

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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## Catholic Charities Appeal 2022 launches; continues with theme of 'HOPE'

\$9.5 million goal to provide critical programs and services to more than 125,000 neighbors in need throughout Western New York



Standing, from left: Deacon Steve Schumer, president and CEO, Catholic Charities; the Most Rev. Bishop Michael W. Fisher; Thomas Beecher Jr., Appeal 2022 co-chair; and Nancy Nielsen, M.D., Ph.D., Appeal 2022 co-chair. (Submitted photo)

Appeal officials and co-chairs on Wednesday launched Appeal 2022, in support of Catholic Charities of Buffalo and the diocesan "Fund for the Faith," with a goal of raising \$9.5 million by June 30. This year's theme is once again "HOPE."

"This new goal strikes a balance as it is more than the Appeal raised last year, but lower than last year's goal," said Thomas Beecher Jr., Appeal 2022 co-chair. "With the pandemic still a driving force, the goal recognizes the challenge of raising such a significant amount of money in today's environment, and it affirms the ongoing need for the critical programs and services Catholic Charities provides."

Beecher noted early results from the new efforts already begun on behalf of the Appeal have proven fruitful: "We enter Appeal 2022 reinvigorated, optimistic and ready to get to work with a terrific head start - \$1.1 million already raised through the support of generous donors. We are just about 12% to our goal!"

The annual Appeal helps fund 57 programs and services ad-

ministered by Catholic Charities across 80 locations, along with several ministries that benefit all parishes through the "Fund for the Faith." Catholic Charities is the most comprehensive human services provider serving people of all faiths across all eight counties of Western New York.

"As Catholic Charities continues our work to support people in all seasons of life, we remain committed to upholding our values of serving others with dignity, respect and compassion," said Deacon Steve Schumer, president and CEO of Catholic Charities. "And once again we center the Appeal theme around 'HOPE.' Through the annual Appeal, we can foster hope and strength in those who need it most."

Elaborating on the theme, Schumer said, "We are hope for the hungry through our nine food pantries; hope for families who turn to us to help their youth struggling with their mental health; hope for the young at heart who need a friendly call or visit; and hope for new beginnings - young adults who need a high school diploma and a career start, and refugees for workplace

skills to restart life here."

Programs and services provided by Catholic Charities supported more than 125,000 individuals, children and families in 2021. These included basic emergency assistance, such as food pantries, educational and vocational advancement services, family safety and stabilization services, immigration and refugee assistance, mental health and substance use treatment, and youth and family support services.

"The Appeal allows Catholic Charities to use the money where it's needed most from providing for basic needs and emergency assistance for clients to filling the gap for counseling sessions," said Nancy Nielsen, M.D., Ph.D., Appeal 2022 co-chair. "Your support provides 'HOPE' to so many of our neighbors of all ages and faiths year-round."

The "Fund for the Faith" provides programs that benefit all parish faith communities, including hospital chaplaincy, seminarian, and diaconate formation programs and the Office of Cultural Diversity, among others.

SEE APPEAL, continued on Page 12

## HART celebrating 40 years of service in 2022



Home • Assistance • Referral • Team

The Home Assistance Referral Team - HART Inc. - was founded by the late Rev. Paul L. Moore of the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston in 1982. It is celebrating 40 years of service this year.

A press release noted, "The combined challenge of an aging population and serious unemployment in the area led to the establishment of the organization. Through the years, SEE HART, continued on Page 2

## NCCC coronavirus testing site reopens



The coronavirus testing site at Niagara County Community College was very busy when it first opened in 2020. (File photo)

Late last Friday afternoon, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced nine testing sites would open on SUNY and community college campuses across New York. This follows the 20 sites on SUNY campuses the governor has announced throughout the month of January.

The Niagara County Community College site reopened at Building G, 3111 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn. Weekday hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Appointments can be scheduled online. Visit [www.wnypapers.com](http://www.wnypapers.com) for a link.

"Through our winter surge plan, we are building on our ongoing efforts to make testing more widely available, and that includes utilizing our SUNY campus facilities that are equipped to distribute more tests to New Yorkers," Hochul said. "Expanded access to testing will ensure

those who are positive with the virus can isolate to limit spread and keep others in their communities well.

"We're turning the corner on this winter surge, but we're not through this yet, so let's continue to use the tools that will help stop the spread: Wear a mask, wash your hands, get your vaccine, your second dose, and your booster. Get tested and stay home if you are sick - we are not powerless."

When Hochul announced her indoor mask mandate on Dec. 10, Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh said, "We continue to seek more testing resources from the state, including reopening the free testing site at NCCC, because we believe identifying and isolating those who test positive is the greatest need right now to reduce the spread."



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