Honoring Veterans and Those Who Make a Difference in Their Lives

11 individuals were honored at the 4th Annual Stakeholders Awards Breakfast

On Saturday March 30th Catholic Charities, Veterans Services held their 4th Annual Stakeholders Awards Breakfast at the Brownstone in Paterson. This event was held in conjunction with the SOS Vets Stakeholders Group.

Over 400 people attended this event, making it the largest Awards Breakfast to date.

"The veterans breakfast is a reflection of the beauty of a community coming together for the common goal of supporting those American Veterans who served us and our County with their sacrifice," said David Pearson, Assistant Director of Veteran Services, Catholic Charities.

The event was kicked off with an opening prayer from Father William Naughton, Straight and Narrow; the National Anthem, beautifully performed by the Rosa Parks High School Choir; and opening remarks from Scott Milliken, Catholic Charities CEO.

The Keynote Speaker was Christopher R. Perkins, the Managing Director, Global Head of OTC Clearing and Foreign Exchange Prime Brokerage for Citi. An Iraq War Veteran, Mr. Perkins is the Vice Chairman of Team Rubicon; the Founder of the Citi Military Veteran’s Networks; was the co-founder of the Veterans on Wall Street; and was instrumental in the forming of Citi Salutes. Mr. Perkins gave a spirited address about his experiences with the Marine Corps and in the corporate world.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson operates the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program for Veterans with very low income who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In addition, we operate four Veterans Clothing Closets to help Veterans in need. The SOS Veterans Stakeholders are a group of individuals and organizations from throughout New Jersey aligned to support Veterans. Funds raised at this event go into the SOS Veterans Unmet Needs Fund to offer financial support for Veterans.

“It has been a tremendous privilege to see how the NJ stakeholders has evolved over the past few years and to witness the overwhelming support from the communities we serve. It has really flourished, assisted veterans through hardships, and fiercely advocated for important issues in the veteran communities,” said AJ Luna, Director of Veteran Services for Bergen County.
Dear Catholic Charities Staff Members and Friends,

As we look back on Easter, we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. St. Augustine said “God loves each of us, as if there were only one of us.” During the season of Lent, and throughout the year, Catholic Charities staff members and volunteers embody these words, loving and serving all of those who come to our doors, regardless of their background, or of the situation they are in.

As we enjoy the springtime, we too see the sunshine exuding from the individuals we serve: the child smiling from ear to ear at one of our early learning programs; the working mother who is able to put food on her table, thanks to our food pantries; the individual who happens to have an intellectual disability, living on her own for the first time in her life; the young man celebrating a year of sobriety thanks to help from Straight and Narrow. The risen Christ inspires us all to create hope for those in need.

Our Catholic Charities Staff Team is the heart and soul of our important mission. Thank you for all you do for the people we serve during this Lenten Season and throughout the year.

God Bless you All!

Sincerely,

The Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson
Executive Team

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**LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM**

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**EXECUTIVE TEAM**

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**NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES**

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**Employee News and Notes**

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**CONNECTIONS**

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**Catholic Charities**

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**Diocese of Paterson**

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**Providing Help, Creating Hope**

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**P: (973) 737-2077**

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**BISHOP**

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, STD, SSL, DD

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Rev. Msgr. James T. Mahoney, PhD

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Vice President:

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Scott Milliken, MPA

(973) 944-5543

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**DEPARTMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Executive Director

Joanna Miller, MNM

(973) 406-1100

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**STRAIGHT AND NARROW**

Executive Director

Dr. Sam Pirozzi, LCADC, LPC, LMFT

(973) 345-6000

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**CATHOLIC FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Associate Executive Director

Bob Jacob, MS,LLB,CSW

(973) 279-7100

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We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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www.ccpaterson.org

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Honorees included:

**Passaic County**
John Swank, President of the Legion Riders Post 174

**Morris County**
Jim Feeney, Vice President Welcome Home Vets; President Ancient Order of the Hibernias, Hudson County

**Sussex County**
Patty Green, Sussex Elks

**Essex County**
Emerson Crooks, Newark Stand Down; Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris County

**Bergen County**
Jim Tedesco, Bergen County Executive

**Hudson County**
Hoboken American Legion Post 107

**Union County**
Sergeant Michael Boll, Operation Rebound

**Regional Award**
Kelly Mazzocchi, Sterling Elks

**Educational Award**
Ann Treadaway, Director of Veteran and Military Programs, Rutgers University

**Women’s Veteran Award**
Lucy Del Gaudio, 2nd Vice Commander, American Legion Post 18, Weehawken

**Middlesex**
Paul Sansone, Sansone Auto Group

“The SOS Stakeholders breakfast was our way of thanking our veterans and providers who support us all year long and recognizing those that do so much. The Stakeholders would like to thank Catholic Charities for giving us that privilege,” JoAnn Northgrave, Veterans Coordinator, County of Hudson. Catholic Charities is proud to give back to Veterans in need!

Keynote Speaker, Christopher Perkins, Citi, addresses the sellout crowd.

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**NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES CONT’D**

**Employee News and Notes**

Family Counselor Brenda Berkley has been a beacon of hope, dedication and compassion for CFCS – she has touched the lives of so many for nearly 46 years! Brenda goes out of her way to assist the families from the Paterson Housing Authority by providing family counseling, budget planning, adult and child daycare referrals, housing assistance, employability counseling and emergency services. She truly believes in empowering her clients and is a firm believer in teaching clients to become self-sufficient creating a better future for themselves. She strives to provide clients with the knowledge and skills that will have a lasting and beneficial impact on their lives. Brenda is not only caring and compassionate; she sincerely believes that everyone deserves a good quality of life. Most recently, Brenda assisted her clients in attending a program geared towards helping build stronger families. The purpose of this 8 week program was to help parents and children learn better communication skills - Brenda made a point to see that her clients were able to attend. She is known to work late in order to provide clients with transportation to the program to eliminate any barriers families may have. Brenda consistently goes the extra mile, to ensure families have access to information that can improve their lives. Although Brenda will be retiring at the end of March we are confident she will find other avenues to continue to be a beacon of light to others. We are truly thankful to have her as part of our family for so many years. Please join me in congratulating Brenda on being selected Employee of the Month – January 2019!

Hailey Szabo at DPD has been selected as the Employee of the Month – February 2019! Hailey has only been with us as a Residential Counselor at the Columbus House for the past 7 months, but she has grown in her role expeditiously. You can see the dedication and compassion she has for our residents, she does not shy away from any task, and they truly enjoy having her in their home or spending time out at community events. Despite her college schedule she consistently works around her busy schedule to help the program whenever she can, she has proven to be extremely flexible, a true team player and joy to have on any shift. Hailey has become such an essential member of the DPD family and we feel truly bless to have her. Please join us on congratulating Hailey on being selected Employee of the Month.

The Human Resources Department for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson is proud of our talented staff who provide help and create hope for so many people in need. Each month, we will be highlighting the accomplishments of staff members, as well as providing you with important information about developments, benefits and anything else that may be important to you.

We are always here to assist and work with you in any way we can; we are only a phone call away: (973) 737-2077 x203

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PROVIDING HELP - VOLUNTEER NEWS

Stylin at Gruenert Center

Catholic Charities, DPD, Gruenert Center is more than thrilled to have volunteer Cathy Ritz join their family.
Cathy is a professional hairstylist who wanted to serve Catholic Charities in some way.
Cathy will be bringing her skills to the Gruenert Center Family. Whether it is a haircut, a blow dry for a special occasion or just a general beauty pick me up, Cathy does it all with a kind and generous heart. Welcome, Cathy!

Intern Spotlight: Claudia Zevallos

Claudia Zevallos is a Human Services Program major at Passaic County Community College who is currently completing her internship at our Paterson Adult Day Care Center. While pursuing her educational goals, Claudia works as a phlebotomist. Using her phlebotomy and mental health experience, she was able to provide a better understanding for seniors about procedures when a patient visits a lab.
Claudia shared her knowledge about the techniques that seniors could utilize to manage stress associated with doctors’ visits. She also educated the seniors about the vast network of organs and vessels that are responsible for the flow of the blood, nutrients, and hormones in the circulatory system.
All of the seniors were grateful for the newly developed knowledge and practical tips and techniques that could help reduce anxiety.
Thanks, Claudia for sharing your knowledge and support!

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson
1st Annual Volunteer Appreciation Mass

May 4th, 2019 at 10:00am
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
381 Grand St., Paterson, NJ 07505
Free parking in the Municipal Parking Lot on the corner of Grand Street and Jackson Street

The Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson Family is blessed with dozens of volunteers who generously donate their time to provide help and create hope for those in need. As a small token of our appreciation, and as a way to better connect with our volunteer community, the Catholic Charities Family would like to invite you to a mass in your honor. Refreshments to follow after mass.
If you are able to attend, please respond by April 30th, at ccpaterson.org/volunteerapp. Each volunteer is welcome to bring one guest. God bless you!

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

We are looking for devoted volunteers who would like to make a difference in the lives of those in need. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities at any of our agencies, please email info@ccpaterson.org or call any of one of our volunteer coordinators.

[Contact information for coordinators provided]

“He is not here, he has risen.”
Mark 16:6
CREATING HOPE - PROGRAM NEWS

St. Monica’s Youth Ministry Spreads Easter Joy

On Saturday, March 23rd St. Monica’s Youth Ministry, Sussex visited the Department for Persons with Disabilities Wiegand Farm to spread Easter blessings with the individuals from 4 of DPD’s group homes.

The young people from St. Monica’s made Easter wreaths and other arts and crafts.

Four of DPD’s group homes attended including Walsh House, Columbus House, Finnegan House, Alexander House, and Giuliano House. After the arts and crafts, the youth group and friends from DPD enjoyed a pizza party.

“Thank you for sharing Easter joy with us,” said Pam, from Finnegan House.

God bless the St. Monica’s Youth Ministry and all of the service groups who support Catholic Charities!

Summit Medical Group Foundation Supports Those at the Father English Center

Thank you to the Summit Medical Group Foundation for their continued support of Catholic Charities.

On March 25th, Summit held a health screening at Father English Center. Each month Summit Medical Group volunteers generously donate their time to help those served at Catholic Charities.

Summit Medical Group is the largest and oldest physician-owned multi-specialty medical practice in New Jersey, with campuses in Berkeley Heights, Florham Park, Livingston, Westfield, and Clifton. In addition to regularly scheduled screenings at Father English, the Summit Medical Group Foundation has sponsored the Department for Persons with Disabilities Murray House Dinner Dance and have come out to complete health screenings at our Wiegand Farm Golf Classic, one of the biggest golf outings in the country.

“At Father English Center and throughout Catholic Charities, we give people more than just the services they are coming in for. We are always striving to give others a full continuum of support, so their many needs are met. Thank you to Summit Medical Group, for improving the health and wellness of those in Paterson,” said Carlos Roldan, Director of Catholic Charities Food Pantries.

Christopher Ripp Endowment Helps Fund Catholic Charities Early Learning Programs

Throughout the last 20 years, Barbara and Peter Ripp have selflessly given to Catholic Charities to support our Early Learning Programs, in loving memory of their son Christopher.

Catholic Charities operates 5 Early Learning Programs throughout the Diocese of Paterson including El Mundo De Colores, El Mundo De Nino, Friendship Corner 2, and our La Vida Childcare Centers; each of these programs provide support for children.

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CREATING HOPE - PROGRAM NEWS

Christopher Ripp Endowment - cont’d

3-5 years old in Paterson. In addition, we operate a Child Nutrition Program, serving over 150,000 meals each year.

The Ripp Family has been contributing to Catholic Charities throughout the last 2 decades. They established an endowment, in memory of Christopher, and each year their contributions provide scholarships for specific families in need. Christopher was a kind and loving person who had a passion for helping vulnerable populations.

On March 25th a plaque was dedicated at El Mundo De Nino reading:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Paterson gratefully acknowledges Barbara and Peter Ripp for establishing the Christopher Ripp Endowment for Catholic Charities Day Care and thanks Monsignor James Mahoney Pastor Emeritus of Corpus Christi Parish, Chatham for inspiring such generous stewardship.

Monsignor James Mahoney, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Paterson blessed the plaque, now hanging in the center’s entrance hallway.

God bless the Ripp Family! We will forever hold Christopher Ripp’s memory close to our hearts.

Straight and Narrow Participates in Black Balloon Day

Catholic Charities, Straight and Narrow is one of the largest nonprofit Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers in the country. Our staff work diligently to combat the opioid epidemic facing our state and nation. On March 6th, Straight and Narrow was proud to participate in Black Balloon Day.

Black Balloon Day became a national and international event, bringing awareness to overdose deaths. As with many things with the opioid epidemic, Black Balloon Day began with a family’s loss. Diane and Lauren Hurley began Black Balloon Day in remembrance of Greg Tremblay. Tremblay, a father of four, died of an overdose when he was 38 years old on March 6, 2015.

Black Balloon Day is a day to honor and raise awareness of overdose victims.

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

Black Balloon Day has become a national and international movement. The Catholic Charities, Straight and Narrow Family was proud to join in this movement for a moment of prayer, reflection and remembrance.

90 Years of Service

90 years of service were celebrated at Catholic Charities, Father English Center on March 21st. On this date Brenda Berkley and Juana Santana were honored for their storied careers. This retirement event was complete with tributes, song and plenty of adoration.

Brenda started working with Catholic Charities in 1972 and Juana in 1976. Together, they have helped those in need, throughout Paterson, throughout the last 5 decades. They are two of Catholic Charities’ longest tenured staff members. Together, they have directly helped over 30,000 people.

The event was co-hosted by Delia Rosario, Catholic Charities’ Director of Youth at Risk Reduction Program and Lynn Gaffney, Catholic Charities’ Director of Senior Day Programs. The event featured presentations from the Mayor of Paterson, André Sayegh; the Housing Authority of the City of Paterson; GAPA, Grandparents As Parents Alliance; Catholic Charities’ CEO, Scott Milliken; and past and present Catholic Charities employees. In addition, a heartfelt performance of Louis Armstrong’s What a Wonderful World and Frank Sinatra’s My Way was sung by staff member Woodrow “Woody” Lawrence.
“Brenda and Juana are not retiring, they are re-purposing their lives,” said Mayor Sayegh. “These two community leaders should be celebrated for doing so much, for so many, for so long. They have truly enriched the lives of others,” he added.

Catholic Charities staff and clients say that Brenda is an “unsung hero” because she has continued to serve those in need with care and dignity for years despite the deteriorating conditions of the Riverside Terrace Apts. which became a hotbed for drug dealing and gun violence. Police periodically responded to shots fired. Families moved out because of crime. Through it all, Brenda was there.

Jauna joined Catholic Charities in 1976, at the senior Day Center in Paterson. She has worn many hats through her years at Paterson Adult Day Center (PADC). She started as a secretary at 22 years old. Through time and experience, she was able to grow in her profession. After a few years at PADC she became certified as an Activities Director. Later she became a Certified Social Worker. Finally, she was promoted to become the Adult Day satellite Service Director in six senior buildings of the Paterson Housing Authority and the Program Coordinator at Paterson Adult Day Center.

They have both touched countless lives over the 90 combined years they have worked at Catholic Charities. They have made families stronger with their wisdom, kindness, and encouragement. The world is a better place because of women like them.

"God places you where you are meant to serve others. We were blessed to have been placed at Catholic Charities," Juana said.

Individuals from DPD Make their Second Degree

The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic, fraternal, service organization in the world. The Knights of Columbus have shown a lasting devotion to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by raising funds for various causes including Special Olympics, through their Disability Drives and other endeavors.

Billy (2nd from right) and Scott are part of Knights of Columbus Council #588, Marquette, in Sparta. This Council is part of Our Lady of the Lake Parish. Pictured with Scott and Billy is Grand Knight Gary Kolakowski (left) and Past Grand Knight Bill Rudloff. Mr. Rudloff has been a volunteer for the Department for Persons with Disabilities for 30 years.

"I love being part of the Knights and helping other people," said Scott. Thank you to the Marquette Council who have always been champions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

Straight and Narrow Saves Lives

“Straight and Narrow provided me with the base of knowledge that I needed enabling me to continue living my life sober after my departure. I found Straight and Narrow to have had a huge influence on me during my stay there as even once I came home I frequently resorted to thinking back on what I would be doing during the different times of day while I was in treatment. It was really an eye-opening experience for me to see the progress that I made once I began to look inward and believed in the changes that were needed. Straight and Narrow opened my eyes to many positive possibilities in my life. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have attended your Paterson, NJ facility.”

– Joseph, Straight and Narrow Graduate 2017

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

If you or a loved one are in need, please call (973) 345-6000 ext. 6289
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 25, 2019</td>
<td>Teenage Program’s Talent Show &amp; Art Exhibit, 12:30pm</td>
<td>Father English Community Center Bingo Hall</td>
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<td>April 30-31, 2019</td>
<td>Catholic Charities Job Fair</td>
<td>Straight and Narrow, Paterson, 2-6pm</td>
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<td>Month of May</td>
<td>Senior and Disabilities Art Show</td>
<td>Morris County Library</td>
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<td>May 7-8, 2019</td>
<td>Catholic Charities Job Fair</td>
<td>St. Thomas the Apostle Church Oak Ridge, 2-6pm</td>
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<td>May 10, 2019</td>
<td>John Taggart Memorial Golf Outing</td>
<td>Crystal Springs Golf Course, Hamburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14-15, 2019</td>
<td>Catholic Charities Job Fair</td>
<td>Hope House, Dover, 2-6pm</td>
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<td>May 3, 2019</td>
<td>Paterson Federation Golf Outing</td>
<td>Preakness Valley Golf Course</td>
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<td>June 24, 2019</td>
<td>Wiegand Farm Golf Classic</td>
<td>Crystal Springs Golf Course, Hamburg (4 Separate Courses)</td>
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<td>October 5, 2019</td>
<td>Autumn Outdoor Mass</td>
<td>Wiegand Farm, Oak Ridge</td>
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<td>November 2, 2019</td>
<td>Catholic Charities Caritas Gala</td>
<td>Birchwood Manor, Whippany</td>
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The Wiegand Farm Golf Classic is one of the biggest, best and longest running golf outings in New Jersey. Golf, Sponsor, or Donate to our event by visiting www.ccpaterson.org/wiegand.