



Creating Hope, Transforming Lives

Catholic Charities

DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

Oswego County

Catholic Charities Goes Tobacco Free



Abby Jenkins (c), coordinator of the Tobacco Free Network of Oswego County presents Mary Margaret Pezella-Pekow (r), executive director, and Helen Hoefer (l), supervisor of community services at Catholic Charities of Oswego County with signage to promote Catholic Charities new tobacco free environment policy. For more information on the TFN visit www.tobaccofreenys.org.

Catholic Charities of Oswego County has joined the growing list of area, business, clubs, and organizations that have officially become tobacco free environments.

Utilizing the resources of the Tobacco Free Network of Oswego County (TFN), Catholic Charities has gone tobacco free both inside and outside of its building. According to Executive Director, Mary Margaret Pezella-Pekow, the assistance she received from the Tobacco Free Network was invaluable in the implementation of the agency's tobacco free policy.

“Abby Jenkins (coordinator of the TFN) was great,” said Pezella-Pekow. “She provided us with informational materials, best practices on introducing the tobacco free policy to our employees and consumers, and signage for inside and outside of building.”

Established in 1999, the Tobacco Free Network of Oswego County is a community-based coalition committed to reducing the human and social toll of tobacco use in Oswego County. Supported by funding from the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program, Tobacco Free Network utilizes local outreach opportunities to:

- Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke
- Decrease the social acceptability of tobacco use
- Reduce tobacco displays in local retail environments
- Create greater access to tobacco-free parks and playgrounds
- Prevent the initiation of tobacco use among youth and young adults

- Promote cessation from tobacco use and the NYS Smoker's Quitline

Catholic Charities of Oswego County serves all people in need regardless of their religious affiliation. Primary funding sources for Catholic Charities of Oswego County's programs are the United Way of Greater Oswego County, the Diocesan Hope Appeal, the County of Oswego and private donations by individuals, local companies and organizations.