Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those who make a difference in their lives were honored and celebrated.

On Sunday, February 17th, Catholic Charities, DPD held their 49th Annual Murray House Dinner Dance at The Brownstone in Paterson. 430 people attended this event, making it one of the largest Murray House Dinner Dances ever.

Murray House is one of DPD's 12 residential programs located in Clifton. Murray House is the longest running group home in the state of New Jersey serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Five people call this house “home.”

This year, DPD honored Father Matthew Twiggs, Pastor of St. John Vianney Parish (Stockholm) and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish (Oak Ridge), as Person of the Year. Father Twiggs has selflessly given to DPD; motivating parishioners to contribute to DPD’s Christmas Giving Tree, hosting events for DPD in his parish halls and leading the DPD Family in prayer at nearly all of their events.

The Paterson Police Department were honored as DPD’s Public Servants of the Year. Murray House had its beginnings in Paterson, and Catholic Charities’ Straight and Narrow and CFCS are serve the city of Paterson. The Paterson Police Department have always responded to any situations at these programs with diligence and professionalism.

The Marilyn Murray Keenan Inspiration Award is named after our dear friend Marilyn Murray Keenan, who had been involved with DPD for over 40 years until her untimely passing in 2007. Marilyn's daughter, Katie Keenan, and Marilyn's grandson James, presented the Award to Steve Binder. Steve, and his therapy dog, Bella, kindly donate their time to DPD's group homes, sharing love, hugs, and happiness with the individuals who live at DPD.

Gruenert Center Employee Frank Amantea received the Employee of the Year award, presented by DPD Executive Director, Joanna Miller. Frank received a standing ovation, after Joanna read quotes from Gruenert Center staff and clients who spoke about how much Frank means to DPD.

Anthony, from DPD’s Walsh House, was awarded with the Murray House Dinner Dance Frank X. Graves Award. He will go on to be recognized as the NJACP Community Star.

Anthony later presented the Frank X. Graves Award to Anthony Iovine. Anthony will be DPD’s representative at the New Jersey Association of Community Providers - Community STARS Dinner in April.

“For many, the best part of the evening is the presentation Jim and Kit Murray Outstanding...
Dear Catholic Charities Friends, Volunteers and Supporters,

As we enter the Season of Lent, The Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson Family reflects on Pope Francis’ 2019 message, “Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus’ Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ’s victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.”

As we look towards Easter Sunday and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we thank our staff team, donors, volunteers and supporters who each day “stand beside our brothers and sisters in need.” In addition to providing support for those in need in our local communities, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson, aids those globally during this important time of year, participating in Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowl endeavor and by remembering all in prayer.

Your continued assistance is vital during this season and throughout the year. You can make a difference by supporting our Easter Appeal - ccpaterson.org/easter.

God bless you for all you do for your sisters and brothers in need.

Sincerely,

The Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson
Executive Team

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson helps thousands of people each day. Your support allows us to provide help and create hope for those in need throughout our community.

There are many ways that you can make a lasting impact:

- Make a 1-time tax-deductible contribution: ccpaterson.org/give
- Make a memorial or in honor of donation to support someone you love
- Attend, sponsor or donate to: The Murray House Beefsteak (ccpaterson.org/beefsteak) or the Veteran’s Stakeholder’s Breakfast (ccpaterson.org/breakfast).
- Remember us in your will
- Transfer stock
- Donate food to any of our food pantries
- Give clothing
- Donate your car – CCCars.org
- And always, keep the Catholic Charities Family in your prayer intentions. We will pray for you!
Achievement Awards, to the individuals who live in our programs. Annually, this is the heart of this great event”, said Chris Brancato Catholic Charities’ Development Director. The awards are named after Jim and Kit Murray in honor of the late Patriarch and Matriarch of the Murray Family. Kelly from Wallace House, Sean from Kelleher Apartments, Mary from Wehrlen House and Nate from our Support Coordination Program received these awards.

The evening concluded with a closing prayer from Catholic Charities, Board President, Monsignor Herbert Tillyer. Prior to the prayer he issued a challenge to the DPD Family: to pack the Brownstone with 750-1,000 guests for the Murray House Dinner Dance’s 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held on February 16th 2020.

Thank you to all of our donors and Sponsors; including our Gold Sponsors who made this event possible: The Murray Family, Peter Murphy, Allied Printing and Graphics and Liberty Capital Group, Butler. We could not have made the evening a success without the Murray’s.

The Murray Family is truly part of the DPD Family.

Help grant our wishes! You can make a donation towards an individual program for a needed purchase. Call our Development Office at (973) 944-5992 or visit ccppaterson.org to support Catholic Charities important ministry.

**Food Pantries**
Diapers, Laundry Detergent and Personal Hygiene Products are all in great need
Contribution of your choice

**Senior Day Program**
Swimming Lessons to the YMCA
$85

**Veterans Program**
Walmart or Shoprite Gift Cards for Veterans in need
$100 Each

**Mommy and Me Program**
Straight and Narrow
Welcome Kits for new babies
$150 (per kit)

**Department for Persons with Disabilities**
Broadway Show or Pro Sports Game
$200 Each (for 1 staff and 1 resident)

**Father English Community Center**
Leaf Blower and Weed Wacker
$300

**Support Coordination, DPD**
Funds for individuals with disabilities
to take college courses
(Sussex Community College LACE Program)
$300 per student

**Gruenert Center, DPD**
Video Camera
$500

**Catholic Adult Religious Education, DPD**
Picture Bibles for adults of all abilities
$1,000

**Murray House, DPD**
Couch and a love seat
$2,000

Thank you to Father Brian Sullivan and the Parish Family of Christ the King, New Vernon, for granting our wish for a new refrigerator at Father English Community Center!
NJ Confirmation Crusaders help at Father English Center

On Super Bowl Sunday, when people were busy getting ready for the big game, a group of boys was stationed at Stop & Shop in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Unlike most who were settling down in front of their televisions in the comfort of their homes, the Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ridgewood, Confirmation Crusaders, led by group leaders Denis Sullivan and Rob Lyons, gave their free time to serve others by collecting food donations despite the cold weather. With their personal approach of giving an item list to all shoppers who were willing to donate, they collected $587 worth of non-perishable food items. The boys bravely weathered the cold and scored big!

Father English Food Pantry in Paterson, New Jersey, tirelessly serves those who need assistance with fulfilling their most basic needs. Director of our Food Pantries, Carlos Roldan explained to the boys the importance of the volunteer work they were providing and he also provided a better understanding for them about the impact of today’s society on those in need.

Jen White who helped with the planning for the day, said that the Crusaders had an “awesome experience” and expressed their enthusiastic interest in helping again in the future.

Fight for the Right Gives Back to the Habitat for Humanity

The Fight for the Right group is the Department for Persons with Disabilities community service group. The group is overseen by dedicated volunteers Anna Philhower and Jenn Minervino.

In February, the group gave back to the Morris Habitat for Humanity.

Morris Habitat celebrated the culmination of its Blitz Build with the dedication of one of their homes in Mine Hill. More than 1,500 volunteers came together to build three homes in just 10 days. This particular home, will provide decent, safe and affordable housing for a young family in need.

Fight for the Right presented at this event and gave Welcome Baskets to the families who moved in to this home. The baskets consist of cleaning supplies, paper products, kitchen towels and spices. There is also a lovely poem for each of the families included in the baskets. We are proud of our Fight for the Right Group who do so much for those in need!

Straight and Narrow Hires New Director of Pastoral Care and Volunteers

Catholic Charities, Straight and Narrow is proud to welcome Father Milton Camargo as the new Director of Pastoral Care. Originally from Columbia, Father Camargo has an MBA in Theology. His purpose in Pastoral Care is to offer healing to the Clients in S&N by helping them to grow in spiritual way.

For Fr. Milton what is most important in his new assignment as Director of Pastoral Care at S&N is God, not him. He said: “I’m here to serve and to announce the One who really is important, Jesus Christ our God and healer. He is the One who can make the difference in our live and lives of others. I look forward to helping the Straight and Narrow Family.”
The Monsignor Mark Giordani Center Receives a New Sign

Straight and Narrow recently unveiled a new sign on their 396 building. Straight and Narrow’s four story facility, on Straight Street in Paterson, was renamed the Monsignor Mark Giordani Center for Rehabilitation.

A pledge was recently made by the Moglia Family Foundation, in honor of Monsignor Mark Giordani. This gift, is being used to renovate and expand Straight and Narrow. The contribution is the largest individual gift that Catholic Charities has ever received. The funds will be used towards Straight & Narrow to renovate their facility on Straight Street. The purpose of the renovation is to design and build a safe, secure, warm and inviting recovery wellness center for individuals in all stages of their recovery. The Monsignor Mark Giordani Center for Rehabilitation will make a lasting impact in the community for years to come.

Monsignor Mark Giordani is known for his love of the poor and his tireless work in the City of Paterson. His dedication and love for those served at Catholic Charities is unmatched. The Straight and Narrow, Catholic Charities Family thanks Monsignor Mark Giordani for his continued support and the Moglia Family Foundation for their generosity in the spirit of Father Mark.

Depaul Football Team Spreads Valentines Cheer

In February, the DePaul Catholic HS Football team along with the St. Vincent DePaul students hosted DPD residents from Barnet House, Fitzpatrick House, Basile Apartments and Kelleher Apartments for a Valentine’s Day celebration. The event was organized by longtime DPD supporter Diane Macchia-Hanson. Diane’s Aunt Sissy was a resident of DPD’s Wayne House and Barnet House for most of her adult life. After Sissy passed away, Diane made it her mission to stay connected with Sissy’s DPD Family, starting with hosting Christmas at her home along with other families from Wyckoff who bought gifts for all the residents. This annual tradition has turned into a community affair with the DePaul Catholic HS student body. Diane’s son, CJ, is on the football team and he and his teammates, along with Coach McKenna and Coach Campanile, and many other students have been giving back to DPD through various activities. They have hosted Christmas parties for the residents and now put together this amazing Valentine’s party.

As the residents arrived, they were each escorted into the building by the football players, all of whom know each resident’s name. Once seated at the table, the students greeted the residents and asked them what they wanted to drink and got them their beverage of choice. This was followed by a craft activity where the residents and students decorated heart shaped cookies which were baked by the culinary students at DePaul! After this, all enjoyed a feast together for dinner, which included homemade penne vodka, meatballs, pasta salad, chicken fingers and lots of pizza. Again, each resident was served by the students.

After dinner, dancing followed and all had a great time together. Next, ice cream sundaes were enjoyed with ice cream from Applegate Farms in Montclair, scooped by some of the football moms, who were also there all night helping with the party and the food. Finally, a round of Valentine’s bingo was enjoyed with the students. Every resident was sent home with their own box of Valentine’s chocolates and a goody bag, each decorated by the students and personalized with each resident’s name on it.

“To see the students interact with the DPD residents was beautiful. They were caring and compassionate and truly enjoyed spending time with them. We are so appreciative of Diane for organizing this event, as well as so many other special events in the past. And we are so proud to have such a special relationship with DePaul Catholic and all the faculty, staff and students. They are certainly developing wonderful leaders of the future,” said Joanna Miller, DPD’s Executive Director.
CREATING HOPE - PROGRAM NEWS

Interns Are Valuable Partners for Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities provides a wide variety of internship opportunities. We welcome interns who enter its programs with different backgrounds. The variety of service offered by Catholic Charities programs allows the interns to acquire experiences that help to enrich their chosen field of studies and broaden their scope of understanding about the essential work social service agencies provide.

Our Catholic Family and Community Services currently has three interns from Passaic County Community College and an intern from Rutgers University Social Work Masters Program. Andy Perales, Claudia Zevallos, and Agnes Zsiros are interns from Passaic County Community College and Rosa Mendez is completing her internship as a Rutgers University MA student. Andy Perales works at the Father English Food Pantry and Claudia Zevallos works at the Senior Adult Day Program. Agnes Zsiros, a Human Services Program student, is completing her internship under the supervision of Sister Maureen Sullivan, Director of Volunteers and Community Outreach. Rosa Mendez works at the Senior Activities Program under the supervision of Lynn Gaffney. They have commented that they are grateful for the knowledge they are able to acquire throughout their internship experiences.

Straight and Narrow Expands Admissions Availability

Straight and Narrow Combats Opioid Epidemic, Increases Walk in admission hours.

Due to the overwhelming demand for services due to the continuing Opioid Epidemic, S&N’s new Admissions Director, Nancy Nakhle, LSW has increased the availability of Walk-In admissions into our Detoxification Unit that meet medical criteria for admission.

In 2018, New Jersey’s drug death toll set a record for the fourth state year, and now stands nearly four times what it was a decade ago. Straight and Narrow works each day to save lives.

The Central Intake office for Straight and Narrow provides assessments and intakes for individuals who have a substance use disorder. Our Central Intake office provides access to the following programs/levels of care: Detoxification, Short-term Inpatient, Long-term Inpatient, Mommy and Me Program, Halfway House, Intensive Outpatient, Outpatient.

At time of admission Straight and Narrow offers the following: medical consultations for prospective client, Genesight testing, Presumptive Eligibility, Medicated Assisted Treatment Opt in/Opt out, Mental Health Screenings and Telemental health for assessments. We welcome walk ins for assessments and admission (as long as they meet criteria for admission) as well as scheduled meet and greets to all referrals.

New Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Monsignor Mark Giordani Center
396 Straight Street
Paterson, NJ 07501
Catholic Charities Helps those Affected by Marcal Fire

The Marcal Paper Plant in Elmwood Park was largely destroyed by a fire on Wednesday January 30th. This historic structure stood on the Passaic River in Elmwood Park. The Factory was one of the oldest and largest environmentally friendly paper companies in the United States.

Hundreds of firefighters assured that no one was hurt, bravely fighting the fire through below zero windchills. Sadly, hundreds of individuals are without a place of employment.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson was there to answer the call. We were involved with a job fair held on February 5th and have helped those in need, with food, housing and clothing assistance. Special thanks to Dorian Restrepo from the Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs who partnered with us to provide help, and for all she does for the community.

The Marcal Family is in our prayers during this difficult time.

SoarFit Partners with Straight and Narrow

SoarFit, run by New Pathway Counseling, encourages commitment and accountability. They offer practical applications and stress the unity of mind, body and spirit. New Pathways Counseling addictions treatment centers are located in Bayonne, Paramus, Jersey City, and Pine Brook.

Every Wednesday 15 clients from the Alpha programs attend this mind, body and spirit wellness session. The women participate in a high intensity cardio and strengthening workout and then transition into yoga, tai chi and guided meditation practice. Each week the women learn to not only strengthen their physical bodies but also their minds with learning about their inner strength as well as better understanding themselves.

Thanks again to New Pathways for their continued partnership and support.

Donation to Locks of Love

Jennifer, who works at our Gruenert Center, and happens to have an intellectual disability, was proud to make a difference in the lives of children in need. Earlier today, she donated her hair to Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization based in the United States. They accept donations of human hair to make wigs for Canadian and American children in need due to cancer treatment and medical conditions that have caused them to lose their hair.

“I wanted to do something like this for a long time, I see those commercials from St. Jude's Children's Hospital with Marlo Thomas about kids with cancer/leukemia. I hope that my hair is used to make a wig for a child who is in need and spreads a little sunshine,” said Jennifer.

What a thoughtful gesture. We are proud of you Jennifer!

DPD New Hires

DPD is proud to welcome Associate Executive Director Erin Crowley and Compliance and Quality Officer Michele Meyer, to the DPD Family.

Erin Crowley has over twenty-eight years of experience working with individuals with multiple disabilities. In her tenure she has been dedicated to providing comprehensive person centered support services, focused on advocacy and improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Erin also serves her community as a member of the Montgomery Planning Board and Ethics Board.

Michele Meyer has been working in the field of adult services for the past 20 years and has held many positions working extensively in residential and day programs. She has been a Program Manager, Director of Residential Services and Director of Quality Assurance and Operations for another provider agency. She is the Co-chair of the Committee of New Jersey provider agency users of Foothold Technology's Awards software and has been very proactive in developing a supportive network of professionals.

Welcome to the team!
March 30, 2019
Veterans Stakeholders Breakfast
The Brownstone, Paterson

April 7, 2019
Murray House Beefsteak and Silent Auction
The Brownstone, Paterson

April 9, 2019
Addiction – Break the Cycle Event
Presented by Straight and Narrow
Passaic County Community Recovery Event
Passaic County Technical Institute

June 24, 2019
Wiegand Farm Golf Classic
Crystal Springs Resort, Hamburg