



Our generous community inspires ‘joyful hope’

During an Advent Mass, I heard the priest pray these words: “As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior ...” I was struck by the words “joyful hope.”



Sister Mary O'Brien,
Executive Director

How do we live in “joyful hope” amidst deadly ICE raids, bombings and the continual use of violence to

settle our differences? How do we live in “joyful hope” when suffering members of our community are facing Medicaid and SNAP cutbacks?

My response: I turn off the TV. My heart can tolerate only so much sadness and grief.

World-renowned author, physician and spiritual leader Deepak Chopra notes, “What you put your attention to will grow. If your attention is attracted to negative situations and emotions, then they will grow in your awareness.” This is true for me.

So, while I continue to work for

justice, not always very successfully, I also look for signs of “joyful hope.” I need look no further than the people who support TCRM. You’ll find some of their names and ways they helped us help the community last season on Page 3.

A huge thank-you to our outstanding community, which daily offers “joyful hope” to me and to those who need it most. Thank you for being the face of hope for me!

I challenge you to look at the pictures in this newsletter and *not* see signs of “joyful hope.”

Creative fundraising at The Owego Kitchen benefits TCRM

Owego Kitchen patrons made a difference last year, thanks to the creative thinking of its general manager.

Preston Gerald Wright III had met Sister Mary O’Brien about 10 years ago and knew how much TCRM relied on the support of the community.

So last year, Preston took an idea he’d had for several years and made it a reality -- and made TCRM the beneficiary.

Inspired by college basketball’s March Madness, Preston created brackets featuring the 16 most popular items on The Owego Kitchen’s menu.

Patrons purchased copies of the bracket, and the proceeds, \$1,260, went to TCRM. The winner received a \$25 gift certificate to the restaurant



Preston G. Wright III, General Manager of The Owego Kitchen

for each month of the calendar year.

It was, Preston says, “a huge success,” and he plans to repeat that fundraiser this March.

Late last fall, when SNAP benefits were frozen and many in the community were struggling, Preston came up with “A Meal in a SNAP.” Owego Kitchen customers’ donations were turned into gift certificates ranging in value from \$5 to \$25. These were then given to TCRM

clients. Some certificates provided a bagel with cream cheese and a cup of coffee, Preston said. Others provided soup and a sandwich. In all, gift certificates totaling \$2,580 were shared with members of the community. The restaurant also donated 48 Thanksgiving dinners to TCRM.

Like those who have benefited from the generosity of Owego Kitchen customers, Preston said his own family received help when he was growing up.

“People were very good to us,” he said.

He sees raising funds for TCRM as a way to repay that kindness. And he’s not done yet: Come the summer, Preston hopes to introduce “Owego Monopoly.”

When SNAP benefits were frozen, the community stepped up



These local residents collected 2,500 pounds of food in just two hours at a pop-up drive.



American Legion Riders donated their \$1,000 proceeds from the sale of a used motorcycle.



ABOVE:
Coughlin & Gerhart employees with the food they collected.

RIGHT:
Once again, Owego Gymnastics came through for their neighbors in need.



Office Manager Rachel Cron with the food pantry's very well-stocked shelves.



Vietnam Veterans of America #480 doubled their 2024 donation, giving \$1,000 toward food purchases at Price Chopper.

Her job as TCRM's bookkeeper may be new, but Terri's is a familiar face



Terri (left) helping at the Christmas toy distribution.

Terri Czuhanich brings a wealth of experience to her new job as TCRM's bookkeeper: She was Double Aught Lumber's bookkeeper for 40 years.

While she has been in her current job just since last summer, Terri is no stranger to TCRM. She has volunteered at TCRM's food pantry, and she served for six years as a member of its Board of Directors.

Terri continues to serve on TCRM's Finance Committee.

Terri's also happy to help at special events such as the August Food Giveaway and the Christmas toy distribution. She says she likes interacting with people in need.

What first drew Terri to TCRM?

"They do such important things here," she says. "They help people who are truly struggling."

Donations were received from the following donors between Sept. 20, 2025, and Jan. 22, 2026.

Ace, Adam
 Ahwaga Ladder Co. #5
 Ahwaga Paint & Coatings
 ALDI Owego
 All Star Sports
 Allen, David & Janet
 American Legion Post 401
 Apalachin Lions Club
 Arnold, Earl & Sandra
 Baker, Beverly
 Ballantyne, Rick & Helene
 Barnes, Jessica
 Barton, Douglas & Gail
 Baur, Sue
 Begeal, Mary Ruth
 Berent, Scott & Jennifer
 Monahan
 Berg, Stu & Jean
 Bishop, James & Julie
 Bjorkman, Judy
 Bleiler, Lorraine
 Botts, Tom & Alice
 Bouleris, CSJ, Maria
 Bowen, Jana
 Bowers, Becky
 Brani, Sharon
 Brown, Bernadette
 Buckless, Noella
 Buturla, Bob & Carol
 Campbell, Dale & Carolyn
 Care Compass
 Collaborative
 Carl & Catherine Goers
 Charitable Trust
 Carlson, Michael & Madeline
 Cary, Thomas
 Casella Waste Systems
 Charles H. Bassett Youth Foundation
 Church World Services, Inc.
 Clark, John & Patricia
 Cook, Dr. Matthew, DDS
 Colmer, Phil & Ruth
 Conlon, Chris & Mary
 Cooke, Randy & Anne
 Corcoran, Dr. Kevin, MD
 Coyne, Elizabeth
 Creller, Duane & Eva
 Croton Hose Company 3
 Cruger, CSJ, Elizabeth
 Czuhanych, Gary & Terri
 D'Abbracci, Joe & Tami
 Davis, Sarah & Barb Neal
 Deis, Kathy
 Delaney, Bob & Shelley
 DeMara, Francis & Cheryl
 Devan, Robert & Bonnie
 Dilliplane, Richard & Gloria
 Dollar General, Owego
 Donovan, Ken & Martha
 Donovan, Michael & Linda
 Dougherty, John
 Eaton, Al & Monica
 Edward Jones Investments
 Edwards, Amelia
 EE Root LLC
 Ehn, Jean
 Englehart, Joan
 Enkling, Howard & Barb
 Ernest, Eleanor
 Ervay, Lawrence & Catherine

Eschler, Catherine
 Eschler, Steve & Kathy
 Esser, Anthony & Kathleen
 Pernice
 Family Dollar, Owego
 Felice, Mark & Kristin
 Fidelis Care
 Finlay, Daniel & Linda
 First Baptist Church of Owego
 First Methodist Church of Campville
 First Presbyterian Union Church of Owego
 Floyd Hooker Foundation
 Foster, Beverly
 Fowler, Rev. Michael
 Fox, Royden & Judith
 Franz, David & Family
 Franz, Dick & Pat
 Franz, Michael & Diane
 Franzenburg, Janeille
 Frenzel, Grace
 Fuehrer, Craig & Nina
 Galatzan, Carolyn
 Gary's Berries
 Gatto, Nicholas
 Gavin, Patrick
 Gelatt, Louis & Mary
 Geller, David
 Grant, Laurence
 Gray, Cliff & Jo Ann
 Green, Karen
 Guthrie Clinic, Owego
 Hagin, Bob & Jo-An
 Hanrahan, Joan
 Harders, Ruth
 Harper, John & Karen
 Hathaway, Bryan & Bonnie
 Hatlee, Kenneth & Maureen
 Haven of Rest Ministries
 Hepp, Linda
 Hess, Jim & Janice
 Hills, Terry
 Hogan, Mary
 Holbrook R. & Sarah M. Davis Foundation
 Home Central
 Howe, Daniel & Terri Smith
 Howe, Jim & Arlene
 Hulbert, Barbara
 Isaminger, Eric & Nancy
 Jenkins, Mary Jo
 Jennings, Bob & Aleta
 Joe Signs Power Equipment LLC
 Johnson, Mary Ann
 Katie's Creations
 Kelly, Sandra
 King, James & Leslie Anne
 Kopacko, John
 Kouterick, Rhonda
 Krasniak, Stephen & Janet
 Kwiatkowski, Michael
 Laidley, Mary Louise
 Lapcevic, Richard & Kathy
 Liberty, Bob & Gail
 Lilty, Paul & Barbara
 Ludewig, Eric & Joan
 Ludewig, Kathleen
 M & T Bank
 Macchiano, Angelo & Shirley

Marsh, David
 McEnteer, Thomas
 McNeil, David & Christine
 Mertson, Bill & Gerry
 Meyers, Petrina
 Michl, Elaine & Brian
 Millar, Kevin
 Millar, Mike
 Monell, Lisbeth
 Moon, Anne
 Morehead, Galen
 Murphy, David & Julie
 Nichols, Dr. Keith & Jane
 OFA Class of 1967
 Olin, Ed
 Our Savior Lutheran Church
 Ousterout, Patrick
 Outman, Suzanne
 Owego Gymnastics
 Owego Kiwanis Club
 Paccone, Robert & Joan
 Padula-Malchak, Mary
 Parise, Tony & Sally True
 Pasto, RJ
 Galatzan, Ron & Ellen
 Petzold, Mark & Karen
 Pitcher, Cathy
 Poe, Michael
 Pollock, Chris & Kerry
 Curran
 Potter, Traci
 Price Chopper
 Riesbeck, Steve
 Riley, Veronica
 Rossi, Nick & Florence
 Russian-Carpatho Club
 Saddlemire, Greg & Susan
 Hess
 Saraceno, Sam & Elizabeth
 Sargeant, Fran & Harry
 Sauerbrey, Lew & Martha
 Saunders, Ellen
 Saxton, Kandi & Richard
 Schimble, Tim & Deb
 Schoonover, Tammy
 Schultz, Peter & Jane
 Scott Smith & Son
 Sculley, Marcia
 Sessler Environmental Services
 Shipman, Aloysius
 Shorten, Charlene
 Shuler, Michael & Karen
 Simons, Gary & Patricia
 Simpson, Robert & Mary
 Slofkosky, Eileen
 Smith, Dean
 Smith, Gregory
 Smith, Joseph & Janice
 Smithboro United Methodist Church
 Sofranko, Paul
 Sons of the American Legion
 Southern Tier Antique Tractor Club
 Spiritual Center, Windsor
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 Stables, Jerald
 Standinger, Deb
 Stauber, Michael
 Steele, Dannie
 Stefek, Paul & Patricia

Stelmack, Robert & Kris
 Strauss, Linda & Kristen
 Sullivan, Loretta
 Summers, Daniel & Jody
 Syryca, Ed & Susan
 Szvec, Norman & Elizabeth
 Testa, Bob & Teri
 The Community Foundation for South Central NY
 The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers
 The Friends of the Coburn Free Library
 The Goat Boy, Inc.
 Thompson, Robert & Karen
 Tioga Chamber of Commerce
 Tioga Downs Regional Community Foundation
 Tioga Hardwoods
 Tioga Ridge Runners
 Tioga State Bank
 Toal, Don & Ruth
 Tri-Town Insurance
 Trivisonno, Michael & Anne
 Tulumello, Jacqueline
 Turshman, Al & Jane
 Vail, Thomas & Nancy Smith
 Vanderpool, Steven & Teri
 Vilaggio Italian Market
 Visions FCU
 Vlasak, Angeline
 Wagner Lumber
 Wainblat, Dorothy
 Ward, Connie
 Warner, Dave & Linda
 Warner, Morgan Collett
 Watkins, Michael & Ann
 Way, Chris & Bev
 Wegge, Sherry
 Weitsman's Recycling
 Wells, Michael
 Wetterling, Albert & Dolores
 Whimple, CSJ, Charla
 White, Bob & Allyson
 White, James
 White, Lawrence & Debra
 White, Terrence & Sue
 Whittemore Hill Methodist Church
 Wierman, Bill
 Wovkulich, Peter & Sally
 Yammine, Kim
 Younger, Stephen & Zucy
 Ortega
 Zendarski, Bob
 Zielinski, Danielle
 Zion Lutheran Church

My siblings Carole, John and Barbara
 O'Brien, CSJ, Mary
 Ore, Joyce
 Pat & Dick Franz's 72nd Wedding Anniversary
 Pitcher, Catherine
 Patricia Franz's 92nd Birthday
 Peters, CSJ, Sean
 Speaker Sr., Don



In Memory of:

Donations were made in memory of the following:

Ball, Judith
 Bradley, Imogene
 Buchanan, Jennifer
 Buckingham, Jerry
 Caldwell, Bud
 Carlson, Casey
 Carter, Glenn
 Castellucci, Donald & Grace
 Collins, Barb & Bob
 Collins, John & Joan
 Wainblat, Dorothy
 Davidson, Joseph
 Dimock, Art & Mary
 Duffy, Thomas F.
 Family Departed
 Hoban, Donna
 Honors, CSJ, Marion
 In Memory of Our Parents
 Kauczka, Bill
 Kobziewicz, Keith
 Kopacko, Eileen A.
 Lord, Richard & Mildred
 Yakey
 Luzzi, Michael
 Macek, Margaret
 Mauersberg, Fred
 Medovich, Mike
 Neary, Joan
 Neira, Lori
 Nichols, Gary
 O'Krepkie, Joseph
 O'Leary, Laura
 Ostrander, David
 Pastalan, Ted & Cassie
 Sarrge, Gail
 Seward, Darryl
 Shepardson, Amy
 Short, Shirley
 Sisson, Alinda
 Starkweather, William
 Strauss, Gary
 Swinarski, Eric Michael
 Swinarski, Joan
 Tiley, Joseph Craig
 Walker, Merry
 Ward, C. Keene & Richard
 D. VanScoy
 Ward, Marie
 Wierman, Delores
 Zendarski, Ceil
 Zendarski, Richard



In Honor of:

Donations were made in honor of the following:

Cron, Jennifer
 Deis, Wendy
 Hoban, Donna

How some in our community have brought 'joyful hope' to neighbors in need



Thanks, quilters!

Your generosity this past season was demonstrated by:

- pop-up community food drives in our churches, schools and neighborhoods;
- the elderly couple who decided to give up their Friday night dinners out and instead shop for and give food to TCRM;

- the volunteers at TCRM who daily inspire us with their kindness and graciousness;
- the family that sacrifices to make an \$8.34 monthly contribution;
- your donations of poinsettias, new bicycles, toys, quilts, stuffed animals and *mega* amounts of food. Our thanks to all of you!

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

___ Volunteer to work on our Spring Clean-up Day for seniors on Sat., April 11.

___ Assist as a regular food pantry volunteer (hours are either 10-1 or 1-4).

___ Assist as a substitute food pantry volunteer.

___ Deliver food to a homebound person on an occasional or monthly basis.

___ Assist, as needed, with data entry; Salesforce experience helpful.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*Please return this form to
TCRM, 146 Central Avenue, Owego, NY 13827*



GUTHRIE

**Thank you, Wagner
Lumber and Guthrie,
for being our
Inaugural Food Pantry
Sponsors!**



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Jana Bowen
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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 and Instagram!

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