



**Catholic Charities**  
DIOCESE OF TRENTON



**Guardian Angel  
Benefit of Hope**

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

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# Welcome from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What a difference a year makes! At this time last year, we were celebrating the 30th anniversary of our signature Guardian Angel Dinner Dance. By the start of 2020, we had plans well under way to make this year's gala even better! But you know what they say about plans – we plan, and God laughs. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that our services, and fundraising efforts to support them, were more needed than ever. That said, we had to pivot to ensure the safety of our supporters and our staff.

That's why we decided to create our inaugural Guardian Angel Benefit of Hope. It unites our four annual fundraisers – Guardian Angel Dinner Dance, Monmouth County 2020 Gala, Taste of Burlington and Providence House Gift Auction – into one exciting virtual event that our supporters can tune in to from the safety and comfort of home.

We are thrilled that comedian and actor Joe Piscopo is joining us this year to host. We have some new and fun things planned and can't wait for you to join us! Of course, you'll see some of the same great features you may know from our other events – like celebrating six extraordinary honorees who really are living Guardian Angels. These kind and altruistic individuals and groups make it possible for us to help 100,000 vulnerable people in Central Jersey every year. I'm especially excited this year to present our Client Achievement Award to Robert, who came to us several years ago with a determination to turn his life around. And now here he is, soon to graduate college and sharing his hard-earned knowledge in hopes of inspiring others to take a positive path.

We are truly grateful for your support, as well as the support of our sponsors. We are also fortunate to have the outstanding leadership of the Most Reverend David M. O'Connell who — through numerous articles, homilies, and presentations on the redemptive message of Jesus and the sharing of his own personal experiences — offers us guidance to live out our faith and demonstrate compassion for the least among us.

All of you make it possible for us to transform lives by focusing our efforts on reducing poverty, promoting recovery and strengthening families.

May your generosity be returned to you in full.

Warmest regards,



Marlene Laó-Collins  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton

# Program

**Host** Joe Piscopo

**Invocation** Deacon James L. Casa

**Co-hosts** Marlene Laó-Collins, *Executive Director*  
John Tesoro, *Chair, Board of Trustees*

**Musical performance by:** The Quarantined Choir

## Presentations

### Light of Hope Awards

**Burlington** Deacon James L. Casa

**Mercer** Mary Jo Herbert

**Monmouth** Dr. Jack V. Kirnan

**Ocean** Oceanaire Women's Golf Association

**Corporate Citizen of the Year** Stark & Stark

**Richard J. Hughes  
Humanitarian Award** Thomas J. Keefe and Dr. Judithann C. Keefe

**Client Achievement Award** Robert

# Sponsors

## ANGEL OF LIGHT

Judith M. and  
the late Honorable Anthony J.

# Persichilli

## ANGEL OF HOPE

Atlantic Lining Company, Inc.  
Bank of America Merrill Lynch  
The Domenick Group  
Drs. Jack and Jean Kirnan  
LFH Foundation  
NJM Insurance Group  
Reilly Financial Group  
Parish Family of St. Catharine &  
St. Margaret

## ARCHANGEL

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Amboy Bank  
Archer Law  
Co-Cathedral of St. Robert  
Bellarmine  
The Walter R. Earle  
Memorial Foundation  
The Hibbert Group  
J. C. Kellogg Foundation  
OceanFirst Bank  
Ray Catena Motor Car Corporation  
Riverview Studios  
Stark & Stark  
John and Nancy Tesoro

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Thomas and Valarie DeFelice  
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Robert and Karen Tanzola

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New Jersey Natural Gas  
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Parker McCay  
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Wells Fargo Bank

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Causeway Family of Dealerships  
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Joanne Hall  
Raymond and Gloria Harter  
Law Offices of Lynda L. Hinkle  
Alice Jones  
JSPM, LLC  
The Kotzas Family  
Charitable Foundation  
The Parish of St. Mary  
McCollister's Transportation Group  
OceanFirst Foundation  
Robert and Diane Powderly  
St. Francis Medical Center  
Daniel and Debra Stolbof  
Damian J. Sylvia  
Woolman Construction

# Hall of Fame

Over the past 30 years, Catholic Charities has been blessed to have great leadership and support from the many wonderful volunteers who have partnered with us as we work to renew lives and restore hope. In this, our 31<sup>st</sup> year, we go back to the very beginning — to the first dinner — and proudly present the **Catholic Charities' Guardian Angel Dinner Dance Hall of Fame.**

- 1989:** Rev. Msgr.  
Theodore A.  
Opdenaker  
James Lacey  
Rev. James  
McGovern  
Virginia Vogel  
McLeod  
Mr. and Mrs.  
Thomas Valatka
- 1990:** Thomas F. Kelaher
- 1991:** John J. Fischer
- 1992:** The Honorable W.  
Thomas McGann  
(*Burlington County*)  
Donald J. Bugdal  
(*Mercer County*)  
Rev. Msgr.  
Thomas A. Coffey  
(*Monmouth County*)  
Rev. Msgr.  
George E. Everitt  
(*Ocean County*)

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**Richard J. Hughes  
Catholic Charities,  
Diocese of Trenton,  
Humanitarian Award**

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- 1993:** The Honorable  
Richard J. Hughes\*
- 1994:** James A. Lacey
- 1995:** The Most Rev.  
John C. Reiss

- 1996:** Rev. Msgr. Joseph  
C. Shenrock
- 1997:** Bray B. Barnes, Esq.
- 1998:** Richard J. Gillespie
- 1999:** Rev. Msgr. James  
McGovern
- 2000:** Senator Peter A.  
Inverso
- 2001:** Daniel F. Lundy
- 2002:** Timothy J. Losch
- 2003:** The Honorable  
Christopher H.  
Smith
- 2004:** Rev. Msgr. Walter  
E. Nolan
- 2005:** Kevin Ryan,  
Child Advocate
- 2006:** The Honorable  
John J. Hughes
- 2008:** Judith M. Persichilli
- 2009:** The Most  
Reverend John M.  
Smith, J.C.D., D.D.,  
Bishop of Trenton

- 2010:** Robert and  
Mary Catherine  
Southwick
- 2011:** Francis E. Dolan
- 2012:** Mary Ellen Griffin
- 2013:** J. Mark and  
Ann D. Baiada
- 2014:** Robert L. and  
Karen Tanzola

- 2015:** The Most  
Rev. David M.  
O'Connell, C.M.
- 2016:** David and Patricia  
Wright
- 2017:** Sister Rosemary  
E. Jeffries R.S.M.,  
Ph.D
- 2018:** Paul J. and Margo  
Hooker
- 2019:** Marianne Earle

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**Burlington County  
Light of Hope**

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- 1993:** The Honorable  
Francis L. Bodine
- 1994:** Ellen B. Kearns,  
Esq.
- 1995:** Daniel C. Quigley\*
- 1996:** Robert W.  
Southwick
- 1997:** Michael and  
Theresa Dolan
- 1998:** Mary Catherine  
Southwick
- 1999:** Jerome Lomurno
- 2000:** Raymond F. O'Neill
- 2001:** Frances A.  
McElhill, Esq.
- 2002:** Louise M. Carter
- 2003:** Francis J. Hartman,  
Esq.

\* Award given posthumously.

# Hall of Fame

**2004:** Lamme y &  
Giorgio Architects

**2005:** J. Mark and Ann  
D. Baiada

**2006:** Rev. Thomas  
Triggs and St.  
Charles Borromeo  
Parish

**2007:** R. Donald Leedy

**2008:** Very Rev. Damian  
McElroy and The  
Parish of Our  
Lady of Good  
Counsel

**2009:** Jim Parker

**2010:** St. Joan of Arc  
Parish

**2011:** Betty Jean Byrnes

**2012:** Lucy Yeager

**2013:** St. Mary of the  
Lakes, Medford

**2014:** Wallace Loza

**2015:** Elizabeth A. Ryan

**2016:** St. John Neumann  
Parish

**2017:** Mary Ann Saville

**2018:** Church of the  
Sacred Heart –  
Riverton

**2019:** Jesse DeSanto

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## Mercer County Light of Hope

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**1993:** Ann M. Elliott

**1994:** Richard J. Gillespie

**1995:** Jo & James  
McLaughlin

**1996:** Helen Boehm

**1997:** Todd J. Martin

**1998:** John J. Morris

**1999:** Leonard J. DiMaio

**2000:** Phyllis A. Coyer

**2001:** Rev. Msgr. William  
F. Fitzgerald

**2002:** Patricia A. Costante

**2003:** Maurice T. Perilli

**2004:** Michael J. Herbert,  
Esq.

**2005:** John J. Reilly

**2006:** Tom Sullivan

**2007:** St. Gregory the  
Great Church

**2008:** J. George Reilly

**2009:** Susanne Svizeny

**2010:** Greg Blair

**2011:** Pat and Margaret  
Walsh

**2012:** Len Berlik

**2013:** Honorable  
Anthony  
J. Persichilli

**2014:** Norma Monaghan

**2015:** Jeffrey and Megan  
Gordon

**2016:** Peter Haas

**2017:** Daniel L. Haggerty

**2018:** St. Paul Parish –  
Princeton

**2019:** Francis Taylor

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## Monmouth County Light of Hope

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**1993:** Faye A. Zealand

**1994:** Rev. Msgr. Sean P.  
Flynn

**1995:** Rev. Msgr. Thomas  
A. Luebking

**1996:** Gershom G.N.  
Tomlinson

**1997:** Frank Mauro  
Puzio

**1998:** Rev. Ronald J.  
Cioffi

**1999:** Charles D. Sidun

**2000:** James G. Coakley

**2001:** Robert G. Koenig

**2002:** Timothy Ratty

**2003:** Elizabeth C. Boyle

**2004:** Richard J. Weber,  
Esq.

**2005:** Thomas J. and  
Valarie DeFelice, Jr.

**2006:** R. Scott Garley,  
Esq.

**2007:** Stanley C. Van  
Ness, Esq.

**2008:** Rev. Eugene  
Vavrick and The  
Parish of  
St. Anselm

**2009:** Virginia LaMorte

**2010:** David Wright

**2011:** Thomas P. Coyle

# Hall of Fame

- 2012:** Robert Powderly  
**2013:** M. Barbara Willis  
**2014:** St. Catharine-  
St. Margaret Parish  
**2015:** Peter J. Griffin  
**2016:** Church of  
St. Robert  
Bellarmine  
**2017:** Mary Lou Oliva  
**2018:** Mary Lee  
**2019:** Stanley Koreyva Jr.

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## Ocean County Light of Hope

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- 1993:** Rev. Msgr. Joseph  
C. Shenrock  
**1994:** Rev. Msgr.  
Casimir H.  
Ladzinski  
**1994:** (*Special Light of  
Hope Award*) Rev.  
Richard C. Moore  
**1995:** Knights of  
Columbus, Ocean  
Chapter  
**1996:** Melanie A. Meyer-  
Levin  
**1997:** Rev. Msgr.  
Michael J. Walsh  
**1998:** Dolores B. Lewis  
**1999:** Marcy Hnath  
Maguire  
**2000:** Community  
Medical Center

- 2001:** Senator Robert W.  
Singer  
**2002:** Raymond Coles  
**2003:** Kimball Medical  
Center  
**2004:** Georgian Court  
University  
**2005:** Rev. Msgr. Sean P.  
Flynn  
**2006:** Stephan R. Leone,  
Esq.  
**2007:** Rita Kearney  
**2008:** David A. Heskin  
**2009:** Jim Knipper  
**2010:** Bobbie Banks-  
Grove  
**2011:** Church of St.  
Aloysius  
**2012:** St. Mary of the  
Lake  
**2013:** Church of the  
Visitation  
**2014:** St. Mary's Parish,  
Barnegat  
**2015:** Notre Dame Club  
of South Jersey  
**2016:** Component  
Hardware Group,  
Inc.  
**2017:** John M. Tesoro  
**2018:** Opdyke  
Furniture Inc.  
**2019:** Joseph Leone  
Introna

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## Corporate Citizen of the Year

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- 2004:** Janssen  
Pharmaceutica,  
Inc.  
**2005:** Wachovia Bank,  
N.A.  
**2006:** New Jersey  
Resources  
**2007:** OceanFirst Bank  
**2008:** Tyco International  
**2009:** Merrill Lynch  
Global Wealth  
Management  
**2010:** Lockheed Martin  
MS2  
**2011:** V. J. Scozzari &  
Sons, Inc.  
**2012:** St. Francis  
Medical Center  
**2013:** Archer & Greiner,  
P.C.  
**2014:** Reilly Financial  
Group, an office  
of MetLife  
**2015:** Investors Bank  
**2016:** NJM Insurance  
Group  
**2017:** Amboy Bank  
**2018:** J. Knipper and  
Company, Inc.  
**2019:** The Bank of  
Princeton

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## Centennial Award

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- 2013:** Daniel F. Lundy



# Richard J. Hughes Humanitarian Award



## Thomas J. Keefe and Dr. Judithann C. Keefe

For Thomas J. and Dr. Judithann C. Keefe, charitable giving is a vital virtue, instilled in childhood by their Catholic upbringing. “We’re products of 13 years of a Catholic education,” Judi said. “It was drilled in our heads. You were expected to give a dime a month for missions,” Tom added. Both carried that compassion into their careers, where Tom remembers a Chamber of Commerce initiative to provide children in need with Christmas gifts. “Back then, you were supposed to spend \$10. My first time out, I had \$100 in my pocket - and I came home broke,” he laughed.

They have been longtime supporters of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton and served on the Guardian Angel Dinner Dance Planning Committee for years, chairing it in 2017. They like that Catholic Charities addresses all of a person’s needs to achieve long-term stability. “Catholic Charities produces tangible, measurable results,” Tom said. “Catholic Charities can give people a warm bed, a body to talk to, financial help – everyone has the need for someone that cares for them. Catholic Charities has the formula.”

While need exists everywhere, the Keefes appreciate that their support improves their own community. “They say ‘charity begins at home,’ and this is charity at home, in your own backyard,” Tom said. “Monmouth County has many affluent neighborhoods, but it also has a lot of people in need.” Judi agreed: “When you become involved with Catholic Charities, you become part of a family. It’s very warm. You’re working toward a goal for other people.”

Judi retired as assistant superintendent of Moorestown Township Public Schools after 32 years in public education. She was an adjunct professor at Monmouth and Fairleigh Dickinson universities. Tom had a long corporate career, including at Johnson & Johnson, Jockey International and Ideal Office Systems. They are members of the St. Catharine-St. Margaret Parish in Spring Lake, where they served on the parish Faith to Move Mountains committee and Judi is a lector and Eucharistic Minister and chaired the St. Catharine School Advisory Board. Tom is a sacristan for St. Catharine-St. Margaret Parish and St. Rose in Belmar.

Together since eighth grade, they have been married for 55 years. (The secret, Tom jokes, is two words – ‘yes, dear.’) They have two children and four grandchildren.

They were “humbled” to receive the Humanitarian Award.

“The reward for us is that other people are being helped,” Judi said.

# Burlington County Light of Hope Award



## Deacon James L. Casa

When Deacon James L. Casa was preparing to become a deacon, he took many classes to ensure he'd be effective in his ministry. The classes ranged from spirituality, sacramental study and liturgical preparation to pastoral care, church history and homiletics. Yet what Deacon Jim found most compelling were the three weeks when Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton staff spoke to him and his classmates of the work, scope and vision of the 107-year-old social services agency. Ordained in 1996, Deacon Jim cemented his support of Catholic Charities' mission 10 years ago by joining its Burlington County Board. He has been an active member ever since.

Before he involves himself in any ministry, Deacon Jim prays the Gospel passage (Luke 4: 16-19) when Jesus told of His purpose "...to proclaim good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom for the prisoner...recovery of sight for the blind...to set the oppressed free...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." For Deacon Jim, this is at the heart of the ministry of Catholic Charities.

Through various Catholic Charities programs, the light of Christ is tenderly brought to a hurting, confused and suffering world, Deacon Jim said. "Clearly, this brings the Gospel home to so many people and makes faith real," he added. Deacon Jim felt further called to action after reading that St. Paul VI advised: "If you want peace, work for justice." So several years ago, he joined Catholic Charities' Social Policy Committee, which sets the agency's advocacy agenda.

Since 1996, Deacon Jim has served the parish of Sacred Heart in Mount Holly.

He is a retired civil servant for Burlington County, where he worked as a transportation analyst and advocated for senior citizens and residents with disabilities. One county program that he introduced was a transportation cooperative that helped Catholic Charities clients who needed public transportation get to Delaware House in Westampton.

For the past five years, Deacon Jim developed a second career as a chaplain at Hampton Behavioral Health Center in Westampton, where he serves the spiritual needs for patients struggling with addiction and mental illness. He also serves the community as a chaplain for the Mount Holly Police Department. Deacon Jim and Emmy, his wife of 45 years, were high school sweethearts. They have two adult children.

# Mercer County Light of Hope Award



## Mary Jo Herbert

Mary Jo Herbert grew up in a farming family and community. Her family ran a seed store in Milltown, and she learned to care for and ride horses on her grandparents' peach farm in East Brunswick. She went to college to become a teacher, and there, met the man, Michael, who would become her husband. The couple moved to Trenton and had five children, while Michael grew his law practice.

Mary Jo yearned to return to farming. So the couple bought a farm in Hopewell, where she kept and bred Arabian and Thoroughbred racing horses, grew hay, raised chickens and taught riding. The farm, at its height, produced more than 3,000 bales of hay

and had more than 36 horses, many of which raced at the track. Watching a foal become a successful race horse gave her an incredible sense of accomplishment.

Mary Jo was a trailblazer, becoming the first female president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Breeders Association and the State Board of Agriculture. She also was honored by the National Breeders' Cup. She serves on the New Jersey Farm Service Agency and the Mercer County Agriculture Board. "It was unusual for a woman to run a farm 35 years ago," she said.

Mary Jo and Michael felt driven to support Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton about 30 years ago after attending church at the Blessed Sacrament in Trenton and seeing firsthand how many people in the city struggled to provide for their families.

She organized food donations from local farms to Catholic Charities. She supports Catholic Charities' food pantries, saying healthy food is necessary for communities to thrive.

"Now with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever that people have a healthy diet," said Mary Jo, who has supported Farmers Against Hunger initiatives that facilitated gleaning (a practice in which leftover crops, picked from farmers' fields after commercial harvesting, get donated to people in need).

Getting involved with Catholic Charities has been a family affair for the Herberts. Michael served as president of the Board of Trustees and was honored as a Light of Hope for Mercer County in 2004. Eldest son Michael W. Herbert is a current Board member.

Mary Jo still runs her 57-acre hay and horse-boarding farm, known as Hopewell Heritage Farm. She is a parishioner at Saint James Church in Pennington. She has five grown children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

# Monmouth County Light of Hope Award



## Dr. Jack V. Kirnan

Dr. Jack V. Kirnan has a few favorite Bible verses, but none captures his commitment to community service like this passage from the Book of John: “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.”

“That, to me, really speaks to the mission of Catholic Charities,” said Jack, who has supported Catholic Charities for years and served on our Board of Trustees since 2014. “Our mission is to be there for people who have lost their way. Like

a good shepherd, we go after lost sheep and bring hope to people who are at a difficult moment in their life.”

Jack first got involved with Catholic Charities through his friend Bob Tanzola, a longtime Catholic Charities supporter. As a Trustee, Jack has chaired the Strategic Planning Board and serves on the Finance Committee. He’s a former member of our Monmouth County Board.

“Working for Catholic Charities makes me more grateful for my blessings,” Jack said. “When you see the struggles many people have, you reflect on what you have and how you can help others in need.”

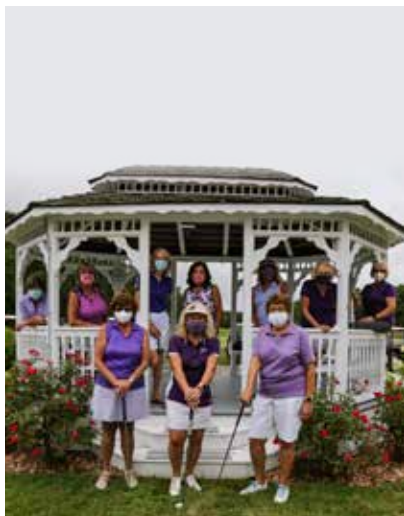
Jack appreciates that Catholic Charities helps everyone, regardless of faith or ability to pay.

“We don’t care what your gender, sexual orientation or race may be or what country you come from,” he said. “We want to be a bridge to your future. At the end of the day, we are all shepherds. We look at every sheep as a child of God. We want to help them cross that bridge to a better place called tomorrow.”

Jack’s compassion for others has affected his career path. After a long career in financial services and higher education, Jack now heads Kirnan Coaching Associates, LLC, which provides executive, career and life coaching. Jack is a parishioner, Trustee and Finance Committee member at St. Catharine-St. Margaret Parish in Spring Lake. A former president of the Parish Pastoral Council, Jack is a Eucharistic Minister, helps run the Parish Bereavement group, and serves on the Diocesan Planning Commission and as Secretary for Cohort 19 of the Diocesan Faith in Our Future Planning Initiative.

Jack and Jean, his wife of 40 years, have three children and two grandchildren.

# Ocean County Light of Hope Award



## Oceanaire Women's Golf Association

Years ago, when Bonnie Morris, Berti Avery and Betty Fedyna decided to organize a charitable luncheon and golf outing at their Ocean County retirement community, they asked around to see what causes people wanted to support. "One woman who I knew very well – a woman of means who has a beautiful house here – told me: 'Providence House saved my daughter. Without them, she would be dead now,'" Bonnie remembered. "It was so eye-opening, because it really showed us that domestic violence can affect anyone, anywhere. It impacts people of every race, class, gender and age. It's a

hidden epidemic that's local, happening right in our own communities."

So the women – members of the Oceanaire Women's Golf Association at the Greenbriar-Oceanaire Golf and Country Club in Waretown – decided to donate proceeds from their golf outing to Catholic Charities' Providence House Domestic Violence Services-Ocean. Providence House offers free, confidential domestic violence services, including a 24/7 hotline, a safe house for women and children recovering from domestic abuse and specialized education, counseling and support groups.

That was six years ago, and since then, the Oceanaire women have made the fundraiser an annual event, donating over \$100,000 to support Providence House-Ocean. "After we saw the safe house, we were all enthusiastic about continuing to support Providence House," Betty said. That enthusiasm was contagious, and the whole community got involved – the club waives all golf and park fees so more money goes toward fundraising; the men's club runs raffles and auctions that support fundraising; and residents of the community's 1,400 homes pitch in to fundraise in a street campaign, Betty said.

"We try to set up a tournament that's fun for everybody, whether you're a super-golfer or a beginner," Berti said. The outing typically draws about 150 people every June. The COVID-19 pandemic derailed this year's benefit, although the street fundraising campaign carried on, with residents raising about \$7,000 for Providence House.

"We really want to thank the whole community for their help in making this a success every year," Betty said. Berti added: "It's a lovely gesture on Catholic Charities' part to give us this award. This community loves helping people." Betty agreed: "We don't do it for the recognition; we do it for the pleasure we get in helping others."

# Corporate Citizen of the Year



## Stark & Stark

Operating as one of the oldest law practices in New Jersey, Stark & Stark offers a full range of legal services for businesses and individuals. With its headquarters located in Lawrenceville, the firm serves clients throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and the country.

Since its founding in 1933, Stark & Stark has been committed to active participation and support of the community. Between financial contributions, donations, and attorney involvement, the law firm has forged alliances with more than 200 different local, regional, and national community organizations, associations, non-profits, and charitable organizations.

Stark & Stark has been a significant donor to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton since 2001. Many of the firm's 250 staff members, including 100 attorneys, also volunteer in their communities in various ways.

"Our attorneys and staff are committed to serving the community. It's in their DNA, it's who they are. It matters to us that we support the community, and more importantly, it matters to those we serve. The pandemic is a unique time, when giving back to the community matters most," said Michael Donahue, the firm's Managing Shareholder. "What we do ties so closely to what Catholic Charities does - helping people help themselves and each other. Catholic Charities is such a vibrant and important part of the community that many people would be lost without the necessary food, housing, mental health services, immigration services, and other aid that it provides. I can think of no better honor than to receive the Corporate Citizen of the Year award from them."

Stark & Stark Shareholder Dolores Kelley is a longtime member of both Catholic Charities' Mercer County Board and the Guardian Angel Dinner Dance planning committee.

"Catholic Charities serves the most underprivileged groups in our community, and to me, that's incredibly important," Kelley said. "I want to thank the Catholic Charities staff who are on the front lines during this pandemic, in the food banks, working in shelters, and treating people in crisis. You truly are heroes."

Of the Corporate Citizen of the Year Award, Kelley said: "I'm so grateful to work for a firm that supports the community, and I'm incredibly proud on behalf of my firm and my coworkers."

# Client Achievement Award



## Robert

Poverty and circumstance turned Robert into a law-breaker at the tender age of 9. With an absentee father, an abusive, mentally ill mother, and three younger brothers, Robert remembers well the desperation that drove him to steal food to feed his family and the shame that made him shoplift clothes to end his classmates' jeers. As a teenager and young man, selling drugs seemed the only reliable way to fill his pockets. His downward spiral deepened when he sampled the drugs and became addicted. The law soon caught up to him. For decades, Robert cycled from prison to the streets, and back again. By 2015, he was 50 years old – and behind bars again.

“A corrections officer asked me what I was doing there. I couldn't answer,” Robert said. “I was always winding up in prison and not really knowing why.”

Therapy offered answers. He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and that diagnosis was a springboard to long-term recovery. When he told a therapist he wanted to help others avoid his fate, she implored him to first help himself. So he reached out to Catholic Charities, where he began his addiction recovery and continued counseling through the Partial Care Program. The intensive outpatient program offers addiction treatment, mental health services, and employment and housing assistance.

In 2017, he wrote a book called “Psychology of a Thug: Demystify,” a raw retelling of everything he's survived, from being molested and shot twice to becoming a teenage father and overdosing.

In 2018, he became a peer mental health advocate at Catholic Charities' Early Intervention Support Services (EISS), a walk-up mental health program in Mercer County for people needing immediate mental health help.

Robert knows his past struggles offer lessons for others on his journey. Indeed, he goes by the nickname “the Thug Doctor” and works to destigmatize mental illness in hopes of inspiring people, particularly in underserved urban areas, to get help.

Robert now is studying at Camden County Community College to become a certified alcohol and drug counselor. He plans to pursue degrees in social work to become a clinician. Recovery is an ongoing journey with the destination always still ahead, he said. “I'm not where I want to be, but where I'm supposed to be,” he said. “School is just another step on my journey. Hopefully there will be many more steps.”

# Planning Committee



**Mary Ann Saville**  
Co-chair  
2020 Guardian Angel  
Benefit of Hope



**Caroline Taylor**  
Co-chair  
2020 Guardian Angel  
Benefit of Hope

## Members

Tina Cilurso  
Dr. John J. DiBiase  
Megan Gordon  
William Isele, Esq.  
Dolores Kelley, Esq.  
Wallace Loza

Elaine Molen  
Lisa Motz  
Jeff Richardson  
Robert Tanzola  
David Toner



# Letter from the Planning Committee Co-chairs

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

We are honored to co-chair the inaugural Guardian Angel Benefit of Hope, a new virtual event that combines four of our annual fundraisers into one online celebration! For over 100 years, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton has served the most vulnerable residents of Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean counties. Your support of this event — our signature annual fundraiser — empowers Catholic Charities to transform the lives of our struggling brothers and sisters in the Trenton Diocese.

Catholic Charities is a truly outstanding organization that annually helps more than 100,000 people in need, regardless of their religious faith or ability to pay. It is also one of the region's most cost-effective charities, with nearly 90 cents of every dollar donated directly to programs. Catholic Charities provides both compassionate, trauma-informed care and a professional staff who help people achieve self-sufficiency and become positive, contributing members of society. Our programs include:

- Safe-house shelter and support services for adults and children in domestic crisis
- Counseling services for troubled adults, abused children, and shattered families
- Immigration assistance
- Food, housing, health and financial literacy
- Mental health and addiction-recovery treatment

We wholeheartedly thank the Catholic Charities staff and volunteers who restore hope to people in need.

Tonight, we are privileged to recognize the following honorees, who are distinguished by their contributions to our community and Catholic Charities:

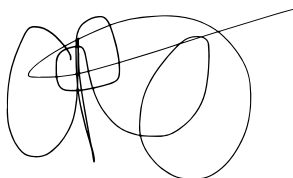
**Richard J. Hughes Humanitarian Award**  
**Burlington County Light of Hope**  
**Mercer County Light of Hope**  
**Monmouth County Light of Hope**  
**Ocean County Light of Hope**  
**Corporate Citizen of the Year**  
**Client Achievement Award**

**Thomas J. and Dr. Judithann C. Keefe**  
**Deacon James L. Casa**  
**Mary Jo Herbert**  
**Dr. Jack V. Kirnan**  
**Oceanaire Women's Golf Association**  
**Stark & Stark**  
**Robert**

We also want to thank our Guardian Angel Benefit of Hope Planning Committee, board members, and the Development and Marketing team of Catholic Charities for their hard work and dedication in making this dinner a success.

We invite you to enjoy yourselves at this exciting online event. Relax with your friends and family knowing that because of your generous support, Catholic Charities will continue to transform lives in Central Jersey.

Thank you and God bless,



Mary Ann Saville and Caroline Taylor  
Co-chairs, 2020 Guardian Angel Benefit of Hope Planning Committee

# Catholic Charities Leadership

We are grateful for the leadership of our Bishop, the Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, our Executive Director Marlene Laó-Collins, and our Board Chair John Tesoro. It is through their commitment that we are able to advance our noble mission of serving the poor and vulnerable in our communities.



The Most Reverend  
David M. O'Connell, C.M., J.C.D.  
Bishop, Diocese of Trenton



Marlene Laó-Collins  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities,  
Diocese of Trenton



John Tesoro  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Catholic Charities,  
Diocese of Trenton

## Agency Leadership Team

### **Marlene Laó-Collins**

Executive Director

### **George Bontcue, CPA**

Associate Executive Director  
Fiscal Affairs

### **Ryan Fields**

Service Area Director  
Behavioral Health Services

### **Jean Furdella**

Director of Compliance

### **Susan Loughery, MBA**

Associate Executive Director  
Operations

### **Mary Pettrow**

Service Area Director  
Children and Family Services

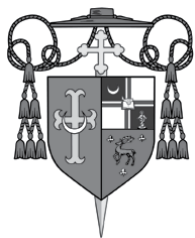
### **Nancy B. Tompkins, MBA**

Director of Development and Marketing

### **Arnold Valentin Jr.**

Service Area Director  
Community Services

# Letter from the Bishop



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701 LAWRENCEVILLE ROAD  
POST OFFICE BOX 5147  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08638-0147

MINISTRARE NON MINISTRARI

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton,

With the year we have had, I am not sure where to begin to express the multitude of thoughts and feelings I have. Looking back on this very difficult time, I can hardly imagine all the situations with which you each have had to deal as the world battled against COVID-19. Who would have thought we would be in this position when we celebrated the Guardian Angel Dinner Dance of 2019 – just a year ago.

As your Bishop, I want you to know you all – staff, board members, supporters and friends of Catholic Charities – have been in my thoughts, my daily prayers and a very grateful heart. I thank you for all you have done for and with Catholic Charities both in my own name and on behalf of the entire Diocese. We all know that the sufferings of life with COVID-19 started to unfold during the Season of Lent, which resulted in a very different type of celebration for Easter and the high Holy days of Passover. But, while our churches may have been empty, so was the tomb on Easter Sunday. And, with our Lord Jesus Christ ever by our side, we will rise above this COVID-19 experience as well.

Although businesses all over the state were closed, it is not lost on me or on anyone that Catholic Charities was open and fully operating to serve those in need, even if by alternative means and procedures. And that was made possible because of your support and efforts. I pray God will deliver us all from this virus as we go forward, give rest to those who were lost, continued healing to the sick and comfort to those who care for them, including you who are such good and generous people. Thank you for all you do and for the support you provide that enables Catholic Charities to fulfill its mission despite having to face such an insidious challenger.

Please know that not a day has gone by when I haven't and don't think of you with thanksgiving. Please continue to stay safe and well. God bless you for your generosity and protect you as we move forward to better days.

Respectfully yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M., J.C.D.  
Bishop of Trenton

# Board of Trustees

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Caroline Taylor



*Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, inspired by the scriptures as reflected in Catholic Social Teaching, alleviates human suffering and improves the quality of life of individuals and families, especially the poor and vulnerable, through service, advocacy, and community building.*

# Letter from the Board of Trustees Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters of Catholic Charities,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I welcome you to our inaugural Guardian Angel Benefit of Hope, a virtual celebration of the transformative work that Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton has done in Central Jersey since 1913. We are excited this year to welcome comedian and actor Joe Piscopo as host!

The event's honorees are living examples of the Gospel's mandate to love our neighbors, especially those in greatest need. You will hear more about their accomplishments during tonight's program. We are especially excited to honor Robert, our Client Achievement Award winner. His is a truly courageous and inspiring story.

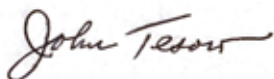
All of the awardees represent the incredible spirit of dedication and caring shown by the Catholic Charities family, including staff, Board of Trustees, county boards, volunteers and donors. None of our work could be accomplished without the selfless support of these people. We at Catholic Charities are genuinely appreciative of the extremely generous assistance you and other members provide each year. We are truly blessed.

A special thank-you to Mary Ann Saville and Caroline Taylor, co-chairs of the Guardian Angel Benefit of Hope Planning Committee, for a tremendous effort under the most unusual circumstances. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, we had to pivot to ensure the safety of our supporters and staff. The committee's hard work has paid off, with a successful and enjoyable event for all. We also are extremely grateful to the patrons, sponsors, journal advertisers and auction donors for their support. They all contributed to making this a most memorable and successful evening.

With your support, Catholic Charities has over 60 programs that help more than 100,000 people each year with food, housing, addiction treatment, mental health services, children's services, domestic violence services, and immigration challenges. We count on your continued financial support as the needs of the community continue to grow. All funds are well spent, with nearly 90 cents of every dollar going directly to programs.

Thank you again for joining us tonight, and thank you in advance for your continued support.

God bless,



John Tesoro  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton

# County Advisory Boards

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# Behavioral Health and Addiction Recovery Services

## **WE HELP THOSE WHO:**

- struggle with mental illness
- have a loved one diagnosed with a mental illness
- struggle with addiction or co-occurring mental health and addiction disorders
- can live independently with community-based treatment

## **WE PROVIDE EVIDENCE-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES:**

- counseling
- mental health crisis intervention
- integrated behavioral health and medical health care
- addiction recovery, including medication-assisted treatment and outpatient detox
- employment support services
- family support services

*Helping those who struggle with mental illness and addiction understand and manage their illness, access evidence-based care, continue on a path of recovery and live successfully in the community.*



As the need for behavioral health and addiction recovery treatment grows,

Behavioral Health Services continues to meet the challenge of responding to this demand. Driven by a mission to provide innovative, timely and compassionate care, Behavioral Health Services continues to expand services to meet the diverse needs of those we serve.

Every day a dedicated team of behavioral health and addiction recovery professionals touch the lives of our community's most vulnerable—those living with mental illness and addiction—to help them achieve recovery, wellness and improved quality of life. New services such as medication-assisted treatment, including treatment for pregnant women and new mothers, allow Behavioral Health Services to reach a greater number of individuals suffering from addiction. By exploring innovative treatment options and cultivating relationships with community partners, Behavioral Health Services is able to help those in need of mental health counseling services access timely care.

With a history of care and a focus on the future, Catholic Charities Behavioral Health Services continues to *renew lives and restore hope.*

# Children and Family Services

## Providence House Domestic Violence Services

### **WE HELP THOSE WHO ARE:**

- abused
- witnesses to abuse/violence
- survivors of trauma and violence

### **WE PROVIDE:**

- emergency safe house
- counseling
- toll-free hotline
- self-sufficiency programs
- crisis help + prevention
- parent education
- legal advocacy
- specialized children's counseling
- trauma-specific mental treatment services
- protection from abuse
- basic needs support
- family support
- foster care support
- after-school programs
- English language class
- advocacy
- immigration services
- citizenship classes
- court accompaniment and support for domestic violence victims

*Treating and preventing trauma, abuse, and disruption in the lives of children, adults and families*



Children and Family Services (CFS) helps children, individuals, and families recover from trauma and emotional disruption caused by life events like child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual abuse, as well as trauma related to foster care, immigration and witnessing violence.

Our trauma-informed services minimize the impact that abuse and neglect can have on individuals and families and builds resilience, paving a new path for future generations.

We do this two ways. First, we offer therapy, crisis intervention, and intensive support to people experiencing abuse and neglect, family disruption and crisis, emotional and behavioral upheaval, parenting challenges, or immigration-related trauma. Secondly, Providence House Domestic Violence Services (PHDVS) offers safe-house shelters in Ocean and Burlington counties, client outreach, counseling, case management, support, and advocacy.

Our nationally recognized services have decades of proven effectiveness. They help people improve both mental and physical health, as well as lifelong opportunities in education, employment, and income.



# Community Services

*Providing essential services and support to help residents achieve self-sufficiency*



New Jersey continues to see our cost of living outstrip the earning ability of many residents. Because housing is out of reach for so many, Community Services developed innovative programs that help

both families and individuals prevent and overcome homelessness to achieve stable and affordable housing. Additionally, Community Services seeks to help vulnerable individuals and families escape the cycle of poverty, develop essential job and life skills and obtain self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities' Community Services has been successful in helping vulnerable individuals and families meet immediate needs, but our programs go well beyond that.



## **WE HELP THOSE WHO:**

- are employed but homeless or at risk of homelessness
- are behind in rent, mortgage and utility payments
- need help with immigration status
- are victims of human trafficking
- seek to achieve self-sufficiency

## **WE PROVIDE:**

- tangible goods to meet essential needs – food, clothing, baby and school supplies
- case management and advocacy
- housing
- holiday help with food and presents
- free tax prep
- health screenings
- education and awareness classes
- computer training
- English as a second language (ESL) classes
- heat and utility payments
- life skills workshops

# How Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton Changed Lives in 2019

**53,622** Visits to our food pantries

---

**20,572** Counseling hours provided to individuals and their children impacted by domestic violence

---

**9,796** Visits for non-food essentials, such as clothing, appliances, and furniture

---

**1,328** Individuals received English as a Second Language, mentoring and other services through El Centro

---

**3,828** People were offered interventions through Behavioral Health Services to help them manage mental illness and substance abuse challenges

---

**793** Individuals were provided with immigration support and counseling services

---

**3,524** Children and adults received counseling and support services to help with trauma

---

**4,095** Calls were fielded by the domestic violence hotline

---

**5,437** Hours of pre- and post-employment-related services were provided

---

**1,481** Households received food and gifts during the holidays

# Supporting Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton is a sound philanthropic investment.

## Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton: Pivoting to meet the community's changing needs

- Remained fully open and operational through the COVID-19 pandemic, as an essential provider of social services.
- Expanded telemental services to meet the community's mental health needs during quarantine.
- Created a Coronavirus Crisis Fund to assist vulnerable people through the pandemic and the resulting economic recession.
- Secured funding to continue our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) programs into 2022. CCBHCs break down barriers to mental health and addiction treatment for underserved populations.
- Created a new addiction recovery program in Mercer County to coordinate medication-assisted treatment (MAT) county-wide. MAT is proven to significantly reduce addiction and cravings, prevent relapses and re-establish healthy brain functioning.
- Expanded our Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) to a new location in Hamilton. PACT teams work to ensure people with persistent, serious mental illness who have a history of psychiatric hospitalization can live independently in the community.
- Mobilized to improve 2020 Census participation among historically undercounted groups.
- Partnered with Trenton Public Schools to provide El Centro services to immigrant students in need at Daylight/Twilight High School.
- Expanded rental and utility assistance to prevent homelessness and evictions in Ocean County.
- Partnered with the U.S. Veterans Administration to strengthen health care and community services for military veterans in Mercer County by creating a stakeholders committee to advocate for veterans.
- Joined a community coalition to help youth victimized by gang violence in Greater Trenton.

# Ways To Leave a LEGACY to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton

- Leave a gift to Catholic Charities in your will.
- Name Catholic Charities as the beneficiary or owner of a life insurance policy.
- Remember loved ones with memorial gifts to Catholic Charities.
- Arrange a Charitable Gift Annuity.
- Leave cash, stocks or other assets today while maintaining and possibly increasing income received for these assets.
- Leave a specific percentage of your assets to Catholic Charities. *Have your attorney add a clause or codicil to your will that designates what percentage of your total estate you want to donate to Catholic Charities.*
- Name Catholic Charities as the beneficiary of your pension plan, IRA or 401K.
- Encourage your attorney and financial planner to promote charitable giving to Catholic Charities.
- Share with family and friends the opportunity to leave a legacy gift to Catholic Charities.

*Disclaimer: Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton is a human services organization and does not provide tax, legal or financial advice and strongly encourages all of our donors to seek counsel from their own legal and financial advisors.*



# Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton LEGACY CIRCLE

*Here is the sample language for making a bequest to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton:*

"I give and bequeath to *Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton*:

the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate; or the property described herein to establish/add to the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund.

The principal is to be endowed and the distributions, as established by the Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton Board of Trustees, shall be used for

\_\_\_\_\_."

**TO DISCUSS** leaving a legacy gift, contact Nancy Tompkins, director of Development and Marketing, (609) 394-5181, ext. 1161, or [ntompkins@cctrenton.org](mailto:ntompkins@cctrenton.org).



is extremely grateful for the legacy gift  
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*We Extend Sincere Congratulations  
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Deacon James L. Casa

Mary Jo Herbert

Dr. Jack V. Kirnan

Oceanaire Women's Golf Association

Stark & Stark

Robert

*"Love God, serve God: everything is in that."*

*St. Clare of Assisi*

**The late Honorable Anthony J.  
and Judith M. Persichilli**



*Tony, you will always be in  
our hearts.*

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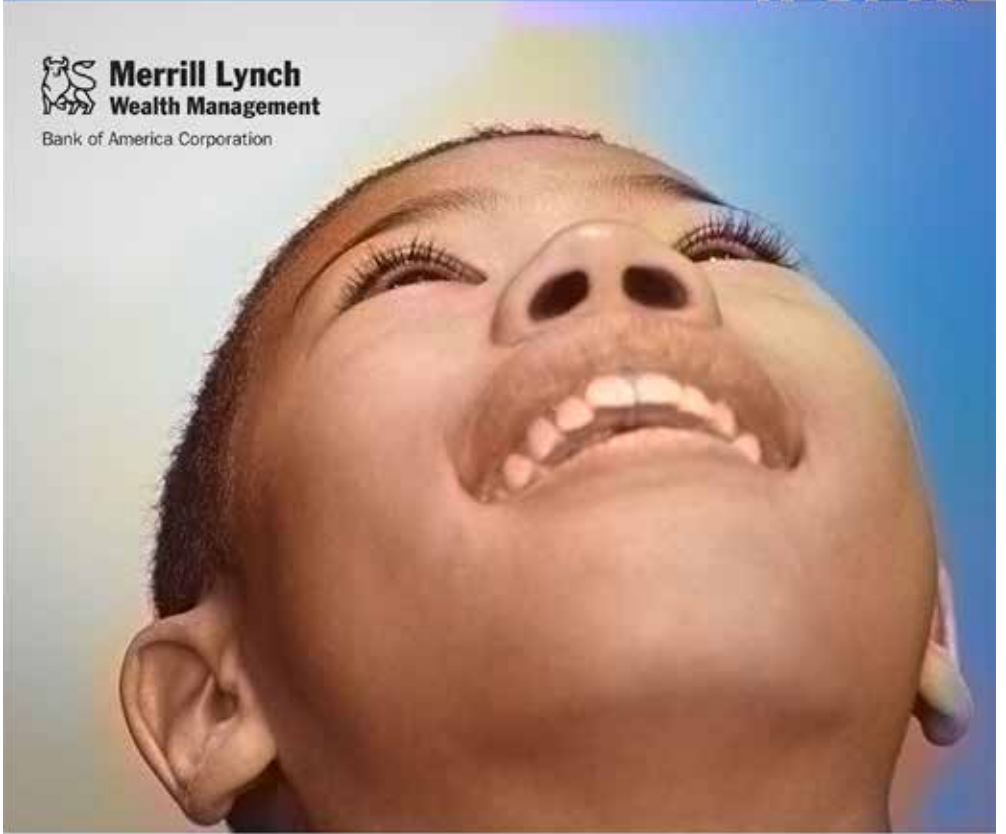
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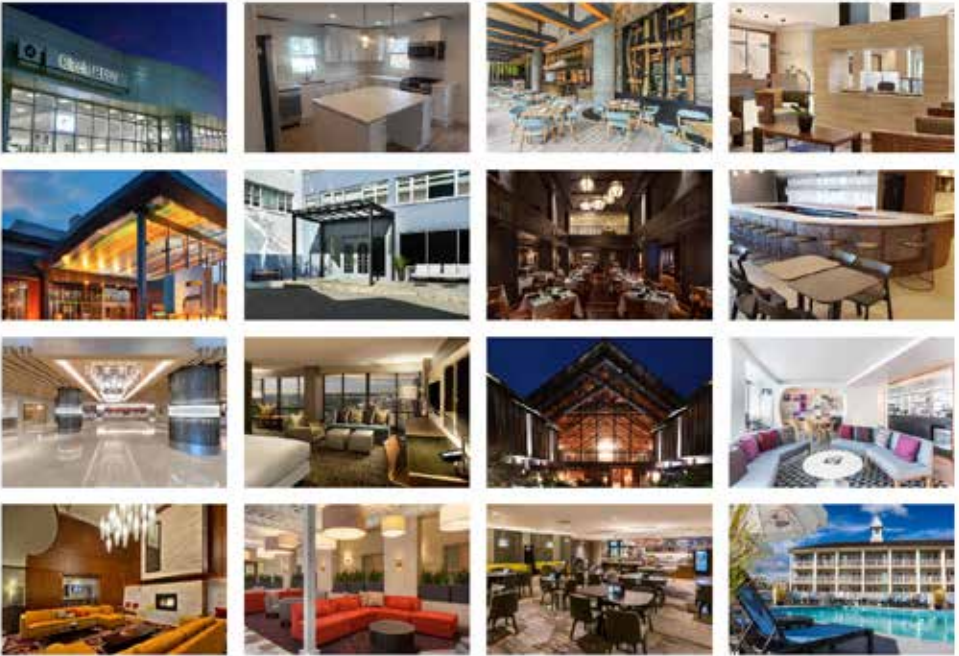


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## Archer Proudly Supports Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton *Congratulations to all the 2020 Honorees*

---

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*With Gratitude We Congratulate the  
2020 Guardian Angel Honorees*



*“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, was naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”*

**Matthew 24:35-36**

Rev. Msgr. Sam A. Sirianni,  
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## The Walter R. Earle Foundation

As part of Earle's commitment to the communities in which we live and work, The Walter R. Earle Foundation was created in 2011. Our foundation is dedicated to helping numerous nonprofit organizations within our local communities.

## Earle would like to Congratulate the 2020 Honorees

### Richard J. Hughes Humanitarian Award

Thomas J. and  
Judithann C. Keefe

### Corporate Citizen of the Year

Stark & Stark

### Client Achievement Award

Robert

### Light of Hope Awards

*Burlington County:* Deacon James L. Casa

*Mercer County:* Mary Jo Herbert

*Monmouth County:* Dr. Jack V. Kirnan

*Ocean County:* Oceanaire Women's  
Golf Association

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*The Hibbert Group  
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Catholic Charities  
on their  
Guardian Angel  
Benefit of Hope  
and the  
honorees for their  
excellent work in our  
communities.*



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**Diocese of Trenton**

*Guardian Angel Benefit of Hope*



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**We would like to congratulate all of our fellow  
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# **Congratulations**

**Thomas J. Keefe and  
Dr. Judithann C. Keefe**

**2020 Richard J. Hughes  
Humanitarian Award Recipients**

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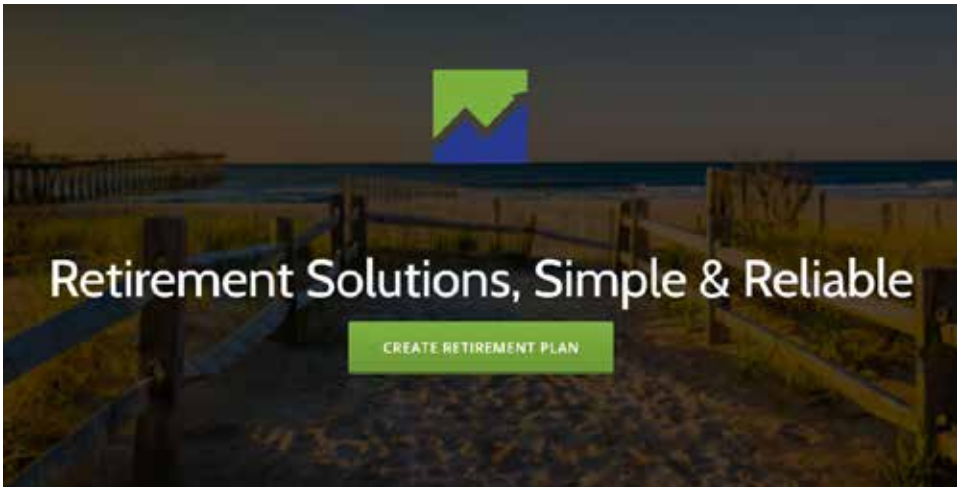
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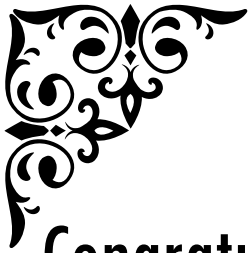


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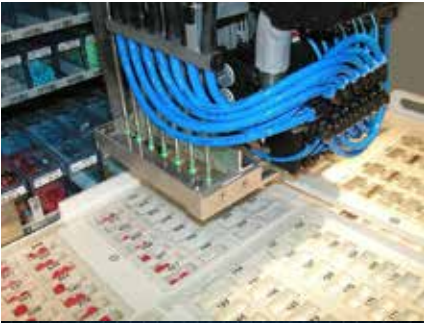
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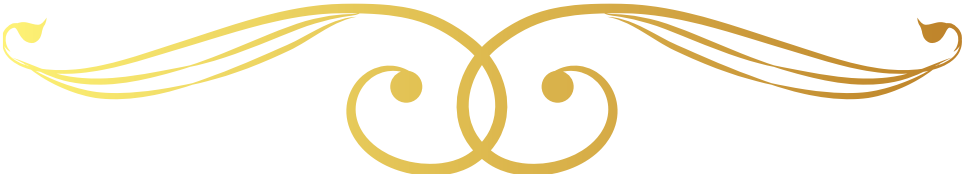
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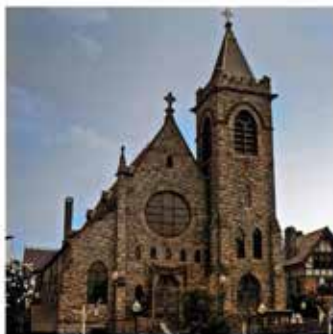
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TO BENEFIT SUCH A  
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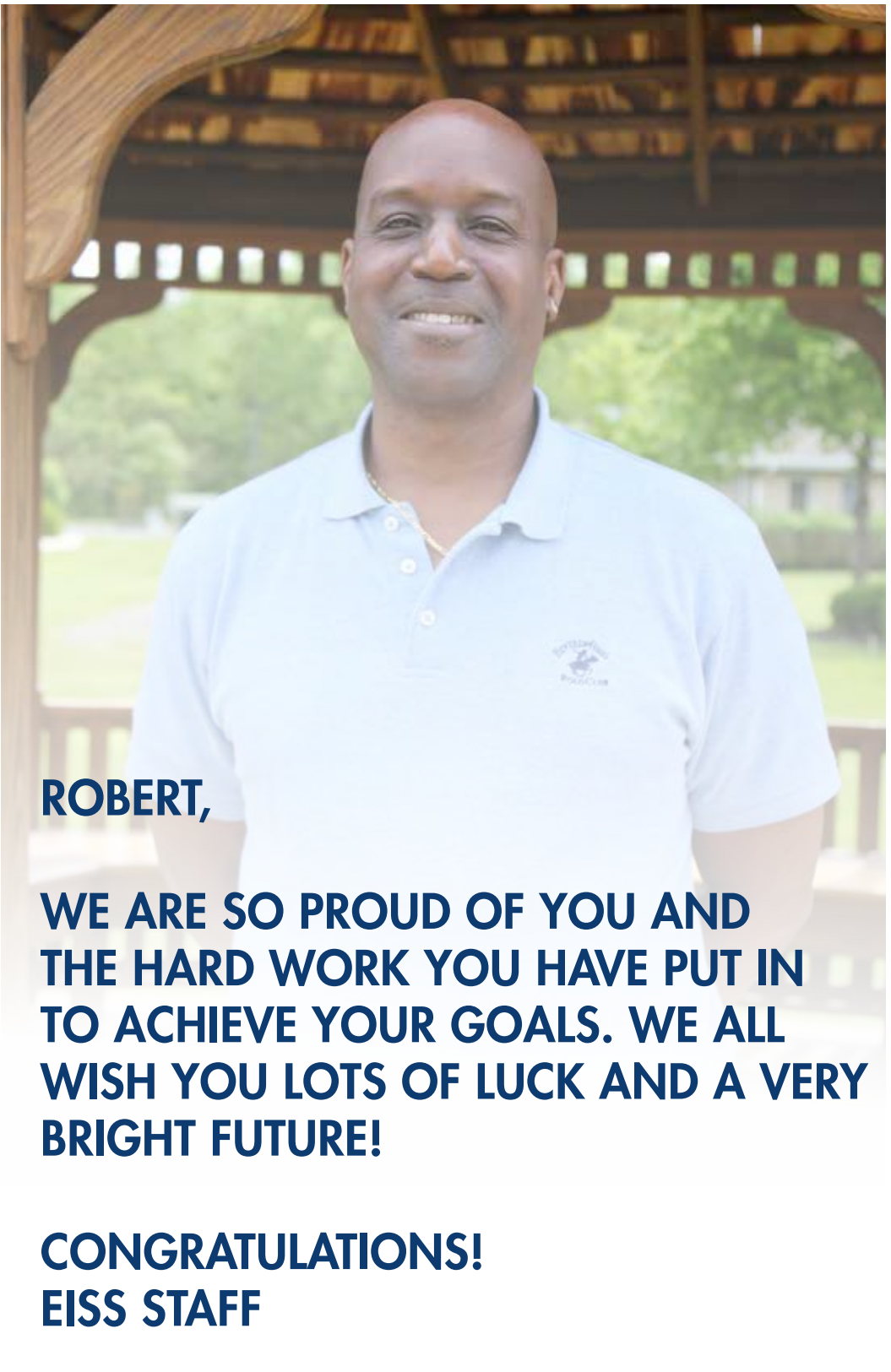
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*special thanks to*  
**MARY ANN SAVILLE**  
**AND CAROLINE TAYLOR**

2020 GUARDIAN ANGEL BENEFIT OF HOPE CO-CHAIRS

&

**THE 2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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Our programs are designed to help people and families achieve self-sufficiency and end the cycle of dependence. We strive to improve individuals' lives and to strengthen communities.

**"Our goal is to help people overcome adversity and trauma, restore hope, and achieve self-sufficiency."**

Every day, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, opens its doors to some of the most vulnerable members of our community, people from all backgrounds and all religions are provided compassionate and professional services through numerous programs in Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

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# Catholic Charities of New Jersey

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## All the 2020 Award Recipients



*For where two or three are gathered together in my name,  
there I am in the midst of them. Matt. 18:20*



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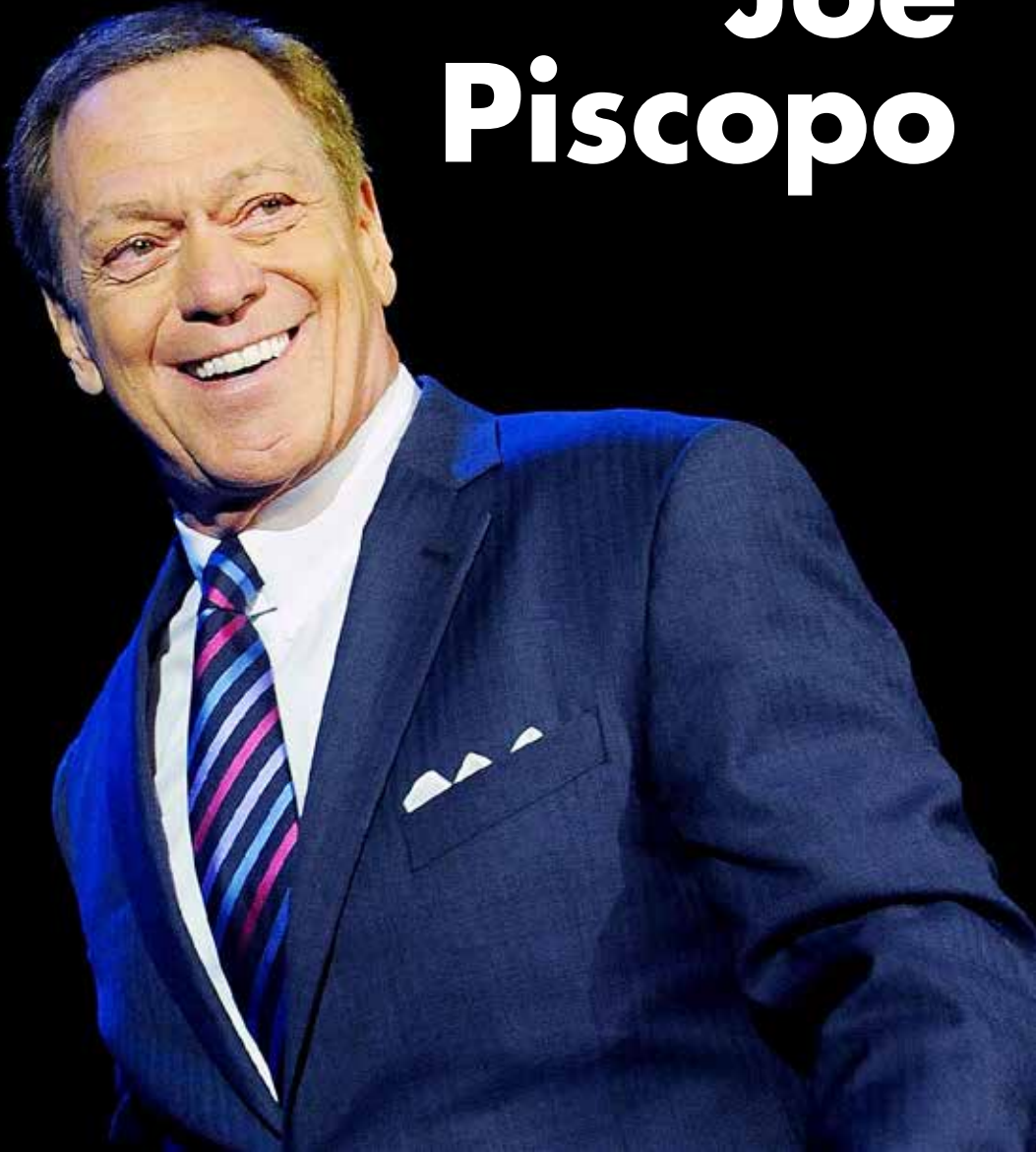
**Thomas J. Keefe and Dr. Judithann C. Keefe**  
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