

Responding...

Catholic Charities USA, without whom so much of our work would not be possible, for their most recent kindness totaling \$464,451 in support of our Disaster Relief, Immigration, and Nutrition Outreach efforts.



Fidelis Care New York (above) for a 2015 grant of \$196,000 for our outpatient mental health clinics and for our 13 homes for the developmentally disabled. That brings their incredible, ongoing support to nearly \$1.4 million! Our amazing 2015 **Caritas Dinner Honorees, David Klaum and family**. Together with 200 friends and family they raised a record-breaking \$192,870 for Catholic Charities programs across Long Island.

Our special thanks to these friends for helping us provide *Care With Dignity...Life With Hope.*

The humble couple who gifted \$150,000 in 2014-2015 but wish to remain anonymous. You inspire us daily.

The **Unitarian Universalist Church** for championing our immigration and refugee resettlement efforts with \$100,000.

Our long-time partners, **United Way of Long Island**, for their \$70,000 grant for our affordable senior and special needs housing programs.

Newsday Charities, a Fund of the McCormick Foundation, for helping us championing our immigration and refugee resettlement efforts with \$100,000.

Ridgewood Savings Bank for graciously providing \$25,000 in operating support, keeping our doors open and the lights on.

The **Health and Welfare Council** for a \$25,000 grant to pay legal services for unaccompanied minors.

New York Community Bank Foundation for \$15,000 to provide services to immigrants and refugees.

The **Town of Babylon Community Development Program** for bolstering our efforts to serve the disabled with a \$3,750 grant to our **Thea Bowman Residence** in Amityville.

King Kullen Supermarkets for providing new books to the children in our **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** program with a \$1,000 donation to our **Gift of Reading Program**.

Goya Foods for donating 245 cases of food to our **Unaccompanied Minors** program.



The volunteers of **Project Live/Price Waterhouse Cooper** who built a swing set at **Regina Residence**, our home for unwed teen moms and their children. And special thanks to **The Hofstra University Catholic Campus Ministry and Newman Club** (above) for their outdoor beautification project at the home.

The volunteers of **Nordstrom** for their "spring cleanup" at **Siena Residence**, our home for adults with chronic mental illness.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Now you can donate your car, truck, boat or motorcycle to Catholic Charities and help us help your Long Island neighbors. It's quick and easy to do. We're standing by to schedule a convenient pickup and provide confirmation of your donation.

Call (877) 507-GIVE (4483) or visit us on the web at www.catholiccharities.cc and we'll take care of the rest. The unused car in your driveway can bring nutritious meals to countless seniors, provide teen moms and their babies with a home, and bring Christ's love in so many other ways.

Support Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre.

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The Mission

Care With Dignity ... Life With Hope

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1.5 MILLION
Caring face-to-face
services

—for—
61,189
Long Island
neighbors

Chemical Dependence
Services
2,350
served

Commodity Supplemental
Food Program
11,369
served

Women, Infants
& Children (WIC)
5,074
served

CATHOLIC CHARITIES 2014: By the Numbers

Senior Services
4,407
served

Residential Services
for People with
Developmental Disabilities*
107
served

Regina Maternity
Services*
78
served

Parish Social
Ministry
1,825
served

Nutrition Outreach
Education Project
8,146
served

Mental Health
Residential Services*
156
served

Disaster Response Services
2,471
served

HIV/AIDS Services
43
served

Housing*
2,216
served

Immigrant Services/
Refugee Resettlement
20,725
served

Mental Health
Outpatient Services
2,222
served



* Many participants in these programs receive round-the-clock, residential care.

The Mission
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Better Than Family...

"I didn't think things would ever get better," says Irene. As retirees, she and her husband Henry had lived in Florida for 21 years when he was suddenly diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. They immediately flew back to Long Island where their daughter Caroline could help care for him but a few days after their return, things started to fall apart.

Daughter, Caroline explains. "First they had to leave the home they loved after so many years. Then just a few weeks later, my dad passed away. They were married 54 years and she was grieving terribly. To top it all off she broke her pelvis a week after burying him so she was in physical pain too."

Caroline watched anxiously as her "lost and lethargic" 83-year old mother sulked around the house for months, growing more despondent with each passing day. She desperately wanted to find something that would make her mom happy again. That's when she heard about the Catholic Charities senior center in her town.

"I thought maybe she'd find some comfort with people her own age but to be honest, I was sure this wouldn't work. You can imagine how surprised I was that first day when I heard mom say she wanted to come back tomorrow. But that's how fast you feel the love there."

Irene did come back the next day and the day after that and the day after that. Now she devotedly attends five days a week and misses only on what she calls "snow and doctor days." She plays cards and bingo, regularly participates in day trips and parties and always shares a nutritious meal with her friends. She even attends the center's sit-down Zumba class. But most important are her friendships. The center's assistant manager Lynn Romano says, "They sit together for hours, talking and sharing just about everything. They really invest in these relationships and those are the bonds that keep seniors happy and healthy."

Caroline goes a step further. "I'm convinced this center saved her life and it all starts with the cheerful staff who set the tone. Good creates more good and eventually it feels like family." Irene adds, "It's better than family, because it's chosen family."

Your kindness to Catholic Charities makes "families" like this possible.



L to R, Lynn, Irene, and Carolyn

Photo by Greg Stermitz, 3Vphoto.com

Catholic Charities' three Senior Community Service Centers offer recreation and assistance to more than 1,500 Long Island seniors, helping them live safe and independent lives in their own homes.

WHY DON'T I FEEL BETTER?

Following traumatic events like Superstorm Sandy many people and their families find personal recovery challenging. While there may be progress with rebuilding their homes, rebuilding their lives proves far more difficult. They may feel "stuck" or overwhelmed by the stress and unplanned changes.

If you or your loved ones have been impacted by Sandy and are experiencing ongoing stress and discomfort, Catholic Charities may be able to assist you with our **Disaster Action Response Team (DART)**.

Our trained, licensed social workers can provide counseling and support through this period of adjustment and these services are available at no cost to both adults and children. Services are available throughout Long Island and can be provided in your home or in the community.



Help is here and available to you!

If you'd like to learn more or schedule an appointment, please call

DART at 516-442-3747

Original artwork by Ann Engelhart



"Charity that leaves the poor person as he is, is not sufficient. True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice, it demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer."
—Pope Francis

Meat and Potatoes

My Dear Friend,

The world is indeed captivated by Pope Francis and it's easy to see why, especially after his recent visit to Cuba and the United States. Ask anyone, and they'll tell you there's "something special about him," that he's the "real deal" or that "he walks the walk." In a mixed up, sometimes ugly world he speaks his truth quietly and clearly, even in the face of intense criticism. That gives us hope, but...

it also makes us very uncomfortable.

Why? Because the Holy Father doesn't ask if we go to mass on Sunday, frequent the confessional, or follow the myriad other rules of our faith that we sometimes hide behind. No, Pope Francis wants the meat and potatoes. He asks if we are living as Jesus taught us – even when those teachings may be inconvenient or unpleasant. Do we or do we not welcome the immigrant? Do we accept everyone into Christ's Church regardless of sexuality? Do we truly love the poor or do we easily dismiss them? Are we living our faith or paying it lip service?

I confess to you that even as head of Catholic Charities here on Long Island, I could and should do much more. That's why I'm writing this letter. It makes me uncomfortable to ask for money but I know that I must find some way to convey to you how desperate the plight of our less fortunate neighbors really is and beg you, if necessary, for your help.

So I ask you plainly, will you help?

- Will you help make a home for teenage moms and their babies?
- Will you help deliver food to hundreds of homebound seniors?
- Will you support our 13 homes for the developmentally disabled?

Our list goes on and on, but some will read all this and throw it out anyway.
Please don't be one of them.

I wish compassion and dedication and love were enough to keep us afloat, but money is what's needed right now. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift today.

With my sincerest gratitude and prayers,

Laura A. Cassell,
CEO, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre



Photo by Greg Stermitz, 3Vphoto.com