The Gala recognized the Corpus Christi Parish Family, Carlos Roldan, Dr. Anna DeMolli and the Murray Family

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson presented awards on Nov. 3 to two staff members, a parish and a family for their longtime dedication and efforts to assist the organization in providing help and creating hope for those in need.

Catholic Charities proudly recognized: The Parish Community of Corpus Christi, Chatham Township, with the Bishop’s Award; Dr. Anna DeMolli, Director of Child Education Services with the Straight & Narrow Award; Carlos Roldan, Director of the Food Pantry at the Father English Community Center, Paterson, with the Catholic Family & Community Services (CFCS) Award; and the Murray Family with the Department of Persons with Disabilities’ (DPD) Award.

“Pope Emeritus Benedict’s words perfectly proclaim the Church’s mission to serve the marginalized and the outcast. Our own diocese takes this obligation seriously, and with great commitment through the outstanding work of our Catholic Charities agencies. Tonight’s Caritas Dinner is an opportunity to celebrate their work and to recognize in a special way our honorees,” Bishop Serratelli said.

That night, Bishop Serratelli presented the Bishop’s Award to Corpus Christi, Parish, Chatham. The parish has continued its legacy of support to Catholic Charities since its founding in 1968. It is involved in many hands-on projects, such as food and clothing drives. Parishioners proudly give their time and resources with many of the organization’s outreaches.

The award was accepted by Pastor Monsignor James Mahoney. “The essential nature of Corpus Christi is support for Catholic Charities and for all those, who are in need. It’s a privilege to serve those, who are poor, feed those, who are hungry and clothe those who are naked,” Msgr. Mahoney said.

Next, Sam Pirozzi, executive director of Straight and Narrow, and Dharmesh Parikh, its chief financial officer, presented the Straight & Narrow Award to Dr. DeMolli, who developed and expanded its Child Development Center. In response, DeMolli thanked Catholic Charities for the award. She told the audience, “Our schools house a growing nation. Inside those walls, we are nurturing a culture and we are building a society.”

Next, Chris Barton, executive director of CFCS, presented the CFCS Award to Carlos Roldan, who has served for more than 25 years as director of the Father English Food Pantry. Roldan picks up donations, meets clients in need and coordinates with other agencies. He also led the recovery of the Father English Food Pantry, after a fire in November 2017.

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Catholic Charities Friends, Volunteers and Supporters,

We have so much to give thanks for during this season of Thanksgiving and throughout the year. We are thankful for our devoted Board of Trustees; Bishop Arthur Serratelli, the Diocese of Paterson and local parishioners; our over 200 volunteers; generous benefactors and everyone else who supports our mission in any way.

We would especially like to thank the 800 members of our staff team. The people we serve were provided with hope this Thanksgiving thanks to your dedication and love!

From those with addictive disorders who spent Thanksgiving at Straight and Narrow, to those who are recovering at home; individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who for some, our staff are the only family they have; to all of the Veterans who we help each day, who have sacrificed for our freedom; to the many who have been fed at our food pantries, where we handed out over 1,200 turkeys and 560 chickens during Thanksgiving; for our Meals on Wheels staff members who went the extra mile to assure people are fed; and all of those who help underprivileged children. Our staff are the heart of the important work we do each day.

I would like to thank each and every one of our staff members. I am thankful for all of you!

As we look forward to the Christmas season, we are filled with joy thanks to the many who do so much for the Catholic Charities Family!

Sincerely,

Scott P. Milliken, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson
Happiness Tree
ccpaterson.org/tree

The Christmas Season is here and we are proud to help those in need during this very special time of year. Each day, Catholic Charities throughout the Diocese of Paterson makes a difference in the lives of thousands of people in need. From helping individuals raise themselves out of poverty, to providing immediate relief of food and shelter in times of crisis; Catholic Charities continuously answers the call of the most vulnerable of our society.

As the Christmas Season approaches, Catholic Charities calls for your help. From veterans services, to helping youth at risk, to providing support to those struggling with addiction; Catholic Charities right here, in the Diocese of Paterson, truly does it all.

Your Christmas gift of $100, $500, $1,000 or whatever you can afford will make all the difference. Each day, Catholic Charities does God’s work, and your Christmastime contribution will allow us to continue in our mission.

All contributions are 100% tax-deductible and many companies offer matching gifts. You are always welcome to restrict your donation to an individual agency or program.

For your kindness, a paper ornament will be made by one of our individuals with special needs at Gruenert Center and sent to you. A matching ornament will be hung on a Christmas tree at an organization or program of your choice. We wish you and your family many blessings throughout this Christmas season and a happy and healthy New Year.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call our Development Office at (973) 944-5992.

Visit: cccpaterson.org/tree to make a Christmastime gift.
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 ccpaterson.org to support Catholic Charities important ministry.

Food Pantries
- Diapers, Laundry Detergent and Personal Hygiene Products are all in great need

Senior Day Programs, CFCS
- Donations for Bingo games

In-kind item of your choice
- Diapers, Laundry Detergent and Personal Hygiene Products

Men’s Residential Unit
- Straight and Narrow
- Personal Hygiene Basket
  - $50 (per basket)

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

El Mundo De Colores
- Early Learning Program
- Large Capacity Coffee Pot
  - $100

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

Gruenert Center, DPD
- Television for Ceramics Area
  - $500

Senior Day Programs, CFCS
- Laptop or Desktop Computer
  - $500

Barnet House, DPD
- Patio Set
  - $1,000

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

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

Department for Persons with Disabilities, Nursing
- 2 Phillips HeartStart On-Site AED Machines
  - $2,600

El Mundo del Nino
- Early Learning Program
- Outdoor Classroom
  - $3,000

Straight and Narrow
- 10 iPad Tablets to prepare clients for high school equivalency test
  - $6,000 or $600 each

For five generations, the Murrays have supported DPD’s programs that help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other Catholic Charities initiatives. Today, a new generation of Murrays has helped volunteer and raise funds for the cause.

In response, Dennis Murray, who came up to the podium with other family members, thanked Catholic Charities for the award.

“The spirit of advocacy that started with Jim and Kit remains with us today with the values that they taught us: that a strong faith in God is paramount for living a good life; family always comes first; and there is always someone, who needs help,” said Dennis Murray, adding, “The Murray family is honored to be a small part of compassionate work the Catholic Charities.”

Lastly, Joanna Miller, DPD’s Executive Director, presented the DPD Award to The Murray family. The Murray family has drawn inspiration from Dennis and Joseph’s brother Jimmy, and their loving parents, Kit and James. As a young boy, Jimmie sustained brain damage and lived in Woodbine State Home, until he died in his teens in 1969. Two years later, Father John Wehrlen, DPD’s founder, named the agency’s first home, Murray House, after Jimmie. Murray House is the longest running group home in N.J.
Volunteers from Parish Groups and Local Organizations Provide a Bountiful Thanksgiving for Those in Need

During the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, volunteers from many parish and local organizations reached out to support Catholic Charities Food Pantries in Paterson, Dover and Franklin.

The volunteer groups not only collected donated items, they helped to load the turkeys into freezers, stocked the pantry shelves and package bags of food including Thanksgiving favorites such as stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, corn and green beans.

Carlos Roldan, Director of the Food Pantry, gave an example of the generous help provided over the last few weeks. In just one Saturday morning, volunteers from Our Lady of Pompeii Youth Group, Paterson, brought turkeys and food donations and stocked pantry shelves and sorted donated clothing for the Thrift Shop. Fr. Frank Agresti, pastor, also transport turkeys to store in extra freezer space provided by Straight and Narrow. St. Bonaventure’s Paterson, Knights of Columbus, delivered the parishes monthly donations of 40 frozen dinners, canned goods, extra turkeys and a monetary donation for food. Volunteers from Passaic County College and Montclair State University unloaded groceries, stocked shelves and then helped assemble 20 large bags of food to be distributed to needy Seniors in Sussex County.

Turkeys 4U, a non-profit student run organization now in its seventeenth year, in conjunction with the Montville UNICO Foundation, delivered 425 turkeys to the Father English Food Pantry, Paterson as part of their program to help the needy throughout northern New Jersey. Twenty-seven high school students from Kinnelon, Montville and Butler raised funds to purchase over 4 tons of turkeys. Last year they distributed 758 turkeys and $2,000 in food certificates to organizations that serve the needy.

The group included many parishioners from Our Lady of the Magnificat. God Bless our volunteers!

People Need Friends Provides Hope for People with Disabilities

The Department for Persons with Disabilities has over 100 volunteers in their People Need Friends (PNF) Program who provide friendship and support for people with special needs.

DPD’s Fight for the Right Community Service Group, led by PNF volunteers Anna Philhower and Jennifer Minervino meet monthly to give back to those in need. The volunteer group is led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and monthly pick a different charitable cause to show their support and love for. The group recently made cards and collected items for care packages to send to Operation Gratitude.

They will ship to our heroes overseas and here at home. CARE (Catholic Religious Education) Volunteers also provide joy for those served by DPD. On the second Monday evening of each month 40 + people gather at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Oak Ridge for prayer, fellowship and song. The CARE program is designed to address the needs of men and women with developmental disabilities. For 28 years this program has grown and flourished all thanks to the time lovingly donated by its volunteers. Joanne Rossi is one of the developers and coordinators of the program. She is pictured (left) giving Richie the “CARE Person of the Month” award for being an inspiration of kindness and love.
We have been blessed throughout the season of Thanksgiving. Thanks to the help of generous benefactors, community groups, and volunteers, we handed out over 1,200 turkeys and 560 chickens to those in need throughout our communities. We collected over 4,000 pounds of food to serve those in need throughout Morris, Passaic and Sussex County.

In addition to providing food pantry assistance, we prepared warm meals for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families in need, and individuals struggling with addiction. For some, Catholic Charities staff members and volunteers were the only family there for those in need on Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a special time at Catholic Charities thanks to those who make a difference!

Brenner Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides a wide range of services to veterans and homeless individuals. Based in Wallington, New Jersey, their mission is to provide aid to local veterans and their families, and to support efforts to combat homelessness around the country.

On Thursday, October 18th the Brenner Foundation held its inaugural Veteran Services Gala at The Venetian in Garfield, NJ. Proceeds from the Gala supported Catholic Charities SOS Stakeholders Group and the Bergen County Division of Veteran Services to install diaper banks throughout New Jersey. These banks will provide access to free, dry diapers to struggling veteran families in need.

Brenner Foundation was founded by Christine Brenner in 2017. “As a federal contractor, manufacturing field medical equipment for our service men and women, it is both my pleasure and my passion to support our veterans in any way I can when they return home,” said Brenner.

We are blessed to be able to help Veterans today and are able to do so thanks to the sacrifices of past soldiers. Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli celebrated mass on Veterans Day, on November 11th at St. John’s Cathedral in Paterson. Monsignor Geno Sylva, Rector of the Cathedral was concelebrant. The attendees of the ceremony were graced by the Knights of Columbus Color Guard and the Passaic County Pipes and Drums Band performed.

After the mass, a World War I plaque inside the Cathedral was dedicated to honor the 21 fallen parishioners of St. John’s and recognize the 100th anniversary of the Armistice of WWI. “One of the greatest gifts we can give to another is remembrance. We need to remember these men. They are always a part of the Cathedral family, as we move forward and try to provide others with the same freedom and justice they died for,” said Monsignor Sylva.

God bless all of those who have served and continue to serve our country!

Frank Armino, Vietnam Veteran and David Pearson, Assistant Director of Veteran Services with the family member of a WW1 Veteran on Veterans Day.

Melissa Schaber, Director of Veteran’s Services, Christine Brenner, Founder, Brenner Foundation, David Pearson, Assistant Director Veteran’s Services, and Chris Brancato, Development Director Catholic Charities.
Straight and Narrow Partners with the Department of Health and Human Services to combat the Opioid Epidemic

The US Department of Health and Human Services Regional Officials joined local officials, and representatives from law enforcement, at Catholic Charities, Straight and Narrow to announce National Prescription Drug Take Back Day locations in New Jersey in advance of Take-Back day on Saturday October 27th.

On that day, 4,000 police stations, community centers, and other locations across the United States, hosted “no questions asked” drop off boxes, where unused painkillers can be safely discarded.

Speaking at Straight and Narrow, officials noted the dangers of opioid misuse and the importance of prevention. “Millions of Americans misuse prescription drugs, which they often can access from a friend or family’s medicine cabinet,” said Angelo Valente, Partnership for a Drug Free NJ Executive Director.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day provides communities an important opportunity to prevent prescription drug misuse by disposing of unused or expired medicines in a safe and responsible way.

“The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Press Conference was a demonstration of how a community working together can accomplish great things. In the midst of this opioid epidemic, professionals and the recovery community came together to demonstrate how working collectively is making a difference,” said Dr. Sam Pirozzi, Executive Director of Straight and Narrow.

“Many thanks to Dr. Sam Pirozzi and the Catholic Charities, Straight and Narrow team. This event could not have gone better. We made sure to share with our leadership in DC how pleased we were and we shared with our followers on Twitter the success of the event. You and your team made sure that we had the right people speaking and in the audience. I was especially impressed and moved by the inspirational stories of the two individuals in recovery, and the performance by the S&N choir which made the event that much more special. I could not be happier to see how S&N has grown and continues all these years later to make a difference in the lives of so many individuals, who otherwise would not get the help they need,” said Dennis E. Gonzalez, Executive Officer, Office of the Secretary, Region II, US Department of Health and Human Services.

To find a collection site, visit https://takebackday.dea.gov/

Once you choose hope, anything is possible.

This Place Saved My Life

Featured in North Jersey Record
November 11, 2018  By Lindy Washburn

Thank you to Staff Writer, Lindy Washburn and the North Jersey Record Staff for highlighting Straight and Narrow’s important ministry, with this feature on our the beloved Straight and Narrow Choir:

“In this choir, they sing for their lives.
That man taking the solo once was a homeless heroin addict selling water bottles to commuters outside the Holland Tunnel for drug money. That woman in the front row was addicted before she became a mother at 17.
The woman beside her was brought back by police officers from an overdose five months ago.

Hold on, they sing, hold on. Things are gonna get easier.

The Straight & Narrow Gospel Choir, which performs regularly at Catholic churches and schools around North Jersey, is the liveliest and most public face of Straight & Narrow Inc., the Catholic agency named for the intersection of two streets in Paterson where most of its drug-treatment programs are located.

“Each member is recovering from some form of addiction. Each is somewhere on the path from addiction to sobriety.”

Full the Full article visit: https://njersy.co/2DtFGTZ
Winter is Coming and the Knights are Here to Help

As we prepare for winter, we appreciate all of those who help us, including the Knights of Columbus.

Our Hope House recently received a donation of five cases of new coats for boys, girls and teenagers from the Knights, Council 6100, Budd Lake.

Pictured here is Tom Robe, Grand Knight and Gerry Kaufhold, Past Grand Knight.

God bless the Knights!

Rotary Club Chooses DPD as their Nonprofit of the Month

Thank you to the West Milford Rotary Club for their support of our Department for Persons with Disabilities.

Development Director Chris Brancato is seen here with Rotary President Amy Lewis from Columbia Bank. DPD was chosen as their charity of the month for October.

It was Rotary Club member, Todd Soltesz’s turn to pick a cause to honor and he proudly chose DPD. "I am so proud of the work DPD does, helping those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They are an inspiration to me and many others," Todd said. Thank you to all of the service groups who support our important ministry!

Helping Seniors

Catholic Charities’ Senior Activities Program serves over 300 seniors, who reside in Paterson. The program creates a safe haven where seniors can enjoy social experiences, grow friendships and age in place.

The Senior Veterans Luncheon/Workshop was held on October 16th in coordination with our Veterans Services Program, the VA New Jersey Healthcare System, and Passaic County Veterans Services. The purpose of the event was to better educate senior citizen Veterans about opportunities available to them as well as to gather in fellowship for support.

Throughout the fall, seniors have taken numerous day trips including Camp Hope and Atlantic City and have participated in such activities as pumpkin painting, arts and crafts, bingo, dancing, and crocheting. Age is truly just a number!

DPD Supervisor Honored by NJACP

Congratulations to the Department for Persons with Disabilities’ (DPD) Director of Support Coordination, Kris Bulas who was recently honored with the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP) Leadership Award! Kris received this award at the NJACP statewide conference in Atlantic City on November 16th.

The NJACP works together to advance community-based services for people with special needs throughout New Jersey.

Kris Bulas has worn many hats in her 20 years working at DPD. Kris was DPD’s first Support Coordinator and is now the Director of Support Coordination. The program has grown tremendously with over 200 participants being supported today by seven employees under Kris’ supervision.

We are very proud of Kris for her many contributions to the people we support!
Diocesan Christmas Concert
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Paterson
Dec. 2

Ryan Lohner, DPD Staff Member
The Place Beyond Book Signing
Sparta Book Shop, Sparta
Dec. 8th

49th Annual Murray House Dinner Dance
The Brownstone, Paterson
Feb. 17, 2019

Veterans Stakeholders Breakfast
The Brownstone, Paterson
March 30, 2019

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

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

DPD Staff Member Publishes Book

Congratulations to Ryan Lohner, who recently finished his first science fiction novel; The Place Beyond
He will be hosting a book signing on December 8th at 3:00pm at Sparta Book Shop.
Ryan works at the Department for Persons with Disabilities. We are very proud of him and are appreciative of the work he does to help people in need!

Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat to Catholic Charities Diocese of Paterson by visiting: cccars.org or by calling (855) 670-GIVE
Efficient, no-cost and tax-deductible!