

Catholic Charities invites volunteers to assist on Christmas Day

WORCESTER — Catholic Charities Worcester County announced today that they are still accepting volunteers to deliver and serve Christmas dinner to those in need. Whether delivering meals or serving the noontime meal at St. Paul Cathedral, volunteers will have an opportunity to visit with people who would otherwise be alone this Christmas.

For more than 60 years, the Bishop of Worcester has hosted a dinner provided by Catholic Charities Worcester County to assure a meal and fellowship to homebound elders, people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and those who would otherwise be alone on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Both sit-down dinners at the Cathedral of St. Paul and home-delivered meals are available to those in need on these important holidays. In 2021, the Bishop's Holiday Dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas provided over 6,000 home-delivered meals to those in need by nearly 1,300 volunteers. This past Thanksgiving, Catholic Charities suc-

cessfully delivered 3200 meals with the help of 500 volunteers.

Volunteers are needed at both the sit-down dinner located at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 38 High St., Worcester; and meal delivery from St. Peter's Catholic Elementary School. Sit-down dinner volunteers should arrive between 11:30 a.m. and noon, and can register at this link: <https://www.ccworc.org/cathedralregistration/>. Meal delivery volunteers begin arriving at 7:30 am to receive the meals and delivery route. Meal delivery volunteers should register at this link: <https://www.ccworc.org/bishopsdinnervolunteer/>. Meals will be picked up drive-through style at the gym at St. Peter's Catholic Elementary School, entrance on 10 Hammond St., Worcester.

If you would like to request a meal, call 508-798-0191 or go to the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/222854846678170>.

Most Rev. Bishop Robert J. McManus invites anyone and their family to join him at St. Paul's Cathedral for

a Thanksgiving dinner. Catholic Charities provides bus routes to and from St. Paul's Cathedral and will pick up individuals at: Lincoln Village, Booth Apartments, Seabury Heights, Green Hill Towers, Belmont Apartments, Green Island NOC, Greenwood Gardens, Canterbury Towers, Elm Park Towers, Pleasant Towers, Murray Avenue Apartments, Marble Apartments, and Webster Square Towers

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Savers Bank, Southbridge Credit Union, UniBank, Worcester State University, The Eppinger Family Foundation, Atlas Distributing, DiMeo Schneider & Associates, Leominster Credit Union, Eastern Bank, Machado Consulting, Reliant Medical Group, Rollstone Bank & Trust, St. John's High School, Greater Worcester Community Foundation and more to come!

About Catholic Charities Worcester County

Founded in 1951 by the first Bishop of Worcester, Most Reverend John J. Wright, Catholic Charities Worcester County offers 21 programs and services across 62 cities and towns located in Worcester County and adjoining counties. The programs are designed to strengthen vulnerable families and individuals, regardless of racial, ethnic, cultural or religious origins, ability to pay, or mental, physical or developmental challenges. For more information about Catholic Charities Worcester County, please visit www.ccworc.org.

QCC selected by Amazon as education partner for career choice program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College announced it has been selected as an education partner for Amazon's Career Choice program, providing Amazon's hourly employees access to QCC's programs which include over 120 associate degrees and

certificates. "QCC offers students access to higher education through a myriad of partnerships and pathways designed to facilitate student success," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "Our educational partnership with Amazon

is a new and exciting way to engage more people in the powerful, lifechanging impact of higher education."

Amazon employees attending QCC will receive high-quality education and hands-on training to upskill in an existing career or prepare them to enter a career in one of today's high-demand industries. To bolster students' ability to be successful, QCC offers a wide range of academic resources and support services such as individualized academic advising, tutoring, mentoring, career coaching, and counseling. Courses are offered days, nights, and weekends in multiple modalities such as in-person, fully online, and a combination of in-person and online.

Amazon's Career Choice program is an education benefit that empowers employees to learn new skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere. The program meets individual learners where they are on their education journey through a variety of education and upskilling opportunities including pre-paid college tuition, industry certifications designed to lead to in-demand jobs, and foundational skills such as English language proficiency, high school diplomas, and GEDs. In the U.S., the company is investing \$1.2 billion to upskill more than 300,000 employees by 2025, to help move them into higher-paying, in-demand jobs.

Amazon's Career Choice program

has a rigorous selection process for third-party partner educators, choosing partners that are focused on helping employees through their education programs, assisting them with job placements, and overall offering education that leads to career success.

"We're looking forward to Quinsigamond Community College coming on board as an education partner for Career Choice, adding to the hundreds of best-in-class offerings available to our employees," said Tammy Thiemann, Global Program Lead of Amazon's Career Choice program. "We're committed to empowering our employees by providing them access to the education and training they need to grow their careers, whether that's with us or elsewhere. We have intentionally created a partner network of third-party educators and employers committed to providing excellent education, job placement resources, and continuous improvements to the experience. Today, over 90,000 Amazon employees around the world have already participated in Career Choice and we've seen first-hand how it can transform their lives."

For more information on Amazon's Career Choice, visit: <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/career-choice>.

For more information on QCC, visit: <https://www.qcc.edu/amazon-career-choice>.

Family Dining & Gift Guide

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