



Tioga County Rural Ministry

A Hand In Deed, Serving the Need

Newsletter • Spring 2026

Executive Director -- Sister Mary O'Brien, CSJ
Office Manager -- Rachel Cron
Outreach Services Director -- Galen Morehead
Bookkeeper -- Deborah Smith
Maintenance -- Wayne Godfrey
Volunteer Coordinator -- Janis Higgins
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A network of caring



Galen Morehead

At Tioga County Rural Ministry, we often say that no single organization can do it all. The challenges facing our neighbors are complex, and meeting them requires a community effort.

Recently, a Senior came to TCRM seeking financial assistance for several pressing needs. When we learned that he was a veteran, we connected him with the Tioga County Veterans Service Agency. They were able to cover nearly all his requests using federal funding. TCRM covered the remaining balance.

Because we always prioritize the use of federal, state or county funds before drawing from our own resources, this collaboration preserved ministry funds while ensuring a veteran received the full support he had earned.

Every month, we team up with agencies such as the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities and the Church of the Nazarene. By coordinating our efforts, we stretch every dollar further, allowing us to provide comprehensive assistance to individuals who often face many hurdles at once.

These partnerships also highlight TCRM's unique role in the community. While a partner agency such as Catholic Charities may focus primarily on rent and utilities, TCRM is blessed with the flexibility to assist with a wide array of needs. When another agency covers a family's housing, it frees us up to tackle highly specific, unexpected crises, such as a sudden car repair.

Your generous donations to TCRM give us the flexibility to step into those gaps. Thank you for partnering with us, supporting our work and ensuring we can always provide the unique help our community needs most.

Galen Morehead
Outreach Services Director



The
fun
is in
the
bag

Designer Purse Bingo boosts TCRM, gamers' spirits



I won!



These chairs built by Sheriff Gary Howard were among the prizes.



Hard at work



All smiles

This was the fourth year for our Designer Purse Bingo. Thanks to all who helped make it such a fun afternoon!



Spring Clean-up teams help seniors stay in their own homes



Centenarian Clara with the team that spruced up her yard.



It takes two.



Fighting
with a
forsythia



Job well done

Desire to serve led Katie Chandler to accept a seat on TCRM's Board



Katie Chandler

When Sister Mary O'Brien asked Katie Chandler if she'd like to serve as Treasurer of TCRM's Board of Directors, she happily agreed.

"I was intrigued by the wide range of programs and services the ministry offers," she says. "They help meet people's immediate needs while also working alongside them to build independence and long-term stability."

Katie's three-year term on the board ended

recently. With her experience in finance, budgeting and banking, she has helped ensure the organization remains strong and sustainable for years to come.

When she joined the board, Katie had one child. She now has three, ages 3 months to 7 years. "I am very thankful for Sister Mary and the whole board for being so supportive of my family and giving me grace when I needed it."

Donations were received from the following donors from January 23 to June 18, 2026

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 Krasniak, Stephen &
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 Kwiatkowski, Michael
 Liberty, Bob & Gail
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 Shirley
 Macek, Anthony &
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 Wood, Karen
 Woodruff, Richard &
 Patricia
 Wovkulich, Peter &
 Sally
 Wunder, Donald &
 Marie
 Yammine, Kim
 Yarrington, Roy &
 Carolyn
 Zielinski, Danielle



In Honor of: Donations were made in honor of the following:

Al & Jane Turshman
 Birthdays
 Bobuka-Leonard,
 Yvonne
 Don Castellucci's 30
 years of public service
 Jim & Emy Franz's
 Birthdays
 Orth, Dick & Ruthanne
 Raymond & Geri
 Balwierczak's Birthdays
 The Purim Custom



In Memory of: Donations were made in memory of the following:

Belle, Vincent
 Carlson, Casey
 Cyganovich, Frances
 Davidson, Michael
 Demoski, Doreen
 Dewitt, Vivian
 Farabaugh, Cindy
 Foos, Maureen
 Howard, Shirley
 Howe, Dennis "Matt"
 Hunter, Sharon
 Hyatt, Gerald
 Kauczka, Bill
 Kopacko, Eileen A.
 Kozlk, Joseph
 Kwiatkowski departed
 family members
 Lenner Sr., Edward J.
 Lounsbury, Dick
 Mansfield, Deborah
 Paccone, Joan
 Ruggero, Mary Jane
 Scarella, Jacqueline
 Schuler, Eudora
 Shady, Robert
 Shirtz, Donna
 Sr. Phyllis McGuire
 Sunderwith, Al
 Swinarski, Eric Michael
 Swinarski, Joan
 Taylor, Alexandra Dawn
 Tomazin, Joe & Julie
 Waters, Paul
 Wilkinson, Paul



A lesson in giving
 Martha Donovan's
 grandchildren
 brought donations
 to TCRM (left).
 We thanked them
 with Easter baskets.



Together, we're changing lives for the better

Financial Assistance Request Statistics

Month	Families Served	New Families	F/T Employed	P/T Employed
February	21	5	9	0
March	55	19	32	2
April	58	29	35	9
May	47	27	29	5
TOTALS	181	80	104	16

Dear Friend(s),

The statistics above reflect ongoing trends that we are experiencing in our ministry as the costs of fuel, utilities and food continue to rise. An increasing number of families are grappling with the difficult task of making their income cover the cost of their basic needs.



Sister Mary O'Brien

Notice the correlating statistics of those requesting help with the number who are employed full time. Even though they are full-time employed, they are not making ends meet. For reference, we consider 32-plus hours as a marker for full-time employment.

What might we, at Tioga County Rural Ministry, do to counter this narrative? We began exploring ways that we can help low- to moderate-income residents attain jobs that exact a living wage.



Success story

Congratulations to Amanda (pictured with her family, third from left) on completing her phlebotomy program! Amanda successfully balanced her studies while continuing to work full time at Racker as a Direct Support Professional. Her passion for the medical field and commitment to helping those in need are evident in her dedication to her chosen career path. We are incredibly proud of her achievement and wish her success in her new role!

Phlebotomists are in demand, and the low base pay is \$25 per hour, so we started there by partnering with Broome-Tioga BOCES and Elmira BOCES.

The end result: two certified phlebotomists last year and two more this year!

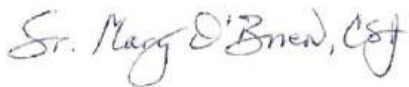
We are proud of these people who had the motivation and drive to work hard to fulfill a dream.

Now we are venturing into the world of CDL (commercial driver's license) drivers. Opportunities are highly competitive, with strong starting wages. Once again, we are partnering with Elmira BOCES to assist two highly motivated members of our community. They both obtained their permits and are ready to begin their classes in July. I'm not sure who is more excited – we or they!

How can we financially support these programs? Without you and your amazing support, these initiatives would not happen. We are so blessed because of YOUR support and YOUR partnership. Your partnership, in turn, enables us to bless the lives of others. A cycle of giving prevails!

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, we thank you for touching and blessing so many lives through your compassion, kindness and generosity. We wish you abundant summertime blessings.

Gratefully,



Sister Mary O'Brien, CSJ
Executive Director

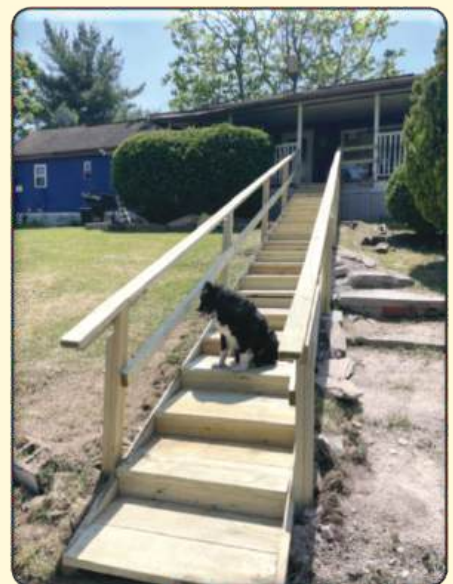


Problem solved

Our amazing ramp-building team knew that a traditional ramp at this home would be too steep, given the 20-degree drop. So, they designed and built a wide-step staircase (right).

Nice work!

(The dog agrees.)



MAKE A DONATION!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

If you are interested in receiving TCRM's newsletter by e-mail, please check here: _____

Please check the amount of your donation:

___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 Other _____

Thank you very much for your contribution. All donations will assist us in our outreach to the poor, sick and elderly of Tioga County.

Please return this form with your donation to:

TCRM, 146 Central Avenue, Owego, NY 13827

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

___ Distribute food at our annual Food GiveAway at TCRM on Sat., Aug.1, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

___ Assist on weekdays as a substitute food pantry volunteer:

___ 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; ___ 1-4 p.m.; ___ Thurs., 4-6 p.m.

___ Drive a teen and parent to the store of their choice to purchase Back to School clothing. You can name the day and time that work best for you in mid-July/August.

___ Bring extra produce to our outside Harvest Share booth during the summer.

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please return this form to:

TCRM, 146 Central Avenue, Owego, NY 13827

Soap for Hope



Kristin Sherman, left, shows TCRM Office Manager Rachel Cron the personal care items that were donated by her colleagues at Tioga Opportunities Inc.

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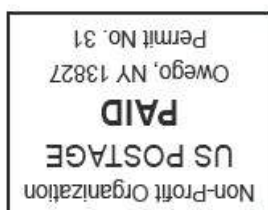
MISSION STATEMENT

We aspire to be a sign of Jesus' presence by serving the unmet needs of the poor, sick and elderly of Tioga County.



Find us on Facebook!

www.tcrm.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Tioga County Rural Ministry
146 Central Ave.
Owego, NY 13827

