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Appeal 2022 'HOPE Day' is Wednesday, May 11

Annual day of match giving in support of Appeal's \$9.5 million goal

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE BUFFALO CATHOLIC DIOCESE

"HOPE Day," the annual 24-hour match challenge day of giving to benefit Appeal, is set for Wednesday, May 11, across Western New York. The first \$75,000 raised will be matched dollar-for-dollar, with gifts from donors who wish to remain anonymous, in the ongoing effort to reach 2022's \$9.5 million goal in support of Catholic Charities of Buffalo and the "Fund for the Faith." Appeal 2022 has currently raised \$7,759,477, or 81% of its goal to date.

"As we mark the fifth 'HOPE Day,' this annual day of above and beyond match giving has helped to raise nearly \$1.6 million to bolster our Appeals over the years," said Deacon Steve Schumer, president and CEO of Catholic Charities. "Western New

York's support for Appeal 2022 has been fantastic, but we still have a distance to go to reach our goal. Thank you for your generosity and for joining with us this 'HOPE Day' as we help bring hope to our neighbors who need it most."

During "HOPE Day," volunteers from Appeal committees and some Catholic Charities staff members will make phone calls from Catholic Charities Montante Administrative Center in Buffalo to those who haven't donated yet this year, giving them the chance to double their gift.

Diamond Hawk Golf Course, located at 255 Sonwil Drive, Cheektowaga, is also serving up "HOPE for HOPE Day." Now through May 11, \$2 from every fish fry, burger and brisket on week sold will go to support "HOPE Day" and Appeal 2022.

The annual Appeal helps fund

57 programs and services administered by Catholic Charities across 80 locations, along with several ministries that benefit all parishes through the "Fund for the Faith." Programs and services provided by Catholic Charities supported more than 125,000 individuals, children and families of all faiths in 2021. These included basic emergency assistance, such as food pantries, educational and workforce training services, family safety and stabilization services, immigration and refugee assistance, mental health and substance use treatment, and youth and family support services.

To donate on HOPE Day, visit ccwny.org/hopeday or call 716-218-1400.

Appeal 2022 runs through June 30.

Catholic Charities has helped individuals and families in need

since its founding in 1923. That need is varied and widespread – from emergency assistance to mental health counseling and treatment, and from specialized services for older adults to help with job training and education. Catholic Charities empowers children, families and seniors to achieve meaningful, healthy and productive lives. In all situations, Catholic Charities delivers support to meet immediate needs, and then assesses clients for other needs to ensure long-term success. An excellent steward of the contributions it receives, Catholic Charities earns high ratings from Charity Navigator for transparency and sound fiscal management and is a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity. Catholic Charities also receives highest ratings from the Council on Accreditation for quality service. For more information, visit ccwny.org.

Marasco will run for village mayor with emphasis on community-based open & ethical government, communication, accessibility

BY THE FRIENDS OF CLAUDIA MARASCO

Claudia Marasco gets things done ... not by pushing her own agenda or by playing partisan politics. But by listening. If you see her striding down Center Street, don't assume she is just out for a walk. She is on a mission. She wants to know what is in the hearts and minds of the Lewiston villagers and business owners. What is important to them?

Stopping to talk along the way, she doesn't get far on her daily treks, which often take her in unexpected directions. When one Lewiston woman expressed her concern for public safety in light of several national deadly mass shootings, Claudia sprang into action. Raising the issue at the next Village Board meeting, she learned that the local police did not have the proper gear to protect them from assault weapons. That's when she and her neighbor, Arlene, launched their "Invest in a Vest" program, raising \$30,000 to purchase custom vests for 24 Lewiston and Youngstown officers, as well as K-9 Taser.

As a "doer," Claudia believes in

planning ahead, for the safety and prosperity of our village, residents, businesses and schools. It is essential if we want to continue to draw people to our festivals, restaurants and businesses. Claudia is also a strong supporter of Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1

On another of her regular walks, she noticed there was no handicap parking around the gazebo, a popular location for concerts, weddings and gatherings. Claudia spearheaded the designation of several permanent handicapped parking spaces at the corner of Fourth and Center. Unfortunately, in the effort to de-sign Lewiston, the handicap signs were the first to come down. However, true to her "get it done" attitude, Claudia went to work on this issue and made sure they were put back up.

In 2009, Claudia helped to organize a summer money and food drive collection at the entrance of Artpark for three local soup kitchens that help feed local people. "I am so lucky to help and continue making this dream of the late Mamie Simonson come true," she said.

In the 2020 census, 10% of our

senior population over 65 live beneath the poverty level. "We are a small community with a generous heart," she said. As Claudia often reminds us, "Lewiston is a destination, but for many of us, it is our final destination."

As the first woman deputy mayor and elected village trustee, her extensive background in community public service has enabled her to become even more involved, sitting on many boards representing the village and working with the following organizations: Northwest Jazz Festival board, Lewiston Business Group, the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, Beautification, VFW, Lewiston Council on the Arts, Lewiston Friends of the Library, Bicentennial 2022 Committee, Memorial Day Remembrance, and the Electric Light Parade.

As a result of her extensive community service, Claudia was the recipient of The International Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Award, as well as Lewiston Citizen of the Year in 2010 and again in 2017.

Why is Claudia running? Well, for one thing, she has been asked by many over the years to run

for mayor – but especially since being elected trustee in 2018. First and foremost, she is excited by the opportunity to facilitate and transition into a community-based open and ethical government with communication and accessibility. And, importantly in this day and age, Claudia has proven that she can cross the "political divide" and work with both sides of the aisle for the betterment of our beautiful community. She received almost 70% of the votes in the 2018 election coming from all political parties. She believes that your voice counts because as she states, "Our people are the community's most capable and valuable assets." Claudia is one of us and will continue to speak and act as our community voice and our shared vision.

Claudia would be honored to serve as the mayor of our dynamic and historic one-square-mile village. As she has proven in the past, she is eager to bring her community-based public service to another level.

If you want something done, just ask Claudia. If you really want something done, vote for Claudia for mayor.

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