

Appeal underway

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Most Rev. Bishop Michael W. Fisher said, "There continues to be great need in our communities, and many new ones created by this prolonged pandemic. The personal loss experienced by so many has been tragic, and the financial hardship it has caused is very real. People we know and so many others in our communities rely on and turn to Catholic Charities each and every day. The ministries carried out by Catholic Charities, and those which the 'Fund for the Faith' also makes possible, are a true gift to individuals and families of every walk of life."

He added, "When you think about it, there's really no option for Christians and Catholics when faced with a person or family in need - we must do whatever we can to lend a helping hand, provide a word and gesture of comfort, to ensure that their most basic needs are provided for."

The patron saint of Appeal 2022



Beecher speaks from the podium. (Submitted photo)

is Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Appeal volunteer workshops and events are now underway virtually.

To donate to Appeal 2022, visit ccwny.org/donation or call 716-218-1400. In addition, donors can now give by texting GIVE HOPE

22 to 44321 or scanning the QR code found on Appeal materials. Also new this year, donors will have the option to pay via PayPal and Apple Pay through Catholic Charities' newly refreshed website.

Those in need assistance can visit ccwny.org or call the helpline at 716-218-1419 to find assistance through Catholic Charities.

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Embedded inside the Tech Hub at Seneca One, the Tech Academy helps develop, attract and retain the technology talent that Western New York needs to compete in the modern economy. Launched by M&T Bank in late 2020, the Tech Academy collaborates with community partners and regional employers to build a more diverse, inclusive workforce and make the region an attractive destination for technologists. (Submitted photos)



Employers launch community-focused tech bootcamp to build more inclusive workforce, connect people to tech jobs

ACV Auctions, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of WNY, Moog, Rich Products brought together by M&T Bank's Tech Academy to create regional solution to national tech talent shortage

Several of Western New York's largest tech employers are teaming up to solve a challenge facing companies across the country: developing and attracting technology talent. ACV Auctions, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York, M&T Bank, Moog and Rich Products are investing in the region's first data analytics bootcamp, a free training program that will empower community members to learn in-demand skills that lead to tech jobs.

A press release explained, "As the economy gains momentum, this push to develop homegrown talent will help accelerate regional job growth by expanding the skilled labor force - a need frequently cited as critical to future job creation and economic expansion. The program is facilitated by M&T Bank's Tech Academy, led by global expert in skills training General Assembly and bolstered by TechBuffalo, the regional non-profit dedicated to growing an inclusive and accessible technology ecosystem."

Kelly Martin, senior manager of the Tech Academy, said, "This collaboration will help Western New York develop, attract and retain talent to fuel our growing technology and innovation ecosystem. The significant need for technologists nationally is a challenge we're solving locally through collaborative programs designed to serve traditionally underrepresented communities. By coming together to launch this data analytics bootcamp, our employer partners are creating new pathways to tech careers, and preparing our re-

gion's workforce to drive inclusive growth."

Focused on expanding access to skills training among disadvantaged communities, the bootcamp partners have been intentional about eliminating barriers to ensure the program is accessible to anyone interested in a career in technology. With all costs covered by the sponsoring employers, Western New Yorkers are participating in the program for free. No technical experience or college education is required to participate, and students will receive a stipend to cover living expenses during the program.

The press release explained, "The 12-week data analytics bootcamp provides immersive, hands-on training in data collection, analysis and visualization. Students learn how to transform data into compelling stories and actionable insights to help organizations make data-informed decisions - which is a skillset in high demand regionally and nationally."

Classes start this month and are held at the Tech Academy on the 23rd floor of the Tech Hub at Seneca One.

Upon graduation, participants will immediately become job candidates for available data analyst positions with many of the tech employers supporting the program.

General Assembly, which M&T engaged as the educational partner for the Tech Academy, has developed and administered similar programs in other cities that have proven successful in creating community-based talent pipelines that

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