



## Housing & Property Management Services

Sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

DePaul Housing Management • Catholic Charities Housing Office • McCloskey Community Service

# Reflections

Volume 6, Issue 3

Fall 2006

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### Catholic Charities Housing Office Programs:

#### Emergency Housing

- Mercy House  
12 St. Joseph Terrace  
Albany, NY
- St. Charles Lwanga Center  
115 Grand Street  
Albany, NY

#### Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Residences

- DePaul Residence  
504 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY
- Waldorf Residence  
29 Maiden Lane  
Albany, NY
- Swyer Residence  
472 Western Avenue  
Albany, NY
- St. Peter's Residence  
2335 Fifth Avenue  
Troy, NY

#### Family Apartments

Lexington Avenue,  
Third Avenue,  
Clinton Avenue &  
Broad Street in Albany

## Hope for the Homeless 2006: Support for & Celebration of Catholic Charities Housing

The month of November is designated as Homelessness Awareness Month, and on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the Catholic Charities Housing Office will be sponsoring their annual fundraising event "Hope for the Homeless." The Catholic Charities Housing Office serves homeless, low income individuals and families in several housing programs. The emphasis for this year's event is *Hope*. For the second year in a row, this event will be held at the beautiful Avila Retirement Community. The cocktail reception will offer delicious food, beverages and a silent auction!

The challenges of the residents and guests served by the Catholic Charities Housing Office are significant and complex. More than 80% of the women served by Catholic Charities Housing Office have suffered from abuse and domestic violence; 75% of those we serve have histories of significant substance abuse, and over 50% of those we serve are affected by mental illness. While the suffering of our clients is great and at times overwhelming, the staff and commitment of the Catholic Charities Housing Office is *GREATER!* Each and every day the dedicated and compassionate staff serve our residents and guests.

At the event held in 2005, \$52,000 was raised through the generosity of our dedicated corporate sponsors and individuals. These funds were promptly used to serve and care for those served by the Catholic Charities Housing Office.

We encourage you to consider participating in this year's event on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. At 6:30 PM we will honor and recognize Ms. Tracy Neitzel, Executive Director of Joseph's House in Troy. Tracy has been an exceptional friend and colleague in our shared mission of supporting and serving those in need. Ms. Neitzel has overseen the transformation and growth of Joseph's House services from 19-beds of overnight shelter provision into an agency dedicated to serving people who have experienced homelessness in their lives across a continuum of need.

Please save the date and plan to attend this festive event! To request an invitation or more information please contact Katie Jahn at (518) 459-0183.

~Contributed by Jill McLellan Phelps, DePaul Housing Management & Thomas Coates, Catholic Charities Housing Office

### *Hope for the Homeless*

**Catholic Charities Housing Office's fundraising event:**

**cocktail reception, silent auction & award ceremony**

**Wednesday, November 8th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Call (518) 459-0183 for further information.**

## Water Strikes, Teams Unite



*Catholic Charities Housing, McCloskey and Administrative Office Staff after clean up at Delhi Senior Community*

The efforts continue at the Delhi Senior Community to rebuild and restore the entire first floor that was destroyed by flooding in late June. The restoration effort is unprecedented. Nineteen apartment homes, gathering spaces, resident laundry room and storage areas will soon be fully restored and ready for use! In spite of the scope of the damage, the “can do” attitude of residents, board members and staff has pushed efforts forward. With the flooding occurring over three months ago, the Delhi Senior Community continues to struggle with the tremendous financial costs associated with the restoration. With the cost estimate at nearly \$1,000,000, financial assistance to the property has been slow in coming.

Despite the devastation, hope and caring have prevailed. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, staff from the Catholic Charities Housing Office, McCloskey Community Service Corporation and Administrative Office staff traveled to Delhi for a long and rainy day of work to assist in the clearing out of damaged apartments. As the photos illustrate, this was both physically and emotionally hard as staff were forced to dispose of cherished and prized personal possessions destroyed by flood waters. Spirits were high and the phrase “faith in action” was certainly applied to efforts of all present that day!



*Staff disposing of damaged resident belongings at Delhi Senior Community*

Monetary donations designated for rebuilding and restoration efforts are urgently needed. Financial contributions may be made out to The Delhi Senior Community or DePaul Housing Management, noting Delhi Senior Community in memo line, and mailed to Diocesan Housing & Property Management Services at 41 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203.

~Contributed by Jill McLellan Phelps, DePaul Housing Management

## Destruction & Recovery in Oneonta

June 2006 will go down in history as very trying for many in southwestern New York due to heavy rainfalls and the subsequent devastating flooding. The offices of Catholic Charities of Delaware & Otsego Counties, as well as offices of Community Maternity Services and Catholic Charities AIDS Services, were heavily damaged by the flooding. We at McCloskey Community Service were very fortunate that no staff members were injured; in fact, the staff proved to be remarkably resilient, working out of the building undergoing renovations for 10 weeks while McCloskey engaged several vendors to make necessary repairs. We thank the staff for their resiliency during repair efforts!

~Contributed by Chris Brown, McCloskey Community Service

## Neighborhood Network News

On 9/25/2006 residents, US Department of HUD representatives, board members and DePaul Housing Management Staff dedicated the Neighborhood Network Computer Center at the Father Leo O'Brien Senior Community in Rotterdam ...



*Rick Wallace shows off the computer equipment to Peggy Spaner, HUD Buffalo Neighborhood Network Coordinator.*



*Rick Wallace, Caitlin Fraser, Marie Stomski and Father Leo O'Brien cut the ribbon to officially open and dedicate the center!*

## Fish-fry & School Supplies



*Albany students receiving free school supplies and cookies from fundraising efforts organized by Stephen Archer of Catholic Charities Housing*

On Labor Day weekend, Stephen Archer, the case worker at St. Charles Lwanga Center, organized a fish fry and bake sale to raise money to buy school supplies for children of Albany in need. With only about a week of planning, Stephen put together quite an event: fish and chips plates were sold with carrots and celery; eight different types of cakes were sold from pineapple upside-down to coconut; there were even cookies and milk! The fish fry and bake sale both took place at the Ida Yarbrough Community Center, and with the help of neighbors, friends, and CCHO employees, the

events together pulled in over \$400.00!

With the proceeds from the fish fry and bake sale, Stephen and his dedicated team of volunteers, including Mercy House and St. Charles Lwanga Center Staff, worked together to buy notebooks, binders, rulers, glue, pencils, crayons, pencil bags, paper, scissors and backpacks. They then set up a table on Clinton Avenue near Swinburn Park and put up signs that read "FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES." Anyone who saw the sign and needed supplies could stop by and receive items along with some milk, juice, cookies and warm, loving smiles from the volunteers who worked at the table. Throughout the day, Stephen estimates they were able to provide supplies for 150-200 children. Stephen is already looking into the future. He plans to start fundraising in January next year so his vision of tables running the entire length of the park can be realized. Stay tuned for future events...

~Contributed by Katie Jahn, Diocesan Housing Office

## Dinner and a Backpack

On September 8th the DePaul Residence hosted a dinner for tenants of the Catholic Charities Housing Office (CCHO) family apartments. The occasion was a farewell to summer and "yippee school is here" celebration. Gerald and Regina Graham, the cooks at DePaul Residence, prepared six cookie sheet size meatloaves along with all the fixings, which were rapidly devoured.



*CCHO Staff serving up a banquet meal at DePaul Residence in Albany*

After cake and ice cream, the party atmosphere continued when backpacks and school supplies were issued to all those kids who needed them. The festive air was heightened by shrieks of delight as kids got their favorite action/cartoon figure backpacks, and case managers avoided being narrowly crushed in the stampede for crayons, composition books, pens, pencils and clothing. Our thanks to the boards of DePaul Housing Management and McCloskey Community Service for their support of this event, and to Michael Holodak ([www.mikemadethis.com](http://www.mikemadethis.com)) for his generous donation to the kids in the family apartment program.

~Contributed by Brenda McAteer, Catholic Charities Housing Office

### DePaul Housing Communities:

- St. Vincent's Apartments, Albany, NY
- Bishop Broderick Apartments, Albany, NY
- Bishop Hubbard Senior Apartments, Halfmoon, NY
- Carondelet Commons Senior Apartments, Watervliet, NY
- St. Jude Apartments, Wynantskill, NY
- Branson Manor Senior Apartments, East Greenbush, NY
- Cabrini Acres Senior Apartments, Watervliet, NY
- Sanderson Court Senior Apartments, Watervliet, NY
- Marie-Rose Manor, Slingerlands, NY
- Fontbonne Manor Senior Apartments, Watervliet, NY
- Delhi Senior Community, Delhi, NY
- The Lawrence Commons, Schenectady, NY
- Father Leo O'Brien Senior Community, Rotterdam, NY
- Ávila Retirement Community, Albany, NY
- Franciscan Heights Senior Community, Rensselaer, NY

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## MESSAGE FROM DEBORAH

Recently, I was listening to an interview with Jonathan Safran Foer, author of [Everything Is Illuminated](#). This book tells the 300 year history of a Jewish family in Ukraine and the profound effect of the Second World War on the family. The author spoke about how he hoped that the family dynamics, the feelings, and the memories he portrayed would speak to many others. He was overwhelmed when a man called in to talk with him on a radio program and told him that the book was about "his" family. He told Foer that it was so right about families and their histories, and the secrets and feelings that live well beyond the life of an individual. Then the man said he was a black man, living in Philadelphia. Foer is a white, Jewish man living in Queens.

I thought of this little story in connection with our work at Catholic Charities Housing, DePaul Housing and McCloskey Community Service. You can see in this newsletter that the people we serve have diverse backgrounds and experiences. Yet, our privilege is to see that each one is like us—a human person with hopes, dreams, laughs and loves, good days and bad days. And our mission is to bring hope to each individual and family—the hope that grows out of having a place to call home. So, whether we are working with a homeless man in Troy, or a family in Albany that has been evicted from their apartment, or a senior in Delhi who has lost her belongings and home in a flood, we are meeting our brothers and sisters in God's family.

Thanks for being with us on this journey!

*Deborah Damm O'Brien*, Executive Director