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# Caritas Notes

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES,  
DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

*Our goal of providing help and creating hope makes a difference in the lives of those we serve each day at Catholic Charities.*

## HOPE WORKS makes a difference



When “Doug” lost his manufacturing job last January, he never imagined he would spend the majority of 2009 unemployed. He realized early in his job search that there were few, if any, opportunities available for someone with his employment background and skills. Doug began to feel discouraged and depressed. Then he saw something in his local paper about HOPE WORKS Job Networking at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Warren.

HOPE WORKS was prompted by “Sharing Hope in Tough Times,” Catholic Charities’ initiative to engage the Church in ministry to people who have been adversely impacted by the economic crisis. HOPE WORKS not only provided Doug with practical advice on updating his resume and using the Internet to search for jobs; it also offered the opportunity to learn

from others and to share advice on navigating the unemployment system.

Through his attendance at monthly HOPE WORKS meetings, Doug began to understand that in order to find a job he would have to adjust his skill-set to fit those jobs that were available. He took advantage of his network of peers from HOPE WORKS and connected with others in the community who could help him in his job search.

Just last month, Doug’s persistence paid off. He accepted a general manager position at a local company. HOPE WORKS helped Doug get through a difficult time in his life and secure a decent job without having to uproot his family.

## Can you help us “Keep the Kids Warm”?



So far, Catholic parishes and others of good will have contributed over \$37,000 to help low-income families with winter utility assistance through “Keep the Kids Warm.” This campaign assists working poor families who do not qualify for government assistance, as well as families who have no resources after government subsidized programs like HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) have lapsed. One hundred-percent of the funds collected through this special effort are returned to the counties in which they were collected to provide direct assistance to families in need. Last year, Catholic Charities raised over \$60,000.

To make a contribution on the web, visit us at [www.ccdoy.org](http://www.ccdoy.org), or mail your tax-deductible contribution to Catholic Charities, Keep the Kids Warm, P. O. Box 614, Youngstown, Ohio 44501.

# Back to the Basics: 2009 Service Recap

*Last year, Catholic Charities worked harder than ever to meet basic human needs*

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Youngstown, served over 36,000 people last year, the majority of whom received emergency assistance to meet basic, human needs.

Agency emergency assistance programs operating in the six counties of the diocese provided direct help with food, utility payments, prescription medication, clothing, shelter and other basic needs to 10,985 households in 2009.

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Youngstown realized a significant increase in the number of people receiving food assistance. This fact reflects the national trend among Catholic Charities agencies, who have collectively seen a 66% increase in demand for food stamps and food assistance.

Despite signs suggesting that the economic crisis is ending, Catholic Charities continues to

serve new and underserved populations.

A Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) fourth quarter snapshot survey of 47 Catholic Charities agencies across the United States reveals an 83% increase in the working poor seeking assistance; a 70% increase in families seeking assistance; a 57% increase in homeless people seeking assistance; and a 51% increase in the middle class seeking assistance.

“The significant fact behind the CCUSA survey is that those who are coming to Catholic Charities are coming because they are hungry, at-risk of having their utilities disconnected, and in danger of losing their homes,” explains Meg Andersen, President and CEO of the Diocese of Youngstown Catholic Charities Corporation (DOYCCC).

The DOYCCC provides oversight for the four social service agencies and one housing corporation operating in the Diocese of Youngstown.

Mrs. Andersen continues, “When you see middle class people needing items from a food pantry because they have nothing to feed their children for dinner, you understand the impact that the current economic recession has on families in our country.”

The dire situations that clients present at Catholic Charities agencies are also taking a toll on front-line staff, who are challenged to spend more time than ever resolving problems that have many layers.

For more information on Catholic Charities’ services, visit their website at [www.ccdoy.org](http://www.ccdoy.org).



## *Catholic Relief Services: Haitian Earthquake Fund*

Catholic Relief Services, the official overseas development and relief agency of the US Catholic Bishops, is responding to the relief efforts from the 7.0 earthquake. For more information, contact Brian Corbin at 330-744-8451, ext. 320. Please send your donations to

**Catholic Relief Services  
Diocese of Youngstown  
ATTN: Haitian Earthquake Fund  
144 W. Wood Street  
Youngstown OH 44503**

The Haitian fund is also accepting online donations at [www.ccdoy.org](http://www.ccdoy.org)

*Catholic Charities is the administrative arm of the Bishop for carrying out the social concerns activities of the Diocese of Youngstown. Catholic Charities shares the mission held by Catholic Charities USA: to provide service to people in need, to advocate for justice in social structures, and to call the entire Church and other people of good will to do the same. Catholic Charities helps to meet basic human needs, to strengthen families, to build communities, and to empower low-income people.*

Caritas Notes is a quarterly e-publication for friends of  
Catholic Charities

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[www.ccdoy.org](http://www.ccdoy.org)

Catholic Charities is funded by the Bishop’s Appeal for Catholic Charities and Church. Please be generous in your support for the 2010 Appeal campaign.

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**Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Youngstown**  
Providing Help. Creating Hope.