



SISTER BETSY VAN DUSEN, CSJ
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MAUREEN PETRIE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 2025

Please Support Catholic Charities of Herkimer County This Holiday Season

Dear Friends,

This holiday season I am reaching out to ask for your support of Catholic Charities of Herkimer County. Each year, our organization provides over 24 critical programs, serving more than 20,000 unduplicated individuals throughout our community. Your donation directly supports initiatives that offer food, shelter, emergency assistance, and other essential services to individuals and families in need. With your help, we can continue making a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Ever-increasing numbers of families, in our community, are experiencing hunger and food insecurity. Your assistance is vital to our ability to continue providing the following programs that address these needs.

- **Emergency Assistance Food Bags:** These bags contain enough non-perishable foods to sustain individuals and families for one to three days when cooking is not possible.
- **Frankfort/Ilion Food Pantry:** We provide nutritious food to residents of Frankfort and Ilion experiencing hardship and others with emergent needs. In October alone, use of the pantry increased by 30.8%.
- **Food Sense:** This monthly food buying co-op is open to anyone looking to stretch their grocery dollars—no qualifications or subscriptions required. Each Food Sense box contains 12 to 15 staple grocery items and is offered at the discounted price of \$20.50. (Additional specials are available each month). This year, over 2,000 food boxes and 4,000 specials have been ordered.
- **Nutrition Outreach & Education Programs:** We provide education about Food Stamps (SNAP) and offer free, confidential pre-screening for eligibility. Our staff also assist individuals with the SNAP application process.
- **Ecumenical Food & Shelter Council (EF&SC):** The EF&SC coordinates efforts across Herkimer County food pantries, tracks FEMA spending, applies for grants, gathers vital statistics, and encourages sharing of best practices to maximize the impact of these resources.

Our 28th Annual Sister Rachel Campaign is now underway. Every dollar raised stays within Herkimer County and goes directly to supporting our local programs, especially those aimed at combating food insecurity.

Your ongoing generosity and support are sincerely appreciated. Together, we can help ensure that all members of our community have access to the food and the other assistance they need to thrive.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maureen Petrie'.

Maureen Petrie, Executive Director

Enclosures: Service Guide, remittance form & envelope for your convenience.