching services, feeding over 214,000 people every year.

S&N Men's Residential Program Unlocks Clients' Creativity on Father's Day

By Nancy Nakhle



In honor of Father's Day, clients in the men's residential program engaged in creative activity using watercolors to design personalized Father's Day cards. Envelopes were provided for those who wished to mail their cards. The group shared reflections and memories about their fathers, discussing the qualities that make a father figure meaningful.



The conversation evolved into exploring how positive traits from family members can be carried forward, and how fathers may express love and care in different ways.

Creative Expression offers clients a therapeutic space to explore and process their thoughts, feelings, and experiences through artistic and imaginative activities.

The Creative Expression Group was led by Jennifer Grant, counselor intern.

Annual Disabilities Drive Hosted by Multiple Councils

We were blessed by the generosity of multiple Knights of Columbus councils, that conducted their Annual Disabilities Drive in their local communities and presented DPD with donations for our programs serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Presented by Grand Knight Bill Hermann -
Parsippany Knights of Columbus, Council #3680



Presented by Grand Knight Mike Trocchia and
Disability Drive Director Robert Cosentino -
**East Hanover Knights of Columbus Council
#6504**



Presented by Grand Knight Dan Cioffi, Financial
Secretary Jim Zajdel, and Vito Addotta.
The Knights of Columbus Council #5510-Oak Ridge



Presented by Knight John Christianson -
St. Philip's Knights of Columbus Council # 11671

Head of Family Success Center Receives State Recognition

By Nancy Nakhle



In recognition for her invaluable leadership and outstanding contribution to the growth and success of the Straight and Narrow Family Success Center, Berenice Lopez was awarded, on May 20th, a Certificate of Appreciation by The Division of Family and Community Partnerships.

Berenice has been with the Family Success Center since 2009, serving as Director since July 2020. Located in a diverse neighborhood, a staple of Paterson's community life, offering a strong Parent Advisory Council, parenting classes in English and Spanish, support groups, health and life skills workshops, holiday events, family activities and community giveaways.

Berenice effectively collaborates with multiple community partners to meet the needs of the individuals and families served at the Family Success Center.

Show your Support! Attend these Upcoming Events!



IBEW 102 Bike Run & Cruise In

September 6th

50 Parsippany road
Parsippany, NJ

Use the QR Code to
Register:

9am start



4th Annual Beefsteak

September 19th

Benefitting Straight and Narrow
Supported by the Scillieri Family
Honoring the Pio Costa Family and the
Rosalind Pio Costa Foundation

6:30 PM Start

St. James of the Marches Parish Hall
400 Totowa Rd. - Totowa, NJ

Suicide Prevention Veterans Event

September 29th

Calling all of our veterans and community
veteran service providers!

R.S.V.P at dpearson@catholiccharities.org

10:00am - 2:00pm

300 Oldham Rd, Wayne, NJ 07470
Passaic County Public Safety



Newark Veterans Stand Down

October 18th

October 18th 8:00am, JFK Recreation
Center, 211 West Kinney St. Newark

For more details and to RSVP, email:

dpearson@catholiccharities.org

CARITAS GALA 2025

Proudly Honoring:

Diocese of Paterson Bishop's Award:
Paul and Anne Krump

Fr. Jack Wehrle Award:
Rev. Msgr. John E. Hart

Msgr. Mark Giordani Award:
Rev. Owen B. Moran

Fr. Norman James O'Connor Award:
Harpreet S. Peleg

Thursday, November 13th, 2025
6:00pm - 9:00pm

The Meadow Wood, Randolph, NJ

Donate • Sponsor • Attend



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SUMMER 2025



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∞ Meta

