

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November Events

#### FLX Gives

**November 14-15; 6 PM - 6 PM**

This online fundraiser will support holiday needs at our homeless shelter for families and individuals.

#### Thanksgiving Meal

**November 28; 1 PM - 2 PM**

Volunteers are needed for two different shifts to serve a free Thanksgiving Meal at the Elmira Community Kitchen. Sign up by 11/15.

#### Holiday Needs

##### Ongoing

See the back page or visit our website for more information.

### December Events

#### Christmas Dinner

**December 25; 1 PM - 2 PM**

Volunteers are needed for 2 different shifts to serve a free Christmas Meal at the Elmira Community Kitchen.

#### Christmas Wrapping

**December 6-13**

Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts for adopted families.

### January Events

#### Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Human trafficking awareness information will be available online at [www.SafeHarbourHelp.org](http://www.SafeHarbourHelp.org).

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Each newsletter will feature highlights from two of our programs that are serving our community and making an impact.

### Domestic Violence Services

Did you know that Catholic Charities runs the First Step Victim Services program? This initiative assists any innocent crime victim in Chemung and Schuyler County, with a particular emphasis on supporting victims of domestic violence. Our program provides various services, including safety planning, assistance with protection orders, court accompaniment, one-on-one counseling, advocacy, support, and much more. Additionally, we operate a 24-hour hotline staffed by our dedicated team.

While domestic violence often manifests as physical abuse, it can also involve other forms of violence, such as emotional, financial, sexual, and psychological abuse.

It's important to recognize that anyone can become a victim of domestic violence, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, or socioeconomic status.

If you're interested in learning more about our domestic violence services or how you can participate in our program, please contact Lauren at 607-535-2050. All services are completely free and confidential.



### Housing Counseling

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler offers three key housing counseling services:

- **\*\*First Time Homebuyer's Program\*\*:**  
Celebrating 30 years in November 2024, it has helped 488 families purchase their first homes in Elmira, providing \$20,000 in closing cost/down payment assistance.
- **\*\*Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Counseling\*\*:**  
Assists homeowners at risk of foreclosure in Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, and Tioga Counties through HUD Certified Housing Counselors.
- **\*\*Financial Fitness Counseling\*\*:**  
Personalized support for financial goals, including budgeting and credit improvement, available in the same counties and integrated with other programs.

For more information, contact Karen at [Karen.Wheeler@dor.org](mailto:Karen.Wheeler@dor.org) or 607-317-5753.

Non-Profit Orgn.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 2  
Elmira, NY

Catholic Charities Chemung/Schuyler  
215 E Church St, Elmira, NY 14901  
www.CatholicCharitiesCS.org

## Volunteer Opportunities

The holidays are almost here and Catholic Charities is bursting with volunteer opportunities! Visit our new volunteer portal to discover special events to spread some holiday cheer! Our volunteers are the real MVPs, showering our community with love and hope. Want to join the fun? Just scan that QR code and create your volunteer profile today! You'll be teaming up with our "Angels & Saints," a fantastic crew transforming lives with their time. Don't wait—sign up today and let the magic begin!



## Ways to Help for Christmas

We are looking for individuals or groups who would be willing to adopt a family for Christmas, purchase gift cards for individuals, wrap presents, or host a drive for coats, hats, and gloves. Wish lists from local families in need will be provided. Open your phone's camera and point it at the QR code below to be prompted to open our web page in your phone's browser. From there, you can see the complete list and sign up to help!

Thank you!



## Fundraising Events

Our Annual Fundraising Gala successfully raised more than \$37,000 to support services for individuals experiencing hunger and homelessness. Thank you to all who donated, volunteered or sponsored! Mark your calendars for our Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon, taking place on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at Notre Dame High School. Tickets will be available for purchase in January for this signature event.

