

Christmas Appeal

What is the Christmas Appeal?

It is a cooperative effort of the *Catholic Courier* and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester to raise funds for people in desperate financial crisis.

For the past 30 years, the appeal has enabled the Catholic community to help thousands of people in the 12 diocesan counties to help meet life's basic needs. Christmas Appeal funds have been there for them when no other sources of aid were available.

Who benefits from it?

The Christmas Appeal helps individuals and families in short-term financial crises. These are people who have no financial resources and are either awaiting or ineligible for assistance from other sources.

How does it work?

Appeal proceeds are allocated to the emergency funds of the following diocesan agencies: Catholic Family Center; Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes; Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier; Catholic Charities of Livingston County outreach; Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation; and diocesan Urban Services.

PLEASE USE MY DONATION TO
HELP A NEIGHBOR IN NEED

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

MAIL CHECK
(payable to "Christmas Appeal")
and this coupon to:
Christmas Appeal c/o Catholic Courier
PO Box 24379 Rochester, NY 14624

Appeal

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Charged with endangering the welfare of her children, she had been referred for counseling to Catholic Family Center by the drug court, whose goal is rehabilitation. Today she's also going through the Strong Recovery substance-abuse program.

Christmas Appeal money helped her find emergency housing, obtain food, and paid a \$15 fee related to a job application. Catholic Family Center also helped her to find clothing to get her through the various seasons.

"They pointed me in the right direction to the right agencies I didn't know were out there," Murph added. "It's a valuable agency and not one I take for light. It is very valuable in my life. When I was homeless, I was glad to know there are charitable agencies that don't look at you as detrimental to society."

"My objective was, 'Lord, let me get through this and get my family back'" she continued.

Murph said she knows she has to work on her shortcomings, and keeps in close contact with her counselor. She's also in anger-management classes — and highly recommends them.

"In going through the anger-management course, I'd thought it was a bunch of crock, but I have a better opinion of what it is now," she said. "It's not a bunch of crock. It works. You can't change anyone. You can only work on yourself. Being bitter was-



n't working."

Last May she and her ex-husband got back together.

"We're back together because we know it's important," she said. "We're both from families that didn't have a father figure. We just didn't want to raise our kids separately. It's not easy going. I can't erase the past. I'm going to work through it. I'm not going to get angry over stuff that doesn't matter."

Her counselor is helping her search for work to support herself and her family. She'd also like to return to school.

In Murph's case, as with many other struggling people, Christmas Appeal money made a difference when it was

most needed.

"When they get the critical issues out of the way — food, medication and transportation, it helps them to focus on things that are really important — like addiction, housing and employment," said Jacquelyne Turner, senior case manager with CFC.

Bobbi McGarrity, emergency services caseworker with Catholic Family Center, said, "A good way of thinking about it is that it's hard to address issues going on in someone's life when they're hungry. She's really done a big turnaround, it's nice to see."

Murph agrees. "It looks like something positive may be coming out of it. I have a feeling the year 2000 is going work out for me."

People in need

Christmas Appeal funds are available year-round to people in need. The cases below are typical of those who received Appeal funds during the past year. Catholic Family Center provided assistance in most of these cases:

★ A single, working mom received \$27 so she could buy an inhaler for her 11-year-old son who had asthma.

★ A young mother was attending a nursing-training program to enable her to get off welfare. Appeal funds enabled her to purchase a nursing uniform she

otherwise could not have afforded on the stipend she received from the Department of Social Services.

★ A single man who'd obtained work as a substitute teacher needed bus fare to get back and forth to different schools. Appeal funds of \$25 provided two weeks of transportation until he received his first paycheck.

★ A single mom was able to keep her daughter in a summer day-care program so she could continue working, thanks to \$50 from the Christmas Appeal fund.

★ Ten dollars from the Appeal enabled a young man with no income to

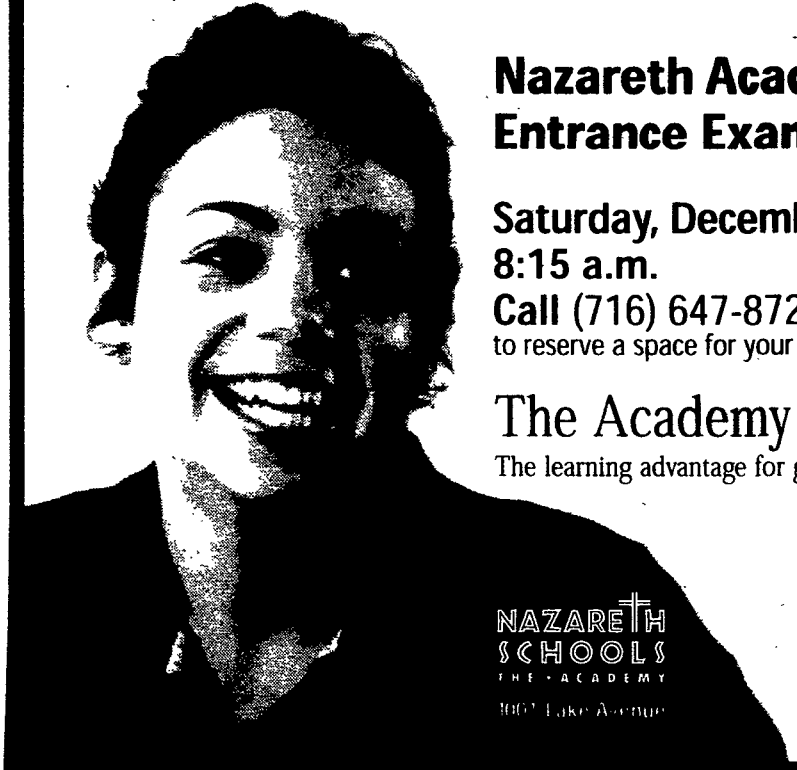
obtain a police background check so he could be cleared for a security job.

★ William had been a steam-engine mechanic so renowned that people all over the world came to him with steam engine problems. This year he and his wife, Ruth, contacted Sheen Housing. William had Parkinson's Disease. The couple had no living relatives or children or anyone else to help them. Sheen Housing restored their front porch, which was falling down and causing water damage inside the house. Workers also repaired the foundation, the water-damaged area and the basement door.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1999
FROM 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Monsignor Fahey is a graduate of St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester and is a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse. One of his ministerial positions while serving in Syracuse was as their Director of Catholic Charities. Presently, Monsignor Fahey is Marie Ward Doty Professor of Aging Studies at Fordham University's Third Age Center in the Bronx, New York, and a former president of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

Monsignor Fahey will address topics including:

- What is Ethics?
- Rights of the Individual vs. Community
- End of Life Choices
- Spirituality
- Treatment Termination in Long Term Care: What about the Family?

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