

# *Catholic Charities*

**DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE**



## **FEEDING HUNGRY HEARTS**

**2010 ANNUAL REPORT**



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a ministry of the Roman Catholic Church, Catholic Charities assists in serving the basic needs of the poor, troubled, weak, and oppressed and is committed to addressing the causes of injustice. We aim to organize and empower people to secure the participation of all in the life of the community.

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Dear Friends,

In the Gospels, our Lord's commandment to *feed the hungry* is abundantly clear. In his most recent encyclical, *Charity in Truth*, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict, challenges us to bring that most beautiful of plainspoken mandates to the world. He writes:

*Hunger still reaps enormous numbers of victims among those who, like Lazarus, are not permitted to take their place at the rich man's table. . . It is therefore necessary to cultivate a public conscience that considers food and access to water as universal rights of all human beings, without distinction or discrimination.*

But how can we do this?

We begin by giving witness to it each and every day, in our own lives and in our own communities. To be sure, as a supporter of Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre you already do. This report shows how we as Church "make room at the table" for so many of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. Breaking bread together expresses our compassion and solidarity. It is in this most simple act of sharing that we come closer to true communion with our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Most Reverend William F. Murphy  
Bishop of Rockville Centre





*from the kitchen of*  
**Laura Cassell**

Dear Friends,

The remarkable story of the loaves and fish recounts one of the miracles of Jesus that is found in all four Gospels. It unmistakably speaks to the ministry of Catholic Charities.

I'm sure you know it well. Our Lord took five loaves of bread and two fish and multiplied them, enough for 5,000 hungry people. The immediate message of such a large-scale, spectacular miracle is obvious: that our Lord wants us to feed the hungry, no matter how many they number or how little we have. Yet, if we study the passage closely we can glean even more from it.

Notable is the apprehension of the Apostles who implored Jesus to disperse the vast crowd so that they might "buy food for themselves." His response to their concerns is crystal clear: "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." (Matt. 14:16)

It was not enough to simply make sure the hungry were fed. Jesus wanted his disciples to go amongst them and to be with them just as He had throughout His life. Likewise, think about those with whom Jesus often shared His meals: sinners, tax collectors and other outcasts, those that society had forgotten. It was at His table that He cared for much more than the physical needs of their bodies; He fed hearts starved for love and understanding. Tellingly, it was at His last meal with the Apostles that He gave us the gift of His very own life.

We at Catholic Charities seek to emulate our Lord and to bring His compassion and understanding to all those we touch. Each meal we serve offers us a grace-filled opportunity to do so. These pages document those moments and give witness to the beautiful human connections that your kindness makes possible, a kindness that feeds hungry hearts.

I am always gratefully yours,

*Laura A. Cassell*

Laura A. Cassell  
Chief Executive Officer



*“And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”*      *Matthew 10:42*



## The fantastic four

At first, Joanne thought she had heard the doctors incorrectly. But she hadn't. They were telling her that she and her husband, Michael, were going to have quadruplets. "We were joyful but also thunderstruck," Joanne explains, "because they said the pregnancy would be so difficult that we should consider having only two." The young couple decided they would have all four and take as many precautions as possible with Joanne greatly limiting her activity. The babies were born ten weeks early, none weighing more than two-and-a-half-pounds and all without a sucking reflex. They remained in the hospital for six weeks tied to a jumble of feeding tubes and oxygen masks before the new parents finally brought them home. "I realized I couldn't breastfeed all four and we were having trouble making ends meet with all the medical expenses so we turned to Catholic Charities' Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program." Now Joanne and the babies are provided with formula, food and medical screenings to make sure they remain healthy. Says Michael, "We're a family, a big fantastic family."



*“Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.”*

*Galatians 6:9*



## No more green tomatoes...

“I had a client insist on taking green tomatoes. I told her to wait but she said she would let them ripen on her windowsill. She wouldn’t leave without them because she was afraid there’d be none left. That’s why I started this garden,” explains Mohamed Bacchus, part of the Catholic Charities Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) team that provides more than 10,000 packages of free, nutritious foods to needy Long Islanders each month. While it provides a wide range of dietary staples, Mohamed, an avid gardener, was troubled by how many recipients lacked any fresh produce in their diet. He brought them vegetables from his home garden but found the demand was too great. That’s when he and co-workers took action and started cultivating the property around CSFP headquarters. Within months they were growing everything from tomatoes to string beans and helping people eat healthier, more balanced meals. He explains, “Everybody knows fresh vegetables are better for you. But they’re too expensive for the poor. So I share my passion and hope it does some good.” He tends the garden after hours, makes his own mulch and even shares recipes, going the extra mile that defines the spirit of Catholic Charities. He observes, “I just wish I had a little more land. Then I could grow enough for everybody.” If only the property matched the size of his heart.





*“If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; Then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday...”*

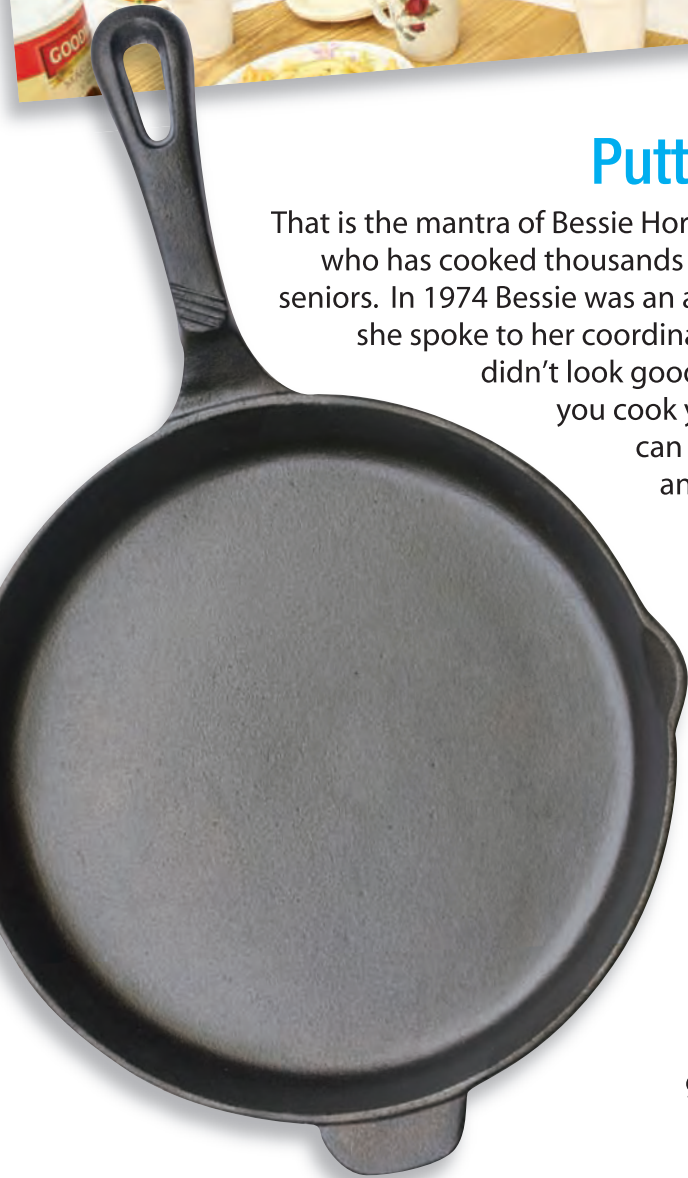
*Isaiah 58:10*

## Putting some love into it...


That is the mantra of Bessie Horton, a 37-year veteran of Catholic Charities who has cooked thousands of meals for Long Island’s most vulnerable seniors. In 1974 Bessie was an assistant at one of our senior centers when she spoke to her coordinator. “I said the meals we were serving just didn’t look good to me. My mother always said that when you cook you’ve got to put some love into it. People

can tell by looking at a dish if your heart is in it and when it is, they enjoy that meal so much more.” That must mean Bessie has a lot of heart.

Since that time she has gone on to cook for Catholic Charities’ senior centers, the Visually Impaired Program (VIP), and even for our Meals-On-Wheels program that serves the homebound throughout Nassau County. You could say that thousands of our neighbors have sat down at Bessie’s table. Today, a semi-retired Bessie still visits Catholic Charities twice a week to prepare special meals. The melodies of Ella Fitzgerald along with the aroma of roasted fish and potatoes tell friends that Bessie is in the kitchen and all are welcome. Bessie smiles gently and adds “This is like a family to me, and my cooking makes them happy. I love being a part of that.”







*“For he satisfied the thirsty, filled  
the hungry with good things.”*


*Psalms 107:9*

## **You see it in their smiles**

“My family has a long history here,” explains Emmett Christie, a Catholic Charities board trustee. “The first director, Msgr. Birmingham, asked my grandfather to help 60 years ago. Then, Msgr. Fagan recruited my father to assist, and we’ve been involved ever since.” Thank goodness for family traditions. Today, Emmett’s an integral part of our board whose financial expertise is matched only by his compassion and personal interest in those we serve. In fact, he will often arrange to share a meal in an effort to know them better. “That’s when people let down their guard and share their stories. That’s when you hear firsthand how Catholic Charities is changing lives.” He especially treasures his visits with the developmentally disabled. “Their warmth and thankfulness leave you with such a feeling of peace. Those moments are special. You see it in their smiles.”



# 2010 Program Highlights



Our **Catholic Charities Group Homes for the Developmentally Disabled** partnered with students and faculty from St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip to start a new tradition of an **annual variety show**. The musical entitled “Rock Around the World” teamed 71 residents of our homes with 65 students. The groups choreographed and rehearsed each act for several weeks and the experience fostered personal bonds between the students and residents. The connections made during these activities are vital to the well-being of our residents and are meaningful to young people as well.

On the occasion of the 36th anniversary of its opening, our **Christopher Residence for the developmentally disabled** was given a \$1 million renovation by the New York State Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. The home was made handicap accessible while other improvements included a new roof, energy-efficient windows, updated heating and electrical systems, and fire sprinklers. Its 12 residents and their families took part in petitioning the state for funding and helped design a home that would best suit their needs. It took months of teamwork and organization on the parts of staff, residents, family and contractors, and is one more step on the road to independent living for our residents.

Our **Special Needs Housing program** was awarded more than \$1 million dollars to purchase and rebuild two houses that will become homes for four families. Working with United Way of Long Island, The Town of Islip and the federal government’s Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program, Catholic Charities will provide a home and support services to these families struggling with HIV/AIDS and facing homelessness.

Catholic Charities opened its first **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** site in August. The need for the program’s services was made evident by the immediate and extraordinary enrollment of nearly 900 participants in its first five months. These low-income women, infants and children are provided with food assistance, nutrition and health education, as well as medical screenings and referrals to health and social services, giving their young families a healthy start.



# Care with Dignity...Life With Hope

- **Chemical Dependence Services:** Talbot House Chemical Dependence Crisis Center/Outpatient Clinics
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program:** Permanent and Mobile Food Distribution Sites/Nutrition Education
- **Dental Services**
- **HIV/AIDS Services:** Housing/Dental Clinic
- **Housing:** Affordable Housing for Seniors and People With Physical Disabilities
- **Immigrant Services:** Legal Counseling/Citizenship & Voter Registration/Refugee Resettlement/Advocacy & Organizing
- **Mental Health Outpatient Services:** Community-based Clinics
- **Mental Health Residential Services:** Siena Residence for Adults with Psychiatric Disabilities/Teaching Family Homes for Children/Project Independence
- **Nutrition Outreach Education Project**
- **Parish Social Ministry:** Parish Outreach/Public Policy Education Network/Catholic Campaign for Human Development/Disaster Response
- **Regina Maternity Services:** Regina Residence/Mary's Residence/Mentoring Program
- **Residential Services For People with Developmental Disabilities**
- **Senior Services:** Case Management/Meals-On-Wheels/Senior Community Service Centers/Senior Deaf Club/Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Center
- **Women, Infants and Children Program:** Food/Nutrition Education/Referrals to Health and Social Services

Call (516) 733-7000 for help.



# Catholic Charities

## Diocese of Rockville Centre

### COMBINING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2010

#### OPERATING REVENUE:

Bequests, contributions and other gifts	\$ 1,559,318
Foundations and other grants	614,103
Catholic Ministries Appeal	2,308,521
United Way of Long Island	97,535
Government contracts	11,617,440
Medicaid and Medicare	14,879,123
Fees, third party and other reimbursements	4,681,668
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$35,757,708</b>

#### OPERATING EXPENSES:

##### Program Services

Chemical Dependence Services	\$ 3,063,247
Food and Nutrition Services	1,933,387
HIV/AIDS Services	1,212,244
Housing	581,657
Immigrant Services	1,195,083
Maternity Services	675,611
Mental Health Outpatient Services	3,742,885
Office for Persons with Disabilities	362,696
Parish Social Ministry	968,737
Residential Services	12,740,265
Senior Services	4,525,369
Other Programs	1,002,286

**Total Program Services** \$32,003,467

##### Supporting Services

Administration	\$ 3,163,739
Fundraising	428,884

**Total Supporting Services** \$ 3,592,623

**Total Operating Expenses** \$35,596,090

#### **INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS**

\$ 161,618

#### **NONOPERATING ACTIVITY:**

Investment income and realized losses	\$ 146,947
Unrealized appreciation in fair market value of investments	1,942,268
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	(14,189)
Increase in permanently restricted net assets	113,538

**INCREASE IN NET ASSETS** \$ 2,350,182

**NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR** 22,583,734

**NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR** \$24,933,916

A copy of the latest audited financial report is available upon request by e-mailing [questions@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:questions@catholiccharities.cc) or calling (516) 733-7000.

**Catholic Charities** is funded by the Catholic Ministries Appeal of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, federal agencies, the State of New York, Nassau and Suffolk counties, the United Way of Long Island, client fees, contributions, grants and bequests. Catholic Charities is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to Catholic Charities are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



**Catholic Charities** gratefully acknowledges the legacies and support of those who assist in the continuation of our ministry. For information about planned giving or other forms of donations to Catholic Charities, please contact the Development and Communications Department at (516) 733-7042.



United Way of Long Island

Member Agency  
United Way of Long Island





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*Chief Operating  
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Edwin M. Kennedy  
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Anthony P. Mullen  
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## Compassion Facts

In 2010 Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre assisted 59,543 people who received more than 1.4 million caring, dignified, face-to-face services.

Chemical Dependence Services	<b>2,270</b> served
Commodity Supplemental Food Program	<b>15,557</b> served
Dental Services	<b>918</b> served
HIV/AIDS Services	<b>43</b> served
Housing*	<b>4,227</b> served
Immigrant Services/Refugee Resettlement	<b>14,364</b> served
Mental Health Outpatient Services	<b>2,185</b> served
Mental Health Residential Services*	<b>118</b> served
Nutrition Outreach Education Project	<b>8,796</b> served
Office for Persons with Disabilities	<b>192</b> served
Parish Social Ministry**	<b>5,836</b> served
Regina Maternity Services*	<b>96</b> served
Residential Services for People with Developmental Disabilities *	<b>107</b> served
Senior Services	<b>4,019</b> served
Women, Infants & Children	<b>815</b> served

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

\*\*The Parish Social Ministry staff also supported parish programs that serve people in their local communities by holding trainings and conferences that were attended by 3,213 people.