

CALLED TO SERVE



Ed & Louise Bechtel *Lehigh County Chairpersons*

We were both raised to share the gifts God gave us: time, talents and treasure. That may be in sharing our voices in our parish choir, volunteering within our community, or sharing material gifts with others less fortunate. The Bishop's Annual Appeal serves as a vehicle by which our gifts are directed to those in great need in our diocese.

We have also witnessed the support of Catholic education by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Our four children attended St. John Neumann Regional School and Allentown Central

Catholic High School. The schools have benefited from grants to update facilities. We have also witnessed social services provided through the diocese. The Slatington Library, where Louise works, serves as a neutral site where representatives of Catholic Charities meet with clients. When a suddenly homeless woman evicted from her apartment showed up at the library, a call to Catholic Charities resulted in her daughter being notified and a temporary solution found. We are gratified to know that our donations are used to do so much good. God has been good to us. We have been blessed in so many ways. The Bishop's Annual Appeal gives us the opportunity to share those blessings. We are humbled to be asked to represent the Lehigh County as chairs for the 2018 Appeal.

In support of Lehigh County...

- 32,981 meals were provided by the Ecumenical Soup Kitchen
- 93 individuals were assisted with their pregnancies, while exploring the positive options of parenting and adoption
- Older adults were cared for at Holy Family Manor in Bethlehem
- 26 students were awarded Bishop's Catholic Scholarships to attend Catholic Schools
- 37 school-age students and 8 adults currently attend Mercy School for Special Learning and receive educational and social programs to reach their full potential
- The Aquinas Program at St. John Vianney Regional School provided educational support to elementary school students with learning disabilities
- 7 seminarians from Lehigh County are currently being educated and are preparing for the priesthood

Diocese wide...

- 324 home visits provided through The Older Adults Program
- 46,753 meals provided through the Soup Kitchens
- 12 infirmed priests cared for
- 312 families received counseling and behavioral health services
- 134 Vets served through the Veteran's program
- 1,153 individuals were provided immigration services including family reunification and citizenship



 Bishop's
Annual
Appeal
Faith • Hope • Charity

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL OFFICE