

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC.

AGENCY HISTORY

In years past, the Diocese administered two orphanages in Cresson, one for boys and one for girls. These institutions also took in children whose parents were not able to care for them adequately. Catholic Charities was founded in 1940 by Msgr. William M. Griffin to help staff these orphanages and provide support services for the children in care. The Agency continued to provide adoptive homes for infants and children and instituted an emergency financial assistance program for those struggling to meet basic needs.

In the early 1970s, following the closing of the orphanages, Catholic Charities offered family re-unification and support services for refugee families from Vietnam and the Eastern Bloc countries. In 1977, the Agency responded quickly to the aftermath of the Johnstown Flood, providing basic material needs, coordination of services with public and private agencies and assistance with rebuilding homes.

With offices in Altoona, Bellefonte and Johnstown, a highly-qualified and experienced staff and the generous support of our Bishop and many of the faithful, Catholic Charities has helped tens of thousands of people across the eight counties of our Diocese.

MISSION STATEMENT

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ, seeks to uphold the dignity of each person as made in the image and likeness of God. We answer the call of people of Central Pennsylvania by providing caring and compassionate services to persons and families in need, informing the community about critical social issues and advocating for policies that enhance human dignity and ensure basic human rights.

PROGRAMS

Catholic Charities provides help and creates hope through our various programs and services. It is a great privilege to walk and journey with the poor of spirit, mind and body. All persons are treated with respect, making them feel welcome, safe and lifting the burden of suffering from those most in need.

- Adoption Services
- Counseling Services
- Emergency Financial Assistance Program
- Immigration and Refugee Services
- Information and Referral Services
- Marriage Preparation Services
- Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program
- Parent Assistance Student Support Program
- Pregnancy Support Services

STAFF

ALTOONA

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