

THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION OF THE  
**LADIES OF CHARITY**  
 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# THE GOOD NEWS

DIOCESE OF ALBANY  
 40 NORTH MAIN AVENUE  
 ALBANY, NY 12203

JULY 2026

**“We are a group  
 of women filled with  
 positive energy  
 dedicated to making life  
 better for those less  
 fortunate.”**

**Ann D. Rose**



TO SERVE RATHER THAN  
 BE SERVED WITH HUMILITY,  
 SIMPLICITY AND CHARITY.



## **President's Message**

**Sharon Giordano**

Dear Ladies of Charity,

Happy Summer!

We have shared a busy spring season! We applauded Membership Chair Shelby Blendell and Father Pat Butler as they inducted 10 new members at our annual Installation Mass, enjoyed a delicious meal chosen by Hospitality Chair Kelly Murray at Wolferts Roost Country Club and were treated to an engaging, informative and organized presentation by four of the Junior Ladies of Charity, Maeve, Avery, Wnajka and Vivienne, about the service projects they took on during their March 5 Day of Service.

Many volunteers have come together to continue the work at Mary's Corner. Not only are many working at our sites in Albany, Cohoes, Watervliet Housing and at the Distribution Center, but many are also collecting donations of baby items, clothing, toys, blankets, loveys, books and layettes from area parishes, various groups and individuals. Volunteers have worked on the budget, ordered baby essentials, found free diapers and have begun to order inventory to be able to stock our shelves for the fall.

Our volunteers have enjoyed Saturdays with the Sisters playing bingo, board games and sharing a BBQ. Other volunteers were busy distributing tasty meals at the SMJC soup kitchen and many happy clients were seen leaving the Giving Room with new essentials.

The 501(c)(3) committee has met several times with attorneys from Greenberg Traurig, who are working with us pro bono, to help us update our by-laws so that the language is compatible with the nonprofit status of a 501(c)(3) organization.

Ann Rose has updated our website, our historian, Dorè Schmidt, has organized new photos and Public Policy Chair Marie Copeland has kept us informed of current issues to watch from Catholic Charities, at the state level and at the federal level.

We have donated money to the St. Colman's Golf Classic, the Teresian House Foundation Annual Gala, the Catholic Charities Gala for Good, for first aid kits at the Parent Fair in Watervliet and to the LCUSA National Assembly for a program ad and a scholarship.

*continued ...*

## THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION OF

... continued

Some women have already indicated that they will be attending the National Assembly in Miami from September 10-12. The dynamic group of women chairing this year's event, "Charity and Solidarity," have a full slate of activities planned. It will be a fun weekend. If you want to join them please know that your registration is due August 19.

As we start to organize ourselves in September, please consider where you would like to put your volunteer efforts this year. Would you like to be my vice president, organize our participation in area churches' Giving Trees, join other volunteers on one of our committees or find a position that you could do from home? Let me know your thoughts.

This summer you may be looking to change your routine, relax and enjoy the sunshine or take on an adventure. I hope whatever you choose gives you the opportunity to reset and feel energized in the fall!

Thank you for your dedication and service to our mission.

Sharon Giordan

## Spirituality

Sister Joanne Donovan, D.C., Vincentian Spiritual Moderator

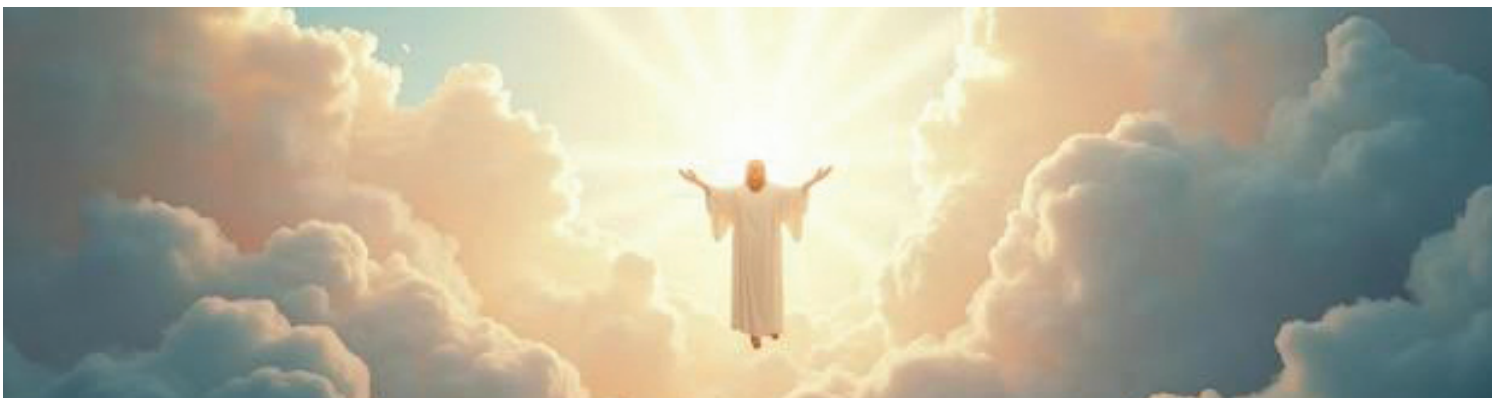
### Responding to Divine Providence

Here it is July and I hope you are enjoying the warmth and sun of summer. ENJOY!!!

In May, we installed 10 new Ladies of Charity, bringing our membership up to about 160 dedicated women. The "motto" of the Ladies of Charity is "To serve rather than to be served in humility, simplicity and charity." Our "mission" is one of service, of serving people, especially those who are poor, with Jesus Christ as our model. Service nourishes our spiritual life. Ladies of Charity discover that, through their service, they can grow in holiness and closer to Jesus. The Albany Ladies of Charity needs several members to fill ministry positions. We have a core group of Ladies that attend our monthly meeting regularly and have gratefully coordinated many of the programs servicing those living in poverty, but these ladies are ready to "pass the baton." We need a vice-president to assist Sharon Giordano, our president, a coordinator for Mary's Corner who would oversee its three service areas, a co-chairwoman to assist the coordinator and manage the Distribution Center for Mary's Corner, a team leader for the Albany Mary's Corner and a chairwoman for membership and recruitment.

I recognize that these requests are a challenge and that, due to personal commitments, you may be unable to accept the baton, but you may know someone who would assist you in managing one of these ministries. St. Louise herself stated "To serve what one has is nothing if one does not give oneself" and "If we want to please God, we must not look so much to what we want to do but what God wants us to do." These services are definitely in God's divine plan for those living in poverty and I pray someone will be inspired and that our loving God will guide a few good women to commit to these ministries.

Let us pray: *Lord Jesus, we humbly seek Your divine wisdom in our lives. Grant us clarity in our decisions and understanding in our trials. May your guidance illuminate our path, leading us to trust in Your perfect plan, knowing that Your answers are always for our good. In Your holy name. Amen.*



## Installation Mass and Dinner

Ann Rose

We recently gathered for a beautiful Installation Mass and dinner, marking the beginning of another year of faith, friendship and service.

The evening began with Mass in the DePaul House chapel, celebrated by Fr. Butler, during which our officers and new members were installed. The liturgy was beautifully enhanced by the music of Theresa McMahon and Meghan Barrow. Following Mass, all gathered at Wolferts Roost Country Club for a delicious dinner and an evening of fellowship. The room was filled with laughter, lively conversation and the joy of being together.

*Some of our new members at Installation Mass:* Christine Fennely, Linda Curley, Maureen Conley, Diane O'Connor Easton, Christiana Omaltson, Mary Witting, Patricia Coraizaca, Kathy Cioppa, Cathy Falk, and Kristin O'Connor.



See how many new faces you find here:



## THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION OF

# LCUSA National Update

Kathy Kavanaugh

Programming for the LCUSA National Convention in Miami, Florida has been completed! September 10-12 looks to be filled with stimulating topics and presenters. In addition to a bus trip to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity on Thursday Sept. 10 with its history of immigration and creation of the shrine, there will be Liturgy of the Hours followed by Mass with Fr. Gielow, our LCUSA Vincentian spiritual advisor. Starting on Friday, there are wonderful topics presented which are related to the theme of the Assembly, "Charity and Solidarity," including the keynote address: "Charity Becoming Solidarity: Weaving Compassion into Justice and Transformation." Additionally, "Charity in Motion: Transforming Hearts, Joining the Global Movement of Solidarity" and "Understanding Migration Today: A Vincentian Response of Charity and Solidarity." The plenary is "Igniting the Vincentian Spirit in Youth and New Members" and there are table discussions on "Vincentian Spirituality." The final plenary will be "The Vincentian Family: An Essential Reservoir of the Charism." We will learn and hopefully expand the effectiveness of our Association's work. The Assembly concludes with Mass and a banquet.

Please consider joining other women from across the United States and learning from them about the wonderful work we are all doing and how we might share our work with others as we grow in the Vincentian charism AND HAVE A LOT OF FUN! Refer to our national website (LCUSA) to register and learn more about the activities offered. We will be staying at the Miami Marriott Dadeland and we have a special rate of \$149 if you register by August 19. Please register via the "LCUSA" website, rather than through Bonvoy or the like if you are a Marriott member, so that your registration will be included in our guaranteed registrations. The website will introduce you to the additional varied and excellent programming and experiences being offered. Feel free to contact Kathy Kavanaugh (518-573-5082) if you are planning on attending and I will do my best to offer additional information or answer questions.

Our national office has received a much appreciated \$500 donation from our Albany Association to help with the significant cost of presenting these wonderful opportunities to gather. The adorable "Miami Girls" are a small, new, young Association brimming with enthusiasm and talent and faith!

## The Bonner Program

Mary Clinton

*At a recent Mary's Corner meeting, Mary Clinton mentioned the Bonner Program. Started in 1990, the Bonner Program is a diverse, multi-state consortium of participating colleges and universities joined through a common commitment to the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation's mission to "transform students, communities and campuses through service." The central goal of the Bonner Program is to provide diverse, predominantly low-income students with an "Access to Education and Opportunity to Serve." Siena University participates in the program. Mary Clinton has partnered with the program and explains how she is working with a group of students.*

### What are Siena University Bonner Service Leaders?

Bonniers are undergraduate students who utilize their academic talents to lead community change through service. They help to build a world that is more just, peaceable and humane through direct service, professional development and scholarly examination of injustice. Some of Siena's partners include Watervliet Housing Authority, Albany Center for Law and Justice, Castle Island Montessori School, Connect Center for Youth, Bring on the Spectrum and many more. The Bonner program is a four-year commitment for students who commit to serving with the community during their time at Siena, combining their service with academics and career goals. Placements are developmental, moving students through increasing levels of experience and responsibility across the four years. This program is unique because students get the opportunity to focus on social justice issues locally, nationally and internationally.



**The Bonner Program**  
Access to Education,  
Opportunity to Serve.

## Membership

Shelby Blendell

I am pleased to report our current membership total is 168.

We had successful recruitment Masses at St. Thomas and Christ the King. We were blessed to have many new faces join us this year as new members.

Some of our newest members were unable to attend the Installation in May so we will plan another Installation at our fall membership meeting.

Each year we pay dues to maintain our membership in Albany LOC and LCUSA (National). The dues mailing for this year will be sent out in August. Please watch your mail.

Please notify me if your email, address or phone changes or if you have any problems receiving emails.



Shelby Blendell leading a coffee and dessert gathering for new and interested members. 

## Junior Ladies at Academy of the Holy Names



 At our May dinner, Junior Ladies Vivienne, Maeve, Waniku and Avery made a presentation about their Day of Service.

## THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION OF

# Public Policy/Legislation

Marie Copeland, Chair

**Update, April 14, 2026**

### NYS Legislation to Watch:

**The SAFE Shelter Act** - Will make it easier for thousands of individuals in need, i.e., single survivors of domestic violence who are older adults, victims of sex trafficking, etc., to access safe and stable temporary housing. This Act will fix a flawed reimbursement system and allow providers to maximize the use of their resources.

**Medicaid Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) Legislation** (Introduced: A.10159/ S.9169) - Will ensure that high-quality MLTC plans serving New Yorkers with the greatest needs are funded appropriately so that long-term care remains stable in the Capital District and across NYS.

Nonprofit agencies that help settle refugees in upstate New York cities are asking the state for \$15 million in the budget which would allow them to continue teaching English classes and connecting refugees with employers. The flow of incoming refugees was cut with the executive order last year that froze funding for some people who had already arrived, but the work continues.

### Federal Legislation to Watch:

**Senior Security Act** - Would create a Senior Investor Task Force within the Securities and Exchange Commission to offer recommendations for strengthening protections and safeguards for senior investors. This act was introduced and passed in the House of Representatives.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Restoration Act** - This legislation would strengthen the SSI benefits that support over 7 million seniors and Americans with disabilities. The bill would make much-needed updates to the benefits program and will expand benefits eligibility, increase cash payments and fix rules that currently penalize Americans for trying to save money. (SSI has not been updated since 1974.)

**Tariff Refunds for Working Americans Act** - This legislation would provide American consumers direct tax rebates to provide families with financial relief. The rebates would be to individuals earning up to \$90,000; heads of household earning up to \$120,000; and joint filers earning up to \$180,000. Payments would include \$600 for individual filers; \$600 for heads of household; and \$1,200 for joint filers, along with an additional \$600 per dependent child.

**The Working Americans' Tax Cut Act** - This legislation would eliminate federal income taxes for Americans who make under the median cost of living, \$46,000, and provide a significant tax break for individuals making between \$46,000 and \$80,500. To offset the cost of the tax cut, the plan would add a surtax on higher earners.

**Surviving Widow(er) Income Fair Treatment Act** - This legislation would modernize existing benefit rules for higher benefits for widows, widowers and surviving divorced spouses.

### From Bread for the World:

Calling on Congress to restore, protect and strengthen SNAP and WIC; fully fund and strengthen global food, health and development programs that allow vulnerable people around the world to have the food and nutrition they need to thrive; and pass a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill (5-year reauthorization) that supports farmers, strengthens communities and helps end hunger at home and overseas. [bread.org/Act](http://bread.org/Act)

USCCB, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Catholic Rural Life and Catholic Charities USA are urging members of the Committee on Agriculture to strengthen and modernize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) within the Farm Bill by:

- Delaying newly enacted state cost-sharing requirements for SNAP benefits and administrative expenses by one to two years, by amending the provisions added last year to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.
- Eliminating the felony-based exclusion from SNAP participation which would better support successful reentry, reduce food insecurity and promote family stability without compromising program integrity.
- Providing Puerto Rico a structured opportunity to transition from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to full SNAP participation over a ten-year period.
- Rural Development - Ensuring the legitimate needs of farmers are not pitted against families struggling to put food on the table.
- Integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation into rural development policies.

The Committee on Agriculture is encouraged to work together on the Farm Bill's bipartisan legacy to advance nutrition, rural development, international assistance and conservation policies that are practical, compassionate and responsive to current challenges.

**A proposed rule by the U.S. General Services Administration** would require all federal grantees, including nonprofits, to sign new certifications under the threat of civil and criminal penalties before applying for or receiving federal resources.

**Update, June 16, 2026****From the NYS Catholic Conference:**

**Rights of School Students with Disabilities (A9385-A/S8842-A)** - These companion bills are designed to protect the due process rights of non-public school students with disabilities. They ensure that parents of children attending private, independent or religious schools, or those who are home-schooled, retain the right to seek impartial hearings regarding the implementation of Individualized Education Services Plans (IESPs). Presently in NYS Legislature Assembly and Senate Committees. The NYS Catholic Conference supports this legislation. Take action at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org).

**Special Education Services (S10007-A/A3950-D)** - This bill amends the education law to address procedural barriers that have prevented students with disabilities attending non-public schools from accessing their entitled educational services. The NYS Catholic Conference supports this legislation. The Senate passed this legislation. It's presently in Assembly Committee. Take action at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org).

**NYS Programs: (Update):**

**HEAP Cooling Assistance Available** - Receive up to \$800 for a fan or air conditioner, including installation, if you qualify. Call 518-455-2225.

**LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)** - Funding has been released by the federal government. N.Y. will receive an additional \$40,356,315 to go along with the more than \$360 million in federal funding the state previously received, resulting in a net total of \$401.2 million in LIHEAP aid to help New Yorkers afford their home utility bills.

**Other NYS Legislation:**

**Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)** - DSPs who care for persons with disabilities are some of the lowest paid workers in the state. A 2.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII) requested in the budget was passed by the Legislature.

**Victims Protection and Child Sex Buyer Accountability Act (A.9214/S.8609)** - Passed by the Legislature and closes a loophole in N.Y. child exploitation laws. Prior to this bill, N.Y. was the only state in the country where buying sex from a 15, 16 or 17 year old was prosecuted as a misdemeanor. The new law establishes a uniform rule that no child under 18 can legally consent to commercial sex. It elevates penalties to felonies, expands trafficking definitions—criminalizes psychological coercion, deception, grooming, manipulation and the abuse of power or dependency. The changes align NYS statutes with federal law and 49 states, treating all minors uniformly as trafficking victims. Awaits Gov. Hochul's signature.

**The Lethality Assessment Program** - Passed by both chambers of the Legislature. This legislation requires law enforcement officers to undergo training to conduct evidence-based lethality assessments during domestic violence responses. The assessment tool helps identify victims at the highest risk of serious injury or intimate partner homicide and immediately connects them with local domestic violence service providers and advocates. Standardized reporting of the lethality indicators is a requirement as part of the Domestic Incident Report (DIR).

**Protect, Invest and Expand (PIE) Food Security Package**

- Substantially funded programs include: NOEP (Nutrition Outreach and Education Program) which helps families enroll in benefits, HPNAP (Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program) which supports community food pantries and kitchens, Nourish NY, which connects farmers with food banks and Double Up Food Bucks, which helps SNAP recipients buy fresh fruits and vegetables while supporting local agriculture. This program tripled its budget to \$6 million.

**Federal Legislation to Watch:**

**Senior Hunger Protection Act** - This legislation would expand SNAP benefits for all beneficiaries, simplify the SNAP application process for seniors and people with disabilities and expand SNAP food delivery options.

**Universal School Meals Program** - This legislation would provide free breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks to all K-12 students. Also, it would eliminate school meal debt for every public school student in America, increase reimbursement rates for schools, incentivize schools to buy from local farms, provide meals to children during the summer months and strengthen and expand the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

**Social Security Caregiver Credit Act (Reintroduced)**

- This bill would allow eligible caregivers to earn Social Security retirement credits while providing unpaid care to their dependent family members. Qualifying caregivers would be allowed to receive up to 5 years of deemed wages for Social Security benefit calculations if they spend at least 80 hours a month caring for a dependent child under age 12 or a chronically dependent relative, i.e., aging parent, spouse or family member with a disability. The credits would apply only to caregivers who do not receive monetary compensation for the care they provide.

## THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION OF

### From CCUSA:

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** - Opposes proposed rule's extension of the waiting period to apply for an initial Employment Authorization Document (EAD) from 150 days to 365 days, as well as a pause on accepting initial asylum-based EAD applications. If implemented, the proposed rule would deprive individuals of the ability to earn a living and support themselves and their families, increasing dependence on charitable organizations.

### From USCCB/JFI (Justice for Immigrants):

**Update on Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act (S.2241/HR 4307)** - USCCB's Committee on Migration urged passage and praised the measure's bipartisan sponsorship and the bill's strengthening the U.S. Department of Labor's role in identifying and stopping human trafficking, especially that of children.).

**Deport Alien Gang Members Act (H.R. 175)** - Opposes the bill which is "...unjustifiably broad and risks implicating the victims of criminal gangs, as well as Catholics and other people of faith serving immigrants..." (The bill passed out of the Judiciary Committee along party lines, clearing the way for a vote on the House floor).

### From The Alzheimer's Association:

Working to advance the bipartisan Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act to make Medicare coverage possible for blood tests that can detect Alzheimer's before symptoms appear.

### From AARP:

**Protect Older Workers Against Discrimination Act and Protect Older Job Applicants** - Supports this legislation and advocates for fair hiring and workplace practices.

**Some New Drugs for 3rd Round of Medicare's Price-cut Negotiations** - Eriada (prostate cancer), Kisqali and Verzenio (breast cancer), Botox (chronic migraines), Lenvima (kidney, liver and thyroid cancers), Xeljanz (rheumatoid arthritis).

**Thank you for your advocacy.**

## Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure

### BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY:

#### Kathy Kavanaugh

One of our Getting Ahead in a Just-Getting'-By World graduates has been promoted to a supervisory position. She is so pleased and, from all conversations, is doing very well. Next year, if she continues to do well, she is to be considered for more responsibility and another promotion. Being very talented and fair minded has not gone unnoticed. She is also asking us for specific donations for any of her co-workers who are in need. What was done for her, she is passing on! She is also doing a terrific job of raising her high school aged daughter.

Our Getting Ahead efforts have branched out! We are now offering assistance to immigrants, to acquaintances of our former graduates and responding to requests from social workers. We have found donations from an Albanian to pay for a scholarship for nursing school. Everyone is so grateful and the many donors are so pleased to hear how their donations have been used. We are particularly fortunate to have Jeanne Holm, a new LOC, now helping and getting to know those with whom we work. Her wonderfully caring nursing demeanor and skills are so helpful! It is a joy to be in communication with such joy-filled, faithful and kind people: both donors and those who receive. We're all one as we sometimes receive and other times we are called to give. We are very grateful to God for His unwavering guidance.

*Immigrant children can't go outside because of the danger of ICE. They are so happy when we give them toys.* »



**Above:** This boy was thrilled to receive a keyboard after he taught himself to play the piano on YouTube!



**Right:** These girls entertain themselves for hours on their kitchen set.

**MARY'S CORNER:**  
**Sharon Giordano**

This wonderful ministry continues with dedicated volunteers and gifts from far and near:



« Three women from the Shenendehowa United Women in Faith Quilters group, Cathie, Mary and Robin, displaying the quilts they gave us.



» Friar Greg showing one of a huge bag full of stuffed animals and loveys that he brought back from his assignment at St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Florida.



« Mary Clinton and Kim Seitz at the Parent Fair at Watervliet Mary's Corner.

» Millie Smith, Mary Ann Conway and Phyllis DePaulo at Cohoes Mary's Corner.



## THE ALBANY ASSOCIATION OF

### SATURDAYS WITH THE SISTERS:

#### Mary Clinton and Lois Keefrider

Here are some great pictures (compliments of Dorè Schmidt) from our recent afternoons with the Sisters:

#### May 16 - BOARD GAMES

Parcheesi and dominoes and, of course, treats were favorites on this fun afternoon.



*Time for refreshments with  
Sr. Vincent Louise.*

*Dorè Schmidt and  
Sr. Ann Marie Graham.*

*Sr. Rose Marie Rizzo and  
Sr. Jeraldine.*

#### June 13 - BARBEQUE

Who doesn't love a barbeque?



*Sr. Faith, Fr. Mike and  
Sr. Louise Wilcox.*



*Judy Reimenschneider,  
Sr. Louise Macchia  
and Mary Clinton.*



*Sr. Mary Rose and Sr. Molly.*



*Sr. Margaret Tully, Sr. Martha, Sr. Catherine Hagan  
and Sr. Margaret Palmer.*



**COATS FOR THE COMMUNITY:****Kathy Ryan and Shelby Blendell**

Summer has finally arrived and coats are not a concern presently. This is just a reminder that COATS for the COMMUNITY will again be taking place on October 23 and October 24 at the Cohoes Senior Center. Set up will begin on October 18.

Notices will be sent out in August to request participating parishes to start their coat collections. Coats and winter apparel will be collected and then transported to the Cohoes Senior Center for sorting, displaying and distributing to citizens of Cohoes, Watervliet, Waterford and Green Island.

So when the fall weather starts to get chilly, any coats and winter apparel that you may not need will be so appreciated by those people who do not have a warm coat.

We are always in need of volunteers to sort and display our winter apparel. Sorting and displaying starts this year on Monday, October 19, and continues through the week. The shoppers arrive on Friday, October 23, and shop 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday shopping is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Then different agencies come in and take articles for others in need.

Please consider volunteering for COATS this year. Sign-up times will be announced closer to the date.

**SAVE THE DATES****Board Meetings at DePaul House:****All meetings start at 5 p.m.**

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| August 11, 2026   | November 10, 2026 |
| September 8, 2026 | December 8, 2026  |
| October 13, 2026  |                   |

**Saturdays with the Sisters at St. Louise House:****All events begin at 1:30 p.m.**

July 18 – Mocktails on the Porch  
August 15 – Ice Cream Social

**Coats for the Community**

October 19 through 23 – Coat sorting and displaying  
October 23 – 1 to 6 p.m. – Guests select coats  
October 24 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Guests select coats

**Please consult our website, [albanyloc.org](http://albanyloc.org), for the very latest news and schedule updates.**

**THE ALBANY  
ASSOCIATION OF****2026-2027  
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