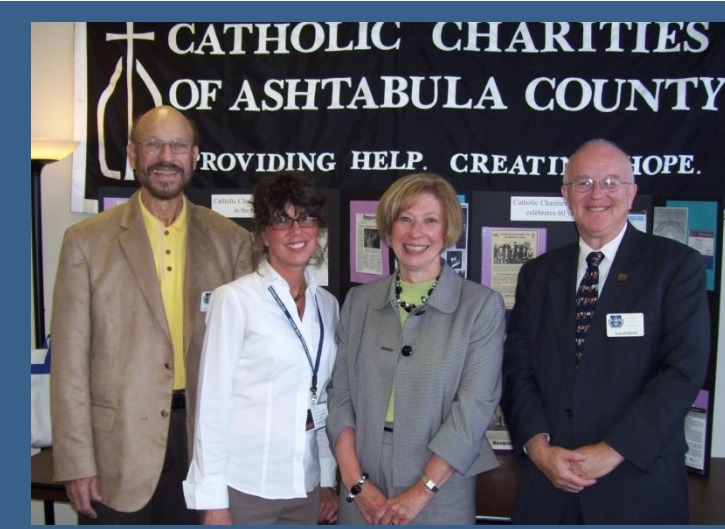


# Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County

## 2009 Annual Report



### COA Re-Accreditation Granted

Connie Forinash, 2009 Board President (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Lynn Zalewski, CCAC Executive Director, meet with COA Peer Reviewers, Dr. Louie Lepak and Russ Martin.

*"I just wanted to make sure that you know how much you and Catholic Charities mean to me. Your generosity of spirit and hand of friendship mean the world. At some point I hopefully will be able to give back." CCAC Client*

### Letter from the Executive Director

#### *Changing lives...one family at a time.*

Dear Friends,

During 2009, Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County experienced a record number of individuals and families seeking services, many of whom had never asked for any type of assistance previously. Our caseworkers are finding that client situations are more complex than ever, and as a result, require more time. While treating each individual with dignity and respect, we try to look at a client's entire situation, so that we can fully help him or her, which includes advocacy and appropriate referrals to other community resources. Each circumstance is unique and must be treated accordingly. And so, we attempt to change lives – one family at a time.

Despite these difficult times, you continue to extend your generosity to us by donating, volunteering, and praying, and for that, we are ever so grateful. As Matthew 25:45 tells us, "...whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!"

Although our staff may be the ones who meet clients face-to-face, we know that it takes a community and the grace of God to truly make a difference.

Thank you for your support and may God bless you. Sincerely,

Lynn M. Zalewski

*"The clients that I have brought to Catholic Charities have been so grateful to you and your compassion for their difficult situations. On their behalf, thank you very much."*

*Caseworker from another agency*



### COA

During 2009, the Agency received reaccreditation from the Council on Accreditation (COA). Founded in 1977, COA is an independent not-for-profit international accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and human service organizations. The COA reaccreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of both an organization's administrative operations

and its service delivery practices. All are "measured" against national standards of best practice. These standards emphasize services that are accessible, appropriate, culturally responsive, and outcomes-oriented. In addition, they confirm that the services are provided by a skilled and supported workforce and that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

### Mission

To provide service to people in need advocate for justice in social structures, and to call the entire church and other people of good will to do the same.

## 2009 Staff

### Ann Blanton – Family Services Caseworker

Barbara Brotzman – Guardianship Caseworker

Mary Jo Brown – Family Services Caseworker

Christina Erb – Fiscal Coordinator

Allison Gollon – Abstinence Educator

Brian Johnson – Guardianship Supervisor

Mary Large – Front Desk Support

Jennifer Leonard – First Step Caseworker

Pamela Richcreek – Family Services Caseworker

Kathy Sandella – Family Services Caseworker

Jennifer Stapleton - Accountant

Jill Valentic – Assistant Director

Jennifer White – Abstinence Educator

Lynn Zalewski – Executive Director

## 2009 Board of Directors

President – Connie Forinash

1st Vice President – Terri Toukonen

2nd Vice President – Betsy Franklin

Interim Treasurer – Chris McClure

Secretary – Joyce Bronson

Mary Ellen Andersen

Sylvia Atkinson

Donald Meola

Renee Palagyi

Father Melvin Rusnak

Barbara Sasala

Cynthia Wynn

Greta Cordova, Member Emeritus

Dixon Greenwood, Member Emeritus

## Funders

Bishop's Appeal for Catholic Charities and Church  
Catholic Charities Diocese of Youngstown  
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services  
Ashtabula County Mental Health Recovery Services Board  
Ashtabula County Probate Court  
Ashtabula County Senior Services Levy  
Community Based Abstinence Education  
Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board  
HUD  
Ohio Department of Development  
Ohio Housing Trust Fund  
The Ashtabula Foundation  
United Way of Ashtabula County



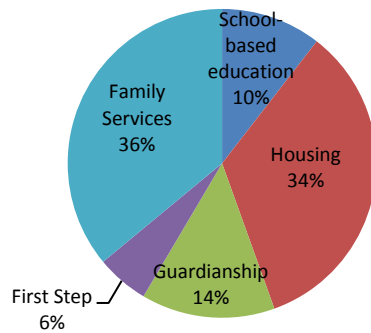
### Have a helping hand?

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, please call Jill Valentic at 440-992-2121.

## Revenue and Expenses – 2009

Public Support and Revenue	
Bishop's Appeal & Catholic Charities	\$ 289,984
United Way	59,566
Grants	21,500
Government	313,874
Contributions	68,214
Program Fees	51,295
Fundraising net	12,891
Other support and revenue	144,555
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT and REVENUE</b>	<b>961,879</b>
Expenses	
Program services	\$ 807,713
Administrative	155,981
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (1,815)</b>

Figures taken from the 2009 audited report from Smith Barta and Company, Certified Public Accountants.



Expenses by Program

# Programs and Services - 2009



**Housing Counseling Services** – From the homeless to those preparing to purchase a first home, our counselors and caseworkers provide homeownership counseling, foreclosure counseling, mortgage default counseling, predatory lending education, landlord/tenant issues, information, advocacy and referral services. The Agency is the only HUD-certified agency based in Ashtabula County and works closely with the local Save Our Homes taskforce; designed to educate and help prevent foreclosures.

**Emergency Assistance Services** – For those experiencing an emergency situation, we provide assistance with eviction, utility disconnection; security deposits, food, and medications. Although the client's immediate crisis must be resolved, we also look at the root of the problem to try to set goals, establish a budget, and work toward self-sufficiency.

**Distribution Services** – Clothing and household items are distributed weekly from Mother of Sorrows Church. A countywide collaboration provides school supplies at the beginning of each school year. Catholic Charities serves as the fiscal agency for HALO, the county Christmas distribution.

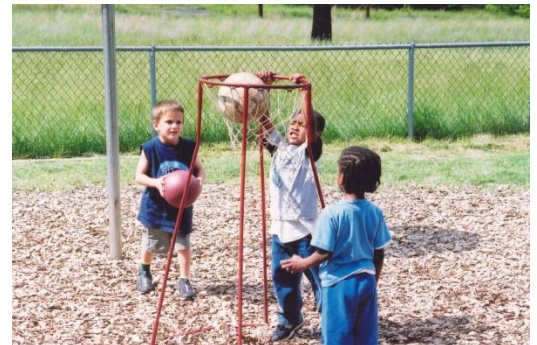
**Financial Literacy Education** – Financial education impacts one's daily life. The more we know about money management and credit, the more likely we will be able to maintain healthy financial habits. Both individual and group sessions are available to provide money management and credit education, including budgeting, prioritizing expenses, determining needs and wants, establishing a savings plan, and avoiding predatory lenders. The Agency is an Ohio Benefit Bank provider, a web-based program which links low-income individuals to public and tax benefits.

**First Step Program** – Providing families with young children a case management program, where a holistic approach is taken to help move toward economic stability; providing assistance with diapers, formula and food.

**Guardianship Program** – Staff and trained volunteers serve as legal guardians to the indigent, frail elderly who have no suitable family or friends to assist them. Approximately 50 community volunteers assist in this program.

**Representative Payeeship** – A caseworker ensures that basic shelter, food and clothing needs are met, and appropriate benefits are accessed; thus providing stability to those who are vulnerable to exploitation and homelessness.

**School-based Services** - Trained educators provide a health-based abstinence curriculum in the county's schools, teaching the importance of and consequences of making healthy choices.



Yes, I want to make a gift to Catholic Charities to serve the needs of others.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed:

\$25.00     \$50.00     \$100.00  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County, 4200 Park Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl., Ashtabula, OH 44004. Gifts may also be made online with PayPal. Visit us at [www.doyccac.org](http://www.doyccac.org).

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
OF ASHTABULA COUNTY  
4200 PARK AVENUE – 3<sup>RD</sup> FL.  
ASHTABULA, OH 44004

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
ASHTABULA, OH  
PERMIT NO. 302

Save the Date!



January 22, 2011

Mt. Carmel  
Community  
Center

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Men Who Cook

Plans are already underway for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Men Who Cook. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 22, 2011 and join us for an evening of fun and great food. Last year, 32 area men prepared and served their favorite soups, appetizers, main dishes, and desserts to a sold-out crowd of nearly 400! The event raises money for the Emergency Assistance program, which helps those in need of basic necessities, such as housing, utilities, food, and medication. We are currently soliciting sponsorships for the event. Already on board as Executive Chef Sponsors are Delta Railroad Construction, Inc., Plasticolors, and Dixon C. Greenwood. Last year's chefs included Michael Andersen, Bob Billman, Dave Bowins, Roger Corlett, Sandy Deak, John Decker, Jeff DiDonato, Dr. Tom DiSalvatore, Bob Dille, Tom Fleming, Jim Frustere, Mike Gardner, Guy Imbrogno, Jeff Imbrogno, Mark Jones, Vern Kirkingburg, Larry Laurello, Larry Licata, Paul Mariotti, Joe Mariotti, Chris McClure, Tony Orlando, Arnold Peet, Dr. Jerry Privitera, Don Rapose, Frank Roskovics, John Roskovics, Tony Silva, Steven Steele, Rev. Raymond Thomas, Mark Timonere, and Dr. Edward Wiese. Tickets go on sale in December. For more information, call 440-992-2121.



### 2010 Winners...

Far left: Judges' Choice winners Bob Billman, Roger Corlett, and Tom Fleming receive their trophies from Lynn Zalewski. Near left: Peoples' Choice winner Tony Orlando receives his award.