

SAVE THE DATE

The 35th Guardian Angel Dinner Dance is our signature fundraising event to fulfill our commitment in providing lifesaving services to those in need. Celebrating a 35-year milestone in any field is remarkable, but in fundraising, it's truly miraculous!

SEPTEMBER 25 AT 6:00 PM

GUARDIAN ANGEL

Catholic Charities
DIOCESE OF TRENTON

GADD35

DINNER DANCE

THE MERION
CINNAMINSON, NJ

COCKTAILS ♦ DINNER ♦ DANCING

The evening promises to be an uplifting celebration of community partners who are dedicated to sharing our mission of serving the most vulnerable among us.



PRESENTING THIS



Richard J. Hughes, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton Humanitarian Award LAURENCE M. DOWNES

Larry Downes' life is a testament to the profound impact of familial influence and faith. Though his grandmother lost her ability to speak following a

stroke, her legacy of prayer shaped his spiritual journey. He recalls kneeling beside his grandparents, reciting the rosary, counting the prayers with the aged beads passed down through generations. This is a memory that remains etched in his mind. Additionally, Larry's parents, who stressed faith, family, education and work ethic, had a significant impact on his life.

This foundation of faith permeates Larry's personal and professional endeavors. During his 35-year career at New Jersey Resources, the parent company of New Jersey Natural Gas, he prioritized stakeholder welfare over profit margins.

His philanthropic actions extend beyond corporate boardrooms and are exemplified by a decades-long involvement with Catholic Charities. Serving as the Chair for the Restoring Dignity, Giving Hope Campaign, he provided invaluable leadership and insight. Larry's 20 years on the Finance Committee for the Diocese and his current work at Mercy Center in Asbury Park demonstrate an enduring dedication to enhancing the lives of others.

Larry's commitment to family truly defines him. His marriage to Carol, spanning nearly five decades, is a testament to love's enduring power. He and Carol instilled values of compassion and service in their children, Tom and Elizabeth, encouraging them to embrace the family's legacy of helping others. He adores his two grandsons, Brian and Evan, and spends as much time with them as he can.



Light of Hope DEBBIE RIVEROS

Debbie Riveros has dedicated her life to helping others, especially children. From an early age, she was translating for her non-English speaking

parents and family members at doctor visits and medical appointments. Her entire career has been spent in service to and advocating for children. She has worked as a teacher and a victim witness advocate in

California. She served Monmouth County as a bilingual victim witness and as the Coordinator of the Child Advocacy Center, where she successfully championed to have Facility Dog Surf provide comfort to children during court testimony, forensic interviews and therapy sessions. Today, Debbie leads the NJ Children's Alliance, Inc. She also serves as a 911 dispatcher in her community. Debbie is compassionate and committed to protecting children and helping families in need.

YEAR'S HONOREES



Client Achievement

JEAN

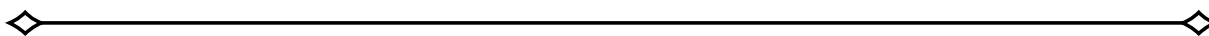
Discovering Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton's (CCDoT) behavioral health services marked a turning point for Jean. Living with mental illness, she

had experienced many dark, difficult days. Her prior experiences with treatment were not all positive.

"The approach at Catholic Charities was different," she said. "I was treated as a whole person." Jean saw a psychiatrist and a clinician. She also joined a therapy group for women. In 2016, when the group was discontinued, she joined the Riverbank Self-Help Center, where she could learn and share with others on a similar journey.

At the Self-Help Center, Jean learned about Peer Advocates and completed training to become one. She has earned her credentials as a Peer Recovery Specialist and is currently working to become a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. When the opportunity to become a driver at the center became available, she took it. The job gave her the confidence to apply for and land a position as a Mental Health Peer Advocate on one of CCDoT's Program of Assertive Community Treatment Teams.

Since working with CCDoT, Jean has become a strong advocate for people with behavioral health diagnoses. She has shared her story with Catholic Charities USA. She also participated in a New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc. campaign calling for significant increases in funding for behavioral health services.



Light of Hope

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS – ST. ANTHONY

The Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows – St. Anthony has a rich history rooted in serving the

spiritual needs of its community. Established in 1921 as St. Anthony Parish, it merged with Our Lady of Sorrows in 2005. The combined parish, led by Reverend Monsignor Thomas Gervasio, is characterized by its generous and mission-minded parishioners who actively support various causes and organizations.



Monsignor Gervasio noted "The greatest characteristic of the parishioners here is their generosity. No matter what appeals we make, they come through all of the time. I am really proud of that." With a strong commitment to Catholic education and volunteer work, Our Lady of Sorrows – St. Anthony continues to foster a supportive environment that caters to the diverse needs of its community.



Corporate Citizen of the Year SEEDS OF SERVICE

In the wake of devastating Super Storm Sandy that ravaged New Jersey in 2012, Brick Township faced unprecedented challenges.

Amid chaos and destruction, Christie Winters mobilized a team of dedicated volunteers and in 2014, Seeds of Service (SOS) was born.

SOS emerged as a community center with a holistic approach to addressing the multifaceted needs of area residents. From work preparedness initiatives

and a tool lending library to a pet pantry, resume workshops, budgeting classes and specialized support for youth with special needs, SOS cultivated a nurturing environment where individuals could thrive. They have worked hard to create a self-sustaining funding model, so 100% of their time is focused on their mission to serve others.

With its sense of hope and a spirit of compassion, SOS's commitment to serving the underserved and providing a range of impactful services has earned it a reputation as a pillar of strength in the community.

For more information, please contact Leslie Alpaugh
609-394-5181 x1154 or LAlpaugh@cctrenton.org



To register and donate, please scan the code above.



Every donation to Catholic Charities stays with us to serve those in need.

WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESTRENTON.ORG/GADD35