

Catholic Charities to honor Sharing the Light recipients

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GENEVA — Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes will hold its annual Sharing the Light event at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, in the Vandervort Room in the Scandling Center on the campus of Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

“The collection of individuals we are honoring this year are certainly shining examples of the good that results when you live a life of purpose,” said Ellen Wayne, executive director. “This award provides an opportunity for us to take time to recognize their hard work, caring and compassionate spirits, and to learn a little more about some of the good work that is being done across our communities.”

This year’s Sharing the Light recipients are Robert S., Kathleen S. and Colleen Flowers; Charlie Greene; Family Promise of Ontario County; Phyllis Motill; Gary F. Shultz; and Frederick Smith.

Established in 1995, the Sharing the Light Award is presented annually to individuals from across the Finger Lakes area who dedicate their time and energies toward making the community a better place. The award incorporates a message from scripture that encourages individuals to share their talents with others.

This event is open to the public; however, tickets must be purchased in advance by June 4. Ticket cost is \$50 per person. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Rhonda Zettlemoyer at (315) 789-2235 ext. 104 or visit catholiccharities.fl.org.

- **Motill**, of Ovid, has served on the parish council, the restoration project committee and parish fellowship committee at Holy Cross. She organized Mary’s Maids of Holy Cross which has served for 10 years caring for the interior of the church. She is a lector and a member of the choir.

Motill also has served as vice president of the Seneca County Board of Health, president of Seneca County United Way, a member of the Seneca County Substance Abuse Coalition, and of the Romulus Education Foundation. She is a founding member of several organizations including Friends of the Three Bears, Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty, Pathway Home of Seneca County, and STEPS (Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions) of which she is a current member. Motill is an organizer of the Ovid Strawberry Festival and is involved with the Seneca County Christmas Project, the Tourism Promotion Committee and the New York Farm Days in Washington, D.C.

The first woman president of the Ovid Willard Lions Club (2009-2010), she has received the Seneca County Woman of the Year (2010) and the Building Bridges Award from the United Way (2015) awards.

- **Greene**, of the town of Niles, Cayuga County, has been a member of St. Ann’s/Sacred Heart parish for many years, participating as a past member of the Parish Council, trustee, past chairman of the St. Ann’s Church

barbecue and bazaar. He cooks at the annual St. Ann's Super Bowl parish breakfast and serves on the Sacred Heart/St. Ann's Building and Grounds Committee. In 2017 and 2018, working with the parish Social Ministry Committee (of which he is a member), he initiated an Earth Day Ecumenical Service for the Auburn community. Greene is a member of the Catholic Worker Movement (originated by Dorothy Day), having joined in 1971. He was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and is working with the New American (refugee) community in Syracuse.

Greene was a founding member of the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, serving as president from 2010 to 2013; founder of the Gratitude to Water Catholic Workers. He is a former member of the Niles Town Planning Board and served as town supervisor.

- **Shultz**, a lifelong Finger Lakes resident, has been a board member for American Red Cross (treasurer), Geneva United Way, Marion Whelan School of Nursing of Geneva General Hospital, Little League Softball board and coach, Geneva Free Library (treasurer), Finger Lakes Health Foundation, Finger Lakes Council Boy Scouts of America (executive board, assistant treasurer). He has been a trustee, payroll treasurer and a member of the Finance Committee and the Council of the First United Methodist Church of Geneva. He also has been a member of the Kiwanis Club, the Damascus Shrine and the Geneva Masonic Lodge 965 F & AM, where he has been the treasurer and the Past Master. At First UMC, he has been involved in two successful capital campaigns and created and supervised the Living Memorial endowment fund.

- **Smith** worked in the Penn Yan School District and at St. Mary's School, Waterloo as a school administrator. He returned to the classroom at St. Francis-St. Stephen School in Geneva before fully retiring in 2010.

He was the primary designer of the Danforth Magnet School Science Center and wrote a grant to obtain \$2.1 million for the Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Syracuse. His efforts to obtain grant funding over a 15-year period provided more than a million dollars for workforce development, community school programs, educational programs for the incarcerated, and teacher mentoring and training network. Since retiring 10 years ago, Smith has served as president of the board of directors for Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, a member of the board of the Friends of the Penn Yan Public Library and supported the Keuka Food Pantry.

- **The Flowers family** of Kathleen (Katie), Robert (Robb) and their daughter Colleen of Geneva, supports numerous organizations and community efforts.

Colleen, a fourth-grader at St. Francis-St. Stephen's School, participates in Girl Scouts, and with the YMCA Youth Lacrosse program. In lieu of birthday presents at several birthday parties, she's asked friends to support Geneva Reads, the Beverly Animal Shelter, and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

At Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Katie is responsible for strategic leadership and management of the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning. At the Center, she oversees a variety of service learning programs for students and faculty. Her Center's purview also includes the America Reads and HWS Tutor Corps federal work-study tutoring programs, Alternative Spring Break trips, post-graduate service opportunities, and recruitment into national and international service.

Katie is an AmeriCorps VISTA alumna. She is a board member of Geneva Reads, Geneva Community Projects, the Wyckoff Family Foundation, the Finger Lakes Health Community Advisory Board, Geneva 2020 and Success for Geneva's Children.

Robb has served for the past 11 years as the vice president for campus life at HWS. His civic service includes several years on the Smith Opera House board of directors, past and future stints as a member of the Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes Board, representing HWS on the College Area Livability Task Force, and serving on the Geneva City Manager Search Committee. In addition, he serves as a member of the Lyons National Bank Geneva Advisory Board.

Katie received the inaugural Dorinne Maxwell Memorial Citizenship Prize from the Hobart Athletic Department in 2006, the Hai Timiai Staff Award from the William Smith Honor Society in 2009 and was inducted as an honorary member of the William Smith Class of 2011. She received the Geneva Chamber of Commerce Young Athena Award in 2014. She also served on the team that won the All-America City designation at the National Urban League Competition in 2015.

• **Family Promise of Ontario County** is a volunteer-driven interfaith program whose mission is to unite the community, faith congregations, and existing agencies to provide a pathway for homeless children and their families to secure reliable housing and self-sufficiency. The goal is to help each family do this within 60 days.

Officially incorporated in October 2016, it received its 501(c)3 federal tax-exempt public charity in June 2017. To date, 31 congregations in 14 communities across Ontario county are committed to the program.

It will officially open in September and work with three or four families at a time. Thirteen host congregations, each assisted by one to three support congregations will provide evening shelter for families. Volunteers will provide more than 15,000 hours of service annually; congregations will provide a total of 2,038 bed nights and serve more than 8,000 meals. Family Promise of Ontario County also will operate a Day Center in Canandaigua, where families will receive individualized casework assistance, in addition having access to laundry facilities, showers and computers.

The most recent report, which covers the 2016-17 academic year, shows that Ontario County schools identified a total of 345 students ages 5 to 18 as homeless.

http://www.fltimes.com/briefs/catholic-charities-to-honor-sharing-the-light-recipients/article_332ba1cb-e938-5b41-8eb2-765a478ad33a.html