Dear Friends,

St. Catherine’s Center for Children was founded in Albany in 1886 as a home for sick orphans. While the well-being of children has always remained a core commitment of our agency, we have grown and evolved to meet the broader needs of the communities we serve. Today—134 years after we first opened our doors—we are a leading provider of human services in the Capital Region, offering an impressive array of programs that provide hope for children, families, and adults.

What makes us unique? We offer therapeutic care for traumatized children in residential and foster care settings. We provide an extensive range of services for homeless families, adults, and those who are at-risk of becoming homeless. We offer a special education program for elementary school students who have difficulty learning in a traditional school environment. We provide community-based services for families struggling to remain intact. Last year, our combined services reached nearly 2,000 people!

Of course, this report can never capture the full story of our mission, our programs, and the people we serve. If you would like to learn more about St. Catherine’s Center for Children, we invite you to visit us. Call any time to schedule a visit or tour. Our doors are always open, and you are welcome to stop by whenever you have the opportunity!

Finally, we are grateful to the friends who share our commitment to the mission and values we hold dear. Those friends—donors, volunteers, board members, and referral and licensing agencies—offer inspiration and guidance that are critical to our success.

On behalf of the children, adults, and families we serve—and the staff of St. Catherine’s—we thank all of you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Frank Pindiak
Executive Director

Mark Ustin
President, Board of Directors
St. Catherine’s Center for Children

Executive Management Team

Executive Director
Frank J. Pindiak

Chief Financial Officer
Rich Marini

Chief Operating Officer
Jaclyn Yusko

Associate Executive Director of CQI
Kirsten Trevino

St. Catherine’s Center for Children has a tremendous impact throughout the region. Our services reached some 2,000 people of all ages last year. We provided thousands of days of care, and tens of thousands of hours of therapy, counseling, clinical reviews, special education, parent training, and other services designed to help children, adults, and families thrive. In addition to those who received direct care, St. Catherine’s worked with hundreds of others during the year, including potential clients who were referred to other agencies for services.

Program | Children | Families
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Community-Based Services | 414 | 324
R & E May School Educational Services | 74 | 45
Residential Services | 74 | 68
Foster Care | 88 | 62
Homeless Services* | 263 | 153

Total | 913 | 652

*St. Catherine’s Center for Children serves children, adults and families, and thus the number of families served is always cited in this report. In addition to working with families, our Homeless Services program this year served single adults through Projects HOST and Connect. During this fiscal report year, Projects HOST and Connect served 106 single adults in Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

Expenditures: Approximately 88% of St. Catherine’s expenses during the year were program and service related, with the remaining 12% of agency expenditures covering administrative costs.

Regulating/Licensing Agencies
NYS Department of Education • NYS Department of Health • NYS Office of Children and Family Services
NYS Office of Mental Health • NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Educational Services

Not every child thrives in a traditional school setting. Some have special educational and behavioral needs that can only be met in an environment designed to help them succeed. St. Catherine’s R & E May School is a day treatment program that serves struggling elementary school students with special educational needs. The program accommodates up to 68 students at a time. Each student undergoes an individual assessment to determine his or her educational and social needs. Staff—including special education teachers, mental health professionals, social workers, and clinicians—develop a comprehensive plan tailored to meet the needs of the student. The school also partners with the child’s family and home school district to ensure the greatest chance for success, helping the student develop the knowledge, social skills, and attitudes necessary to reach his or her full potential.

Residential Services

It’s a fact of life. Families struggle, and a child may be removed from the care of his or her parents or guardians for any number of reasons. When that happens, a child not only needs a safe place to live, but often requires therapeutic care. St. Catherine’s residential program provides treatment for boys and girls, ages five to 13, who have been removed from their homes and require 24-hour supervised care. Children in the program struggle with a variety of emotional and challenging behaviors. Many have a history of trauma, or have suffered from abuse or neglect. Our staff of professionals, including social workers, clinicians and health care providers, offer the treatment they need. Services include individual, group, and family therapy; psychiatric and psychological evaluation; crisis stabilization and assessment; and daily recreational activities. Development of a placement plan to help a child return home is a critical element of the program. When a child’s return home becomes impossible, adoption or foster care placement are alternatives to residential care.

Foster Care Services

When a child is removed from his or her home, foster care placement is sometimes the answer. Children thrive in homes where they are nurtured and loved. St. Catherine’s offers therapeutic foster care for special-needs children, from pre-school through teens, who may benefit from therapeutic care in a home setting. Children in the program are matched with professional foster families who provide a consistent,
predictable and nurturing environment which promotes positive growth. St. Catherine’s offers foster parents extensive training and support to help them meet their foster care commitment. Support includes pre-placement and ongoing training, respite services, peer support group meetings, participation in planning and implementation of the foster child’s treatment plan, and availability of program staff 24 hours a day.

Community-Based Services

Many families struggle with complex social and behavioral issues. St. Catherine's offers an array of community-based services designed to preserve family life and provide at-risk families with the skills they need to function in today's world. Services include, but are not limited to, clinical assessments; parent skills training and parent support groups; individual, marital, and family counseling programs; parent aide/home aide services that include advocacy and role-modeling; parent care services for developmentally disabled adults; respite care for families with children displaying emotional or behavioral problems; and comprehensive support services for children and adolescents who have been in foster care or residential programs to help these youth attain independence. Finally, we offer Health Home services with care managers who coordinate health services for those who receive Medicaid.

Homeless Services

Homelessness is a complicated social issue, not only threatening the health and welfare of families and individuals, but also burdening communities. St. Catherine’s homeless services meet the needs of families and individuals struggling with homelessness and related issues of poverty, mental health, health care, and substance abuse. Services stabilize the homeless by offering assistance in housing, family functioning, employment, engagement in the community, and other critical issues.

Marillac shelter, St. Catherine’s longest-running homeless program provides a temporary residence for homeless families. Albany County's only shelter designed exclusively for families, Marillac also provides supplemental services and advocacy to address issues that lead to homelessness. Projects HOST and Connect offer housing and case management services for homeless adults in Albany and Rensselaer counties. Our homeless services also extend to Columbia County, where we offer support and intervention services for families at risk of becoming homeless.

All services ultimately aim to help the homeless—or those at risk of becoming homeless—find secure, permanent, stable housing. Programs also link clients to supplemental services essential for the long-term health and welfare of the family or individual, including counseling, day care, and transportation.

St. Catherine's receives hundreds of referrals every year. Referrals are carefully reviewed to determine if our services fit the needs of the individual or family. If we cannot provide assistance, we refer people to other service providers who can help. For more information, contact our Centralized Intake Coordinator at 518-453-6783.
Thank you for your support!

Music lessons, educational outings, new bedding, clothing and food. Thanks to you, we can provide these services and more to vulnerable children, families and adults.

Our donors are important to us. If your name has been inadvertently misspelled or is not listed the way you wish, call 518-453-6757 and let us know!
St. Catherine’s employs nearly 300 staff members at nine Capital Region locations. During the fiscal year, we served 913 children, 652 families, and 106 adults in a region covering 22 counties, 40 cities, towns and villages, and 19 school districts.
St. Catherine’s is fortunate to have the support of hundreds of friends and supporters. You not only donate cash, but your gifts of toys, clothing, food and other items meet a vital need. In addition, hundreds of supporters provide thousands of hours of volunteer work every year. We are grateful to each of you, and appreciate all that you do for St. Catherine’s. Thank you!