



BISHOP'S CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE FUND

Donor Newsletter

WINTER 2025

Corpus Christi Food Pantry in Nashua
providing butter, eggs, and milk to their clients.

Dear Friend,

The headlines have been telling a bleak outcome for struggling families in our state. The prices of food and other household expenses are affecting them and stretching their income. Unfortunately, for many fellow New Hampshire residents, this situation is real. Through your gifts to the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund, however, you are making a tangible difference.

Helping individuals and families, especially the poor and disadvantaged, is the reason we contribute and seek to improve the quality of life for all those living in New Hampshire. Thanks to your commitment to the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund, we can provide basic essentials to hundreds of people each and every year.

Bishop Peter Libasci and the Board of Directors reviewed many grant applications this year and so far have awarded 33 organizations \$93,700. As stewards of the gifts you make, the board works diligently to assist these most in need in our state. Enclosed with this newsletter is a short recap of the grants we have made since our reception in September 2024 so you can see how your contributions are helping others. We have two grant periods remaining to make additional awards and will report them in our June newsletter.

This year the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. We are extremely pleased to announce that the Annual Bishop's Summer Reception to benefit the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund will be held on **Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Trudel House (Bishop Libasci's residence), 657 River Road in Manchester, 5:30-8:30 pm.** Please mark your calendar.

Also, look for our newsletter to arrive in June and the invitation to the reception in July. Our need has never been greater to help our neighbors, and we count on your support as we have in the past.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cernota, Esq.

Chair



Andrew Cernota

Andrew P. Cernota, Esq. is a New Hampshire native and the managing member of the Maine, Cernota, and Curran law firm and a registered patent attorney. He has been with the firm since 2001.

Andrew earned his A.B. from Dartmouth College. He studied at Franklin Pierce Law Center, now University of New Hampshire School of Law, where he received his J.D. and L.L.M. in Intellectual Property.

Andrew is a Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a recipient of the Order's Silver Palm of Jerusalem for distinguished service to the Order and the Church, and is a member of the Council of the Northeastern (USA) Lieutenancy of the

Order representing the Knights and Dames of the Order in the Diocese of Manchester. He is Charter President of the New Hampshire Chapter of Legatus International. He is a member of the Diocesan Finance Council and has been a member of the BCAF Board of Directors since 2017. Andrew is also a member and past President of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of New Hampshire.

JOIN OUR EFFORTS!

- Add someone to the Bishop's Summer Reception invitation list by e-mailing their name and contact information to menglish@rcbm.org. Please put "BCAF Prospect" in the subject line.
- Encourage a NH non-profit agency that helps those most in need to apply for a BCAF grant at catholicnh.org/bcaf.
- Like us on [Facebook@diocesefromanchester](https://www.facebook.com/diocesefromanchester) to learn more about the BCAF and its grant recipients.
- Nominate someone whose work helps transform the lives of individuals and families in NH for the *Vita et Caritas Award* ("For Life and Love"). The recipient of the *Vita et Caritas Award* receives a special plaque and is recognized at the annual Bishop's Summer Reception. The service organization associated with the recipient receives an **award of \$2,500** to further support their good work. Nominations for 2024 are now being accepted at catholicnh.org/vca.
- Learn more about planned giving, also referred to as gift planning or legacy giving, for the BCAF by contacting Melanie English at 603-663-0166 or menglish@rcbm.org.

BCAF GRANT RECIPIENTS

The following grants, totaling **\$93,700**, were awarded between October 2024 and January 2025. Additional grants will be awarded in March and May of 2025.

[Click here to review a full list of recipients.](#)



To learn more, visit
catholicnh.org/bcaf

Please join us on
[Facebook@diocesefromanchester](https://www.facebook.com/diocesefromanchester)

Mark your calendar for the Bishop's Summer Reception
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657 River Road, Manchester**