



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES CELEBRATES STORIES OF LOVE

ATTENTION: News Desks, Reporters, Photo, Interview, & Video

(Media coverage is welcome throughout the evening. Bishop Zubik and awardees will be available for photos, video and interviews from 5:30 to 6:00 pm in the Pennsylvania Room of the Westin Convention Center Hotel.)

WHAT: 35th Annual Bishop's Dinner

WHEN: Friday, May 19, 2017, 7:30 pm

WHO: Bishop David A. Zubik, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, friends, and supporters

LOCATION:

The Westin Convention Center and Hotel
1000 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Website: www.ccpgh.org

PITTSBURGH – Catholic Charities has been serving residents of the six counties of the Diocese of Pittsburgh since 1910, and this Friday, at the 35th Annual Bishop's Dinner, celebrates the men and women who have made over a century of service possible.

The Dinner's Host Chairs, owners of Alumisource, Gloria and Gabe Hudock, became friends of Catholic Charities just last year. Presenter of KDKA Morning News, Larry Richert returns as Master of Ceremonies. The theme of the 2017 dinner is *Stories of Love*, and Catholic Charities' supporters, volunteers, and staff will gather for a moving evening in honor of the hundreds of stories of overcoming, recovery, and triumph that the agency witnesses every year.

“Love is what empowers individuals and families in need to surmount the greatest of obstacles,” says Catholic Charities’ Executive Director, Susan Rauscher; “at the 2017 Annual Bishop’s Dinner, our guests will have the opportunity to hear and rejoice in those powerful stories of love.”

Among the evening’s highlights is the presentation of the Caritas Awards to individuals and organizations that uphold the values of loving service:

Rachel Allen receives the **Caritas Leadership Award** for her service on the Boards of numerous local charities, including the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, Neighborhood Legal Services, and Catholic Charities.

University of Pittsburgh senior linebacker Mike Caprara wins the 2017 **Caritas Service Award** for his remarkable devotion to volunteerism. Every spring during his time as a Pitt student, Mr. Caprara has visited Haitian orphanages with the Coalition for Christian Outreach, and year-round he participates in numerous volunteer activities, including spending time with patients at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, reading at local elementary schools, and building Ebola Caregiver Kits with World Vision.

St. John the Baptist Parish, Monaca, wins Catholic Charities’ **Caritas Living the Spirit Award** for their service to those in need and their hard work every year at the Father Marcus O’Brien Service Awards Dinner to benefit Catholic Charities’ Beaver County Outreach.

Edward R. Friel was adopted as a child through Catholic Charities’ adoption program, and this Bishop’s Dinner the agency recognizes his years of giving back. Mr. Friel receives the **Caritas Legacy of Love Award** for his long-term service and the expert guidance he has given to the Boards of both Catholic Charities and Rebuilding Pittsburgh Together.

WTAE anchor Kelly Frey is honored with the **Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl Caritas Flame of Hope Award** for the motivation that she offers and the tremendous courage that she has shown as the parent of a child who has, as she puts it, “extra needs.” Ms. Frey’s older child, Bennett, was born with a critical brain malformation in 2009, having been diagnosed in utero. She offers her family’s story of overcoming as inspiration for others encountering similar struggles.

In addition to the awards presentation, the evening will provide guests an opportunity to meet some of the individuals that have benefited from Catholic Charities’ services, and share in their “Stories of Love.”

Catholic Charities top event sponsors include: UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Mercy, Highmark, Jones Day, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, Federated Investors, McMahan Financial, McKamish, and Huntington Bank.

“We are delighted to support the Annual Bishop’s Dinner and other Catholic Charities events,” says Scott Lammie, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UPMC Insurance Services Division; “Catholic Charities has provided exceptional social services to local residents in need for over a century, and that deserves to be celebrated.”

***About Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, serving all, regardless of religious affiliation, at their time of great need. With offices in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington counties, Catholic Charities has been providing programs and services since 1910. Catholic Charities offers counseling, a Free Health Care Center for the uninsured and underinsured, Senior Centers and Services (out of Lawrence County) homeless assistance, pregnancy and parenting support, refugee services, and more. For more information about our programs and services, visit www.ccpgh.org.*

