



For Immediate Release

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Community Crisis Network in Schenectady Relaunches with New Name, Celebrates 20th Anniversary

SCHENECTADY, NY. (Nov. 26, 2019): In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) has relaunched the Community Crisis Network (CCN) as the **Community Resource Network (CRN)**.

“We are excited to introduce the Community Resource Network (CRN) and to continue building on the excellent work the CCN has done over the past two decades,” said Debra Schimpf, SCAP’s Chief Executive Officer. “We’re relaunching CRN in order to reconnect with the community and to remind people about the life-changing services we provide on a daily basis to families and individuals experiencing desperation in the face of homelessness, poverty and crisis.”

The program was originally formed in 1998 as a community partnership in response to concerns by area congregations of an increase in people seeking assistance, and a desire to improve assessment and response. Over the past 20 years, the Network has emerged as a best practice model for people to receive the support they need in times of crisis.

“People find themselves in “crisis” at a moment’s notice. Who do they turn to and how do they get assistance? It is degrading, frustrating and time consuming to go from place to place to place, hoping for help, said Rabbi Matthew Cutler of Congregation Gates of Heaven. “But the Community Resource Network is designed to restore a sense of dignity to those who are in greatest need of it. We take another by the hand, respecting who they are and their value as a human being, and shepherd them through the community service maze. They have a friend, an advocate and someone who can motivate them.”

CRN provides an array of services to assist local residents meet basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, utilities, medical care, employment supports, and transportation. The objective is to maximize resources available while reducing the duplication of services, thereby eliminating the frustrating search for assistance that people in crisis often endure.

One of CRN’s most unique programs is the Emergency Fund. 100% of the donations received in this fund helps support people experiencing crisis when no other community resources are available. For example, this money is used to help people obtain copies of their birth certificate or other forms of identification when they need to for public assistance. It also helps people purchase bus passes so they can get to work or drop off their children at daycare. It also helps people with emergency housing assistance, utility payments, and prescription medications among other ways it impacts people’s lives.

Partners in the Community Resource Network include Catholic Charities of Schenectady, Schenectady Community Ministries (SICM), City Mission of Schenectady, and area congregations including First Reformed Church, Schenectady and Congregation Gates of Heaven.

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