

# IMPACT

DIOCESE OF PATERSON

## In This Issue:

### Spotlight on Morris County

The impact of your gift to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal helps to change lives throughout Morris, Sussex, and Passaic counties in the Diocese of Paterson. In this issue, we focus on diocesan programs and ministries that are available to people in Morris County. For more information about programs in Sussex County, please see our **December 2019 inaugural issue** and an upcoming issue will highlight Passaic County.

### Reaching Out to Senior Citizens

### A Scene of Joy at the Gruenert Center

### 2022 DMA: One Body in Christ

### We Want to Hear From You!

### Contact Us

The Office of Development Newsletter  
Diocese of Paterson

## REACHING OUT TO SENIOR CITIZENS



Hope House, located in Dover, is home to many programs that benefit the area. There is a Food Pantry, a Homeless Assistance Program, HIV Services, and Senior Services. Under the umbrella of Senior Services is Operation Fix-It and the Chore Program.

Karina Calabuig, Hope House Site Director, said, "Senior Services at Hope House has been helping our communities since the 1970s. Throughout the years, we have been able to keep many Morris County seniors safely living in their own homes." Marilyn, a senior citizen and client of Hope House for the last few years, appreciates the services she receives: "I am very grateful and can't sing your praises loud enough!" As a widow, in a house alone, Marilyn said that there is always something needing to be fixed. She explained that often it is challenging to get assistance for small

*continued...*

jobs, so Operation Fix-It has been very helpful with tasks such as changing batteries on her thermostat and fixing her shower door. When asked about her experience, Marilyn said that the "Fix-It program has been a lifesaver!" She knows the staff by name, and credits them for completing work promptly, while only waiting a couple of days for an appointment. Marilyn said, "I probably wouldn't be in this house without them."

Operation Fix-It helps seniors, as well as people with disabilities and low income single parents in Morris County, by completing minor repairs relating to health and safety, plumbing, carpentry, masonry,



and scrubbing bathrooms. Marilyn is grateful for the consistent good work and is happy when they visit.

When talking about Hope House's offerings, Marilyn stated that, "it's just been really helpful, very much so." She feels that there is no comparison, as there are no other programs like this, specifically Operation Fix-It. She said that she is "fortunate to have the services." The Chore Program provides light housekeeping for Morris County Seniors. This program has a waiting list at this time, as it is a very popular program.



electrical, and weatherization. A new Hope House initiative is the Chore Program, which Marilyn heard about while visiting the Hope House Food Pantry. Now, someone will go to her house every other month to assist with tasks like cleaning, vacuuming,

Karina Calabuig said, "Our clients often express their gratitude for the assistance and support we provide to them. We recently received a few cards from our seniors that said, 'I am very fortunate and blessed to have benefitted from services and help at Hope House! Your services have been a blessing!' Another wrote, 'Thank you ever so much for all of your help during the year. God bless you and the work you do.'"



## A Scene of Joy at the Gruenert Center

Walking into the unassuming entrance at the Gruenert Center on Route 15 in Lake Hopatcong proved true to the old adage: “don’t judge a book by its cover.” The Gruenert Center is much larger than it appears from the outside, and it is quite apparent that the love emanating from the people inside the building fills the busy rooms with light and joy.



First opened in 1967, the Gruenert Center has since moved twice, to find its current home in Lake Hopatcong. The Center was named in memory of Paul Gruenert, who, along with his wife Dr. Marietta Gruenert, were advocates for the special education field and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Gruenert Center, under the umbrella of the Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD), provides a day habilitation program, which welcomes approximately 58 clients, from 10am – 3pm, Monday-



Friday. Clients are offered a large variety of daily activities, from painting, ceramics, music, money club, and woodworking to featured services like music therapy and pet therapy once a week. Clients range in age from 21-80, many of whom have been part of the program for many years.

Down each hallway of the Center are paintings of nature, birds, and Christmas scenes – highlighting the clients’ handmade art. Their work has been featured on Christmas cards and sold as gifts. Moving further into the heart of the Center, you can follow the sounds of singing, as the clients spend all year preparing for their annual Talent Show. They are working on a special tribute song for their friend who passed away last year, along with painting all of their own set pieces and props.



Pam, a Gruenert Center client for many years, when asked about her favorite friend at the Center, promptly said “everyone.” She followed it up by saying “Miss Carolina is the best” and pointed to Carolina Nelson, Gruenert Center Program Director, who smiled and offered many other names as choices, to which Pam said to her, “why not you?” It is clear that the staff cares for each client, knows their likes and dislikes, and tries their best to personalize each day’s activities according to the clients’ needs and desires. Staff member Nancy Gibbs said that there is always room for new activities, but that one of the favorites is trivia. She said that clients “all move up closer to be part of it” and will often chime in with their own answers.

Holidays, historic events, and DPD celebrations are at the top of clients’ lists. They look forward to a visit from Santa at the DPD Annual Christmas Party and exciting day trips. Mary, another long time Gruenert Center client, was thrilled at the opportunity to share

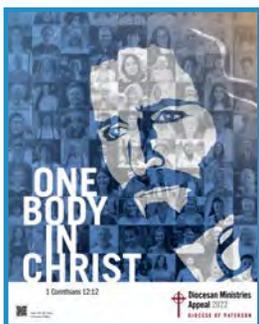
*continued...*

her favorite activities. When the DPD “Night to Shine” event was mentioned, her face lit up and she said, “Oh, I love that Dinner Dance!” A fan of shopping at the mall, Mary is already starting to think about her outfit for the event, since everyone gets dressed up to celebrate.

The last few years have been a challenge for everyone at the Gruenert Center, yet they have many reasons to be proud. Offering services online throughout COVID put many clients at ease, allowed them to flourish and to be in the comfort of their own homes. The Gruenert Center, which had once functioned as a thriving working program, has now become a day habilitation program, providing skill building activities, community integration opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and social and recreational offerings. Carolina Nelson said, “we had to reinvent the whole program.” It is clear that the day habilitation program, with an abundance of offerings, is doing great things. When reflecting on the past few years, Carolina said, “now we are in a good place.”



## 2022 Diocesan Ministries Appeal: One Body in Christ



### Highlights

We are pleased to share some highlights from this year’s Appeal so far! One of our main goals is to be relevant, helpful, and transparent with our donors. In an effort to provide this to parishioners and to make it more

convenient, we continue to enhance the offerings of ways to connect with us.

### Social Media

Throughout the fall, we highlighted some ministries that are served by the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Perhaps you saw these ministries shared on social media, either on Facebook **Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson** and **Diócesis de Paterson** or **Instagram**.



2022 Appeal

### QR Code

Did you notice something new on the Diocesan Ministries Appeal pledge cards this year? We added a QR code to allow donors access to the online donation page by using a cell phone. Thank you to all who donated via the QR code!

### New Website

For more information about the 2022 Diocesan Ministries Appeal, please visit our **NEW website!** You can watch our DMA video, learn more about the ministries served by the Appeal, and stay in touch with us about current happenings.



### DMA Video

We invite you to watch the 2022 DMA video, which was shown in parishes throughout the Diocese of Paterson in October! **Click here** or scan the QR code to watch the DMA video!

*continued...*

## 2022 DMA Update

The Diocesan Ministries Appeal also helps our own parishes. Half of the amount received over a parish's goal is returned to the parish for their own needs. St. Cecilia Parish in Rockaway used their \$25,000 rebate to replace the rectory roof! Did you see our social media posts highlighting St. Cecilia Parish?

### Thank You!

We are so grateful to all who have already contributed to the 2022 Diocesan Ministries Appeal: One Body in Christ. Thank you for your generosity! Your support of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal has an incredible impact for people throughout Morris, Passaic, and Sussex counties.

There is still time to make a donation to the 2022 Appeal! Funds are used to support ministries and programs through the end of the diocesan fiscal year on June 30, 2023. Every gift is important so whatever you can give is a blessing. **Please make an online gift.** May God bless you for your support!



---

## We Want to Hear From You!

We appreciate your support of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal and your interest in helping so many people in the Diocese of Paterson! We invite you to take this brief survey.

### Development Survey

Your feedback about what interests and inspires you will help us as we look to engage other faithful Catholics to participate in serving our brothers and sisters in Christ. Completing the form will only take a few minutes of your time.

We ask that you please complete the survey before February 24th. Thank you for helping us better understand your philanthropic needs and for assisting us as we reach out to our fellow parishioners!

---

*How can I repay the Lord for all the great good  
done for me? I will raise the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord.*

*– Psalms 116:12-13*

Be in the Know



# THE BEACON

The Beacon is the Diocese of Paterson newspaper, and is published weekly on Thursdays. To read more about our parishes and events throughout the Diocese, read the **weekly E-dition of the Beacon**.

For the most up to date information about our Diocese, be sure to check out our social media!



Follow the Diocese of Paterson on Facebook (English)



Follow the Diócesis de Paterson on Facebook (Spanish)



Follow Bishop Kevin Sweeney on Instagram



Receive the IMPACT newsletter bi-annually via email

---

## Join Us This Winter

We invite you to please join us at any of these Diocesan events. We hope to see you soon!

- **Sunday, February 26th – 3:00 PM**

Rite of Election at *the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist* in Paterson

- **Saturday, March 4th - 8:30 am – 3:30 pm**

2023 Catechetical Conference at *St. Elizabeth University* in Convent Station

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Sweeney at 2:30 pm

**Please visit the event website** for more information and to register.

- **Saturday, March 11th – 9:30 AM**

St. Patrick's Day Mass at *Assumption Parish* in Morristown,

followed by 12 noon St. Patrick's Day Parade in Morristown

- **Thursday, March 30th – 6:30 PM**

Assumption College for Sisters Caring Basket Gala at *the Hanover Manor in Whippany*

\*Bishop Kevin Sweeney is an honoree\*

**Please visit the event website** for more information or to support this event.

---

## Contact Us

Your support is a great blessing to those we serve. Our Development Office is here to help you meet your philanthropic goals, whether it is making a gift to our Diocesan Ministries Appeal, remembering the Church in your will and estate plans, establishing an endowment in memory of a loved one or supporting any other cause that is important to you.

Diocese of Paterson Office of Development

Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 p.m. | 973-777-8818, ext. 215