

*Rejoice and
be glad*

2011
Annual Report

*Catholic Charities
Worcester County*



To honor the memory of loved ones or to recognize those still with us, many donors have given generously. To all of our donors, we at Catholic Charities are grateful for your support, which will better the lives of many people in your community.

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in memory

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The Roche Family
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Annette Collins
Paul Curci
Penny Kathiwala
Virginia MacDonald
Peter Massicotte
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Joseph A. Sawicki
St. Vincent de Paul
The Toohil Family



In grateful appreciation of its supporters, Catholic Charities is pleased to acknowledge your gifts from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Please visit our website www.ccworc.org to view this list.

in honor

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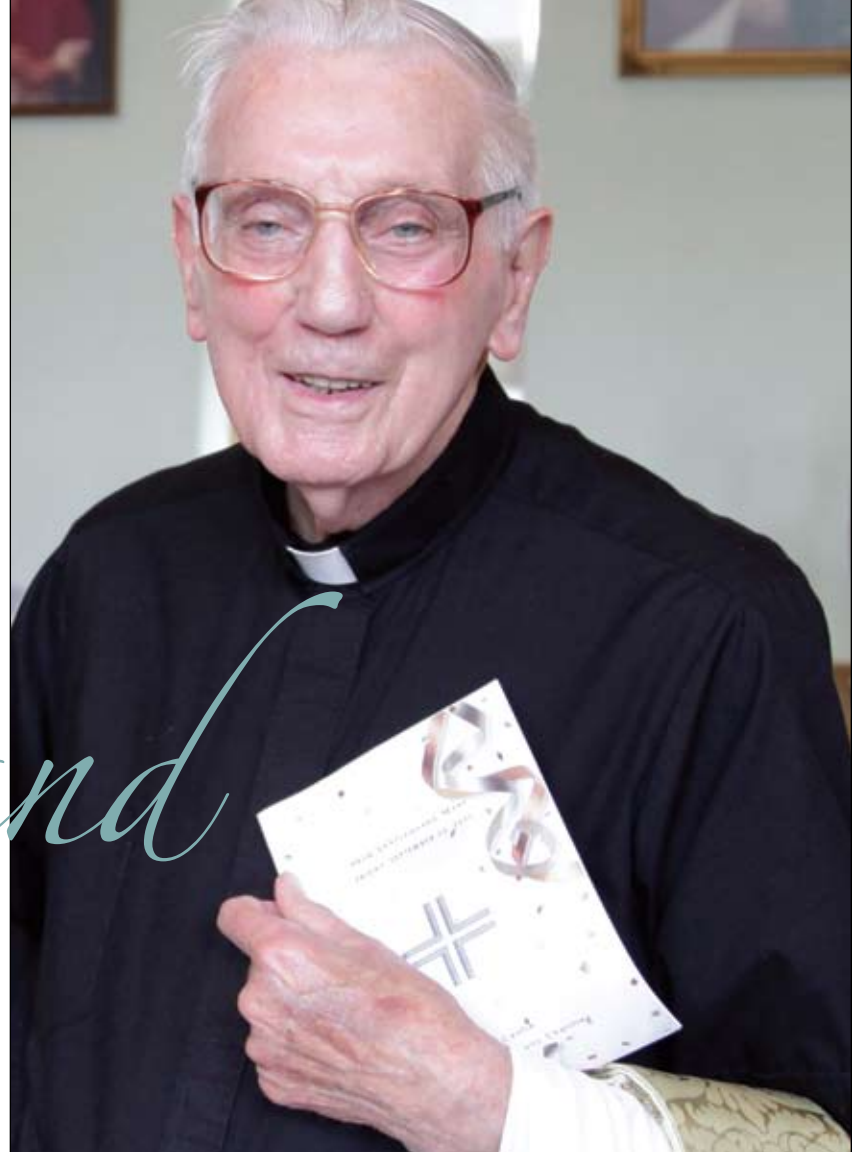
*Ex-Officio Member · **Deceased

Monsignor Edmond T. Tinsley

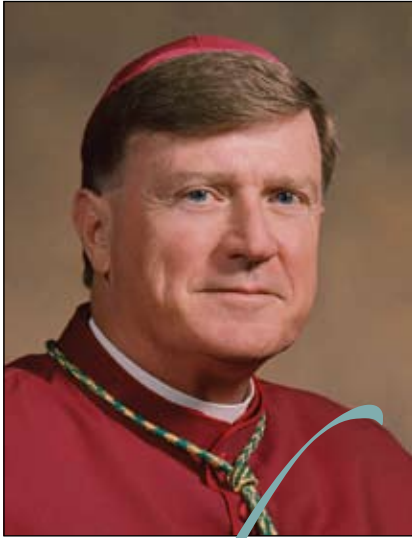
Thank you Monsignor Edmond T. Tinsley for your wisdom, spiritual guidance, generosity and humble servant leadership to Catholic Charities over the last 54 years and congratulations on the 60th anniversary of your ordination!



Rejoice and



*Most Reverend
Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.
Bishop of Worcester*



be glad



*B*ishop McManus gives his blessing during the liturgy celebrating Mercy Centre's 50th Anniversary.



Rejoice and



Catherine Loeffler, MS LICSW
Catholic Charities · Executive Director

Patricia Stepanski Plouffe
Catholic Charities · Board President



Catholic Charities Annual Report is a celebration of people who struggle, transition, grow and triumph with the help and guidance of our staff, volunteers and people like you who are so generous.



be glad



Families and elders share similar concerns about limited resources and mounting bills. All are welcome to work with us as we offer guidance and concrete solutions to alleviate stress, strengthen family relationships, prevent homelessness and provide hope.

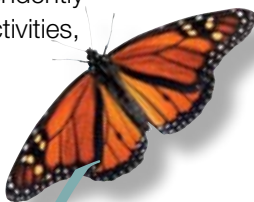
- 127 homeless parents and children found emergency shelter at Youville House.
- 299 parents and children around the county benefited from the encouragement and instruction of parent aides while another 44 parents benefited from parenting workshops.
- 30 families with 48 children were assisted with basic needs in the aftermath of the greater Southbridge tornado.





At age 17, Sam still jumps for joy when she receives her paycheck from Mercy Centre's school to work program where she learns job skills in the school's cafeteria. When asked how she planned on spending her recent \$12 earnings, Sam caringly said that she planned to take her grandma to lunch.

- 26 students challenged by developmental disabilities achieved academic milestones and experienced their personal best through Mercy Centre's educational and summer programs.
- 41 young and older adults were assisted to find and maintain competitive jobs through Mercy Centre's employment services and job training.
- 25 adults received community based day services which provide opportunities to participate in county-wide activities while developing a network of caring relationships.
- 41 adults enjoyed day habilitation services which enhance a person's ability to function independently by providing recreational and socialization activities, coupled with physical, speech and occupational therapy.



milestones



comfort

As a high school sophomore, Joe found his life jolted by his mom's death. Yet his goal was to continue living in the small house that she and he called home. With the guidance of his aunts and the support of Catholic Charities, Joe accomplished that goal and continues on his journey to independence. Now a senior in high school he still has many dreams and aspirations and a growing number of successes. His mom would be mighty proud.

- 23,790 people received emergency and holiday assistance, food and help with budgeting skills to prevent homelessness.
- 825 children and family members found clothing at the Catholic Charities boutique.
- 3,609 people enjoyed Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with the aid of 710 volunteers.



Staff Commitment

There are many reasons for Catholic Charities staff and volunteers to rejoice and be glad this year. Their commitment to carry out our Catholic Charities mission helped additional people—

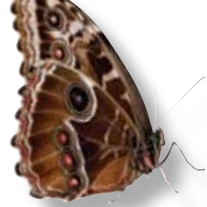
- 683 older and disabled adults maintained their independence by receiving home care services while 56 elders enjoyed the companionship of 49 volunteers.
- 370 older adults learned computer skills at 12 sites which allow them to keep in touch with family afar, find health and medical information, read newspapers and check out ancestry in a rapidly changing world.
- 7 people benefited from the SOAR (Skills, Opportunities and Resources) program.

- 242 low-income older adults learned new job skills by working at 67 area agencies as senior aides while 9 people with multiple sclerosis were assisted in their efforts to live independently.
- 50 birth parents, adoptive parents and adopted adults of all ages were assisted on their personal journeys to explore their past in an effort to move into their future with clarity and resolution.
- 22 families interested in adopting were provided with adoption information and referrals.
- 96 newcomers (asylees, refugees and immigrants) received medical physicals, lab work and medical documentation in the quest for US citizenship and permanent residency through a partnership of Catholic Charities and St. Luke's Health Center.
- 55 former refugees found help in resettlement and beginning new lives in the United States. In addition, 47 refugees and asylees received case management or enrolled in employment training.
- 136 people participated in citizenship education classes and immigration counseling.
- 760 immigrants and refugees presented legal documents that eventually will lead to permanent residency and citizenship.
- 190 youngsters were tutored after-school weekly by 130 college students in collaboration with the African Community Education (ACE) Program.
- 144 people found proper medical care with the help of the Health Outreach and Education Project while 84 participants increased their healthcare knowledge through workshops.



commitment

- 11,809 neighbors accessed information and referral services to reach their personal goals.
- 137 adult learners, assisted by 26 volunteer tutors, pursued educational and life goals through improved literacy.
- 297 people discovered strength by building life skills in family resource center groups which had a positive impact on 1,249 additional family members.
- 1,475 youngsters and teens learned anger management skills through Project Chill group services.
- 7 women and men received post-abortion counseling through Project Rachel and 21 people were counseled through the Family Life program benefiting 78 additional family members.
- 85 men at Crozier House have continued in their pursuit of sobriety while an additional 3 men lived in the community through Crozier's collaboration with St. John's parish in Worcester.

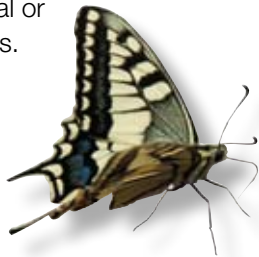


Catholic Charities Mission



*I*nspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Church and the pastoral leadership of the Bishop of Worcester, Catholic Charities is committed to meeting the needs of the poor, the homeless and the infirm and to enhancing the quality of life for all.

Catholic Charities will promote the gift and sacredness of life from the first moment of conception through all stages of human growth and development. It is committed to strengthening families and to serving individuals in need, regardless of racial, ethnic, cultural or religious origins, ability to pay, or mental, physical or developmental challenges.



Catholic Charities believes that every person has the right to life, housing, food, shelter, clothing, and health care, and that all should be enabled to participate in the decisions that vitally affect them.

While our resources are not unlimited, Catholic Charities will strive to advocate cooperatively with parishes and civic organizations, seeking support from private and public agencies, and encouraging and availing itself of the rich human resource

which its volunteers and staff provide - to create a network of care throughout Worcester County in the "...promotion of justice for the poor and of Christ's kind of love for them."*

*Second Vatican Council

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