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May 26, 2020

### **Archbishop's Annual Appeal Distributes \$321,000 in Emergency Grants**

In response to the current health crisis and in recognizing the strain that it has placed on community-based organizations, the Archdiocese of Hartford has allocated an additional \$321,000 from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal to be distributed among 91 organizations that provide direct assistance to those lacking basic necessities through soup kitchens, food pantries, food banks, and shelters.

The groups receiving these grants had already received a contribution from the 2019 Appeal but according to Archbishop Blair, "the coronavirus has created a very challenging situation for many charitable community organizations. The Archdiocese needs to help as much as we can, and when I say 'archdiocese' I mean the generosity of the Catholic people."

Since its creation in 1997, the Appeal's *Vicariate Outreach Program (VOP)* has contributed over seventeen million dollars to local charities in the Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, and Litchfield areas. Donations to the 2019 Appeal enabled the *VOP* to provide more than one million dollars, for the fourth consecutive year, to 226 local charities that help thousands of people in their local communities.

"This is such a great and generous opportunity," says Lisa Crew, Director of Human, Social and Leisure Services for the Town of Watertown, after receiving a grant from the VOP in 2019 for the Watertown Food Bank. "We are very fortunate that the Archbishop's Annual Appeal selected our mission by assisting us in our goal to help those in our community."

This appreciation for contributors to the Annual Appeal is shared by Archbishop Blair, who said, "I want to express my personal gratitude and, if I may, the gratitude of those helped by your prayers, sacrificial giving and reliable support of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. In circumstances such as these, the Catholic community of faith will want to be remembered for assisting an array of people who did not choose to be lacking employment, housing, food or health."

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