CHEMUNG & SCHUYLER COUNTY

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Help that works, Hope that lasts…

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Table of Contents:

Director's Letter 3

One Day at a Time Campaign 4-5

2011 Audited Financials 6-7

Personal Stories: The Wave of Change
- Homeownership: The Foundation for a Better Tomorrow 8-9
- Letter of Inspiration 10
- Kathy Dubel: Celebrating Over 30 Years of Service 11-12
- Sarah Conley: Creating Community 13-15

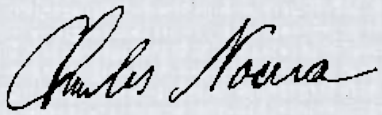
Presentation of 2011 Donors
- Chemung County 16-20
- Schuyler County 21-23

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Through the struggles of the economy, one thing has remained true… Catholic Charities has persevered as a staple in our community. As I complete my first year with Catholic Charities, I am continually amazed and inspired by our staff's dedication. Our commitment to serve those in need hasn't wavered in the face of adversity for over 30 years. It has, in fact, strengthened as we focus our efforts on long term stability. Whether it's a one-time gift of assistance or the consistent support of case management, our goal remains the same; to help individuals and families reach their fullest potential and live with the dignity and respect we all deserve.

Throughout this report, you will see references to our "One Day at a Time" Campaign. This campaign highlights the efforts of Catholic Charities on a daily basis to improve the lives of those living in poverty. In addition, there are personal stories of staff, volunteers and clients who are making a difference in our community each and every day. While their individual efforts may seem like a drop in the bucket, together we can bring about the wave of change. Thank you for partnering with Catholic Charities in our common effort to end poverty and inspire hope. You are making a difference!

Respectfully,



Charles Nocera
Interim Executive Director

Catholic Charities
CHEMUNG & SCHUYLER COUNTY

Catholic Charities'

1 Day at a Time

Campaign

How would you change the world in 8 hours?

Would you Feed the Hungry,
Shelter the Homeless,
Inspire Hope
In those stripped of their dignity?

You may be surprised to learn that
Catholic Charities does all of this
each and every day.

Here is an example of a day in the life of our charity...

Today, in Chemung County, we assisted:

70 Households with Food & Clothing
23 Individuals, including **9** Children, with Emergency Shelter
17 Households with Rent and Utility Assistance
10 Youth Aging Out of Foster Care with Residential & Support Services
205 Individuals with Permanent or Transitional Housing
40 Individuals with Housing Counseling Services

Today, in Schuyler County, we assisted:

71 Households with Emergency Assistance
60 Individuals with Homemade Soup and Instruction Utilizing Local Produce
175 Youth with Academic Enrichment Activities
10 Victims of Domestic Violence with Counseling and Personal Advocacy
25 High-Risk Youth with Case Management to Support Education, Employment and Long Term Stability

All treated with dignity and respect.

2011 Financial Narrative

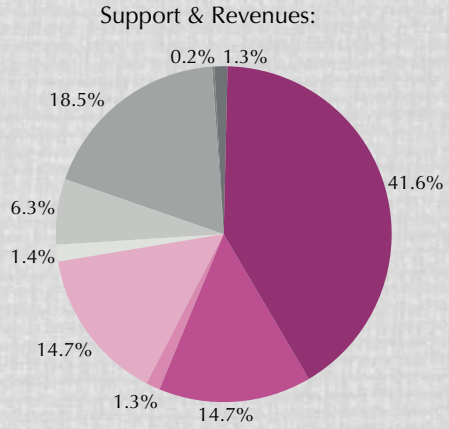
The Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler 2011 Operating Budget of $5,958,209 is a decrease of $938,360 from the 2010 operating year. This reduction was due primarily to the loss of homeless prevention grants valued at $720,000. In addition, several state funding streams have been consolidated into one grant with significant reductions in funding amounts. Our annual budget is largely financed through federal, state and local government contracts and grants, in addition to medicaid and client fees.

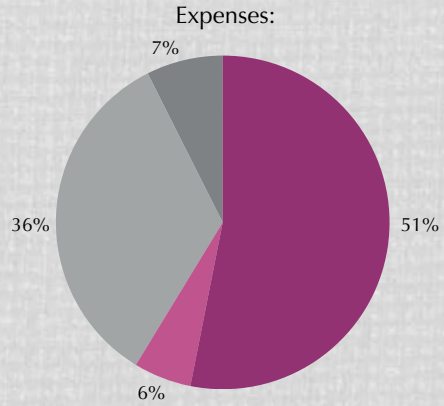
In keeping with our commitment to support the local community, our three largest expenditures directly stimulate our economy by working with and employing local people.

- Primary operating expense is employee salaries and benefits totaling $2,996,638.
- Direct financial assistance in the form of rental and utility payments totaling $331,552 is paid directly to local landlords and/or utility providers.
- Operating expenses of $2,151,844 represent costs attached to program supplies and support contracts with local businesses.

In addition, Catholic Charities strives to keep a large percentage of revenue spent on direct client assistance. In 2011, administrative costs totaled $439,357, or 7% of our total expenditures; 93% of our expenditures were applied to direct client assistance.

2011 Audited Financials





Support & Revenues:	
Federal & State Awards	$2,477,025
County Awards	$873,145
Diocesan Support	$80,031
Medicaid	$876,991
United Way	$86,147
Contributions/ Fundraising	$374,901
Program Income	$1,102,278
Investment Return	$12,705
Other Income	$74,986
Total Revenues	**$5,958,209**

Expenses:	
Personnel Costs	$2,996,638
Specific Assistance	$331,552
Operating	$2,151,844
General & Administrative	$439,357
Total Expenses:	**$5,919,391**

Net Surplus/(Deficit):	**$38,818**

Homeownership: The Foundation for a Better Tomorrow

What is the deeper meaning of "community?" Beyond the generic definition of "people living within a particular area," community is a feeling of closeness and friendship that exists between people. This delineation is significantly more profound, reflecting on the belief that neighborhoods are more than just isolated homes; they are a fellowship that inspires camaraderie and good-will.

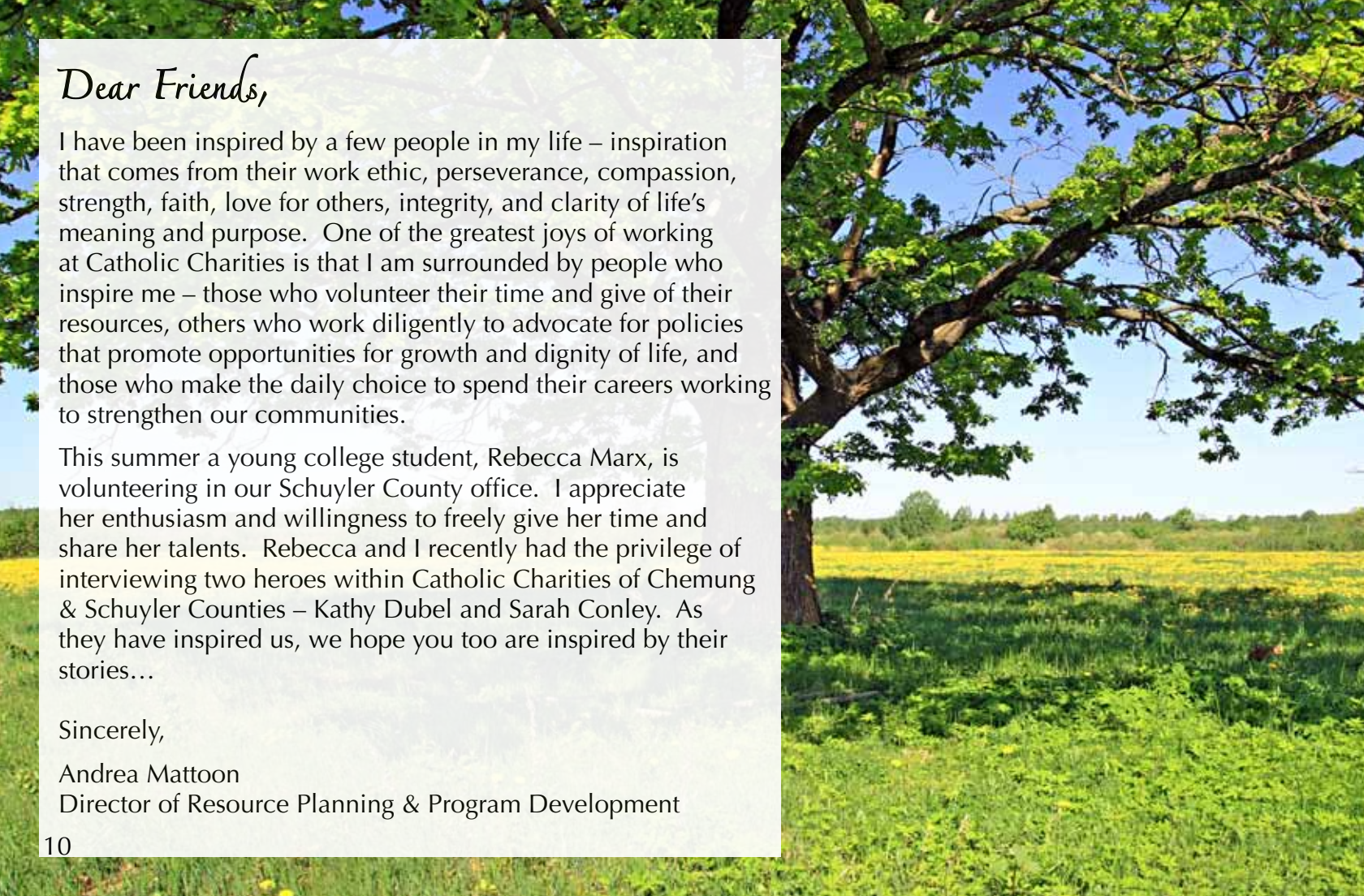
For Matt and Ann Mayer, this vision of community could not be more evident. After 7 years of marriage, they had their first child, Aletta. As their family grew, so did their dream of owning their own home. With only one income, the Mayers found it impossible to save for a down payment and Matt and Ann feared their chance for homeownership would never come. Discouraged by their limited finances, the couple turned to their church, Lighthouse Baptist, for guidance. They were thrilled to learn about a local program offered through Catholic Charities that provides first-time homebuyers pre- and post-purchase education and purchase assistance.

> *"We didn't want to just live in a place, we wanted to be part of a community and give back."*

The Mayers contacted Jane Sokolowski, Housing Counseling Services Program Coordinator of the First Time Homebuyer Program. After completing preliminary trainings on budgeting, mortgages, and additional financial planning, the Mayers began their search. "Going to the meetings gave us so much information that we felt like we were able to make that informed decision," states Ann. The months that followed were not easy, searching through home after home. However, the couple persevered with the encouragement and expertise of the First Time Homebuyer Program staff. After looking at more than 50 homes, the Mayers found the "right" home and closed on the property on December 21, 2011. "Even after you buy the house, the support…it ends up being like a family. You don't feel like you're alone and they made the process very easy," responds Matt.

The first Time Homebuyer Program was created in 1994 through a partnership between the City of Elmira and Catholic Charities. As the 404th homeowners of this program, the Mayers have extended their gratitude by creating a sense of "community" within their neighborhood. The couple continues to play an active role in their church, participating in the Bus Ministry program for youth and their families that enables youth to attend church on a regular basis. Matt and Ann also reach out to the young people in their neighborhood by welcoming them into their home for dinner and recently attending a school recital. When asked why they care so much for the young people in their community, Ann replied "It's nice to know that they have someone close by that they can trust if they ever need anything." Matt and Ann provide support to the broader community as well by attending City Council District meetings and serving on the Citizens Advisory Board for the City of Elmira Community Development Office.

The Mayers are now advocates for the First Time Homebuyer Program, telling everyone that will listen about the program. "It really works…this program allows people to have the American dream that wouldn't necessarily be able to obtain it," replies Ann. "We feel so blessed." And they are not alone. 409 families (including 517 children) have purchased their first home with the assistance of the Catholic Charities/City of Elmira's First Time Homebuyer Program. In addition, over $14 million in mortgages with local lenders has been generated through this program. The First Time Homebuyer Program builds assets for both families and community. Families like the Mayers are investing in city neighborhoods and building a strong community. The ripple effect will be felt for years to come.



Dear Friends,

I have been inspired by a few people in my life – inspiration that comes from their work ethic, perseverance, compassion, strength, faith, love for others, integrity, and clarity of life's meaning and purpose. One of the greatest joys of working at Catholic Charities is that I am surrounded by people who inspire me – those who volunteer their time and give of their resources, others who work diligently to advocate for policies that promote opportunities for growth and dignity of life, and those who make the daily choice to spend their careers working to strengthen our communities.

This summer a young college student, Rebecca Marx, is volunteering in our Schuyler County office. I appreciate her enthusiasm and willingness to freely give her time and share her talents. Rebecca and I recently had the privilege of interviewing two heroes within Catholic Charities of Chemung & Schuyler Counties – Kathy Dubel and Sarah Conley. As they have inspired us, we hope you too are inspired by their stories…

Sincerely,

Andrea Mattoon
Director of Resource Planning & Program Development

Celebrating Over 30 Years of Service to the Poor & Vulnerable

After serving in the Peace Corps in the late 1960s, **Kathy Dubel** and her husband Tom returned to the United States to raise their son and soon began searching for ways to serve their local community. One day, Kathy heard a presentation at a local parish seeking volunteers to help meet the immediate needs of those facing hardship and to begin working on social issues. That lit a fire in her! She felt she had gifts, talents, passion, and time- she volunteered. In addition to sorting and distributing food and clothing, she convened regional discussion groups on societal issues including the death penalty and food stamps.

As a result of that volunteer experience, Kathy has served for the past 30 years as the Director of Justice and Peace at Catholic Charities. Kathy's mission has been "To foster a culture of life and love by addressing a wide spectrum of issues touching human life, human dignity and human rights." She accomplishes this mission in three primary ways:

- Advocating for public policy by analyzing and assessing current issues from the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching, and being a voice for the most vulnerable and needy;

- Identifying areas of concern within our local communities and developing partnerships that work together to address those concerns. (The partnership between the City of Elmira and Catholic Charities to support the First Time Homebuyer Program is an ideal example);

- Providing leadership development, training, and support to area social ministries. Kathy describes social mission as having two feet: one foot is to identify the local needs and meet these daily needs; the other foot is to identify why the needs exist and work toward the necessary changes in society to create dignity for people. "We have to walk on both feet, otherwise we lose our balance. Both feet are needed to move forward."

The fire that was lit in Kathy many years ago has not diminished. If anything, it has become stronger and clearer. As Kathy reflects over the past 30+ years, she has learned that, "Together we can make a difference and that we work together using the vision of the Gospel- values of love, compassion, mercy, and justice to transform society and to make it a better place."

With her strong belief that "I can do only because I'm part of the greater whole," Kathy sees that when there are people hurting, dispossessed, and suffering, it undermines the well-being of everyone. Therefore, Kathy believes she doesn't "have the right to be overwhelmed or be too tired. We have to keep on doing what we can do."

While there have been defeats and disappointments in her work for social justice over the past 30 years, there have been many successes. There are policies and programs now in place that were fragile or non-existent years ago. And while these successes make her happy, she has found the greatest joy in relationships with people. Her time at Catholic Charities has deepened her love for people. Over the years she has learned that, "There's more to people than the immediate presenting situation. There's a wholeness to people. They have experiences, loves and heartbreaks, families, hopes and dreams, and good humor. They are tolerant and they forgive. I think that's what poor and low-income people have taught me. To find joy in the midst of suffering … it's amazing."

Thank you, Kathy, for your many years of service with Catholic Charities and your faithfulness and perseverance to advocate for policies that protect the poor and vulnerable in our community!

Creating Community in the Community She Loves

Sarah Conley was born and raised in Schuyler County. After graduating college, she joined the Peace Corps, married, raised a family and moved back to Schuyler County in 1995. Since then she has invested her time and talents in her community.

Sarah started working with victims of domestic violence – helping them take a "First Step" out of abuse and hurt toward safety, growth, wholeness and a life of hope. In 1997, Sarah attended a presentation on domestic violence at St. Mary's church in Watkins Glen and a connection was made. Sarah found like-minded people. The presenter was compassionate, non-judgemental and expressed care for the victim as well as those who abused. Sarah approached the presenter and asked if they could partner to expand programs and services to victims of domestic violence and their children. That presenter was Kathy Dubel and that conversation was the beginning of Catholic Charities in Schuyler County.

15 years later, Catholic Charities of Schuyler County continues to provide the "First Step" program for victims, as well as emergency services for those who are hungry or homeless, youth services including after-school programs and case management for at-risk youth and community services including a Community Food Project. To this day, Sarah Conley believes, "There would be no Catholic Charities in Schuyler County without Kathy Dubel."

I agree, and I would add that there would be no Catholic Charities in Schuyler County without Sarah Conley and her passion and drive to make a difference and never settle for mediocrity. She continually challenges us as members of the community to reach out to one another with love, compassion and care – not by giving material possessions, but by listening to one another, by talking through problems and by working along-side those who are struggling.

After serving 5 years as the founding Director of Catholic Charities in Schuyler County, Sarah, her husband Chris, and a group of volunteers established the Watkins Glen Community Garden. Motivated by her desire to "teach, not just give," Sarah has volunteered as the Garden Manager for the past four years overseeing youth workers and volunteers and providing hands-on instruction.

The Community Garden consists of 15 plots cared for by individuals and families and a large community plot cared for by volunteers with over 1,500 pounds of produce donated to local food pantries annually.

Sarah's energy and passion are endless and uncommon. She works tirelessly in the garden with the goal of building relationships, teaching basic life skills and critical thinking, and strengthening a sense of community. What drives this passion? Her love for others and her love of gardening.

According to Sarah, the heart of volunteering in her community is "about people, loving people, how hard is that? The bottom line is that you love who comes your way – it's about friendship and community and all that stuff … it's not about how much stuff we grow."

She recently reflected on the values passed on from her mother – values of hard work, growing your own food, canning, preserving and giving to others. Raising nine children on a shoestring budget, Sarah's parents had to be resourceful. Her mother had an immense garden and Sarah learned through her example that there's always a wealth, an abundance of food from a garden, more than you need for yourself. This provides opportunities to give to others – to reach out to neighbors.

To Sarah, gardening has much greater meaning than producing food. The cycle of life is miraculous. It's a walk of faith —"We put the seed in the ground in faith. There is a mystery and marvel that never fails to excite me." And she finds greatest joy when others discover the miracle of growth and life. There is a new young family in the garden this summer – "they are going to be amazed at what comes from those dry seeds they planted – that gets me excited!"

I recently spent a few hours on a Saturday morning in the garden, the *Community* Garden. I was spending the day with my six year old niece and we decided to weed and water plants. We weren't alone. Others were caring for their individual plots, including a family with four young children. A gentleman riding his bike stopped by and for the next half hour talked with each of the gardeners, inspected plants, and learned about the mission of the garden project.

There were several volunteers and youth workers in the garden as well. These included high school and college students, an AmeriCorps volunteer and a Watkins Glen Middle School Science Teacher who was giving instructions on nutrients in the soil and how to care for some of the more fragile plants.

I observed the volunteers in the garden building community: helping one another, sharing knowledge, taking care of others' plots while they are out of town. Even on a very hot summer day, there was joy in the garden. We worked alongside each other and talked about life and our families. I heard and watched children playing in the dirt - excited to discover new growth since they had last been in the garden. They watered the plants and each other, and I thought "what a wonderful place."

I soon became fully aware of the hard work Sarah and the other volunteers put into creating this place and how grateful I am for those in our community who freely give of their time, resources and talents. Thank you, Sarah, for your vision, hard work and perseverance!

** Kathy & Sarah's articles were written by Andrea Mattoon, Director of Resource Planning & Program Development*

"Through their humbleness, belief in service, generosity, courage and steadfastness, Kathy and Sarah have become our own community heroes to be equated with the Gandhis and Dorothy Days of the past. They are channels of love." - Rebecca Marx, Schuyler County Intern

In deep appreciation of your support, Catholic Charities is pleased to acknowledge your gifts which include cumulative donations beginning January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

CHEMUNG COUNTY:

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All Ways Distributing
American Legion Auxiliary Department
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Church Women United
CIDS, Inc.
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Community Wesleyan Church
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Montour Falls Moose Lodge Organizations
Montour Falls United Methodist Church
Moreland Presbyterian Church
Odessa/Catharine United Methodist Church Organizations
Over the Top Cupcakes & Treats
Presbytery of Geneva
Racing for the Kids
Sawmill Creek Vineyard
Seneca Lodge
St. Benedict's Church
St. Mary's of the Lake Organizations
Tompkins Trust Company
Total Recall Message Center, Inc.
Triangle Fund
United Way of Schuyler County, Inc.
Vintage Vamps Red Hatters
Watkins Glen BPOE #1546
Watkins Glen Sch Dist Organizations
Watkins Glen United Methodist Church
Wednesday Afternoon Club
Fran & Paula Affeldt
Dennis & Christina Amisano
Nancy Andrews
Joanne Angelo-McLaine
J.C. & Joan Argetsinger
Erich & Lori Asperschlager
Samuel & Barbara Baldwin
Edward Balthasar
Tony & Joyce Barbaro
James Barber
Mary Bartholomew
Patrick Bartolomeo
David Bartone
Karen Bartone
Brittany Beck-Wickham
Carl & Suzanne Blowers
Christopher & Michelle Bond
John & Mary Bond
Steve & Becky Bond
Klara Butler
John & Charlotte Callanan
Joseph & Mary Capurso
Calvin & Diane Carl

James & Jean Carnahan
John Carozza
Mark & Carly Carozza
William & Michele Carufe
Christopher & Kathleen Cole
Lisa and Jason Confer
Christopher & Sarah Conley
John & Mary Cook
Barbara Coon
Russel D. & Judith Cranston
Claraneal Creighton
Elaine Dahl
Anna Jean DeDominicis
Doug & Deb DePuy
Anthony L. & Constance H. Deberardinis
James & Linda Digiulio, Jr.
Catherine Discenza
Donald Dolan, Jr., DDS
Harry & Doreen Doty
Thomas & Kathleen Dubel
Raymond Dupont
Warda Edsall
Stacy Edwards
Honorable William* & Patricia Ellison
Stephanie Embree
Lori Farmer
Dr. Thomas & Nancy Fassett
Charles & Helene Fausold
Sam & Doris Fazzary
James & Gail Felli
James & Elaine Fergus
Richard & Lisa Ferrero
Arthur & Anne Field
Gerald & Donna Fisher
Lyman Flahive
Carol Franzese
Charles & Rosemarie Franzese
Mary Franzese
Valerie Franzese-Lynch
John G. & Janet M. Fritz
George & Karen Fuller
Rocco Giamichele
Patrick P. Gill
Donald Gooley
Kirk & Pamela Gregg
Robert & Diana Groll
Edward & Ellen Gublo
James & Becky Guild
John & Cathie Gunselman
Michael & Mary Harnas
Robert & Linda Harnas
Van & Patricia Harp
Alice Haughey
Sheila Heller
Theodore & Onolea Herforth
Martin & Ellen Hettinger
Donald & Catherine Horein
Virginia Houseknecht
Helen James
George Kellogg, Jr.
Mary Kessler
Robert & Mary King
Robert & Bettina King
Warren Klick, Anne Dziuba & Family
Marcia Kneeland
James & Shirley Kuttner
Salvatore & Mary Ann LaLomia
Bryan & Adele Lanahan
Marjorie Lynch*
Linda MacDonald
June Magera
Robert Mahaney
Thomas & Barbara Malina
Mary Ann Marks
Sandra & David Martinichio
Jared Marx & Catharine Slack
Paul & Alice Marx
Gerald & Lana Mathers

Sarah Matthews
Lon & Katherine Mattoon
Mary McAnarney
Kelly McCarthy & Christopher Dunham
Linda Ann McDonald
Anne Meehan
Robert & Kimberly Messersmith
John A. Miles
Aleshia Mitchell
Linda Moore
Michael & Valerie Moore
Dennis & Julie Morris
Margaret & Timothy Munroe
John & Elizabeth Murch
Louis & Diane Nessle
Donald & Tracy Neumire
Daniel & Ann Neumire, Sr.
Mary Nichols
Mary Jane Nitche
Susan Nye-Bleiler
Brian & Jeroldine O'Donnell
John & Camelia Oswald
Georgia Paladino
Sam Pennise
Eleanor Pevo
Judith Phillips

Richard & Joyce Pirozzolo
Leonardus Pott & Claire De Boer
Thomas & Alice Powers
Wilfred & Cornelia Ross
Leonard & Shirley Salvatore
Marilyn Sarkis
James & Jean Scaptura
Julia Scaptura
Michael & Karen Schamel
Gary & Louise Schoene
Leroy & Doris Schroeder
Elizabeth Scuteri
Deborah Seeley
Anna Sgrecci
H. Gordon & Judith Shafer, Jr.
Joseph & Diane Sheridan
Carmela Simiele
Jane Simiele
Philip Simiele
Helen Marie Sipperley
P.K. Smith
Philip Smith
Jerome & Francis Smyder
Thomas Snow & Karen Meriwether
David & Lucy Soper
Theodore & Barbara Specchio

Richard Sphon
Beverly Stamp
Frank Steber
Susan Straight
Harry Suits
Kimberlee Swartz
Penny Tanneberger
James & Nancy Teemley
Francis Thayer
Judy Thayer
Lee & Elizabeth Titus
Frederick & Joan Todd
Richard & Jane Triplett
Kyle & Ann Tuttle
Gerald & Jeanne Voorhees
Frederic & Laura Wagner
Jeffrey Weaver
David & Mary Jo Webster
Kenneth Wilson
Martin & Kathy Wojcik
Gary & Susan Wolf
Nancy Woodworth-Shaw

* Deceased

If your name is misspelled or missing, please accept our apologies & contact us at 734-9784 x2145 so that we can correct the error.

Catholic Charities
CHEMUNG & SCHUYLER COUNTY

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